



MaxiTRANS Australia Pty Ltd

346 Boundary Road

Derrimut Victoria 3030

Telephone (03) 8368 1177

Facsimile (03) 8368 1178

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EziLiner Gets Dropped!

Following a dazzling entry to market that included showcase appearances across Australia, a flurry of purchases by transport fleets and owner operators as well as a major Australian International Design Award and a licensing agreement with Krone in Europe, the EziLiner has been dropped.....to accommodate a Freighter drop deck trailer that is!

Such is the growing popularity of this Freighter exclusive innovation, operators are now seeking to apply the functionality of the EziLiner across a number of Freighter products and Highland Haulage in Deloraine, Tasmania is the latest transport company to challenge Freighter engineers to adapt the technology to meet its own transport requirements.

Established 15 years ago by managing director Mick Linger, Highland Haulage specialises in providing general freight services and, despite being based in Tasmania, the fleet of over 15 vehicles provides the majority of its transport services along the eastern sea board from Melbourne to Brisbane.

Conscious about ensuring his fleet is continually providing operational efficiency as well as maximum cubic capacity, Mick was particularly interested in the Freighter Drop Deck design as it optimised deck lengths to suit standard pallet sizes as well as maximise load volume.

Having been impressed with the EziLiner's ease of use, Mick was also keen to adopt the application to further increase efficiency in load/unload cycles and just as importantly, further enhance his drivers satisfaction and enthusiasm. His request to his Freighter Account Manager, Cameron Knowles, was easy enough, *"I want my drop deck trailer to have the EziLiner technology built into it."*

Fortunately, Freighter engineers had foreseen this opportunity and had just completed the design and development of a drop deck EziLiner. Whereas a straight deck EziLiner allows for standard parallel mounting points for the EziLiner's arc cable

and tensioning hooks, a drop deck trailer has two horizontal plains that make it difficult to achieve the consistent tension levels required for the curtain.

Freighter engineers overcame this challenge through the incorporation of two cable guide rollers at the drop point of the trailer that simultaneously ensure the continuity of the cable from the top to lower deck whilst maintaining the required tension levels.

With this ingenious design, Highland Haulage's drop deck EziLiner design has replaced the use of buckles and straps, with a single high tensile synthetic cable running through a series of arcs along both decks of the trailer to generate vertical tension on the trailer curtains, providing significant operational efficiency in respect of time savings per load/unload cycle.

Since its introduction, the EziLiner has received positive feedback from drivers who say that the simple use of a lever to tighten and loosen the curtain has made it easier to operate the curtains and avoid the repetitive nature of opening and closing buckles and straps. Highland Haulage will also be looking to gain similar benefits as it integrates the EziLiner into its existing fleet of 15 vehicles.

According to Mick, the EziLiner-drop deck combination will provide freight task flexibility, adding that *"Because the drop deck allows us to maximise load volume, we find that we can make multiple drops and pick ups as we work down from Brisbane to Melbourne and with the added benefit of the EziLiner curtains, I know our customers will benefit from it's ease of functionality and the fact that we'll be able to more quickly load and unload their goods."*

This Freighter drop deck EziLiner is one of the first of its kind and demonstrates the adaptability of Freighter innovation to the changing needs of Australia's transport operators.

Cameron for Freighter summarises it perfectly, stating that *"The current uncertainty in the transport industry is seen as an opportunity for Freighter to work even more closely with customers to develop solutions that will provide positive benefits, both operational and financial."*

Further information and details regarding the patent protected EziLiner and other Freighter products can be found at www.freighter.com.au.



Above: Highland Haulage's new drop deck EziLiner.

Further information contact:

Rod Cunningham

MaxiTRANS Australia Pty Ltd

Tel: 03 8368 1171

Mob: 0419 755 363

Email: rod.cunningham@maxitrans.com.au

Jozef Horvat

MaxiTRANS Australia Pty Ltd

Tel: 03 8368 1117

Mob: 0409 501 443

Email: jozef.horvat@maxitrans.com.au