

Monday, 15 June 2009

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# Media Release

## Otways winter trail bike crackdown

Illegal trail bike behaviour is the focus of a campaign in the Great Otway National Park, Otway Forest Park and Anglesea Heath this winter.

Victoria Police, Department of Sustainability and Environment officers and Parks Victoria rangers have already conducted two specific operations targeting environmental damage and seasonal road closures, with more operations to follow.

Riders are permitted to ride on official roads and tracks on public land if they hold a motorcycle licence, and their bike is registered. They are also reminded that normal road rules apply in State forests and parks.

DSE Trail Bike Project Officer Simon White said riders should be aware that some roads and tracks in parks and forests throughout Victoria are now seasonally closed to protect track surfaces, water quality and the native vegetation.

"Victoria's forests provide many sporting and recreational opportunities including trail bike riding, but this needs to be balanced with protection of the environment and the safety and enjoyment of all forest users," Mr White said.

"Riders were also asked to show respect for other bush users by slowing down and reducing noise near other people."

DSE will now test motorbikes in the field to ensure that riders keep their exhaust emissions under the 94-decibels limit.

The operations are part of the State Government's \$5 million Trail Bike Project to improve the management of trail bikes on public land.

"The four year trail bike project involves working with riders, local residents and other forest users to guide the delivery of education, compliance, infrastructure and rehabilitation programs," Mr White said.

DSE, Parks Victoria and the Victoria Police have been working with riders to develop a Trail Bike Unloading Area, maps and information for riders. "We anticipate that this work will bring about changes in rider behaviour that the community is seeking" said Mr White

Information on trail bike riding was handed out to trail bike riders over the weekend. Further information about trail bike riding can be obtained from DSE offices, or on the internet [www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes)

Road Closure information can be accessed online at the **Before You Go** section of [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au), or by phoning the Parks Victoria Information Centre (131 963) or the DSE Customer Service Centre (136 186).



Caption: DSE, Parks Victoria and Victoria Police prepare for a recent trail bike compliance operation.