



Anna Bligh MP
Member for South Brisbane



Media statement

Deputy Premier
Minister for Finance
Minister for State Development,
Trade and Innovation

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Queensland company wins key contract in Middle East

Acting Premier and Minister for State Development, Trade and Innovation Anna Bligh today congratulated Brisbane-based Cardno Limited for winning a major engineering management contract in the United Arab Emirates.

“Engineering firm Cardno will assist the Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Authority (ADWEA) to privatise the Emirate’s sewage reticulation and treatment assets, valued in excess of A\$1 billion,” Ms Bligh said.

ADWEA operates all municipal sewage treatment plants in Abu Dhabi and is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of the associated sewerage distributions systems.

The move to privatise sewage treatment and distribution is part of a long-term strategy of the Abu Dhabi Government to boost efficiency and to leverage private sector innovation to ensure infrastructure keeps pace with the region’s high growth.

“Cardno will assist the ADWEA by developing a privatisation strategy and will also advise on the proposed sale and subsequent expansion and operation of the treatment facilities by the new owners,” Ms Bligh said.

She said this was a major achievement for a Queensland company, which only recently opened an office in Abu Dhabi, to beat strong international competition in securing the more than \$1 million contract.

“What got Cardno across the line was the wealth of its experience in water and wastewater management, demonstrating once again the skills and experience we have in Queensland to match the world’s best,” Ms Bligh said.

“I’m also glad to say that my Department, through the Middle East team of our Trade and International Operations Division, was able to help Cardno establish a business presence in Abu Dhabi.”

Founded in 1946 and with 26 offices Australia and world-wide, and employing over 1200 staff, Cardno played a key role in the Lae City Water Supply Project in Papua New Guinea, the assessment and review of future water needs for Ku-Ching in Malaysia, and the Capricorn Coast Water Sourcing Strategy where it worked with Livingstone Shire Council to increase the raw water supply to meet the demand from the region’s growing population.

Cardno Chairman John Massey said decades of experience in water supply and sewerage services would help Cardno meet the challenges of this large international project.

Mr Massey said the company anticipated that its role as technical advisor for the ADWEA would be a lead-in to otherwork in the United Arab Emirates.

“I wish to thank the Queensland Government for their support and assistance in helping us establish a presence in the Middle East. The Queensland Government’s networks and experienced staff helped us penetrate a competitive marketplace,” he said.

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