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# Media Release

## JOINT PATROLS CONTINUE IN BENDIGO'S FORESTS

Trail bike rider behaviour was on track in Bendigo's state forests recently, during a joint patrol by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Victoria Police and Parks Victoria.

The patrols were held in the Bendigo area, including Wellsford State Forest, Lake Eppalock, Bendigo Regional Park and Greater Bendigo National Park.

DSE staff, including two trail bike teams involving DSE, Parks Victoria and Victoria Police riders were out and about making sure trail bike riders were correctly licensed and registered, while riding responsibly.

DSE Bendigo Trail Bike Project Officer Adrian Parker said trail bike riders were generally doing the right thing, but there was some room for improvement.

"We spoke to a number of riders, reminding them to stay on the tracks and carry their licences. While it was great to see riders out enjoying the state forests, we all need to do our bit to make sure we're enjoying ourselves responsibly," Mr Parker said.

"Staying on open public roads, maintaining a safe speed, reducing noise levels and minimising our impact on the forests' plants and animals while riding are just some of the things to keep in mind when you jump on the bike. Also keep in mind that while the Bendigo region has benefited from some winter rain, the forests are quite fragile and susceptible to vegetation damage and erosion. Staying on the formed roads minimises our impacts on the environment."

Forest users can expect to see DSE staff in the state forests, patrolling regeneration areas and the frequently visited recreational sites.

DSE is working closely with all members of the community to ensure safety, maintain a sustainable environment and prevent disruptions for all users of state forests and public land – through its Trail Bike Project.

For more information about the project, visit [www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes)

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