

## NEWS - LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 4 TAKES OUT 4X4 OF THE YEAR AWARD

**The Land Rover Disco 4 took out 4x4 Australia Magazine's 4x4 of the Year Award. Outback Travel Australia's Allan Whiting was one of the judges of this prestigious award.**



The Magazine uses set criteria in making its annual award, which is presented to the highest scoring new release of the previous year. The criteria are Value, Breaking Ground, Built Tough, Doing the Job and Bushability.

The Disco 4 scored 137 points out of a possible 175 points, narrowly outpointing the new Prado GXL diesel, which scored 131 points.

The Disco 4 easily won out in Breaking Ground and Doing the Job, so while the Prado GXL outscored it in three other categories – Value, Built Tough and Bushability – the margins weren't sufficient to make up the points deficit.

"The Discovery 4 is a logical follow-up model to the successful Discovery 3," said Allan Whiting, after the judging.

"The strengths of the original model have been retained, but improvements have been made to powertrain and chassis, to keep this ground-breaking design ahead of the competition.

"Also, the new three-litre V6 diesel is a landmark engine, with V8-like power and torque, but V6 economy.

“However, a down-side of the three-litre model is the much larger brake package it requires, necessitating 19-inch wheels and tyres to fit over the brake envelope.

“There aren’t any readily available bush tyres in 19-inch sizes at present, so I’d opt for the carry-over 2.7-litre V6 if I were replacing Outback Travel Australia’s Disco 3 with a Disco 4.

“Had the Prado GXL been given even a slight engine upgrade it might well have been sufficient to raise its ‘Breaking Ground’ score and close the points gap on the Disco 4,” he added.

“But a Toyota spokesperson said that a significantly upgraded or brand new diesel would have pushed up Prado pricing, so that may have adversely affected the excellent ‘Value’ voting that the Prado picked up.

“The Land Rover Discovery 4 is a deserving winner.”

*Read the full  
**4x4 of the Year**  
story in 4x4 Australia  
Magazine February  
2010 issue.*