

# WINDOW SAVER

The rear Rear Window Protector from Obie's Outback is a smashing idea.

BY TIM STANNERS



Outback travel can take considerable preparation, and anyone that's ever travelled along some of our iconic Outback roads will know how tough they can be on our vehicles and campers. Tracks such as the Birdsville Track and the Gibb River Road are full of loose gibber sections, which can present considerable danger from oncoming vehicles, which can all too often kick up rocks and gravel towards the unsuspecting traveller.

However, few of us consider the danger these tracks present when towing campers, caravans and trailers. Travelling at 80 kilometres per hour throws a mix of dirt, gravel, rocks and gibbers behind the vehicle at considerable speed and the towed vehicle then becomes a massive deflector shield, propelling these projectiles in all directions – often back towards the towing vehicle.

Many modern campers and caravans come fitted with framed stone

deflectors to minimise the chance of damage to the camper as well as the towing vehicle; and in particular, rear window damage from a deflected gibber. However, they don't remove the risk altogether and unfortunately I've experienced this reduced risk – twice!

Having your rear window suddenly explode can be quite an earth-shattering experience. Excuse the pun. Stabilising a shattered window with duct tape and cardboard can take considerable time, as can replacing the shattered window

in remote towns (not to mention the cost as well, and the clean-up of dust and glass post-repair).

Personal experience aside, I've seen plenty of unfortunate travellers who have also experienced this type of incident first-hand, as well as plenty who have attempted their own versions of prevention with stone deflectors and rear window protectors. Cyclone mesh, cardboard and even beer cartons are often seen taped to the rear of vehicles to try to stop these expensive little missiles when towing.

Travelling through Outback Queensland's Diamantina region recently, we came across a couple who had a nifty (yet simple) solution fitted to their Land Rover Discovery II: A clear

polycarbonate rear window protector from Obie's Outback. Comparing this to my own custom cardboard and tape solution with its visibility, fixing and window coverage issues led me to contact Mike and Sue O'Brien from Obie's Outback to see whether we could fit one to our 2010 Prado.

Obie's Outback manufactures Rear Window Savers for most modern 4X4 vehicles. And the company can custom-make the protectors to your own specifications. The Rear Window Saver is made from high impact polycarbonate; is fully transparent; and uses the Dual Lock 3M Tape solution to secure the sheet to the rear window. Rubber feet create a shock barrier between the rear window and

the polycarbonate sheet, to ensure any shockwave is absorbed without damage to the window itself.

Fitting the Rear Window Saver takes around 30 minutes initially, and it can be removed and refitted again in less than five minutes after that. Given a replacement rear window can cost up to \$1,500, the Rear Window Saver from Obie's Outback provides a practical, efficient and cost-effective solution when setting your vehicle up for a long trip. I'm sure it has already saved me from a hat trick of smashed rear windows.

**info** Prices vary upon application. For more information, head to: [www.obiesoutback.com.au](http://www.obiesoutback.com.au).

**01**

All fitted up: The flexible, rubber-mounted cover providing great protection against rock strikes.

**02**

If you have done any amount of Outback towing, chances are you've been in this position before.

**03**

The Rear Window Saver is applied quite firmly with some 3M double-sided tape.

**04**

The cover going onto the back of the family Prado.

**05**

The typical bush fix is only temporary, and has plenty of drawbacks.

**06**

After quite a few kilometres with the Rear Window Saver fitted, we have been very impressed.

