

Trail Bike Initiative

Project Update

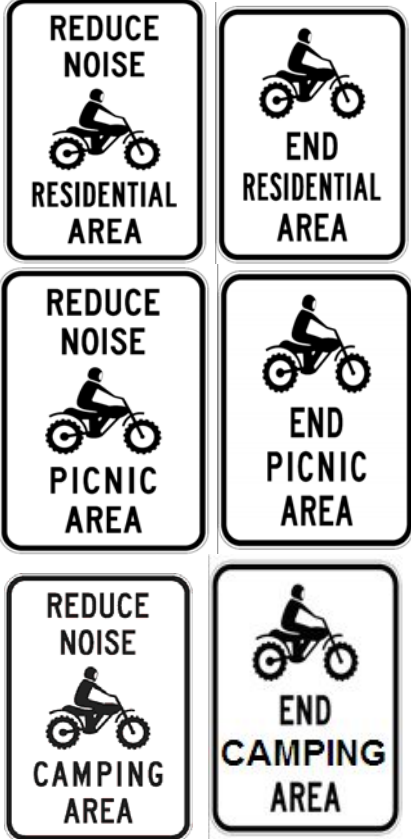
January 2008

New signs for trail bike riders for use in bush areas




In October 2007, some draft signs were put out to trail bike riders for public comment. The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and VicRoads developed these draft signs for use on forest roads to provide information to riders to enable them to voluntarily change their riding behaviour in areas where there is conflict with other forest recreationalists or with residents who live near public land and are affected adversely by trail bike noise.

Comment was received back from over 40 riders who responded to an online poll conducted on Dirt Bike World. Additional comment was also received from the Victorian Motorcycle Advisory Committee (VMAC), Motorcycling Australia, Victoria Police, two Licensed Tour Operators, members of Trail Bike Community Reference Groups, DSE Regional staff, Honda Australia Rider Training and Parks Victoria. The feedback was quite positive and supportive of the signs and a number of suggestions have been adopted to improve the final signs. The final signs together with an explanation of their purpose and where they have changed from the draft that went out for public comment are detailed in the table below.

Proposed new signs

Zone/area	Supporting sign	Comment
Low Noise Zone		<p>These signs will indicate zones where voluntary changes in riding behaviour will help the many users of forests more happily co-exist. These zones will be shown on maps and will be supported by signs in the bush to indicate to riders that we would like them to ride safely and quietly (i.e. drop their revs) in noise sensitive areas.</p> <p>These Low Noise Zones will be voluntary and will be used near picnic and camping areas and along forest roads near residential areas to encourage riders to ride more slowly and keep the noise of their trail bike down. To work, they will rely on rider goodwill and are not legal requirements.</p> <p>They will only be used in areas where there is conflict between trail bike riders and other forest users or residents and will only work with the support of riders.</p> <p>The End signs (ie. End Picnic Area) will indicate that the rider has now passed through the low noise zone and normal riding can resume.</p> <p>The 'Reduce Noise Camping Area' and 'End Camping Area' signs were not part of the suite of draft signs put out for comment but have been</p>

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<p>Voluntary Exclusion Zone</p>		<p>added at the suggestion of the public.</p> <p>Voluntary Exclusion Zones were proposed to be placed in areas where it is difficult to reduce the impact of trail bike noise on either residential areas adjoining public land or on passive recreational areas (such as picnic areas). The signs were to indicate that riders using these areas are causing conflict with residents and passive recreation users and it would be preferred if trail bike riders chose to ride in alternative areas.</p> <p>This sign has been scrapped as the feedback was that it would confuse riders without an explanation of why they shouldn't enter and may in fact encourage riders to enter out of curiosity.</p>
<p>Trail bike unloading area</p>		<p>This sign will be used to indicate trail bike unloading areas in the forest, where trail bikes can safely unload from trailers, and where other facilities may be provided (may include information board, picnic tables and toilets).</p>
<p>Mandatory Exclusion Zone</p>		<p>Mandatory Exclusion Zones are placed in areas where trail bike riders are prohibited from riding. These signs are not new and can be encountered in forest areas to indicate roads closed to trail bikes (and typically all motorised vehicles) and on walking trails (it is illegal for trail bikes to ride on walking trails and these signs are used on walking trails where this is occurring, to clearly communicate to riders that this is not allowed).</p> <p>Mandatory Exclusions are legally enforceable and trail bike riders found in these areas will be prosecuted.</p>

Many thanks to all those who took the time to provide comments and suggestions for improving the signs.

It is intended that the new signs will now be rolled out in select forest locations across the State, in consultation with trail bike riders and local communities. If you have any queries in relation to these proposed signs please email Roger.Pitt@dse.vic.gov.au.

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