

**Company: Pacific Coal Pty Limited**  
**Site : Tarong Coal Operations**

## **Washdown system for EX3500 Shovels and Excavators**

### **Description:**

Each EX3500 machine has a lube station that drops down from under the rear of the tub and retracts into a protected position during operation. This provided an ideal location for mounting the water and detergent hose couplings. From this point, permanently mounted hoses were run up internally to the upper deck. On the deck, two hose reels were mounted permanently, one for high-pressure water and the other for detergent.

Now when the Excavator or Shovel comes to be washed down, the process involves coupling the water and detergent outlets from the fixed wash stand equipment to the ground level couplings on the machine then walking up the stairway to the upper deck. Once on the upper deck, the maintainer uses the permanently mounted hoses to wash down the deck as if he were on the ground.

When the task is finished it is simply a matter of recoiling the hoses, returning down the stairs to ground and uncoupling the supply hoses from the lube station at the rear of the machine.

- **Have any modifications or improvements had to be made on first attempts to solve the problem.**

Like all good designs, this one is elegant in its simplicity and permanently eliminates a recurring hazard. No further modifications are contemplated at this time.

### **THE BENEFITS:**

The new facility for washing down the upper deck of the EX3500 Excavator and Shovel provides the following benefits.

1. It removes completely the hazard of man-handling hoses from ground level to the upper deck of these machines. It provides a very elegant, first order, once-off solution to a recurring problem.
2. It improves the safety of the wash-down task with less loose hose on the deck. Previously, enough hose to reach all areas of the deck was hauled up and tied off. Now the hose reel allows just enough hose to do the job at the time to be unrolled on the deck.
3. It saves time. The new way is faster and tidier.
4. An unexpected additional benefit has been the ability to wash down the machines in the field by connecting a water truck to the new fittings.



**Attachment  
point for hose**



**Retractable  
hose reel**