

# SA Milk Haulage – moving milk from farm to factory

Servicing the South Australian dairy industry since 1988, SA Milk Haulage Pty Ltd continues to transport up to 300million litres per year to both South Australian and interstate clients. Originally established by Ken Smith and Associates, the company's combined services have successfully rationalised milk transportation between dairy suppliers and milk processors.

Governed by a board of directors and a strong management team, there

By Nicole Pienaar



are ten owner-drivers sub-contracted to the company to collect milk from at least 225 suppliers per day. This includes collecting from the States bigger dairy suppliers to the small operators that produce 1500 litres per day, plus delivering to two of the five major food processors operating in SA.

In addition to local and interstate cartage, the company also provides a local milk sample courier service. SA Milk Haulage really does provide an efficient one-stop shop for suppliers, dairy companies and the dairy industry.

General manager Brennan McKinnon joined SA Milk Haulage 18 months ago, and is positive about the future of the company.

"Even though there is a substantial increase in the amount of companies competing to transport milk, we find the effects and changes are reasonable, and can be managed by upsizing and downsizing when needed," says Brennan.

### Upgrading

Sometime in the future the company may replace the 14 dedicated Tieman milk tankers in the fleet, ranging in payload size from 26,000litres to one B-Double tanker with a capacity of 33,000litres. The fleet covers approximately 3.3million kilometres per year, collecting milk from all around the State including the Murray Bridge and Meningie areas plus going as far as Laura and Bordertown. With drivers and tankers working shifts 24 hours per day, seven days a week, and sometimes collecting twice daily from suppliers, the company aims to ensure it provides only the best conditions for its contractors.

Safety procedures are just as important to the company's reputation, with all sub-contractors undergoing and agreeing to a range of tests, training and policy guidelines.

"The contractors engaged by the company all undergo a drug and alcohol test upon induction, a working with heights policy, fatigue management awareness, and a food handling safety program, which is



important as we are handling a food product," says Brennan, who also agrees fatigue is one of the most serious issues in transport today.

### Experience

Brennan's experience in the transport industry started when he was just 19 years old, as a heavy rigid driver, so it's no surprise he knows the demands of the industry well. As well as considering safety procedures a high priority, he also has this advice for anyone thinking of entering the transport industry:

"There is a lot of urgency and pressure in this industry - especially for drivers as they have to meet deadlines. It is very difficult for them to manage the risks involved. When you do something, do it right and do it right the first time. Don't take shortcuts, don't put yourself under any unnecessary pressure and follow procedures as they are there for your safety," he says wisely.

This is crucial advice given that milk haulage is considered one of the most productive and high volume sectors in transport, due to nature of the product. In this high-risk and high-pressure industry, it is refreshing to see SA Milk Haulage not only provides significant value to the customer, but a complete dairy service to all its customers. ●

### SA Milk Haulage

General manager: Brennan McKinnon

Logistics coordinator: Chris Opie

Administration clerk: Cheryl Wedlake

Location: Adelaide, SA

Operations: Transporting milk and dairy products across the State between dairy suppliers and milk processors since 1988

Fleet: 1x 19-metre B-Double TIEMAN tanker

12x Triaxle TIEMAN tankers

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