

in depth

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TOWNSVILLE PORT AUTHORITY REMOVES PHOSPHATE RAIL LINE

In response to noise and dust problems from South Townsville residents over a significant period of time, Townsville Port Authority decided to discontinue the use of the old rail line that was used in the mid 1970's for the transportation of phosphate rock. The discontinuation is a result of an agreement reached between the Authority and WMC Fertilizers, who constructed new purpose built facilities in the port's Eastern Reclamation area in 1999/2000, to handle product from the Phosphate Hill project.

SimsMetal secured the tender for this project and work began in early April 2001 to remove

heavy gauge rail and sleepers from the old line. This work was completed in May 2001.

Townsville Port Authority will remove ballast material and light towers to make way for future sub-division work within the port.

This project has been undertaken in such a manner to avoid dust and noise problems for surrounding residents. SimsMetal will use the material as scrap metal or sell it as is.



The removal of the old rail line was undertaken in such a manner to avoid noise and dust problems for South Townsville residents.

DEMOLITION OF OLD TIMBER WHARF UNDER BERTH 3

In 1970 with the ongoing development of the port, the decision was made to upgrade the existing timber wharf to concrete. At that time the port opted not to pull down the old timber wharf because it was used as soffit formwork for the new concrete wharf.

The Authority has now decided to demolish the

old timber wharf that lies beneath Berth 3 to allow ongoing maintenance to the new concrete wharf and steel piles.



Mt Louisa Haulage secured the contract and work began on 2 April 2001. The timber that was used to

The timber from the old wharf may be re-used by various city councils.

construct the old wharf in 1901 is now being considered for re-use by various city councils for gardening projects.

The project is expected to be complete at the end of June 2001 as work is permitted while shipping is in progress. Any enquiries relating to this project can be directed to Chris Martin, Project Engineer on 07 4781 1605.

PORT ACHIEVES 'EXCELLENCE' IN ANNUAL REPORTING

Each year organisations have an opportunity to benchmark their annual reporting activities and be recognised through the presentation of annual report awards.

The Annual Report is seen as a valuable marketing tool in as much as it discloses an organisation's activities, achievements and initiatives, financial and business results, and plans for the future.

In April this year, Townsville Port Authority was presented with an Award of Excellence at the annual Queensland Public Sector Annual Report Awards (conducted by the Queensland Institute of Auditors) held in Brisbane. Awards are given in three categories – Excellence, Merit or Commendation, with one model report being named overall winner.

We were also nominated in a special category, 'Best Disclosure of Environmental Issues', (won by Port of Brisbane Corporation), where we were awarded a Certificate of Merit.

On a national and international level, the Annual Report Awards (ARA) recognise and encourage excellence in the quality of information in annual reports. Reports are not evaluated on the profitability of the organisation, but more so on how successfully that organisation meets the established criteria. The objectives being:

- to promote the improvement of communication to stakeholders through the publication of factual annual reports;
- to encourage effective communication of financial and business information;
- to create public awareness of valid and objective measures of performance and to promote a better understanding of the results achieved; and,
- to create public awareness of the purposes of organisations, how they function, and their achievements.

Those judged to have successfully met the ARA's published criteria are eligible to receive a Gold, Silver or Bronze award. From the Gold awards, the coveted Report of the Year is chosen.

At the Annual Report Awards held in Melbourne in June,



Townsville Port Authority was successful in achieving a Silver Award. This recognised our report as one which provided quality coverage of the ARA criteria, adequate disclosure of key aspects of our core business, and presented outstanding disclosure of our activities and outcomes for the 99/00 financial year.



The Authority was successful in achieving a Silver Award for the 99/00 Annual Report.

PORT RELEASES SAFETY VIDEO

Townsville Port Authority has released a Port Safety Video that compliments the induction process. The purpose of the video is to inform staff, contractors and visitors to the port of the Workplace Health & Safety requirements and port notices.

The tender to produce the video was won by Digital Dimensions in Townsville and took a little over two months to complete. During this time Townsville Port Authority staff re-enacted safety

scenarios for the video. The duration of the video is approximately 30 minutes. The Port Safety Video will be shown to all new TPA employees, contractors and visitors to the port, giving them an overview of port safety and operations.

The video forms part of the generic port safety induction



Yvonne Banks has taken over the position of Quality & Safety Officer at the port.

and does not replace the site specific inductions, which will be done on a case by case situation.

