

We have a 2000 Landcruiser Prado 3000 diesel which gives great fuel economy, between 9.8 to 11 litres per hundred Kilometres without the van.

When we tow the van (about 1900Kg) the economy drops to between 16.8 to 17.5 litres per hundred Kilometres.

After some research both on the net and talking to other Prado owners we discovered that this fuel economy could be much improved. As an added benefit to the fuel economy we could also get an increase in power, a great help when towing.

To obtain this improvement, all we needed to do was change the original exhaust system including the Turbo Dump pipe. As our exhaust system was nearly new we decided to change just two items, one the dump pipe and two the muffler.

The first thing was to get a new Turbo Dump Pipe that was made with a Mandrel bent pipe for free air flow. After much searching we found a company who could supply just the perfect item, Beaudesert Exhausts Pty. Ltd.

Then it was a trip to our local exhaust guru where Cookie fitted the new Dump Pipe and a new full bore muffler.

Well our research paid off giving a considerable increase in power particularly when towing and some excellent fuel savings.

Without the van - 9.6 to 10.5 litres per hundred Kilometres.

With the van - 15.1 to 16.6 litres per hundred Kilometres.

We generally tow in 4<sup>th</sup> gear and NOT in 5<sup>th</sup> as this seems to give better economy and saves the gearbox.

We are now on an around Australia trip and have to date (June 2008) completed some 17,020 kilometres of which 14,780 have been towing the van. We have experienced nearly every situation 15km tailwinds, 70km headwinds, mountains, sand tracks, dirt (corrugated) roads, flat desert country and just about everything in between. When on good roads we travel in 5<sup>th</sup> (overdrive) between 88 & 92km/h and at times have found ourselves in low range 3<sup>rd</sup> and on odd occasions low range first

To date we have averaged 16.5 l/100 or 6.1 km/l.

One thing I would mention is that we change the gearbox (manual) oil every 10,000 km and use synthetic oil.

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