

CASE STUDY: K-Superskirt® Engineered Polyurethane

Kinder Australia product:	<u>K-Superskirt® Engineered Polyurethane</u>
Product category:	Conveyor Skirting & Transfer
Location:	Port of Gladstone, Queensland
Conveyed materials:	Coal
Conveyed belt width:	2400 mm
Length at transfer point:	7 metres (3.5m x 2)
Conveyed belt speed:	5.2 metres per second
Rate:	6000 tonnes per hour
Belt downtime:	2 hours for skirting replacement
Compulsory change-out time	Every 5 weeks
Installation date:	September 2008

Previous problem:

Gladstone Ports Corporation was looking to improve its bulk materials handling processes. One of the areas under examination was the conveyor system with a focus on how to make it safer, more reliable and improve its overall performance and uptime.

In September 2008, Gladstone Ports Corporation and the engineering team at Kinder Australia collaborated to trial a new material that they hoped would dramatically improve the transfer point efficiencies, as well as achieve significant long-term cost-savings for the Corporation.

The material trialled on the RG TANNA Coal Terminal was Kinder Australia's K-Superskirt®, a revolutionary engineered polyurethane, against the existing and commonly used skirting material, SBR Rubber.



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Kinder Australia Pty Ltd

26 Canterbury Road, Braeside VIC 3195
PO Box 1026, Braeside VIC 3195

☎ +61 3 8587 9111
✉ +61 3 8587 9101

✉ conveyorsolutions@kinder.com.au
ABN: 28 006 489 238

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Resolution:

After more than 8 months of monitoring and assessing the installation, the K-Superskirt® was still performing beyond its expectations.

Even with this significantly prolonged usage, a measurement of the skirting showed only 1.5 mm of wear had incurred.

Once the decision was taken by Gladstone Ports Corporation to roll out the K-Superskirt® Engineered Polyurethane to all of its conveyors, tests since that time have showed around 8 times greater service life.

Further studies revealed the significantly lowered friction and heat offered by the K-Superskirt® versus SBR rubber, resulted in greatly reduced belt wear and tear. As the importance, integrity and service life of a conveyor belt is paramount to site productivity and running costs, the task to improve efficiencies in the opinion of the customer, has successfully been achieved.



The Port of Gladstone is Queensland's largest multi-commodity port, housing the world's fourth largest coal export terminal and covers an area of 4,321 hectares of land.



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