



Change of Pace

WHEN TROPICAL CYCLONE LARRY DEVASTATED BANANA PLANTATIONS IN THE INNISFAIL REGION IN 2006, IT PROMPTED BANANA CARRIER **GEORGE PAWLOW** TO TRY HIS LUCK IN HEAVY HAULAGE – AND FIVE YEARS ON, HE HASN'T LOOKED BACK. A BRAND NEW TRI AXLE 45FT DROP DECK EXTENDABLE TRAILER FROM **TUFF TRAILERS** IS MAKING LIGHT WORK OF A TOUGH TASK.

George Pawlow has been a one man operation for over 15 years, switching his pantech van for a second-hand drop deck only five years ago to cart demountable buildings throughout Australia. In less than 12 months he had upgraded to a new drop deck extendable from Tuff Trailers, sparking the start of a relationship that would continue for years to come. This year, George made the decision to upgrade to a new tri axle 45ft drop deck extendable from the Queensland custom trailer manufacturer, which has been designing innovative trailers from its Crestmead facility since 1995. "The reason I went through Tuff in the first place was because I kept on hearing people talk about how good these trailers are – and they were right, Tuff Trailers build a very good trailer and that's why I've gone back."

What attracted George to upgrade to the new model was Tuff's innovative bi-fold ramps. With the previous trailer, the ramps stood up in the air on the back of the trailer. The bi-fold ramps add far greater versatility, allowing them to be used as an extension of the trailer, adding a further 2.5m to the length. "Everyone wants everything bigger and better these days and by extending the

12m long, but nowadays, the majority are 15-18m."

The ramps can also be used standing up or laying down on the floor of the trailer, offering three varied positions. One of the biggest advantages of this, according to George, is the improved fuel economy which is attributed to the improved aerodynamics. "You can save a lot of fuel

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length of the trailer I can cart longer objects. The buildings I transport used to be up to

simply by having the ramps laying flat rather than up in the air," he says.

"The ramps are all hydraulic. They are the best part of the trailer and that's why I upgraded. The previous trailer was virtually the same apart from the ramps, and although the ramps cost a little extra, they are definitely great value in the long run. The practicality of them is fantastic – plus, it enables me to carry extra freight because I can cart the longer objects."

Extending from 13.7m to 19.4m, the new trailer has a bisalloy bottom and top deck for added structural integrity. "The build quality of this trailer is really good and is certainly living up to my expectations. My previous Tuff trailer was just over 3.5 years old and there was nothing wrong with it – they really do build a great trailer," says George. "The new drop deck extendable is just so well designed."

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