

# TOW THE LINE

When **Forrest Haulage** approached WA-based transport equipment manufacturer **Base Fabrications** to develop a unique AB-triple log trailer combination, the manufacturer deferred to Italian tow coupling specialist **V.Orlandi** to finish the job.

**E**arly this year, logging logistics company Forrest Haulage needed to boost productivity via improved transport equipment but needed something a little different to its standard variety of trailers to accommodate for high-volume lumber cartage throughout Western Australia. With an initial concept sketch and a few ideas, Forrest Haulage turned to manufacturer Base Fabrications for assistance.

Base Fabrications Design Engineer, William Snellix, has been with the company for over four years and was keen to work on this unique trailer build. "Forrest Haulage needed a custom logging trailer to push the limits of payload capacity and equipment durability," says William. "To get the most value out of its each-way 500km cartage trips, it required a custom 36.5m AB-triple. Our prototype design dwarfs the standard 27.5m range.

"The issue as always in the transport industry is tare weight. The trailer components have to be capable of meeting our high safety standards, but also need to stay light enough for the customer to carry the largest payload possible. With the aid of CAD design software and high-tensile steels this allows us to achieve this with ease," he says.

"The A frame of the dolly was designed to put up to 3,000kg of downforce on the coupling, so we initially decided to use a turntable-style coupling as normal 50mm style pin couplings don't offer a high enough rating.

"Forrest Haulage has other trailers fitted with turntables and its original idea was to use the same type of coupling. The problem is that you don't get much oscillation, and the equipment is not as manoeuvrable. That can cause more stress on the equipment and the components, which can lead to significant long-term damage."

William consulted with specialist component provider V.Orlandi to source the premium products it needed to ensure its tow couplings were optimised and built for purpose.

"V.Orlandi suggested that its 57mm Pacific E576 coupling was the most suitable option for our specific application. It has a D-value rating of 350kN and also a vertical rating of 3000kg, which is the highest available in the market," William says.

"Not only does it have sufficient ratings, but it's also lighter than a turntable coupling and is a more heavy-duty design, that is better suited for Forrest Haulage's logging transport task.

"In the interests of safety, performance

and longevity, the V.Orlandi coupling ensures sufficient oscillation while the trailer travels on uneven ground. This, in turn, means there is less stress on the towbar and other components."

Travelling on less-than-ideal road surfaces is fairly typical for the logging industry, according to William, which is why Forrest Haulage invests in quality components and durable trailer builds.

While Base Fabrications has been using V.Orlandi components for years, it has only been in the past six months that the trailer manufacturer has begun working very closely with the specialist provider for its growing range of quality products.

"V.Orlandi continues to present more and more quality products," says William. "They come at a premium price, adding substantial value to our builds and are the best option for our customers, too.

"V.Orlandi equipment is easy to work with, which is important for us when it comes to serviceability and general maintenance. Even though the 57mm tow coupling is unique it can be retrofitted, most V.Orlandi products share similar mounting points and can be changed with ease."

V.Orlandi has over 150 years of transport equipment history, stemming from its Italian roots and has been in Australian markets for two decades. In April 2016, the tow coupling specialist set up locally, and continued to innovate and adapt its range to accommodate for the Australian landscape and commercial transport needs – like Forrest Haulage's logging task.

Base Fabrications delivered the custom AB-triple combination with the 57mm E576 coupling to Forrest Haulage within the last two months.

"Forrest Haulage is pleased with the final product, from how well the combination tracks to the large range of oscillation the coupling allows between the trailer and the dolly," says William. "The unique design was only possible with the right equipment from V.Orlandi." **IID**



V.ORLANDI  
TOWING SYSTEMS

## NEW E576 PACIFIC 57mm Coupling



Part Number  
E576A0M

### LESS TRIPS AND MORE PAYLOAD?

- THE E576 BOOSTS FLEET PRODUCTIVITY
- THE STRONGEST HIGHWAY COUPLING IN THE MARKET **D-VALUE 350 KN**
- THE HIGHEST VERTICAL LOAD: **S-VALUE 3000 KG**
- DESIGNED FOR **PBS SUPER-QUAD APPLICATION**
- PERFECT SUITS FOR **HIGHWAY ROADTRAIN / MINING**

### WHY V.ORLANDI 57MM COUPLING?

#### TOP PRODUCT for Fleet's Service, Maintenance & Productivity

- 4 minutes to replace THE COUPLING PIN
- 8 minutes to replace THE WEAR PADS
- 40 minutes to replace THE UPPER & LOWER BUSH
- 55 minutes to replace THE FULL REBUILD COUPLING KIT
- Smashed the BELL MOUTH? Just replace the jaw in only 13 minutes and NOT the whole coupling assembly
- The E576 PACIFIC can be uncoupled in any angle reducing productivity loss to the fleet
- HD Polyurethane Rubber Buffers

### SUITABLE DRAWBAR EYE (NEW)

- Part Number OC57F62
- Flanged Drawbar Eye 57mm 350kN

