Giant crane shipped across the harbour

A relocation like no other in Darwin today, as the giant Fort Hill Wharf container crane is shipped across the harbour to its new home at East Arm Wharf.

The Minister for Ports, Kon Vatskalis, said the massive operation will be carried out by local company, Specialised Labour and Engineering.

"This relocation is worth $3.4 million - the largest contract this company has ever won - and has led to the employment of 20 Territorians over a seven month period," Mr Vatskalis said.

"The heavy-lift vessel "Happy Buccaneer" has arrived from a previous job in Tahiti to lift and ship the 900-tonne crane across the harbour in one giant piece.

"This was the most efficient and economical option, and it will surely make for an impressive sight out on the water.

"For public safety during the operation, access to the wharf will be closed and an exclusion zone of 300 metres will be in place as the ship moves across the harbour.

"From start to finish, this will be a 24-hour operation which will then be followed by three to five days commissioning and final testing."

Mr Vatskalis said the move was part of the $93 million Stage 2 works at East Arm Wharf, required as operating provisions for the Alice Springs to Darwin railway.