Words: BEN CONNOR



You don't need to be a tradie to appreciate the Volkswagen Caddy. With clean lines, highly configurable interiors and a level of fit, comfort and quality more reminiscent of a family car than a commercial vehicle, the Caddy is a model not to be missed

The new Caddy range is here. The popular Volkswagen urban delivery vehicles and compact vans are Germany's undisputed number one, with 46 per cent market share and a continuing leadership in Europe and Australia. But the new edition Caddy, with its sleek new design and a host of functional and performance improvements, is likely to see this popularity increasing further.

This range still offers two basic categories: Caddy Van and Caddy Life. The Caddy Van and Caddy Maxi Van are classic commercial urban delivery vans (with optional side windows). The Maxi Van offers a longer wheelbase and even more load space.

The Caddy Life is a people mover, suitable for both business and non-business usage; the Caddy Maxi Life adds even more interior space, to make long family trips a breeze.

New features include new trims, new alloys, a new range of exterior colours and new engines, and make the updated model appealing to an even wider range of consumers.

The versatile interior design also means the Caddy will easily adapt to business or personal requirements. Caddy Life versions offer removable second- and (optional) third-row seating, giving a cargo capacity of 3,200 litres, and solidly fixed load-lashing rings. The complete second-row seat unit can also be folded forward and locked, while the seatbacks of the optional third-row seating fold downward.

Standard ESP with Hill Start Assist is included on all Caddy models, and a 6- or 7-speed DSG transmission is optional. Sporty three-spoke steering wheels are linked to the power-steering system.

Two TDI, four-valve engines (the 1.6-litre TDI250 and 2.0-litre TDI320) deliver 75 kW and 103 kW respectively. They also provide outstanding torque: 250Nm and 320Nm respectively, both from as low as 1,500 rpm.

The two new 4-cylinder 1.2-litre TSI petrol engines (TSI160 and TSI175) include turbo-

chargers and direct fuel injection to deliver improved fuel consumption figures, and output 63kW and 77kW of power respectively. The TSI160 gives a maximum

of 160 Nm while the TSI175 takes it to 175 Nm. Compared to the outgoing model, fuel consumption has been reduced by more than 10 per cent.

The new Volkswagen design DNA of precise lines and surfaces gives the Caddy a confident and refined appearance. The front grille has been merged with the bumper and its horizontal lines continue into the headlight cluster, forming a single stylistic unit. Side sections are dignified, with character lines running from the headlights to the A-pillars' triangular windows. At the rear, restyled lettering and lights and a redesigned VW badge achieve an appealing aesthetic.

Interiors feature redesigned seat covers and the central console hosts controls for the manual or automatic (Climatronic) airconditioning system. Convenience is assured with two drink holders for the front-row seats (a third in front of the second-row of seats) and 24 storage compartments or nets located in the doors, central console, armrest, the floor, under the driver's seat and in the roof.

The Caddy Maxi Life adds more features including a height-adjustable central armrest, cruise control and a powerful RCD 310 radio/CD system. It really is a vehicle with something for everyone.



1. A modern classic – the Caddy Van

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