

## Heavy lifting at the port

Marine Offloading Facility receives \$8.5 million upgrade



### Cowboys are our team

A new community partnership will see Cowboys legends visiting our region

### Seagrass monitoring

Comprehensive monitoring program keeping waterway health in check

### Supporting local business

Helping to ensure the sustainability of our port communities



**At North Queensland Bulk Ports, we are proud of the role we play in the community and the State's economy.**

We facilitate global trade for a wide range of bulk commodities, leading the sustainable development of our ports and building prosperity for all Queenslanders.

These ports, which include not just Abbot Point, but also Weipa, Mackay and Hay Point are gateways for more than half of Queensland's trade by tonnage every year.

Whether it be the economic contribution we make together with our customers through trade; the community partnerships we build; or the spectacular environment we actively and closely safeguard, one of our values is to lead the way.

In this edition, we are pleased to share some recent highlights from our key community and environmental programs.

One of the ways we are supporting our region is through a new partnership with the North Queensland Cowboys. Our two organisations are joining together under a three-year community partnership which features a program that reaches across all of our port communities.

To learn more about our local environment, check out page 5, which features information about our comprehensive seagrass monitoring program – a critical indicator of waterway health.

2017 will be a year of delivery for NQBP and I look forward to keeping you up to date with the latest from your port.

**Steve Lewis**  
CEO, NORTH QUEENSLAND BULK PORTS



NQBP AND COWBOYS PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT AT PORT OF MACKAY LATE LAST YEAR

## NQ COWBOYS ARE OUR TEAM

**When it comes to putting the north Queensland community first, NQBP and the North Queensland Cowboys are on the same side.**

The two proud regional Queensland organisations launched a community-based partnership late last year, centred on their shared vision to see communities thrive even during challenging times.

The partnership will see Cowboys legends Brent Tate and Matt Bowen make a number of visits to the port communities of Bowen, Sarina, Mackay and Weipa during 2017.

The former players will present to hundreds of local children and teach them the importance of teamwork and school attendance.

Cowboys CEO Greg Tonner says the partnership with NQBP is like a great friendship.



PORT COMMUNITIES

“Together we are working with the very institutions that lie at the heart of NQ communities – our schools,” says Mr Tonner.

“If we can help students stay engaged in learning and encourage them to be healthy and active, we’re on the way to ensuring prosperous and sustainable regional communities for the future.

“In addition to the school visits, the Cowboys legends and development staff will also conduct children’s training sessions.

“What we see is that the Cowboys have an ability to affect kids and create social change. To see the looks on their faces and to hear how they respond is very rewarding,” says Mr Tonner.



## Port upgrade: Marine Offloading Facility



TRADE FACILITATION

**Moving industrial equipment bigger than the size of your average house is no easy job, but a newly renovated Marine Offloading Facility (MOF) at Abbot Point helps with the heavy lifting.**

A MOF allows the transfer of large equipment and materials to a port by barge rather than by road.

The newly renovated Port of Abbot Point MOF is almost ready to receive its first delivery with stage one of construction works now complete.

NQBP Senior Project Engineer Anoop Pillai says although special marine construction expertise was required on the project, local contractors were also used during construction.

“NQBP is proud to support the Bowen community and during peak construction, up to 30 local contractors were busy on site.



PICTURED ABOVE AND BELOW: MARINE OFFLOADING FACILITY IN CONSTRUCTION

“Not only did these works directly employ local people, the project has brought more money through the town – with visiting workers eating at local restaurants and staying at local hotels,” says Mr Pillai.

Modifications to the MOF, originally built in 1982, allow for the safe and efficient delivery of large cargoes, starting with a replacement ‘stacker reclaimer’ used for coal loading.

However, Mr Pillai says the \$8.5 million project will also benefit a number of different anticipated users in the future.

“It will be a great asset for the Port of Abbot

Point, allowing for the cost efficient delivery of large cargoes with the added benefit of keeping them away from the busy Bruce Highway,” he says.

