

2001 7th INTERNATIONAL HEAVY HAUL CONFERENCE

“CONFRONTING The BARRIERS of HEAVY HAUL TECHNOLOGY”

The 2001 Conference, “Confronting the Barriers of Heavy Haul Technology” was held in Brisbane, Australia on June 10 through 14th, 2001 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The IHHA host member was the QR(Queensland Rail). The host member director was Mr. Brian Bock, Group General Manager Workshops, QR. This technical conference was held in combination with the AusRail 2001 biennial business conference of the Australasian Railway Association (ARA) and the Railway Technical Society of Australasia (RTSA).

Mr. Brian Bock was Chair of the Organising Committee and Prof. Wardina Oghanna was Chair of the Technical Committee. The members of the Organising Committee were as follows: Mike Darby, BHP Iron Ore; Paul Jenkins, Railway Technical Society of Australasia; Glen Mullins, QR; Ian Nibloe, Railway Technical Society of Australasia; George Nikandros, QR; Wardina Oghanna, ARRI; and Vic Stevens, QR.

In combination with the IHHA and AusRail Conferences there was a large railway equipment exhibition held in the Convention Centre and outside at the Roma Street Station. More than 130 exhibitors had displays of railway equipment, services, and rail products. The total number of registered people attending the conferences and exhibits was 1,904. The attendees represented 33 countries.

The keynote speaker was Mr. Braam le Roux, former CEO, Spoornet, South Africa. His presentation was entitled, “ The New Dawn for Heavy Haul” and he spoke of the new Best Practice book as a foundation for future developments of understanding. The presentations during the technical conference addressed the following issues;

1. Technology and the New Rail Business Environment
2. Track Design for Heavy Haul Service
3. Vehicle Design for Heavy Haul Operations
4. Information Systems, Train Control Systems, Computer Interlocking Control Systems
5. Rail Inspection Technologies, High Performance Rails for Heavy Haul Traffic, Rail Metallurgy for Heavy Haul Service
6. Utilisation and Productivity Enhancement
7. Bogie Design for Heavy Haul
8. Research in Operations, Track Life Cycle Costs, and Rail Defect Risk Management
9. Track Dynamics, Extending Maintenance Cycles, Improved Ballast Life
10. Increasing Asset Utilisation , Managing In-Train Forces
11. Fatigue/Corrosion Issues of Track Components, The Significance of Track Irregularities on Crack Growth and Dynamic Interaction Between Wheels and Rail
12. Locomotives, Assessment of AC Traction Diesel Locomotives in Heavy Haul Service
13. Safety in Operations
14. New Developments in Rail Steels, Roller Bearing Performance, Advancements in Aluminothermic Rail Welding
15. Introduction of the new Best Practice Guidelines for Heavy Haul Operations on Wheel/Rail Interface Issues
16. Interface Management(Wheel/Rail)
17. International Experience with Separation of Infrastructure and Rollingstock

Technical tours were held before and after the conference, the pre-conference tour was made to the Pilbara Iron Ore Railroads on June 7-8, 2001 in the north portion of Western Australia. This tour included the BHP Iron Ore, Robe River, and Hamersley heavy haul iron ore operations. The post-conference tour was made to see QR's Tilt Trains and Export Coal Operations on the 15-16th June, 2001. Participants were treated to travel on QR's Tilt Train, the fastest narrow gauge train in the world and observed construction at the manufacturer's plant in Maryborough.

The bound Conference Proceedings contain a total of 84 presentations and technical papers for a total of 596 pages.