



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Department of Sustainability and Environment

Monday, 11 February 2008

TRAIL BIKE PATROLS

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) has stepped up patrol and enforcement activities in State Forests and National Parks after a rise in complaints to do with trail bikes.

DSE Trail Bike Project Officer Adrian Parker said the forests and parks are open to trail bike riding, but only to responsible, licensed riders on registered bikes.

“Recently we have had complaints from nearby residents and other users of the forests, about unlicensed riders and irresponsible riding behaviour,” Mr Parker said.

“Riders must remember that the law applies in a State Forest or a National Park just as much as it does on a highway or suburban street,” he said.

Complaints have centred upon the Rushworth State Forest, Lockwood State Forest, crown land at Huntly and the Wellsford State Forest.

“Parents and young riders must remember that an unlicensed person is only allowed to ride on private land with the permission of the owner, or at tracks run by motorcycle clubs,” Mr Parker said.

“Licensed riders have more options – they can ride on the legal track network in our forests, but it is vital that they be on registered bikes, and stay off the unofficial single tracks that contribute so much to erosion and the destruction of native vegetation and heritage sites,” he said.

Riding on crown land or in forests without a licence and registration can attract fines in excess of \$800.

“This is about preserving the forest for everyone to enjoy and making trail bike riding a safe, responsible pastime,” Mr Parker said.

Members of the public wishing to report illegal activities in State Forests can contact DSE by dialling 136 186.

Ends...