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Kia Launches New Workhorse In New Zealand

Kia has upgraded its tireless workhorse light truck and re-launched it as the K2500 in New Zealand.

The new model gets a more modern and powerful 2.5-litre common rail turbo diesel engine to replace the 2.9-litre unit that was in the previous K2900.

Despite being smaller, the new engine boasts 4.5% more power, now 96kW at 3800rpm and 4% more torque, rising to 255Nm, which is available over a wide 1500 and 3500rpm band. The new power plant is matched to a 6-speed manual transmission, in place of the previous 5-speed box, which helps to reduce combined fuel consumption by 2% to 9.9L/100km.

Although it largely retains the same cab and chassis structure as before, the K2500 can be readily distinguished on the road by the familiar Kia tiger nose grille that sits above the enlarged bumper and air intake assembly. It also moves to 15-inch front wheels that improve ride and steering turn-in whilst retaining the twin rear wheels that make it ideal for load-carrying. The larger front wheels make no difference to the K2500's excellent 10.04m turning circle.

The loading tray, measuring 3110mm x 1630mm, features hinged sides and a tailgate that can be dropped for easy loading and off-loading. As before, a refrigerated box body version is available to special order, plus now two new model variants including a box body and walk-through box body.

Safety features on the K2500 have received an upgrade, with ABS braking and a driver's side airbag now standard. And when the truck is carrying a heavy load, the driver can now compensate by adjusting the headlight beam using an in-cab switch. The model also includes reverse warning sensors, which are very handy for delivery vehicles.

The cab in Kia's workhorse has always been generously equipped and the specification level is raised further to include bluetooth for hands-free mobile phone operation and controls for the audio system incorporated into the steering wheel, both enhancing driver safety and convenience.

There's room for the driver and two passengers in the K2500 cab and comfort levels are maintained with air-conditioning as standard, along with power windows, remote central door locking and a roomy central storage box with cup holders.

Kia's light truck has been a steady seller in the five years since it appeared on the market, thanks to its one tonne load capacity, sturdy build, reliability and attractive pricing.

Todd McDonald, General Manager of Kia Motors New Zealand, says the successful recipe is being maintained with the new K2500 introduced at \$36,490 for the flatbed truck. Four models will also be available through indent only; the cab/chassis for \$34,990, box body model for \$44,490, a walk-through box body version for \$49,990 and a refrigerated body truck for \$54,490.

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Photo caption: The new Kia 2500 workhorse is now in New Zealand.

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