

Dixon awarded for fire ant eradication success

Gladstone Ports Corporation's (GPC) Port Central and Fisherman's Landing Logistics Coordinator, Mike Dixon was recently recognised for his instrumental role in the eradication of fire ants from the Port of Gladstone at the 2017 Australian Biosecurity Awards.

Fire ants were detected at Fisherman's Landing in 2013, launching an emergency response coordinated by Biosecurity Queensland's National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program.

GPC, CEO, Peter O'Sullivan said that Mike's efforts at Fisherman's Landing are of great significance.

"Fire ants are an extremely invasive species, which pose social, economic and environmental threats," he said.

"Mike's contribution to the eradication program was pivotal to its success. His role ensured that fire ants did not gain a foothold in the Gladstone area."

Mike's local knowledge, experience and networks were invaluable to the program with him taking on the role as key contact for the eradication.

In his role Mike was a central liaison point for other industry, advocated the training of GPC staff and other industry employees accessing the Fisherman's Landing facilities, championed Biosecurity protocols and coordinated site visits.

In mid-2016 fire ants were declared eradicated from the area.



Photo Caption: GPC's Mike Dixon with Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Deputy Secretary, Lyn O'Connell PSM and Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Senator for South Australia, Anne Ruston. Photo courtesy of Steve Keough Photography 2017.

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