

TRACK SELECTION METHODS THROUGH KARRI SCRUB

by R.J.Underwood

A current method frequently used in the marking out of tracks through dense Karri scrub is for an officer with a compass to walk behind a D4 bulldozer directing the driver along a pre-determined bearing. This method has many advantages over previous techniques, but has one serious drawback: the inability of the compass man, two or three chains behind the machine, to maintain the necessary liaison with the 'dozer driver to ensure that the machine is kept on the correct course.

In the past this problem has been tackled in several ways. Some of these are:

- (a) the officer carries a capacious bag, filled with rocks, over one shoulder. One or two of these missiles, hurled accurately, never fail to attract the attention of a wayward driver.
- (b) a long rope with a noose at one end (this fits over the driver's head) trails behind the machine. A powerful jerk at the trailing end is often sufficient to indicate to the driver that he has strayed.

None of these methods has met with unqualified success, the cost of driver replacement and compensation payment in many cases becoming prohibitive.

A new method developed recently at Pemberton, however, is proving to be satisfactory.

The machine operator wears a modified horse's bridle and carries a thick metal bit between his teeth. To this bit a long pair of leather reins are firmly attached. The compass man, who holds the other end of the reins may thus quickly indicate to the driver which alignment is the correct one. The original cost of the equipment is low and the amount of time and frayed nerved saved is gratifyingly high.

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