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Toll Chooses to Drop it to make it Ezi!

When the Toll Group saw the substantial benefits of the new EziLiner, it immediately approached Freighter to seek a drop deck adaptation for its AutoLogistics Division.

Attracted by the potential for enhanced operational efficiency, productivity and improved OH&S for drivers, Toll worked closely with Freighter engineers to develop a new design that would enhance their reputation as Australia's leading logistics services provider.

Earmarked as an important upgrade to Toll's logistics service offerings, stringent objectives were set by Toll for the new drop-deck trailer including compliance with all regulatory requirements for load restraint and OH&S as well as flexibility to accommodate varying load sizes of components and parts.

In early 2008, Freighter engineers had been working on a prototype trailer which combined the popular Freighter drop-deck design with the new innovative EziLiner curtain technology. Toll was given the opportunity to trial the first Drop Deck EziLiner prototype and assess its suitability to reduce cycle time and operating costs as well as increase equipment capacity.

Chosen for its adaptability to suit different operational environments, optimization of load capacity and ability to be configured to customer requirements, the Drop Deck EziLiner configuration featured a number of customised options to meet the specific objectives set by Toll. Following the successful trial of the prototype, Toll commissioned Freighter to build a model specific to its requirements.

Depot and Equipment Manager for Toll AutoLogistics, Robert Cross, was impressed with the outcome and the manner in which this unique project was managed, commenting that *"The collaboration between Toll AutoLogistics and Freighter couldn't have been any better. Having the opportunity to trial the technology before adopting it was invaluable as it allowed us to identify areas where we could further improve our service to our customers. Then, having a detailed understanding of what our requirements were, combined with Freighter's expert advice, we have developed a solution that will deliver the results and benefits that our customers look for"*.

Toll drivers have noticed an immediate efficiency improvement through time-saving during loading and unloading. The EziLiner's simple use of a lever to provide automated vertical tension for the curtains has made it easier and faster to operate and avoid the repetitive nature of opening and closing buckles and straps.

In a sign that both Freighter and Toll are constantly looking to improve and automate the task associated with loading and unloading freight, the manual ratchet which is traditionally used to provide horizontal tension to the curtain, has been replaced with a push button, fully air-operated tensioner, thus paving the way for a fully automated method for tensioning the curtain both vertically and horizontally!

To meet load restraint guidelines, the drop deck trailer also incorporates easy-to-use sliding gates which not only provide appropriate restraint but help drivers and users overcome the needs to lift heavy gates to move them.

This project exemplifies the versatility of both Freighter and Toll AutoLogistics in providing customised road transport solutions for virtually any given situation. And its customers who benefit most by partnering with two leading transport organisations who are highly dedicated and focused on achieving value-added results, and providing expert advice and service.

Further information on Freighter and Toll AutoLogistics is available at www.freighter.com.au and www.tollgroup.com.



ABOVE: Combining Freighter's expert advice with Toll's experience, the EziLiner Drop Deck is a solution that will deliver the results and benefits that customers look for.

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