BROONS CELEBRATES A DECADE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN TYRE LIFE

“No matter what, tyre damage is here to stay one way or another. It's a fact of life in the mining industry. The risk is simply too great to avoid it completely, but what we can do is minimise the extent of the damage and this is where we are making real progress”, said Stuart Bowes, Director of the crushing and compaction specialists, Broons.

For over a decade Broons has incorporated their innovative BH-1950MS ‘Square’ Impact Roller into the continuous improvement process, rubbilising rock on tip heads and pit floors to reduce the risk of tyre damage.

“A couple of Australian tyre management companies have developed some very unique systems and each is highly regarded in their approach. Combined with the use of our ‘Square’ Impact Roller the improvements in tyre life can be significant. It's part of a total management process that involves driver education, haul road construction, maintenance, and of course clean up around the pit floor, roads and dumps. It's a continuous cycle but measured long term improvements have been achieved by following a routine. This is critical.”

To reinforce this belief in Broons Impact Roller, their launch customer for the BH-1950MS ‘Square’ Impact Roller, KCGM, will soon take delivery of another new machine to complement their existing unit on site.

“It was KCGM and their tyre management partner who encouraged us to develop the larger machine specifically for rubbilising rock. Their determination to make it work has seen the concept become even more widely accepted than we would have believed all those years ago,” said Mr Bowes.

“There was a lot of R&D to perfect a wear plate package for the module faces that would stand up to the harsh treatment, and a lot of heartache along the way, but today we look back on those days as part of the learning exercise and testament to the skill of our design team, KCGM, and others to make it happen.”

To further develop the strategy, Broons has a research collaboration with the School of Civil, Mining and Environmental Engineering at the University of Adelaide which is about to undertake detailed research into the rock fracturing capabilities of
"It will be even more beneficial for our clients if we can predetermine the extent of the rock fracturing using our Impact Roller on any given material rather than just say it’s better than it was. These days, more than ever, we need the hard data to back up the performance. We were the first to use Impact Rollers in this application and remain the leaders in this field," Mr Bowes concluded.