

Mechanical Apprenticeship

Formed in 1914, Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) has been a vital part of the Gladstone community for more than a century, and the epicentre for Queensland's economic growth. We are a Company Government Owned Corporation (GOC), responsible for the import or raw material and the export of finished product associated with major industries in the Central Queensland region. GPC manages and operates three Port precincts - the Port of Gladstone, Port Alma Shipping Terminal and Port of Bundaberg. GPC identifies that our employees are critical to our success, employing approximately 750 people to perform a variety of management, trade, technical and administrative duties across our three Port precincts.

GPC owns and maintains a mobile fleet, including 23 D11 dozers, as well as excavators, front end loaders, skid steer loaders, backhoes, road rollers, non-slew cranes and water trucks.

A dedicated maintenance team is responsible for maintaining and repairing this equipment to ensure reliability and availability for operations. A large portion of our maintenance team is made up of allied mechanical tradespersons including Diesel Fitters and Mechanical Fitters.

GPC provides outstanding employment outcomes for our apprentices and trainees through competitive working arrangements that deliver benefits to all involved.

QUALIFICATION

Certificate III in Engineering - Mechanical Trade (Maintenance) Fitting

Our apprentices undertake a structured learning program to enhance their skills and knowledge, improving their future and ours.

Trade overview

Mechanical Fitters use a wide range of hand and power tools and engineering techniques to maintain and repair mechanical plant and equipment to operational standards.

Work includes mechanical fault finding and troubleshooting, identifying defective or worn mechanical components or equipment, repair and replacement of worn or faulty components of equipment, and plant modifications. Parts may be repaired or manufactured using workshop equipment such as lathes, milling machines, surface grinders and radial arm drills.

GPC Mechanical Fitters are predominantly field-based, unlike some industries, where fitters are based solely in workshops. Due to our large mobile fleet, Mechanical Fitters may also undertake Diesel Fitting work, assisting with heavy machinery engines and drive trains.

Common tasks

- Maintain conveyer systems and components including gearboxes, fluid drives, pulleys, idler rollers, scrapers, water spray systems and profile gates
- Use oxy/acetylene equipment, ARC, TIG and MIG welding equipment, hand-fitting tools or machining equipment and processes to replace, fabricate or repair faulty equipment
- Detect mechanical faults on coal loading and unloading plant and equipment
- Diagnose, overhaul, repair, maintain and test machines and engineering components.

What makes a good Mechanical fitter?

- Ability to work safely
- Ability to follow work procedures and instructions
- Competent at mathematics and good communications skills, both written and verbal
- Ability to concentrate and problem solve
- Enjoys manual and practical work
- Good hand-eye coordination and the ability to complete precise work
- Have mechanical aptitude
- Fit to cope with the physical demands of the job
- Free from allergies to grease, oil, diesel and petrol as handling of these products is required daily
- Be motivated to learn and develop
- Have the ability and desire to work constructively in a team

Mechanical Apprenticeship CAREER FACT SHEET

In order to become a Mechanical Fitter you must complete an apprenticeship in Engineering - Mechanical (Maintenance) Fitting. A Mechanical Fitting apprenticeship usually takes four years to complete in conjunction with a Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

Applying for a career with GPC

AGREEMENT WITH GPC

As an apprentice, you enter into a formal training contract with GPC.

You will spend most of your time working and learning practical skills on the job, however, some time will be spent undertaking structured block-release training.

Trainers will assess your skills and when you are competent in all areas, you will be awarded a nationally-recognised qualification.

To improve your chances of gaining an apprenticeship, you can learn some basic skills and knowledge through pre-apprenticeship courses or structured work placements through your school.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR

As a GPC Apprentice you will need to provide us similar examples and prove to us you have the capability to:

- Work safely in a heavy industrial environment
- Possess good communication skills both written and verbal
- Be motivated to learn and develop new skills
- Have the ability to work constructively in a team.

There are several steps in the apprentice/trainee recruitment process and successful candidates commence in late January, early February each year.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

You must have completed Year 10 with Sound Achievement or higher in English and Maths to be successful for an apprenticeship at GPC.

ANNUAL INTAKE

GPC recruits annually for apprentices and trainees across a number of trade areas. Advertising is conducted over a number of weeks in July each year with applications closing in late July.

OUR COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

All apprentices participate in the Apprentice Port Trust Scheme where a nominal payment is deposited weekly into a trust fund over the term of their apprenticeship that can be accessed at the completion of the apprenticeship as a lump sum payment.

APPRENTICE AWARDS

GPC has an apprentice/trainee award scheme which includes four key elements:

- Apprentice/Trainee of the Year
- Performance Management
- Training and Development
- Mentoring.

HOW TO APPLY

Visit GPC's website at www.gpcl.com.au/careers

Please ensure you have the following documents available when you submit your application:

- Cover Letter
- Copies of current school results (if applicable)
- Copies of relevant TAFE accredited certificates
- Copies of relevant qualifications
- Drivers licence (if applicable)
- Resume.

OUR APPRENTICE BENEFITS

GPC prides itself on being an outstanding local employer in the Central Queensland region, offering excellent conditions. Our employment conditions are competitive and include:

- Above award apprentice wages
- Annual wage increases upon satisfactory completion of training
- Tools of trade – tool kit upon successful completion of probation period
- All training costs are covered by GPC eg. books, enrolment and tuition fees
- Safety uniform issued on a fair wear and tear basis
- A dedicated superannuation scheme, including salary sacrificing
- Health and safety awareness training and initiatives.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about a career opportunity with GPC, contact our Recruitment Team on:

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