

New pump steps up battle against dieback fungus

WASH-DOWN and vehicle hygiene have been a part of life for more than 20 years at Dwellingup District, and after the findings of the Dieback Review Committee, they will continue to be an integral part of CALM's disease-risk management in the forests.

The pump at the Dwellingup wash-down station is finally being pensioned off after at least 10 years' work, to make way for a newer, more robust industrial-strength model.

Head mechanic at Dwellingup Stuart Hunter likes to point out that "it's not the original pump by a long shot—it's been rebuilt many times over, and probably hasn't an original part in its housing."

The new high-pressure system, fitted with a 5.5 kilowatt motor, discharges at 15 litres per minute. Eye protection, of course, must be worn.

The new model is fitted with an injection system that ensures the Comprox (a detergent) is added to the high-pressure wash at the correct concentrations.

Another cost-saving feature is the 45-second lag time in the

by Tammie Reid

automatic shut down—something lacking on the old pump system.

The company providing this equipment, Arrow Pressure Wash, also supplies a similar wash-down system, providing spot-free rinse systems for BMW Autoclassics.

"Clearly the system at Dwellingup is not quite as particular," says Joe Hayhurst of Arrow

"It's more in keeping with the industrial lines we supply to truck depots and heavy haulage companies.

"We contract for all Rally Australia pressure cleaning during its event here, and are interested in installing robust systems that mean you don't see us again because the equipment does the job and lasts."

Peter Gibson, the forest ranger organising the installation, is working on a key-operation system instead of the open-to-all policy of the past.

"We just can't afford to have this open to the unsupervised or untrained public.



Forest ranger Peter Gibson hoses down a vehicle at the Dwellingup wash-down ramp. Photo by Tammie Reid.

"It's unfortunate because we'd like to encourage off-road users and anyone else who could be moving fungally infected soil about, to wash down regularly. However the

presence of chemicals, the high pressure and safety equipment requirements, not to mention the cost of the the pump itself, make the risks too high.

"Contractors and people needing access will be trained and issued with a key, and the wash-down ramp will still be accessible 24 hours a day to these people."

Anyone wanting more details on this heavy-duty wash-down system can telephone Peter at Dwellingup District on (08) 9538 1078 or fax (08) 9538 1203.

ENTRY ONLY

CAUTION
SLIPPERY
WHEN WET


EYE PROTECTION
MUST BE WORN



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