



THURSDAY ISLAND

MULTIPLE STRUCTURES

MAY - AUGUST 2024
QBUILD
\$1.95 M

Engaged by QBuild, the construction arm of the Queensland Government, DEMEX completed asbestos removal and demolition works associated with multiple structures on Thursday Island; a remote location 39 kilometres north of Cape York Peninsula in Queensland.

The project involved significant logistics planning to mobilise the project team and resources to site, ensuring delivery was not interrupted or delayed. A small crew of five, including multiskilled asbestos removal and demolition operatives, worked a 3:1 roster for the duration of the project, which included extensive asbestos removal prior to mechanical demolition of five houses, an office building, and shed.

House demolition was conducted in a built up residential area, while the two storey administration building and co-located shed were in the main town centre.

CHALLENGES

- Remote location off the Australian mainland meant usual mobilisation methods could not be adopted.
- Tendered as two packages, which required two separate mobilisations.
- Age and structure of prefabricated asbestos wall panels impacted asbestos removal works.
- Due to the remote location, disposal costs for asbestos containing materials was significant.

SOLUTIONS

- Drew on previous experience of mobilisation to remote island locations. Preliminaries allowed for extended planning period to ensure all requirements for remote island delivery were considered. Engaged local equipment hire provider to reduce mobilisation costs.
- Identified commercial value for QBuild by packaging works into a single delivery program, resulting in approximately \$0.17 M in savings for the client.
- After considering alternatives that could expedite the program, the original methodology was retained to ensure full compliance with all safety and quality requirements.
- Plastic lined containers were used for disposal of asbestos panels off the island. Panels were stacked and stored in a single step, rather than stored in a separate location and transported via barge to Weipa as originally planned.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- In keeping with the Queensland Government's requirements, there was an emphasis on a local buy strategy for the project. This resulted in a total of 40 percent of project spend attributed to local suppliers.
- Project delivered safely with no significant incidents recorded.