

Expeditioner's expansion

By: *MARK HINCHLIFFE*

ONE of the most robust go-anywhere vehicles made in Australia has been expanded to seat seven.

Brisbane company **EarthCruiser** Overland Vehicles (EOV) has adapted a Mitsubishi Canter 4x4 to create a new dual-cab ute model to add to its range of short and long-wheelbase adventure trucks and utes.

Spokesman Michael Gregson says the new vehicle is based on customer feedback. "There are many people out there, whether they be tradesman, hobbyist or leisure seekers who don't want a truck, but badly need a good quality seven-seat, four-wheel-drive dual cab utility with a huge tray and a quality finish, so we believe we will be offering a unique product to a keen audience," he says.

"We have gone through the second-stage manufacturing process to deliver what potential customers of these great vehicles have been crying out for -- long-travel, soft-ride suspension, single wheel, with real off road-tyres and a decent size tray with a mounting system that lets the chassis work.

"Add to this the Australian made suspension seat and it compliments the package to deliver a comfortable and tough unit."

EOV specialise in building vehicles capable of long-range sustainable world travel over almost any terrain and have tested their products on expeditions across many kilometres and continents.

EOV boss Lance Gillies says they are attracting customers from around Australia and the world including a Swiss buyer who arrives next week to pick up their vehicle and clients from Egypt "in a month or so".

EOV products are not classed as a modified truck but are registered as an **EarthCruiser** brand, recognised as fully legal in, and insurable in, all states of Australia.

The new ute also weighs less than 4500kg, so it can be driven on a standard car licence like most EOV products.

"With the whole vehicle being not much wider than a LandCruiser, they can tackle the same tracks and narrow river crossings as conventional four-wheel drives," Gregson says.

EarthCruiser vehicles are powered by a 4.9-litre intercooled turbo-diesel with 117kW of power and, more importantly, 471Nm of torque.

The new dual-cab ute is priced at \$89,000 plus on-road costs and is available through ZUPPS Truck Centre, Rocklea.

The short wheelbase **EarthCruiser** costs \$195,000, the mid-wheelbase is \$230,000 and the ute is \$75,000.

Visit: earthcruiser.com.au