



2022

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**MOVING  
FORWARD**

# WELCOME

## YEAR IN REVIEW

# 2022

**THE FOLLOWING PAGES PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF FENNER CONVEYORS' MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE COURSE OF THIS YEAR.**

2022 has been an exceptional year for Fenner Conveyors and one that should be worth celebrating across the group of companies. The past 12 months has presented many challenges but in true Fenner spirit we have rallied together to deliver for each other and our customer base.

Throughout this period, we have managed to maintain our supply chain for belting, service, engineering and products, in an environment that presented many obstacles locally, nationally and globally. Many of these hurdles were out of our control, but true to our TEAM's enterprise and resilience we have succeeded.

The past year of success has been highlighted by the retention of major customer contracts, organic and inorganic growth of our businesses across Australia and offshore, and the

commissioning of our third press line (K3) at our belt manufacturing operations in Western Australia.

2022 has also seen the exciting acquisition of CPS joining the Fenner family to further strengthen our Australian manufacturing base and compliment our current market offering to deliver greater value for our customers.

This Year in Review publication is a testament to our dedicated teams within the Fenner group of companies and all they have achieved in 2022.

Thank you, and all the best for the festive season.

**TREVOR SVENSON**  
**EXECUTIVE GENERAL MANAGER**  
**SALES & MARKETING**



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**JANUARY**

# THE BEGINNING OF FENNER CONVEYORS: FENNER DUNLOP REBRANDS



**FENNER DUNLOP AUSTRALIA HAS ANNOUNCED ITS CO-BRANDING WITH MICHELIN, AND WILL NOW BE KNOWN AS FENNER CONVEYORS, A MICHELIN GROUP COMPANY.**

The transition has been in development since Michelin acquired Fenner Dunlop in 2018. While Michelin is known for its tyre manufacturing, they are also recognised for sustainable mobility solutions and technological leadership.

Michelin's growth has been fuelled by technical innovation, an ethos shared by Fenner, which has dedicated time and resources to finding more sustainable and efficient ways to serve its people and customers.

“Over the years we have strived to develop our offering for complete conveyor systems, through the purchase of several successful businesses including Belle Banne Conveyors in Victoria, Statewide Belting in Tasmania, and



ACE in Queensland and New South Wales,” Fenner Executive Director, David Landgren said.

“Our cobranding with Michelin will allow our group of companies to cohesively expand and enhance our capabilities in both tyres and conveyors for the mining industry.”

“2022 presents an opportunity to unify the best of both brands and work together to realise our growth aspirations within the Australian market. As we embark on this journey to Fenner Conveyors, we will continue to deliver industry leading service operations and Australian-made products, while finding a better way forward for everyone.”



**JANUARY**

# EXECUTIVE GROUP ESTABLISHED AT FENNER



**GRAHAM LENZ**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR



**STUART MILLIKEN**  
CHIEF OPERATING  
OFFICER



**JEN GREEN**  
CHIEF PEOPLE &  
CULTURE OFFICER



**TONY PACE**  
CHIEF COMMERCIAL  
OFFICER - ENGINEERING



**NYREE LEE**  
EXECUTIVE SUPPORT



**BRETT MCMILLAN**  
EXECUTIVE GENERAL  
MANAGER - OPERATIONS  
EAST



**JOY KRIGE**  
EXECUTIVE GENERAL  
MANAGER - OPERATIONS  
WEST



**MIKE HOCK**  
EXECUTIVE GENERAL  
MANAGER - OPERATIONAL  
EXCELLENCE



**TREVOR SVENSON**  
EXECUTIVE GENERAL  
MANAGER - SALES &  
MARKETING



**BRENT FOLEY**  
EXECUTIVE GENERAL  
MANAGER - FINANCE &  
COMMERCIAL

## 2022 SAW A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP AT FENNER.

In past years, the business has been led by three Directors. This year it was decided to expand the leadership group at the Executive level, allowing decision-making to consider more deeply all core units of the business.

Chief Operating Officer, Stuart Milliken, said Fenner's previous management structure supported a much smaller organisation.

"Fenner has experienced unprecedented growth over the last decade. We recognised that it is critical to our ongoing success that an organisational structure is in place which efficiently supports continued growth," Milliken explains.

"The formation of an Executive Group creates a structure where many of the decisions previously made by the Directors, are now made by Executive General Managers for their respective areas of responsibility."

"The structural change gives our Executives more autonomy in their roles and empowers them to make decisions and run the business as their own. It also facilitates better cohesion between different business units, ensuring a collaborative approach to strategy and people development."

Alongside these changes Fenner established a People & Culture team, further supporting its commitment to the People pillar of the 'All-Sustainable' vision of achieving the best balance between People, Planet and Profit.



# WE ARE OUR PEOPLE INTERNAL PROMOTIONS & SERVICE AWARDS

**THIS YEAR THE FENNER GROUP HAS PUT AN EMPHASIS ON PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE BUSINESS.**

Chief People & Culture Officer, Jen Green said the business has taken inspiration from the people development models at Michelin, to leverage the already rich talent pool that exists within the Fenner group.

“The Executive group has been working hard at succession planning, to identify emerging leaders across the business and have clear plans in place to assist them in realising their career aspirations,” Green explained.

“Our nation-wide leadership teams are being engaged and supported to identify, harness and develop the potential within their teams.”

“This goes part and parcel with recognising the contributions of all team members.”

Every year Fenner celebrates the service milestones of its team members. This year over 100 employees received Excellence in Service awards.”

“One of our dedicated, long-standing team members recorded an extensive 35 years of continued service with Fenner.”

“Our aim is to make clear to our people how much their input and contributions are truly valued throughout the entire business.”

“Each and every member of the Fenner team plays a role in our collective success. As we move forward, we will continue empowering our people as key shareholders of the business.”

# FOOTSCRAY INVESTS IN NEW SAFETY EQUIPMENT

## **FENNER'S BELTING FACTORY IN WEST FOOTSCRAY HAS INVESTED IN A NEW SAFETY GATE LOCATED AT THE PLANT'S ROTOCURE.**

Footscray is Fenner's premier manufacturing location for high-quality, fabric belting – a product which requires operators to perform a complex production process safely.

When a belt is cured from Rotocure 2, operators are required to open the handrail gate which enables the belt to be craned towards the Inspection table. There is inadequate lifting height for the belt to go over the handrail, so it's vital Fenner has a method for moving the belt into place that ensures the integrity of both the belt and the operator.

General Manager - Manufacturing, Hong Koh, said the hazard was raised by a Fenner Operator concerning exposure to falling from height when opening the old handrail gate.

"Once we were alerted to the hazard, our team moved promptly to find a solution. Investing in safety is investing in our people," said Koh.

The new equipment was thoroughly evaluated by Fenner prior to implementation. Once the hazard was assessed, an Authority to Modify document was raised to involve all stakeholders, and a design review was completed.

During the equipment commissioning, consultation took place with the working group and Health & Safety representatives to ensure that the new process for operating equipment did not leave operators exposed to new hazards.

"Consultation with the Footscray work-group allowed us to find the best-case solution. Our operators are the ones that know when a hazard exists in the workplace and are the best candidate to provide a solution for it," explained Koh.

Following this, a One Point Lesson document was created to provide a simple work instruction for the Team to safely operate the new handrail gate.

Footscray Safety and Training Coordinator, Darren Santospirito said that with the new equipment now embedded in operating processes the Footscray Team are seeing the benefits.

"As well as removing exposure to the fall hazard, we have eliminated strain caused by manually pushing and pulling the handrail gate."

"Fortunately, no incidents occurred with operators falling from height whilst operating the old handrail gate. While it might not be the most hazardous task in the plant, it does



have the potential to injure someone with high severity – something we at Fenner are invested in avoiding,” said Santospirito.

This new equipment came from the embedded safety culture of ‘hazard hunting’ to identify hazards and find solutions to eliminate or reduce risks in the workplace.

“We are thrilled to have this new equipment at Footscray, making our factory a safer place to work,” said Koh.

“And we are proud of our TEAM for working together to find a solution. Like Steve Jobs said, ‘Great things in business are never done by one person. They’re done by a team of people.’”



# SAFETY MILESTONES INJURY FREE



MARCH

# PROSPECT AWARDS SAFETY ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

**FENNER'S GENERAL MANAGER OF SAFETY, TRAINING & TECHNICAL, VICKI WUST, WAS AWARDED AUSTRALIAN MINING'S 'SAFETY ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR' AWARD AT THE PROSPECT AWARDS 2022.**

Each year the Australian Mining Prospect Awards recognise and reward excellence across the Australian mining industry. The evening showcases the best operations, projects, and innovations developed by mining and METS companies, ensuring outstanding individual and team performances are recognised. Fenner was a finalist in two categories this year: Excellence in Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) Application and Safety Advocate of the Year, sponsored by Flexco.



In the Excellence in IIoT category, Fenner was recognised for its iBelt solution, which transforms conveyor maintenance processes to monitor, plan and access predictions in real-time both on and off site to boost productivity.

Fenner's General Manager of Safety, Training & Technical, Vicki Wust, was recognised in the category of Safety Advocate of the year, following the implementation a list of safety initiatives in its pursuit of total safety employees. As industry regulations hone in on weaknesses in health and safety, this is a distinguished award to win. Wust was successful in her category, taking home title of Safety Advocate of the Year 2021.

