



Gladstone Ports Corporation
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Media Release

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Gladstone Ports Corporation focuses on the restoration of operations at the Port of Bundaberg

Gladstone Ports Corporation has been working on restoring normal operations at the Port of Bundaberg since early January, following the severe flooding of the Burnett River closed operations at the port.

CEO Leo Zussino said the silting of the Port of Bundaberg has been severe.

“The swing basin which is utilised by the sugar ships to berth at the port has been reduced to less than 3 metres,” Mr Zussino said.

“Restoration of this swing basin will involve significant dredging.”

Mr Zussino said GPC has to go through a process to achieve the regulatory approval for funding to begin the dredging work.

“Unfortunately this can’t happen overnight,” Mr Zussino said.

“Our focus has been on resolving a process with Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) and Qld Sugar to deal with the immediate issue of exporting the 120,000 tonne of sugar currently stored at the Port of Bundaberg.

“Late last week it was resolved MSQ would facilitate arrangements for smaller vessels to utilise the departure channel to swing and back on to the berth at the port.

“As well MSQ will have temporary navigational aids delivered to the port by Sunday February 20, and GPC will have them in place the following Monday.

“GPC is also seeking approval from the federal government to have the Port of Brisbane dredge come to Bundaberg and deepen the berth pocket.

“We understand the community concern and we can assure the community we are totally focussed on the immediate issue delivering the stored sugar to market.

“We are also working to restore normal operations to the Port of Bundaberg, however, that process will take several months.”

Mr Zussino said GPC will provide regular updates to keep the community informed on the status of the port.

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