



# Media release

The Place To Be

From the Department of Sustainability and Environment

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Wednesday, 28 November 2007

## **REFORM HILL FRIENDS AND DSE REPAIR TRAIL BIKE DAMAGE**

The Department of Sustainability and Environment and Friends of Reform Hill Community Group are working together to protect Reform Hill State Forest in Myrtleford from environmental damage caused by illegal trail bike use.

DSE has installed fencing and carried out rehabilitation work to stop illegal trail bike activity and prevent further damage to vegetation.

The fencing and rehabilitation work is part of DSE's four year state-wide trail bike initiative which aims to improve the management of trail bikes on public land through the implementation of a range of programs including education, rehabilitation and compliance.

The initiative includes further rehabilitation and fencing work in targeted areas throughout North East Victoria.

"Trail bike riders should be accessing forests through the legal road network and not breaking fences to access forest tracks," said DSE Forest Ranger Mick Ritchie.

"Money spent fixing the damaged fences could otherwise be spent on recreation facilities and improving the area for all user groups including trail bike riders."

Trail bike riding is a legitimate recreational activity. However, riders are required to stay on designated roads and tracks in the forest. Riding off-road or on closed tracks is illegal and riders will be subject to heavy penalties. Trail bike riders must be fully licensed and their bikes must be roadworthy and registered.

DSE and police will be regularly patrolling Reform Hill and surrounding areas and will be issuing heavy penalties to anyone caught riding off the legal track and road network. Riders who are unlicensed and on unregistered bikes can expect fines of over \$800.

Members of the community who would like to be kept informed about the trail bike initiative or activities in their area, or would like further information are encouraged to contact DSE North East Trail Bike Project Officer, Felicity Wardlaw, on (03) 5772 0238 or visit the project website on [www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes).