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If you're running a Toyota 70 Series ute on the farm or out bush, you know it's no ordinary vehicle — it's a workhorse built tough for the harshest conditions. But even a legend like the 70 Series needs a couple of key upgrades to really max out dust protection, water ingress prevention and towing safety.

Over my 12 years working with 70 Series builds, I've found two upgrades that stand head and shoulders above the rest when it comes to prepping your work ute for dust, creek crossings and towing. I'll walk you through why the right snorkel upgrade and the right towing mirror upgrade make all the difference — but remember, **fitment is key**. Always ask yourself, what year and what engine? Because the 2023 changeover to newer 70 Series models brought some important tweaks that affect parts compatibility.

## Upgrade #1: The Snorkel Upgrade for Dust Management & Water Ingress Prevention

### Why Go for a Snorkel on Your 70 Series?

The biggest <https://www.therural.com.au/story/9324593/how-southern-nsw-farmers-set-up-a-70-series-to-handle-dust-water-and-towing/> enemy to your engine on the farm is dust, followed closely by the risk of water ingestion during creek crossings and dust storms. Toyota built solid, reliable engines, but even the best engines choke and costly damage can occur if dust settles deep in the air intake or untreated water sloshes where it shouldn't.

A properly fitted snorkel doesn't just look tough, it **improves engine breathing by pulling cleaner, cooler air from above the vehicle's bonnet line**. This means less dust ingested and less risk of hydro-locking from water crossing creek beds or traversing flooded tracks.

### Why Safari Snorkel Kits are the Go-To Choice

Safari snorkel kits have been around for decades and remain the preferred brand for many in the 70 Series community. They're renowned for their rugged design, excellent fitment and proven dust seals. The ARMAX range from Safari is especially well regarded, offering tailored kits that fit snug and avoid the "shed-on-a-Saturday" effect — you know, the sloppiness you get when cheap knock-offs are crudely hacked onto a vehicle.

Prices start at around \$526 for genuine Safari snorkel kits. It's an investment that pays off by extending engine life and improving reliability in dusty and wet conditions. ARMAX's kits, in particular, align with the 70 Series' post-2023 design updates, making sure you get precision fitment and avoid cut looms or messy wiring jobs.

### Fitment Accuracy by Year & Engine

- **Pre-2023 70 Series:** Earlier models, especially with the 4.5L diesel, often require specific snorkel kits because of body shape differences and air intake placement.
- **Post-2023 70 Series:** Updated bumpers and air intake positions mean you must pick snorkels designed explicitly for these changes, like the ARMAX Safari range.
- **Engine Variations:** Diesel models have different air requirements than petrol ones. Make sure the snorkel you choose matches your engine to avoid airflow restrictions or errors.

# Upgrade #2: Towing Mirror Upgrade for Safety and Blind Spot Reduction

## Why Upgrade Your Mirrors When Towing?

Towing on the farm or out on dusty bush tracks is second nature for many 70 Series owners. But the stock mirrors often leave you struggling with poor rearward vision, particularly when towing wide trailers or livestock floats. This can be an accident waiting to happen — blind spots increase risk, especially with heavy loads.

Upgrading to purpose-built **towing mirrors** drastically improves your field of vision, reduces blind spots, and gives you greater confidence on narrow tracks or busy farm gates. The right towing mirrors are tough enough to handle the rough, dusty conditions without wobbling loose or cracking from minor impacts.



## What to Look for in a Good Towing Mirror Upgrade

1. **Fitment Specific to Your 70 Series Year:** Just like snorkels, newer 70 Series models after 2023 have subtle body panel changes and mounting points. Generic towing mirror kits often don't fit true.

- 2. **Robust Construction:** Look for mirrors with metal brackets, strong plastic housings and shatter-resistant glass. Weak mounts or overly plastic parts mean ongoing failures.
- 3. **Ease of Installation:** Avoid kits that require cutting your factory wiring harness or drilling new holes. A clean fit-up avoids the “shed-on-a-Saturday” mistakes I hate seeing.
- 4. **Functionality:** Large convex glass for wide angles, adjustable extensions and possibly integrated indicator lights for safety.

Recommended Brands for 70 Series Towing Mirrors

While Toyota doesn’t specifically sell aftermarket towing mirrors in all regions, many reputable 4x4 parts suppliers stock robust mirror kits tailored to the 70 Series. Matching your mirrors to the year and model of your ute is critical for a snag-free fit.

Farm Work Ute Setup: Why These Two Upgrades Are a No-Brainer

If you’re running a serious farm work ute setup, the snorkel and towing mirror upgrades tackle the harshest conditions head-on:

- **Dust Management:** With a Safari or ARMAX snorkel, your engine lives longer, breathes better and avoids dusty headaches.
- **Water Ingress Protection:** Creek crossings become less risky, and you reduce potential engine damage during wet conditions.
- **Towing Safety:** Improved rear vision slashes blind spots, giving you better control over your rig and preventing costly mishaps.
- **Fitment Integrity:** Choosing gear built around your 70 Series’ exact year, engine and factory specifications means no cutting of wiring looms or “best-guess” hacks that bite back later.

Summary Table: Best Upgrades & Key Considerations for 70 Series

| Upgrade                                       | Benefits                                    | Key Brands                                           | Price                | Example                                                   | Fitment | Tip | Snorkel Upgrade |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----|-----------------|
| Safari, ARMAX (Safari range)                  | Cleaner engine breathing                    |                                                      | Starting from ~\$526 | Match to year & engine, 2023+ models require updated kits |         |     |                 |
|                                               | Less dust ingestion                         |                                                      |                      |                                                           |         |     |                 |
|                                               | Water ingress protection on creek crossings |                                                      |                      |                                                           |         |     |                 |
| Towing Mirror Upgrade                         | Improved rear visibility                    |                                                      |                      |                                                           |         |     |                 |
|                                               | Reduced towing blind spots                  |                                                      |                      |                                                           |         |     |                 |
|                                               | Safer on narrow farm tracks                 |                                                      |                      |                                                           |         |     |                 |
| Aftermarket Toyota-compatible 70 Series parts | Varies but expect \$250-\$500+ per set      | Fitment specific to model year; avoid cutting wiring |                      |                                                           |         |     |                 |

Final Words

When you’re investing time and money in your Toyota 70 Series farm ute setup, don’t fall for generic advice that ignores the important changes from pre- and post-2023 models. The best snorkel upgrade from Safari (especially

their ARMAX range) and a properly fitted towing mirror set are the two game-changers for dust, water, and towing safety.

Keep it clean, keep it proper, and always ask “What year and what engine?” before clicking *Add to Cart*. It might seem slow, but trust me — it saves you headaches and sheds few-on-a-Saturday blunders in the long run.

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