



# The sense in the scheme

**BULK GARDENING AND BUILDING PRODUCT SUPPLIER, BURDETT'S, KEEPS THE EQUIPMENT IN ITS TRANSPORT DIVISION AT THE MAXIMUM OF SAFETY BY USING THE LATEST IN COUPLING SENSOR TECHNOLOGY FROM V.ORLANDI.**

The Australian commercial road transport industry changed permanently in 1987 when the first B-doubles hit the roads. The new type of combination brought an enormous increase in productivity for operators such as Melbourne-based bulk haulage specialist Burdett's, which hasn't stopped chasing efficiency gains ever since.

"We've been in transport for 44 years, but we're still learning and still looking for improvements, especially in ways to find productivity gains," says Andrew Burdett, Managing Director of the Burdett's Group.

"When 19m B-doubles were introduced, they changed the game completely, but with the combinations coming out of Performance-Based Standards (PBS, *ed.*), now they're basically obsolete."

Burdett's took delivery of its first PBS-approved combinations in 2010, five sets of truck and four-axle dog tippers with a 39-tonne payload. Now, Andrew says he has just received his second round order of PBS combinations, a number of Bulk Transport Equipment's (BTE) truck and five- and six-axle dogs, bringing a total of 35 PBS combinations to the fleet, fitted

with V.Orlandi E550 Pacific tow couplings and boasting payloads of up to 48.5 tonnes.

By upgrading a combination from a truck and three-axle dog to a truck and six-axle dog, Andrew says he is able to nearly halve the truck movements on roads, a benefit to the PBS scheme that he found to be easily digestible for community members and industry alike.

"When a combination is big enough to do the job of two trucks, that is a clearly measurable improvement to safety on the roads," Andrew says. "The newer combinations also provide an increase in safety through the use of newer components with improved technology."

In line with that, Andrew says the V.Orlandi tow couplings that are featured on the five most recent PBS-approved truck and dog combinations from BTE provide another important safety benefit to the equipment during tipping.

"These couplings have a sensor that alerts the driver when the combination is nearing a jack knife position," Andrew explains. "If it jack knifes, it can result in damage to the mudflaps, tow coupling and the drawbar. The sensor is especially useful when the driver is

tipping on the blind side."

The sensor's warning not only protects the equipment from the damaging position, but also provides the driver with a way to check the angle is safe from inside the cab. "It saves the driver getting in and out of the vehicle, which is especially important for on-site safety, as well as reducing the time consuming movements."

**Fast Fact**

V.Orlandi's 50mm E550 Pacific tow coupling boasts a D-value rating of 330kN, which is the highest available in the country, says V.Orlandi Australia General Manager, Simon Tortorici.

"At 42kg it's also the lightest in the market, which is a perfect combination for all the new PBS trailers," says Simon. "For further fleet safety and productivity, smart kits are available to easily retrofit the jack knife indicator and the open and close indicator."



E550 Pacific

According to Andrew, international road transport industries could take the opportunity to learn from the hard work involved with building the PBS scheme and benefit from the potential productivity gains being experienced in Australia.

"The US, for example, is restricted to single two-axle semi trailers. Even if they followed Australia's example from the 1980s and went to B-doubles, they could double their productivity and halve the number of drivers on the road," Andrew says, adding that with the US currently facing a driver shortage similar to Australia, that benefit to high productivity vehicles should be tallied alongside the safety and productivity gains.

"PBS is just a great idea. We have the ability to get 20 per cent more payload, which is a huge benefit first and foremost to our bottom line," Andrew says. "On top of the cost benefits to the bigger combinations, having less movements on the road also helps resolve driver shortage issues, and produces a very similar fuel economy per vehicle, which helps us reduce our carbon footprint overall."

Trying to be 'as environmentally responsible as possible' is a major focus for Andrew, who says that the transport industry comes under close scrutiny when it comes to environmental impact.

"On top of the transport side of the business, Burdett's is also in the quarrying industry, so we do our utmost to be as environmentally responsible as possible."

The reduction in truck movements found with PBS-approved equipment matches Burdett's long-held focus on seeking productivity gains across the company, which is also where the V.Orlandi couplings shine, Andrew says.

"We trialled our first V.Orlandi tow coupling about four years ago, and found it to be a strong component with cheaper and quicker rebuild kit, for when they do need maintenance."

Just as the Australian road transport industry changed forever with the introduction of B-doubles and the consecutive investigations into high productivity with PBS, Andrew says his business will permanently adopt the V.Orlandi couplings into all new PBS-approved combinations. "Who would've thought 10 years ago that Australian roads would see vehicles of such size? But with the technology from V.Orlandi, they're even safer than ever." →

**Contact**  
 V.Orlandi  
 Web: [www.orlandi.com.au](http://www.orlandi.com.au)