

Covering all bases

One of Australia's largest infrastructure projects, the Mitcham-Frankston Freeway, is well and truly underway, and with 120 trucks and trailers involved in the project, Melbourne based **Tipper Tarps** will have their hands full as the preferred tarpaulin supplier.

With 40 km of non-stop expressway running from the city's east, to Frankston in the South, the Mitcham-Frankston Freeway is set to create and estimated 5,000 new jobs, many of which will be within the transport industry.

120 trucks and trailers will be involved in the project, estimated to complete in 2008, and as the preferred tarp supplier for Eastern Plant Hire (the major plant hire company responsible for the project) Tipper Tarps say they will manufacture

many of the tarps for the project.

"We have done tarps on 24 trucks and trailers so far and that number is increasing every day," says Tipper Tarps Managing Director, Michael Robinson.

He adds Thiess John Holland JV, the main contractor of the freeway, is also recommending local manufacturer, Tipper Tarps, to all contactors for their special light weight and waterproof mesh system, which offers a strong and durable load covering system.

"Our tarp has a number of benefits, including cables that sit lower to prevent damage by the loader buckets, and electric drive options for wind out tarps and roll tarps, supplied as a kit or as a retrofit."



Tipper Tarps
Managing
Director, Michael
Robinson

Tipper Tarps boast they have the only wind-out tarp system on the market that is a totally bolt-on arrangement. This means no welding of brackets, reducing fitment time and burnt paintwork.

Tipper Tarps say they have installed thousands of systems over the course of their nine-year history on a variety of trailers, from truck and dogs and semi tippers, to skip bins, rail wagons and loading bays. Recently moving into a larger premises in



A tarp for every application

- Wind-out tarps
- Mesh for quarry work – sand, gravel etc
- 60 per cent waterproof for asphalt work
- 80 per cent waterproof for asphalt and EPA work, or grain and fertilizer.
- 100 per cent waterproof used for grain and fertilizer cartage and quarry work
- Pivoting arm tarps for quarry work
- Pull-out tarps - an economical ground operated tarp for quarry and bobcat work
- Headboard style roll over tarp
- Optional wind-over centre bar for use with wheel loaders
- Queensland style roll over tarp - flaps front and rear for grain and fertilizer
- Curtains only, or in kit form, including curtain, track, rollers, pelmet rubber, and tensioners.

Bayswater, Tipper Tarps say their strong affiliation with other tarp manufacturers, including Retractable Tarps in Brisbane, Bartlett's Coverings in Ballart, and Vanderhoek Tarps in Tocumwal, allows them to offer the largest range at the most competitive prices; with an extended service network.

Supplying bodybuilders, transport companies, shire councils, quarries, garden supply centres, and private contractors with tarping systems, Michael says each system is available in kit format for fitment by the purchaser and can be shipped anywhere in Australia.

Tipper Tarps is also expanding its range of sundry products to include drawbar covers, autolok side curtain tensioners (for one-handed curtain tensioning), flexible roll tarp bows, ground operated wind over centre bar kits for retrofitting to existing roll tarps, and electric conversion kits for wind-out tarps and roll over tarps.

"The industry is constantly changing," says Michael, "in the past your truck or trailer would solely cart grain, for instance, now operators have to be versatile and transport all kinds of products."

"This means that purpose built tarp systems have to do other jobs as well. For instance a



roll over tarp with its tarp bows and centre bar is not suitable for quarry work, where vehicles are loaded by wheel loaders and excavators. And a mesh wind-out tarp is not suitable for grain and fertilizer, because it has to be waterproof."

"We had to adapt our tarp systems to cater for these needs, and now we offer a 100 per cent waterproof version of the wind-out tarp, and also do a headboard style roll tarp with no bows and a wind over centre bar."

"In today's climate, OH&S is a constant concern, and there is no safer option than a cab operated tarp system."

"Not only are you not allowed to climb up

onto the body of your truck or trailer any more, in some operations they won't even let you out of the cab."

Michael adds that electric tarps can also save operators money, eliminating the need to stop the truck to open or close your tarp. "You can do it while you're still in the cabin and if that means you can get one extra load per day, it doesn't take long for the system to pay for itself."

"Electric tarps are becoming more popular and many large fleet operations have noted the safety and financial benefits, and are fitting electric tarps to their fleet." **TBB**

- Wind Out Tarps**
- Pull Out Tarps**
- Roll Over Tarps**
- Side Curtains**

TIPPER TARPS

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