

ROAD TEST

Mitsubishi Pajero 3200 DI-D GLS 5-dr AT

Monocoque of the walk

"For many, the superior on-road performance will outweigh potential disadvantages"

NEW models come and go, but frankly nobody seems able to permanently prise the Pajero's grasp from its No 1 position in the South African full-sized sport-utility sector. Over the years, its proven recipe

of ruggedness allied with superior on-road abilities has gone down a treat, particularly when some of the heavy hitters were absent from the marketplace. It didn't hurt, either, that year after year Mitsubishi dominated the legendary Paris-Dakar rally-raid

with purpose-built specials. Will that suffice, now that the competition has snowballed?

If the outgoing Generation Two Pajero could be said to be an evolution of the original, then the third-generation model featured here takes us into the 2000s in

pretty revolutionary fashion. Putting aside the traditional "true" 4x4 layout of a bodyshell and drivetrain hung from a separate ladder frame chassis, the new Pajero uses monocoque construction. Of course, unit bodies have long been the norm

