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# Media Release

## Eppalock Trail Bike Offences Send a Spring Message

Three trail bike riders nabbed while riding off-road in the Kimbolton Forest near Lake Eppalock have prompted the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) to issue a warning for all riders.

DSE Trail Bike Project Officer Adrian Parker said the three riders were committing a basic offence.

“They were riding off the properly constructed track, which means damage to native vegetation and disruption of the soil, leading to erosion,” Mr Parker said.

“It was raining on the day our officers spoke to them, and water was already beginning to wear away at the ruts in the soil where their wheels had broken the surface,” he said.

“Spring is a great time to ride, but ignorance and occasionally deliberate misbehaviour has been getting riders into trouble right across Victoria.”

DSE’s warning to all riders is that while on this occasion the riders were co-operative when approached and received a fine and two official warnings, offences of this nature can lead to court appearances and convictions.

“Spring is here, the school holidays are only a few days away and riders must know that our patrolling officers are out there, enforcing the law to protect our forests, other forest users and the riders themselves,” Mr Parker said.

“Across the state, DSE officers have been finding that far too many riders have not been getting the message about safe and responsible riding,” he said.

“The rules are simple; you must be a licensed rider, on a registered bike, and stick to the properly constructed track.”

There are 36,000 kilometres of forest roads in Victoria, where riders are welcome but must follow the rules of the road.

DSE Forest Officers and Victoria Police are conducting compliance operations focused on unlicensed and unregistered motorcycle use throughout the year, as part of the State Government’s \$5 million Trail Bike Project to improve the management of trail bikes on public land.

Riders seeking more information should visit the DSE website, [www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes) or call the DSE statewide number, 136 186.

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