

PORTLIFE

01

MACKAY • HAY POINT



Smooth road ahead for Mackay

North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation (NQBPC) is smoothing the way for increased trade through the Port of Mackay with a \$2.3 million investment in infrastructure improvements.

Trade in focus

Indo-Asia's economic expansion is creating regional opportunities across North Queensland.

A growing asset

Hay Point's parkland transformation is taking shape.

Real-world environment

James Cook University post-graduates' career booster.



WELCOME ABOARD!

On behalf of the NQBP team, I welcome you to the first edition of PortLife.

The first thing you will see in our revamped community newsletter is an expansion of coverage to include activities from our Ports of Mackay and Hay Point.

Separated by just 40km of the Coral Sea, Mackay and Hay Point may have divergent histories as vital trade links but through NQBP's ownership on behalf of the Government and people of Queensland, they share a common vision of long-term sustainability.

Commercially, our focus is on creating value for our customers by building the capacity and capability of our ports.

To do that, we use world-leading management practices, carried out by a great team of people who you may know as neighbours or active participants in Mackay region communities.

The sustainability of our port operations at Mackay and Hay Point also demands real commitment to regional economic development, cutting edge environmental protection management and earning the continuing support of our neighbours and surrounding communities.

PortLife is about providing you with insights into our operations and our strong links to the communities in which we operate.

Please enjoy this edition and remember you can also stay in touch with NQBP through our website and Facebook page.

Steve Lewis
CEO, NORTH QUEENSLAND BULK PORTS



TRADE FACILITATION

Smooth road ahead for Mackay

NQBP is smoothing the way for increased trade through the Port of Mackay with a \$2.3 million investment in infrastructure improvements.

The lion's share of the contract work – a \$1.9 million upgrade of the port's Harbour Road East intersection and construction of a new 2.3 hectare laydown area – was awarded to local company EPOCA Constructions.

The upgrade will help improve transport efficiency and support trade growth for the next 25 years.

"Infrastructure investments such as the Harbour Road East upgrade are about improving efficiency and attracting new customers to help support the economic development of Queensland and the Mackay region," NQBP Chief Operating Officer Jeff Stewart-Harris said.

EPOCA Constructions Project Manager James Vazquez welcomed NQBP's awarding of the contract.

"As a local company of more than 40 years' standing employing local people, we have a big stake in the ongoing development of the Port of Mackay," he said.

Up to 26 people have been employed on the project, which is part of the State Government's Accelerated Works Program.

The new laydown area will service general cargo that is loaded or unloaded as individual units, such as mining or construction machinery.

In addition to the \$1.9 million package, NQBP has committed a further \$400,000 for stormwater drainage on Presto Avenue and the completion of roadworks at Spiller Avenue.

New energy-efficient LED street lighting will also be installed to improve safety and visibility at the intersection.

Another notable component of the project's specifications is the recycling of old concrete kerbing removed as part of the intersection upgrade.



WORKS UNDERWAY AT HARBOUR ROAD EAST



GENERAL MANAGER OF ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT, DR ROCHELLE MACDONALD PROVIDES INSIGHT INTO OPPORTUNITIES IN SUPPORT OF TRADE FACILITATION



INDO-ASIA DRIVING LOCAL GROWTH

Regional trade and local project opportunities linked to the economic expansion of Indo-Asia have been highlighted in a key address to the Queensland Government's Mackay Regional Major Projects Forum.

NQBP's General Manager of Engineering and Development, Dr Rochelle Macdonald told the forum that with most of the world's growth occurring in Indo-Asia over coming decades, 'trade facilitation' would consolidate as a major economic driver for Queensland.

NQBP's ports at Mackay, Hay Point, Abbot Point and Weipa connect Queensland and Australia to the world's fastest growing region.

"The continuing prosperity of this and future generations of Australians has never been more closely aligned to the sustainable development of our ports," Rochelle said.

"The message for exporters and the business supply chain in the Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac region is that our ports are ready, willing and able to help unlock the potential for long-term trade growth with Asia."

Dr Macdonald also highlighted current NQBP trade facilitation projects at the Ports of Mackay and Hay Point including:

A \$1.9 million upgrade of the Port of Mackay's Harbour Road East, new street lighting and construction of a laydown area.

