

# UK GRAB TRUCKS SEIZE QUEENSLAND

A grabbing solution for when you need something moved.

Grab Trucks Owner, Owen Scott.









## 12 FEATURE



**A**fter living in the United Kingdom for 12 years, working in the construction and landscaping industry, Owen Scott learnt that 'grapple lorries' were the way of the future. Perfect for removing rubbish and delivering soil and other products, on his return to Queensland, Owen couldn't believe there were so few companies making use of grapple trucks in Australia.

To make the lives of construction workers, landscape gardeners and home handyman in Australia easier, in September 2010 Owen started up his own company, Grab Trucks. Owen purchased an Isuzu FXZ 1500 and fitted a grab crane and tipper body to the rear to service commercial and domestic customers in Brisbane and the Gold Coast.

"All councils, utility companies, main roads, and skip waste and recycle companies in the United Kingdom use and own many of these grapple trucks," Owen said.

"I couldn't believe that they aren't more widely used here – instead we use a bobcat and tipper. With a grapple truck we just pull up near the waste, grab it and drop it into the truck and then we're gone. It's a one truck and one man job.

"In terms of occupational health and safety the grapple trucks are ideal, as the operator has a complete view of the area that they are working in, including the back of the truck."

Grab Trucks can collect soil, sand, rubble, concrete, mulch and green waste including large logs and trees. The truck can also remove general household waste – even cars aren't too much for the Isuzu FXZ.

"We also supply rubbish cages in 4 m<sup>3</sup>, 7 m<sup>3</sup> and 10 m<sup>3</sup> for building sites and home renovators. Unlike skip bins, we allow the customer to keep the cages for as long as they like without rental costs," Owen said.

"And we do deliveries as well – we can grab material, such as mulch, soil or boulders, and position it straight into the area where it's needed. We can reach over walls or fences or we can drop material straight into a wheelbarrow, instead of tipping a large load onto the road or driveway. We can also load up other tippers if required."

Hooks fastened to Owen's FXZ 1500 allow for deliveries of bulk skip bags, of which he can fit up to 15 in one load.

"Our domestic clients include households that need rubbish removal. Our commercial clients often include tree loppers who need trees – especially palm trees – removed and builders who require their sites cleaned. I also deliver mulch, soil and other garden products to landscapers and take away their spoil and waste," Owen said.

It's not just commercial and domestic customers that Grab Trucks services. During the Queensland Floods in 2011, Owen used his Isuzu truck to lend a hand,

or should that be a mechanical arm?

"The Army just gave me a street to clear, and I was able to do it without blocking traffic for other emergency services or having to direct other machinery to load up my truck."

With a 243 kW engine, the Isuzu FXZ 1500 eases its way through most driving conditions.

"The FXZ is very simple to operate. I drive the truck into a lot of construction, landfill and quarry sites with no problem at all."

Owen said the truck's best feature is its comfort, especially the ISRI 6860 air suspension driver's seat with extra pneumatic lumbar support and automatic weight adjustment.

"When purchasing the truck, my key requirements were serviceability, comfort and reliability. After looking around and explaining what I was after, Isuzu seemed to have the best understanding of how to set it up. I also wanted a truck that was reliable, and I knew Isuzu had a good name."

While in the market for his Isuzu truck, Owen also ensured he purchased one with the latest in technology and that met stringent emission standards.

"When tendering for government jobs, it helps if you have a truck that meets all the latest environmental standards," Owen said. **////**