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Media Contact:

Marg Hawke / Jude Niemiec

5336 6873 or 0417 327 229

# Media Release

## Trail bike crackdown in the far south west

Illegal trail bike use in State Forests, National Parks and coastal reserves between Warrnambool, Portland and Casterton was the focus of two operations jointly conducted by the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Parks Victoria and Victoria Police in recent weeks.

The aim of the operations, conducted over four days, was to target unlicensed riders, unregistered bikes, excessive trail bike noise emissions and off-road riding around popular camping and recreation sites.

DSE Land & Fire Officer Wesley Burns said trail bike riding has become an increasingly popular recreation activity enjoyed by many in Victoria's State Forests and parks.

"DSE wants to ensure that trail bike riders can continue to enjoy riding while balancing this with the needs of rural residents, other forest users and the environment," he said.

The trail bike operations offered a chance to provide valuable information, both verbally and via handouts, to people enjoying recreation activities.

However many people were deliberately and knowingly breaking the law which resulted in a variety of official cautions and fines.

"Over the course of the weekend operations DSE officers and Victoria Police issued several infringements to riders," Mr Burns said.

"Riders are only permitted to ride on roads on public land if they have a motorcycle licence and their bikes are registered. Of the 23 riders checked for licence and registration during the operations, 16 were unlicensed and 10 were unregistered."

DSE reminds riders that normal road rules apply in State Forests and National Parks.

"Significant environmental damage is caused by riders going off road, which is illegal," Mr Burns said

DSE officers conducted noise testing of trail bikes participating in the Green Triangle Enduro Club event in the Cobboboonee Forest Park on Sunday 14 June 2009.

Trail bike riders had the opportunity to have their bike tested prior to the event, with only one rider being over the legal noise limit of 94 decibels.

Mr Burns said the operations are an example of what's to come.

"DSE, Parks Victoria and the Victoria Police are planning more coordinated trail bike operations in the future to make State Forest's a safer place for all users."

A number of roads and tracks in parks and forests throughout Victoria are now seasonally closed to protect track surfaces, water quality and the native vegetation.

"Riders can check road closures online by visiting the **Before You Go** section of [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)," Mr Burns said. "They can also phone the Parks Victoria Information Centre on 131 963 or the DSE Customer Service Centre on 136 186."

The trail bike operations are 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](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes)



*Caption: DSE & Victoria Police recently conducted a trail bike compliance operation.*



*Caption: DSE & Victoria Police prepare for a recent trail bike compliance operation*