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Mine uses side-casting method

Hazelwood Mine's Production and Planning Groups saw an opportunity recently to capitalise on a short outage for a large stacker in the overburden dump.

Normally, after Dredger 25 digs overburden from its current location on 5 Level, it is transferred to a mobile slew which in turn places it on a conveyor belt for delivery to the overburden stacker, TS2, which in turn dumps the material on the mine floor.

While TS2 was out of use on a maintenance outage, the production and planning employees used the dredger and slew to drop overburden directly onto the batter below – an operation known as side-casting.

Mine Production Manager, Rob Dugan, said a great deal of planning and risk assessment went into the short project.

"This was the first time we had used this method in the mine," Rob said. "And with careful planning, we were able to utilise the available time in a productive manner to continue capping the coal batters and reducing fire risk."