

Nissan workhorse scores a cool-as-ICE update



By [Lauren Hartzberg](#)

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Nissan SA revealed a special edition of its well-loved NP200 half-ton bakkie last week. Locally produced at the Rosslyn plant and available in limited quantities (1,600 to be exact), the new NP200 ICE is being targeted at bakkie lovers with a sense of adventure - designed to take an electrician straight from work to a surf at the beach, as one spokesperson put it.



Exterior updates

The ICE model sports a number of exclusive aluminium features, most notably its custom-designed 15" alloy wheels; the nudge bar and functional sports bar have undergone a brushed treatment to add a textured look. Other updates include rear step plates, a tonneau cover, and side and rear windows that come complete with dark tinted safety film.

The ICE is also the only NP200 model in production with factory-fitted daytime running lights. Additionally, Nissan managed to pull off decal detailing that avoids being tacky and doesn't try too hard – an accomplishment in itself.

Capable and dependable

This NP200 remains a functional workhorse, boasting an 800kg payload at 1.8m long and 0.535m deep. A rubberised bay helps to protect against water corrosion, impact and possible abrasive damage from certain loads. There's an additional 300 litres of storage space behind the seats too.



Pop the hood, and you've got a choice of two engine derivatives. The 8V 1.6 litre petrol engine delivers 64 kW and 128 Nm of torque and uses 8.1 litres of fuel per 100 km, according to the carmaker. The other option is the 1.5 dCi turbodiesel engine, delivering 63 kW and 200 Nm and which Nissan says uses just 5.3 litres of fuel per 100 km.

I didn't manage to drive the petrol version at the launch but the diesel derivative's performance seemed to crack a lot more media nods, mine included. During my brief but comfortable stint in the driver's seat it tackled the Durban highway with ease.

Unfussy interior



Stepping inside you'll find a simple and functional interior. Rubber carpets make for easy cleaning and connectivity needs are met in the form of hands-free Bluetooth capability, audio streaming, a USB connection and decent sound system. The millennial in me didn't enjoy the wind-up windows too much, but perhaps it will instil others with a sense of nostalgia.

Safety features include two airbags and ABS brakes as part of the standard Nissan Safety Package.

The Nissan NP200 ICE is available in Starling Blue or Bright Silver and will set you back R191,900 for the petrol derivative and R236,900 for the diesel. The purchase comes with an impressive 6-year/150,000km warranty while a service plan is offered as an option.

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