TRADITIONAL OWNERS
Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVC) acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the Big Desert area - the Wogjobaluk, Jadawla, Jadawaladj, Wergaia and Jupagul 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 soaks and springs in the area were a valuable resource supporting agriculture, trade and habitation.

The Traditional Owners are represented by the Baroong Gadja 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 Wogjobaluk 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 Cowange. 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 Murrayville farmers who ran sheep in the drought years in the desert. These bores included Cattus Bore, John's Bore, and Sim 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 69.3 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 and is suitable for use for particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequences which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

NO FIRES ON DAYS OF TOTAL FIRE BAN
Environment, Land, Water and Planning

MORE TO EXPLORE
For comprehensive information and interactive map visit: www.ffm.vic.gov.au/home/ffm

WILDERNESS AREA
The Big Billy Wilderness Area comprises approximately 32,000 ha of land, mainly open sand plain with low vegetation, and is located in the Western Desert of Victoria. The area is designated as a Wilderness Area under the National Parks and Conservation Act 1983. The area is managed by the Victorian Parks and Wildlife Services and is open to the public for recreation and tourism. The area is home to a variety of flora and fauna, including the rare and endangered Black-Footed Rock-wallaby and the Western Grey Kangaroo. The area is also important for cultural reasons, with significant Aboriginal cultural sites and artefacts.

ENVIRONMENT, LAND, WATER AND PLANNING

Forest Fire Management Victoria
Big Desert State Forest

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 Malleefowl or the critically endangered Mallee Emu-wren.

ROUTE 1
State forest west of Nulli 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 returning via Fire Break Track.
This route will take you through steep sand dunes. Take extra care in dry conditions.

ROUTE 3
Ngarkat 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 Orbild Walk. Namari Weir 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 4
Wyperfeld National Park east of Nulli Murrayville Track - 175 kilometres/7 hours
Mitedah Rock Track to park boundary along Pellas Track returning via Chinaman’s Well Track.
There are two campgrounds along this route - one at Round Swamp and another at Mitedah Rock Swamp. However facilities are only available at the Round Swamp campground.

ROUTE 5
Wyperfeld National Park east of Nulli Murrayville Track - extension to Route 5
Travel via Lake Hindmarsh to Rainbow and returning via Herman’s Hill lookout on Nettle Fence Track or Chinaman’s Well Track.
Herman’s Hill lookout was developed by N94 Secondary School students and the local community. It offers scenic views of Lake Hindmarsh Big Desert State Forest and surrounding farmland.

Big Billy Bore Campground Area was established to reduce the impact of remote camping on the forest. Water facilities include water, toilets and a pump-shower.

Please keep the area clean and tidy for others to enjoy and take all rubbish with you.
Big Billy Bore is located at:
Latitude: 30.538615
Longitude: 141.317205

OPEN ACCESS
Please stay on signposted tracks. All tracks are only to be used by managed vehicles or people with specific access requirements such as beekeepers. Recreational visitors must not drive on ungraveled tracks.

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

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