

# I DON'T NEED A DUAL BATTERY SYSTEM

I was in my local shopping centre carpark loading supplies into my 100 Series for a trip when I was approached by a very enthusiastic chap, a real estate agent. He was attracted by the Work Completed Canning livery down both sides and asked, what that was about and about 4WD setups. I explained that it was a book on the history of the CSR and that I was the author. I then explained my vehicle set up and why I thought certain items were necessary for my use.

Soon much discussion centred on my Redarc BCDC smart charger battery isolator. He seemed concerned about splitting his 100 Series factory set up of two starting batteries, into one starting battery and one auxiliary battery. I explained how mine worked and what ran off the auxiliary battery, adding I didn't have any problems and that it was now a common modification on 200 Series Cruisers as well. He still had doubt on his face.

He then said he wanted to travel the CSR with his wife and daughter but was considering not having a second battery. "I'll just run my Engel off the starting battery overnight and in the morning I'll start the vehicle with a portable jump starter," he said.



▲ **Redarc BCDC1240D.**

Photo: Redarc

You could have knocked me over with a feather. An image of a turkey was starting to form in my mind, but I quickly dismissed it because that would be disparaging to turkeys. I then endeavoured to explain the risks of not having an isolated battery but still running a fridge, especially for a trip such as the CSR. He wasn't having any of it.

*Crossing Savory Creek  
on the Canning.*

Photo: Graham and Denise Sweetman



# THE THINGS YOU SEE!

WITH (TRUTHFUL) PHIL BIANCHI



Author's  
*LandCruiser*  
ready to go.

Photo: Graham and  
Denise Sweetman

So, and rare for me, I shut up. I pictured him out on the CSR; he wakes up on a grey morning in dreary rain. He is unable to light the fire because the wood is wet, he goes to start the vehicle for his wife and daughter to sit in it while he packs up the camp. Turning the key all he gets is the dreaded click. Not to worry he thinks, he digs out his jump starter, connects it to the battery and turns the key. He gets nothing, the jump starter had also failed. He forgot to recharge it. Reaching for his mobile phone to ring the RAC, he dials up only to find he can't get a signal.

Turning around he sees his wife and daughter staring at him with that look. If you've ever had the look you know it can freeze your heart stone cold dead and in this case deservedly so. His wife and daughter had been watching him endeavouring to start the vehicle, with arms folded they glare at him, with anger and thoughts of 'loser' going through their minds.

Then with relief, or so I thought, he changed the subject to tyres. "I was thinking of getting XXX brand tyres, at only \$250 each, they seem good value for money." Here we go again I thought. In frustration and rapidly losing patience I said, "You're a real estate agent right." "Yes," he said. "What's the difference between a cheap renovator's delight and a well constructed quality home?" The point I was making registered somewhat, I think. I then thought of explaining tyre load and speed ratings but gave up in frustration; it would be more time wasted.

Folks, these people are out there, especially on the CSR. Hopefully if he ever gets to take a trip along the CSR he would by then be better informed and hopefully prepared and not put his family at risk and cause unnecessary expense to authorities forced to assist, should his vehicle break down.

As my old mate Davo often says, 'Why he no listen?'