Wust was honoured with the Safety Advocate award, acknowledging the win was not just for her, but the whole Fenner team.

"It is such an honour to win this award, but it isn't just for me, but for everyone in the team because we can't change the safety culture in Fenner if it's not from the ground up all the way to the director level," Wust told Australian Mining.

"The support that everyone has had in order to improve our safety culture has come from a lot of hard work."

The backbone to Wust's safety strategy is to adopt a universal approach that spans throughout the company's workforce and is designed to encourage everyone to play a part.

Fenner recognises the broader Technology and Safety teams that supported the work associated with these finalist awards.

Fenner also congratulates all finalists of the Prospect Awards 2022. The outstanding team and individual contributions reflect the innovative dexterity of Australia's mining industry.

**APRIL**

# **ACE DESIGNS VIBRATING SCREEN FOR DEWATERING SOLUTIONS**

## **ACE HAS DEVELOPED AN UNDERGROUND DEWATERING SYSTEM THAT INCREASES RESIDENCE TIME AND WATER REMOVAL CAPABILITIES.**

Respirable dust is a constant underground obstacle, particularly in coal mining operations where dust particles are often so small they're not visible to the naked eye.

As a solution, mining companies commonly introduce more water to suppress the dust and manage the health risks. However, this approach increases material degradation and the risk of spillage issues, and traditional fixed dewatering systems are often ineffective at removing large quantities of the suppressant.

Enter the new vibrating screen dewatering system from Australian Conveyor Engineering (ACE).

ACE senior mechanical engineer Taylor Jobson said the dewatering solution looked to improve one important concept.

"If you speak to people in mineral processing or coal preparation plants, it's all about the residence time, so how long you have the material in that piece of equipment. The more time you have it there, the more opportunity you have to influence the product," Jobson said.

"If you think about a normal transfer, you might have half a second to a second of residence time in that transfer. So you don't have a lot of time to do any dewatering in a traditional sort of system."

ACE has manufactured a dewatering system that increases residence time and increases the opportunity for water removal as a result. This is done through a staged process.

"Firstly, we focus on the portion of the product that has the highest amount of water," Jobson said. "As material is conveyed from the feeding point to the transfer, the water sinks to the bottom.

"As that goes over the transfer, we cut that material off. We have a hydraulically operated cutter blade that opens and captures the bottom portion of the material. It's a relatively small portion but it has the highest amount of water content because it's all sunk to the bottom."

The second phase of the dewatering system sees the isolated material move into a screw conveyor where it is removed from the transfer to be handled and processed on a vibrating screen.



“(With this system), when the material is on the vibrating screen, it’s spending more time there – instead of one or two seconds, it’s spending five to 10 seconds on that screen, or maybe a bit longer,” he said.

“This means there is much more opportunity and more time to dewater that product before putting it back onto the belt.”

Increasing residence time in underground environments has typically been a difficult task primarily because of the space constraints.

ACE has designed the vibrating screen dewatering system with the confines of an underground environment in mind, while the equipment can also be retrofitted onto an existing conveyor. This saves mining companies the extra costs of accommodating the system through the excavation of larger underground chambers or other alterations.

Jobson said the system’s water control capabilities have improved the safety and efficiency of ACE’s underground coal mine customers in New South Wales.

“One of our installations in NSW, whenever the conveyor is restarted, the customer ends up with 100–200m of belt that’s full of water,” he said.

“This creates personnel hazards because it’s not really designed to move water. Then you have to deal with thousands of litres of water on this system and the receiving system.

That was one of the key things this customer was dealing with – that initial start-up moisture – but this new system is able to capture that water and divert it straight into a sump.”

As part of Fenner Conveyor’s group of companies, ACE has its own in-house engineering team to customise the system as needed, along with the service capability to attend to any post-installation tweaks or requests.

Through the success of ACE’s early installations, this new technology is being adopted by mining customers across the east coast, with systems now also in development for various Queensland sites.

Jobson said the system was not only applicable to underground coal mines, but also suited to any mining conveyor that has moisture or water issues.

# ACTIONS TOWARDS RECONCILIATION

**THROUGHOUT 2022, FENNER HAS BEEN TAKING POSITIVE STEPS TOWARDS BRIDGING THE GAP TO RECONCILIATION.**

Fenner have always strived to be an inclusive employer. Over the years, the business has demonstrated a commitment to Reconciliation by supporting local First Nations groups through sponsorship and fundraising opportunities.

In 2022, Fenner's Emerald branch began a partnership with Kestrel Coal Resources and Western Kangoulou to identify opportunities for Indigenous Employment on-site and in Fenner workshops as part of apprenticeships.

Fenner also recognises and celebrates several events in the First Nations calendar each year including NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week, using these opportunities to engage with local First Nations businesses.



Regional People & Culture Manager - West, Amy Helm, said the Fenner group demonstrates its commitment through a number of initiatives.

“We conduct regular cultural awareness training sessions with our teams in both online and face-to-face formats.”



“As a business we are becoming more confident in giving an Acknowledgment to Country at the beginning of events or meetings,” said Helm.

“We have welcomed local First Nations people to our branches to complete a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony on a number of occasions - particularly to respectfully open new facilities or welcome visiting international guests including our Michelin colleagues.”



Fenner is currently developing an artwork to represent our Reconciliation Journey, with First Nations artists, Kevin Wilson & Brenda Mau, who are based on opposite coasts of Australia. The aim of the collaborative piece is for the artwork to represent all our national teams and holistic commitment to Reconciliation.

“While we are only in early stages of our Reconciliation journey, we believe these are positive improvements to becoming a more diverse and inclusive working environment for all our people.”



APRIL

# FENNER SETS ITS SITES ON FATIGUE MANAGEMENT

**SAFETY IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF EVERYTHING FENNER DOES. FOLLOWING A BIG SAFETY WIN AT THE PROSPECT AWARDS EARLIER THIS YEAR, THE COMPANY HAS PUT ITS FOCUS ON MANAGING FATIGUE WITHIN ITS EMPLOYEE NETWORK.**

Fenner Conveyors can manufacture and supply complete conveyor systems from head-to-tail – all done in-house. Where the company is really shining its competitive advantage though, is its commitment to safety.

At Fenner, employee health, safety and wellbeing are the prime objective. The company has recently launched an industry-leading fatigue management program to ensure its workers are safe.

Fenner Conveyors General Manager – Safety, Training and Technical, Vicki Wust said the program is a revision of the fatigue management standard.

“We’ve implemented a mobile app using a QR code, there is an education program, and we’re also monitoring via live timesheet data from payroll that cross matches to the mobile app data,” Wust said.

“This includes journey management plans, not just fatigue risk assessment.”

The program provides employees with a way of managing fatigue while in the field, by

conducting risk assessments without needing to log into a computer.

“The QR code can be scanned straight from a smartphone camera. So, that means that no matter where our people are in the field, whether up in the Pilbara or in remote parts of the East- Coast, they’re always able to check their fatigue,” Wust said.

“The app eliminates the paper-based side of things, and immediately notifies the supervisor if the employee completes the assessment with a risk rating.”

Health & Safety Advisor, Kyle Graham told Safe to Work the company started the design in September 2021 following a near miss incident where the root cause was determined to be fatigue.

“Our Mackay Branch trialled the application during the remainder of 2021, and with feedback gathered fortnightly from our people, we were able to fine- tune the functionality of the application,” he said. “Our aim was to make it as user friendly as possible, so engaging our workforce during the development and soft trial period was key the success of the application.”

The first phase is to roll-out the program within Fenner nationwide, with further plans to expand to other companies within the Michelin group.

Alongside the mobile app is an eLearning platform, and the first month of the roll-out will be focused on communicating the elements of the new program.

Fenner considered adopting existing fatigue management programs into its processes, however the company concluded that the programs didn't meet all the requirements for the industry.

"Both of those workforces are so unique, and the standard 'off-the-shelf' programs, so to speak, weren't meeting our needs. So that's why we've gone ahead and developed our own," Wust said.

Wust recently won the Safety Advocate of the Year Award at the Australian Mining Prospect Awards for her work with Fenner, and this program is another step further confirming Fenner's commitment to safety in the industry. "With this fatigue monitoring process,

we're targeting certain key areas to mitigate risk," Wust said.

"With the make-up of our workforce – whether they're working remotely, doing lots of fly-in fly-out (FIFO) work, or drive-in drive-out (DIDO) – it is what we see as one of our critical risk protocols that we really need to now focus on and take our employees on the journey to managing their own fatigue."





**MAY**

# FENNER GOES TOUGHER, NOT THICKER

**FENNER'S NEW USFLEX SUPER-HEAVY-DUTY BELT CAN WITHSTAND SOME OF THE TOUGHEST ENVIRONMENTS THE IRON ORE INDUSTRY CAN THROW AT IT.**

When it comes to conveying, iron ore is notoriously rough on belts. Fines – the small sand-like material – are highly abrasive, while larger ore product can cut, gouge and rip through even heavy-duty belts due to the impact from ore loading.

The severe chute loading conditions were causing problems for a mine in the Pilbara region of WA. One of the mine's feeder conveyors handling the large, heavy product was seeing consistent premature belt failure, causing issues with maintenance costs, delays and lost production.

To mitigate this issue, the mine reached out to Fenner Conveyors to find a solution.



