

AAPA 2017 VIC SAFETY INITIATIVE AWARD WINNER



CHRIS GUYMER

Victoria's award-winning Chris Guymer, a plant operator at Fulton Hogan's Dandenong base, spent two years developing a Smart Reversing System for sweepers, motivated by a near-miss that he and his colleagues felt could have been averted through the application of smart technology.

Chris volunteered to work with Fulton Hogan management and plant manufacturers to help develop and test a system that detects objects or people behind reversing plant that automatically applies the reversing machine's brakes.

Chris, a long-term plant operator, was well aware of the risks involved around reversing plant. He wanted to apply his industry knowledge to develop a reversing system that reduced the potential for incidents and injuries.



Working closely with the manufacturer, Chris was able to refine the sensitivity of the smart reversing system to ensure that it applied the brakes only when appropriate. Too many false alarms would undermine operators' confidence in the system and reduce productivity.

Chris' efforts and commitment were rewarded when an unauthorised person entered a restricted worksite wearing headphones and walked behind a reversing sweeper. The sweeper happened to be operated at the time by Chris. It detected the danger and stopped, potentially saving a life.

Chris shared his story with the business and this has helped with the adoption of the smart reversing system by his workmates and demonstrates the power of reporting near misses to drive safety improvements.