"USS ESSEX" VISITS AS PART OF OPERATION TANDEM THRUST

The Townsville region played host to over 4,000 American soldiers and marines in the lead up to Operation Tandem Thrust – a joint Australian and United States Military Exercise.

Townsville Port Authority successfully negotiated with the Australian and US Navy as well as major port users, Mount Isa Mines and Northern Shipping and Stevedoring, to accommodate several US naval visits in the lead up to the exercise. The successful negotiations also meant an Open Day for the visiting *USS Essex*.

The *USS Essex*, a 257 metre long, 14 storey amphibious assault ship opened up its doors to the public on Saturday 12 May 2001 with over 5,000 people taking advantage of this once-off experience. The *USS Essex* can carry up to 30 helicopters, has a 17,700 kilometre range without fuelling and accommodates around 2,700 service personnel on board.

The *USS Essex* was just one of the many vessels participating in

Tandem Thrust off the Central Queensland coastline at Shoalwater Bay. The exercise, which involved over 27,000 troops from Australia and the United States, aimed to give service personnel experience in real life combat situations and actual war game scenarios.

Townsville Port Authority also hosted several Australian Navy vessels including the *HMAS Kanimbla*, *HMAS Manoora*, *HMAS Tarakan*, *HMAS Wewak* and *HMAS Launceston* between the week of 9 May 2001 and 15 May 2001. These vessels also participated in the operation that commenced on 1 May 2001.

Townsville Port Authority would like to recognise the co-operation of all port users during the lead up to Operation Tandem Thrust. Without their continual

understanding in situations like this, the port would be unable to accommodate these vessels.



Over 5,000 people visited the "USS Essex" on Saturday, 12 May 2001.



"USS Essex" accommodates around 2,700 service personnel.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY SIGN AN AGREEMENT TO EXTEND BERTH 10

A formal agreement to extend Berth 10 between the Royal Australian Navy and Townsville Port Authority will allow the Navy to use the berth for up to 75 days in any one calendar year for loading operations throughout the next 15 years.

The extensions to Berth 10 has been fully funded by the Royal Australian Navy and will be managed by the Authority. The Navy will principally use the wharf for amphibious vessels including the *HMAS Kanimbla* and *HMAS Manoora*.

The Royal Australian Navy and Patrick – *The Australian Stevedore* will share the berth once extensions are complete and protocols will be put in place to ensure the berth operates safely and effectively.

Townsville Port Authority has called for tenders and work is expected to commence in July. The scope of work entails a 10m wide berthing dolphin to be constructed at the northern end of the Berth 10 reclamation and a mooring dolphin to be constructed immediately north of the Berth 10

reclamation. Work on the wharf can continue while shipping is in progress and this is expected to be complete by mid December.



Extensions to Berth 10 will allow vessels like the "HMAS Kanimbla" (pictured) to visit the port.

MAINTENANCE WORKS

The Authority's maintenance works program continues with works being undertaken in various locations around the port.

- Fender waler upgrades to Berth 2 and 3 have commenced. Blasting and painting of existing piles is underway in a field workshop constructed at the back of Berth 2. This is a continuous operation for the port over the next 12 months. Site works for the replacement of the existing timber walers with a welded beam will commence as shipping windows permit. This work also entails the replacement of the existing spill plates and the maintenance of the fender rubber mounting brackets.

- The Port of Brisbane Dredge, the *Brisbane*, was here completing its annual dredge campaign. Dredging work commenced on 1 May 2001 and was here until the first week of June and worked in Platypus Channel, Outer Harbour and the western breakwater. It was estimated that 300,000 cubic metres was dredged during this time. This is the first time that the *Brisbane* has been used in Townsville. The dredge replaces the *Sir Thomas Hiley* previously used by the port.
- Tenders have been received for the demolition of the QPL Shed. Townsville Port Authority is in the process of securing a contract

for this project. Work on site will commence at the end of June.

- The access road to the Molasses Terminal and Chemtrans will be regraded, drained and sealed to improve the quality of this section of road. Work on this project started at the beginning of June.



It is estimated that the "Brisbane" removed 300 000 cubic metres during its visit to the port.

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This newsletter is a regular publication of Townsville Port Authority and is available free of charge. Correspondence is invited on any subject concerning the Port of Townsville and the shipping industry, which you would like featured in this newsletter. Reproduction of information and photo-

graphs are welcomed with acknowledgement. For further information on articles featured in this edition, or matters relating to the development and trade of Townsville Port Authority, please contact:-

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