

**TRACKS WIN ON SAND AND SLIPPERY CLAY**

Newcastle region contractor, Norm and Chris McNally, have carried out excavations for pools, driveways and building sites for over 30 years. Today their main business is excavation for concrete slabs for residential house sites throughout the lower Hunter region for the large building firm of McDonald Jones Homes.

“With some of sites being either sandy soil or wet clay, I had to use my excavator 60 percent of the time. The skid steer couldn’t handle removal of the average 500 -800mm of material. I quickly realised we needed an alternative”, Norm said.

“Due to the challenging ground conditions in region, I previously had to take the excavator to work sites as well as the skid steer. Also, without air conditioning many sites were too dusty to operate the skid steer.

After looking around for the ideal piece of equipment, I decided to trade in my wheeled machine on a tracked Takeuchi TL 250. I was immediately able to reverse the work load ratio so we can now complete at least 60 percent of the tasks with the tracked loader.

Any doubts about tracked machines were quickly dispelled. The biggest advantage of the Takeuchi is its ability to handle work on sandy sites and wet clay sites with ease. I can take the machine anywhere and have the assurance of knowing I can complete any job.

The TL250 has a standard 4 in 1 Norm bucket. It is very quick, powerful and surprisingly robust, even handling this volume of tight, reactive clay material.

Over the years we have had five skid steers and in comparison with all previous machines, this one is “king”. As well as being beautifully finished, it enables me to work in great comfort and has all the power needed for the task.

Previous machines have always exhibited niggly problems such as engine leaks or other oil leaks from the system. The 5.3 tonne Takeuchi has run over 1000 hours so far and despite the heavy excavation work is as tight as a drum. It performs a massive job”, said Norm

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Photo:



The TL 250 “.. very quick, powerful and surprisingly robust.”