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MEDIA RELEASE

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Walz Construction Barge In Action At Hay Point

It was a unique site for mariners as Australia's newest jack-up barge went to work on Monday to complete the difficult task of removing the damaged 112tonne ship loader boom at Hay Point for repair. The work is being carried out by Joint Venture partners Smithbridge Australia and Walz Construction.

"The lift went exactly according to plan with the boom being removed late Monday afternoon. Today, the boom is being readied for the repair work to be carried out before we reinstall it in a couple of weeks," Smithbridge Managing Director, Mr Paul Brady, said

Central Queensland firm, Walz Construction's newly purchased Fuji jack-up barge is hosting a 250tonne crawler crane specifically for the job of safely removing the boom and reinstalling it once repairs are complete.

"The jack-up barge is capable of lifting up to 380tonnes, so this project is well within its abilities, though the logistics of accessing the damaged boom and retrieving it were quite specialized and we've done considerable planning that ensured we had all the bases covered for the lift," Mr Brady said.

The 30m x 20m barge operates by planting its 'spuds' and then leveraging into a stable platform above the water allowing the crane on board to operate securely in handling the 112tonne load of the damaged boom.

The boom was damaged during a collision with a ship mounted crane as the loader moved between the holds on 28 December 2005.

"The best access to the damaged loader is really from the water and the jack-up barge provides the safest and most stable way of doing this."

"For 30years Walz Construction has handled many specific and unique construction projects so we're excited about adding this one to our portfolio," Mr Walz said.



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For further information

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