Jayden Franklin, ECS Mechanical Engineer at Fenner, said the Team identified the main issue with the existing belt performance.

“Steel cord belts can be susceptible to impact damage in a large product environment, and this can cause significant damage to belt cords resulting in early belt failure,” he said. “The existing belt was consistently failing to meet the intended 24-week change-out lifecycle.”

The conveyor needed a tougher impact resistant belt, so Fenner began trialling its UsFlex D10 product.

The UsFlex Straight Warp construction has been engineered to provide high impact-resistance and protection against rips and tears. Usflex also has a longitudinal rip resistance three times greater than traditional plied belt. The straight laid yarns result in virtually no crimp, resulting in a belt carcass with very low stretch compared to other fabric belts. These characteristics make it highly favourable when replacing high-tension steel cord belts across several applications

Franklin explains, “Only Fenner has the manufacturing equipment and experience to manufacture UsFlex belting. The UsFlex product has been refined based on our experience in the Pilbara, providing the optimal balance of Impact Resistance and Low Stretch, which is specifically relevant to applications where it is replacing Steel Cord belting.”

“The UsFlex Straight Warp carcass, coupled with Fenner’s premium cut and gouge cover compound, Z-Tuff As, provides belt with superior rip resistance and impact absorption,” he said.

During the trial, the Usflex belt lasted 44 weeks in service, which roughly doubled the previous belts service life, reducing unplanned maintenance and lost production for the customer. This equates to operational cost savings of approximately \$1 million annually.”

“In addition to the extended lifespan of the belt, the use of Usflex has the environmental benefit of reducing premature belt disposal allowing site operations to be more sustainable.”

Fenner plans to roll out Usflex belt in similar applications across the Pilbara. The company is available to assess customers applications where they are dealing with significant heavy-duty impact and rip-prone environments.

“We’ve had similar success at other mines,” Franklin said. “Demand for Usflex is increasing as customers experience repeatedly successful trials.”

“Our Engineered Conveyor Solutions Team has the capacity to assess conveyor systems that are under-performing and collaborate with the mine, port and other materials handling operations to find an improved solution.”



**MAY**

# NEW MACKAY BASE FOR CONVEYOR SOLUTIONS TEAM

**FENNER AND ACE TEAMS IN MACKAY  
HAVE STARTED MOVING INTO A NEW  
21,500SQ M FACILITY AT 217 FARRELLYS  
RD, PAGET.**

Part of the Michelin Group of Companies, Fenner & ACE commissioned the purpose-built facility in 2020 to facilitate the growing field service and engineering businesses, from one location.

Fenner Conveyors Executive General Manager - Operations East, Brett McMillan, said the shift will help bring the teams together to increase

efficiency and collaboration, as well as provide further career development opportunities for the workforce.

Up until now, Fenner and ACE teams in Mackay have operated from separate locations.

With over 80 years of operations in Australia, Fenner is well known for its conveyor belting products and services, including belt splicing and refurbishment. Fenner's Mackay branch has been located at Jon Vella Dr, Paget, for almost 20 years.





The ACE business has seen significant growth over the last decade, with the Mackay facility most recently located at Enterprise St, Paget.

“Working together we are able to deliver ‘Engineered Conveyor Solutions’; everything from conveyor system engineering, manufacturing install, monitoring and maintenance,” McMillan explained.

“We’ve been operating with our Engineered Conveyor Solutions strategy for a number of years now, however coming together now from the one location will allow us to increase efficiencies and collaboration.”

ACE general manager, Brendon Harms, said the new facility would increase the team’s resources and capacity to deliver products and services to its customers.



“The new shed will be able to facilitate full-size conveyor system mock-ups for our customers,” he explained.

“It also gives us the ability to expand our pulley manufacturing capabilities with extra space for our loaded and unloaded pulley testing equipment.”

The new site will also host conveyor training programs for the Fenner Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

Mr Harms and Mr McMillan said the project for the new facility has supported local businesses, with delivery by construction company, Woollam, alongside other local contractors.

One hundred and eighty employees are based at the business’ new combined facility, which became fully operational in the second half of 2022.



**JULY**

# FENNER ACQUIRES CONVEYOR PRODUCTS & SOLUTIONS

**FENNER AUSTRALIA HAS COMPLETED AN ACQUISITION OF 100% OWNERSHIP OF CONVEYOR PRODUCTS & SOLUTIONS PTY LTD (CPS).**

CPS is a global leader in innovative design, engineering and Australian based manufacturing of high quality conveyor rollers, idlers, and pulleys for the mining and bulk materials handling markets

A further investment of Fenner Conveyors, strengthening the capability to provide Australian and Global Customers with a comprehensive end to end, one stop shop for all their Conveyor related needs.

This acquisition will leverage many synergies, where the integration of these People and Product oriented businesses will provide increased skills and product development pathways, supporting further the extensive Customer Centric benefits.

Fenner Conveyors is a world leader in the Australian based manufacture of conveyor belting for mining and industrial applications, as well supporting engineering and conveyor services.

CPS is an Australian company, which is a global leader in innovative design, engineering and





Australian based manufacturing of high quality conveyor rollers, idlers, and pulleys for the mining and bulk materials handling markets.

Combining these two businesses in Australia, with their aligned values regarding quality local manufacturing and support, as well as a focus on delivering sustainable value to customers, supports ongoing commitments to people and environment.

“We are delighted that CPS has joined Fenner and the One Michelin Group Australia, as it provides great opportunities for our collective customers and our combined team of talented people,” David Landgren, Executive Director Fenner.

“Joining Fenner represents an exciting time for CPS, which has established itself as the industry leader in composite conveyor rollers, idlers and pulleys. Integration with Fenner allows CPS’ successful growth strategy to continue on the next phase of ensuring we deliver maximum, sustainable value to our customers and provide opportunity to our people,” Michael Einhorn, Managing Director & CEO CPS.

Equipped with ultra-modern industrial means, automation, digital and robotic production tools, the Western Australia based CPS manufacturing capabilities add significant value when combined with Fenner’s existing Australia-wide conveyor footprint – and in particular the Queensland-based pulley and idler manufacturing. Furthermore, the customer support offices of both companies provide further synergy and strength to a national and international capability.

Through existing and future innovations, and R&D projects, further Planet benefits will be leveraged through each phase of product lifecycle, importantly within the customer’s usage phase.

As of 14 July 2022, CPS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Fenner Conveyors.

JULY

# FENNER PARTNERS WITH KESTREL TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY CONVEYORS

## **FENNER CONVEYORS AND KESTREL COAL RESOURCES HAVE LAUNCHED A PARTNERSHIP CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITY.**

In late 2021, Fenner won the three year contact for conveyor system and belting supply to Bowen Basin-based mining company, Kestrel Coal Resources.

As part of this, Australian Conveyor Engineering (ACE) will deliver four maingate conveyors to Kestrel's mine in Emerald. This includes all mechanical and electrical engineered equipment, alongside Fenner manufactured conveyor belting.

The four conveyors will be painted a different colour to represent both business' combined support for community groups in the Central Highlands region.

Selected charities include: the Breast and Prostate Cancer Association of Queensland, represented by a blue conveyor; Headspace Emerald, represented by a green conveyor; Emerald Neighbourhood Centre, represented by a purple conveyor; and Emerald Men's Shed, represented by an orange conveyor.

Manager of ACE Queensland, Mark Wilcock said the project gives Fenner & ACE the opportunity to leverage combined capabilities in the supply of engineered conveyor solutions, while also giving back to the community.

"We're very proud to have been selected for the 500's Conveyor Project. ACE are bringing the latest technology in Variable speed drives, electrical braking and belt monitoring to Kestrel through this project. This accurate control and monitoring of all conveyor parameters,





**“THEY WILL ACT AS AN ON-SITE SYMBOL AND CONSTANT REMINDER TO SITE TEAMS OF THE IMPORTANT CAUSES THESE CHARITIES WORK TO SUPPORT; LOOKING AFTER OUR HEALTH & WELLBEING, OUR MINDS, OUR LOVED ONES AND OUR MATES, AND OUR OVERALL COMMUNITY.”**

combined with an in depth understanding of the belting capabilities, has enabled us to push the limits of the conveyor system, ultimately resulting in a highly efficient, safe and cost effective solution for the mine,” Wilcock explained.

Fenner launched the Community Conveyors campaign in July with mock-up of the blue conveyor in the ACE workshop – the first event to be hosted at the new facility in Paget.

Administrator, Jen Stokes, represented Emerald Neighbourhood Centre at the event.

“We are very grateful for the support from both Fenner and Kestrel through this campaign.”

Emerald Neighbourhood Centre provide a range of services including domestic violence support and temporary relocation – highlighted through the chosen conveyor colour of purple.

“Domestic violence in our region has been heavily impacted by ongoing effects of COVID-19 and the result of natural disasters which have culminated in the rising cost of living. The Community Conveyors campaign will help our case workers to respond quickly and effectively to people in need in our region,” said Stokes.

Men’s Shed Secretary, Ross Grierson, said that funds from the Community Conveyors campaign will go towards establishing the new Men’s Shed in Emerald.

“Our team work to prevent social isolation by fostering mateship. It’s our aim to provide a safe and welcoming place for men to feel connected and to build a community of men outside their work. We look forward to welcoming both the Fenner & Kestrel teams to be part of this community,” said Grierson.

