Track work

The wet season can be challenging for property maintenance companies, but there's one outfit that doesn't get bogged down.

Poletti Maintenance and Vegetation Management is a Townsville-based company that handles all kinds of property work throughout Queensland's north – from residential lawn mowing through to commercial vegetation control, rail corridors and large commercial sites. The company's fleet includes 15 mowers, five tractors, three excavators, and a recent addition, an RC Mowers R-60.

A slippery slope

RC Mowers' remote-control slope mowers handle aggressive slopes and difficult-to-access terrain, including soft ground.

There are times most of Australia's north falls into that category.

"The past two wet seasons have been ongoing," said Aaron Poletti, Manager at Poletti Maintenance. "Both years have had three or four months at a time where it just didn't stop raining. A lot of our work was falling behind because we couldn't get any equipment into the sites.

"When its dry we can use a tractor slasher, front-deck mower or ride-ons with the six-foot cuts for the solar farms," said Poletti, "but when it's wet the machines on wheels can't move."

Remote opportunity

A solution was needed, and Poletti did some research that showed the R-60 had earned a strong following among his industry peers.

"We'd been looking at similar mowers for a while and it seemed there'd been a lot of issues with them," he said. "When we started checking out the RC Mowers units, we had nothing but good reports. The reliability is there."

Although the wettest part of the year had passed, the RC Mowers unit has shown up well in its use so far.

"This is a busy time of year for us and we're working the R-60 every day at the moment," said Poletti. "It's an unreal machine. Everyone we do work for can't believe what it can achieve.

"The other machines are heavier and run on wheels, so they can't move along the wet ground. The R-60 is a lot lighter and runs on tracks. Where other mowers get bogged and cut up the ground, the R-60 doesn't have a problem, and remote control takes away the danger of having someone sitting on the machine."

Colbrook delivers

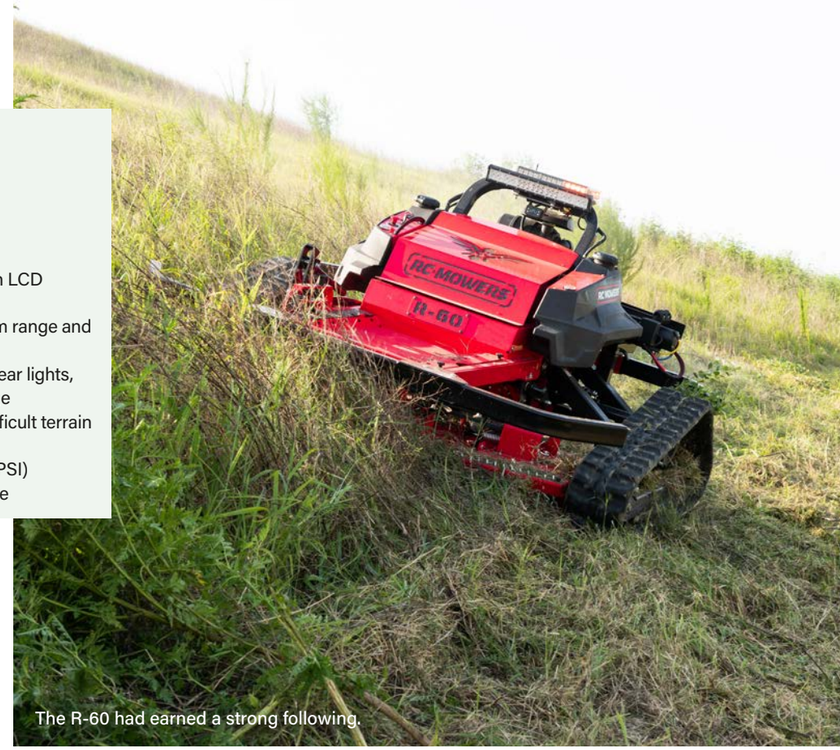
Poletti purchased the R-60 from Colbrook Industries in Cairns and was happy with the experience.

"We went up there and had a look, and we pretty much bought it the next day," he said. "The service from the dealership was good, and if we call for parts, Colbrook can have them to us the next day." LC

RC Mowers machines are available in Australia through Colbrook Industries. Visit colbrookindustries.com.au to see the range.

RC Mowers R-60 features

- Powered by Vanguard engines
- Remote control tilt/drop auto-shutdown
- Hydrostatic drivetrain
- Fabricated 7-gauge steel deck
- Will mow material up to 38mm
- Microprocessor-based remote control with LCD screen with real-time diagnostics
- Full operation from the remote with a 300m range and inbuilt safety features
- Camera, push bar, chain guard, front and rear lights, ROPS, transport lock & track tension gauge
- 2.5 acre-per-hour average mow rate on difficult terrain
- Mows in both forward and reverse
- Lightweight and low ground pressure (2.2PSI)
- Fuel boost for continuous fuel flow on slope



The R-60 had earned a strong following.

RC Mowers' remote-control slope mowers handle aggressive slopes and difficult-to-access terrain, including soft ground. Images: Colbrook Industries

COLBROOK INDUSTRIES
RC·MOWERS
LEADERS IN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT MACHINERY

AUTONOMOUS
MOWING ROBOT

- Reduces your labour requirements and costs.
- Single operator can generate the same revenue as a crew of three.
- Manage fewer employees with greater productivity.
- Grow your business with less labour.

REMOTE OPERATED SLOPE MOWERS

- Remote operated for optimum operator safety.
- Mow slopes and hazardous terrain in half the time with just a crew of one.
- Designed to secure niche revenue, maintaining: Hillside and steep inclines; Golf course rough; Dam, water course, drainage & levy embankments; wet or swampy terrain; hard to access roadsides

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