



# More power in new Murano

Nissan's Murano gets more power but also a drop in price as the second generation model comes on to the New Zealand market.

The new Murano is built on the same platform as the Maxima and is designed to be an evolution of the old model launched in New Zealand three and half years ago.

The car is completely new but shares many of the styling cues of the first generation car. Nissan says while the styling is a clear evolution of the old model the interior is quite different.

Externally the overall silhouette and the upswept triangular rear side window line is the same but every body panel is new.

The most obvious changes are to the front and the new vehicle gets distinctly different head lights and LED tail-lights.

The Murano still sits high giving it the looks of a sports utility with a tall driving position. And most dimensions are the same. It sits on the same wheelbase and is the same width and height. However, the new model is some 6.5cm longer.

Nissan says the new model is around 50 per cent stiffer than the old Murano and as a result noise, vibration and harshness are reduced by some 75 per cent.

The car sits on a new multi-link rear suspension with a strut type system at the front. Nissan says an extensive use of aluminium in the suspension components reduces unsprung weight and this, as well as improved

geometry, gives the car better road manners.

Changes to the front suspension have also cut torque steer.

External noise has been reduced by improving the aerodynamics under the vehicle. There are deflectors in front of each wheel and fairings mounted over the rear suspension components. The rear exhaust muffler has also been reprofiled to act as a diffuser.

The Murano is powered by a revised version of the 3.5-litre V6 engine in the previous model.

Power has risen by 19kW to 191kW and torque is up 18Nm to 336Nm. Nissan says improved performance and greater fuel efficiency is helped by major revisions to the vehicle's CVT gearbox.

Fuel consumption over the combined cycle is 10.9 litres per 100km, a 9.1 per cent improvement.

The Murano uses the latest Nissan electronically controlled all wheel drive system which distributes the torque on demand when it is needed. Under normal driving conditions much of the torque is sent to the front wheels but up to 50 per cent can be sent to the rear if required. The all wheel drive system constantly monitors all the sensors to sense the best distribution of torque.

At speeds of up to 80kmh the system acts in predictive mode, anticipating the risk of wheel spin based on throttle positions and engine torque. Above 80kmh the system reacts to actual wheel spin sending drive

rearwards to restore traction.

Drive to all four wheels can be locked manually in challenging conditions. The new vehicle sits on 18-inch alloy wheels.

Nissan says the interior of the Murano has been brought up market.

There are new leather trimmed seats and genuine aluminium highlights around the cabin.

The audio system is a 11-speaker Bose unit with six stacker CD and MP3/WMA capability.

There is now a stop-start button which operates in conjunction with the intelligent key and the front seats are power operated.

At the back the tailgate can be opened and closed by remote control either via the key fob, fascia switch or tailgate button. The tailgate takes seven second to open and nine to close.

At the back there is also a reversing camera with predictive path technology which helps the driver when backing up.

The luggage area will take 402 litres with the rear seats in use. Folded down the luggage space more than doubles to 838 litres.

Safety features include six airbags and electronic safety functions including ABS and stability control.

The new Murano is only available as one variant in Ti grade. It is now priced at \$59,900, a drop of more than \$4000 on the \$64,200 price of the previous Murano Ti.

Thursday, 21 May 2009, p. 31





**Second generation:** Nissan's [Murano](#) retains its crossover looks in the new model  
Thursday, 21 May 2009, p. 31