

# Noosacat's 3000 Series Underpins The NSW Water Police

In one of the most significant marine contracts offered by the NSW Government in recent years, the tender for the supply of the latest round of NSW Water Police boats was won by Noosacat - to the collective relief of all the men in blue who have to look after the boating public when all else fails . . . now, they have the equipment they need to do their job up to the standards the community expects - and they are trained to deliver.



*Footnote: With all the discussion about the future of manufacturing - anything - in Australia, and especially boats, it is worth pointing out that these superb craft are as uniquely Australian as Hills Hoists, Vegemite, Akubra hats and, well, Holden cars. Australia leads the marine world in the design and construction of production GRP and aluminium cats, which begs the issue: given the apparently successful Free Trade Agreements Trade Minister Andrew Robb has negotiated recently, surely outstanding products like these will now be more aggressively promoted in S.E Asia in the future, and DO have an exciting future just around the corner. (- PW)*



**Above:** This is seriously quick - and there are very few craft capable of out-running one of these cats !



**Below:** Beautifully trimmed, gliding along - a unique Australian product, like no other in the world.

**W**ith the delivery of the last of six Noosacat 3000s to the NSW Water Police, Noosacat have successfully supplied one of the largest recent boat tenders for a government department.

For Noosacat, this isn't exactly a new experience, as they've been supplying all sorts of Federal, State and local government authorities for many years, but what is pleasing for them has been the enthusiastic support of the NSW Water Police throughout the long, drawn out tender process.

The NSW Water Police over the years have had an extraordinary variety of craft, and not all of them have been successful. Indeed, depending on the officer involved, and the amount they are willing to discuss in camera, some of the craft the Water Police have had to use have been just plain dreadful, to say the least.

### Tough Conditions

The reason this is significant is that the NSW Water Police have one of the toughest beats in the world. The NSW coastline, stretching over hundreds of miles along the eastern seaboard, starts off on the edge of Bass Strait at Eden, on the far South Coast of NSW, and runs along the Tasman Sea to Ballina on the far north coast of NSW. Between these two regional centres, in the north and the south, are some of the toughest, most difficult barred river entrances to be found anywhere in Australia, and as a result, the NSW Water Police often have to tackle sea conditions and barred entrances at times when it is extraordinarily dangerous to do so, in anything much less than a powerful Noosacat. And even then, it ideally should be around 24-30 feet LOA with massive horsepower to drive it out through breaking seas that can sometimes spread right across the entrance of rivers such as the Richmond (Ballina NSW) the Clarence (Yamba, Iluka NSW) the Macleay (South West Rocks) the Hastings (Port Macquarie) and so on down the coast to the infamous barred entrance to Wagonga Inlet (at Narooma). Even 'good' entrances such Port Stephens, are often closed because of the rough conditions that have developed offshore and closed off the fairly narrow, rocky-sided entrance to Port Stephens.

Everywhere you look; there is a need for particularly well built, ocean going craft capable of putting to sea in conditions that would leave most normal people tucked up in bed. But if you're a member of the NSW Water Police, that is often not an option. Sometimes they just have to go to sea – and there's been a collective sigh of relief through the Force on the acceptance of their fleet of six brand new Noosacat 3000s.

### Outstanding Equipment

One of the other features of this tender has been the



selection of first class navigational and support equipment, backing up the capacity of these powerfully built catamaran hulls.

The electronics are state of the art, integrated systems by Furuno, with coms by Motorola and Icom, FLIR night vision cameras, (these are truly astonishingly effective at night) and all the best equipment available today to ensure that the police crews have the best possible chance of securing a good outcome, no matter what type of operation they have to undertake. And in their profession, their activities range from the recovery of cadavers at the bottom of cliffs, to rescuing hapless fishermen who's boat has broken down offshore, to picking up kids on out of control kayaks in the harbours, monitoring sporting events, boating crowd control on the big events (such as the Sydney Hobart Yacht race) – the logbook of a police boat is an astonishing document, as much because of the diversity of the work they do as it is for the conditions they encounter. And of course, there are times when really bad conditions come together with a really serious accident at which point in time, the crews rely totally on the performance and functionality of their craft.

Of interest, the Noosacat 3000 is actually a regular production model available to any recreational or commercial operation, and although these boats are

*In its element - few, if any monohulls can handle really rough conditions (which these aren't) with the sure-footedness and crew safety of a well designed, well balanced and properly handled cat.*



fitted out to the nth degree with state of the art equipment, (and cost accordingly!). However, the 'regular' model Noosacat 3000 powered by (say) twin 150hp outboards, sensible but top quality electronics, and everything you need to start fishing, will cost about \$170K. But that can easily climb up to the \$250K mark by the time you upgrade the engines to 225hp -250hp, buy one of Noosacat's superb stainless steel tri-axle trailers, invest in the long cabin model with galley, external toilet, lounge, trick air suspension seating, etc, so it's not hard to spend \$250K on what becomes a truly awesome cat – and one that's brutally fast.

Even with the twin 150hp outboards, the Noosacat 3000 Hardtop cracks 43 knots with fuel and crew ready to go fishing!

In a forthcoming issue we'll be conducting in-depth sea trials on a recreational version of one of these long cabin Noosacat 3000s, and with a bit of luck we'll have it ready for December or January magazine.

In the meantime if you want a copy of the latest specifications and optional equipment, give the Noosacat factory a call on **(07) 5449 8888** or email them at [sales@nooscat.com.au](mailto:sales@nooscat.com.au) or check out their web site [www.nooscat.com.au](http://www.nooscat.com.au)



**ABM**