ACE Senior Projects Manager, Sean Stevenson, said the conveyors will symbolise the great work these charities do for our community.





**AUGUST**

# FENNER INVESTS IN FACTORY OF THE FUTURE

**AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURER FENNER HAS INVESTED \$23.5 MILLION INTO ITS KWINANA FACILITY IN WA. ABHR LEARNS MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT, INCLUDING HOW IT WILL BOOST LOCAL MANUFACTURING OF STEEL CORD AND PLY CONVEYOR BELTS.**

Iron mines are a relentless environment for conveying equipment. The ore can cut, gouge and rip through heavy-duty belts, while the fines can lead to serious abrasion issues.

Miners know these conditions require some of the strongest belts on the market, but durability is only one aspect. Due to the remoteness, mines need to know that their equipment has local support to keep conveyors moving.

Fenner Conveyors General Manager – Manufacturing, Hong Koh, said this is why the company has invested heavily into

manufacturing its belts in Kwinana, Perth.

“Fenner opened a strategic location around 40km south of Perth to help support the nearby iron ore and broader mining industry,” he said.

“Being local means we have lower freight costs and drastically lower lead times, as we’re only shipping the belts from the plant to the site.”

The \$70 million facility opened in 2009 and primarily produces the steel cord belting. At the time, the move was one of the largest investments into conveyor belt manufacturing made in Australia by a single company.

In 2020, the company partnered with German-based Siempelkamp as part of a \$23.5 million expansion to the Kwinana facility. A third press line was to be installed to increase Fenner’s steel cord capacity by a further 50 per cent.



The facility already housed two of the world's largest steel cord press lines, measuring 18.5m in length and having the capability to produce steel cord and rubber ply belts up to 3200mm wide and 50mm thick.

Koh said an increasing demand for steel cord belts meant Fenner needed to significantly expand its production facility.

“Our customers have seen the belts in action and keep coming back for more,” he said.

“Siempelkamp is industry-leading in belt manufacturing equipment. Their technology provides us with enhanced visibility over the manufacturing process.

“It allows us to increase the level of automation and provides more control over our ability to produce custom-made belts.”

Koh said a critical factor for the plant's success was its inventory management.

“Manufacturing operations across the world have been affected by COVID-19 lockdowns, but while others were running out of raw material, we ensured our factories could continue manufacturing belts in a timely manner,” he said.

The Kwinana plant incorporates a testing and research and development (R&D) laboratory on-site, which is primarily used for Australian Standards testing.

Nithin Chandran, Plant Manager at the Kwinana site, said the company is always considering ways to make its existing range better.

“Our team is constantly developing new and improved compounds and ways to make every aspect of the business better,” he said.

Fenner Conveyors also invests heavily into its manufacturing staff. Chandran began his career as an engineer at the company's Footscray site.



“Investing into people is one of Fenner's strong points,” he said. “Since I started, I have been encouraged to develop my skills, which has been a huge positive for me.

“When staff are supported in this way, there's a sense of fulfillment that comes with the role. It's more than just doing a job; its contributing to the success of the team and overall business.”

Another benefit of being a local manufacturer is the support Fenner offers. The company's staff understand the local conditions and regulations and can provide on-site assistance much faster.

With the third press line now fully operational, the company is planning an open day at the factory to allow customers to see how Fenner steel cord belts are made.

“We are committed to supporting local manufacturing, and the Kwinana expansion is proof of that,” Chandran said.

“Installing state-of-the-art equipment lets us continue investing into the latest technologies and improve the service we can offer.

“This investment enables our operations, and that of our customers, to be more efficient, sustainable and safe for the future.”

# FENNER'S LARGEST ORDER OF PLIED RUBBER BELTING GOES TO DENDROBIUM

**THIRTEEN AND A HALF KILOMETRES OF BELTING WILL BE SUPPLIED TO DENDROBIUM MINE AS FENNER'S LARGEST EVER SINGLE-ORDER OF S GRADE BELTING.**

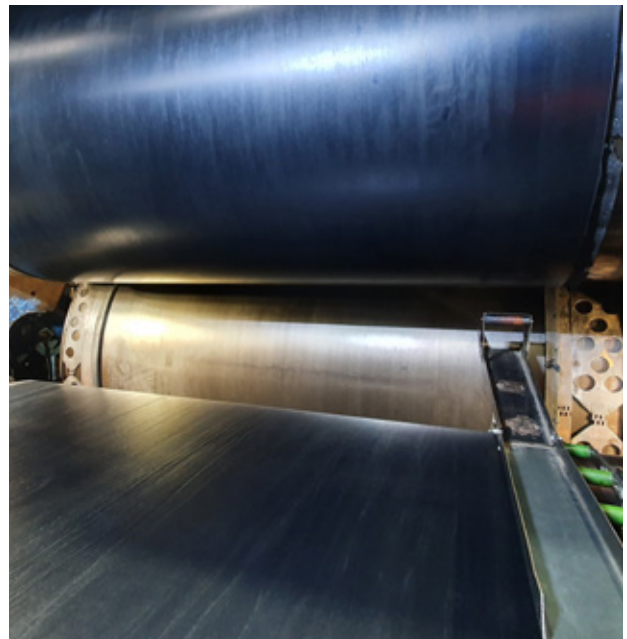
South32 opted for one of Fenner's best-selling compounds, made with S grade FRAS neoprene rubber covers.

Business Development Manager, Dean Callaway said Fenner's plied rubber compound is market-leading compared to alternative S grade options on the market.

"The abrasion resistance of this compound is proven to facilitate increased service life of the parent belt and reduce the frequency of conveyor belt change outs."

"Minimising change outs will be a priority for Dendrobium, which are confident we can assist with."

The Australian-Made belt is being manufactured at the West Footscray facility with Fenner's Crows Foot Weave carcass, adding to the final product of premium abrasion resistance.



Dendrobium mine is an underground coal operation, owned and operated by Illawarra Metallurgical Coal, a subsidiary of South32. It mines coal used for steel-making. With the mine located at Mt Kembla, Fenner will facilitate the supply of belting from its local operations in Wollongong, New South Wales.



Callaway explained that Fenner worked closely with South32 on milestones for the project, particularly around delivery dates given the current challenges facing the industry.

“Once dates were determined, our team came together to ensure the procurement of raw materials and manufacturing lead times could be met.”

“It’s one of the many advantages of working with Fenner. Our local manufacturing facilities enable us to meet customer deadlines and eliminate the supply chain risks faced by our competitors,” said Callaway.

The belt being supplied is for Dendrobium’s main trunk conveyors, which transport resources from the Illawarra Escarpment to the Kemira Valley Terminal. From here the coal

is transported by rail to processing locations for use in local steel making or is exported overseas.

Belting for the first conveyor will be supplied in late September, with the remaining belt delivered prior to December this year.



**AUGUST**

# TUFF AS CRUSHING IT IN NORTH-WEST QLD

**FENNER HAS DELIVERED TUFF AS™ BELTING TO ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST SILVER AND LEAD PRODUCERS.**

The underground mine operates with a crushing plant on the surface and is one of the world's largest producers of silver and lead. Due to the hard rock application, conveyor belt must be highly durable to avoid rips and tears, and consequent downtime.

After completing a successful belt trial with the cover compound in 2020, Fenner was contracted to implement Tuff As™ on six conveyors across the site – five being part of the crushing circuit. Account Manager, Tony Maguire says the trial results were a testament to the cut and gouge resistance of Tuff As™ in aggressive environments.

“The trial saw the Tuff As™ belt significantly extend time between change-outs for the underground circuit conveyors,” said Maguire.

The Tuff As™ compound is specifically designed to absorb the energy of incoming feed, preventing subsequent carcass damage and premature removal of the conveyor belt.

Coupled with Fenner's Crows Foot Weave carcass, the 753m of belt will provide the customer with superior defence from cut and gouge damage.



**“WE ARE COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH OUR CUSTOMERS TO CONTINUE DELIVERING INNOVATIVE COMPOUNDS FOR BELTING SOLUTIONS.”**

Tuff As™ is being widely adopted by sites across Australia's North-East, with operations on Groote Eylandt also seeing results.

Fenner has been a key supplier for the customer's operations for more than two decades, demonstrating its reliability for conveyor belt, components, and maintenance.

“Over the past 20 years, Fenner has seen this mine through an evolution of belting. From M grade, to Extra Cut & Gouge, and now Tuff As™ – Fenner has remained the trusted supplier for cover compounds that exceed customer expectations,” explains Maguire.

“We have even started supplying belting with Ultra Tuff™ covers to low impact conveyors that require high abrasion resistance.”

The belt was supplied to site in June 2022, with belts now in full operation.

# FENNER BACKS COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIPS



**FENNER IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING ITS LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO CREATE A BETTER WAY FORWARD FOR ALL.**

As part of the Michelin group, our purpose is to create a better way forward. This sense of responsibility is shown through our commitment to developing the places we live and work.

Fenner has a long tradition of social commitment to programs and initiatives that give back to the communities in which our manufacturing, service and engineering operations are located.

Each year Fenner dedicates resources to sponsorship opportunities which have a meaningful impact in the lives of our people and customers, as well as deliver sustainable value within communities.

Sponsorships opportunities are based on impact to the following:

### 1. BOOSTING LOCAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

Support the creation and sustainability of micro-enterprises to create sustainable jobs. Promote projects that improve the employability of local residents.