“Projects like these improve efficiency at our ports, providing assets for our customers and supporting the economic development of Queensland and the region.

“The upgraded MOF will also improve emergency response with a new light vessel jetty,” says Mr Pillai.

Federally approved maintenance dredging will occur within a set window of April to October.



## LUCKY PENNY HEADS BACK INTO THE WILD

A green sea turtle, believed to be between 15 and 20 years old has recently been released back into the wild after spending more than a year in rehabilitation care at Townsville's Reef HQ.

Penny was released from the shores of Bowen Harbour, by volunteers from Bowen Sea Turtle Animal Stranding Response (BSTAR).

NQBP has been a long-term partner of BSTAR, helping to play an important role in providing turtles rescued from local waters with emergency care before transferring them to specialist hospitals such as the one at Reef HQ.



BSTAR'S TRACEY BAZZO, STEVE MUSCAT AND NQBP'S KIRSTY MUGRIDGE WERE HAPPY TO RELEASE PENNY BACK INTO THE WILD

## Gumlu better by the dozen



Gumlu State School is looking to become a model of environmental sustainability, and a NQBP EcoPorts grant is helping the 12-student school achieve that goal.

NQBP Director of Sustainability and External Relations Gary Campbell says he is delighted to see the grant directed towards the installation of the school's own chicken coop.

"The chicken coop is an innovative addition for the EcoPorts grant program, which has also helped to kick-start kitchen gardens, recycling programs and a trial of fishing line disposal bins," he says.

"The EcoPorts grants create awareness, understanding and appreciation for the environment, and NQBP is proud to support grassroots initiatives that engage Bowen region's young people."

Gumlu State School Principal Thomas Harrington says the idea

for the chicken coop was to work in conjunction with their 'naked lunchbox' project, designed to eliminate plastics and rubbish from the school grounds.

The chickens play their part by eating food scraps.

"One thousand dollars might not seem like a lot of money, but for us it is huge," says Mr Harrington.

"A project like this in a small school allows for all the students to get involved and really learn from their experiences outside of the classroom as well as inside."

Mr Harrington says while they planned originally to purchase chickens only, with snakes already hanging around, the addition of guinea fowl would help to chase them away.

"The chickens and guinea fowl will be completely free range, wandering around the school grounds throughout the day and only locked into their chicken coop at night to avoid the dingoes," he says.



GUMLU STATE SCHOOL STUDENT KIARA KRUG PICTURED WITH THE MURAL SHE PAINTED INSIDE THE CHICKEN COOP

## SEAGRASS MONITORING

### What is seagrass?

- Seagrass is a flowering plant that grows in the ocean. It has pollen and produces seeds and is the only underwater plant that flowers
- Seagrass needs light, sediment and nutrients to thrive
- There are 15 different seagrass species in Queensland
- In Queensland ports the two main habitat types are:



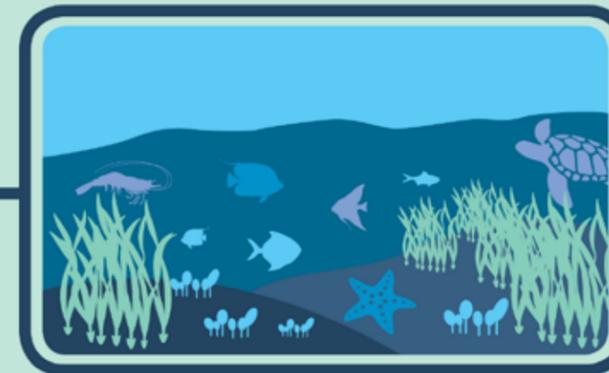
**Shallow coastal**  
Dense large species like *Zostera muelleri* (strap leaf type)



**Deeper water**  
Sparse small species such as *Halophila ovalis* (oval leaf)

### Why is seagrass important?

- Nursery for marine life (invertebrates, fish)
- Food source for turtles and dugongs
- 35 times more efficient at storing carbon than a rainforest
- Sediment stabilisation



