

Deployment of Lightweight Trays on Macraes Open Pit Fleet

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OPEN PIT LOAD AND HAUL FLEET (at Aug '23)

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3x Hitachi EX3600 backhoes 1x Hitachi EX2500 backhoe

12x Cat 789C (original) 7x Cat 789D 2x Cat 789C (rebuilt to D specs)

SO WHY CHANGE THE TRAYS?

At Project Initiation (2021)....



- Many bodies were over 15 years old and +60,000hrs, substantial refurbishment cost
- Empty truck weights had increased over the years
- Empty truck weights limited target payload to 170t
 - 4¹/₂ passes with EX3600's

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EFFECT OF PAYLOAD ON HAUL COST

Caterpillar Payload Policy:

"No more than **10%** of payloads may exceed **110%** the Field Rated Payload; no single payload shall ever exceed the Maximum Allowable Payload, typically **120%** of Field Rated Payload. The mean of the payloads shall not exceed the Field Rated Payload"



Haulage Costs (productivity & maintenance)



Hardy (2007)

SELECTION CRITERIA



Bulga Coal, NSW. Driver suffered serious leg injuries from 2018 nose to tail incident

MUST HAVES

- Eliminate nose to tail collision risk
- Provide a good pass match with EX3600's
- Minimise total cost of ownership

DESIRABLES

- Eject material off the dump face to reduce dozer support
- Minimise or eliminate material carry back
- Tail clearance higher than dump windrows
- Surplus volume capacity at rated payload

DESIGN FEATURES WE VALUED FROM AUSTIN TRAYS





Lightweight restraint strap

LOGISTICS



- Manufactured in Indonesia
- Shipped to NZ in 40ft containers
- Normal road transport Lyttleton to Palmerston
- Assembly in Palmerston by WAE Engineering under Austin supervision
- Oversize loads only from Palmerston to Macraes (30km)

RESULTS – MATERIAL EJECTION



Similar tip time Note material ejection and windrow clearance

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RESULTS – DURABILITY (at 5,700hrs)



Steel is Hardox 500 Tuf (500 HBW) Notes refer to when work is trending to be required, based on 12mm minimum

RESULTS - PAYLOAD DISTRIBUTION



October 2022 (old trays)

- Average 102% of target
- 13% of loads >110% of target
- 0.9% of loads >120% of target*

July 2023 (new trays)

- Average 99% of target
- 6% of loads >110% of target
- 0.1% of loads >120% of target*

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MINING GOLD FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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* Site procedure is to tip any +20% overloads back at the digger

RESULTS - PROJECT OUTCOMES

Factor	Target	Actual	Comment
Cost	Budget or better	×	Favourable forex
Payload pass match	c. 190t		188t = 5 pass loading
Completion date	On time	×	Overestimated subcontractor ability to deliver to timelines
Tipping	 Better material ejection Tail clearance > windrow 		
Carry back	Eliminate carry back		None observed, even in clayey topsoil
Surplus volume	Freeboard at rated payload		Education needed for digger operators

LESSONS LEARNT

- We were too optimistic with our assumptions that sub-contractors can resource everything
- Empty truck weights and on board scales need to be verified & calibrated regularly
- Modern tray designs offer benefits beyond additional payload
- Pass matching the loader / truck combination improves field payload management



WHAT ABOUT THE OLD TRAYS?

Blasthole stemming storage

Almost eliminated wastage



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