

KVX SHINES IN THIN SEAM COAL EXTRACTION WORK

The use of Komatsu's KVX Ground Engaging Tool (GET) system on Komatsu WA900 loaders used in thin seam coal mining is giving Golding Contractors over 6000 hours between tooth changes, and eliminating the issue of teeth falling off and damaging conveyor belts.

Golding Contractors has a 10 year contract to mine Kogan Creek Mine's thin seam coal deposits to a suitable quality to power the Kogan Creek power station, situated on the edge of the Surat Basin near Chinchilla, southern Queensland – about 140 km northwest of Toowoomba. According to Ben Victor, Golding's maintenance supervisor at the mine, the KVX system was put

on the two Loaders around 2007, and has exceeded the operations' expectations.

"We went for KVX, because the sales pitch said it was going to last, instead of changing multiple lots of GET all the time, and

makes planning easy because we can get Komatsu out to do the job at a set time.

"Basically we haven't had any problems with it coming loose, coming off or anything else, and it is meeting our expectations as far as wear is concerned," said Ben.

Komatsu WA900 loaders used in thin seam coal mining is giving Golding Contractors over 6000 hours between tooth changes

we've found it's worked well – in fact it's probably exceeded our expectations," he said.

"We are probably getting an average of 6000 hours out of the system, which means we can lock in the change out period; that

"We have had teeth come off excavators and other equipment doing the same job, and that can cause an issue because the broken off teeth can rip the overland conveyor belt, go through the breakers or end up at

the power station.

"But we have never had a KVX component come off," he said. In addition, the slim profile of the KVX system is ideal for coal parting in the thin seams that apply at the mine.

"Sometimes we are splitting seams as narrow as 100 mm," he said. "Basically the loaders have to lift and separate the seams, and this system gives the operators the ability to prop the coal up so they can fill the bucket with it.

"It's fairly hard to do that, because they've got to split seams, and just get the good stuff, while keeping out the poor quality coal, mud, and other material."