



Media release

The Place To Be

From the Department of Sustainability and Environment

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IMPROVING TRAIL BIKE RIDING IN BEECHWORTH AND YACKANDANDAH

Forest users around Beechworth and Yackandandah are helping the Department of Sustainability and Environment to trial ways to improve the management of trail bike riding.

This follows a recent community forum organised by DSE in Beechworth. The forum was part of a three year DSE statewide project aimed at balancing the interests of forest users and promoting a more sustainable use of forests. It was initiated in response to the strong ongoing growth in the sport of trail bike riding.

DSE North East Trail Bike Project Officer Felicity Wardlaw said the forum provided an excellent insight into how the community feels about trail bikes in state forests.

“It gave people a chance to express their views on issues, and more importantly, to help identify solutions for many of these issues,” she said.

Over 50 people attended, including trail bike riders, residents, recreational user groups, government and industry representatives.

“It was great to see trail bike riders talking to residents and other forest users and coming to an understanding of each other’s views,” Ms Wardlaw said.

“Participants identified many issues relating to trail bikes, and worked together to find solutions to those issues.

“The challenge now is to turn those solutions into reality as people work collectively to shift trail bike riding onto a more sustainable footing.”

She said combining a number of these forum solutions together is likely to deliver the best possible outcome.

“One example is having dedicated trail bike unloading areas combined with an education and awareness program that will hopefully reduce conflict between riders and other forest users,” she said.

Members of the community who would like to participate in the project, or would like further information are encouraged to contact Felicity Wardlaw, Trail Bike Project Officer – North East, on (03) 5772 0238 or to visit the project website www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes