



Gladstone Ports Corporation
Growth, Prosperity, Community.

Media Release

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Indigenous employment initiatives in place at GPC

Indigenous employment initiatives are now in place for the Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) with the introduction of an Indigenous Employment Policy.

GPC Chairman Ian Brusasco said the policy was a result of GPC's Reconciliation Action Plan which the Port adopted last year.

"GPC is now working to establish recruitment and career development programs for Indigenous people to increase access to employment opportunities and to improve retention and career advancement," Mr Brusasco said.

"The goal of GPC is to have an Indigenous employment rate of five per cent by 2020."

Mr Brusasco added that in order to achieve this goal GPC's Future Directions Indigenous liaison Group will consult with Indigenous people and community groups to include them in the development, decision making and implementation of this policy.

"We would like to set leadership within the broader community through the introduction of innovative employment practices," Mr Brusasco added.

"This policy has been put in place to remove any remaining barriers to employment and career enhancement for the Indigenous community from the Port.

"We would like to see Indigenous employment within the Port be representative of the Indigenous populations in our region by 2015."

Mr Brusasco said the Indigenous Employment Policy was just one component of GPC's commitment to the training and skilling of Gladstone's workforce.

"This year we had the largest intake of apprentices and trainees in the Port's history," Mr Brusasco said.

"GPC welcomed 21 new apprentices and trainees to the organisation bringing our total number of apprentices and trainees to 68 – a figure not seen in the Port's history.

"Indeed, in excess of 10 per cent of GPC's workforce are apprentices and trainees, putting GPC at the forefront of facilitating skills training.

"Our apprentices will gain excellent on the job experience as they participate in a quarterly rotation, working in various areas of the Port.

"This gives them the opportunity to work with different teams and supervisors and provides them with a well rounded understanding of the Port's operations."

Mr Brusasco said it was the aim of GPC to produce highly capable and quality tradespeople who will go on to have a long and successful career in their chosen trade.

ENDS

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