

New Model



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NOTHING QUITE LIKE IT



Hino's new Poncho is something completely different in the small bus market. Surprising as it may seem, there are no direct competitors for Hino's new Poncho 18 - 22+1 seat small bus. By direct competitors we mean genuine engineered and not van- based buses. New editor Peter Barnwell had the chance for a test drive and came away impressed.



Possible competition may come from Toyota's recently updated Coaster and the Mitsubishi Rosa but they're slightly larger, have ladder chassis and completely different powertrain layouts. They're also old as the hills.

Renault, Benz, Iveco and other players may claim to be competitors but they 'aint.'

Australia is the first country outside Japan to get Poncho which is essentially built on a monocoque with pressed metal floor pan and integrated upper chassis adding supplementary sub frames for various heavy components,

This gives it the advantage of a low floor level for a huge leg up, so to speak, in passing the Disability Discrimination Act that specifies provisions for equal public access to services and facilities including public transport.

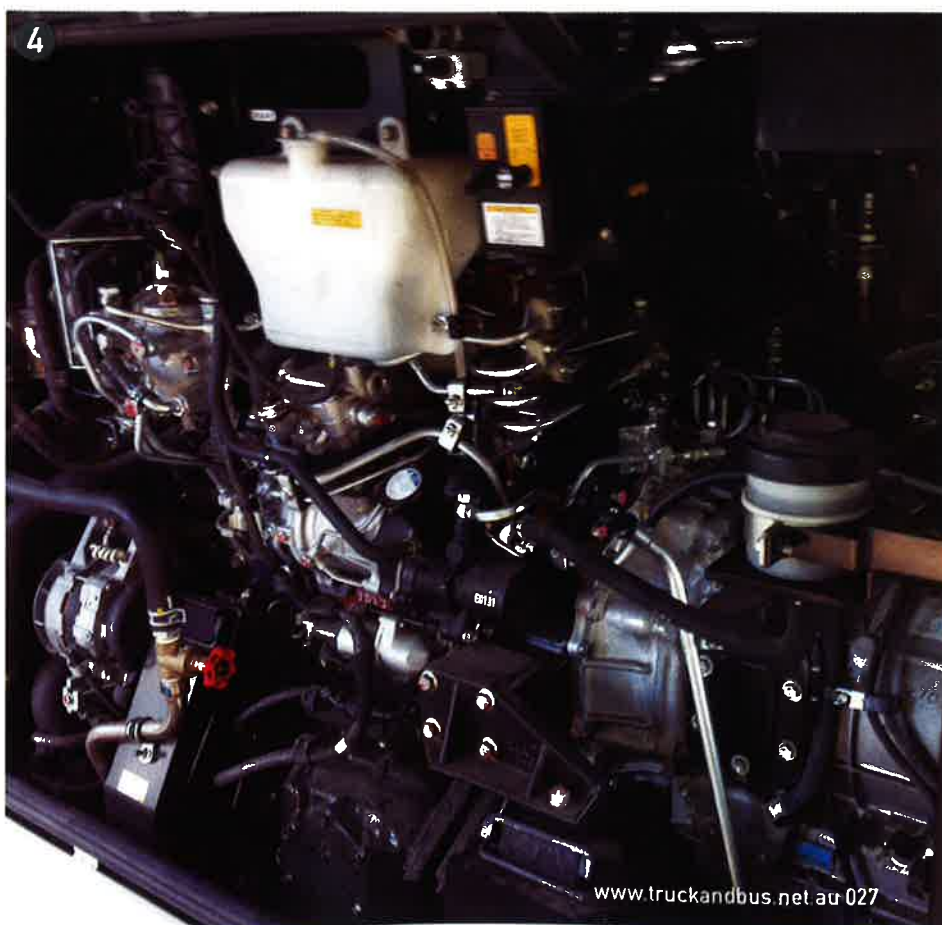
A kerb kneeling function is complemented by a wheelchair ramp and large wheelchair space towards the front of the passenger compartment.

Hino Australia's Daniel Petrovski said the DDA compliant status of this bus would be a valuable future-proof feature for owners.

"The Poncho is already Australian DDA compliant meaning customers will have the assurance of a product that is already ahead of the Act being mandated in 2022", he said.

"Wheelchair boarding can take less than a minute with Poncho including time to both deploy and store the on board ramp. Traditional small bus wheelchair access can take up to 20 minutes," he added.

Poncho is a fully built up, Japanese manufactured vehicle by J-Bus, a joint venture between Hino and Isuzu. Only the seating is locally fitted.



- 1 Poncho uses a five-speed Aisin A500 automatic and has a rake and reach adjust steering wheel and three way adjustable driver's seat.
- 2 A kerb kneeling function is complemented by a wheelchair ramp and large wheelchair space towards the front of the passenger compartment.
- 3 The Poncho is already Australian DDA compliant giving buyers the assurance of a bus that's already ahead of the Act being mandated in 2022.
- 4 The rear engine bay is easily accessible and features a five-litre 132kW (180hp) engine with 530Nm of torque and meets Euro 5 with EGR and DPF



