

ROLLING TOWARDS A CLEANER FUTURE



Key outcomes

Operational benefits (p.a.)

Reduction in disposal to landfill	2500 tyres
Reduction in disposal costs	\$50,000
Reduction in oil consumption	50%
Reduction in PIW for disposal –	
• Oil & coolant	99% recycled
Lower emissions –	
• NO ₂	136 t decrease
• Particulate matter	21.4 t decrease

Increased productivity

- Improved labour efficiencies
- Less time in servicing workshop
- Increased fuel efficiency
- Increased vehicle productivity

Truck wash

Implementation	approx. \$500,000
Labour savings (p.a.)	approx. \$60,000
• Less time off the road	
• Increased washing capacity	
• Increased labour efficiencies	
• Improved occupational health and safety	
• Detergent use reduced by 50%	

Further information

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Risk management and continuous operational improvement produces rewards.

Operating from its depot in the rural City of Mildura in Victoria, GTS Freight Management is a family business managing a large fleet of trucks that service transport and warehousing requirements across Australia for the growing Australian wine and beverage industry.

Focus was centred on the impact GTS can have on the environment when waste oil originating from the company's Mildura site entered the stormwater system and made its way into the Murray river, threatening the local potable water supply.

Working closely with EPA, the spill was quickly contained, but it raised awareness of opportunities for GTS to reduce its impact on the environment and at the same time gain broader benefits for the business. These include improved risk management, reduction in the volume of prescribed industrial waste, occupational health and safety improvements, economic gains and increased operational efficiencies.

As a result, GTS is developing an environmental policy to ensure that company commitment in this area is ongoing and that, in the future, innovative thinking and new technology will continue to be embraced to support this endeavour. Areas such as facility infrastructure, vehicle efficiency, supply chain and waste management practices are continually reassessed.

Of the many initiatives that have already been implemented, a priority was the reduction of risks associated with the handling and management of new and waste fuels. Secure bunding in storage areas has been built to minimise spillage impacts, drip-trays at dispensing points have been added to prevent oil going into the ground, and 'dry

break' fittings are now used in equipment used for the transfer of oil. All this has resulted in less wastage and a reduced OH&S risk.

The purchase of tyres and their disposal incurs significant costs on GTS. A program of 'recapping' original casings has commenced, enabling the tyre casing to be recapped at approximately half the price of a new tyre. This process effectively increases the lifespan of the casings from one to four years. Currently approximately 40 % of the fleet utilises these tyres, reducing the number going to landfill each year by approximately 2500 and saving about \$50,000 per annum on disposal fees alone.

'An unfortunate spill strengthened our resolve to become a leader in the environmental arena. We were pleased to discover that not only did our customers recognise the value of our efforts, but our focus provided tangible financial and operational benefits across our business too.'

Damien Matthews
Managing Director

With a fleet of 100 vehicles, GTS has recognised that engine efficiency can significantly affect the company's performance, environmentally as well as economically. In an effort to improve in this area, GTS adheres to a strict maintenance regime, ensuring all vehicles are compliant with Australian emission control standards. A four-year vehicle replacement program surpasses the industry standard of eight years and ensures that the uptake of new technology is sustained, thereby continuing to provide maximum reliability, fuel efficiency and minimum emissions.

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The introduction of synthetic oils has resulted in reduced oil consumption. Vehicles now require servicing every 40,000 km where previously they were serviced every 20,000 km. While the oil is more expensive per litre, the benefits associated with less wear on transmissions, reduced workshop labour costs and increased vehicle productivity exceed the costs. Lower emissions are also result from using this synthetic oil. Nitrogen oxides and particulate matter emissions have decreased by 136 tonnes and 21.4 tonnes respectively in the last year.

Working with the company's oil supplier has enabled the introduction of the capture, filtration and reuse of oil and coolant, and the decontamination and crushing of used oil filters for reprocessing. This was done well in advance of EPA's ban on oil filter disposal to landfill. Resource efficiency has improved and significant reductions in prescribed industrial waste have resulted, with 99% of the oil and filters removed from the waste stream.

GTS is also committed to evaluating and furthering its understanding of current suppliers' policies and operational practices, which will also assist it to approach environmental sustainability in a more holistic manner.

Working in close consultation with EPA, a state-of-the-art head office facility has been designed that is practical and efficient and exceeds regulated OH&S and EPA requirements. The business has recently relocated to this new site.

An automatic truck and trailer wash system was installed at the new facility at a cost of approximately \$500,000. One person now does the work of three, resulting in annual savings of approximately \$60,000. The closed-loop system reduces water use by almost 80%. It cleans and recycles the water and only requires top-up water. Other significant benefits realised

include less time off the road, increased washing capacity, increased labour efficiencies, less manual handling (therefore fewer OH&S incidents) and biodegradable detergent use reduced by 50%.

Planning ahead, GTS has utilised the roofing area of the warehousing facility to capture rainwater to fill four tanks with the combined capacity of 100,000 litres. This water will be used for fruit bin washing, garden watering and other purposes.

These initiatives by GTS show it to be an environmental leader. GTS continues to pursue opportunities to benefit the environment while enjoying significant commercial benefits.