A \$2.5 million upgrade of the marine offloading facility (MOF) at the Port of Hay Point.

A \$1.78 million pile wrapping refurbishment of the Port of Mackay's No 1 and No 5 wharves.

A \$600,000 upgrade of security systems at the Port of Mackay.

The NQBP Board has approved a \$28.4 million capital expenditure budget for the 2016-17 financial year and will maintain its focus on preferencing expert local contractors and suppliers.

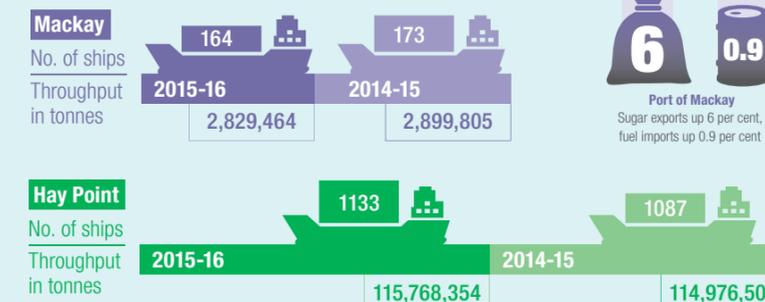
GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

Every corner of Australia benefits from our country's ports.

From the coast to the outback, from our cities to regional towns, our ports help Australia to be more than just an island - connecting us with the rest of the world.

The Port of Hay Point is one of the world's largest coal export ports. It houses separate coal terminals: Hay Point Coal Terminal and Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal. Major commodities traded through the Port of Mackay include fuel, grain, raw sugar and sugar products.

Trade in review - 2015 to 2016



Port primed for business

NQBP and Port of Mackay tenants invest in the region's future.

A swag of trade growth infrastructure upgrades at the Port of Mackay are laying the foundations for a bright future in a smart port.

In addition to the \$1.9 million Harbour Road East intersection and associated laydown project (see feature this edition), other business-focused initiatives include:

Completion of a 1.5 hectare laydown area adjacent to Wharf No 1 for 'break bulk' cargo.

Demolition of a redundant acid tank terminal and the creation of 0.62 hectares of laydown area.

The fitting of protective jackets to steel piles on Wharf 1 and 5.

Construction of a new Puma Energy petrol tank on Spiller Avenue.

The laydown area occupies land that until 2015 housed molasses tanks and other pieces of infrastructure.

Its first major test was a seamless unloading and transfer to road transport of two massive dump trucks, which arrived in components weighing up to 135 tonnes.

Meantime, NQBP's redevelopment of the former acid tank terminal near Harbour Road has laid out a large blank canvas for businesses seeking a prime portside location.

At the Port of Mackay Wharf 1 and 5, heavy duty plastic jackets are being fitted to the steel pilings, forming a protective barrier against the marine environment.

An innovative aspect to the work was the construction of a temporary floating pontoon for the project crew (pictured below), made from more than 500 plastic blocks.

At Spiller Avenue, Puma Energy is adding a second petrol storage tank to its Mackay terminal.

The project also involves extending product transfer lines, the existing fire main and monitoring systems.

When the project is completed in early 2017, the company will have seven tanks on the site, with five dedicated to diesel and two to supplying petrol to central Queensland businesses and consumers.



A GROWING COMMUNITY ASSET

After a slow start to its transformation, the former Hay Point Caravan Park is literally growing into a valuable community asset.

With stage one including the planting of native trees at the northern end of the site, stage two of the parkland redevelopment is under way with a scheduled December completion.

Stage two involves the installation of additional gravel pathways, a boundary fence with the adjoining hotel, vehicle bollards and additional plantings.

Landscaping of the entire area is being undertaken in four stages, with one being completed each year.

When finished the project will fall neatly into the category of multiple-use – as both a green buffer zone and occasional haul road between Half Tide Tug Harbour and nearby coal terminals.

NQBP Chief Operating Officer Jeff Stewart-Harris described the site's transition from a largely barren and unloved landscape into a community asset as a "win-win".

