

# Raising the bar

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Australian Amalgamated Terminals (AAT) is Australia's largest mixed cargo terminal operator, with operations across the Australian eastern seaboard in Brisbane, Queensland, Port Kembla, New South Wales and Melbourne, Victoria. AAT provides non-discriminatory facilities, shore-side services and operations to approved and licenced stevedores.

AAT's Fisherman Islands terminal in Brisbane comprises three berths totalling 697 metres of quayline, with approximately 27 hectares of cargo marshalling hardstand. Since commencement at Fisherman Islands in 2006, AAT has made significant strategic investment in terminal development, cargo sheds, management systems and mobile cargo handling equipment, providing for a range of services, including stevedoring, cargo storage, biosecurity and receipt and delivery functions.

AAT's equipment includes a full range of service vehicles, forklifts and cranes to handle a variety of cargo, including dry bulk cargo, containers, motor vehicles, steel products, timber, agricultural and mining equipment and project cargo.

AAT continues to modernise its equipment to facilitate increased productivity and efficiency across stevedoring operations. The recent acquisition of a Liebherr LPS 550 Rail Mounted Portal Boom Crane, sourced from the Liebherr factory in Rostock, Germany in 2019, expanded AAT's fleet of shore cranes to three, with the Gottwald Mobile Harbour Crane, Deer

Park Ship to Shore Crane providing an extensive cargo handling capability.

AAT worked in collaboration with Liebherr and the Port of Brisbane to ensure that the design and assembly met the manufacturers exacting standards, and was in accordance with strict wharf specifications. Prior to arrival in Australia, the crane was fully assembled and tested at the Liebherr factory in Rostock before being dismantled for shipping to Brisbane.

In support of the crane acquisition, prior to arrival, the Port of Brisbane undertook a major refurbishment of the existing crane rail infrastructure over a five month period to ensure precision alignment for the new crane bogie wheels which have five millimetre margin of tolerance.

A specialised team of engineers from Germany commenced construction of the crane in early February 2020. The escalation of the COVID-19 pandemic forced the team to return to Germany with assembly completed by a team of Australian-based Liebherr engineers. Following the eightweek construction, assembly and testing process, the crane was commissioned for operational use.

Shortly after commissioning, the capability of AAT's new Liebherr crane was highlighted, providing a critical service to the shipping industry. In May 2020, the APL England encountered a collapsed stow, following rough weather off the coast of New South Wales. En-route to Melbourne from China, the rough seas caused the stow to collapse,

leaving containers hanging over the edge of the vessel. The versatility of the new Liebherr LPS 550 crane saw AAT's Fisherman Islands terminal as the logical terminal to handle the salvage operation.

With an outreach of 54 metres and safe working load limit of 144 tonnes, the LPS 550 provided significant scope for stevedores to safely perform a vast and complex stevedoring operation. QUBE Ports, the appointed stevedore, were tasked with completing the operation, which included rigging and scrupulously unloading approximately 87 containers affected by the collapsed stow.

The containers were unloaded safely and meticulously without incident, and saw extensive communication and collaboration between all parties including AAT, Qube, ANL, Port of Brisbane, Maritime Safety Queensland, Australian Transport Safety Bureau, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Queensland Police Service. The LPS 550 crane provided significant capability for a dangerous and problematic situation.

Since commissioning in May 2020, the LPS 550 has been used by QUBE Ports and Linx stevedores at AAT Fisherman Islands to discharge and load a variety of cargo, including containers, steel and heavy lift project cargo. The addition of this crane to the fleet in Brisbane provides a significant benefit to AAT's valued clients and the shipping industry. ▲

SAL VOTING MEMBERS

