

Understanding Noise

Trail bike riding is an increasingly popular recreation in State forests across Victoria. As more riders get out into the bush on their trail bikes, other forest users such as walkers, horse riders, picnickers and local residents are becoming more aware of the noise that trail bikes make.

Riding an excessively noisy bike ruins other people's enjoyment of being in the bush, and can result in a large fine for the rider.

For all forest users to enjoy their time in the bush, riders need to be aware of the following:

- Motorcycles used in State forests must be registered and roadworthy
- To be roadworthy, the motorcycle must have an effective silencer (muffler) to keep the exhaust noise below the legal limit of 94dB(A)
- Removing the baffle from the exhaust system will usually result in illegal noise levels
- Using a muffler designed for competition use will almost certainly push the noise over the legal limit

What can I do?

Responsible riders can be fair to other people and wildlife by reducing the impact of their exhaust noise. Here are some easy tips:

- When riding near to houses, picnic areas, or anywhere close to other people, back off and keep the revs down until you are well past
- Keep the exhaust baffle fitted: removing it increases the noise a lot but makes very little difference to performance – it just sounds faster
- Mufflers need to be periodically repacked with noise absorbing material, available from your local motorcycle dealer. Your dealer can provide advice on how frequently you need to do this
- If you need to replace your muffler, make sure the new one complies with the 94dB(A) limit and is a reputable brand. Cheap mufflers are often of low quality, perform poorly and have a limited life

- When you are preparing to commence a ride, make sure all riders are ready to go before starting up, then everyone can ride off without delay
- Head off on longer rides rather than just repeating the same short loop. This means that the noise doesn't continue in the one location for extended periods
- Even if you ride on private property, you should keep the noise down as it creates a nuisance for any neighbours who live nearby



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For more information

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forests. For further information contact DSE's Customer Service Centre on ☎ 136 186 or visit DSE's website at <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes>

Noise information is available from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) ☎ 03-9695 2722 or on the website <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au>

To access interactive downloadable maps of the public road network, visit www.dse.vic.gov.au and type 'Forest Explorer Online' into the search bar.

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