

FREE BUYER'S GUIDE

2015 Nissan Pulsar

A simple guide for buyers with no car knowledge.

Your safety comes first

Please read these five rules before you look at any car.



1. Flat ground, handbrake on

Only look at the car on level ground.



2. Never open the radiator cap

Hot coolant can spray out and burn you.



3. Never go under the car

Look underneath from the side only.



4. Hands away from a running engine

The fan and belts can catch fingers and clothing.



5. Test drive only with permission

Bring your licence and drive gently. Ask the seller: "Does your insurance cover me to drive it?" If it doesn't, you could have to pay for any damage yourself.

How this guide works

Two stages. No rush.



Do most of the work **from home, on the phone**. Only go and see the car if you like what you hear.



Stage 1

At home and on the phone



Checkpoint

Is it worth a visit?



Stage 2

At the car

Scoring is easy

Tick **Yes** or **No**. Yes is always the good answer. At the end, just **count your No's**. A red  means a stop sign: a "No" there matters most.

STAGE 1**Before you visit**

At home and on the phone.

01**Which 2015 Pulsar is it?**

There are two different ones.



A 2015 Pulsar can be either series. Ask the seller which one it is. The Pulsar came as a hatch and a sedan, so check which body it is.

Ask the seller:

"Is this the 2013 to 2015 series (C12.I) or the 2015 to 2016 series (C12.II), and which engine does it have?"

1.8L petrol **MRA8DE**

Engine code MRA8DE · 6-speed manual or CVT automatic

- 96 kW of power
- Grades: ST and ST-L
- Front-wheel drive

1.6L turbo petrol **MR16DDT**

Engine code MR16DDT · 6-speed manual or CVT automatic

- 140 kW of power
- Direct injection: fuel is sprayed straight into the engine
- Grades: ST-S and SSS

Good to know: safety rating

ANCAP rated the Pulsar sedan 5 stars. Six airbags and stability control were standard. A review site says the hatch result was carried over from the sedan. We could not find the ANCAP page for this model. Look it up on the ANCAP website before you rely on it.

02

The big-money items

The parts that cost the most to fix.



You can't see inside these parts, but you can ask about them.

\$ under \$500 · \$\$ \$500 to \$2,000 · \$\$\$ over \$2,000 (rough guide)

**CVT automatic gearbox**

1.8L MRA8DE WITH CVT. REPORTS DO NOT RULE THE TURBO CVT IN OR OUT.

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WHAT IT IS

A CVT is an automatic gearbox with no fixed gears. Owners report shuddering, lag, clunking and some replacements, mostly near 100,000 km.

ASK

"Has the CVT had its oil changed, and can I see the records?"

**Timing chain stretch** MR16DDT 1.6L TURBO ENGINE

\$\$

WHAT IT IS

The timing chain keeps the engine's valves in time. One engine seller lists chain stretch as a complaint on this engine.

ASK

"How often was the engine oil changed, and can I see the records?"

**Turbo wear and carbon build-up**

MR16DDT 1.6L TURBO ENGINE

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WHAT IT IS

The turbo is a part that forces extra air into the engine. The same seller lists turbo wear and carbon deposits on the intake valves.

ASK

"Has the turbo or the intake side of the engine ever been looked at or cleaned?"

03

Regular maintenance

Cheap jobs that protect the expensive parts.



Look for these on the service invoices.



Engine oil

Fresh oil keeps the engine parts moving smoothly

As shown in the logbook



Spark plugs

They light the fuel in each part of the engine

As shown in the logbook



Brake fluid

The fluid that carries your foot push to the brakes

Every 2 years (our guide)



Coolant

The liquid that keeps the engine from getting too hot

As shown in the logbook



Gearbox oil

The oil inside the gearbox. This is CVT fluid on a CVT car.

As shown in the logbook



Air filter

It cleans the air going into the engine

As shown in the logbook



Tyres

The only part of the car that touches the road

Replace at 6 years old, even with good tread (our guide).
Alignment every 10,000 to 15,000 km (our guide)



Battery

It starts the engine and runs the electrics

Most last about 3 to 5 years

04

Questions to ask on the phone



Tick Yes if you get the good answer.

Ask the seller	Good answer	Yes	No
"Is it registered in your name?" Why: Only the owner can legally sell it to you.	"Yes."		
"Why are you selling it?" Why: A clear reason helps you trust the rest of the story.	A clear reason.		
! "Can you send me the VIN?" Why ask? The VIN is the car's 17-character ID number, like a fingerprint. With it you can check online if there's money owing , if it was written off after a big accident, if it's been reported stolen , and if it has any recalls (Section 06). An honest seller will send it.	They send it.		
"Has it been in an accident?" Why: Repairs can hide damage. An invoice shows it was fixed properly.	"No", or they have the repair invoice.		
"Does it have service invoices?" Why: They show the car was looked after.	"Yes."		
"Which engine and gearbox does it have: 1.8 or turbo, manual or CVT?" Why: Each engine and gearbox has different things to watch for.	A clear answer that matches the badge on the car and the logbook.		
"Can I see every service record, especially for the CVT oil and engine oil?" Why: Records show how the car was looked after. Owners say Nissan's help sometimes depended on them.	A logbook or invoices with dates and kilometres.		
"Does it shudder, hesitate or clunk when pulling away from a stop?" Why: These are the signs owners report on the CVT.	No. It pulls away smoothly every time.		
"Are any warning lights on?" Why: A light means the car has found a fault.	"No."		
"Can you leave it cold before I arrive?" Why: Some problems only show when the engine is cold.	"Sure."		

