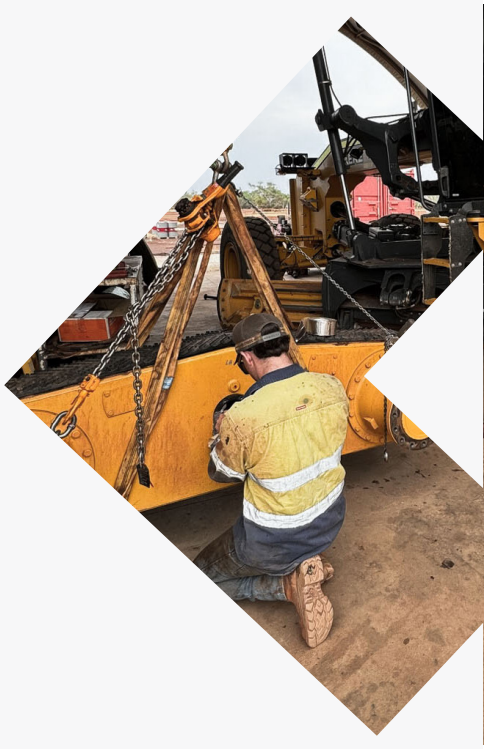
ROADS AND PAVEMENTS CAREERS | QUEENSLAND

WHAT'S A PLANT MECHANIC



NO UNI. NO DEBT. GET PAID TO LEARN A TRADE THAT PAYS $90K–$175K AND NEVER LEAVES YOU. HERE'S HOW IT WORKS.

YOU KNOW WHAT A MECHANIC IS. BUT THIS ISN'T CARS.

WHEN THE BIG MACHINES BREAK YOU'RE THE ONE WHO FIXES THEM.

You've seen a mechanic work on a car. Now picture the engine in an excavator or a dump truck, the size of a fridge, worth more than a house. Someone has to keep those machines running. That someone is a plant mechanic (also called a diesel fitter).

When a machine breaks down, the whole job stops. You're the one who finds the fault, fixes it, and gets it moving again. Some days you're in the workshop. Some days you drive out to the machine on site. It's called field service, and it pays even more.

It's a proper trade. You do a four-year apprenticeship, get paid the whole time, and come out with a certificate that works anywhere in the country, **including mining**, where the biggest money is.

NOT JUST OILY RAGS AND SPANNERS

Modern machines are computers on tracks. You plug in a laptop to read the faults, then work on the hydraulics, the electrics and the engine. Part mechanic, part tech — high skill, high pay.

A plant mechanic keeps the big machines alive. Fix the fault, and a whole job gets moving again.

THE PAY

GET PAID TO LEARN

As an apprentice you're paid to learn, it starts around $18–22/hr and rises every year. Qualified, you're on $90k–$115k. Field service and mining push past $150k.

TIME & SKILLS

A TRADE WITH NO DEBT

A four-year apprenticeship, paid the whole way. In Queensland, if you're under 25, the government covers your training. You finish with a trade certificate that's yours for life.

WHAT YOU NEED

GOOD WITH YOUR HANDS

An interest in how machines work, and being handy. A driver's licence and a White Card. No Year 12 or degree needed, most start from Year 10. You learn the rest on the job.

WHERE COULD A CAREER IN ROADS TAKE YOU?

FURTHER THAN YOU THINK.

WANT IN?

Scan the code. See real jobs near you. Come chat at the booth, we'll tell you exactly where to start.

A CAREER THAT GROWS WITH YOU.

The apprentice wage is the trade-off — you earn less while you learn. But the day you qualify, the pay jumps, and it keeps climbing. **A heavy diesel trade is one of the most in-demand, best-paid tickets in the country.**

APPRENTICE MECHANIC Paid to learn, four years, pay rises every year	**$40–$65K**
QUALIFIED PLANT MECHANIC Trade done, keeps the fleet running	**$90–$115K**
FIELD SERVICE / SENIOR FITTER Fixes big machines on site; on-call pays more	**$115–$140K**
WORKSHOP SUPERVISOR / SPECIALIST Runs the workshop, or chases the mining money	**$140–$175K+**

*Salary ranges are indicative of industry salary ranges as of August 2026.

KEEP IT RUNNING

When a machine dies, the whole site waits on you. Real responsibility and real respect on the crew.

WORKSHOP & OPEN ROAD

Split your days between the workshop and out on site in the field-service ute. Not stuck at one desk, and never the same problem twice.

ALWAYS IN DEMAND

Skilled fitters are always in demand. Your certificate never expires and works in every state and industry, civil, mining, transport, farming.

From there — workshop manager, fleet and asset manager, technical trainer, or run your own mobile mechanic business. And mining always wants heavy diesel fitters if you want to **chase the biggest money in the country.**



IS THIS YOU?

TICK THE ONES THAT SOUND LIKE YOU.

- [ ] You a enjoy working on machines
- [ ] Engines, hydraulics and electronics interest you
- [ ] You like working out why something has broken down
- [ ] A mix of workshop and on-site work suits you
- [ ] You want a trade qualification and pay from day one

TICKED THREE OR MORE? THIS COULD BE YOUR JOB.

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