

OzRoamer 2014 Dual Cab Ute Award



by Rob Fraser



The Holden Colorado is now a dual winner of the Dual Cab Ute of the Year Award, having won previously in 2013. It should be noted that the win was by the slimmest of margins, with strong competition from the top four. Also as the new Mitsubishi Triton and Nissan Navara are due in 2015 this category should be very interesting next time around. The 2015 MY update includes A more premium cabin feel, refinements to Hill Descent Control (HDC) and Hill Start Assist (HSA), returned 'comfort suspension' and a new acoustic package. To reduce external noise

The Colorado retains its pleasant external shape and has some interesting colours, namely the vibrant Sizzle Orange and Satin Steel Grey which is certainly noticeable on the road. One thing Holden has done extremely well is the range of original equipment accessories that complement the Colorado. The new Holden Alloy SuperBar certainly looks the part with its aggressive lines that complement an already great looking front end.



Internally the LTZ is the top of the range with optional heated leather seats, thickish steering wheel with a heap of controls and an abundance of storage areas.

The leather seats are very comfortable with the drivers electrically adjustable and good lumbar support. The height adjustable steering wheel provides more feedback than you would expect from a Ute. I would like to be able to tilt the front of the drivers squab though.

Internal storage is a feature with door pockets front and back, two decent sized glove boxes, a storage bin on top of the dash, bottle holders in front of the air vents (great for keeping things cool in summer), a shelf below the steering wheel, a door sill recess, cup holders in the centre console

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The New Colorado features Holden's new Infotainment MYLINK system units as standard. The MYLINK is an easy to use in car entertainment and navigation unit that is an app based system that works with most smartphones such as iPhone and Android. It brings a whole new experience to Motoring enjoyment. You can choose from the latest Apps that include Pandora, Stitcher and TuneIn Radio these are preloaded into the MYLINK unit. Pairing your Bluetooth phone is a simple step and the call quality was very clear with the drivers microphone built into the roof for a clearer conversation.

Colorado owners can also access BringGo®, an innovative navigation app that provides access to 3D maps, turn-by-turn directions, and points of interest, emergency contacts and more. Unlike other phone-based map solutions, BringGo does not require a 3G connection, unless performing a Google™ places search.

And iPhone® users can use Siri Eyes Free Mode via a paired compatible Apple smartphone to ask Siri® to select and play music, hear and compose a text message, read notifications and add reminders.

The Touch screen worked a treat with little if any delay when going through the Apps and the menus. Kudos to the Holden Tech team on a great intuitive system and the speaker setup sounded great throughout the cabin

Embedded apps include Pandora®, Stitcher® and TuneIn™ allowing owners to create their own personal stations, stream their favourite podcasts, radio shows and news, and listen to the world's radio from wherever they are.

Holden has vastly improved the Duramax 2 TD engine. Peak power is now up from 132kw to 147kw @ 3,600 rpm and 500Nm @ 1,600 rpm of torque. The 6 Sp Auto mates beautifully with the 2.8L engine to produce a sweet moving combination both on and off road. Holden has lost that initial doughiness and replaced it with smooth power delivery.

The enhanced automatic transmission calibration includes shift stabilisation in uphill and downhill modes and grade braking control preventing unnecessary shifting between gears when travelling uphill, and suitable shifting when travelling downhill to minimise braking. It works a treat especially when cruise control is activated, and in hilly off road situations.

The engine just seems more refined and quieter and is economical with a fuel usage rate of just 8.1L/100Km. On the freeway we got that down to a little over 7.0L/100Km and it is possible to get 1,000km out of a tank on the freeway.

It still boasts 3500kg towing capacity and a payload of a tonne now that's impressive and what everyone wants when they tow a camper trailer off road or trailers full of work gear. An improvement for towing is the new chassis control systems such as Trailer Sway Control and Hill Start Assist, as well as a Descent Control System..

Trailer Sway control detects any towing instability, activates the brakes and reduces engine torque, ensuring complete peace of mind when pulling a trailer, boat or caravan. The rear camera also makes hitching a breeze.



HOLDEN COLORADO LTZ 6 SP AT

\$57,407 RDAP

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Model	Colorado LTZ
Model Price	\$57,407 RDAP
Engine	2.8L Tdi 4Cyl
Drivetrain	4WD 6 speed Auto
Power	147 Kw @ 3,600 rpm
Torque	500 Nm @ 1,600 rpm
Safety	5 Star ANCAP
CO2 Emissions	243 g/km
GVR	2 ½ Star
Economy	8.1 L/100km (ADR comb)
Tow Capacity	Max 3500 kg
Tow Ball Rating	350 kg
Servicing	TBC
Warranty	3 yr/ 100,000 km with full roadside assist



Unlike Utes of the past the Colorado is now rated as 5 Star ANCAP with a host of safety features including: driver and front passenger airbags, front side impact airbags and full length curtain airbags, ESC, complemented by ABS with EBD and HBA. While the closest competitor the Ford Ranger has a rear diff lock, it was the presence of the rear camera as standard across the range as a safety feature that eventually swayed the judges in the Colorado's favour. It should be mandatory for 5 Star ANCAP safety ratings.

Off road the Colorado 6 Sp auto performed a treat. Electronic assistance in the form of the hill descent control means the Colorado was able to handle very steep fire trails and tracks with ease. It's almost too easy and any 4WD enthusiast will be happy with the performance.

The engineers and test team have refined The Colorado from its predecessor into a true all-round work truck, farm truck, tradie vehicle and family getaway vehicle that will give years of enjoyment.

Holden have come up with some great styling packs to really stand the vehicle out from the crowd with factory fitted accessories that compete with anything the aftermarket boys can come up with.

Over all the New Colorado series remains physically the same vehicle as the one its replacing but the engine and transmission's refinement and upgraded power and torque certainly change this to a much more pleasurable vehicle to drive on and off- road. Additionally the towing features, acoustic package, comfort suspension and premium interior makes this one of the top choices.

The voting was close and while the Holden Colorado LTZ 2.8L Duramax 6 Sp Auto is a very worthy winner of the 2014 4WD Dual Cab Ute category. As mentioned 2015 will be very interesting.



What's Good:

- Towing Capability
- Internal Comfort
- Robustness

What's Not:

- No steering reach adjustment
- No front seat squab tilt adjustment
- No rear diff lock

Overall OzRoamer Rating: 92/100

Behind the Wheel	8	Practicality	10
Comfort	8	Fit for Purpose	10
Equipment	9	Towing Ability	10
Performance	9	Off Road Ability	10
Ride & Handling	9	Value for Money	9