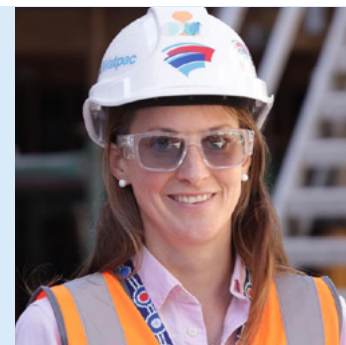


Meet Aurelie Bolle

A Project Manager with Besix Watpac, currently working on the redevelopment of St George Hospital.



In support of the NSW Government's Hard Work Knows No Gender awareness campaign, we sat down with Aurelie to find out why she is pursuing a career in construction and what she enjoys about working on site.

What are your qualifications, Aurelie?

I hold a Master's in Civil Engineering. I also have a Bachelor in Management and a Certificate IV In Safety. I'm currently doing a Certificate IV in Leadership and Management.

Please describe your current job?

I am a Project Manager at the St George Hospital Redevelopment. I work between the contractor, client and architect to incorporate modifications into the design. I track structural progress, resolving challenges raised by subcontractors and oversee construction of the prototype rooms, which will align parties prior to the fitout works starting in the main building.

What's the best part of your job?

Learning everyday - from the consultants, subcontractors, my team, my management.

What's the most challenging part of your job?

Time management - everything is urgent. And now as a mum, my work time is even more limited.

What sparked your interest in a construction career?

My grandfather worked in construction. I was always impressed when we'd walk through a city and he would show me projects he had worked on, and the passion he had speaking about them.



What skills and attributes do you need in your role?

Problem solving, teamwork, capability under pressure, willingness to learn, listening, communication.

What's next careerwise? And, in the longer term?

Running my own project as a Project Manager and hopefully inspire other women to join or continue their career in the industry.

Do you have a workplace mentor or champion?

I participate in my employer's Cultivate Program. My mentor was the General Manager, which was a great opportunity. I also mentor one of our site engineers.

For those interested in doing work experience in the construction industry – what would you recommend?

Seek practical experience through internships or cadetships. Contact companies or even stop by a construction site and ask if you can have a chat with someone.

Your advice for those considering a career in construction?

Don't hesitate and do it. You will not regret it.

What are the three things good construction employers do?

1. Opportunities for career progression
2. On the-job training
3. Recognition

How important is diversity to the experiences on site?

Important. It has changed a lot in the past five years. Diversity bring different views and opinions. Women work differently too; we are generally good at multitasking and really efficient. We have lean-in circles at work, small groups of women that meet bi-monthly to share challenges and advice.

What's changing to make construction an industry-of-choice for women?

There are more and more women on site. The mentality is changing and less comments are being made – it is becoming standard. The main thing now is retaining those women. The five-day calendar is progress in the right direction, helping everyone (not just women) have a real weekend and time with friends and family. Since COVID, work flexibility is improving too. Having more women in management roles, helps women project themselves. You can't be what you can't see.

For more information on the St George Hospital Redevelopment project, visit:

seslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/st-george-hospital/about-us/st-george-hospital-stage-3-redevelopment

For more information on Women in Construction, visit:

nsw.gov.au/employment/women-construction

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