



'PV 5' Specialised patrol vessel for Western Australia

The demand for highly specialised patrol vessels has increased considerably over the past few years. The Western Australian Police and Fisheries Department have shown the way with numerous custom-built vessels in service that meet the USL 2C classification.

The Western Australian Department for Planning and Infrastructure (Marine Safety) has taken delivery of their first highly specialised rigid inflatable high performance vessel from builder Kirby Marine.

In this day and age, compliance organisations can no longer ignore their duty of care to the boating public and their own patrol officers. As the number of vessels on the water increases, so too does the pressure on patrol officers to increase the frequency of contacts.

The operational brief was for a proven hull design with a wheelhouse that allowed patrol officers to remain on station comfortably for extended periods of time, yet be fast and manoeuvrable enough to pursue the ever increasing number of jet skis frequenting Perth waterways. The configuration chosen was an 8.5-metre hardtop with forward raked windows, a feature that allows for a relatively small wheelhouse footprint, but a large and roomy cabin area.

A forward well deck on the bow was a feature that the operators requested as a safe place to deploy and retrieve the anchor. It is also the place where most dialogue takes place between the officers and the public.

All electronics are housed in contoured dash panels in front of the driver and navigator positions. All radios are housed in an overhead console that runs through the centre line of the cabin.

A pair of KAB 525 suspension seats with arm and headrests is provided for the comfort of the helmsman and a crewmember.



The back deck is more than adequate for the tasks that patrol officers perform. Two additional seats are provided at the transom and a fire pump is housed in a locker on the centreline of the vessel at the transom.

The rear of the vessel also features a heavy-duty tow post and towline frame, which doubles as an engine protection bar. Batteries are also housed in lockers at the stern of the vessel where they are less likely to be damaged from the impact of rough water.

The hull has a 23° dead rise, giving a soft ride in rough seas. The collar adds to the quality and dryness of the ride, acting as a shock absorber in harsh conditions.

The vessel is powered by twin 186kW Mariner Verado four-stroke outboard motors giving the vessel a top speed of 47 knots. The engines were fitted with revolution-4 propellers for improved acceleration, reversing and general boat handling.

For further information contact: Kirby Marine Fabrication, Western Australia.

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'PV 5'

SPECIFICATIONS

Type of vessel:	Patrol and rescue
In survey to:	USL 2C
Home port:	Perth
Owner:	Western Australia Department of Planning and Infrastructure
Operator:	Marine Safety
Designer:	Naiad Design, New Zealand
Builder:	Kirby Marine Fabrication, Western Australia
Hull construction	
material:	Aluminium
Length overall:	8.5 metres
Main engines:	2 x Mariner Verado outboards, each 186kW
Maximum speed:	47 knots
Cruising speed:	33 knots
Seating:	2 x KAB 525 suspension seat