

Brisbane Woolstores – Teneriffe

The row of imposing woolstores along the Brisbane River at Teneriffe were built to serve a thriving wool export industry. Wharves and railway sidings serving the booming riverside industrial area were used for quick and efficient goods transporting. The wool industry was so successful that it dominated riverside land at Teneriffe with multiple distinctive woolstore buildings constructed between 1909 and the 1950s.

Navigational hint: as the CityCat arrives at the Teneriffe ferry terminal, look for the long row of large brick buildings behind the terminal.

One description of the proposed Goldsbrough Mort Woolstore, which appeared in the Brisbane Courier in 1913 explained that when erected, the commodious warehouse would afford unsurpassed railway and road facilities for the receipt and export of wool. The general process was that raw wool was railed to the woolstores and stored until it was sold, typically to purchasers overseas. When sold, the wool would be pressed, baled and trolleyed onto the wharves for export.

During the Second World War, owing to the proximity for shipping and wartime manufacturing, the location and facilities of the woolstores and wharves become part of the wider Brisbane war effort. A base for servicing the US submarines was established at the Brisbane Stevedoring & Wool Dumping Co. Ltd woolstores.

With the decline of the riverside industry at Teneriffe and the closing of the railway siding in 1990, interest in the industrial area and woolstore buildings for other uses began to increase. The former Queensland Primary Producers Woolstore was one of the first woolstore buildings to be converted into residential apartments as part of the renewal and revitalisation of the Teneriffe area in the mid-1990s.