



Nissan makeover on the

RIGHT PATH

Pathfinder has been updated

by Colin Smith

The big changes unveiled last month for the Nissan Navara ST-X utility line-up have a secondary benefit to the 2010 Nissan Pathfinder.

The updated Pathfinder — now with 450T badging — enjoys the same gains in diesel performance and fuel efficiency as the Navara ST-X along with a similar programme of specification enhancements.

And pricing hasn't changed.

The current Pathfinder has been on sale in New Zealand since 2005. Perhaps the longer shelf life has tended to let it become a little forgotten in a market of regular new SUV launches.

But with its seven-seat accommodation, 3000kg towing capacity and serious offroad capability with low ratio included in the All Mode 4x4 system, the Pathfinder has attracted a consistent following with Kiwi buyers.

When Nissan originally launched the current generation of Pathfinder, it offered ST and Ti models with 4.0-litre V6 petrol and 2.5-litre diesel engines. Since then, Nissan has discovered little demand for the lower specification or petrol models and has rationalised to a single full specification model based on what was the Ti equipment level with diesel power.

It's the diesel engine which is the most notable change.

It's the revised YD25DDTi 2.5-litre turbocharged diesel unit introduced in the Navara ST-X.

With its new parallel port cylinder

head design, increased injection pressure and changes to the control of the variable nozzle turbocharger, the Pathfinder gains the same 47Nm increase in peak torque to an impressive 450Nm and the increase in maximum power from 126kW to 140kW.

Emissions are reduced not only through using less fuel, but also by a revised exhaust gas recirculation system

that allows faster warm-up. Noise levels are reduced under load with a new flexible tube turbocharger outlet pipe.

Fuel consumption has dropped by 1.3 litres per 100km to a new combined cycle figure of 9.0L/100km.

The high torque diesel is matched to a five-speed automatic transmission now with manual shift mode.

The scope of cosmetic change is essentially the same as the Navara with a new grille, bumper and bonnet that combine to extend the nose forward by 80mm. Xenon headlights — with washers — are among the new features, as is integrated Bluetooth phone connectivity and a six-disc CD stacker audio system with auxiliary input for MP3 music devices.

Some new soft touch interior materials raise the quality level of the cabin and there's a revised centre console and dashboard layout with new dials and chrome surrounds.

The standard features carried over the previous Ti specification include leather upholstery, 17-inch alloy wheels, front fog lamps, a sun roof with blind

and the power adjustable driver's seat has height and lumbar adjustments with a memory function. Intelligent key access and dual zone air conditioning

with added rear outlets are part of the Pathfinder specification and Nissan has provided illuminated steering wheel switches for the audio system and hands free phone operation.

Safety features include six airbags, active front seat headrests, Vehicle Dynamics Control with an active brake limited slip rear differential system and for offroad work there's Hill Descent Control and Hill Start Assist. The cruise control has a speed limiter function.

All seven seats have three-point seat belts and the second row is a split fold design with one-touch flip operation to gain access to the third row.

Although almost all of the chassis and power train is common between Navara ST-X and Pathfinder, there is one significant difference — a coil spring rear suspension in place of the Navara's leaf spring layout.

Both on road and in rougher conditions, it means a more controlled ride and gives the Pathfinder greater suspension control and comfort.

The changes to the Pathfinder are fairly significant considering there has been no increase to the \$76,800 price tag and the rugged looking and well specified seven-seater is competitively priced against rival vehicles.



Bay of Plenty Times
04-Jun-2010
Page: 25
General News
By: Colin Smith
Region: Tauranga Bay of Plenty
Circulation: 20821
Type: Provincial
Size: 597.77 sq.cms
Frequency: MTWTFS-



NEW LOOK: There have been significant changes to this SUV seven-seater, but the price tag has stayed the same



BUSH BABY: Pathfinder's diesel engine has gained a 47Nm increase in peak torque.