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Thrifty Diesel Joins Kia Rio Range In New Zealand

The diesel version of the all-new Kia Rio has now gone on sale in New Zealand and is one of the most economical new cars in the country, priced at just \$24,990.

Equipped with an advanced 1.4-litre diesel engine and Kia's EcoDynamics package, which includes intelligent Idle Stop & Go technology to significantly reduce fuel consumption and lower carbon emissions, the Rio CRDi achieves an impressive 4.3L/100km (55mpg) and a low CO₂ level of 113g/km.

The new generation, four-cylinder 1.4-litre diesel engine was developed especially for Kia in Europe and features a double overhead camshaft design with the latest common-rail high-pressure fuel injection system. With a swept volume of 1,396cc, it is equipped with a wastegate turbocharger that is reduced in size to deliver a more compressed forced air charge into the engine, for greater efficiency and responsiveness.

Derived from Kia's U2 diesel family, it develops 66kW at 4,000rpm and 220Nm of torque across a broad 1,750 to 2,750rpm range, giving the new Rio a flexible and lively performance, combined with great fuel economy.

In addition to the Stop & Go technology, the EcoDynamics package also includes low rolling resistance tyres, a drag-reducing front grille, a gearshift indicator and rear spoiler. A smooth, six-speed manual transmission is fitted as standard.

Todd McDonald, General Manager of Kia Motors New Zealand, says the arrival of the diesel model provides a further boost to the Rio range, which is already one of the brand's best sellers in this market.

"Rio is going remarkably well for us in New Zealand, thanks to the desirability of the sporty design, high specification level and attractive price point. And with petrol prices set to rise again shortly, the appeal of the diesel model has just got better," he says.

Like the rest of the Rio range, the CRDi benefits from a re-engineered suspension system that is based on European specifications, with the emphasis on sporty handling and an assured ride. Brakes are all-round discs, providing superior braking performance. And in addition to the safety of ESC stability control, like all Rio models the CRDi features Hill Assist Control to prevent it momentarily rolling backwards when pulling away up steep gradients.

Equipment levels within the roomy cabin are high and the standard features on the Rio CRDi include high-tech daytime running lights for increased safety, reverse warning sensors, heated/power door mirrors, remote locking with in-built car alarm, a height-adjustable driver's seat, two-way steering column adjustment, split folding rear seats, rear luggage cover, trip computer, Bluetooth and a MP3-compatible/radio/CD audio system with USB and AUX ports.

In common with all Kia passenger cars, the Rio CRDi is covered by a comprehensive Five Year/100,000km Warranty Programme and a 24/7 Roadside Assistance Programme.

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Photo caption: The all-new Kia Rio range has now been joined by a CRDi diesel model.

Further Enquiries: Todd McDonald, General Manager, Kia Motors NZ, phone 0-9-573 6070.

(Prepared on behalf of Kia Motors New Zealand Ltd by John Ellegard, Stanford James Public Relations and Marketing Communication. Ph 09-815 0589, email john.ellegard@xtra.co.nz)