"The inclusion of a nine metre wide haul road in the park's design means that replacement stacker reclaimers scheduled for delivery to Half Tide Tug Harbour can be transported through the former caravan park and not on public roads," Jeff said.

"However, for the vast majority of the time, the haul road will be simply another feature of the park as a pedestrian and bicycle pathway.

"This is another example of where NQBP's commercial focus on facilitating increased trade has integrated with its commitment to long-term sustainability and positive community outcomes."



ENVIRONMENT

Innovation tomorrow REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE TODAY

In a world where knowledge is no longer enough, educators are looking to industry partnerships to boost career prospects and enrich the learning experience.

NQBP has teamed with James Cook University (JCU) and TropWATER to help deliver real-world research opportunities for postgraduate students.

The collaborative project will see Bianca Staker and Yanni Smith (pictured right) explore environmental management practices of coastal ports across the globe under the supervision of TropWATER's Dr Nathan Waltham, while working alongside local industry leaders.

NQBP's Senior Manager Environment Kevin Kane said the initiative will allow industry to share and build knowledge with those who will play an active role in shaping port communities in the future.

"NQBP has a comprehensive environmental program and I'm looking forward to assisting Bianca and Yanni with their research projects by providing them with a first-hand insight into our approach," Kevin said.

"As one of the country's largest port authorities, North Queensland Bulk Ports holds a vision for Australia where trade, communities and the environment all thrive; it's important to share this story with our community and particularly those who will work in the field.

"Bianca's project will investigate and benchmark environmental monitoring programs on an international scale, while Yanni will be looking to develop health scoring methods and algorithms for report cards in coastal marine environments in Australia and beyond."

Having completed a Bachelor of Science in Biodiversity Conservation and Animal Behaviour, Bianca has chosen to specialise in Natural Resource Management for her postgraduate studies.

"My interest in management-based science is due to an appreciation for the applied sciences and the nature of proactive research," said Bianca.

"I believe science has a strong role to play in informing sound management practices within industry and ensuring a balanced environmental approach.

"It is this area of research I consider to be of increasing importance, specifically within the Australian coastal zones, as they are the foundation of our economy."

For Yanni the prospect of continuing work in the North Queensland region and producing research that has the potential to deliver outcomes for industry holds the greatest appeal.

"Ports and the Great Barrier Reef are two large financial drivers of the Australian economy. It's important that we protect the interests of both without compromising the other," Yanni said.

"I'm hoping the port health card project that I will develop alongside NQBP will trigger other ports around the world to be more proactive about their environmental monitoring and will help them to strive to achieve the best possible outcome."

Recognised as a leader in research and ranked among the globe's top 200 universities, JCU has a long-standing connection with NQBP with university researchers responsible for collecting data as part of the port authority's seagrass monitoring program.

"Partnering with credible scientific experts continues to inform our approach and ensures a deeper knowledge and understanding of port development and its interaction with the environment," said Kevin.



NQBP has a robust environmental program that involves continual environmental assessment, auditing, monitoring, protection and management. Take for example our Seagrass Research program. Starting in 1995 at the Port of Weipa, NQBP now has ongoing monitoring programs established around each of our four trading ports. James Cook University's TropWATER Seagrass Ecology Group undertake annual seagrass monitoring and research on more than 30,000ha of seafloor across our ports.



PORT COMMUNITIES

FUTURE FOREST PROVIDES PLACE FOR LEARNING

You need only whisper the words garden and gloves and students at Beaconsfield State School are quick to respond and ready to explore the school's Future Forest - an initiative given a \$1000 boost thanks to a NQBP grant.

The school is one of 10 in the North Queensland region to have been given the green light under the annual EcoPorts Program.

Beaconsfield Science Teacher Anna Berrigan said the grant will be used to create an eco-classroom within the existing Future Forest which includes a number of pathways and bridges to encourage exploration and discovery.

"The project enables us to integrate sustainability into our teaching and learning strategies with the garden providing a catalyst for all sorts of conversations from animal science through to agriculture and pest management," said Anna.

"It may only be a small space relatively speaking but for students it's a magical world and they love it."