### 2. ENGAGING PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT OF RESIDENTS

Help develop personal skills and capabilities among the local population, particularly the young and the disadvantaged.

### 3. ENHANCING THE ENVIRONMENT IN AND AROUND COMMUNITY

Support actions that help to improve the quality of life of local residents, including actions that promote safety and sustainability.



# FENNER SOCIALS HIGHLIGHTS

 Fenner Conveyors 



**Burnie High School Visit:** *Statewide Belting hosted local students as part of their career planning program.*

 Fenner Conveyors 



**@BeyondBlueOfficial Donation:**  
*The Mackay team fundraised during the month of October for mental health and well being support.*

 Fenner Conveyors 



**International Womens Day:** *Fenner platformed the voices of women across the business. Women spoke about their career at Fenner and the support for #equality in their roles.*

 Fenner Conveyors 



**Meet Tom, A Work Experience Student:**  
*The Brisbane team hosted local student interested in career pathways in engineering. Tom met diverse range of people across Brisbane operations.*





Fenner Conveyors



**Bridge2Brisbane Run:** *With representation from Fenner, ACE, Belle Banne, & CPS teams, together we raised \$2.5K and ran a combined 100km in support of Dementia Australia.*



Fenner Conveyors



**Mackay Marina Run:** *Well done to our Mackay Team representing Fenner & ACE at the BMA @mackaymarinarun over the weekend, in support of the Leukaemia Foundation. Legendary work completing the 21.1k half marathon and 5k Corporate Challenge!*

# FENNER SUPPORTS DAFFODIL DAY IN WA

**FENNER'S WA TEAMS HAVE BEEN FUNDRAISING FOR DAFFODIL DAY, WITH COMBINED DONATIONS TOTALLING \$2,000.**

Held on 25 August each year, Daffodil Day gives hope to those affected by all cancers by donating to support a cancer free future.

Fenner's Kwinana Beach and East Rockingham operations joined together to support the initiative. Conveyor Components and Asset Manager, Craig Matthews, said the fundraising involved Fenner Conveyors, JAF, and Fenner RTO personnel.

"It was a great opportunity to bring together the broader Fenner group. Initiatives like this allow personnel from all across the business - manufacturing, engineering, training, and field service - to connect and show shared support for a worthy cause," said Matthews.

Fenner's WA Social Club managed donations through sales of Daffodil Day merchandise, a gold coin morning tea, 'guess-the-lolly' jars, and online donations from family and friends.



"We aim to continue our charitable efforts, selecting non-for-profits that work for causes close to our people. It's important that our people have influence in the charities selected," explains Matthews.

"There are plans to expand this with family-friendly events, such as fun-runs and activity courses, to build strong connections within teams and ensure all employees feel supported by the business both at-work and in their home-life."

This is part of Fenner's focus more broadly of doing its part for community, by activating different initiatives at branches nation-wide.



# ASK R U OK?

## NO QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED

**8 SEPTEMBER IS OUR NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION WHEN WE'RE ALL REMINDED TO ASK, 'ARE YOU OK?' AND START A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION TO SUPPORT OTHERS THROUGH LIFE'S UPS AND DOWNS.**

Fenner teams across Australia checked in with one and other - over a coffee, sausage, or cupcake – and were reminded of the importance of promoting a workplace culture where everyone feels connected and supported to ask for help.

The One Michelin Group Australia also hosted a virtual event with guest speaker, Tony McManus, who spoke about mental health awareness and signs to look for in those around you as well as yourself.



Make time  
to ask  
**RUOK?**

**Remember: You don't need to be an expert to ask R U OK?**

Listening and giving your colleagues, family or friends your time might be just what they need to help them through.

Be sincere with your question; look for the signs, reach out when you notice someone isn't themselves and really listen to their answer.



# COFFEE & COMMUNITY: THE PERFECT BLEND!

**THE ACE NSW TEAM HOSTED ASPECT CENTRAL COAST SCHOOL'S COFFEE VAN THIS WEEK, AS PART OF A WORK EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM.**

The Aspect Coffee Van travels to businesses along the Central Coast of NSW providing coffee in return for an opportunity to practice their latte-art!

The visit was coordinated by Somersby Administration Officer, Samantha Frampton.

“With R U OK coming up, it was the perfect opportunity to take a break from work and connect with our colleagues and the community,” said Frampton.

The coffee van operates as a social enterprise, allowing students to gain hands-on barista skills, as well as apply commercial and organisational skills.

As part of the visit, the students received a tour of the Somersby facility, including a safety induction and proper PPE.

The Somersby site houses a mechanical and fabrication and fitting facility, alongside an electrical factory with a 11kV test bay.

Regional Manager ACE NSW, Shane Wilson hosted the tour, providing the students

with information about the various career opportunities within the Fenner group.

“We offer roles in both mechanical and electrical engineering and drafting, as well as project management, coordinating, administration and process work.”

“Our mechanical workshop can have a lot of banging and grinding, so we made sure students were comfortable with the noise, and were equipped with proper PPE.”

Ensuring the students had a positive experience learning about ACE’s engineering and manufacturing capabilities was important.

“Children with autism have so much to offer the workforce and there are so many opportunities within our industry,” Wilson explained.





“It’s our job as a business in their community to provide insight, so Aspect can help them identify what career pathway they want to pursue.”

Coordinator of Aspect Central Coast Senior College, Sarah Boulton, said the visit to Somersby was a positive experience for the students.

“The coffee van has been running for just over 12 months now. The students have been

practicing their barista skills with teachers and other students up until now, so it’s great for their confidence to be serving businesses in the community – not to mention adapting to the fast pace!”

“They got a lot out of the workshop tour – it’s not every day high school students get to see how machinery works in real life. We may have a few future Fenner employees in the making!”



SEPTEMBER

# FENNER WINS BELT SUPPLY FOR ONE OF RIO'S LONGEST CONVEYORS

**FENNER CONVEYORS HAS BEEN AWARDED CONVEYOR BELT SUPPLY FOR ONE OF THE LONGEST OVERLAND CONVEYORS.**

The Western Turner Syncline is one of Rio Tinto's largest conveyors in Western Australia's Pilbara region, with tape length measuring an impressive 23.8km.

Operating as one of three overlanders within the Western Turner Syncline mine which feeds ore into the Greater Tom Price mining operation.

Fenner will deliver 40 steel cord belts, each 595 metres in length and weighing just over 50 tonnes. These reel lengths are optimised

to reduce the number of splices required to install the belt, taking advantage of Fenner's production capabilities in Kwinana, WA.

The custom-made belts will feature Fenner's premium cover compounds including Tuff As for superior cut and gouge resistance and newly released, PowerSaver 2.0 for low-rolling resistance.

Technical Manager R&D, Christopher Ball, says Fenner's top-of-the-line cover grades are industry-leading in maximizing service life while reducing power consumption.





“By supplying products with superior wear resistance, we are enabling our customers to maximise their capital investment as well as reduce change-outs and consequent waste. On top of this, we are supporting our customers to reduce their carbon footprint by reducing the power required for site operations.”

“The combination of maximised service life and reduced energy inputs will contribute to a lower overall impact on the planet,” Ball explains.

“While other belting suppliers in the industry are focusing on off-setting emissions, Fenner’s sustainability ambitions are focused towards reducing our direct and indirect emissions, as well as creating products with reduced environmental impacts.” Travelling the 12km pulley-to-pulley distance, the overlander features a horizontal curve. ECS Manager, Mike Finlen, said this requires a great level of precision in engineering the belt for this application.

“With the tape length of 23.8km along with a horizontal curve, the risk of belt tracking issues can be significant if the belt is not manufactured to exact specifications.”

“However, engineering belts for large-scale distances is a capability Fenner has proven skill in executing, having previously supplied belt for sites such as Rio Tinto Channar mine, BHP Jimblebar mine, and Anglo American Aquila mine. “We’re confident in the quality of our steel cord belting, and are eager to prove ourselves on-site,” said Finlen. Belt will be manufactured locally at Fenner’s Kwinana plant, with delivery scheduled for late 2022.

**SEPTEMBER**

# BELLE BANNE CELEBRATES EXPANSION IN DANDENONG

**EARLIER THIS MONTH BELLE BANNE CONVEYORS CELEBRATED ITS FIRST FULL YEAR OF OPERATION AT THE NEW DANDENONG FACILITY.**

Originally located at Villas Street, Dandenong South, the team moved to Portlink Drive in September 2021 to facilitate the growth of Belle Banne Conveyors' expanding customer base.

Conveniently located only a short distance from Melbourne CBD, Dandenong is able to effectively supply conveyor products and services to the Victorian market.

Branch Manager, Grant Potter said the team at Dandenong specialise in the manufacture of conveyor componentry, splice kits, rubber

lining, as well as mechanical engineering and general conveyor maintenance services.

"With an autoclave on-site, the team is highly skilled in rubber lining – a service our Fenner counterparts are able to leverage when at operating capacity," said Potter.

But Dandenong's capabilities span far further than the Victorian region.

"As well as holistically servicing the Victorian market, we provide technical support and specialty products to both national and international customers," explains Potter.

"We're the only facility nationally to manufacture modulaveyors – a custom, modular conveyor







design we've been able to produce more of from the new space."

