

SIGNS OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Established in 1999, Sonnex is an Australian owned and operated engineering, sheetmetal and profile cutting company based in South Australia. At Gawler East Link Road Sonnex manufactured and installed the Karuna Signage on Kelly Circuit. The signage is part of a series of nine signs supplied and installed by Sonnex at sites around South Australia to acknowledge the original inhabitants of the land. Made of Corten, a material that rusts over time, the signs are reminiscent of the red earth of the Australian landscape.

"We were provided with architectural drawings and artwork files and we then used them to draft engineering and manufacturing drawings," said Owner Director, Jano Tuchyna. "The process took around six weeks as we converted all the artwork to DXF files for our profile cutters and waited for approvals from the designers. As the signage was to be installed near a new sub-division, we needed approval from Bardavcol, the main construction company working there."

"The design was quite detailed so the main challenge we faced was making sure the DXF files for profile cutting were accurate. We also made several small changes to the design including moving some holes around to make the columns easier to manufacture."

"The job went smoothly. We have years of experience manufacturing a large number of signs and artwork around South Australia and we know how to address any potential issues early," said Jano. Installation for the Karuna signs started in early September and took around two weeks.

Sonnex has a solid background of working with major Australian and international companies. Once a top tier supplier to

the GMH Holden factory, Sonnex has successfully diversified to provide expert engineering and fabrication services that include laser and drill plasma cutting, folding and bending, tapping, bevelling and rolling. Sonnex's range of services and comprehensive production facilities enable them to supply high quality structural and architectural metalwork.

"The total combined workshop space for plate processing, engineering and paint is 3,400m². All three of our workshops are located in Elizabeth South and we employ 34 people. Our Amada laser cutters, press brakes and the operators who run these machines every day, create excellent results," added Jano.

Sonnex's background with major Australian and international companies has given them experience across a board range of industry sectors including transportation, automotive, mining, manufacturing, construction, rail and power generation.

"Most of our work is local to South Australia, and we do regularly take on interstate projects, but they are only a small portion of the total work we produce. Sonnex do a variety of things, we have a large plate processing workshop, a smaller engineering workshop and a dedicated paint shop," explained Jano. "We carry out engineering and fabrication of architectural elements sheet metal cutting, plate processing and supply product to other businesses. Our services include installation, prototyping and onsite shutdown and maintenance services for other facilities. We also do a large amount of manufacturing for the concrete precast industry."

Sonnex has been working with the SA Department of Transport and Infrastructure for a number of years. Previous projects include remediation works at Paringa Bridge, completed in June 2017 and at Munno Parra Train Station, completed in December 2008.

In 2017 the structural company building the O-Bahn extension footbridge needed a plate processing company who could deliver accurate parts on time. Sonnex were contracted to fabricate and supply the Corten profiles for the build.

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