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PERFORMAX INTERNATIONAL TO LAUNCH US-BUILT TOYOTA TUNDRA

THE heavy-duty Toyota Tundra pick-up will soon be joining the growing line-up of American-built vehicles offered by Australia's leading independent importer and converter, Performax International.

Performax is awaiting final Australian Design Rule certification of its left-to-right hand drive conversion of the Tundra, voted America's Most Dependable vehicle in its class for the past five years.

The Texas-built ute will be available with extended-cab or crew-cab bodies, both with V8 power, four-wheel drive and an impressive inventory of safety, comfort and convenience features.

Answering strong demand from potential buyers over recent months, Performax International will wholesale the Tundra to an undisclosed supplier to be announced in the very near future. Performax International HQ will continue to convert all 'personal imports', so customers who are importing their own Tundra will need to contact sales@performaxint.com.au directly for conversion and compliance advice.

Prices will be announced at launch time, expected to be during the first quarter of 2012.

Performax International General Manager Glenn Soper said that although a handful of Tundras were already on Australian roads, the arrival of the latest, Performax-engineered version would be worth the wait.

"The Tundra embodies what we call the Performax Difference, that is ISO-approved quality standards achieved through our unmatched in-house design, development and manufacturing resources," he said.

"As always with right-hand drive conversions, the proof is in the driveability, absolute conformance to factory specifications and fit and quality of new components.

The Tundra is driven by an aluminium 5.7 litre petrol V8 engine producing 280 kiloWatts of power and 544 Newtonmetres of torque.

It has enough brute force to tow up to 4.7 tonnes, yet has highway fuel consumption of 11.7 litres per 100 kilometres (US rating).

The Tundra features a Trailer-Sway Control (TSC) system, which helps maintain stability when towing.

Its Automatic Limited-Slip Differential (Auto LSD) brakes a spinning wheel automatically and transfers power to the wheels with traction.

And no other truck in its class has larger front brake rotors than Tundra.

Tundra delivers with still more active and passive features.

It achieved top rating in front, side and rear crash tests conducted by the independent Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) in the United States - the first full-size pick-up truck to reach this standard.

With standard side curtain and front seat-mounted side airbags, driver and front outboard passenger knee airbags plus electronic Vehicle Stability Control System, the Tundra promises unbeatable safety in its class

While even the Extended Cab has more back seat room than mainstream Japanese utes, the four-door CrewMax gives class leading leg room, without compromising flexibility and space for stowing gear.

It also features the only slide-and-recline rear seat in its class. The 60/40 split rear seat slides, reclines and folds flat to form a hard work surface.

With many options available to make the trip even more enjoyable, such as Bluetooth music streaming, a rear-seat DVD entertainment system, reversing camera and even electrically-adjustable thigh support on the driver's seat, the Tundra is a logical choice for both work and play.

The Tundra will be available in a variety of attractive exterior colours and interior trims and colours, both fabric and leather.

It will arrive on Australian roads with an enviable record for dependability recorded by the international vehicle quality-standards authority J.D. Power & Associates.

For five straight years, the Tundra has topped a survey of US owners for the lowest number of reported problems in three-year-old utes.

Performax International has been importing and converting a wide range of American vehicles for almost 25 years. It operates from a modern factory at Gympie, near the Sunshine Coast, which is equipped with hi-tech facilities such as computer-aided design, 3D parts prototyping and injection moulding.

Work is completed to ISO 9001 Quality Assured standards, meaning its quality management system has been developed and implemented to the highest standards.

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