Dandenong also leads the manufacture of splice kits for local customers as well as to Fenner's national network of service centres.

The new Dandenong facility is situated on an impressive 6000m<sup>2</sup>. Metro Manager – Victoria, Beau Weiss says this has enabled the business to increase its holding of stock belting and invest in more capital infrastructure.

"Dandenong now houses the largest stock of ply belting of any Fenner facility in Australia. This allows us to reduce lead times for local customers, as well as manage outputs more cohesively with Fenner's fabric factory at West Footscray," said Weiss.

"An exciting project for us at current is the new 30m extrusion line in the Dandenong workshop, which will allow us to increase our capacity for belt refurbishment services."

Since the move in September last year, Dandenong's workforce has quickly expanded to a head count of over 30 employees, bringing a wide-ranging skill-set to the business' operations.

"We're extremely proud of our team and all we've been able to achieve in just one year of operation."

According to Weiss expansion through the Dandenong facility was a strategic decision long in the making.

"While the new facility has given us the flexibility and capacity to support more customers in the Victorian region, it's also enabled us to support our Fenner Group counterparts in surrounding states."

"We've been working closely with Statewide Belting in Tasmania to leverage our combined capabilities and resources. The Victorian market means we have extensive experience supplying to agriculture fertiliser, cement, and forestry customers – all of which are major industries for Tasmania."

"All of this significantly strengthens the overall offering from the Fenner Group, and we're proud to be an integral part of that," said Weiss.

With the diverse capability and scope of works being produced by the Dandenong team, the future looks bright for Belle Banne Conveyors.

SEPTEMBER

# OVER 100 INSPECTIONS COMPLETED USING IBELT DIGITALHUB MOBILE APP

**DIGITAL INSPECTIONS USING FENNER'S DIGITALHUB MOBILE APP ARE TAKING OFF AT MINE SITES ACROSS AUSTRALIA.**

Following the launch of the DigitalHub mobile app in 2021, the technology team at Fenner Conveyors have seen a positive uptake in the mining industry.

Today, DigitalHub is being used by customers across different mining sectors, helping them to digitalise their preventative maintenance processes and gain insight into conveyors performance.

Conveyor Technology Manager, Samuel Wiffen, said while it's a big change for mining companies the technology has been well received.

"Conveyors are systems of interconnected components. The impact of one component in poor condition can have a snowball effect on others. For example, poor skirt design or maintenance can lead to abnormal grooves in the belt, which can inhibit belt cleaners from performing optimally, leading to carry-back," said Wiffen.





“Issues like this not only reduce the belt life but also increase clean-up costs and, in some cases, increase roller replacement along the return.

“Using DigitalHub we can visualise these trends from inspections, belt thickness testing and idler data, all in one location.”

At current, the biggest issues trending on DigitalHub are abnormal wear and damage of belts, as well as poor hygiene and spillage.

“With one site using DigitalHub, we saw excessive carry-back issues. The fugitive material was increasing the frequency of clean up, leading to annual clean-up costs of over \$20,000 per conveyor,” Wiffen explained.

Based on observations made during digital inspections and the data captured in DigitalHub by Fenner technicians, closer investigation was undertaken to the performance of the cleaning systems at the head pulley and this interaction with the belt.

“This allowed us to identify an optimal solution; upgrade the existing cleaner setup. We estimated that by doing this, carry-back along the return of this conveyor could be reduced by up to 75%.”

By undertaking this system improvement, the customer’s calculated return of investment was ten months.

“We understand the importance of demonstrating how this technology can revolutionise traditional mine sites. It’s a big step away from paper-based processes, and an even bigger step towards our overall vision for digitalisation across the business,” said Wiffen.

“We are so grateful for the support from the business, particularly the technicians, coordinators, and supervisors who are embracing DigitalHub in their daily activities on-site.”

“The most important thing now is for our team to continue getting out there using DigitalHub in their daily activities. The more data we can collect, the more we can value add to our customers with specialised solutions.”



OCTOBER

# OMGA CLEANS UP AUSTRALIA!



**AS WE WORK TOWARDS AN ALL-SUSTAINABLE FUTURE, THE ONE MICHELIN GROUP AUSTRALIA (OMGA) IS TAKING ACTIONS TO IMPROVE ITS IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT.**

With this in mind, OMGA teams across Australia have organised clean-up activities at various local sites including Port Melbourne, Kwinana, Brisbane, and Mackay.

Chief People and Culture Officer, Jen Green, said the initiative was a great way to bring teams together from across the Michelin group of companies.

“By combining forces, we can have a greater impact on planet-positive actions,” said Green.

“We’re extremely proud of our teams for getting behind this Planet activity. We’ve had approximately 100 employees and their family members participate.”

“We love being able to host family-friendly events like this. With the clean-up events

scheduled for school holidays, it was lovely to have so many kids join in!” OMGA Team members said the experience was rewarding for all involved.

Projects Administration Officer, Ashleigh Grasso, joined the clean-up in Mackay. “Our crew successfully removed over 50kg of rubbish from East Point Harbour.”

Other noteworthy finds from the clean-up activities included a couch, shopping trolley, traffic cone, and even some tyres – none being Michelin of course!

The Group supports various Planet-based initiatives each year, recognizing the importance of doing our part as a business to look after the planet for future generations.

“Big or small, everything we do has an impact,” said Green. “We look forward to running many more initiatives like this in the future.”



# STATEWIDE CELEBRATES ITS DIVERSITY OF CUSTOMERS

**EARLIER THIS YEAR STATEWIDE BELTING CAUGHT UP WITH CUSTOMERS IN THE AGRICULTURE, AQUACULTURE, FOOD MANUFACTURING AND LOGISTICS INDUSTRIES, TO SHOWCASE THE DIVERSITY OF CUSTOMERS IT SERVICES ACROSS TASMANIA.**

Statewide Belting are specialists in the provision of belting products, accessories, and installation services to industries across Tasmania. Operating for over 30 years, Statewide is well-known across the State and has strong relationships with long-standing customers.

Account Manager at Statewide Belting, Mike Kelly, said the Statewide team have vast experience servicing customers in the agriculture, food and logistics industries.

“We’ve been working with brands such as Simplot since Statewide’s inception over 30

years ago, and I myself have been working with Lee for over 20 years as the Account Manager.

“Now, following expansion to Derwent Park and Bell Bay, we are comfortable servicing a growing customer base from the Northern to Southern regions of Tasmania.”

“Servicing these industries are a critical part of Statewide’s business. They play an extremely important role to both Tasmania and Australia more broadly.”

Branch Manager, Jason Smith, said the campaign was a great way to showcase the capabilities of Statewide to the broader business. “This campaign has been long in the making and we’re very happy to share it with the Fenner Group.”

“It’s what we’re all about down here in Tassie – More than just belting!”



**OCTOBER**

# **NEW WAREHOUSE & LOGISTICS FACILITY CPS WELSHPOOL OPEN DAY**

On Friday 28 October, Conveyor Products and Solutions (CPS), part of the Fenner group, unveiled its brand-new warehouse and logistics facility at 65 Dowd Street in Welshpool.

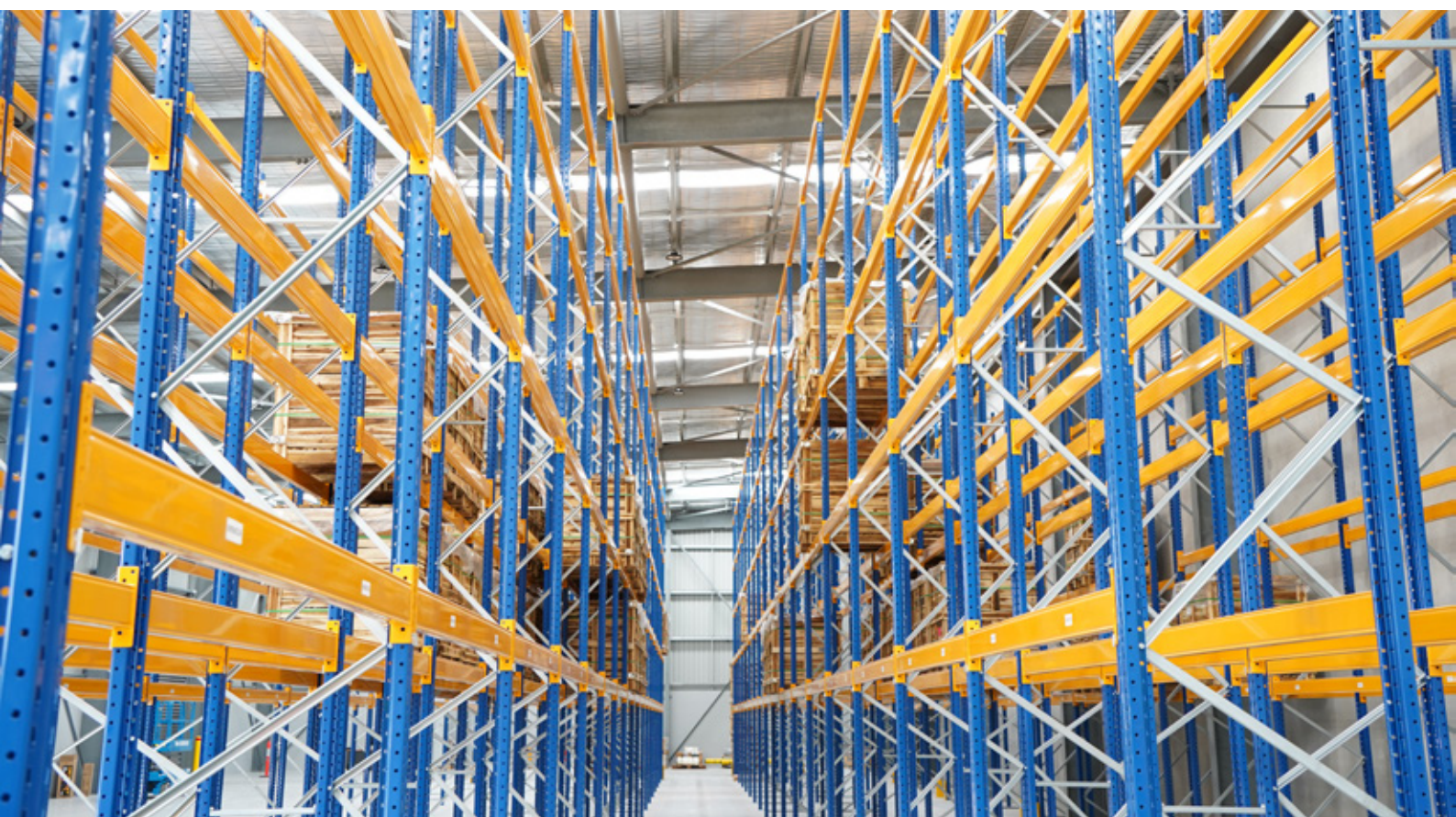
The event brought together CPS staff from all locations as well as visitors from Michelin, Fenner Conveyors, and an array of suppliers.

