

From tradies to farmers

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EOV's new concept ute will meet a wide range of needs, writes Mark Hinchliffe

THE Brisbane company that built an extreme off-roading motorhome has developed a ute concept. EarthCruiser Overland Vehicles (EOV) has built its ute on a small Puso 4x4 platform, but engineered it to take on the toughest terrain, just like its motorhome, which the company tested with an around-the-world trip.

Company boss Lance Gillies says EarthCruiser Ute will suit the needs of tradies, miners, farmers, boaties, anglers and horse owners.

"EarthCruiser Ute has a few advantages over a typical ute - advantages such as standard 4x4 - advantages carrying capacity," Gillies says.

The ute has an extra-long 3.5m tray, tougher springs and dampers, a kinetic mounting system for improved off-road handling and can be driven off-car licence.

Gillies says it will cost about \$75,000 plus on-road costs, but the company is still waiting for second-stage, low-volume approval documentation after successfully completing Australian Design Rule safety and compliance tests.

"We see opportunity where there is a requirement that on a car licence more than 500kg payload needs to be carried legally and off-road needs to be highly desirable," he says.

With a 3500kg unbraked towing capacity, EarthCruiser Ute can be used

EarthCruiser Ute

PRICE: About \$75,000
ENGINE: 4.9-litre turbo diesel
POWER: 110kW @ 2700rpm
TORQUE: 471Nm @ 1600rpm
TRANSMISSION: Five-speed manual, 4WD
PAYLOAD: 1500kg
TOWING: 3500kg (unbraked)
DIMENSIONS (mm): 5650 (l), 2060 (w), 2510 (h), 260 (clearance)
ANGLES (degrees): 45 (wheelbase) 40 (departure), 30 (rampover)
TRACK: 1752mm
TURNING CIRCLE: 11.4m
GVM: 4500kg
DRY WEIGHT: 3000kg
VISIT: www.earthcruiser.com.au

to tow fifth-wheelers or horse floats. It comes standard with a large-capacity rear axle, hill start assist and exhaust braking.

Options include extra fuel and water tanks and an external shower. The EarthCruiser Ute concept unit is debuting at The Queensland Caravan and Camping Show, on until next Tuesday at the RNA Showgrounds in Brisbane.

