

Trail Bikes

Trail bike riding is a great way to see Victoria's parks and forests that make up just over one third of the State.

You are welcome to use roads in State forest open to the public, provided you follow the guidelines set out below.

Just one person "bush-bashing" can do enormous environmental damage, and give trail bike riding a bad name.

This leaflet is designed to help you experience and share the beauty of the bush by using minimal impact techniques. Some – in particular those to do with fire and vehicle use – carry the weight of law. All must be followed if we want to continue trail bike riding in the bush.



What does the law say?

1. When trail bike riding in parks and forests:
 - you must drive only on roads open to the public
 - you must be fully licensed
 - your motorbike must be road registered and roadworthy
 - vehicles must not be driven off formed roads
2. Roads open to vehicles in forests and parks are public roads and so all normal road rules apply.
3. Trail bikes and other vehicles may only use roads constructed for the passage of vehicles with four wheels. Walking tracks or tracks created informally by vehicles are NOT roads. Some roads are closed to all but management vehicles, bicycles and walkers.

4. Some roads may be closed seasonally for reasons of safety, weather, or to minimise erosion. These roads may not be used while they are closed. They are usually signposted or enforced by barriers.
5. Beaches, dunes and coastal reserves where there are no roads are also off limits to trail bikes.
6. Fully road registered and recreation registered bikes (this does not include 3 or 4 wheeled recreation vehicles which require full road registration) are permitted on local roads and forest roads outside built up areas in parks and forests.

No licence? Unregistered vehicle?

Motorbikes and other recreational vehicles not able to be registered for use on public roads can only be used on a designated bike track or on private land.

There are a number of clubs and tracks for such vehicles throughout Victoria. For more information contact Motorcycling Victoria (☎ 9482 5422).

Noise

Many people head to the bush for peace and quiet, away from the noise and air pollution of traffic. The noise of your vehicle could spoil the enjoyment of bushwalkers, cyclists, birdwatchers, horseriders and other vehicle users. Try to drive only on sections of road where your vehicle will cause the least disturbance to others.

Remember also that it's against the law to modify your exhaust to make it noisier. Your vehicle's muffler must be maintained in good order for your vehicle to be roadworthy.

Safety

When driving, be prepared for the unexpected. Timber trucks, 4WDs, hikers, horseriders, cyclists and native animals may also be using your chosen track.

You must always wear a helmet when on a motor bike.

Be a responsible rider

♦ **Stay on the road.** Do not ride "off-road", or on closed roads. Pioneering a new road or track or riding cross-country is not only illegal, it also damages the environment you have come to enjoy. Obey track closures and regulatory signs.

- **Check road conditions** before leaving on a trip. Do not use roads and tracks when they are wet or likely to be damaged.
- **Be safety conscious** – plan your trip carefully, maintain your vehicle and be fully equipped. Leave details of your proposed trip with a responsible person.
- **Remove fallen trees** or limbs from roads or report the obstruction to DSE or Parks Victoria – don't create a new track by driving around it.
- **Respect the rights of other visitors.** Avoid riding noisy vehicles in popular areas. Should you meet people horseriding, walking or cycling – slow down and drive well clear of them.
- **Leave no trace.** Take all your rubbish home.
- **Take care with fire** – observe all fire regulations and Total Fire Ban days. Extinguish your fire before leaving. Don't let your exhaust emit sparks.
- **Practise “minimum impact camping:**
 - choose camp sites carefully (use existing sites where possible)
 - locate camps at least 20 metres from rivers, streams and lakes
 - don't use soap or detergent in rivers, streams or lakes – wash and dispose of wash-up water at least 50 metres from any water source
 - use toilets provided or bury toilet waste at least 100 metres from rivers, streams and lakes
 - use a portable stove in preference to an open fire
 - if you must light a fire, use only fallen timber and keep your fire small
- **Join a 4WD Club** and support responsible trail bike riding.
- **Enjoy your visit:** Take a last look before leaving an area – Will the next visitor know that you have been there?

For more information

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forest. For further information contact DSE's Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

For further information about where to go in national parks and reserves, contact the Parks Victoria hotline on ☎ 131 963.

Visit DSE's website

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>
then select “Forestry”.

Other Useful Contacts

Motorcycling Australia
10 Hilton Street, Clifton Hill VIC 3068
☎ 9482 5422
<http://www.motorcyclingvic.com.au>

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