

CUSTOM 4WD

CLEARVIEW HILUX



THE CLEARVIEW HILUX

Take a look at how
Clearview Accessories
have built the ultimate
product testing tourer!



When you want to test products, and we mean really test products, you take them on a 4WD Action DVD trip. Mike from Clearview Accessories is so confident in his new Powerfold Mirrors, Easy Slide and Power Boards that he wanted them tested the toughest way possible. Of all the trips we do each year, Tassie would probably be the toughest of them all. So he set off to build a 4WD that would be the perfect showcase for his products and could handle Tassie's insane 4WD tracks too.

If you know Mike, you'd know of his work of art 200 Series Land Cruisers he's built up. Chopped into dualcab utes with all the gear anyone could ever want bunged on and in them. They're the ultimate dream trucks and any 4WDer would give their right and probably left arm too to own.

Mike didn't come down in the last shower. Knowing that he was sending his two young deputies into the muddiest, wildest tracks in Tassie, those tracks where you just can't avoid breaking something, he decided to hide the keys to his 200s and build them up something else to take instead.

Jay, a director at Clearview had an immaculate HiLux stock as the day he drove it out of the dealership a few years back. It was the perfect rig to start adding gear to for this trip.

Mike doesn't do anything by halves and went to the industry experts like REDARC, ARB and Norweld to make sure this HiLux was ready for anything.

↓ CANOPY SETUP

- Norweld custom canopy
- Redarc battery management system
- Clearview Easy Slide
- Clearview Pantry/Kitchen

The first step was to make it ready to camp out of for two weeks. Anyone who's looked at quality ally canopies knows of Norweld. Mike had Isaac's boys in Cairns whip up this beautiful canopy. Norweld offer an unconditional guarantee for life against faulty workmanship.

Inside the canopy slides a Clearview Easy Slide to make it super easy to slide the fridge out and drop it down so you can reach inside. There was something else very special tucked neatly inside the canopy – a new prototype product Mike asked his guru product man Graeme to whip up. It is basically two Easy Slides joined together to make one Big Boy of a slide. The genius in this idea, as with Clearview's other products, is that you can fit a full size tradie's toolbox in this slide. That is a Godsend for any tradie who can now slide their toolbox out and drop it down from their canopy to easily get to their tools.

On top of the canopy they fitted hard shell rooftop tent. The beauty of this design is it is very aerodynamic and helps cuts down fuel bills.



The Clearview Luxxy had her work cutout for her

↓ FIVE TIPS FOR CHOOSING THE RIGHT CANOPY

WEIGHT

This is first because we reckon it's the most important. You can have the biggest, baddest 4WD with all the best gear bolted on, but if you overload it, she'll drive like an absolute dog. Consider what you want to put in, if you really need it, what upgrades you plan on to take the weight and most importantly, how you distribute all the weight. Keep the heavy gear over the axle, and limit how much hangs off the back where you can.

SPACE

Everyone wants plenty of useable space. But maybe you just want a dogbox for your fridge and important gear, or you want a full size canopy. Whatever your choice, your best bet is to think about exactly what you want to do with the canopy. You'll be kicking yourself if you opt for a smaller setup, and your swag is strapped to your roofrack when you're heading down the highway and it's belting down with rain.

SECURITY

Whichever option you choose, it's worth thinking about keeping your gear safe. You might decide on a canvas setup instead of alloy doors, but even the best canvas on the market will struggle to hold up against a thief with a good knife. Central locking, although an added cost usually, is one of those creature comforts that will take your setup to the next level

APPLICATION

Similar to space, think about what you will use the vehicle for. If you need the flat tray for the daily drive duties, consider a removable setup. If you're planning on doing some big touring trips, a full canopy might be the go. Speak to people who have theirs setup already and consider all the options, and write down all the pros and cons to each before you order yours. You'll be glad you did

BUDGET

Finally, you can only ever get the canopy setup you want if it fits to what you can afford. Ensure whatever setup you choose is practical and suits what you need. If it achieves that and it's in your budget, then you're laughing.



How good's that setup! everything you need, yet it packs away nice and small





If you wanna really test your products, Tassie is the place!

BARWORK & DRIVELINE

- ARB front and rear air lockers
- Warn winch
- ARB bulbar
- Clearview Power Boards – sidesteps

Mike had his mates at ARB give the Lux a 40mm lift plus lock both the front and rear diffs.

One really important tip and the biggest mistake many 4WDers make when choosing suspension is – know the accessories and gear you'll mostly be carrying so your suspension expert can help supply you with the right springs and shocks.

A front or rear spring designed to hold up a steel winch bar and winch plus a canopy loaded with gear and full water tanks will ride stiff as a board when it's empty or the canopy is removed.

You need to choose the springs to match the loads you'll carry to get the ride quality and suspension flex at its best.

On the trips 4WD Action does, twin diff locks aren't just nice to have, they are must haves.

It's amazing the difference having both diff locks makes – without them, the Lux wouldn't have made it through the insanely tough tracks it drove.

While the lockers, lift and tyres got it that much further, there were quite a few times when the good old winch was called on. When all four tyres lost grip the winch saved their bacon and shows the importance of fitting a winch to any 4WD that goes off road.

A winch gives you peace of mind when travelling on your own or on really tough tracks as it will in almost every case be a way out and back onto solid ground.

Lastly the guys wrapped the Lux in a trick looking artwork with the Clearview logo and even with built in pinstripes. That made it that much harder to see the bush pinstripes courtesy of Tassie's tight and twisty tracks.



CLEARVIEW PRODUCT TESTING

Mike and the team have tested all their products for tens of thousands of kays all over Australia. One of their latest designs is the Powerfold Mirrors. These are the same tough mirrors that let you see much more beside and behind you but now fold in flush with the side of the 4WD and back to their original position at the touch of a button. If that's not enough, they also come with heater elements inside to stop the mirrors from fogging up. Tassie proved to be the perfect place to give them hell, rubbing them on mud banks and huge tree trunks plus dragging them through endless kays of scrub. Another new product Mike has tested and wanted tortured was Clearview's Power Boards. These clever side steps fold up beside the sills to look like factory fitted side rails and when you open the doors, they automatically fold down to make it so easy to get in and out of lifted 4WDs. These weren't designed for hardcore 4WDing but we punished them anyway.

RUNDOWN

VEHICLE: 2011 Toyota HiLux SR5

ENGINE: 1KD-FTV commonrail turbo intercooled diesel

SUSPENSION: Old Man Emu 2in suspension lift

WHEELS AND TYRES: 265/70/R17 Toyo Open Country R/Ts

"Would love to thank ARB, Norweld and Clearview Accessories"

The tracks they drove on this trip were extreme and not something many HiLuxes will do normally. She suffered a ripped off flare and some damage to undertray toolboxes that came down hard on big rocksteps but amazingly otherwise came back looking really good.

You can drive some really tough tracks with the right accessories, keep weight down, and go as slow as you can to get through.

Driving too fast over obstacles is one of the biggest causes of damage.

Having a winch, lift, good tyres and twin lockers helps you get through tricky obstacles more slowly which saves a lot of expensive repairs when you get home.

One of the best parts of Tassie is being able to setup at a stunning spot like this after a day on the tracks

