

Kiribati Islands safety boat built by Gisborne firm

In 2014, Gisborne firm White Pointer Boats won the New Zealand Aid tender to build a safety boat for the Kiribati Islands.

In the remote Kiribati Islands there are few maintenance services available. A safety boat for this location needs to be low-maintenance, have low-technology needs, and be strong and durable.

White Pointer Boats understood this and proposed a well-designed and cost-effective boat in their tender response.

Tony Bourke, White Pointer Boats' Business Development Manager said:

"Even when building boats for Australian owners, we design the boat for where it will be used most. Designing a boat for Melbourne waters is very different to designing a boat for Darwin."

A spokesperson for New Zealand Aid said:

"White Pointer's tender response demonstrated that they understood our needs. The boat had to be low-tech and low-maintenance for the Kiribati Islands. It also needed to be built of materials that could withstand the harsh tropical and marine environment. White Pointer tailored their boat to our needs. For example, they installed a deck surface that could be stood on in bare feet in the hot sun."



Department of Conservation's Kapiti Island boat built by White Pointer Boats.



The Kiribati Islands safety boat ready for painting

White Pointer Boats has also built two boats for the Department of Conservation. One of them is the boat that the Department of Conservation uses to manage the Kapiti Island Nature Reserve.

White Pointer Boats has been in the commercial and recreational boat-building business for over 20 years and they have built boats for customers in New Zealand, Australia, New Caledonia and Vanuatu.

White Pointer Boats build all the boats in Gisborne.



Police Rescue boat built for the Kiribati Islands by White Pointer Boats.

Additional information

For more information please contact the Better by Procurement team at New Zealand Trade & Enterprise (NZTE) Wellington. Telephone (04) 816 8100.