



PORT OF BUNDABERG SILOS

NOV 2020 - JAN 2021
OKARA PTY LTD
\$0.33 M

DEMEX was engaged by Okara Pty Ltd to undertake demolition of all on site structures and removal of eight fuel storage tanks at the Port of Bundaberg, located in Bundaberg, a regional Queensland town approximately 360 kilometres north of Brisbane. The port has been a vital link in export of sugar, molasses, and many other minerals, metals, grain, and gas. Removal of the tanks was another step in the upgrade of port infrastructure being undertaken by the owner, Gladstone Ports Corporation.

Factors considered critical to project success included the mitigation of risk associated with fire sparks from cutting of steel given the overgrown grassed area on which the work site was located and the waterfront location with consistent high winds.

Air monitoring was important, as exposure to dust, particularly from rust, was a risk. The project team was aware that gas (from fuel), which could be found in tanks or pipes that had been redundant for some time, posed a safety risk.

As a precaution, a gas monitor was used to check gas levels both in tanks and pipes and ensure risks of explosion were eliminated.

In terms of innovation, the team devised a method of reducing steel to a manageable size and form to allow for safe transport over a long distance. Once silos were 'sliced', steel pieces were then 'folded' into a shape reflecting the dimensions of trucks used to transport waste safely over the 360 kilometres from Bundaberg to Brisbane. This meant truck space was optimised fully without any compromise to safety, project schedule, or budget.

A total of 788 tonnes of metal was recovered from the site during demolition and subsequently removed to appropriate recycling and disposal facilities.