

TEREX TOPS FOR TACKLING TRAIN TRACKS

Shipping coal from the New South Wales Hunter Valley's coalfields to Newcastle's bulk loader is a non-stop, around the clock operation.

Keeping all the networked rail loop tracks fully operational throughout this high load environment is the task of Laing O'Rourke. The company is responsible for track maintenance, which involves sleeper replacement, trackside drainage infrastructure and associated works.

"It's critical that all work on the track is done quickly, safely and efficiently" said Laing O'Rourke's workshop manager, Andrew Shore.

"About 18 months ago we commissioned a Terex 980 Elite backhoe with a Hi-Rail adaptor that allows us to transport the equipment to the work area, drive the machine onto the rails and deploy the Hi-Rail that lets the operator drive along the tracks and carry out the work", he said.

The Hi-Rail adaptor was designed and fitted to the Terex 980 Elite by Melrose Mobile Hydraulics, a specialist builder and designer of railway maintenance tools such as tampers and rail sleeper pullers.

Tony Melrose said, "These tools are used to re-sleeper failed sections of track, especially in remote areas or where the use of large and expensive Placer machines is not practical. Hi-Rail attachments have been fitted to excavators, backhoes, telescopic handlers and skid steers. Rail wheels are hydraulically driven on excavators to enable speeds of up to 28 kilometres an hour. The machines are built to Railcorp and ARTC Rolling Stock Standards."

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Terex 980 Elite backhoe Hi Railed for Laing O'Rourke.



Hi-Rail adaptor fitted by to the Terex 980 Elite Melrose Mobile Hydraulics for Laing O'Rourke.