TRADITIONAL OWNERS
Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVC) acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Big Desert area - the Woiwobaluk, Jaandewalji, Wergaia and Jupagalk peoples. Through their cultural traditions, Aboriginal people maintain their connection to their ancestral lands and waters, which stretches back over many tens of thousands of years. The soils and springs in the area were a valuable resource supporting agriculture, trade and habitation.

The Traditional Owners are represented by the Barengi Gadjar Land Council, who were recognised in a 2005 Native Title Consent Determination. As part of this Determination, there is a suite of Settlement Agreements which recognises the rights, interests and contribution of knowledge from the Woiwobaluk Nations into the management of this area.

HISTORY OF THE BIG DESERT BORES
Big Billy Bore was first installed in the 1860s and was used by stockmen to water their stock as they drove them from Nhill Station to Kow Plains Station. The original track went from this point through to Mountain Pine and the back of Cowangie. The original bore had a hand pump. The existing bore was sunk in 1912 and is 73.15 metres deep. Many of the other old bores along the track were sunk by the government to make water available to the Murray-Sunset farmers who ran sheep in the drought years in the desert. These bores included Cactus Bore, John’s Bore, and Jim Perry’s hand pump. W. Chatterton, R. Forsyth and J. Ireland were some of the local contractors who sunk these bores in 1928.

The Big Billy Bore and Windmill were refurbished in 2016 by FFMVC. New bore casing was installed to 69.4 metres and the static water level measured at 22.7 metres below surface level. The water contains many natural minerals however it is not compliant under the Victorian Safe Drinking Water Act 2003 and should not be consumed.

FURTHER INFORMATION
Phone: 136 186
www.ffm.vic.gov.au

Disclaimer
This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its officers do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purpose and therefore disclaims all liability for any errors, loss or other consequences which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

Front Cover - Mallee dune image courtesy of Miklaus 4WD Club.

Mallee State Forests & Parks

Big Desert State Forest
4WD TOURING MAP

Big Billy Bore
Camping Area

WILDERNESS AREAS
The Big Desert wilderness area is 8,272 hectares of native vegetation, waterways, and diverse animal and plant life. It provides opportunities for experienced 4WD touring and bushwalking enthusiasts. The area offers diverse vegetation zones typical of high country, including open mallee and hummock grassland. Wildlife includes the marbled murrelet and red-tailed black cockatoo.

SERVICES & SUPPLIES
- Access to water and camping areas
- Picnic grounds
- Toilets
- No campfires
- Please leave site clean and tidy
- No camping in conservation areas

MORE TO EXPLORE
- Mallee National Park
- Australian Wildlife Park
- Bool Lagoon

Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Forest Fire Management Victoria

Authorised by the Victorian Government,
Or of Kooringa Avenue and Eleventh Street, Kyabram

Authorized by the Victorian Government,
Or of Kooringa Avenue and Eleventh Street, Kyabram
TOURING FROM BIG BILLY BORE CAMPING AREA
Tracks in the Big Desert State Forest will challenge your four-wheel driving skills and give you the chance to see a range of native flora and fauna — you may even spot the endangered Mallee Emu-wren.

ROUTE 1
State forest west of Nilhi Murrayville Track — 57 kilometres/3 hours
Access via Cactus Bore and Firebreak Tracks. On this route you will see the iconic red, blue and yellow gum trees which stand tall in the surrounding heathland vegetation. Camping is permitted however there are no facilities and all rubbish must be taken with you.

ROUTE 2
12 Mile Patch Track — 100 kilometres/5 hours
White Springs to Twelve Mile Patch Track returning via Fire Break Track. Pines, casuarinas and open areas with soils break up the Mallee vegetation on this route and provide shady spots to stop for a break.

ROUTE 3
State forest east of Nilhi Murrayville Track — 45 kilometres/2.5 hours
Brushcutter Track via Brushcutter Flat, returning via Delioo Track. This route will take you through steep sand dunes.

ROUTE 4
Ngarak Conservation Park & SA/VIC Border — 190 kilometres/9 hours
Access via Firebreak Track West returning via Red Bluff Track. The Centre Track is a two-way track with a lookout on the Orchid Walk, Naram Wall and the walking trails around Pine Hut Soak are also popular spots to visit.

The Border Track is one-way (north to south) access only and is closed from 1 November to 31 March due to high fire danger.
Please note camping fees apply in South Australian Parks.

ROUTE 5
Wyperfeld National Park east of Nilhi Murrayville Track — 175 kilometres/7 hours
Mitlead Rock Track to park boundary along Palla Track returning via Chimaean’s Well Track. There are two campsites along this route - one at Round Swamp and another at Mitlead Rock Swamp. However facilities are only available at the Round Swamp campsite.

ROUTE 6
Wyperfeld National Park east of Nilhi Murrayville Track — extension to Route 5
Travelling via Lake Hindmarsh to Rainbow and returning via Herman’s Hill Lookout on Netting Fence Track or Chimaean’s Well Track. Herman’s Hill Lookout was developed by Nilhi Secondary School students and the local community. It offers scenic views of Lake Hindmarsh. Big Desert State Forest and surrounding farmland.

WARNING: The Nilhi Murrayville Track can become very slippery when wet. Please drive to conditions.

PLEASE NOTE
Please take care to protect the natural environment. Leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but photographs.

Please stay on designated tracks. All other tracks are only to be used by management vehicles or people with specific access requirements such as beekeepers. Recreational visitors must not drive on unsignposted tracks.

Please read the map and descriptions before you start your trip. The information provided is a general guide and may not be completely accurate. Always use common sense when planning and executing your trip.

Photo: Big Billy day use area and information site.