

Comfort in the cabin

Driving in the remote northwest of Western Australia, 'cramped' should be the last thing a driver should feel, but like many truckies Robert Higgs - or 'Squally' as he is known - needed a more spacious, comfortable cabin. "I do a lot of road train work," Robert says. His company, Higgs Tilt, hauls transportable buildings including toilet blocks, accommodation units and steel frames across the Pilbara for on-site rentals. "Sometimes I spend four weeks at a time on the road," Robert adds, so when he decided to buy a new truck he had certainly earned the right to be a little fussy about the cabin.

"Squally mainly carts oversize loads so he can only travel in daylight hours, so it's important that he's comfortable in his cabin," says AV Trucks product manager David Garic.

"Robert purchased our Western Star 4964FXC with the 68" high rise Stratosphere sleeper.

"A key feature of all Stratosphere sleepers is the significant amount of additional headroom provided in the area between the seats.

"This headroom allows the driver or passenger to stand next to the gear stick and walk through to the sleeper compartment without crouching.

Because the floor is flat between the cab and sleeper, the driver or passenger does not have to navigate steps or ledges," explained David.

The truck is fitted with an Icepack 4000, which is a diesel driven external air conditioning unit for cooling the cab and sleeper when the truck engine is not running. It also is a 240 watt generator with power points fitted in the sleeper to run Robert's microwave, fridge/freezer, kettle and electric oven. He also has broadband internet and a digital TV.

"Nothing is as good or as roomy as this," Robert says. "The factory option fitted includes two bunks, a Nova Kool upright fridge freezer, slide-away table, wood grain finish wardrobe, a chest of drawers and full cab privacy curtain.

"I sometimes wonder about the quality of the food you buy on the road, but I can do a weekly grocery shop and cook my own meals. there's nothing I can't cook," he says.

Robert says AV Trucks did an excellent job catering for his needs and is confident he will be looked after with any warranty issues. ●



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