



STANLEY – Garden Island

The schooner rigged paddle steamer *Stanley* was built for the South Australian Government in 1876 by John Fullerton and Company of Paisley, Scotland. The iron hulled vessel of 85 gross tons measured 80.0 feet (24.4 m) in length, 17.2 feet (5.3 m) breadth and 8.6 feet (2.6 m) depth.

In 1879 after completing its trials, the paddles were removed and the vessel jury-rigged for the 224-day voyage from England to South Australia. As a much needed addition to the South Australian Government fleet, the *Stanley's* arrival was eagerly anticipated, but its reception was disappointing, with its construction widely criticised. It was also considered a failure as a steam tug and in 1886, after a series of minor mishaps, the *Stanley* was sold.



Stanley towing *Casablanca*
Photo: SA Maritime Museum

Within a few years the vessel became a water tender at Whyalla, Port Pirie and Largs. Even in this role, it suffered misfortune and continued criticism. Finally the *Stanley* was laid up and sold for demolition in 1930. On 7 October the remains were removed to the North Arm and abandoned on the bank of Garden Island. Today there is evidence of extensive salvage with little of the vessel remaining.



Stanley today