

The right Tuff

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS FAVOURITISM AT **HOGAN'S HEAVY HAULAGE**. TO PUT IT SIMPLY, HAVING THE RIGHT VEHICLE FOR A SPECIFIC TASK WILL ALWAYS BE THE COMPANY'S TOP PRIORITY, WHICH IS WHY IT HAS SELECTED **TUFF TRAILERS'** QUAD-AXLE TILT 'N' SLIDE DECK WIDENER.

There's no room for sentiment in commercial road transport. At least that's how Jason Hogan, Managing Director of Hogan's Heavy Haulage, would put it. Jason's impartial approach to purchasing transport equipment is a philosophy he swears by and it's one reason why his family business remains a successful one today.

"In a highly competitive industry, you have to be smart about the equipment you invest in and make sure that it fits the task it's required for," Jason says. "If we have more than one unit of the same brand, it's because that equipment has been tried and tested for a specific job and that we've done all the homework prior to purchasing it."

Like the majority of equipment in Hogan's fleet, Jason's latest purchase from Tuff

Trailers involved substantial market research and weeks of tinkering with its blueprints. "We've been purchasing from Tuff Trailers for many years and have more than 25 low loaders, step decks, extendables and tilt slides in our fleet, with all of them still in operation," he says. In June, Hogan's took delivery of Tuff's new Quad-Axle Tilt 'N' Slide Deck Widener, a custom-designed upgrade from its tri-axle version that was released in 2014. This latest model, in Jason's words, "brings the best of both worlds together" by combining a low loader profile with tilt slide functionality.

"When I spoke to Managing Director, Denis Di Pasquale and the Tuff team in February, I wanted to use their Tilt 'N' Slide concept, but with a quad-axle configuration instead of the tri-axle. They

were more than happy to build a quad-axle model to my exact specifications," says Jason. The next three months were spent designing and refining the trailer until both parties were confident that it would stand up to the required task.

Measuring 19m in combination length, this new model comes built with 3.5m deck widening functionality, twin 20,000-pound winches and is manufactured using a combination of SSAB's Hardox 450, Wieldox 700 and Domex 700 steel, which are now trading under the Strenx label. "The difference with this Tilt 'N' Slide deck widener, however, is that it's much heavier and stronger than the rest, but offers a wealth of benefits for Hogan's operation," says Jason. "The reason for choosing the trailer is to transport large construction equipment including excavators,

bulldozers, small trucks, wheel-based equipment and it also gives us plenty of flexibility to do more. If we decided on just the tri-axle, we would only have a payload capacity of 20-tonnes, but with a quad-axle setup, we can transport anything between 33-36 tonnes," he describes. "That's why we always specify fold over deck wings on all our Tuff units in case of this scenario."

Getting the unit spot on for the freight task also meant coming up with the right amount of steerable support, with both Tuff and Jason agreeing to use twin rear self-tracking axles. "The 'friction control' axle system gives us complete manoeuvrability in on and off road situations, delivering a more efficient turning circle," explains David Dengate, Head of Engineering at Tuff Trailers. "It also reduces the onset of tyre wear, alleviating the pressure on tyres when you encounter sharp bends."

The addition of new Tuff Quad-Axle Tilt 'N' Slide Deck Widener is exactly what the Hunter Valley-based family business was after and might end up being the first of many - that's if it's required. "One of the key principles I've learned along the way is to always make sure the business gets premium value from the equipment we invest in," he says. "That trailer must be



right for the task and that goes for any truck purchase as well."

Since Tuff Trailers launched the Tilt 'N' Slide range in 2009, the company has been pushing the boundaries on customer options, says Founder and Managing Director, Denis Di Pasqual. "These models range from tri axle, spread tri axle, quad axle, self-tracking axles to extendable chassis, fixed width and 3.5m deck widening trays," he explains.

"Gooseneck options also include standard top deck or single (low loader) gooseneck

styles fitted with options such as fold over top decks with air assist, removable top decks, rounded front bars (A+B double style), top deck winches and much more. This extensive options range allows Tuff Trailers to offer a unique solution for every customer's requirements."

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