

MITSUBISHI PAJERO SPORT XLS IMPRESSES



You can easily engage the 4x4 traction system which has low range settings for mud, snow, sand and water

“ I HAVE ACTUALLY HAD THIS DOWN TO 7.8L PER 100KM ON LONGER JOURNEYS AROUND GODZONE AND GET ABOUT 700KM FROM A TANK!”

Mitsubishi have a great new 4x4 SUV which they released in early 2016 and from the first test drive, we decided it was a vehicle that would suit our requirements here at Fishing In Godzone.

We had been using an Amarak ute in 2015 for our work wagon and we were considering our options for 2016. A 4x4 ute is ideal for our fishing, hunting and towing requirements, but it does have its drawbacks at times with the uncovered tray.

I have a good relationship with vehicle dealer Andrew Simms in Auckland and after talking with them, we were looking at the new Mitsubishi Triton ute. It had received a lot of positive press last year as their best Triton yet. I took one for a test drive and liked its responsive engine, but I started thinking an SUV might be better suited for the next few years as I now had a baby to consider and with all the extra gear involved for family outings this made sense.

I then noticed on Facebook that an ex-colleague who is a motoring journalist, had just been to Australia to drive a new Pajero in the outback to write about it for the Herald. I asked him what he thought of it?

He told me to wait until the new Pajero Sport was out before I made a decision, as he was very impressed with it.

A couple of months later and I got to drive one from Andrew Simms and was immediately impressed. It wasn't what I was expecting, as the big older Pajero model came to mind that has been around for many years and it has a reputation for serious 4x4 off-roading. The Pajero Sport is a totally new design replacing the previous Challenger model. The engine and chassis is taken from the proven Triton, but from here up it is a totally new build.

At first glances it has a great looking nose and body shape, with a lot of chrome on the front with full time driving spot lights. It also has a nice rear with long brake/driving indicators that look cool when they come on. Climbing in and you are welcomed to a sculpted interior, which surrounds you with smart lines, quality materials and design features that are as easy on the eye.



The front grille with chrome really stands out on the Pajero Sport, which turns heads out on the road

There are two models available, the XLS and higher spec VRX. Both models feature the new Smartphone Link Display Audio (SDA). This system integrates communication, music and map apps from your compatible Smartphone. Very easy to use by simply attaching with a USB cable and phone calls, navigation, music and messages are right there on the built-in display screen. The hand voice command lets you keep your focus on the road, and maps are automatically updated. You can also play music and make calls via Bluetooth.

With a push start / keyless ignition, the throaty 2.4L DiD MIVEC engine powers up and brings you the best of both worlds. For towing or tricky terrain, you have 135kW of power and 437Nm of torque at your disposal. While helping to keep costs down for the everyday commute, you'll enjoy the stated 8.0L per 100km economy. I have actually had this down to 7.8L per 100km on longer journeys around Godzone and get about 700km from a tank! (it holds 68L).

The Pajero Sport comes with an outstanding 8-speed transmission system that has been designed to improve performance, efficiency and to get the most from the traction systems. There are more gears, with cleverly spaced ratios between them delivering a smooth ride. In lower gears, the ratio is greater to enhance acceleration. In higher gears, the ratios are shallower to improve economy and reduce transmission noise.

This vehicle will tow up to 3,100kg so it will easily account for most of the larger 7-8m trailer boats. With five seating capacity and one of the largest boot spaces I have seen in an SUV, it's perfect for the long weekend away fishing with the boys or for taking the family.

The XLS is priced at \$58,990, but Mitsubishi currently have a great offer for only \$49,990+ORC and this of course comes with their famous 10-year warranty.

This SUV will appeal to the family man who also needs to tow his boat or go bush. It has serious off road 4x4 capabilities, but all the extras and comfort for the day to day driving.

Contact Andrew Simms today for a test drive at 500 Broadway, Newmarket, Auckland or phone (09) 523 1939

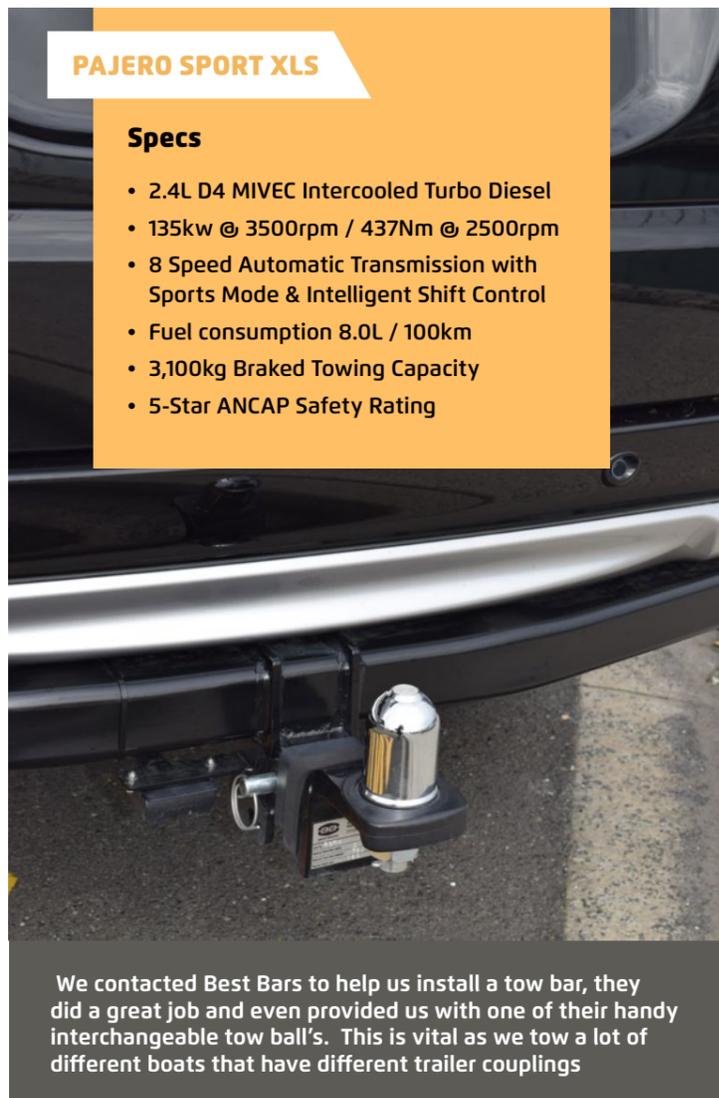


Fitted with large Toyo A32 Open Country tyres, these provide great on and off road traction

PAJERO SPORT XLS

Specs

- 2.4L D4 MIVEC Intercooled Turbo Diesel
- 135kw @ 3500rpm / 437Nm @ 2500rpm
- 8 Speed Automatic Transmission with Sports Mode & Intelligent Shift Control
- Fuel consumption 8.0L / 100km
- 3,100kg Braked Towing Capacity
- 5-Star ANCAP Safety Rating



We contacted Best Bars to help us install a tow bar, they did a great job and even provided us with one of their handy interchangeable tow ball's. This is vital as we tow a lot of different boats that have different trailer couplings