### OUTCOMES

#### WEIPA

- Annual monitoring
- Baseline in 2000
- Over 4,000ha of seagrass within port limits
- Resulted in major advances in understanding the drivers of tropical seagrass change

#### ABBOT POINT

- Annual monitoring
- Baseline in 2005
- Over 20,000ha of seagrass within port limits
- Dense shallow seagrasses along the coast; sparser deepwater seagrasses further offshore
- Research into seagrass productivity, recovery and resilience
- Light, temperature and water quality monitoring

#### MACKAY

- Annual monitoring
- Baseline in 2001
- Remapping of seagrass in October 2014
- Over 568ha of shallow and deepwater seagrass
- Light, temperature and water quality monitoring

#### HAY POINT

- Annual monitoring
- First monitoring program in Australia to address deepwater seagrass
- Baseline in 2004 and 2005
- 6,800ha low cover deepwater seagrass in 2004
- Specific monitoring in relation to dredging in 2006 to 2008
- Light, temperature and water quality monitoring

### MONITORING

#### TECHNIQUES



Underwater camera



Grab samples



Free divers



Helicopter/aerial



Light logger



Sediment cores

#### MEASURES

- Coverage
- Density
- Variables
  - Light
  - Temperature
  - Water quality

#### WHY

- Measure and manage port environment health
- Assists with port planning and operations
- Ensures protection of key marine habitats
- Provides a state-wide network for determining seagrass condition

# Inside the Port of Abbot Point



Berth 1

Berth 2

Trestle

Marine Offloading Facility

Stormwater Management Pond

Coal Stockyard

Stacker Reclaimer

Administration & Maintenance

Coal Inloader

Abbot Point Rail Balloon

Stormwater Return Dam

Caley Valley Wetlands

## STRATEGIC ADVANTAGES

-  Most northern natural deep water port
-  Proximity to Asian markets
-  Gateway to major infrastructure - roads, rail and shipping
-  Adjacent to state development area
-  Isolated from urban development
-  Existing residential population located at Bowen to support operations and growth



## LOCAL BUSINESS BENEFITING FROM LOCAL BUYING

**Running a small business for more than 18 years in Bowen, Home Hardware owner John McEnery knows first-hand the importance of buying local.**

Mr McEnery employs 18 people at the popular hardware store, which also provides supplies to NQBP's Port of Abbot Point maintenance crew.

Mr McEnery says while there had been a downturn in the Bowen economy, there is a strong sense of community which means shoppers still want to support local business.

"We aim to provide a competitive price and pride ourselves on customer service.

"We also support the local economy by providing jobs and having an extensive range of products," he says.

"As long as shoppers continue to buy local, we will continue to compete," says Mr McEnery.

Buying local is a growing part of NQBP's strategy to support regional communities.

Sustainability takes into account more than just environmental practice. In more general terms, sustainability is about endurance and longevity.

NQBP Senior Manager Sustainability, Simona Duke says procurement policies ensure employees are encouraged to consider local suppliers, to help build strong relationships and ensure long term capability.

"By creating opportunities to support local business we are essentially investing in the community and keeping our towns and port communities economically attractive places to live and raise a family.

"NQBP was the first Australian port authority to develop a Sustainability Plan, which sets a pathway for our organisation.

"One of the core themes of the Plan is Port Communities; an action under this theme is

to invest in community resilience.

"The objective is to positively contribute to community spirit, resilience and capacity building. This extends to supporting local business, whether it be the local hardware store or bigger, medium sized enterprises in the region that supply contractors for infrastructure projects" Ms Duke says.

To read more about our sustainability plan, visit our website.

### STAY IN TOUCH

Find out more about your port. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter or sign up for our newsletter by visiting [nqbp.com.au](http://nqbp.com.au) or calling 07 4969 0700



SMART PORTS · BRIGHT FUTURE