



# Fuelling the Pilbara

Tieman's 41,000 litre lead road train tanker c/w drum tray.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S PILBARA REGION HAS EXPERIENCED CONTINUAL GROWTH IN RECENT TIMES THANKS TO A BOOMING MINING INDUSTRY. ALTHOUGH ITS VAST AND DEMANDING LANDSCAPE CAN BE UNFORGIVING TO TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT, **FUEL TRANS AUSTRALIA** IS TACKLING THE TASK HEAD ON WITH ITS TOUGH FLEET OF OFF-HIGHWAY TANKERS.

Fuel Trans Australia was started four years ago by Steve Crawford and his wife. Experienced in fuel cartage, the couple established their company with four trucks and 15 tankers. They opened a depot at Port Hedland, which is home to the Pilbara region's main fuel terminal, and since then have experienced continued growth. The current fleet of seven trucks and 26 tankers are used to transport fuel throughout the Pilbara, catering to the needs of various customers which include everything from service stations and airports, to contractors and mine sites.

"Most of our work is smaller multi-drop



Special tyre/packaged goods carrier


deliveries. Many of our competitors might go out with a triple road train all destined for the one stop, whereas we might use a triple road train for five or more deliveries along the one run," explains Steve. The newest addition to the Fuel Trans fleet will be a Tieman aluminium off-highway road train, set for delivery by mid-August. "We have been dealing with Tieman for many years, before we even started Fuel-Trans," says Steve. "As we have used Tieman tankers before, we know what we are getting. Tieman certainly builds a good product and they were the right fit for this latest order because they are able to offer

good aftersales service and a local point of contact through their WA state manager and tanker sales manager, Calvin Ridley. "It has been built to a heavy duty spec so that we can send it on any run. The work we do is varied and there are a lot of runs that are really demanding. We really aim for simplicity with our gear. Services can be difficult to get to where we are so we try to do most of our maintenance in-house." The road train combination is made up of a 41,000L A trailer and a 45,000L B trailer, both featuring five equal compartments. A drum tray is also fitted to the rear of the A trailer. It is capable of carrying up to four 205 litre drums. "We have included the drum tray on this combination because we sometimes need to deliver drums of fuel or oil to service stations – therefore this option provides us with greater versatility. We also get Tieman to make a special goods/tyre carrier that has the capability to carry packaged goods," says Steve. Calvin also highlights the special designed 'roo' guards in front of the suspension to



**“Pilbara is continuing to expand with more and more happening in the area. We want to be able to properly service the area as it continues to grow and will continue to implement new equipment to keep up with demand.”**

ensure that a possible collision with wildlife cannot damage the tyres. Calvin states, "I visit our tanker customers in remote areas of WA on a regular basis and my feedback to our engineering department ensures we design and build the toughest tankers to handle WA's harsh off road conditions. Prior to joining Tieman, I repaired all brands of tankers in the industry for over 20 years and in my opinion Tieman has built and still builds the best and strongest tanker and offer the best after sales service." For added structural integrity, the tankers are constructed from full length aluminium sheets, with 5mm aluminium sides, a thicker 6mm belly and walkway, and 7mm thick ends and bulkheads with extruded cleaning rings. The combination is also complete with overfill protection and vapour recovery. Looking ahead, the company will be adding another truck to the fleet very soon. Steve says, "Pilbara is continuing to expand with more and more happening in the area. We want to be able to properly service the area as it continues to grow and will continue to implement new equipment to keep up with demand."

Tieman promotes its wider safe top walkways, aluminium side conduit, special stone guarding, one piece pipelines, sandblasted steelwork, and special bulkhead to shell attachments as features that ensure the vehicle's longevity, leading to what they say is the best resale value for second hand tankers in the industry. 



Special stone guarding to protect all components.

**Contact**  
 Tieman Industries Pty Ltd  
 4-10 Keon Parade  
 Keon Park VIC 3073  
 Ph: 03 9469 6700  
 Fax: 03 9462 1814  
 Web: www.tieman.com.au