

Cut Loose in Style

Ready to roll in this luxury fifth-wheeler

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RATINGS

EXTERIOR ✓✓✓✓
INTERIOR ✓✓✓✓
LAYOUT ✓✓✓
KITCHEN ✓✓✓
VALUE FOR MONEY ✓✓✓✓
OVERALL ✓✓✓✓

LEGEND

✓ POOR ✓✓ FAIR ✓✓✓ GOOD
✓✓✓ BETTER ✓✓✓✓ BEST

From the moment you lay eyes on the Cut Loose, you are ready for holiday action. The Cut Loose was impressive without being overbearing. The low tow height coupled with what appeared to be a small car in front made for a welcome surprise. I couldn't wait to get behind the wheel and head off.

Nick Oliver completed a study of the fifth-wheeler industry in Australia and the US, and he wanted to make the fifth-wheelers available to travellers in Australia with the same price, weight and size as the ever-popular caravan.

He discovered that in the US, fifth-wheeler sales match caravan sales, whereas in Australia it's one fifth-wheeler for every 99 caravans. Locally, the early view of a fifth-wheeler was a large American unit that needed a huge F-250 to tow it.



Fifth-wheelers have such a stable ride as they are carried rather than towed. If you haven't tried it for yourself, I recommend you do. You will be pleasantly surprised.

EXTERNAL

The Cut Loose is 26ft of luxury both internal and external. This fifth-wheeler has such a terrific use of space that it was the smallest 26-footer I had ever towed. Because there is so much RV over the gooseneck, the trail behind the car is reduced significantly, and with the low roofline it's perfect for tourist parks.

There is a powdercoated 6in box-section steel chassis running the full length of the unit with a Gooseneck built in quarter-inch box tubing with double the normal (US) strength. You can walk on the roof because of the strong superstructure and unique aerodynamic nosecone.

The Cut Loose has very clean lines on the outside, with nothing obtrusive and nothing to snag you on. The windows and door are colour matched, the slide-out fits neatly when travelling, and the storage areas are inconspicuous. Even the gas bottles are nicely concealed within their own locker, and the fridge vents are large yet unnoticeable.



EXTERNAL FEATURES

- CHASSIS:** Powdercoated 6in box-section steel chassis, full length of unit
- FRAME CONSTRUCTION:** Laminated aluminium frame
- WINDOWS:** Hopper type – powdercoated aluminium windows with safety tinted glass
- INSULATION:** R7 fire-retardant insulation in floor and walls, fibreglass in roof
- CORNER JACKS:** Scissor stabiliser jacks
- WASTE WATER COMMON OUTLET:** Yes
- WATER TANKS:** Fresh water 145L
- WATER TANK COVERS:** Yes
- COUPLING:** 2in kingpin
- SUSPENSION:** Dexter Torflex
- CLEARANCE:** Standard

- BRAKES:** 10in drum to all wheels
- WHEELS:** 15in steel rims
- TYRES:** Goodyear eight-ply tyres
- AWNING:** Dometic A&E8500 16ft
- BOOT(S):** Huge front locker under gooseneck
- STONE GUARD:** Tread-plate front
- GAS CYLINDER SIZE/S:** 2 x 9kg
- HOT WATER:** Suburban SW6 gas and 240V
- BATTERY:** 150–300Ah AGM deep cycle, maintenance free
- BATTERY CHARGER:** 12V power supply/45A battery charger
- SOLAR PANELS:** Optional
- SOLAR PROVISION:** Yes
- ENTRANCE DOOR:** With flyscreen

So Cut Loose was born in 2006 to develop cost-effective fifth-wheelers for small utilities and has been located on the Gold Coast ever since. The chassis and body are made in the US to Nick's strict guidelines and meet all Australian design rules, and the final fit-out, with Australian appliances, is completed here.

Nick is a perfectionist, and he likes to make sure the customer is given the correct information to ensure they make the right choice, even if that information loses him a sale.

Nick has developed a Tow Vehicle Calculation chart in conjunction with the RACQ and RVMAA. This handy little guide helps buyers determine if their car and fifth-wheeler combination are suitable.

Fifth-wheelers do not work on the standard towing guidelines. Instead, they are a calculation based on gross vehicle mass and gross combined mass (refer to chart below).

So when I saw the little Mazda BT-50 at the helm, I was surprised. So before we set off, I wanted to have the weight ratios explained to me. Once I had seen how the calculations work, I was assured and we set out for the day.

