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# Media Release

## Trail bike riders urged to take care over Australia Day weekend

Trail bike riders are being urged to take additional care during the Australia Day long weekend to avoid accidents and damage to the environment.

DSE North East Trail Bike Project Officer, Felicity Wardlaw, said riders should plan suitable riding locations, obey road rules and wear appropriate protective clothing.

“Normal road rules apply to riding in State Forests and unlicensed riders are not permitted to ride on the roads and tracks or around designated camping areas,” Ms Wardlaw said.

“It’s important that trail bike riders use the forest in a way that is considerate to other visitors and the environment.”

DSE will conduct trail bike patrols during the weekend to ensure riders are complying with forest and road laws.

Ms Wardlaw said forest patrols would also focus on children riding mini-bikes.

“Inexperienced riders and unlicensed riders put themselves at serious risk when they illegally ride in State Forests.

“Unfortunately, some parents continue to allow their children to illegally ride their mini-bikes in the forest.

“This is extremely unsafe for both the riders and other forest users, so we would like to remind parents that riders without a licence and registration are only permitted to ride on private property.”

Across the state, trail bike riders have access to more than 36,000 kilometres of forest roads.

“Our forests provide visitors with a range a recreational and sporting opportunities, including trail bike riding.

“However, it’s important that all vehicles stay on designated forest roads to avoid damage to the environment.”

For information about trail bike riding in State Forest contact the DSE Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or visit [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au)

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