



**BMW X3 xDrive 30d  
WINNER OF THE OZROAMER  
2013 AWD SUV OVER \$60,000 AWARD**



**OZROAMER 2013 AWARDS**

by Anthony Hood



The BMW X3 xDrive 30d is the top of the X3 range and it is absolutely a favourite here at OzRoamer. 2014 will bring about an all new X3 however this review is based on the 2013 model. Here you have an AWD SUV that has a degree of balance between the competing elements that is a cut above most of its competitors.

Externally the X3 is very stylish with a balance that is hard to find. The now familiar BMW grill is complemented by Bi Xenon headlights with headlight washer system, LED daylight running lights, LED rear light strip, automatic tailgate, anti dazzle folding mirrors, BMW light-alloy wheels, Y-spoke styling 308, 8 J x 18" with 245/50 R18 run-flat safety tyres.

Once you sit inside you immediately feel comfortable in the leather seats for driver and front passenger with multiple electric adjustments and lumbar support. In front of the driver is the sports leather steering wheel with multi function controls. It is very comfortable to hold and assists in the driving experience.



The Navigation System has a high-resolution 8.8" Control Display, iDrive Controller, including one-touch keys and favourite buttons, 2D/3D display, split screen function, 20GB hard drive for storage of audio files, satellite images and electronic owners handbook.

The audio system has 6 loudspeakers (4 x 25 Watt), 6 programmable memory buttons, MP3-compatible CD drive and USB audio interface. The On-board computer, displays average speed, fuel consumption, range, temperature, time and date etc.

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As standard, the X3 xDrive30d is also equipped with automatic Start/Stop function, dual-zone climate control, dusk-sensing headlamps, park distance sensors, rain-sensing wipers, auto-dimming rear view mirror, cruise control, trip computer, Bluetooth phone integration, foglights and a rear-view camera with Top view.

The standard X Line Package, incl. Aluminium satinated side window frames, Aluminium satinated look front and rear bumper inserts, BMW door sill finishers and stainless steel luggage compartment loading sill

Rear seats are more suited for two people but have enough head, shoulder and knee room to be comfortable for most adults. Boot space is great for a family of four with 550 litres of boot space with the back seats in place, and a shallow storage tray under the boot floor is handy for small items. Integrated rails in the floor allow tie-downs and other restraints to be fitted, and folding the 40/20/40 split rear seatback expands cargo capacity to 1600 litres.

The X3 xDrive30d is powered by TwinPower Turbo inline 6-cylinder diesel engine, combining common rail direct injection and triple turbocharging. Mated to an 8-speed sport automatic transmission with Steptronic, this powerplant pumps out 190 Kw of power @ 4,000 rpm and an awesome 560 Nm of torque @ 2,000 rpm.

This combination grips the road through the xDrive, permanent all-wheel drive system with fully variable torque split between front and rear axles. The combination of this motor and transmission in the X3 body size is near perfect. It is brilliant to drive with plenty of power down low and speed to burn.

What the figures don't represent is the driving experience. No matter what the situation the X3 will provide the driver with an engaging response. On a trip to Melbourne we placed the car on cruise control and I have to say it was a smooth, unbelievably economical drive. The cruise control is one of the best we have experienced. It stuck to the selected speed up and down hills. There is a section just north of Goulbourn that has 'mogul' hills which confuses every cruise control, however the X3 handled it as good as the best.

With Dynamic Damper Control, the BMW X3 allows the driver to select from a range of settings and change the character of your BMW X3. Press the control button next to the gear select lever and change from NORMAL to SPORT, or even to SPORT +. The engine responds more spontaneously, the eight-speed automatic transmission Steptronic lets the r.p.m. go higher before each lightning-fast gear shift. The suspension becomes stiffer and sportier.



# BMW X3 XDRIVE 30d

**\$84,622 RDAP**

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<b>Model</b>	X3 xDrive 30d
<b>Model Price</b>	\$84,622 RDAP
<b>Engine</b>	3.0L Diesel 6 Cyl
<b>Drivetrain</b>	AWD 8 speed Auto
<b>Power</b>	190 Kw @ 4,000 rpm
<b>Torque</b>	560 Nm @ 1,500 rpm
<b>Safety</b>	5 Star ANCAP
<b>CO2 Emissions</b>	159 g/km
<b>GVR</b>	3 ½ Star
<b>Economy</b>	6.0 L/100km (ADR comb)
<b>Tow Capacity</b>	Max 2000 kg
<b>Tow Ball Rating</b>	200 kg
<b>Servicing</b>	TBC
<b>Warranty</b>	3yr/ 100,000 km with full roadside assist



When the road gets windy the handling dynamics of the X3 come to the fore. The balance between the handling and power delivery have to be experienced. For the style of car its awesome. The run flat tyres can be a little harsh though. On the dirt the X3 can become a little unstuck and it definitely feels out of its comfort zone when the trail becomes difficult. On sand the power helps cover the hard sand with ease. Soft sand is a trap because of ground clearance. This is an all road AWD not designed for any off road experience. It will leave you wanting if you have expectations of heading off into the forest trails or across Australia. It simply isn't designed for that.

Towing with the X3 is a breeze. The X3 will tow up to 2000kg with a tow ball rating of 200kg. The 8 speed transmission and 560 Nm of torque at 1500rpm make towing a pleasure and definitely adequate for the adventurous driver with small campers, seadoos bike trailers etc.

Safety is provided by driver and front passenger airbags, seat occupancy detector for front passenger airbag; head airbags in the front and rear; side airbags for driver and front passenger, Dynamic Braking Lights, DSC incl. ABS, BA, CBC, DTC and HDC.

While The BMW X3 xDrive30d is the winner of the OzRoamer 2013 AWD SUV over \$60,000, it should be noted that the category is becoming more competitive and other AWD SUV's such as the Audi Q5 and even the Ford Territory (for its handling) are so close it was almost an each way bet. The new 2014 BMW X3 should up the game in the category however next year will be interesting.

The BMW X3 xDrive30d is almost perfectly balanced as an AWD SUV. While it has some off road aspirations, take it too far and it's not pretty. Think of it as a sports SUV that provides balance in performance and handling with reasonable towing capacity.



### What's Good:

- Diesel's awesome power/economy
- Practical family car
- Ride / handling combination

### What's Not:

- Not suited to off road
- Expensive to buy and service
- We had to give it back to BMW

**Overall OzRoamer Rating: 85/100**

Behind the Wheel	9	Practicality	9
Comfort	9	Fit for Purpose	9
Equipment	8	Towing Ability	7
Performance	10	Off Road Ability	5
Ride & Handling	10	Value for Money	9