

Case Study

Molded Oil Bearings



INDUSTRY

Sugar Mill in FNQ.

PROBLEM

The Sugar Mill was experiencing ongoing life problems with the performance of crank bearings on its fleet of cane train locomotives resulting in frequent maintenance and re-greasing. Normally the cranks are totally covered in grease which, apart from being environmentally unfriendly, results in contaminants sticking to the lubricant and eventually working their way into the bearing set-up and shortening bearing life. The bearings would need to be changed every year.



APPLICATION

Cane Train Locomotives

SOLUTION

BSC were asked to assist by identifying a 'better way'. The solution was to replace the bearings with NSK Molded Oil bearings which contain an integral solid lubricant with oil life designed to last approximately 8 years and are therefore maintenance-free.

BENEFIT

Total Maintenance & Materials Savings >\$270,000

The Molded Oil bearings have now completed two years and will remain in service for a third year with the likelihood of that extending out an additional year or two as the Mill is intending to run them until failure – no additional lubrication is required.

The cranks in each of the 16 locomotives would require 182 hours of re-greasing per season, using 26 barrels of grease each year. The maintenance and materials (grease) savings for the Mill have been significant and will continue to be enjoyed in every subsequent year.

