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Media Release

Trail bike crackdown continues in Cobaw and Wombat State Forests

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and the Victoria Police targeted illegal trail bike use and behaviour in the Cobaw and Wombat State Forests over the weekend.

DSE Midlands District Manager Jon Rofe said the joint operation by Authorised Forest Officers and Police was a success.

"Unlicensed riders, unregistered bikes, bike noise emissions and off-road riding around popular camping and recreation sites were targeted in the operation," Mr Rofe said.

Victoria Police and DSE officers issued several infringements to riders during the weekend operation. Of the 40 riders checked for licence and registration, 18 were unlicensed and 12 were unregistered.

"Riders that were unlicensed received a fine of over \$500," said Mr Rofe. "Other penalties can include a fine of close to \$900 when a bike is also unregistered, and fines of \$110 for riding off road and on single lane tracks."

Mr Rofe said trail bike riders should keep their motorbikes roadworthy, and within declared noise emission levels.

"Motorbikes must not exceed 94dBA during a stationary noise test and DSE officers are working with the EPA to enforce this requirement," he said. "We will be conducting noise testing during trail bike compliance operations in the future."

Sergeant Jeff Larsen from Kyneton Police said the exercise was extremely positive and well received by the vast majority of motorcycle riders in the forest.

"A small minority, however, consistently try and wreck it for everyone else and I hope that DSE, Victoria Police and the riders who do have a positive attitude can work together to eradicate this small group of problem people," Sergeant Larsen said.

Mr Rofe said only riders with motorcycle licences and registered bikes are permitted to ride on roads and tracks on public land.

"The definition of "road" means a road open to the public formed for the passage of a motor vehicle with four or more wheels. Riding on single lane tracks is not allowed and will incur a fine," he said.

"Riders are also reminded that normal road rules apply in State Forests as significant environmental damage is caused by riders going off road."

Compliance operations focussing on off-road riding and unlicensed and unregistered motorcycle use will be conducted by DSE Officers and Victoria Police throughout the year as part of the State Government's \$5 million Trail Bike Project to improve the management of trail bikes on public land.

For more information on trail bike riding visit: www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes