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Andrew Long is no stranger to running pre-series JAGUAR foragers. He has been running a pre-series Type 502 790hp straight-six powered JAGUAR 970 alongside his 2018 V8 powered 775hp Type 498 JAGUAR 970.

“It’s noticeable that the new straight-six has far more low-end power and just holds on. The characteristics are very similar to the engines of a few years ago in the JAGUAR 800,” he says. “Initially I thought there wasn’t a lot between the two 970s, but as the season went on and the engineers did a few software upgrades and fine-tuned the straight-six, the engine just got better and better.

“The straight-six is a definite improvement and it was especially noticeable in maize that it had far more ‘grunt’. Unlike the V8, the power doesn’t drop off; it just keeps holding on. It gives you the confidence to really push the engine, load it up and work it hard and that it will take it. With the V8 I would always been wary to push it too hard knowing that it would reach a point where the power would just suddenly drop-off.

“The extended service interval to 1,000 hours all helps to keep downtime and cost down and it will be good if the forager can go the whole season without having to be stopped.”

Away from the engine, Andrew has also been impressed with the new cab and the ease with which the JAGUAR can be set-up and operated using the new CEBIS touch-screen and the CMOTION controller.

“I like the fact that while the touch screen is easy to use, that’s not the only option. What may suit one operator may not suit another, so they have other options as to how they control the forager.

“Our 2018 JAGUAR 970 also has the CMOTION control and it’s a definite improvement over the old joystick. The CMOTION just falls comfortably to hand and it doesn’t take long to get used to it. On the new machine I also like having the flexibility to be able to select what you do with the favourites, such as spout up/down, depending on the crop or conditions.

EASIER DAILY MAINTENANCE

“The pick-up also keeps on improving. The auger clutch slip is virtually a thing of the past and not a problem; you have got to be doing something pretty drastic to set that off. The control of the chopper feed rollers also gives a more consistent chop length.

“But it’s also the small things that just keep on being improved. The changes to the spout turret pivot so it’s more responsive, improvements to make daily maintenance easier and even the fact that the indicator stalk now moves with the steering wheel when you adjust it. It’s the little things that help make the JAGUAR so easy to use.”