

FULL OF BEANS

TALK about a coffee worth having. Local infrastructure and project-management consultancy Flinders Group, who specialise in areas such as advising coal-seam gas, have been bought out by London-based giant Hyder Consulting.

Flinders chief executive officer Shane McDowall talked about how he'd run into Hyder's Australasian boss Greg Steele at a seminar and they decided to have a coffee. Steele talked about Hyder looking for acquisitions and, sometime later, it ended up in a deal worth between \$5 million and \$10 million, apparently.

Flinders, employing 70, is a privately owned mob so McDowall is probably going to be able to shout a few more coffees or a dozen. "We're going to keep growing under our brand," McDowall said.