In order to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and respectfully open the new place of work, a significant visitor, Brent

Matters, performed a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony. This was followed by some of Brent's original music including vocals, guitar and didgeridoo.

The event concluded with a morning tea featuring native ingredients from local business, Gather Foods.

**“OVERALL, A GREAT EVENT AND A  
BRILLIANT WAY TO KICK-OFF USE OF  
THE NEW FACILITY!”**





NOVEMBER

# BOOSTING CONVEYOR ENERGY SAVINGS & SUSTAINABILITY

**FENNER CONVEYORS' NEXT GENERATION OF POWERSAVER LRR CONVEYOR BELT COMPOUND CREATES FURTHER ENERGY SAVINGS AND REDUCES CAPITAL EXPENDITURE IN THE PROCESS. AUSTRALIAN MINING TAKES A CLOSER LOOK.**

Fenner Conveyors is placing a greater emphasis on conveyor research and development (R&D) than ever before, resulting in more efficient and more forward-thinking products.

The PowerSaver low rolling resistant (LRR) rubber conveyor belt compound is a clear example – a product that is helping operators simultaneously drive down costs and CO2 emissions.

Since the first generation was launched in 2018, Fenner has supplied more than 140km of the PowerSaver product to the market. Fenner engineered conveyor solutions (ECS) manager Mike Finlen said PowerSaver answers the call for a more energy-efficient belt compound.

“Many mining projects typically have long, overland conveyors and, from a capital cost perspective, they’re interested in reducing power demand on those conveyors,” he told Australian Mining.

“There’s also a growing focus on conveyor efficiency from an energy-consumption point of view, where mining companies are trying to be greener. PowerSaver helps them achieve this.”

The PowerSaver compound is applied to the bottom cover of the conveyor belt. It achieves power savings by minimising cover indentation on the pulley cover, helping with easier flow over the idlers. This leads to less friction and more efficient conveying.

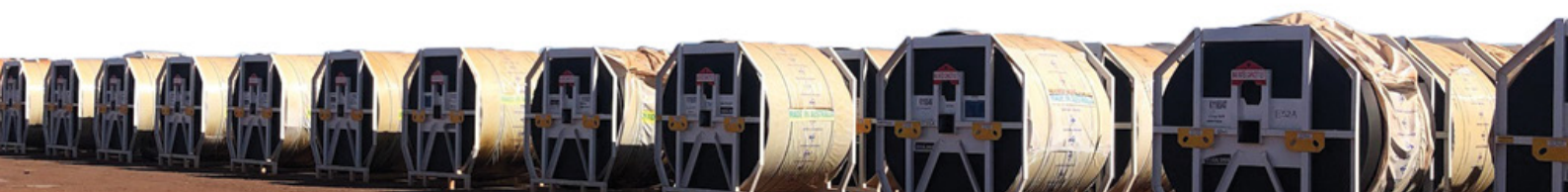
Finlen said PowerSaver’s ability to reduce operating tensions and drag on the conveyor means mining companies can downsize their drives and pulleys, reducing their capital expenditure (capex) in the process.

“When we’re talking about conveyors that could be over 20km long, there’s significant cost savings to be had,” Finlen said.

PowerSaver was developed specifically for the Australian market, mindful of the requirements of the major iron ore, bauxite and coal miners, who are the main operators of overload conveyor systems.

The flagship PowerSaver project was developed in collaboration with a major iron ore miner in Western Australia, with the belt compound installed on a series of overland conveyors. The mining company put PowerSaver through extensive acceptance testing before Fenner was contracted. This involved sending the product to the US.

“Prior to finalising us as a supplier, the customer asked to have samples of PowerSaver sent to Conveyor Dynamics Inc. in the US to undergo a validation process,” Finlen said.





“Once the results came back and the performance of PowerSaver was proven, the customer had confidence that PowerSaver was a leading material and could achieve its power consumption targets.”

This first generation of PowerSaver was so successful it became a benchmark for low rolling resistant compound standards in Australia. Fenner rubber R&D manager Upul Silva said while the first-generation PowerSaver can achieve up to a 20 per cent energy saving on a conveyor belt, the second-generation product can achieve a 40 per cent energy reduction.

PowerSaver 2.0 was launched in 2020 following extensive testing and analysis to ensure it complied with the relevant Australian Standards. This began with a small-scale dynamic mechanical analysis (DMA) to characterise the development compounds before large-scale testing was conducted on an indentation rolling resistance test rig. This was done in partnership with the University of Newcastle Research Associates (TUNRA).

Silva said when the PowerSaver 2.0 was being developed it was the first LRR compound to be tested at TUNRA using the then-new Australian Standard 1334.13.

“The PowerSaver 2.0 compound was developed using specialty polymers, specialty carbon blacks and novel materials,” he told Australian Mining. “It also utilises new mixing techniques to get the optimum compound mix and performance so that we can deliver the best outcomes for our customers.

“There was a lot of work done in the laboratory and in production to try and get that final compound mix right, which has resulted in us developing the best performing compound possible.”

Finlen said that manufacturers previously had to trade-off between achieving a reduction in indentation rolling resistance and maintaining the compound stiffness to ensure durability of the product. But PowerSaver 2.0 has been designed to achieve both of these variables. “In the past, when a more energy-efficient product has been developed, there’s been reduction in material toughness,” Finlen said.

“One of the things we were very conscious of in developing PowerSaver 2.0 was to not have that level of compromise. We quantify this by a characteristic known as dynamic shear modulus at low strain.

“With PowerSaver 2.0, we achieved a 50 per cent higher dynamic shear modulus at low strain compared to previous compounds.”

Some of the inspiration behind the PowerSaver 2.0 has come from Fenner’s parent company, Michelin, which has global resources and places a particular emphasis on R&D.

“Since we joined the Michelin Group in 2018, we’ve been collaborating and sharing data with the company,” Silva said.

“Michelin has 3000 employees at its R&D centre in France, where it develops its own specialty polymers, and I’ve worked closely with Michelin’s material and rolling resistance experts to develop PowerSaver.”

Having successfully launched the second generation of PowerSaver, Silva said Fenner and Michelin have been working on the third generation of the product for at least a year. The two companies hope to have PowerSaver 3.0 ready by late 2023.

“PowerSaver 3.0 will have further improvements to rolling resistance and the shear modulus,” Silva said “It’s important for us to continue driving the performance that our customers desire so we are not resting on this compound.”

Fenner and Michelin have also been experimenting with sustainable materials, which will underpin the development of all future Fenner compounds, including the PowerSaver.

As per Michelin’s sustainability goals, the company and its subsidiaries will need to be producing compounds made up of 100 per cent sustainable material by 2050.

While limiting capex is critical to insulate companies from the current inflationary environment, the mining industry cannot be lost on the broader net-zero imperatives. Luckily enough, PowerSaver can achieve both goals.





## BLUE HI VIS: FENNER FAMILY TALKS

**BLUE HI-VIS HAS ROLLED OUT ACROSS FENNER'S WA TEAMS AS PART OF THE #FENNERFAMILYTALKS CAMPAIGN.**

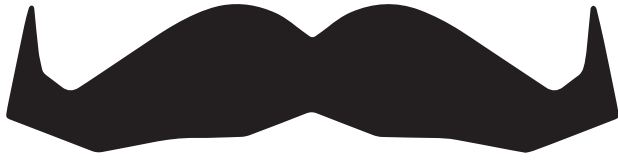
Like the mental health 'blue tree' at Fenner's Kwinana facility, the blue hi-vis is a reminder for teams to check-in with each other, and symbolises the importance of talking about the issues we may be facing or situations we may be finding difficult to handle on our own.

