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EMS puts StructureScan to use in Queensland's floods

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BRISBANE'S world class river ferry system was one of the victims of the recent devastating floods to hit Queensland.

Six active ferry terminals were destroyed by the floods and consequently all services were halted whilst the entire City Cat fleet were moored safely away from the raging river.

It was predicted that it would be six weeks before things were likely to be back to normal with the service.

Maintenance manager Vessels and Infrastructure TransdevTSL/Brisbane Ferries, Rob Mulrine, contacted Wayne Beak, technical director at EMS for advice on how to ascertain damage and debris levels surrounding the remaining terminals still standing.

EMS proposed the Simrad StructureScan Sonar which was quickly fitted to Transdev's work vessel Tenacious and put into service.

"With its unique technology, the StructreScan reveals important structures such as wreckage and other flood shifted matter up to 76m on each side of the vessel for faster, wider area surveys.

"This was perfect for Transdev's role as they could inspect in and around the terminals where they couldn't get the vessel," he said.

Transdev's Rob Mulrine said: "Through the use of this equipment we were able to quickly identify submerged objects to allow removal by Brisbane City Council contracted Cranes and Barges."

"We were also able to verify water depths at each of the ferry terminals and along the track which our vessels travel in normal operation. Scanning of the river bottom continued for some weeks as it was soon realised that the debris was continuing to move locations with the tide.

"With the assistance of the sonar equipment we were able to continue to update the debris positions and ensure that the route was clear to commence services on the 14th Feb," he said.

