



TOP OF THE TREE

ONE OF THE NATION'S LARGEST VEGETATION SERVICES COMPANIES RELIES ON THE TOUGHNESS AND RELIABILITY OF ITS LARGE HINO FLEET TO GET THE JOB DONE WITH A MINIMUM OF FUSS.

1. Not the sort of thing many of us would like to do but someone has to! Tree trimming is a growth industry, that's for sure.

ETS Vegetation Management (formerly Eastern Tree Service) runs a national fleet of around 280 trucks, and more than half of them are Hinos.

"We currently run about 190 Hinos out of our depots around Australia," said Bill Simmons, ETS National Fleet and Maintenance Manager.

The majority are from the Hino 500 Series medium duty range, featuring fuel-efficient Euro 5-compliant engines, state-of-the-art multimedia unit and safety features like ABS anti-skid brakes, front under-run protection (FUPS), ISRI air-suspension driver's seat and driver's SRS airbag as standard.

"At the moment we have a number of FD and FE medium wheelbase trucks and GH medium and long wheelbase 500 Series models," Simmons said.

"We also have nearly 30 500 Series GT 4x4 trucks and a couple of 300 Series light duty models too."

For Bill Simmons, the reasoning behind having so many Hinos in the fleet is simple.

"The Hinos are a good, reliable, value-for-money truck with excellent support," he said.

"They do exactly what we need and they

trucks are running pretty much all day apart from breaks.

"The chipper-tippers tow a wood chipper unit and crew members manually fed the off-cuts into the chipper, with the chips being deposited into the tray ready for disposal.

"With a full bin and a chipper in tow they come close to reaching maximum load limits."

While its head office is in Victoria, ETS has been buying its Hinos from Sydney's City Hino for the last 15 years.

"Traditionally we've bought our Hino's through Chris Geadah at City Hino, largely because most of the custom bodies were fitted in Sydney," Mr Simmons said.

"That's starting to change a little. For example, our last lot of EWPs were Terex products supplied by Telescopic Tower Enterprises and built by Lift Industries on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, and we have had around 25 tippers built by Auslocka Sheetmetal in Melbourne now too.

"Chris and the team at City Hino have always been good to us; they do all they can to help us out and follow through with every enquiry, so we couldn't imagine dealing with anyone else."

All the Hinos in the fleet are maintained



"The Hinos are a good, reliable, value-for-money truck with excellent support,"

don't let us down: they're super-reliable."

Most of ETS' 500 Series trucks are fitted with either elevated work platforms (EWPs) for tree lopping, or are used as chipper-tippers to dispose of the offcuts.

Eight have a truck-mounted Jarraff cab and boom that enables cutting along high voltage powerlines where an EWP cannot reach.

ETS recently took delivery of its first tilt-tray 500 Series GH 1728 XXL wheelbase 6x2 (customised from 4x2) for transporting heavy equipment and recovering vehicles.

A 300 Series 917 4x2 Cab Chassis tray truck carries a specialised track-mounted EWP that is operated via remote control for awkward, hard-to-reach jobs.

"A typical working day would see the trucks leave the depot for an eight-hour shift, with crews cutting and clearing vegetation from poles, electricity wires and so on," Mr Simmons said.

"The cutting is mostly done with hydraulic tools, so even though they're stationary the

by ETS' own technicians who receive regular training at Hino Australia's headquarters in Sydney.

"Their mechanics are fully trained by Hino and they're very self-sufficient," said Mr Geadah.

"They have their own workshops in all states, and every couple of years they send their maintenance staff to head office in Sydney to get the expert training and guidance they need to keep the Hino fleet running smoothly.

"After so many years we enjoy a good working relationship with the people at ETS and they're really happy with the Hino product," Mr Geadah said.

ETS began operations in Victoria in 1981 as a specialist power line tree clearing service.

In 1999 ETS expanded into Queensland, followed by Tasmania in 2006 and New South Wales and Western Australia in 2009. It currently employs over 600 staff across the country. 📱



2. ETS run a big fleet and has more than 140 Hino on the road.
3. Choose your weapon! Is this a case of dualing chainsaws?

