

Trail Bike Project

Newsletter

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Statewide Information

Trail Bike Visitor Area Taking Shape

The first Trail Bike Visitor Area funded as part of the Trail Bike Project is under construction near Noojee in Gippsland. This pilot project is the result of many months of community consultation in respect of location, design and facilities to be provided. Trail bike riders, local residents, and other outdoor recreation user groups have all provided input to the development.

Providing visitor facilities for trail bike riders in appropriate locations will reduce the use of less suitable areas where noise, environmental damage, parking congestion and public safety issues have increased. Riders will be encouraged to use the new visitor areas, which will provide comprehensive information on responsible riding, legal requirements for riding in State forest and some suggested riding routes.

Trail Bike Compliance Training

More than 70 DSE and Parks Victoria Authorised Officers attended trail bike specific compliance training at Marysville, Sale and Horsham during October and November. Compliance operations will initially focus on providing riders with information on responsible riding practices and legal obligations, but will move towards prosecutions for off-road riding, which is an increasingly common offence in some areas.

Rider Information Initiatives

With the support of the Victorian Motorcycle Advisory Council, more than 1000 people attending the Australian Motorcycle Expo at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre went home with DSE trail bike riding information packs which included practical guidance on where to ride, legal requirements for riding in the bush, and responsible riding practices.

New Trail Bike Signs

VicRoads and DSE have worked together to develop a new set of information signs specifically designed for trail bike riders. The new signs will designate advisory Low Noise Zones close to residential and recreation areas, areas where riding is discouraged and directional signage to Trail Bike Visitor Areas.



Some of the new trail bike information signs

Environment Protection Authority Trains DSE Staff in Noise Emission Testing



Lou Raffa (EPA), Wally Notman (DSE), Snr. Constable Anthony Wolfe (Victoria Police) and Adrian Parker (DSE) conduct a noise test on a police Special Solo Unit trail bike.

DSE staff are working with the EPA to reduce the number of excessively noisy trail bikes being used in State forests. Nominated DSE staff will be trained by the EPA to conduct indicative noise tests in the field. Riders whose bikes are found to be excessively noisy will be required to have their bikes tested at an EPA approved noise testing centre to ensure they comply with the 94dB(A) maximum noise limit.

North East Regional Information

Overview of the Trail Bike Initiative

As part of the 2006 Environmental Sustainability Action Statement, a \$5 million four year initiative to better manage recreational trail bike use of State Forests was announced.

The project will be implementing recommendations from the Trail Bike Options Paper, which was developed in 2005/06 following consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

The initiative is now up and running with a full team made up of:

Roger Pitt (Project Manager), Richard Wadsworth (Recreational and Tourism Coordinator), Regional Trail Bike Project Officers - Joy Harte (Gippsland), Simon White (Southwest), Adrian Parker (North West) and Felicity Wardlaw (North East).

Community Engagement

Three trail bike community forums were recently held in Ballarat, Bendigo and Beechworth. The forums brought together a range of interest groups to discuss ideas and solutions to the future management of trail bikes on public land.

Over fifty people attend the Beechworth forum, with a diverse range of interest groups represented including, trail bike riders, recreational users, residents and government and industry.

Some of the key issues discussed were in relation to riding facilities for under age kids, riding and the affect on the environment, need for adequate signage in the bush, issues related to noise, designated areas



for riders, enforcement capacity, education and awareness and code of conduct within the bush.

Following the forum, a report was issued to all participants. The report outlined DSE's initial response or action in relation to the solutions and ideas brought up at the forum.

The challenge now is to turn solutions that were identified into reality as people work collectively to shift trail bike riding onto a more sustainable footing.

Rehabilitation Projects

Stanley State Forest (Yackandandah)

As part of the trail bike initiative a joint tree planting project between DSE, Land Care, North East Water, Indigo Shire, Vic Police and Yackandandah Primary School was carried out in Stanley State Forest.

The tree planting day coincided with National Tree Day. Students planted native trees to rehabilitate and restore a site that was previously being used as informal trail bike unloading area.

Plans are underway to establish a more formal trail bike unloading area within Stanley State Forest.

Reform Hill (Myrtleford)

DSE and 'Friends of Reform Hill' have been working together to install fencing and rehabilitate areas in Reform Hill State Forest near Myrtleford to encourage sustainable and responsible use by trail bike riders.

Similar rehabilitation projects will be carried out in targeted areas throughout the life of this project.



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