

Shorter tanker provides greater payload and flexibility

BENNETT'S PETROLEUM SUPPLIES HAS JUST TAKEN DELIVERY OF A BOGIE AXLE **TIEMAN** 'FUEL SHIFTER' WHICH IS THE FIRST TO BE DELIVERED INTO TASMANIA.



L-R: Bennett's Petroleum Logistics Manager Brian Webber and General Manager Troy Bennett pictured with the new 'Fuel Shifter'.

Bennett's Petroleum Supplies Pty Ltd is a Tasmanian family owned Caltex distributorship founded by Terry Bennett in 1977. The company delivers a wide range of Caltex fuels and oils to over 60 service stations in southern Tasmania, including 24 hour locations that accept the Bennett's "ZCard". The Bennett's fleet also delivers to other industries such as fishing, forestry and various commercial customers throughout southern Tasmania.

There are 15 permanent drivers employed by Bennett's Petroleum who operate a fleet of

11 trucks. The fleet is made up of two semi trailers and nine rigid tankers. To maximise the use of its assets, some of these tankers are used on a rotation basis for drivers on shift work.

On reviewing the company's needs, Managing Director Terry Bennett and General Manager Troy Bennett recently decided to update the fleet by purchasing a Volvo prime mover with a 28,500 litre 'Fuel Shifter' tanker from Tieman. The addition of this unit will enable Bennett's Petroleum to carry greater payloads in its regional

deliveries, thus allowing more locations to be serviced on a single run to a particular area. Key features of Tieman's 'Fuel Shifter' tankers are the front mounted hose reels which are fitted by Liquip and pumps which are mounted beneath the tanker barrel. As the hose reels are located at shoulder height, there is no back bending required by the operator, thus reducing the chance of injury. Having this equipment at the front of the tanker also allows operators to 'nose' into delivery areas without needing to reverse, making it ideal for difficult to access



fuel tanks. The bogie 'Fuel Shifter' has also been designed to be as short as possible to enable easier access into small farms.

The tanker purchased by Bennett's Petroleum features five separate compartments (7600L, 3800L and three 5700L compartments), and also has the ability to pump both petrol and diesel products, allowing a greater spread of customers to be serviced. The barrel is constructed of 5mm aluminium alloy and the sides are 7mm dished and flanged with a 6mm top walkway.

Liquip equipment is fitted throughout, including pumping equipment, overfill protection system, manhole assemblies, vapour vents and valves; and the unit also has colour coded product tumblers. Pre-programmed safe fill limits are also fitted and Bennett's Petroleum says these are a fundamental element that helps to reduce the risks of its drivers.

For added operator safety, this unit has been fitted with diptronics so is completely operational from ground level, however when the need to climb up on top of the tanker arises, the walkway features safety rails. The Tieman designed top walkway is wider for added safety by reducing tripping hazards on top compartment equipment.

On placement of the order, Tieman invited Bennett's Petroleum to inspect the manufacturing facility at Keon Park in Melbourne and view the operations first hand. Bennett's Petroleum Logistics Manager, Brian Webber visited Tieman's facility and was escorted through the offices and workshop. The tour included a demonstration of the process from a client ordering a tanker to the steps involved from the initial idea to drawings and 3D images of the end product. The next process was the final construction of the tanker.

Bennett's Petroleum says that Tieman's quality controls proved that the company is a very professional organisation that strives to satisfy and provide products to its customers according to their needs. Brian also inspected the new tanker whilst it was under construction and was impressed by Tieman's workmanship and attention to detail.

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