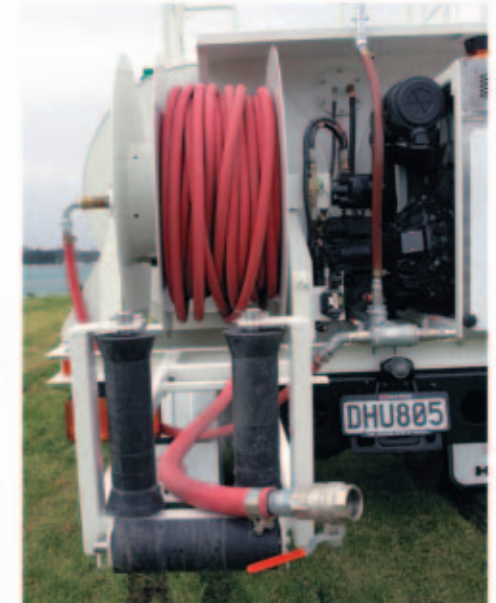


Courtesy of  
**TRUCKING**



The Hino GT is a compact and tidy unit



The high pressure delivery feeds through a boom keeping it free from tangling around the truck.



# HINO GT

## A GREEN CRUSADER

BY LIAM BALDWIN

**A** Hino GT has taken on the job of helping to preserve New Zealand's waterways, preventing erosion and completing new land developments.

Tauranga-based hydro-seeding and erosion control company EcoTec is just starting to spread its wings and franchise operations are now being marketed.

Beginning the process is the Tauranga-based operation with its new Hino GT 4x4.

EcoTec's hydro-seeding concept works by mixing a porridge-like mixture containing newspaper,

biodegradable glue, fertiliser and grass seed. Using a pump powered by a Nissan FD42 engine, the mixture is sprayed onto the bare surface requiring cover. Germination, depending on seed type and temperature, can occur within a week.

EcoTec comes under the umbrella of BayGrass Hydro-Seeding a small company created in 1999. Rob Mounsey and Wayne Bakewell bought the business in 2004. Then BayGrass was operating primarily in the western Bay of Plenty. Since then it has expanded to operate in Whakatane, in the eastern Bay of Plenty, and Hawkes Bay.

Earlier this year, Rob and Wayne decided to establish a franchise network to expand their services nationwide and created EcoTec Systems as the brand.

The Hino GT was picked simply because it was ideally suited to the job. EcoTec needed a vehicle with a GVM of at least 12-tonnes, the Hino GT has a GVM of 13-tonnes. With wheelbase at 4250mm, it is perfect for the role and the price was right.

On board are twin 2000-litre tanks with built-in mixers to produce the "porridge" substance for spraying. There is also room for a substantial stor-



Valves controlling the flow of the fluid containing grass seed and fertiliser can be operated remotely from up to 150m away.



The mixing device is fitted to just the front end on both of the twin tanks.

Courtesy of  
**TRUCKING**

age box. While there is proprietary engineering in the tanks, further technology was adopted to run the unit from a wrist-mounted remote control from 150 metres. This allows the operator to essentially work alone without the need for another to run the pump and work the valves feeding the 300psi high pressure delivery.

The twin tanks allow for different mixes to be made for multiple jobs or for one to be used while one is preparing a fresh batch.

With 25 territories identified for coverage, Rob and Wayne are poised for expansion and hope to have the franchise operations set up and in place within two years.

While the pair has identified the Hino GT as the machine that fits all the requirements of the operations, franchisees will have options, provided the selected truck meets the required specifications.

Powered with an in-line six-cylinder, the Hino 8-litre engine produces 158kW at 2500rpm and 608Nm of torque at 1500rpm. It has a six-speed manual transmission and one reverse gear.

Four-wheel drive is activated with a button on the dash. And, even if the terrain is too much for that, the operator with the remote control can do the rest with gumboots.



A Nissan FD42 provides the power needed to spread the viscous fluid down the high pressure hose.

Below: Spraying from the truck or within 150m of it is possible.

Inset: Easy to use controls also operate by remote.



# ECO NEWS BULLETIN

We are spreading our wings



(as well as grass-seed)



The professional new name in hydro-seeding and erosion control

EcoTec provides hydro-seeding and erosion control services to Local Authorities, contractors, land developers, builders, farmers and residential markets