



MEET WILL

PRODUCT MANAGER (Underground Hard Rock Vehicles and Large Wheel Loaders)
HASTINGS DEERING, BRISBANE, QLD.
STUDIED MECHANICAL ENGINEERING,
THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

What interested you in studying to become a Mechanical Engineer?

I studied Mechanical Engineering at UQ, I was quite lucky when it came to decisions around what to study, I have always been really into how things work with a good mechanical aptitude and a love of cars, so engineering was a logical choice for me. I didn't know what a Product Manager was when I made the decision to study engineering and I think that really speaks to the variety of pathways available for Engineers in Australia. You can't plan it all out too much, there definitely is a bit of following the opportunities.

What do you enjoy most about working in this industry?

I love the challenges that the industry gets to solve. Some of our customers are working at more than two kilometres below the surface which poses some very unique and complex challenges to overcome. The perspective is always, nothing is impossible, how will we overcome this.

What does your average workday look like?

My work day can vary, I am based out of the main machine dealership in Brisbane where we work with assembly teams to deliver new machines and I also spend time travelling to customer sites to help customers achieve their production and reliability goals.

How has this career of choice given you great work/life balance?

Being able to work from the office, site or home has meant that I can live closer to the places I want to, down in the northern Gold Coast. This has been a great change for work life balance as I am not tied into the city like other jobs might be.

When you're not at work, what are your interests and hobbies?

When I am not at work I try and spend as much time outside as possible, I stay fit by surfing and running and you can usually find me working on one of my many cars at home.

How do you feel your role in minerals and energy is shaping our future?

At the moment I am working to

roll-out electric machines into our region which have significantly lowered fuel burn than older style machines. These machines are significantly more efficient and represent some of the first major upgrades in this industry for a long time, so to be part of the solution to reduce CO2 output to get minerals that we need for our society is really exciting.

What is a piece of advice you'd give to a school leaver looking to study for a career in minerals and energy?

This industry is a huge part of Australia and is critical to decarbonisation into the future and it needs bright young minds to be part of the journey. I would also say it's not just about the study. All the things around your study is just as important. Build your network, get experiences in a variety of things, formally and informally. I really have found that the engineering degree opened the door to a lot of opportunities, but the network around me and the hands on experiences that I have really allowed me to capitalise on them.