



Photo by Colin Jackson.

Spantech director Rick Lucas (centre) with Eric Starkey and construction supervisor Ray Graham (right) who has travelled to many countries to work on company sites.

## Watershed moment for single span structure

THE BARRACADES came down last Friday on the new 2,500sq.m covered car park situated between Emu Street and Crow Lane, after 24 weeks of construction. When it does rain in Longreach in the future, the roofline will harvest a vast amount of rainwater.

Bearing a striking design of huge wheels carrying the central roofline, the new 40m x 60m area has 73 car parks, four motor cycle areas, plus access for two mothers/prams and two disabled parks. The area is fully sealed in asphalt and cost \$1.76 million to build.

Erected by Spantech, a family company based on the Gold Coast, this is the fourth project using this particular design.

Director Rick Lucas said each section of roof was 55.4 metres

long, and roll-formed on site from five tonne coils of 1mm sheet metal. Holes are punched into the metal where necessary as part of the process.

The company has three roofing profiles: the 300 series can have a 30 metre span as an arch or seven metre flat roof in 1mm flat steel. The larger 370 series uses 1.2mm metal and can have a 40 metre arch or nine metre flat roof.

Referring to the Longreach design, he said this is a straight panel that can span 20 metres. "This one is 18 metres, and can also be in a curved design.

"Across the entire length the roof has a one degree slope and a 900mm fall."

Rick Lucas said the car park is floodlit and operates on an au-

tomatic trip. It can be used for markets.

"We are presently considering whether we market this design as 'The Longreach'," he said.

Spantech is a family company with Rick's 74-year-old father as CEO, his mother is in charge of accounts, a brother looks after marketing and there is a grandson involved. The company has been operating for 32 years.

The company specialises in covered areas for school sports halls and other facilities where birds can't roost, swimming pool covers without overlaps that can create corrosion, and carry guarantees of up to 20 years, indoor pool covers and reservoir covers that carry warranties of up to 50 years.

Spantech is also a specialist in storage facilities for munitions and explosives, and have already constructed 106 on Australian defence facilities, 130 in Malaysia, 280 in the United Arab Emirates and 10 in New Zealand.

Additionally, the company builds command centres and hardened hangars.

For agriculture, the company constructs grain and potato sheds.

"We can design and construct buildings for myriad special need projects," Rick Lucas said.

And, in conclusion, he made special mention of the local contractors, suppliers and the general public of the region: "You have all been fantastic and my team has found it a pleasure to be in Longreach."