



The hull design makes it a very stable boat underway.

New 4.8m Pro punt



The live bait tank.



The seat pole that can be folded away to allow more room.



Boat Review
by GRAHAM FOLEY

MAL England from Burketown up in the Gulf Country has released his latest offering onto the market, and like all his previous boats it is built as tough as the region it comes from.

The 4.8m Pro Punt is built to the standard of a professional boat and is used in north Queensland as a crabbing boat, however the Pro Punt is also available in a recreational configuration which was the version used in this test.

The main difference is that the recreational version is painted inside and out, giving the punt a very presentable appearance.

The Pro Punt is designed as a tiller steer, making it very responsive from a steering point of view, and the lack of a console maximises the

interior workspace of the boat, which is already vast.

The driver sits on a generously proportioned bench seat that is filled with flotation, as are the gunwales.

An interesting and very useful feature internally is the swinging seat pedestal towards the front of the boat that swings out to the centre of the deck and locks into place when travelling.

When at rest the pedestal can be unlocked and swung to the side of the boat, resulting in an uncluttered deck.

All-round bow rails are another feature with space created on each side that makes retrieval of crab pots much easier.

At the bow is a step up

to the casting platform.

The step also houses a live bait tank and a storage compartment.

In front of the casting platform the bow rail separates to allow for the positioning of a very substantial bollard, which by its appearance would be capable of securing the boat in the roughest of conditions.

Situated at the rear of the Pro Punt is a robust light pole to which the nav lights are secured.

There is ample space on top for work lights that could be angled to illuminate the interior.

Rod storage could also be attached to the light pole to further minimise clutter.

Owing to the flat bottom of the Pro Punt,

I was not expecting a particularly comfortable ride and was very pleasantly surprised at the smoothness.

Even when passing over choppy water created by the wake of other boats, movement was barely noticeable.

Punts of course are designed to be operated in calm waters and in my opinion a day's fishing and crabbing in the 4.8 Pro Punt would be a very enjoyable experience.

The Pro Punt 4.8 is available with a purpose-built alloy trailer featuring 14-inch alloy wheels, an Alko axle and LED waterproof lights.

Like the punt, the trailer is built to withstand the roughest of road conditions and combined with the alloy construction it should last well into the future

with basic maintenance.

For inquiries, contact Mal England at Mal Marine Fabrication on 07 4745 5056 or email mal.leeshed@bigpond.com

Specifications

HP rating: 70hp

Length: 4.8m

Width: 1.8m

Depth: 600mm

Paint: Two pack

Cost of boat, motor and trailer as tested: **\$16,500**

Bare boat: **\$8000**

Alloy trailer purpose built for the 4.8 Pro Punt: **\$3000**



The foldaway seat with seat attached.



Rated to 70hp the Pro Punt really has some poke.