

## The Chunky Ford Ranger

By Ian Lynas

A recent test drive brought back memories of the famous chunky Tonka toys; and why? I was behind the wheel of the Ford Ranger. With the toughness and capability of a pickup truck and smart technology, outstanding safety and the highest standards of quality and comfort sums up this Ford. There are three versatile cab body styles, Double, Super and Regular all of which are



among the roomiest in its class.

This pickup comes with a choice of two powerful and economical new Duratorq TDCI diesel engines, and with 4x2 and 4x4 drivetrains.

Designed and developed to be best-in-class or among the leaders in every area important to customers, especially those who use it for both work and leisure purposes.

It is the first pickup to achieve a 5 Star rating in the Euro NCAP test, scoring 89 percent for overall safety, the best score ever earned by a pickup, and one of the highest scores recorded by Euro NCAP

for any type of vehicle.

Eye catching styling, front end features the signature three-bar grille, a global Ford truck design cue. Designers raised the beltline significantly, along with the rails of the load box, creating a substantial presence on the road while increasing functionality with the deeper box.

My test example was the four-door five-seat Double Cab with class-leading rear legroom along with a generous box volume of 1.21 cubic metres and maximum payload exceeding 1,100kg.

Offered exclusively with a 4x4 drivetrain, the Double Cab can also be specified with a powerful 200PS engine and a choice of manual or automatic transmissions.

This Ford combines its load-carrying ability with towing and water-wading capabilities that are right at the top of the segment. 4x4 models can tow a class-leading 3,350kg and can wade through 800 millimetres of water even when fully laden.

The interior finish is close to luxury with the look and feel with features and comfort normally found only in passenger cars.

Smart technologies are a key feature, with Bluetooth, USB and iPod connectivity, there is voice-control over the radio, CD, iPod, USB, electronic air-conditioning and mobile phone.

Dual-zone climate control and cruise control are available on the high series while selected models offer a five-inch colour screen with satellite navigation.

Taking a closer look at the engines, the new 200PS 3.2 litre five-cylinder diesel engine has ninety percent of its 470Nm peak torque available from 1700rpm to 3500rpm and its combined fuel economy figure is 29.7mpg.

The new 2.2-litre four-cylinder diesel engine is available in 125PS and 150PS ratings, both combining responsive performance with excellent fuel economy.

When fitted to a 4x2 model, the 125PS 2.2-litre engine delivers combined fuel consumption from 38.7mpg.

Safety, and you get assist vehicle stability both on-road and off-road; selected Ranger models are equipped with an advanced new Electronic Stability Program and this includes features such as Hill Descent Control, to help the driver on steep downhill grades; Hill Launch Assist, to help the driver pull away on steep climbs; Trailer Sway Control, to provide stability control when towing a trailer; and Adaptive Load Control, for optimal vehicle stability regardless of vehicle load.