

Evans Deakin Dry Dock

78 Cairns Street, Kangaroo Point

The original dry dock was built for shipwright Hugh Moar in 1884. In 1940 with Brisbane's role in the Second World War increasing, the Queensland Government Department of Harbours and Marine acquired the dry dock to build berths for 2 naval vessels that each weighed 9,000 tons (9,144 tonnes). This required excavating 35,410 cubic yards (27,072 m³) of mostly rock to enlarge the dock.

Navigational hint: travelling upstream from the Sydney Street ferry terminal, look for the small rectangular inlet and apartments built on pillars in the river.

By 1944, a new 600 ft (182 m) wharf was constructed to fit out new ships and the site was leased to engineering firm, Evans Deakin & Co Ltd, which undertook Brisbane's major shipbuilding projects during the Second World War. The company was particularly successful and The Courier-Mail newspaper in 1944 reported it as having made another splendid contribution to the war effort when it completed repairs to an American submarine. Arthur Joseph Deakin, engineer and co-founder of Evans Deakin & Co Ltd, described the repairs as, "a very ticklish job and not many people in Australia would have attempted it."

Evans Deakin & Co Ltd built many warships for the war effort including its first corvette, a small and fast vessel in a naval class below a frigate. It built the HMAS Lismore in 1940; corvettes Launceston, Ipswich and Broome completed in 1941; corvettes Bunbury, Bundaberg, Gympie, Townsville and Fremantle completed in 1942; corvettes Ararat, Parkes and Kiama were launched in 1943, and in 1944 the frigate HMAS Murchison, the last and largest warship to be constructed at the dry dock, was underway. After the Second World War, Evans Deakin & Co Ltd, produced cargo vessels including the River Burdekin, River Norman, Dalby, River Burnett and Dulverton. Evans Deakin & Co Ltd became Evans Deakin Industries Ltd in 1960. In March 2001, it merged with Downer & Co to become Downer.

Following its closure, the dry dock was redeveloped for use as a marina associated with Brisbane's Dockside Apartments complex.