



Brigade **Johnsonville** District 11



Bob Bassett of Johnsonville brigade says that the VESEP grant allowing the brigade to purchase their Salvage “Support” vehicle has meant greater flexibility for their brigade with the ability to carry up to 6 crew.

The vehicle is based on the “light Salvage” body with a twin Cab. It’s fitted with dual radios and will soon have UHF and mobile phone fitted. The range of functions includes an LPG Flare Off (the only unit between Traralgon and Mallacoota). The vehicle also has a built in “Control Point” facility, 2 generators, numerous multifunction lighting options, a range of basic hoses and equipment to support the tanker and a quick fill pump.

It can also be used at Staging Areas etc.

A significant feature is the ability to provide a “First Attack” capability where there is reticulated or available water source to provide external or asset protection until assistance arrives when their tanker is otherwise engaged.

The vehicle is available to support any brigade within District 11 and beyond, should the need arise.

Asked what they thought made their application successful Bob replied: ‘Persistence’. He knows what this means for they had 5 to 6 goes previous to this success!

Bob also says it’s important to make sure the item is operationally justifiable.

BOB’S RECOMMENDED TIPS / HANDY HINTS:

2011-2012 VESEP round

Category: **New or replacement Specialist appliances**

Item: Salvage Support Vehicle

- Plan ahead: have a five year plan ready.
- Make your application justifiable between all parties including Brigades Groups and the District.
- Keep people informed so that you can have other Brigades and Groups endorse the project.