

Bob's concrete saw invention gets \$81k leg-up



Nicky Moffat | 18 Aug 2015 10:14 AM



ONE OF A KIND: Bob Irvine of Cleancut Construction Products has been awarded \$81,000 to develop a world-first large concrete saw that vacuums its own waste.

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PARREARRA business Cleancut Construction Products has won a Federal Government Entrepreneurs' Programme grant to continue developing its world-first concrete cutter.

The concrete cutter would dramatically improve water efficiency by recycling slurry as it cuts with its patented Slurry Recycling Guard, which allows the saw to collect all its slurry in an on-board vacuum tank, said Cleancut Construction Products owner Bob Irvine.

Its patented lifting mechanism meant it would be the only concrete saw to operate within the construction industry's safe lifting index guidelines at all times - a big win for the safety of Australian workers, he said.

In another world first, Mr Irvine said the machine included a 4 x 4 drive system that stopped the machine slipping while in operation.

Mr Irvine said the Federal Government support would "make a huge difference" and included \$81,800, as well as free mentoring.

"Concrete saws are currently nearly all manufactured in the USA or Europe, so our goal is to replace these imports and start an export industry for Australia," he said.

"It's a unique saw and it'll look a lot different to the others. We're attempting to develop an export industry for Australia using the different ideas that we've got."

Mr Irvine worked in the concrete cutting industry for more than 30 years, mostly in Gladstone. He said cleaning up concrete cutting work accounted for half the cost of some jobs, so his new machine would potentially bring huge savings.

"It's a big problem for concrete cutters - the slurry," he said.

His invention would allow them to clean up as they cut with added environmental benefits because slurry would be prevented from entering drains.

Another benefit of the machine is its balance. Most large concrete saws weigh about 800kg and as their centre of gravity is raised to accommodate the larger blades, operators are required to lift 70kg to 80kg, often with a twisting motion. The Cleancut saw has a patented lifting mechanism that reduces this lift to a legal 30kg to 40kg.

Fisher MP Mal Brough congratulated Mr Irvine, saying his was "yet another example of an innovative product being born in our region".

"It is important that programs like this exist to help to effectively commercialise Australia's wealth of intellectual property, including our brightest ideas from here on the Sunshine Coast" he said.