

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 4 June, 2008

TRAIL BIKE RIDERS TO PREPARE FOR CHANGES OVER WINTER

Trail bike riders need to be prepared for changed conditions in State forests and parks over the winter months.

“Riders should be aware that some roads and tracks in parks and forests throughout Victoria are now seasonally closed to protect track surfaces, water quality and the native vegetation,” said Roger Pitt, DSE Trail Bike Project Manager

“Affected tracks are closed this year from June 12 and will be open again on October 30 for Melbourne Cup weekend.

“This is part of the State Government’s \$5 million Trail Bike Project to improve the management of trail bikes on public land and protect our environment.”

Mr Pitt said Victoria’s forests provide many sporting and recreational opportunities including trail bike riding, but this needs to be balanced with protection of the environment and the safety and enjoyment of all forest users.

“Licensed and registered trail bike riders have access to use the 36,000 kilometres of forest road in Victoria’s State forests and parks but riders also have a responsibility to respect the environment, ride safely and obey the law.

“All vehicles including trail bikes must stay on the formed tracks as going off-road, particularly on steep slopes, can cause extensive damage to forests through vegetation loss, erosion and stream sedimentation.

“People going trail bike riding in winter should also remember to carry warm clothing and spare food in case of an emergency”.

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Parks Victoria and Victoria Police will continue to target illegal trail bike behaviour in the State’s parks and forests over the winter.

Riders are permitted to ride on official roads and tracks on public land if they hold a motorcycle licence, their bike is registered and they are wearing an approved helmet. They are also reminded that normal road rules apply in State forests and parks.

“Unlicensed riders caught in State forests and parks can expect a fine of \$551 and if the bike is unregistered the total fine is almost \$900,” Mr Pitt said

Road Closure information can be accessed online at the **Before You Go** section of www.parkweb.vic.gov.au, or by phoning the Parks Victoria Information Centre (131 963) or the DSE Customer Service Centre (136 186).

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