Tip

Write down what they say. See if the answers stay the same when you visit.

05

Check the invoices

Ask the seller to send you photos.



Ask the seller:

"Could you send me photos of the service book and invoices?"

Looking at the invoices	Yes	No
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Did they send them?

Does each one show the workshop name, date and kilometres?

Do the kilometres go up each time?

Do the services follow the logbook, with no gaps of more than a year?

Words you might see on an invoice

Invoice says	It means
CVT service or fluid change	The oil in the automatic gearbox was replaced.
TCM or valve body	The gearbox's computer, or the part inside that controls its oil.
Timing chain or tensioner	The chain that keeps the engine's valves in time, and the part that keeps it tight.
Wastegate or boost	The turbo's air pressure control. Turbo models only.
Carbon clean	Deposits were cleaned off the engine's intake valves.
Fuel rail sensor	The fuel pressure sensor named in one of the recalls.

06

Quick checks at home

All you need is the VIN. Five minutes.



1. Recalls

Type the VIN into either site:

— nissan.com.au/owners/recalls/recalls-service-campaigns.html
— vehiclerecalls.gov.au

Safety recalls are fixed for free by the maker.

2. Money owing

Search the VIN at:

— ppsr.gov.au

It shows money owing, write-offs and theft. Small fee. Check again on the day you pay.

Your result

Yes

No

 **PPSR is clear**

No open recalls, or proof they were fixed

Checkpoint: is it worth a visit?

Count your No's from Sections 04, 05 and 06.



My No's

Stop signs with No



Any stop sign with a No?

Don't go yet. Sort it out with the seller first.

0 to 2

Go and look

Take Stage 2 with you.

3 to 5

Ask more first

Ask the seller about each No. Go if you're happy.

6 or more

Is it worth the trip?

A lot couldn't be confirmed.

The decision is always yours.

Want to check it like a mechanic?

The 2015 Nissan Pulsar Buyer's Inspection Guide shows you every check, step by step, with drawings of where to look.

Get the full guide · \$29

General information only, not an inspection of any vehicle. "Our guide" means our recommendation, not a legal rule. Costs are a rough guide. Information current at October 2026: always check the VIN yourself. Perth Cars Pre-Purchase Inspection Service · ACN 612 731 996 · Licence Nos. LVS/WSS MR20570 · MS30917 · 0451 237 048 · info@autolab360.com · perthprepurchaseinspection.com

STAGE 2**At the car**

Take this guide with you.

07**Dashboard warning lights**

The colour tells you how serious it is.

**Red = Stop**

Serious

**Yellow = Check**

Needs a look

**Green = OK**

Just information

The one-minute light test**1****Key on**

Lights come on. Good!

2**Start the engine**

Lights go out.

3**Watch**

Any light left on? Ask about it.

**Check engine**

Engine fault found.

**Battery**

Not charging.

**Oil pressure**

Low oil. Stop the engine.

**Engine too hot**

Overheating. Stop.

**Brake**

Handbrake on, or a brake fault.

**ABS**

Anti-skid brake fault.

**Airbag**

Airbags may not work.

**1. Paint and panels****GOOD**

Same colour everywhere, even gaps.

ASK ABOUT IT

One panel a different colour.

**2. CVT pulling away****GOOD**

The car moves off smoothly. There is no shudder, lag or clunk.

ASK ABOUT IT

"Has the gearbox ever been checked or had its oil changed?"

**3. Inside****GOOD**

Dry carpets, clean smell, dashboard top smooth.

ASK ABOUT IT

Damp or musty, or a sticky, shiny dashboard top.

**4. Tyres****GOOD**

Even wear. The 4 numbers on the side (like **2319** = 2019) show under 6 years old.

ASK ABOUT IT

Worn on one edge, cracked, or 6+ years old.

**5. Cold start****GOOD**

Starts quickly. Any smoke clears in a minute.

ASK ABOUT IT

Hard to start, rattles, or keeps smoking.

**6. Test drive****BEFORE YOU DRIVE**

Seller says yes, their insurance covers you.

GOOD

Goes straight. Smooth gears. Firm brakes.

ASK ABOUT IT

Pulls to one side, clunks, or a warning light.

09

Your scorecard

Tick Yes or No, then count your No's.



At the car	Yes	No
Engine was cold when I arrived		
! VIN on the car matches the rego papers		
Seller's answers were the same as on the phone		
Paint even, no bubbly rust		
Sits level		
Tyres look good and are under 6 years old		
! Light test passed		
! Started easily, smoke cleared		
Windows, locks and air-con work, two keys		
Drives straight, smooth gears, firm brakes		
! No warning light on the drive		
Does the CVT pull away smoothly with no shudder or clunk?		
Do the records show engine oil and gearbox oil changes on time?		

My No's

____ / 13

Stop signs with No

What your count means



Any stop sign with a No?

Stop. Don't pay a deposit until it's sorted.

0 to 1

Looks well cared for

Many buyers still get a mechanic to check inside the engine.

2 to 3

A few questions

Ask the seller, and ask a mechanic what each No might cost.

4 to 6

Lots of unknowns

Get a mechanic to look before you pay anything.

7 or more

Many warning signs

Take your time and get advice first.

The decision is always yours.