



Media release

From the Department of Sustainability and Environment

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CRACKDOWN ON ROGUE BEHAVIOUR IN FORESTS AND PARKS

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE), Parks Victoria and the Victoria Police are targeting rogue trail bike rider behaviour in State parks and forests over the Easter weekend.

“Patrols in our region will be targeting riders around popular camping areas along the Murray River”, said Mr Adrian Parker, Trail Bike Project Officer for DSE’s North West Region.

“Easter is a popular time for trail bike riders to head for the bush,” he said, “and licensed and registered riders are welcome to use the 36,000 kilometres of forest road in Victoria’s State forests and parks”.

Riders are only permitted to ride on official roads and tracks on public land if they have a motorcycle licence, their bike is registered and they are wearing an approved helmet. They are also reminded that normal road rules apply in State forests and parks.

Mr Parker said that licence demerit points for motorcycle offences also apply to riders’ car licences.

“Unlicensed riders can also expect a fine of over \$500 if they are caught riding in State forests and parks, and if the bike is also unregistered the total fine is close to \$900”.

The Easter weekend is also popular for other visitors to forests and parks for camping, walking, mountain-bike riding and other outdoor activities.

“We urge riders to slow down, reduce engine noise and ride with extra care near camping and picnic areas, or when close to other people, especially horse riders.”

“Unfortunately, some parents allow their children to illegally ride mini-bikes in State forests and parks. This is very unsafe and parents need to remember that riders without a licence and registration are only permitted to ride on private property,” Mr Parker said.

“Trail bike riders need to be considerate of the forest’s environmental values as well as the needs of other forest visitors.”

“Excessive noise disrupts rural tranquillity and the experience of other forest users, but we are pleased to find that the majority of bikes do comply with noise emission regulations.”

DSE Forest Officers and Victoria Police will conduct compliance operations focused on unlicensed and unregistered motorcycle use throughout the year as part of the State Government’s \$5 million Trail Bike Project to improve the management of trail bikes on public land.

For more information on trail bike riding visit: www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes.

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