



Latest Volvo makes its debut in Taranaki

The very first Volvo model EC550EL in the country has gone into operation in a Taranaki quarry, where it has been put to work processing and loading out aggregate.

Vickers Quarries was set up back in 1958 by Russell Vickers, who started extracting rock on the family farm in Midhurst. From there, the quarrying operation has grown to be a very successful business, supplying not just local contractors, forestry, and farmers, but others outside of Taranaki too.

Positioned on the bush line of Mount Taranaki, the 39-acre site has great view and constantly changing weather. One thing remains the same, however, and that is the team's focus on quality machinery. And when it comes to machines, they like to go big.

For the past 18 years, Vickers Quarries has been in the hands of Russell's sons, Kevin and Noddy, who grew up surrounded by big gear.

"Our processing plant is a 40 cubic metre hopper feeding a 60"x 48" primary jaw crusher, which feeds into a cone crusher," says Kevin.

"Volvo has been a part of our operation since the mid-1990s, when we purchased a A25 dumper and L120B loader."

These days, the quarry has three Volvo A40 dumpers, two Volvo wheel loaders and two Volvo excavators. The new EC550EL is an upgrade on an older EC480D.

"We've only just put the new excavator to work, and we're looking forward to seeing it perform. We chose this particular machine for its size, speed and efficiency, along

with its comfort and boom shock absorption.

"Our years of experience with Volvo means we're confident it will deliver on its promises.

"Whether we're loading trucks or carting aggregate from the extraction site, we know TDX, the Volvo dealers, have got our back."

The technical support and aftersales service is a valuable part of buying a Volvo.

"Knowing you have the support and training from TDX is a big part of the equation for us," says Noddy. "Craig Ormrod from TDX is very knowledgeable, and he knows how we work. We're confident we have chosen the right machine for the job.

"We also get excellent technical support and after-sales service from EHL Taranaki, who are our local Volvo service agent."

Vickers Quarries bought a new Volvo L260H loader not too long ago and Kevin says operator Kendall Savage, who's been with the company for 17 years and is one of the family, really rates it.

"Its features such as the sensors and the bucket capacity have made a difference in the fuel efficiency and our productivity, and this helped us make the choice to buy the new Volvo excavator."

TDX says the Volvo EC550E has the highest engine power in its class and superior digging performance, which



can boost productivity by up to 20 percent. The next-generation electrohydraulic system with Independent Metering Valve Technology (IMVT) provides up to 25 percent improvement in fuel efficiency.

The EC550E features a longer and wider lower frame, providing enhanced stability when handling heavier loads, and its robust, 60-tonne undercarriage ensures durability for the toughest tasks.

Volvo says the machine's next generation electrohydraulic system with Independent Metering Valve Technology is the most advanced hydraulic system in the industry:

"The system provides intelligent electronic control with more control variable, compared to a conventional mechanically coupled hydraulic system. The result is maximum controllability and efficiency according to the specific application at hand."

Kevin and Noddy agree that Volvo is more than up to the task.

"We produce over 18 different aggregate products, ranging from basecourse, washed chip, rock, sand, builders mix, and much more, and we know the Volvo machinery we use helps us to keep up with our demand to process and load out," says Kevin.

"We have a range of clients – some who've been working with us for 60 years. Relationships are important in business, both clients and suppliers. It's all about trust and providing a quality product – whether that's aggregate from us or an excavator from Volvo."

The boys also keen on supporting the local community and like to help out where they can, whether that's providing sand for a sandpit or metal for a bike track. They also invite the local schools to visit to learn about the importance of the quarrying industry.

Doing things the right way is important to the team, something that has resulted in an environmental award from the Taranaki Regional Council.

"We work hard, and how we work works." ●