

# Dump truck performs well

BY LAURA GALIC

Australia's first ever dust suppressing dump truck has been performing above expectations, according to its manufacturer Austin Engineering.

The Westech Flow Control Body manufactured in Australia, for use in Australia, was officially launched at Austin Engineering's Hunter Valley operation in December last year.

Austin Engineering Executive General Manager - Eastern Australia Tim Ekert said the two truck bodies built in Muswellbrook went to the same Hunter Valley coal mine.

"The feedback on the flow control body has been very positive and it's very exciting for us to be able to see them operating in our backyard rather than just hear about them operating overseas," he said.

"Feedback so far is they are performing above expectations and we can see first-hand the dust suppression benefits of the bodies."

Mr Ekert explained that the bodies had a revolutionary floor design that controlled the flow of material out of the body during dumping.

"On a more traditional body, the materials start leaving the body later in the dump cycle and generally comes out in a big rush, creating more dust," he said.

"Whereas in the Westech Flow Control Body, the three angle floor design creates a more consistent flow of material throughout the dump cycle."

This more even flow greatly reduces dust generated when dumping, along with reducing wear on the body. The floor design keeps the centre of gravity of the load forward of the rear axle longer while in the dump cycle, reducing material surge as the load leaves the truck body. This eliminates lift at the front of the truck, making the truck much safer with increased stability.

Dumping coal or overburden is one of the major sources of dust emissions at coal mines, and with this Austin Engineering is looking to build more dump truck bodies to assist with the suppression of dust.

"We are in negotiations with a number of minesites, so hopefully in the near future we will be able to announce some more wins and be able to build some more flow control bodies," Mr Ekert said.

The dust suppressing truck bodies have already been operating in the US.

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Australia first: Austin Engineering managers at the launch of the Westech Flow Control Body at its operations in the Hunter Valley.



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