

If you're running a Toyota 79 Series, especially when towing a hefty [more info](#) load down the highway, you might have experienced that unsettling "sketchy" feeling. It's a common gripe among the 79 Series crowd, and it's nothing to shrug off. As a Regional NSW farm-all-rounder and 4x4 parts fitter with over a decade of experience setting up utes for dust, creek crossings, and towing, I've pinned down the culprits and solutions. Today, I'm breaking down why towing in a 79 Series can feel like a handful—covering dust management, engine breathing, water ingress, and, crucially, towing safety regarding mirror fitment and load visibility.

The Heart of the Matter: Why Does the 79 Series Feel Unstable When Towing?

First off, if you're feeling unstable or "sketchy" at highway speeds, never dismiss it as just your trailer or load. The 79 Series has some unique challenges, especially post-2023 model variations that affect fitment and performance. My advice before anything: **always ask "what year and what engine?"** when shopping for parts or upgrades because ignoring these can lead to a "shed-on-a-Saturday" disaster with poor fitment and worse wiring jobs.



Towing Stability Confidence: What's Affecting It?

- **Aerodynamics and wind buffeting** — the upright windshield and boxy design catch the wind hard, especially at 100 km/h+.
- **Mirror width for towing** — standard mirrors sometimes don't give the full picture behind the trailer, affecting your perception of the load's sway.
- **Suspension and load balance** — heavy, uneven weight behind the ute can induce fishtailing, compounded if your suspension isn't up to scratch or set for towing.

Among these, I've found that setup around *seeing behind the load* via mirror fitment drastically changes your confidence at speed.

Mirrors and Load Visibility: How They Affect Towing Confidence

Anyone who's trailed a camper, horse float, or big stock crate on a 79 will swear by Safari's extended snorkel kits — but not just for breathing. Weirdly, these kits highlight the importance of accessories that don't just improve your engine but also your driving safety.

Let's talk mirrors. Post-2023 changes in the 79 Series brought subtle but vital differences in door shape, mirror arms, and mounting points, meaning many aftermarket mirrors don't fit properly unless you pick by the exact year and engine. ARMAX and Safari offer advanced mirror systems in their Safari range tailored for these newer models, boosting your view to cover blind spots and trailer sway on the highway.

Mirror Type	Fitment	Year/Engine	Price Range	Key Benefits
Safari Extended Tow Mirrors	2016-2023, 1VD-FTV	From \$526	Improved side visibility, reduces blind spots, robust build	
ARMAX Safari Range Tow Mirrors	2023+ Models, VDJ79 & VDJ78	From \$550	Precision fit for new door styles, wide mirror surface	

Note: It's no good buying mirrors just because they look tough. Buying by "year and engine" is non-negotiable to avoid fitment issues and "shed-on-a-Saturday" wiring jobs.

Dust Management and Engine Breathing: Why Your Snorkel Matters on the Highway and When Crossing Creeks

Now, you might be wondering, "What's dust management got to do with towing stability?" It's closer than you think.

The 79 Series' diesel engines need clean, cool air for optimum performance. Enter the snorkel. Safari's snorkel kits, starting at around \$526, are designed to raise your air intake point to roof height, keeping dust and water out of the engine bay, especially when crossing creeks or towing dusty roads. ARMAX's Safari range mirrors these specs but often offers better fitment precision and wiring integration, which you'll appreciate if your rig is a 2023+ model.

Why is engine breathing so crucial?

- **Consistent engine power:** Restricted or dusty air limits your turbo's ability to spool efficiently, causing lag and power drops when towing heavy loads.
- **Reduced engine wear:** Dust and water ingress can damage critical engine internals, leading to expensive repairs and downtime.
- **Improved fuel efficiency:** Clean air flow reduces wasted fuel, particularly important under towing strain.

Water Ingress Prevention and Risk Reduction

Highway towing often means creek crossings or flooding on rural roads. Snorkels like those from Safari come with tight seals and rugged fittings to stop water ingestion—a death sentence for diesel engines. RAPID water ingress prevention means you can keep moving with confidence, instead of worrying if your cooling system or engine is about to hydrolock.

The Importance of Year and Engine-Specific Fitment

Let me be brutally honest here: The largest mistake blokes make when upgrading their 79 Series is ignoring year and engine specs when buying parts. Pre-2023 and post-2023 79 Series models sometimes have subtle but significant design changes that affect everything from snorkel fitment to mirror arms and wiring looms.

For example, installing a 2019 snorkel on a 2023 VDJ79 engine bay will mean modifications or even wiring hacks—something I despise. Cut looms or messy wiring jobs are “shed-on-a-Saturday” territory. Buying from brands like Safari and ARMAX’s Safari range ensures you get part numbers made for your year and engine, saving headaches and unsafe improvisation later.

Best Practices for Safe and Confident Highway Towing in Your 79 Series

1. **Use proper extended mirrors:** Invest in high-quality mirrors from Safari or ARMAX tailored to your exact model year and engine. This reduces blind spots and helps monitor trailer sway.
2. **Install a quality snorkel:** Starting around \$526 from Safari, a well-fitted snorkel improves engine breathing, prevents dust ingestion, and guards against water damage during creek crossings.
3. **Check your suspension and load distribution:** Balance your towing load and ensure your springs and shocks are rated for the weight. It’s a major factor in high-speed stability.
4. **Regular vehicle checks:** Wiring, connections, and fitment accuracy ensure your towing setup works reliably without surprises.

Conclusion: Don’t Settle for Sketchy Towing—Gear Up Properly

If you’re tired of that sketchy highway towing feeling, the solution isn’t just driving slower or buying the cheapest parts by appearance. It’s about respecting your 79 Series’ build, understanding the nuances of year and engine changes, and making solid investments in key gear like **Safari snorkels** and **ARMAX Safari range mirrors**. These improvements enhance *towing stability confidence*, provide the right *mirror width for towing*, and let you see clearly behind the load—making each trip safer and a lot less stressful.

Remember: cheap, generic fixes that don’t match your specific model are a recipe for poor performance and accidents. Plan your setup carefully, source quality parts made for your year and engine, and keep those wiring jobs clean and professional.

Safe towing starts with preparation. If you want peace of mind at highway speeds in your 79 Series, this is where you begin.