**Wearing** these shirts helps break down the stigma associated with mental health, so that we can foster a safe and connected work environment.

**Talking** helps support one another in times of need, including when we may be experiencing grief.

#FennerFamilyTalks shirts will be rolled out to all WA employees in the next two weeks. Wear them, start conversations, and keep supporting each other.





## GROW, MOVE OR HOST MOVEMBER

**DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, ONE MICHELIN GROUP AUSTRALIA COMPANIES RAISED AWARENESS AND FUNDS TO CHANGE THE FACE OF MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH.**

Fenner Conveyors branches across Australia participated by either growing mos, hosting mo-ments, or moving 60kms - that's 60km for the 60 men lost to suicide each hour, every hour across the world.

The OMGA Movember team, made up of Michelin, Fenner Conveyors, Bearcat and Hallite employees, collectively raised over \$30,000, with all proceeds donated to the Movember foundation.

Marketing Manager, Brittany Honan said this year over 50 employees joined the OMGA Movember team.



"Our most active participant alone raised more than \$2,500 in donations," said Honan.

"Movember is a great opportunity for us to connect with our OMGA group colleagues, as well as break down the stigma around mental health in the workplace. It's so important we get talking!"

Fenner acknowledges the momentous fundraising efforts of the OMGA team and the generosity of all those who donated to or participated in the Movember events.



**NOVEMBER**

# FENNER CELEBRATES ACE-ING THE DECADE

## **2022 MARKS 10 YEARS SINCE ACE JOINED THE FENNER TEAM.**

In November 2012, Fenner Conveyors acquired Australian Conveyor Engineering (ACE).

The addition of ACE to the Fenner group allowed both companies to enhance their level of service to customers.

Chief Commercial Officer - Engineering, Tony Pace said that with both companies passionate about making conveying safe, efficient, and cost-effective, the acquisition was a complimentary merger of expertise and capability.

“Prior to the acquisition, Fenner was a belt manufacturer and service provider. The ACE business brought the ability to design, supply and install conveyor systems, which was integral to the roll-out of our Engineered Conveyor Solutions strategy,” said Pace.

“Today between Fenner and ACE teams, we can deliver complete conveyor solutions – from an initial concept to on-site operation, with all capabilities completed in-house.”

Regional Manager ACE Queensland, Mark Wilcock said access to the knowledge base and on-site presence of Fenner’s service teams

across Australia has been invaluable for the ACE team.

“Fenner’s long-standing presence in the manufacture of conveyor belting in Australia provides an intimate knowledge of belt design and capability, allowing us to push the limits of conveyor design integration,” said Wilcock.

“Support from Fenner, and now Michelin, through capital funding for R&D and business improvements, has enabled ACE to remain at the forefront of technological advancements in the conveyor industry.”

Earlier this year, ACE and Fenner teams in Mackay combined operations from the one facility.

**2013**



Engineering department  
established at Fenner Mackay

Executive General Manager of Operations East, Brett McMillan said working closely has been highly beneficial for both arms of the business.

“With ACE located in the same building, our site coordinators can easily engage with engineers about issues our customers are experiencing on-site. This enables us to source conveyor solutions faster and more efficiently with everything done in-house,” said McMillan.

Already well established in Somersby, New South Wales at the time, the acquisition allowed ACE to expand in Queensland from Mackay and Brisbane locations.

In the decade since the acquisition, the businesses have experienced significant growth across both Queensland and New South Wales.

Regional Manager, ACE New South Wales, Shane Wilson said the teams have successfully executed various key projects which have contributed to this growth.

“From our first substation and drive module load test back in 2014, to the development of innovative dewatering solutions, we are seeing the ACE team move from strength to strength and proactively adapt to the needs of our industry,” said Wilson.

“Just last year we delivered the complete overland conveyor at Aquila mine – this was a huge milestone for us with involvement from the entire ACE business and Fenner combined.”

ACE General Manager, Brendon Harms, said that with today’s operations established across both States, ACE is accessible for customers and can easily leverage electrical and mechanical capabilities as required.

“Now, with the recent acquisition of CPS into the Fenner group, we are ready to take our conveyor engineering across to the West and further develop our offering to the mining and related industries market.”

**2014** First substation and drive module load test

**2016** Largest 3.5 MVA Mobile Underground Substation successfully delivered

**2019** Local Idler plant opened in Brisbane

**2021** Somersby becomes powered by renewable energy with solar panel installation

**2022** Fenner and ACE combine operation from new facility in Mackay

ACE established its own first branch in Queensland

Established new electrical factory at Somersby

Designed innovative dewatering transfer solution

Complete delivery of overland conveyor system and belting at Aquila mine

# INDUSTRY OUTLOOK: CONVEYING A BETTER WAY FORWARD

### AUSTRALIAN BULK HANDLING REVIEW SPOKE WITH THE FENNER CONVEYORS' MANAGING DIRECTOR TO LEARN MORE ABOUT COMPANY'S STRATEGY MOVING FORWARD.

The past few years have been critical for Fenner Conveyors. The COVID-19 pandemic put extreme strain on global supply chains and meant a new way of doing business, highlighting the value of local manufacturing.

Fenner Managing Director Graham Lenz told ABHR that, after a milestone year, the business assessed what needed to be done to ensure it could continue growing in the long term.

Key to this goal is Fenner adopting an 'all-sustainable' approach, as part of the Michelin Group's overall commitment to finding the best balance between people, the planet and economic and financial performance.



#### PLANET

Lenz said Fenner is working to achieve carbon neutrality across the entire business by 2050 and has support from the Michelin Group to make that goal a reality.

"The first step we've taken is to measure our emissions," he said. "Now that we know that, we

can benchmark it and take strategies into account across all of our business units, including our supply chains.

"We want to take an approach that builds a circular economy, which provides benefits for both ourselves and our customers.

"Integrating sustainable materials and providing energy efficient products helps lower emissions."



# A Better Way Forward



Fenner is also modernising its facilities into future factories, while investing into green energy to help achieve carbon neutrality ahead of schedule.

The company's engineering facilities in New South Wales are already mostly powered by solar energy, and after years of success the company is ready to bring that technology to its manufacturing locations, investing a further \$25 million into its Western Australian facility.

New processes and equipment will allow the company to recycle parts of its belts, reverting the chemistry into that of the parent belts.

Lenz said the facility also uses state-of-the-art Siempelkamp presses, providing world-class manufacturing that uses relatively little energy.

"We're looking across all parts of the manufacturing process to find ways of reducing emissions," he said. "A great example is using Michelin's natural rubber sources that they have made available to us.

"There are also parts that underpin the development of more efficient products, like our

next generation of compounds that are abrasion-, cut- and gouge-resistant.

"Tougher belts that are higher quality need to be replaced less. If the bottom cover has a low rolling resistant compound, then less power is needed to drive the conveyor."



## PROFIT

Digitalisation plays a large part in Fenner's sustainability ambitions. In addition to its aim of becoming a data driven business, the company uses the Internet of Things to improve its technological offering through its "iBelt Intelligent Conveying" monitoring systems.

Its online thickness testing, known as 'BeltGauge', allows Fenner to monitor the thickness of a customer's belt in real-time without stopping the conveyor, helping with preventive maintenance and early intervention. This led to the creation of the 'BeltTag' system.

Lenz said the sheer size of overland conveyor belts makes it difficult to return a belt to a certain position.



“BeltTag is a digital solution to maximise an operation’s value,” he said. “It ensures the conveyor stops at the right position for maintenance, saving time and energy.”

“All of this data goes through our DigitalHub portal, allowing customers to access and implement real time conveyor monitoring and solutions.”

“The world is changing fast, just look at everything that has happened since the end of 2019. If you’re not innovating, you’re going backwards.”



## PEOPLE

Its people are a huge part of Fenner’s success and central to our ability to deliver to our customer’s needs.

Lenz said one of the major lessons the company has learnt in recent few years is that people are transportable, and there is an expectation on all companies to have a comfortable landing area for them.

“We need to understand the needs of our people and tailor our business around them,” he said. “The world is changing fast, so to be an employer of choice we have to recognise the talents within our business while tracking those outside it.”

“We make sure our team are trained and have access to the best equipment and technology out there. We also want to make sure we’re creating a workspace that’s positive and embraces inclusion.”

“There has been a lot of hard work across the past two years to create opportunities for women and more diverse range of team members.”

Fenner’s Registered Training Organisation has helped recruit and develop more than 1000 new trainees from around the country. The business provides training for local communities and then offers them opportunities across Australia and the world.



**DIGITALISATION PLAYS A LARGE PART IN FENNER’S SUSTAINABILITY AMBITIONS.**





The company's national branch network has led the way, consulting with locals to make sure Fenner is giving back to the community. It has also taken active steps on its reconciliation journey for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Lenz said Fenner has learned a lot from 2022 and wants to realign itself to make clear career pathways to grow and develop talent through the diverse engineering, service and manufacturing organisation.

"Bring on 2023," he said. "We're going to take our all-sustainable strategy for the Group and use it to empower our team and drive results for our customers.

"Open communication is key to that, and we need to provide the tools to enable this to happen.

"The world is changing fast – sometimes that can be scary. As it changes, agile and sustainable companies can really make a difference."



**FENNER'S REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATION HAS HELPED RECRUIT AND DEVELOP MORE THAN 1000 NEW TRAINEES.**



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