



Making a Difference in the Real World

Context – The UG mine workers at a large Underground Coal Mine near Moranbah in Qld use rubber gumboots in the wet sections of the mine or when working with chemicals. The fit of the gumboots in combination with the uneven ground and reduced lighting are conducive to slips, trips and falls as well as soft tissue injury to the foot and lower leg. The miners also listed other complaints around the fit, application and general use of the (ill fitting) gum boots.

The gumboot inherently needed to be loose fitting for the foot to go in. This results in less than adequate support of the ankle joint, muscle fatigue especially after 12 hour shifts, and a subsequent increased risk of rolled ankles.



Action / Solution – Mine engaged Crawford Boots who provided a boot that has the waterproof characteristics of a gumboot but fits like a leather safety boot. Using The WedgeTech (tm) Personalised Lock-fit System; the boot has inserts which act like a tongue & laces in a normal boot, thus providing a better fit. Each boot comes with 3 inserts (S,M,L).

After a site visit by Penny from Crawford Boots, the development team did a trial that involved 12 Mine Workers (randomly chosen) with the only requirement being they use gumboots all the time. The trial ran for a 6 - 8 week period and afterwards a rating was supplied.

Results – With very positive feedback from the miners trialling the boots, local management endorsed Crawford Boots as a site approved PPE and made the boots available to all workers through their stores system. Some of the specific feedback from the UG Miners included –

“Best Boots I have tried for underground in 40 years”

“Foot is held in place nicely and no slipping or movement”

“Good comfy boots. Well weighted. Overall very happy with them”