

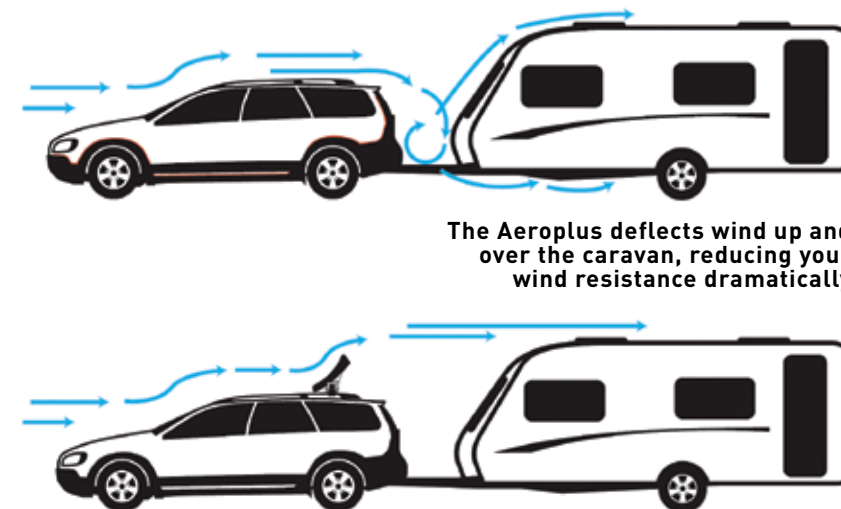
# The AERODYNAMIC ADDITION

We put one innovative fuel-saving gadget to the real test



**“THERE’S NO DOUBT THIS WIND DEFLECTOR SAVES YOU FUEL!”**

**A** couple of issues ago, we featured one of the latest RV accessories to hit the market – the Purple Line AeroPLUS wind deflector. If the number of emails we received weren’t enough to warrant doing a real-world test on this product, having Fred call in from the road keen to try it out was. With claims of a 15% fuel saving, we installed it on Fred’s tow rig to see how well it lives up to the hype in Aussie conditions. Let’s see how it went!



The AeroPLUS deflects wind up and over the caravan, reducing your wind resistance dramatically

### THE AEROPLUS

The concept behind the AeroPLUS is simple – this universally fitting, lightweight ‘wing’ mounts to the tow rig, and its aerodynamic shape directs the winds created at travelling at high speeds up and over the front of the caravan, rather than into the gap between your tow vehicle and van, which happens in regular towing circumstances (see diagram).

The AeroPLUS was developed in Europe over the course of 10 years – and it spent a lot of that time being tested at UK’s Motor Industry Research Association. The AeroPLUS fits most tow vehicles, takes about half an hour to install, and has been proved to reduce drag and improve stability at highway speeds.

### THE TEST

The best way to test the AeroPLUS was to get it out on the open road where you can reach highway travelling speed, and do a loop with, and then without the wind deflector. From Sydney, Fred towed the Crusader up towards Newcastle for a total of 80km at 100km/hr. To ensure the test was legitimate, the test was done on a still day with no traffic, so we could keep a constant speed and with no head or tail winds to affect the results. The only variable that was changed was travelling with the AeroPLUS installed or removed.

### REAL-WORLD FIGURES

Distance travelled – 80km  
Average speed – 100km/h  
Fuel used WITHOUT AeroPLUS: 11.56L  
Fuel used WITH AeroPLUS: 10.73L  
Fuel saved – 0.83L

**YOU CAN SAVE OVER A LITRE EVERY 100KM**

### FRED’S THOUGHTS



There are so many great fuel saving devices out on the market, and it was such a pleasure being able to test one of them out in a real world situation. You can’t argue against concrete results, and although it was a small distance driven, there’s no doubt this wind deflector saves you fuel! With every tow vehicle and van having different aerodynamic characteristics, there’s no doubting that tweaking the positioning of the wing, and the angle of wing will provide even better figures. What a beaut bit of gear!”

### HOW IT PERFORMED

The first thing that we noticed was that while you’re travelling at highway speeds, you quickly forget the AeroPLUS is even attached. It will creak slightly in wind gusts, but on the whole it is so lightweight and aerodynamic that it won’t affect your driving experience, or be audible.

With the AeroPLUS attached, the Jeep used 10.73L in a touch over 80km over highway speeds, which is just over 13.4L/100km. The 80km return trip was done without the AeroPLUS, where the tow rig used 11.56L, which equates to 14.5L/100km.

Over a short distance like 80km, it is clear that towing with an AeroPLUS fitted will save fuel, over a litre every 100km in fact. If you use these figures to estimate the money you can save on a big 10,000km trip, you’re looking at a total saving of \$150-\$200! That might cover your cost of accommodation for a week, or pay for a special experience like a day cruise! ■

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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The AeroPLUS was extensively tested in a wind tunnel in the UK



“What a beaut bit of gear!”



Fred measures fuel consumption during our recent tow test