



ST BEES ISLAND

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QBUILD

\$2.5 M

St Bees island is located 35 kilometres off the coast of Mackay. St Bees is one of 70 protected islands of the South Cumberland Islands National Park and part of the UNESCO Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area.

The Queensland Government acquired the lease for St Bees in 2022 as part of the Great Barrier Reef Island Arks initiative for the purpose of restoration.

As principal contractor DEMEX was engaged to undertake demolition, asbestos removal, and remediation works to enable restoration to natural bush of the 4.2-hectare parcel of land holding residences, human infrastructure, and 120 years of accumulated waste. Noxious and non-native plants were also to be removed.

PROJECT METHODOLOGY

Extensive detailed logistics planning prepared for mobilisation of equipment, fuel, accommodation, water, power, and food to a marine island site for a seven-week period. Resources drawn from the DEMEX fleet were assembled and transported by road to Gladstone Barge Terminal and Mackay Port over two separate mobilisations.

Barge movements were controlled to prevent environmental impact in the tidal zones by constant management of the barge landing zone, and by diligently observing tide times and movements.

Efforts were sequenced over three areas - south, middle and north - due to extreme tidal access limitations.

As part of the requirement stipulated at tender in order to meet compliance with the island's Environmental Management Plan (EMP), tree protection zones were identified and installed using physical barriers and signage. Local Yuwibara Aboriginal elder 'Uncle Gary' provided cultural awareness training.

During the works, asbestos contamination from pre-existing structures was located in and around the work zones. As a result, additional remediation works were required

As the largest disease-free koala population in the world, minimal disturbance to habitat was key to the approach. Materials were demolished and pulverised in situ using low impact attachments under heavy dust suppression. Water from the process was then captured, treated and reused onsite.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 120 solar panels, carefully disconnected, salvaged, were donated in Mackay and Gladstone. Battery storage systems were disconnected and recycled.
- Project completion to client satisfaction on time and budget.