

# Corrosion's no issue with plastic ute trays



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A MANUFACTURING business in Cairns has designed and is building what is believed to be the first plastic utility tray in Australia.

FNQ Plastics directors Colin and Lesley Van Staveren said they were expecting a flood of orders for the trays made from high density polyurethane.

The product came by accident after a customer entered their Newell St factory looking for plastic toolboxes and other products and casually asked if they would consider making a plastic ute tray.

Now FNQ Plastics are building five trays for new Mazda BT-50 utilities operated by Beaches Pool Supplies after owner David Debono challenged them to make a ute tray to replace corroded steel and aluminium trays on his previous vehicles.

"I asked if he could build a tray out of plastic and Colin jumped at the opportunity," Mr Debono said.

Mr Van Staveren said it took he and his staff Troy Weeks, Daniel Smith and Dan Andrews about a day to come up with a design based on existing products and they had it fine-tuned with Mr Debono and the first finished a day later. This week they finished the second of the five.

Mr Debono said he was impressed.



**Fantastic plastic:** FNQ Plastics' Colin Van Staveren, Troy Weeks, Daniel Smith and Dan Andrews.

Picture: STEWART McLEAN



"It's fantastic. A lot of our products are corrosive chemicals but it just wipes off the plastic which looks like brand new," he said.

"The advantage to me is that when I upgrade the utes after four or five years I'll just

take the tray off the existing cab-chassis and put it on a new one."

Mr Debono said he was replacing steel or aluminium trays every two years because of corrosion. Mr Van Staveren said as far as he was aware

FNQ Plastics were the only ones building plastic trays.

The trays, the drop sides, the cross members and the mudguards are made from Simona-brand polyurethane.

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