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FEELS GOOD TO BE BAD

Bo Clayton's custom 'Lux and matching camper is a dream setup.

PAT WILLIAMS BO CLAYTON

Based in Mandurah to the south of Perth, Bo Clayton had been happy navigating the west coast's wide-open spaces in his big H2 Hummer.

When he and five mates put their heads together last year to begin planning a cross-country trip of a lifetime over to Fraser Island and back, he had to face the hard reality that the H2 was simply too big for Fraser's tight

inland tracks.

Bo set his sights on a new dual cab HiLux with matching custom camper trailer as the perfect setup for his much anticipated journey, and after sourcing his new Toyota steed, he set about re-building it from the ground up to match his vision of a flawless long range touring ute.



POWER SUPPLY

The decision was made to pull the engine before it hit 37,000km and give it the full treatment.

A new, more powerful custom turbo was fitted, along with bigger injectors and fuel system, larger throttle body, four-inch induction system with new filter system, a larger front

mount intercooler plus tricked up gearbox with a manual converter lock in any gear.

Above water vent kits for the diffs, transfer case and gearbox were fitted, plus a massive 147L fuel tank to facilitate proper long haul missions, provide peace of mind in remote areas and elevate Bo's ute to true long range tourer status.



RUNNING GEAR

The big 'Lux was going to be in for some rough treatment, and Bo meant to ensure that it was fully up to the task.

Heavy-duty axles were put in place front and rear, as well as heavy-duty universal joints and new gear ratios. A pair of electric lockers were fitted front and rear as well as a full underbody protection kit to guard the undercarriage against bumps and scrapes. Four inches of additional ground clearance was gained with the fitment of an Ultimate Suspension upgrade kit.

Bo is running an ARB steel bullbar upfront to protect against rough

terrain and suicidal fauna, while a 10,000lb Platinum Bluetooth winch and a set of Lightforce spotlights complete the front end.

Custom barwork all round protects the HiLux as well as Bo's matching custom camper trailer from the environment, while an imported Arctic Truck flare kit offers a standout point of difference. A new custom built air intake on the bonnet channels air down past the turbo while upgraded disk and drum brakes provide the stopping power necessary to equalise the spec'd up engine's extra grunt.





12V SYSTEM

As with the rest of the build, Bo wasn't about to cut any corners when it came to wiring up his rig.

A set of Rockford Fosgate wakeboard speakers with a wired-up amplifier takes charge of the airwaves, while the Bluetooth-equipped marine HiFi hooks up with the same unit fitted on the camper trailer to offer four-speaker control.

Three 120amp batteries in the HiLux matched to another two 120amp power cells in the camper provide a power bank we reckon Elon Musk would be proud of, bolstered by a 130watt solar panel fitted to the camper.

A cargo bed extender was fitted to the HiLux as well as a 55L under-tray water tank matched with another 200L tank on board the camper. Four reverse cameras fitted to

the camper makes blind spots a non-issue and maneuvering the camper a breeze.

Elsewhere, the ute's back seat was removed to make way for a 60L ARB fridge coupled with another 47L ARB fridge in the camper to act as a freezer. A custom roof console in the 'Lux is fitted with assorted switches to function as command central for the rig's mighty electric system.



TRAILER TIME

The camper trailer rides smoothly atop full gaffer independent suspension, while both ute and camper are wearing matching 18x12" alloy rims shod with 33" Maxxis Bighorn mud terrain tyres.

The camper is equipped with a Honda generator plus a hot water system and its own winch. A 30 second awning is fitted to

the camper as well as a Gordigear rooftop tent, which provides comfortable sleeping quarters up off the ground.

LED lightbars and camp lighting is fitted all round and all lights are independently switchable. Both camper and ute are protected by the Couplertec electronic rust prevention system.

Both vehicle and camper are decked out with matching customised carbon fibre interior components with matching vinyl decals along the bodywork. Bo's schmock ute and camper turn heads wherever they're taken, and as the plates say, this is one BAD LUX! **4WD**