



Managing Director of Geraldton Fuels, Ian Burrows (left) and WA State Manager for Tieman, Calvin Ridley.

Heavy-duty nature

NOTORIOUS FOR HARSH WEATHER AND ROUGH ROAD CONDITIONS, HEAVY-DUTY TRANSPORT IS ESSENTIAL FOR LOGISTIC OPERATIONS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA. THEREFORE, **GERALDTON FUEL** HAS RECENTLY PURCHASED A **TIEMAN** POCKET ROAD TRAIN TO HELP GROW ITS BUSINESS IN THE OUTBACK.

According to Ian Burrows, Managing Director of Geraldton Fuel, the heavy-duty nature of the new tankers is a key ingredient to withstand the rough conditions in Western Australia's outback. "A good tanker needs to have the flexibility to handle on-road and off-road conditions," says Ian. "WA roads are some of the roughest and any flaws in tanker design are quickly apparent." Tieman's new Pocket Road Train combination has a 41,000 litre nominal maximum capacity with 5 compartments to maximise efficiency in each tanker. It features heavy-duty BPW suspension and axles and a rugged shell design including 5mm aluminium alloy sides, a thicker 6mm belly, 7mm dished and flanged edge ends

and bulkheads with extruded cleaning rings. Through machine pressing, the ends and bulkheads are stress relieved; resulting in a deeper and stronger end. The lead pocket road train uses Liquip pumping equipment With customers throughout the vast Mid West, Gascoyne and Murchison regions of Western Australia, stretching 500km south of Geraldton from Bencubbin across to Cataby, 900km north of Geraldton to Exmouth, and east 800km past Wiluna, Geraldton Fuel requires heavy-duty transport equipment capable of performing a range of on-road and off-road tasks in Australia's harsh operating environment. The quality and design of the latest aluminium petroleum pocket road train

combination from Tieman assists Geraldton Fuel in running a smooth operation in harsh conditions. Geraldton Fuel engages in a diverse range of logistical operations. "We carry out deliveries to a range of customers including farming, mining, transport, and service stations," says Ian. Despite the variety of tasks required, safety remains a key priority of Geraldton Fuel. The new tanker has a flat chequer plate walkway area that is designed to be wider for optimum operator safety. There are also high mount lights at the front and rear of tanker for enhanced visibility. The tanker also has heavy-duty stainless steel pneumatic handrails along the walkway that are interlocked with the trailer

brakes. Overfill protection has also been incorporated into this tanker's design. To reduce maintenance, the wiring on the top walkway is protected in the coaming extrusion and covered by a rubber protective strip whilst aluminium conduit is used on the side lights to prevent stone damage. Rubber stone guards are positioned in front of the landing legs and suspension to also protect the tankers from stone damage. Managing a fleet of 15 trucks with a range of Kenworth, Volvo, Iveco, and UD models, Ian says that quality workmanship is one of the factors contributing to a good tanker. "Geraldton Fuel has chosen Tieman because of the outstanding build quality and the faultless local WA after sales service," says Ian. "And their price is competitive too." As Geraldton Fuel displays the Caltex logo on its tankers, presentation is a very important factor in choosing a new tanker. "We proudly carry the Caltex brand on our tanker, so we want it to look well finished and presented – and we know that Tieman tankers look immaculate as soon as they come out of the factory," says Ian. All steel work on the new Tieman tanker is sand blasted, undercoated and then prime



coated in Dulux Acran 2-pack urethane paint. Since being established in 2000, Geraldton Fuel has continued to take advantage of the growing market in Australia, especially the mining sector, to grow its business. Over the past 11 years the employee numbers at Geraldton Fuel has more than tripled as they take advantage of the mining boom in the region. Targeting future expansion, Geraldton Fuel will consider further developing its

business relationship with Tieman. Ian adds, "having a supplier that provides high quality equipment and great after sales service is the key to building a solid, long-term business relationship."

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Tieman pocket road train.