

Case study - Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal, Mackay, Qld

John Holland (JH) achieved incredible success in supplying local fabricated steel for major coal loaders in Queensland's North Coast during 2008/09.



John Holland SMP business completed a new wharf and conveyor contract as part of the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal (DBCT) development for client BBI Management.

The DBCT is located at Hay Point 38km south of Mackay and facilitates the export of metallurgical and thermal coal mined in the Bowen Basin. It is one of the largest coal terminals in the world and was upgraded to increase its output from 60 to 85 million tonnes per annum due to bigger customer demand. The contract included all piling, structural, mechanical and electrical works associated with a new off-shore outloading conveyor along a widened jetty that extends 3.8km over the ocean to a new 420 metre long fourth berth.

This entailed placing over 400 steel piles of 1200mm diameter in thicknesses of 12mm and 16mm. As part of the contract, John Holland is manufacturing the 7900 tonnes of superstructure steelwork required for the project in house at its facilities in Queensland and through alliances with local fabricators.

This project followed John Holland's highly successful Central Queensland Ports Authority Berth 4 expansion works project that included construction of a 400 metre long wharf extension, 800 metres of wharf widening, a new approach jetty and 1.5km of onshore conveyor work. This involved 1195 tonnes of structural steel and 23,600 workshop labour hours.

John Holland also won the contract for local fabrication assembly and installation of a third shiploader, transfer bridge and tripper for the RG Tanna Coal Loader in Gladstone. Successful completion of these projects saw John Holland become a favoured contractor, also winning the follow-on development of Abbot Point wharf, land side conveyors and coal loader.

One of John Holland SMP's key competitive advantages is its ability to support its construction arm with the in-house manufacture of structural steel through its fabrication arm.

While John Holland has overseas sourcing experience, the supply of local steel and other services (Dalrymple Bay had 21 local subcontractors) allowed all parties to understand and work together to solve project or material issues. Conversely, it can be more difficult to resolve problems with substandard materials and services supplied from overseas.

“We also provide local fabrication and marine services ourselves and manage paint facilities at our Rockhampton, Townsville and Brisbane facility as we need to guarantee paint quality to stringent marine requirements - a critical part of the process,” said Albion Manning, Fabrications and Coatings Manager for John Holland’s SMP business.

For the Dalrymple Bay project, John Holland worked closely with BlueScope Steel to provide firm prices and a guarantee on steel supply.

John Holland also works with key partners such as Cairns Steel, Ryco and Pacific Coast to manage supply. These relationships are long-term and spur repeat business as further projects are won.

John Holland’s work on the DBCT expansion project was followed by significant new projects. In Queensland, the \$287 million Abbot Point Coal Terminal X50 Expansion Marine Works, Shiploader SL2 and the X25 Expansion, In-loading and Conveyor Upgrade Contract.