



BIG JOB: Removal of the old pilings from O'Connell Wharf.

Picture: BRENDA STRONG GLA_jett120710-2

Wharf works underway

WORKS were underway this week to pull out the damaged pilings from O'Connell Wharf in preparation for the placement of the new pontoon.

O'Connell Wharf is being refurbished to provide a single berth as a "T" head-shaped structure.

It will also have a floating pontoon system that incorporates a ramp into the downstream end of the wharf onto the pontoon to allow access for smaller vessels to pick up and drop off passengers.

A crane on a barge was in front of the Gladstone Volunteer Marine Rescue office on Monday carrying out the works.

A Gladstone Ports Corporation (GPC) spokeswoman said work was progressing smoothly on the refurbishment of O'Connell Wharf.

"At the moment a crane and barge are in position in Auckland Creek removing the last 16 piles of the 88 in total that will not be reused," she said.

"It is expected the crane and barge will be in place for at least

two weeks.

"GPC is now waiting on the relevant approvals for the floating pontoon which is expected in the next 10 weeks."

Work on the floating pontoon will commence once the approvals for the pontoon have been granted.

The wharf is named after Gladstone's first government resident, a grandson of William Bligh, who took up the post in 1854.

GPC announced the refurbishment plan in September.