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HEAD-BANGERS' DELIGHT

THE big spike in Hyundai sales is being put down to fresh new cars like the i30 hatch, but the Korean manufacturer's iLoad van is making a valuable contribution too.

VFACTS sales figures show it is the third-best selling Hyundai and the second-best selling van — second only to the Toyota HiAce, with 2762 sold in the first five months.

Big Wheels caught up with a new iLoad customer, Peter Cummins, who needed a delivery van after taking on an Aussie Farmers Direct franchise in Geelong, Victoria.

Cummins drove Toyota

Coaster buses in the Mallee town of Wycheproof before he and his wife decided on a sea change. He says he was a Toyota man, but decided to give the iLoad a look and "chose this vehicle, mainly on the advice of other franchise owners. There are five franchise owners in Geelong, four of them own iLoads", while one has a Mitsubishi Express. Cummins says the Mitsubishi was slightly cheaper, while a Toyota HiAce was more expensive than the iLoad. Apart from the price, the quality and features of the iLoad helped convince him.

But there was a practical reason as well. He says: "Most of the others only have one door and I prefer two doors. It's easier to lean in and grab milk crates full of produce."

The iLoad has a standard hatch rear door, but the tall Cummins chose the factory fit barn-door set up because he knew he'd bang his head on the hatch. He had the van fitted out with a refrigeration system by Ice Man in Victoria for the fresh fruit, vegetables, milk and meat he delivers.

His iLoad is the 2.5-litre common rail diesel (125kW and 392Nm) linked to the five-

speed automatic. Cummins and his other drivers make about 800 deliveries a week, so the iLoad gets a fair workout and, apart from some minor issues, has performed well.

James Stanford



Cargo: Plenty of space inside



Roomy: Peter Cummins avoids head knocks in his iLoad