A LOOK AT THE EFFICIENCY DRIVEN AND SAFETY FOCUSED UPGRADES AT AUBURN AND EVELEIGH DEPOTS

DEPOT UPGRADES & WORKSHOP MODERNISATION 2017

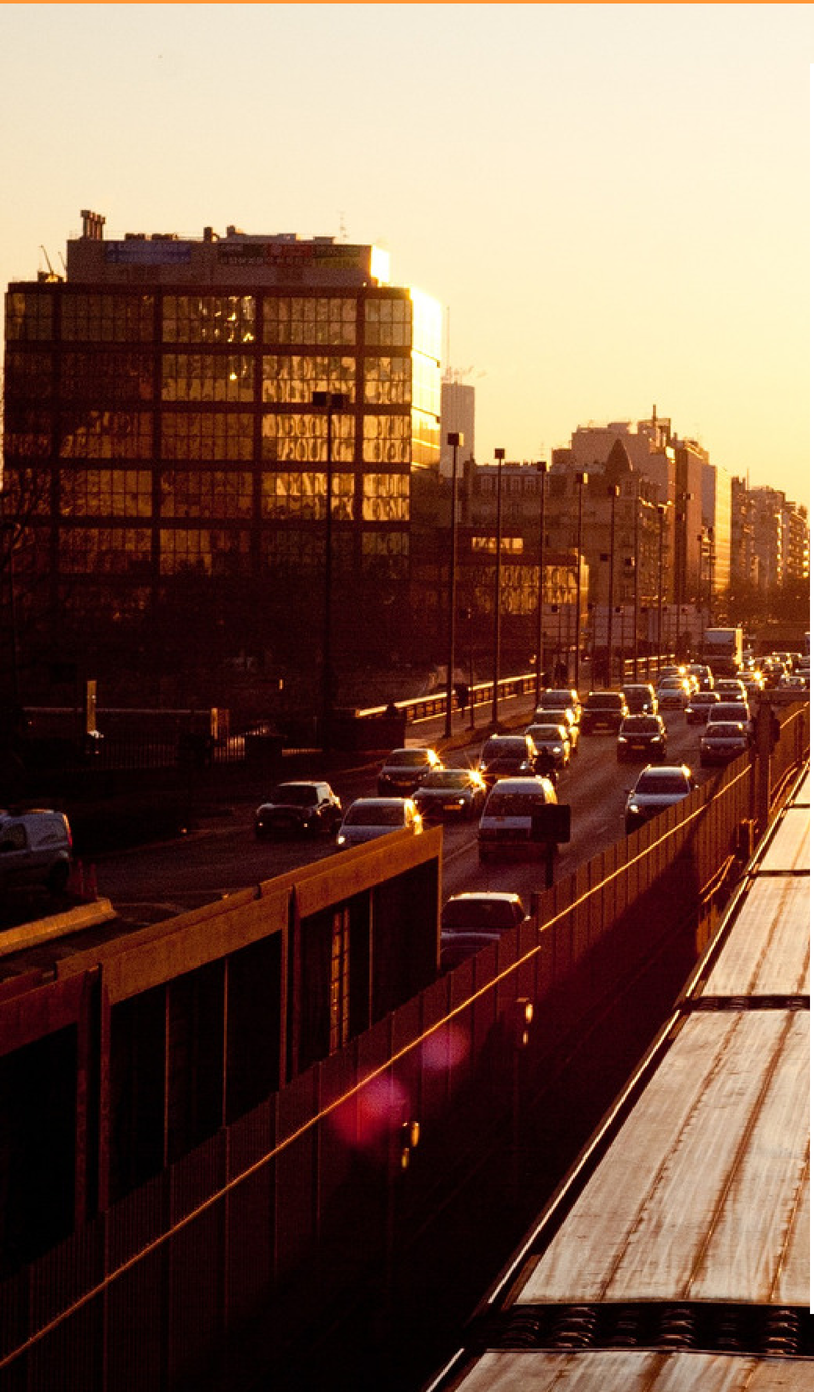
The Federal Government's 2016-2017 budget is committed to investing more than $3.4 billion into urban rail projects across the country. The increase in infrastructure plans for transport mean that depots and workshops need to be upgraded to ensure they are equipped to meet changing maintenance requirements while maintaining the highest standards of efficiency and safety.

Ahead of Depot Upgrades and Workshop Modernisation 2017 we chat with Justin Brooker, General Manager of the Auburn and Eveleigh Maintenance Centres in Sydney. Justin discusses the successful upgrades at the Auburn and Eveleigh depots that have increase capacity, improved maintenance downtime, and created a better risk averse work environment.

GETTING AHEAD OF THE GAME

"We're changing maintenance from the reactive to the preventive. We want to be ahead of the game."

In 2010 a new $220 milion purpose-built facility at Auburn in Sydney's west began operation. Part of the design brief was to incorporate innovative new processes and technologies that would ensure that the Auburn Maintenance facility would be the home of the new Waratah Fleet for at least the next 30 years.



