

# MAKING A SPLASH

The Stromlo Leisure Centre project is one of Australia's first long spanning mass timber construction examples incorporating construction techniques practiced in Europe for centuries. The project consists of a 50m Olympic Pool, 20m learn-to-swim pool, leisure pool and splash park, plus reception, kiosk, administration offices and change rooms. In addition to the extensive aquatic facilities, the centre incorporates additional leisure facilities such as a gym, café and various external recreation areas for triathlon and community groups.

The \$36 million Stromlo Leisure Centre project for the Australian Capital Territory Government includes an 8-lane FINA compliant 50m exercise pool, a 20m multi-purpose pool, a leisure pool and splash park and supporting facilities including a café, gym and external fitness and recreation areas.

Working with a large consulting team, Kane Constructions fully designed the new facility from the start. Kane submitted a preliminary design as part of the tender stage and have now taken that through to construction.

One distinguishing feature of Kane's design is the glue laminated timber 'glulam' roof structure which is designed to provide a connection to the surrounding Stromlo Forest Park.

The roof is one of the first of its kind in Australia. The company did the engineering in Australia, it was manufactured in Europe and imported. There was about a 10 month lead time from design to arrival onsite.



The lead time for the roof drove the entire construction programme. They had to lock in the building envelope and fire compartment design very early on. Everything then had to be built to the exact relative level and dimensions to ensure the roof fit perfectly onsite.

As well as providing a distinguishing design feature, the glulam roof brought other benefits. It's a sustainable material which also brings maintenance benefits. The timber is really well suited to the aquatic environment.

During construction, a range of challenges had to be overcome. The site was formerly a dump site with uncontrolled fill which Kane had to remove and replace with new soil. They could then use a piling machine and rig to drill the piles which are at many different heights. The site is sloping so on one side the piles are deeper than on the other.

The pool construction itself required significant quality checking to prove the pool was watertight before the surrounding enclosure was built. Kane built the envelope around the pool which dictated an already challenging programme. The structure also spans over the balance tanks for the pool which influenced the construction sequence.

The entire facility has been designed with an eye for detail and a strong sense of place. The building

features curtain wall glazing which is oriented to capture views towards the city and Black Mountain. Throughout the scheme the overall quality of the finishes we have used sets the project apart.

Kane is a national company with offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Canberra. Since commencing operations in Melbourne in 1975, Kane have established themselves as one of Australia's leading construction companies. Kane have delivered projects in the Australian Capital Territory since 1991 and opened their Canberra office in 2016. The Stromlo Leisure Centre will be the latest addition to a portfolio of successful projects in Canberra and surrounds which includes the Manuka Oval Broadcast Centre and the Queenbeyan Sports Centre which received a National Master Builders award.

Kane are a multi award winning company having also been awarded the 2016 National Commercial Master Builder of the Year by Master Builders Australia as well as Master Builder of the Year 2019 and Master Builder of the Year in Victoria for 2016 and 2017.

The Stromlo Leisure Centre project is another example of Kane's culture of professionalism, competence, integrity and enjoyment - referred to as "The Kane Way." This is reflected in their philosophy that "success is recognised in the way we achieve, as much as what we achieve."

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DEVELOPER : ACT Infrastructure, Finance & Capital Works  
MAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY : Kane Constructions  
ARCHITECT : Cox Architecture  
CONSTRUCTION VALUE : \$36 million