



WHITE'S SHED DECONSTRUCTION

JUL - SEPT 2024
PORTS NORTH
\$0.75 M

The Port of Cairns, operated by Ports North, is a multi-purpose regional port that services diverse industries, including mining, fishing, cruise shipping, and reef tourism. DEMEX was engaged by Ports North to undertake deconstruction of the ageing White's Shed, an historic sugar handling facility at the port, which had not been in use since the 1960's.

CHALLENGES

- Conveyor housed in the 12-metre-high steel shed was recognised as infrastructure of significant cultural heritage.
- Severely dilapidated condition of the timber framed steel shed posed challenges for implementing the most effective methodology that balanced safety, heritage outcomes, and delivery schedule.
- Original methodology for shed deconstruction allowed for only two bays of the historic conveyor system to be salvaged.
- Lack of structural integrity meant each timber frame was removed individually.

SOLUTIONS

- From project inception, the project team established a collaborative relationship with the heritage consultants engaged by Ports North. This allowed alternative options to be considered to achieve all project objectives.

- Working with the Ports North engineering team, the demolition methodology was revised to enable four (4) bays of the conveyor to be salvaged.
- The final methodology involved the crew working down one side of the shed to remove the steel housing, before proceeding to the opposite side and repeating the process. This left the centre bay free standing making it possible to pull the structure over safely without impacting the heritage conveyor.

HIGHLIGHTS

Due to the change in methodology, more of the heritage conveyor was salvaged than previously calculated by Ports North. The crew worked closely with the Ports North heritage team over a two-week period to sort through materials once the conveyor system was on the ground. Additionally, timber slabs were also salvaged for reuse, while scrap steel was recycled.

In keeping with our approach to regional project delivery, DEMEX engaged numerous local suppliers, with the local spend representing ninety percent of the total project costs.