OPERATIONAL INNOVATION

A look at the new efficiency driven innovations decreasing maintenance downtime

- Paperless processes: mobile tools, iPads and smart pens mean information relating to job procedures and train maintenance is easily accessible.
- Lineside processes: parts, tools and equipment delivered directly to the technician's point-of-use.
- Workflow management: allows for effective planning, capacity management, forecasting of cost and target setting for operational staff.
- Planning processes: ensures clear communication of work requirements to staff who can then self-manage effectively.

TECHNICAL INNOVATION

- Auburn DataMart: remote download of backend train data leads to increased monitoring of known reliability issue items. System provides auto-generated email alerts to react to issues in real time. Monitoring and collating this data allows users to write scripts/rules based on what we learn about the trains.
- Auburn P6 Planning Tool: maintenance forecasting tool. Looks years into the future at peak times and availabilities.
- Eveleigh Clyman Dashboard Spreadsheets: data dump creates a daily 'dashboard' look at the fleet. The dashboard looks at defects, out-of-stock items, repeat bookings, CCO's, overhauls and reliability improvement programs and provides a complete snapshot of fleet health.

"All these innovations have the same desired outcome – to deliver operational excellence and provide the greatest service to our customer."

- Justin Brooker

SAFETY FIRST

Process innovation is further supported by innovations in depot safety. Justin notes some of the new safety measures creating a safer working environment at Auburn and Eveleigh.

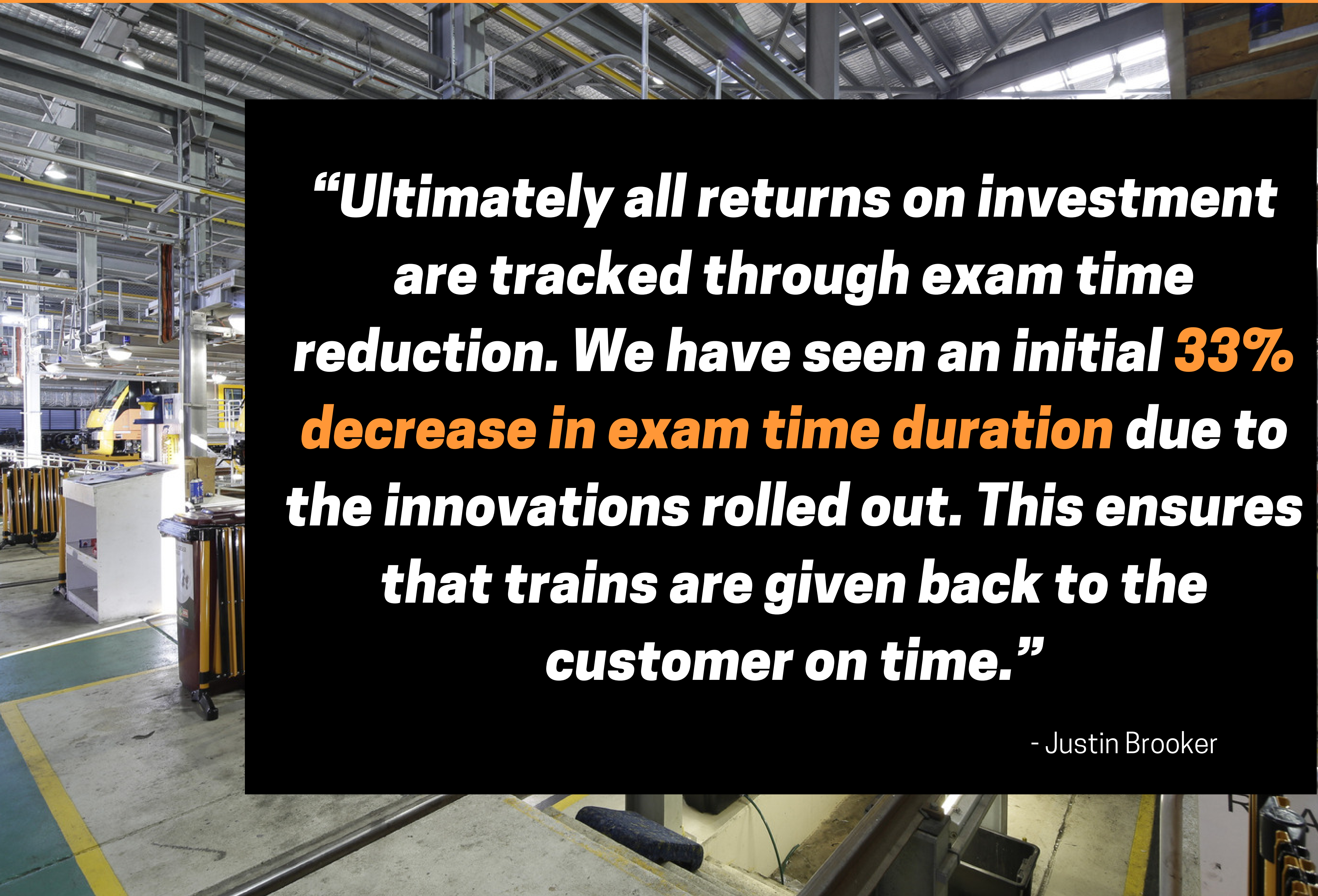
- Safety committees: ensure all staff are represented and have a voice.
- New policies and procedures: zero harm policies, cardinal rules, in process checks, safety audit inspections, critical risk observations and verifications.
- Safety Locking System: new, state-of-the-art interlocking safety systems with overhead power supply isolation switches, signalling and an interlocked 415VAC shore supply.
- Retractable Barriers for exclusion zones.
- Suitable pit drainage and lighting.
- 5s Methodology: cleanliness and congestion within the sheds has improved, directly minimising slips, trips and falls, and minimising the amount of lineside equipment that can come into contact with people.

