MEDIA RELEASE

PORT OF BUNDABERG LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

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Demonstrating their confidence in the Port of Bundaberg, Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) and Sugar Terminals Limited (STL) have joined forces, investing in the industry and economic potential of the region.

STL is actively pursuing opportunities to expand on its existing storage and handling operations, allowing it to increase diversification and future-proof operations.

GPC Acting CEO Craig Walker said the partnership with STL would see a detailed business case for the design and construction of Common User Infrastructure at the port developed.

The business case will build on the preliminary options assessment undertaken by GPC and the Department of State Development Manufacturing Infrastructure and Planning.

“STL has extensive experience in both operating and maintaining bulk storage and handling facilities, and with GPC as Australia’s premier multi commodity port, we see that this venture will stimulate industry growth for the region.

“We have been working with STL on this venture for some time in conjunction with our strategic planning work to promote the Port of Bundaberg and surrounding State Development Area.”

Transport and Main Roads Minister Mark Bailey said the Memorandum of Understanding signed between STL and GPC could pave the way for increased and more diverse trade through the port, creating new jobs along the way.

“This agreement is another sign that exporters see the potential for growth in Bundaberg and are ready to back that with long-term agreements,” Mr Bailey said.

“STL’s agreement with GPC is a further sign that companies see a positive long term future in what Bundaberg’s port has to offer for their business.”

STL CEO John Warda said the organisation is pursuing opportunities to diversify its income base and better utilise existing assets to complement its sugar handling operations, bringing about additional income and employment opportunities for the region.

“We are excited to be working with GPC on this venture; as a major stakeholder in Bundaberg we see significant opportunities for Common User Infrastructure to attract new commodities to the Port,” Mr Warda said.
“We are working on a staged approach with GPC, with the signing of this MOU today an important first step, in investigating the options to add new linkages into existing infrastructure.”

GPC and STL will commence formal investigations over the coming months.

The outlook is bright for the Port of Bundaberg with ‘green fuel’ wood pellet exports set to double and growth in mineral exports from the region planned to commence in 2020, bringing jobs, economic growth and international trade for Queenslanders.

GPC remains confident the Port of Bundaberg will continue to go from strength to strength and is committed to exploring new opportunities for the port moving forward.

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