

Trail Bike Project

Newsletter

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Statewide Information



Ride for Tomorrow

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) Trail Bike Project staff took the Ride for Tomorrow message to three major motorcycle events in late 2008. Participants in the Stockman's Rally at Big River and the Blue Light Ride near Noojee had their bikes tested for noise compliance, learned more about sustainable riding, and then were joined by DSE staff who rode the event course with them.

Trail Bike Project Officers distributed thousands of Ride for Tomorrow brochures to visitors at the four day Australian Motorcycle Expo in Melbourne. Working jointly with the Victorian Motorcycle Advisory Council (VMAC), project team members spoke to many hundreds of riders about responsible trail bike riding and what riders can do to promote sustainable riding.

For more Ride for Tomorrow information go to www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes.

Trail Bike Rider Research

DSE contracted the research company Instinct and Reason in late November 2008 to improve government's understanding of what riders want out of their recreation as well as their views on other issues such as conflict with other forest users and residents over noise, environmental impacts of forest use and current legal requirements (such as the need to licensed and registered). The rider research involves:

- one on one in-depth interviews with 20 riders (mixture of age groups, gender, frequency of

use and location - rural and metro based riders) - completed in December

- 12 Focus Group discussions with small groups of riders (mixture of age groups, gender and home) - to be completed in late January
- On-line survey of 500 riders - to be completed in February/March

In addition to talking to riders, the researchers will also be talking to trail bike retailers to better understand their perceptions of what information riders want as well as their understanding of what types of motor bikes can be legally registered, and what types of mufflers meet legal noise emission requirements.

The researchers will also talk to rural residents who live adjacent to popular forest riding areas, to better understand the issues they may have with trail bike use in their area.

Trail Bike Operations

Visitors to State forests across Victoria are increasingly likely to meet DSE forest officers conducting patrols on trail bikes. Fifteen DSE staff with motorcycle riding experience have undertaken additional training to become qualified to ride the Yamaha, Kawasaki and Honda trail bikes.



"People may be a bit surprised at first to see Forest Officers on trail bikes but it makes a lot of sense. Staff can travel around the forest very easily, and get to meet lots of visitors; it certainly helps our information and education work to be more effective", said Roger Pitt, Trail Bike Project Manager

North West Regional Information

Pyrenees State Forest

A small meeting of key agency staff met for the first time in December to discuss the possibility of establishing a Trail Bike Visitor Area (TBVA) at the foot of Fraser's Hill in the Pyrenees State Forest just out of Avoca.

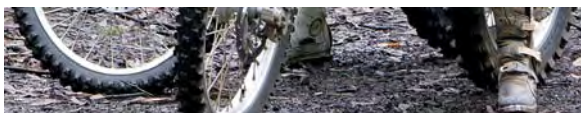
This represented the first stage with the next step to consult with the local community with notices in store windows and via the local papers.

It is anticipated that there will not be any great issues with the proposal as the site is being used at the moment by groups participating in motorised recreational pursuits. The proposal to establish a TBVA will formalise what is already occurring at the site and establish some control over what is occurring in the forest.

As well as the local community, consultation for the project has involved; Parks Victoria, Victoria Police, the Country Fire Authority, Green Triangle Enduro club, Pyrenees Shire, 4WD Victoria area representative and Fossickers.

Additional work linked to the Fraser's proposal includes;

- A Map of the State Forest is currently being developed to better inform riders of the public road network, the location of *Reduce Noise* zones and other important aspects e.g water catchment areas.
- Signage will be installed throughout the state forest to inform riders that they are entering a *Reduce Noise* area
- Compliance - on-going compliance activities with DSE and Victoria Police will occur throughout the forest. Off-road riding and noisy bikes will be targeted as well as unregistered and unlicensed riders.
- Minor upgrade of some facilities at the Waterfalls Picnic area.
- Rehabilitation of single-lane track will be undertaken in priority areas primarily around the TBVA.



Rehabilitation Works

A number of sites have been earmarked for works for the next couple of months. These areas will be targeted for fencing, signage and other minor rehabilitation works.

Sites identified include: Eppalock Recreation area, Bealiba and other Crown land sites around Bendigo.



The Eppalock site (above) will see some fencing, gravelling and planting to complement the existing facilities.

Who is the Trail Bike Team?

Introducing the Trail Bike Project Team...here we are in action on the new DSE Forest Patrol trail bikes.



Back L-R: Simon white (South West Trail Bike Project Officer TBPO), Richard Wadsworth (Statewide Recreation and Tourism Co-Ordinator), Felicity Wardlaw (North East TBPO), Roger Pitt (Project Manager), Joy Harte (Gippsland TBPO). **Front:** Adrian Parker (North West TBPO)

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