



INNOVATION AWARD FOR MIKE MASON FENCING

Mike Mason Fencing was recently announced as winner of the Advantage SA 2010 Innovation Award in the Murray and Mallee regions of South Australia. The award sponsored by the Department for Economic Trade and Development aims to recognize businesses that have made a significant contribution to their region through introducing and implementing new or significantly improved goods and services.

Michael Mason of Mike Mason Fencing has been leading the pack when it comes to the use of new technology such as hard rock drilling machinery for agricultural fencing, vineyard trellising, security fencing and Armco guardrailing over the past 30 years. It is difficult to drive anywhere in South Australia without passing a Mike Mason Fencing sign however it is their latest innovation, a completely safe and easy to use 'vibrating post driver', that will really make it's mark in the agricultural and viticultural industries.

In the past, post installation required an operator to physically hold a post in place, bringing them in close proximity with a free falling hammer, placing them in danger of upper limb and head injuries and increased risk of injuries from posts breaking and splintering towards them under the force of the hammer.

The new design by Mike Mason Fencing allows post installation to occur with greatly increased safety to the operator. The new post driver is a hydraulic vibrating impactor, rather than a heavy weighted drop hammer which operate using a free-fall mechanism and weigh over 250kg with a theoretical hit on impact of 1 tonne. This machine over delivers on safety and is more powerful than any of it's competitors.

The vibrating post driver can be built with a number of options including a self propelling hydraulic configuration allowing one operator and/or wireless remote technology allowing the machine to be operated at a distance. Mike says "The great thing about this machine is that someone who has never put a post in the ground can use this quickly and safely, you can propel the tractor and install a post while standing in the one spot, it is just too easy."

This new technology also achieves greater control of the impact intensity when installing posts by using a protector cap and ground level guide to hold the post in place. The use of this machine will potentially result in less broken posts in the lifetime of a trellis system or fence, greatly reducing costs to producers and the environmental burden of stockpiling broken Copper Chrome Arsenic (CCA) treated posts.

Post replacement in vineyards especially is a difficult and expensive process, which can cost five times that of original installation, without considering the crop loss or vine death that a winegrape grower may suffer if the vine trellis falls over close to harvest.

In short, this innovation not only offers a more efficient and effective method of post installation but is a move to overcome the growing safety and environmental concerns associated with traditional post driving equipment.

For further information, phone Mike Mason on mobile 0418 813 346 or email mike@masonfencing.com.au