



# Planning for the future

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As we look back on a challenging year, it is worth acknowledging the resilience of the ports and shipping industry globally, not least in Australia. COVID induced disruption to cargo shipping was minimal, while there have been virtually no shutdowns of major ports. In South Australia, where we own and operate the Flinders Adelaide Container Terminal (FACT) and six regional ports, all of our operations have continued throughout the pandemic, which is testimony to our 700 staff and the pandemic response plan we were able to quickly implement.

## Port Adelaide

While COVID has clearly dominated the year, we were able to continue or complete all the major capital works projects we outlined in the Shipping Australia Annual Review last year. In Q1 we welcomed the first Post-Panamax Vessels to FACT, after the successful completion of the \$80 million Outer Harbor Channel Widening. This was followed by several other complex infrastructure projects worth highlighting.

2020 saw the continuation of extensive redevelopment works at Inner Harbor. The Harbor's Berth 20 is being redeveloped for general purpose use and facilitating grain exporter, Cargill, at a cost of \$4 million. Berth 18-20 is undergoing concrete remediation work with Phase 1 (\$2.6 million) completed and Phase 2 (\$5.3 million) underway. Both these projects ensure we align with our strategic objective of providing high levels of service through our berths, with assured customer safety and longevity of Flinders Port Holdings assets.

We have also invested in excess of \$7 million in new plant and equipment to ensure capacity and efficiency in delivering services to our customers.

The new purchases include new container handling equipment at FACT and a new mobile harbour crane for Flinders Logistics at Berth 29.

## Regional Ports

This year we also completed the \$14.1 million redevelopment of the Thevenard Jetty on the State's west coast. The work was crucially important, securing Thevenard's long-term viability and providing sustainable fit-for-purpose infrastructure for what is South Australia's busiest regional port.

We have also been able to complete the \$1.2 million upgrade to Port Lincoln, including lighting and electrical upgrades, wharf remediation, carpark redevelopment and accessibility improvements for the Parnkalla Trail, which runs through the port.

The Department of Infrastructure Transport (DIT) and Flinders Port Holdings will also commence work in Port Pirie in first quarter of 2021. This work is centred around capping various working areas of the port, with a view to further reducing air born dust particles around the site.

## Beyond the port gate

During the last year, we also moved further into consolidating our position as a vertically integrated business. Flinders Warehousing and Distribution (FWD) has expanded its services and has also become biosecurity approved. We can now provide even faster turnaround for containers requiring inspections, with our comprehensive approval of Accreditation Classes. In the digital space, we have also started to look at decision support platforms to improve predictive trade forecasting and artificial intelligence to support the optimisation of container yard management.

## Planning for the future

2020 was also a major year for Flinders Port Holdings as a group. In April, we launched our first group-wide sustainability plan. The plan consolidates action already underway across the business, while setting out medium-term and stretch goals across Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) metrics. We believe a sustainable business is one that acts positively to achieve sustainable outcomes, minimising harm, being at one with our communities and the environment. But we also understand it will play a fundamental role in ensuring the financial resilience of the group in the future.

Following from the launch of our Sustainability Plan, we are also close to completing our first ever master planning exercise. The result will be a 50-year master plan which will be transformational in how we will operate in order to facilitate trade for South Australia, support industry, secure jobs, and protect the environment. Around \$25 billion worth of trade is moved across Flinders Ports precincts each year, the equivalent of 24 per cent of State GSP – we simply have to ensure we are in a position to continue facilitating that trade, and we are acutely aware of the crucial role we play in South Australia's economy.

Overall, we have had a strong year in 2020 but we are aware that the threat to business continuity from COVID remains. The goal in 2021 will be to continue delivering our long-term strategy while keeping the systems and protocols in place to keep our people safe, and trade flowing. ▲



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