

Invincible

Ian Lamming drives the brand new Toyota Hilux

WHICHEVER way you look there's a new Hilux; that's how important this pick-up is to Toyota.

No use hiding them away under dustsheets. Get them out there for the world to enjoy and so the motoring press have been peppered with various incarnations – mine was blue and very nice too, thank you.

Toyota's Hilux has always been impressive but the latest is the best yet, building on 50 years of heritage to set new benchmarks in strength, performance and drivability, with even higher levels of comfort and equipment.

Toyota claims, and I'm sure it's true, that it has been tested by the world's toughest terrains and equipped with advanced technologies to keep driver and occupants safe, in control and connected.

Suited for work, for leisure or as the ideal all-rounder, Hilux comes with a five-year warranty, in single, extra or double cab body styles, manual or automatic, with four equipment grades, options galore and all-wheel drive.

It offers increased towing capacity of 3.5

tonnes for UK market, an incredible 20 years' corrosion resistance, 20 per cent more rigid frame, and, in a more ecologically-conscious world, meeting new Euro 6 engine standards with improved refinement and performance.

New Hilux is tougher, stronger and more capable off-road. It is longer, wider and taller than previous generation – so that's even more reason to get behind of the wheel or out of its way.

But it has a pleasingly soft side and is more SUV to live with than utilitarian workhorse – it has cooled glove box, for goodness sake and smart entry system, multi-information display, smart key, full 220V plug-in, a seven-inch touch-screen and, on certain grades, Toyota Touch 2 multimedia system, with Go navigation.

The seemingly modestly sized 2.4 litre diesel is immensely strong, surprisingly frugal and very refined. Ride, for a pick-up, is also reassuringly good.

Test car came with a metal concertina draw cover, which could be locked transforming the load bay into a useful boot and stopping it filling up like a swimming pool in the rain – a must in these days of sticky-fingered felons.

Hilux has been a stalwart, serving its public for decades, but the latest model has made a generational leap forward.

Fact File

- Model: Toyota Hilux Invincible
- Engine: 2.4 litre, diesel
- Drivetrain: six-speed manual
- Power: 150PS
- Top speed: 106mph
- Towing max braked: 3500KG
- Miles per gallon

