

Tabs 5600 Territory Pro centre console

PORT MACQUARIE

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Tabs Boats are renowned for building strong, reliable vessels, and this is clear in their company motto — “Tough Aussie Boats”. The build is complimented by a smooth ‘glass-like finish that shows they are not only tough, but also great to look at.

First examination of the Tabs Territory Pro and you pause to take in everything the company has become

renowned for — strong design and attention to detail. It certainly looks like a great boat for the serious offshore angler.

DIMENSIONS

Keeping their motto in mind, Tabs have certainly built a tough Aussie boat. The new Super FX plate hull design with a 4mm bottom is made from 5083 high tensile sheets, welded the full length with 3 stringers and a 10mm thick 100mm high keel. The smooth 3mm sides are beautifully welded, giving it a sleek finish once painted. It’s a boat that’s certainly built to last!

The reverse chine, combined with a deep V-hull, provided an excellent ride with great stability. We had less than favourable conditions for the test (which is what you want), but taking it out over the bar and into some tough seas the boat was more than up to the challenge. It provided a dry ride and responded well under the conditions.

At 5.75m in length and with a roomy 2.4m beam, the Territory Pro is a lot of boat. Tipping the scales at around 620kg, it has a transom weight of 240kg. With the test boat fitted with a Mercury 115 Command Thrust 4-stroke weighing in at 175kg, it’s a pretty light package considering its size.

At rest, it feels extremely safe, even with a decent swell running. It has plenty of storage room, with all the safety gear located in the bin under the driver and passenger bench seat.

Underway, there are plenty of places to hold onto to deal with the conditions. Vision while driving seated was good and provided clear sight whether cruising along an estuary or under power



With its clean lines, the Tabs 5600 Territory Pro certainly grabs the serious fisho’s attention.



Powered by the new Mercury 115 Command Thrust 4-stroke, this boat has plenty of power.

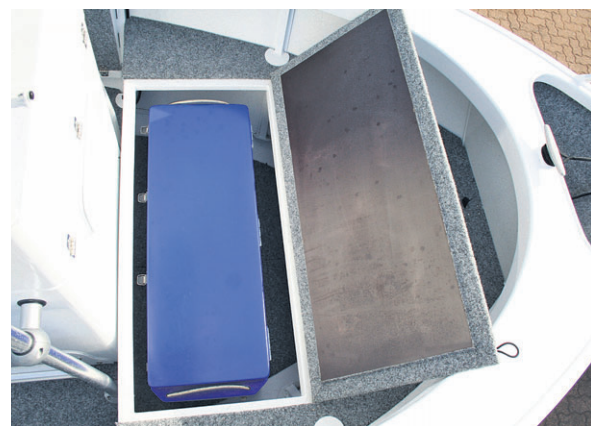
at sea. While standing when crossing a bar and moving in big seas the Territory Pro handled well, was very stable and with seat and console rails you certainly felt safe.

POWER

Getting this big girl moving was effortless, thanks to the new Command Thrust Mercury 115 4-stroke. With just a little tap on the throttle she was up and planing, and cruised at around 4900rpm doing 24 knots. When put under the pump and given a little juice, she revved out to 6100rpm and was nudging over 32 knots. Performance tests were done in the estuary, and with flat water it was great to see the boat fly. Offshore in tougher conditions, it was comforting to have done these tests and know there was enough power and quick response to deal with tricky seas, proving that the hull and engine was a good match. The recommended rating of 115hp was more than sufficient and going to 150hp would see the boat fly.

When driving a boat of this size with such a responsive engine, safety is a key and the Territory Pro handled beautifully. It held a straight line well, and when the power was cut it continued to hold true — coming off the plane quickly, sitting down smoothly, with no water pushing over the pod or the transom.

Cornering at slow speeds was difficult and something that would take getting used to. This is due to the boat not having hydraulic steering. It’s an optional extra well worth considering, but not entirely essential. In saying that, the boat did respond and handle well when turning at speed, exhibiting very



Top: The front deck has great storage, with a removable 90L icebox for keeping the catch fresh. **Middle:** The plate hull design contributes to the Territory Pro’s great handling characteristics. **Bottom:** The flip-flop backrest makes for a great driving position, or a comfortable spot to lean back and watch the rods when fishing.



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