

SEALEGS WITH AWD



Sealegs can now tackle soft sand, shingle and pebble beaches, and steeper inclines with AWD mode.



New Zealand's amphibious RIB (rigid inflatable boat) manufacturer, Sealegs, is promising to conquer even more challenging terrain with the added

agility of All Wheel Drive (AWD) capability.

With an additional hydraulic motor added to the front wheel, all three wheels now provide traction to a Sealegs. This means the unique tender can now scale steep riverbanks and beachheads. This new option, however, is only available on boats built from May 2010 onwards and cannot be retrofitted to older models.

According to Sealegs, the extra traction significantly increases the RIBs' capabilities on steep, slippery inclines

or when traveling across heavy mud or quagmire, or marginal beaches with soft sand, shingle or pebbles.

As with standard models, the AWD variant is still powered by an internal 25hp Honda four-stroke engine, but for a 33 per cent drop in top speed with all wheels working.

Sealegs said it listed AWD as an option as most recreational customers probably won't need its added traction as the land wheels are in use mainly for launch and retrieval.

AWD can be ordered as an option for a standard Sealegs model or the Extended Run Time (XRT) variant. The hydraulic motors on standard Sealegs have a run-time of 30 minutes before overheating but with XRT the operating time is unlimited.

A spokesperson from Australian distributor Sirocco Marine said

QUICK SPECS

Models/length: 6.1m D-Tube; 6.1m RIB; 7.1m RIB
Beam: 2.31m (D-Tube); 2.46m (6.1m RIB); 2.61m (7.1m RIB)
Draft: 0.41m
Weight: 1090kg (D-Tube); 990kg (6.1m RIB); 1180kg (7.1m RIB)
Outboard max HP: 115 (D-Tube and 6.1m RIB); 150 (7.1m RIB)
Fuel: 80lt
People: 6 (D-Tube and 6.1m RIB); 8 (7.1m RIB)
Land power: 25hp Honda four-stroke

FAST FACTS SEALEGS

HOW MUCH?

6.1m D-Tube: Approx \$91,000 (AWD); \$89,000 (RWD)

6.1m RIB: Approx \$91,000 (AWD); \$89,000 (RWD)

7.1m RIB: Approx \$126,000 to \$127,000
Extended Run Time (XRT) option: Add \$10,000

general Sealegs owners don't need XRT. It is mainly to ensure the craft is equipped for more demanding work environments and heavier-duty cycles — where a longer run-time is required — typically from rescue and emergency services, military and commercial operators.

For more info, phone (02) 9552 3366