



TWO OF THE BARGE EXPRESS LANDING CRAFT, WHICH SUPPLY COASTAL COMMUNITIES ACROSS NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

FIRST-CLASS SERVICE

Barge Express has established itself over the past 20 years as a first-class transport and logistics operator by road and now with barge services.

And that makes owner Ken Conlon very proud.

“Our expertise is second to none,” he says. “And our past performances relative to time-sensitive and critical services in remote areas indicate we set a standard that is difficult to match.”

Darwin-based Barge Express was “reborn” after a name change earlier this year.

Ken chose the name because it once belonged to a reputable and reliable sea transport operation.

Many Territorians remember the old company with affection because of the fine services it ran along the north Australian coast.

“We intend continuing that trend into the future,” Ken says. “It is fitting the ‘old’ name is now associated with the ‘oldest’ carrier.”

He says the company name may have changed but the quality of service remains at the same high standard.

The fleet of barges has been doubled to four well-appointed landing craft, all capable of carrying general cargo, chiller/freezer and bulk fuel.

The barges are fitted with state-of-the-art equipment and are maintained to the highest standards.

Barge Express has a string of satisfied customers, including major mining companies and government agencies.

“WE WILL GUARANTEE YOU A PRICE, DELIVERY DATE AND TIME OF ARRIVAL, NONE OF WHICH WILL ALTER UNLESS REQUESTED BY THE CUSTOMER.”

The company has an office in Darwin city centre and a depot at Hudson Creek.

Barge Express is particularly proud of its management team.

Ken has a lifetime of experience in the transport industry.

He recognised that one important market was not being met by the big transport companies: supplying coastal communities with everyday goods.

Within a decade, he had 12 roadtrains servicing 32 communities.

The two Barge Express managers, Ben Floyd and Jason Moon, are both former military men – and it shows in the polished, professional way they run the business.

Ben, who was deployed to Iraq, East Timor and Papua New Guinea during his 16 years in the armed forces, is the shipping manager.

Jason, who was a marine engineer in the Army for 12 years and then

continued working for Defence for another 12 years as a public servant, is the engineering manager.

“Our management team is a standout at all levels.”

Ken guarantees customers will speak to a “real person” when they call; that person is usually Mandy Taylor, the dedicated and long-serving administration and accounts manager.

“We will guarantee you a price, delivery date and time of arrival, none of which will alter unless requested by the customer.”

Ken has always recognised that the most important person in business is the customer.

“We reinforce the fact we are in a ‘service’ industry on a daily basis to our people,” he says. “The attitude and people skills, along with the never-ending attention to detail, begins with our management and is transferred to our customers directly through our crew.

“We have assembled the best people to crew these vessels and comments from our customers underline the fact that we are not being let down in this area.”

Barge Express is eager to build on its excellent reputation and expand operations.

“We feel we are now in a good position to service the entire Top End and Gulf communities with whatever may be required,” says Ken.

“We are looking forward to the future and feel we are in a great position to excel at the next level.” TQ

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BARGE EXPRESS GOES DEEP ALONG A TERRITORY RIVER TO SERVICE A COMMUNITY