

# RIDE FOR TOMORROW

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Newsletter

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## Statewide Information



Trail Bike Project Officer Simon White with Motorcycling Australia's Chief Executive Officer David White.

### DSE joins Motorcycling Australia for World Environment Day

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) Trail Bike Project staff joined Motorcycling Australia (MA) and industry representatives to celebrate World Environment Day at Sol Green Reserve, South Melbourne. Guests took in displays from Honda, PS Importers, Zero Motorcycles Australia (distributors of electric trail bikes), Vectrix (distributors of electric scooters) and the DSE and were able to have a chat with representatives about the latest green innovations in motorcycling.

MA's CEO David White said that it was important for the motorcycling industry to play a leading role in protecting the environment to ensure the future of motorcycling both recreationally and competitively. Roger Pitt, Trail Bike Project Manager noted that Motorcycling Australia and Motorcycling Victoria had a key role in promoting awareness of the need for all motorcycling enthusiasts to respect the environment while enjoying their recreation.

The inaugural MA Environmental Achievement Award was presented to Motorcycling Victoria for its efforts at the State Motorcycle Complex, Broadford, including the planting over the years of more than 30,000 trees and a 65% reduction in venue waste going to landfill.

### Trail Bike Rider Research

Preliminary results from the trail bike research project indicate that riders are very committed to their recreation, are generally aware of many of the key issues regarding riding on public land, and acknowledge that irresponsible riding by a minority can generate significant conflict.

Some surprises came up, including a much higher than expected number of cases where riders have been threatened, abused and even attacked. Of particular concern was the high number of riders reporting tracks being sabotaged with the aim of injuring riders.

Rider's attitudes towards DSE were ambivalent. On the one hand, riders recognised that DSE has a complex responsibility managing the forests for a broad range of users, and on the other hand feeling that DSE does not provide satisfactory explanations for its forest management policies.

The great majority of riders felt that their environmental impact was relatively low compared to some other user groups, rural industries and residents, and DSE itself.

Preliminary findings have been presented to a small forum of Government agencies, motorcycle industry representatives and key stakeholders prior to preparation of a final report which will be made available to all research participants and other interested readers.

### Noise Testing Compliance Operations

DSE noise testing staff have spoken to several thousand riders over the past two years about the importance of reducing noise to minimise conflict with other forest users. This work has now progressed to the next phase where riders of excessively noisy bikes are being reported to the EPA and required to take the bike to a Licensed Noise Testing Station for a follow-up test at the owner's expense. The fine for failing to comply with noise emission requirements is currently \$567.00.

# South West Regional Information

## Proposed Road and Single-Track Closures - South West Area

DSE received over 50 submissions to the Proposed Road and Single-Track Closure Plan – South West Area. The DSE South West Area has assessed the submissions and incorporated some changes to the overall plan

The plan is currently being signed off. Stakeholders who made submissions to the plan will be notified when the final plan is released. The final plan will also be placed on the DSE website

[www.dse.vic.gov.au/forests](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/forests)



Trail bike single-tracks that are proposed for closure in Enfield State Forest.

## Noise Testing - Green Triangle Enduro

DSE recently attended the Portland Green Triangle Enduro and provided riders with some background to the DSE trail Bike Project. DSE also tested competitors bikes for compliance with the 94dBA allowable noise limit.



DSE officers conducting noise testing in preparation for the Enduro



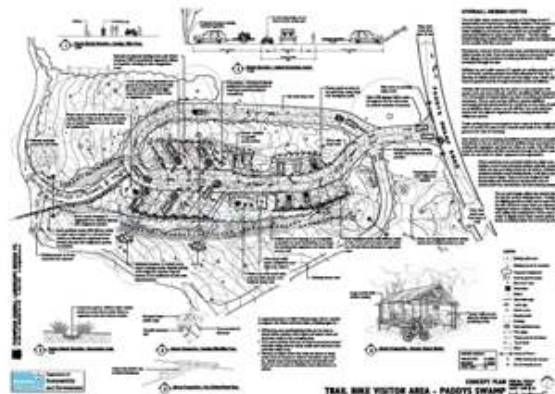
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[www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes)

## Trail Bike Visitor Areas



The Paddys Swamp TBVA plans – Full plans are available on the DSE trail bike website

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) has engaged two contractors to develop two Trail Bike Unloading Areas. The two sites are

- Ross Creek Trail Bike Visitor Area  
10km South West of Ballarat (approx)
- Paddys Swamp Trail Bike Visitor Area  
18km South of Winchelsea (approx)

The two sites are expected to be completed by the end of winter 2009. Work is still progressing on the development of maps for riders and information for an information board and brochure.



DSE is looking to finalise the extent of reduce noise areas in conjunction with the Paddys Swamp and Ross Creek TBVA. If you have a suggestion please contact the Trail Bike Project Officer



## Enforcement

DSE, Parks Victoria, local Police are stepping up trail bike compliance operations now that Winter is here. There have been several multi-agency operations already this winter with more to follow. Media releases about the operations are available on the DSE website [www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes)

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