The school hopes to build the eco-classroom shelter out of sustainably sourced local timber and to plant additional native trees, shrubs and hedging in the surrounding areas in a bid to attract pollinating insects.

A computer-linked weather station which provides forecast, temperature, humidity and barometric pressure readings will also be incorporated in the project with the data used to enrich the learning experiences for students.

Word from the schoolyard...

How has the Future Forest helped you to learn about the world around you?



AQUILA FISHER

"The Future Forest has helped me to learn by supplying the different creatures and to observe them in their habitat. I love how there is lots of different birds in the forest. The other day I saw a Curlew bird."



MILLER OGILVIE-ALCOCK

"I love working in there and raking the leaves, it's heaps of fun. Before the Future Forest I didn't really think about growing plants, I just thought it was something that nature does itself."



Out and about

At the heart of our ports are our communities. We are proud to sponsor a range of local events and initiatives and to play an active role in shaping vibrant North Queensland communities.

10 ECOPORT GRANTS : **10** NORTH QLD SCHOOLS **10 SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES FOR PORT COMMUNITIES**



NQBP recently announced the successful applicants of 10 grants to schools in local port communities, including Bowen and Weipa, to implement initiatives that support a sustainable local environment. We look forward to seeing the various projects evolve and congratulate St Patrick's College, Glenella State School, North Mackay State High School, Mirani State High School and Alligator Creek State School in the Mackay and Hay Point regions.



SARINA BEACH COCONUT FESTIVAL

Residents from Sarina and the surrounding region descended on Sarina Beach in September. NQBP was proud to sponsor the inaugural event designed to showcase local produce, culture and talent. Event organisers attributed the success of the festival to community, volunteer and sponsorship support. "Like any event the festival thrives on support; this is essential," said Rick Davis. NQBP also sponsored the Sarina Festival the following weekend.



MACKAY AIRPORT BEACH HORSE RACING FESTIVAL

While the horses captivated race goers, the NQBP Kids' Kingdom provided entertainment for the event's youngest fans with activities throughout the day as well as performances from 'King of the Kids' Eric Summons and Fairy Annabell.





TENANT PROFILE

Concrete revival

The name is the same but under the direction of new owners Sean Cutler and Mick Evans, Batrosa Concrete Products has re-invented itself after almost 70 years of service to the Mackay region.

When the opportunity to buy the business arose earlier this year, Mick and Sean decided to pool their decades of local industry experience and invest in the future of an iconic Mackay brand.

“Batrosa has operated in Mackay for 67 years and for more than 30 of those from the one hectare-plus Mackay Outer Harbour site in Graeme Heggie Street,” says Mick Evans.

“We are still the largest independent, locally-owned and operated pre-cast concrete manufacturer in North Queensland, but our focus on quality and service has moved to a whole new level.”

Batrosa designs and manufactures a diverse range of concrete products and precast concrete drainage products for the civil, industrial, agricultural, domestic and mining industries including pipes, tanks, pits, box culverts, head walls and stock troughs.

“If it can be made from concrete, we can do it – to Australian Standards and comply with quality benchmarks such as those demanded by Queensland’s Department of Transport and Main Roads,” Mick said.

Batrosa Concrete Products Quality Management System ensures all products are manufactured in accordance with the requirements of ISO 9001:2015.

The company’s major clients include local governments, contractors, mines, pastoral companies and civil engineering firms.

“It’s a new team here, and literally a new mix from the concrete to the expanded range of products we offer,” says Mick.

Batrosa is also now the Australian distributor for the NASA-developed and environmentally benign Evapo-Rust range of products - a safe rust removal process, as well as distributors for another American household name – Prolong Lubricants – a leader in automotive and industrial fuel additives with AFMT technology.

Batrosa Concrete Products is open to the general public, Mondays to Fridays, and is located outside the Port of Mackay security area in Graeme Heggie Street.

Stay in touch

Like to find out more about your port? Follow us on Facebook and Twitter or sign up for our newsletter by visiting nqbp.com.au



SMART PORTS · BRIGHT FUTURE

Mackay Office · 07 4969 0700

Level 1 Waterfront Place,
Mulherin Drive, Mackay Harbour

