

# Ground Breaking ways to efficiency



Capcoal dragline in action. GBI records and analyses equipment performance.



GBI chief executive officer, Graham Lumley drives a dragline.

**G**round Breaking Innovations (GBI) is helping the mining industry remain competitive in the current changing economic climate by helping mines achieve new standards of efficiency.

In effect, the Queensland company is mining information on the mining industry which it then analyses, adapts and offers back to help mines problem solve.

Brisbane based GBI chief executive officer, Graham Lumley said the specialised mining intelligence company provides the resource industry with smart solutions to achieve outstanding results for less cost and effort.

"I started collecting mining equipment productivity data in 1994," Mr Lumley said. "Today we have hundreds of years of data from around the world for almost every make and model of equipment. If a mine anywhere in the world wants to know what their equipment is capable of then we can tell them what others are achieving."

GBI has identified the difference between average and best practice performance for nearly every piece of mining equipment used worldwide. With much of this mining equipment operating well below best practice, GBI has a real opportunity to provide assistance.

"In the current economic downturn it isn't all doom and gloom. Mines have huge opportunities to be smarter

and optimise profitability. They must invest in knowledge-based smart solutions and support systems to remain competitive," Mr Lumley said.

## MINING INTELLIGENCE

GBI works directly with mines and suppliers to optimise their performance by providing intelligence about how the equipment they are using is more productive at other sites and what they need to do to replicate best practice productivity.

GBI continues to develop initiatives to assist the mining industry which include a range of mentoring, education and up-skilling services, new approaches to benchmarking and providing research and intelligence into supplier products.

GBI's onsite mine mentors are receiving worldwide acclaim across many mine sites. At a time when operator efficiency is critical, GBI's mentors are providing mine operators with the skill and knowledge to operate mine equipment more efficiently to achieve better outputs for fewer dollars.

"Good management is not about cost minimisation - it is about cost optimisation. The money clients spend with GBI is an investment. Mines worldwide have saved millions of dollars by investing in mining intelligence solutions," Mr Lumley said.

For example, a mine in Central

Queensland had been trained to operate a piece of equipment. The data GBI maintains on that piece of equipment suggested this mine was operating at about 40 percent below best practice. GBI advised them of the difference and how they could operate to be in line with best practice. In the first month they increased productivity by 32 percent and have continued to make gains 12 months later.

GBI has always been a knowledge-based service business and was originally established to provide dragline bucket and rigging development work for Central Queensland Mining Supplies Pty Ltd (CQMS) and bucket selection and sizing work (dragline, electric rope shovels and trucks) for coal mines throughout Australia.

## DATA SINCE 1995

Mr Lumley has been conducting benchmarking since 1995 and saw an opportunity in the market for equipment data analysis and productivity reporting as an extension to benchmarking.

"For too long now, many mines have not had the ability to achieve best practice due to inadequate knowledge of what the equipment was capable of," Mr Lumley said.

"Our team has more than 250 years of collective mining industry experience and has helped more than 70 mines achieve greater productivity outcomes. However, while the data is the foundation of the GBI business, what adds to GBI's unique service is an understanding of how to engage the key stakeholders in the improvement process.

"GBI's experienced operators understand the data and combine it with their extensive operational knowledge to achieve outstanding efficiency improvements and cost reductions for our clients.

"If mining companies want to stay competitive, their people will need to up-skill and engage with the data and the knowledge available as many are doing already to increase efficiencies and drive down production costs. GBI has the knowledge and the smarts the mining industry needs to evolve," Mr Lumley said.

GBI is a current member of Queensland Leaders, the business fostering organisation that works to create the next round of international companies based in Queensland.

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