By automating processes and minimising manual labour we create a more efficient, risk averse working environment.

TANGIBLE INVESTMENTS

The purpose-built Auburn depot, delivered through a PPP Consortium, was a sizeable investment of $220 million.

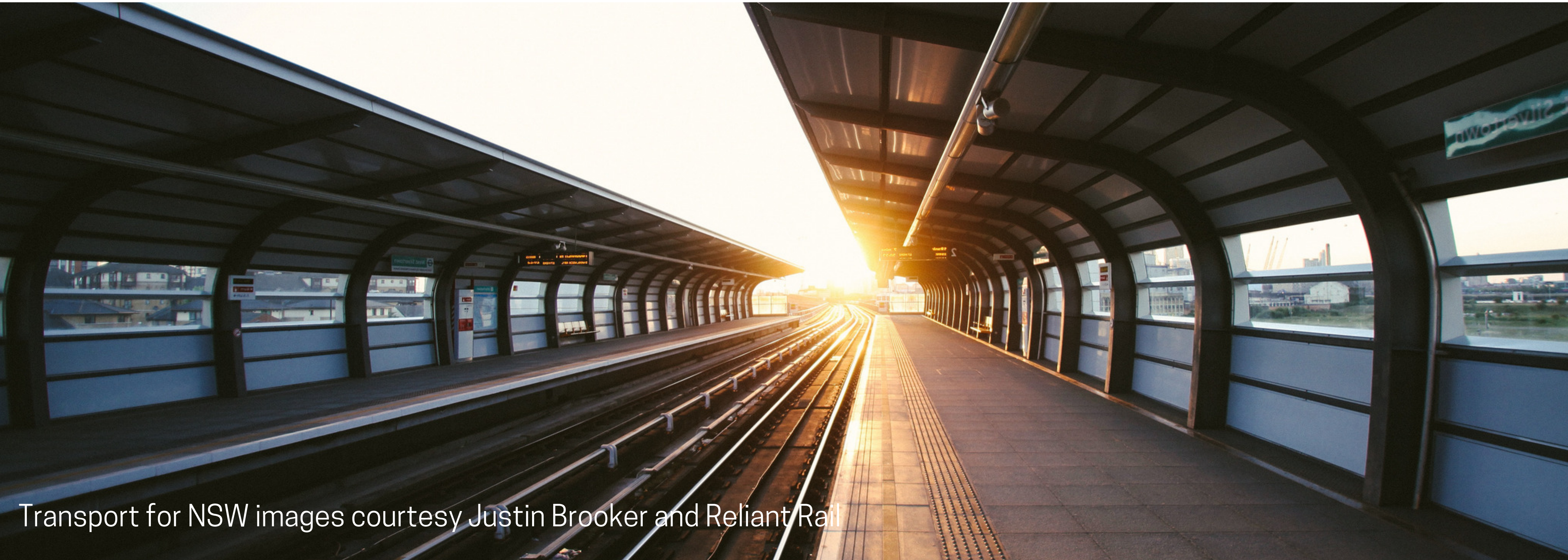
- As Justin notes though; "while a considerable investment has been made to improve the operation of our depots, the return can be measured in many ways.
- Our return on investment is tracked through operating costs and performance KPI's around reliability, availability, utilisation, and monthly finance reports.
- Capital expenditure investments in safety are seen through a reduction of injuries or incidents. Investment in a long-term business case built around production and process improvements sees a return though reductions in labour costs, while an investment in staff training delivers a return through a more efficient and effective workforce.



"Ultimately all returns on investment are tracked through exam time reduction. We have seen an initial 33% decrease in exam time duration due to the innovations rolled out. This ensures that trains are given back to the customer on time."

- Justin Brooker

If you would like to hear more about improving safety, servicing and operational flexibility, and minimising downtime through process innovation then join Justin at Depot Upgrades and Workshop Maintenance 2017 where you will hear from over 15 local and international experts and experience an exclusive tour with Justin of the multi-million dollar Auburn depot complex.



Transport for NSW images courtesy Justin Brooker and Reliant Rail