



Seconds out as NSW farmer eyes price win

By KEN WILSON

WHAT would prompt Central West, NSW broadacre farmer Geoff Unger to jump in his Nissan Patrol earlier this month and head for DE Engineers' factory in Bellevue?

The short answer was to pick up a new four barrel seed cleaner, he bought with his brother and neighbour Phil.

The long answer was to have a look around South Australia and show his son Tim some of the WA Wheatbelt.

"We got quotes up to \$7800 to transport the cleaner to the farm," Geoff said. "I wanted to come over and it also was an opportunity to show Tim some of the country.

"It cost us around \$3000 to tow the cleaner back but it was a lot of fun on the dirt roads and we enjoyed a lot of sights taking in Swan Hill, Pinnaroo, Barossa, Port Augusta, Whyalla before we hit the Nullabor.

"In WA, we went to Kalgoorlie then back through Norseman to Hyden and onto



Perth through Kondinin, Corrigin and Quairading.

"All up it took us four and a half days to get over and two days to get back towing the seeder along the Great Eastern Highway to Coolgardie then on through Norseman.

Geoff has high praise for WA road and rail infrastructure and the positive feel of the country towns which were "very neat and tidy".

"The dirt roads obviously are well graded and looked after and in one particular town we saw lights on the sports oval that would have done the MCG proud," he said.

"And the (grain) storage infrastructure is tops."

Back home with the brief "working holiday", Geoff and Tim are busy using the DE seed cleaner to bring barley

Ready to roll. Parkes NSW father and son farmers Geoff and Tim Unger about to head out of DE Engineers Bellevue factory in their Nissan Patrol with their new four barrel DE seed cleaner in tow. It took them four and a half days to travel from their farm to DE's factory, but it was a lot quicker going home with the pair taking two days.

and wheat up to high paying grades.

There's a \$35 a tonne difference in bringing the wheat up to Hard 2. With 4000 tonnes of wheat to process on Geoff's and Phil's property, that represents a gain of \$140,000, which will pay for the DE seed cleaner (\$80,000) and his "business holiday" with a leftover kitty for on-farm cash flow.