

TBC

Media Contact:  
Darren Skelton  
0417 368 805

# Media Release

## North east winter trail bike crackdown

Illegal trail bike behaviour will be the focus of a campaign in State Forests and Parks across the north east area this winter.

Officers from DSE, Parks Victoria and Victoria Police will be conducting specific operations targeting environmental damage, road closures and non-compliant trail bike riders.

DSE Trail Bike Project Officer, Felicity Wardlaw, said operations will concentrate on high visitation areas near Wodonga, Beechworth, Myrtleford, Shepparton, Benalla, Mansfield, Alexandra, Marysville, Broadford and along the Murray River.

“Riders are permitted to ride on official roads and tracks on public land if they hold a current motorcycle licence and their bike is registered,” Ms Wardlaw said.

“Riders should be aware and recognise that some roads and tracks on public land are now seasonally closed to protect track surfaces and the environment.”

Benalla Police, Acting Inspector, Lyn Holland, said officers will use trail bikes and unmarked vehicles during the operations.

“With the number of trail bike riders increasing, it’s important that we curb any risk-taking or anti-social behaviour by educating riders about safe riding practices,” she said.

“This obviously includes ensuring riders stick to designated roads and tracks, are licensed, and their motorcycles are registered.”

The region’s forests and parks provide opportunities for many sporting and recreational pursuits, including trail bike riding.

“It’s important that all forest visitors show respect for the environment and also other users,” Ms Holland said.

“This includes ensuring that riders keep their exhaust emissions under the 94-decible limit.”

The operations are part of the Victorian Government’s \$5 million Trail Bike Project which aims to improve the management of trail bikes on public land.

For further information about the project contact the DSE Customer Service centre on 136 186 or visit [www.dse.vic.gov](http://www.dse.vic.gov)