



Gladstone Ports Corporation

Growth, Prosperity, Community.

Media Release

18 March 2009

GPC welcomes additional GAGAL apprentices

Gladstone Area Group Apprentices Limited (GAGAL) General Manager Ms Kerry Whitaker has this week commended the Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) for their strong commitment to employment and training in the region.

GPC will host an additional eight apprentices, above their existing commitment, to assist GAGAL with the high number of apprentices currently without work due to the economic downturn.

GAGAL is currently hosting 30 traditional trade apprentices in their facilities due to the inability of a number of employers to continue providing host employment and training opportunities in the current environment.

GPC CEO Leo Zussino said it was crucial to continue training people and providing valuable work opportunities during these difficult times.

“We currently have more than 10 percent of our total workforce in apprenticeships, traineeships or skill addition based programs,” Mr Zussino said.

“It is our long term strategy to ensure we have valuable, skilled individuals to ensure future growth and prosperity in Gladstone and the wider community,” he said.

Like the majority of employers, GPC is also under budget constraints and has identified plans to enable less important expenditure to be deferred in order to facilitate assistance.

“This partnership arrangement with GAGAL is non-traditional and solution based, with consideration to the economic environment and the welfare of Gladstone’s apprentices,” Mr Zussino said.

Gladstone’s Labor candidate Peter O’Sullivan said he hoped GPC’s example would encourage other major employers to follow suit.

Ms Whitaker said the port was leading the way with its strategy and community commitment to employment, especially in the area of apprenticeships. She said it was setting a great example not only in Gladstone, but also in Queensland and the rest of Australia.

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