The Mazda was certainly not quick off the mark. I wouldn't have expected anything to be with the fifth-wheeler behind it, but it wasn't dragging the chain either. They worked well together, and I was as comfortable as ever towing the Cut Loose (maybe even more so).



INTERNAL FEATURES

- FRIDGE:** Waeco 190L two-door compressor fridge/freezer
- TELEVISION:** Optional
- ANTENNA:** Antek Winegard
- MUSIC SYSTEM:** Sony CD/Radio/MP3
- COOKING EQUIPMENT:** Dometic three gas, one electric cooktop with grill
- MICROWAVE:** Panasonic 23L inverter microwave
- HEATING/COOLING:** Dometic 3.2kW ducted air-con
- RANGEHOOD:** Swift 12V stainless steel
- LIGHTING:** 12V low-energy lighting throughout
- SMOKE ALARMS:** Smoke, CO and LPG detectors
- CUPBOARD FINISHES:** Solid American Oak finish
- TYPE OF LATCHES:** Pull handle
- LOUNGE CONFIGURATION:** Sofa/bed and dinette
- SEATING CAPACITY:** 6

- UPHOLSTERY:** Cloth standard, custom available
- SINK:** Stainless steel double sink
- SLEEPING CONFIGURATION:** Queen bed, sofa bed
- WATER FILTER:** Yes
- BERTHS:** 6
- BED SIZE(S):** 6ft 6in x 5ft
- MATTRESS:** Quality 8in innerspring
- UNDER BED STORAGE:** Yes with gas struts
- PRIVACY SCREENS:** Yes – in line with internal decor
- BATHROOM CONFIGURATION:** Separate shower and toilet at rear
- PRIVACY DOOR:** Yes
- TOILET:** Full-flush Thetford
- TOILET SIZE:** Black tank, capacity 117L
- TOILET ROLL HOLDER:** Yes, stainless steel
- SHOWER HEAD:** Flexible
- WASHING MACHINE:** Optional
- CLOTHES DRYER:** Optional
- TOWEL RACKS:** Yes – double



Coupling

INTERNAL

The American cabinetry of the fifth-wheeler is so different to our usual style in a caravan. Fifth-wheelers give the ability to tow greater weights than in a caravan, therefore, they are able to include household-style cabinetry. This allows for a much more stylish timber finish than a conventional van. All the detailing is first class and well crafted – no rough sanding here.

The layout works well, but I am not sure everyone will like the head height in the bedroom. With all things in life there are compromises, and for the amount of time spent in the bedroom, this should not be a problem to the majority people.

When stationary, the sofa bed slides out at the touch of a button. This gives so much extra space inside the RV. There is a separate café dining table area as well and a fully functional kitchen. Through the solid sliding door is a perfectly laid out ensuite bathroom. The whole look and feel of this unit is more like your home rather than a van. With its clean mottled wall colour and the American oak furniture as accents, this RV is certainly stylish and relaxing. It's not dark or overpowering in any way, and the tall ceiling height gives a sense of space and openness.



Unobtrusive on the road



Spacious ensuite



There is a lovely two-door fridge set behind the dinette allowing for plenty of food storage while travelling – a must for the avid fishers among us. A microwave plus a four-burner grill complete the kitchen, and they are all Australian appliances.

New owners have the full ability to customise their RV to suit their individual tastes and needs. Every unit will be personally supervised by Nick, and he gives every customer his mobile number for personal service and attention at any stage of the RV's production or use.

WORTH BUYING?

The Cut Loose is a great package. What you get for the money is unbelievable, and the ability to hook it up to a small tow vehicle just has to be one of its best-selling features. Nick says “our point of difference is not just the product, but also in the service”. Enough said. ■

TECHNICAL SPECS

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|---|
| MAKE/MODEL: Cut Loose CL26 |
| CHASSIS NUMBER: 17036 |
| EXTERNAL BODY LENGTH: 7.890m (25ft 11in) |
| EXTERNAL WIDTH: 2.440m (8ft) |
| VIN TARE WEIGHT: 2650kg |
| BALL WEIGHT: 520kg |
| RRP: \$89,990 |

NB: length and width are external measurements of the vehicle shell (and awning) only

CONTACT/THANKS

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|---|
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LAYOUT KEY

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. Bed | 4. Café Dinette |
| 2. Kitchen | 5. Table |
| 3. Sofa Bed | 6. Ensuite |

