

Trail Bike Project

Newsletter

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Statewide Information



Ride for Tomorrow

Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) Trail Bike Project staff took the Ride for Tomorrow message to three major motorcycle events in late 2008. Participants in the Stockman's Rally at Big River and the Blue Light Ride near Noojee had their bikes tested for noise compliance, learned more about sustainable riding, and then were joined by DSE staff who rode the event course with them.

Trail Bike Project Officers distributed thousands of Ride for Tomorrow brochures to visitors at the four day Australian Motorcycle Expo in Melbourne. Working jointly with the Victorian Motorcycle Advisory Council (VMAC), project team members spoke to many hundreds of riders about responsible trail bike riding and what riders can do to promote sustainable riding.

For more Ride for Tomorrow information go to www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes.

Trail Bike Rider Research

DSE contracted the research company Instinct and Reason in late November 2008 to improve government's understanding of what riders want out of their recreation as well as their views on other issues such as conflict with other forest users and residents over noise, environmental impacts of forest use and current legal requirements (such as the need to be licensed and registered). The rider research involves:

- one on one in-depth interviews with 20 riders (mixture of age groups, gender, frequency of

use and location - rural and metro based riders) - completed in December

- 12 Focus Group discussions with small groups of riders (mixture of age groups, gender and location) - to be completed in late January
- On-line survey of 500 riders - to be completed in February/March

In addition to talking to riders, the researchers will also be talking to trail bike retailers to better understand their perceptions of what information riders want as well as their understanding of what types of motor bikes can be legally registered, and what types of mufflers meet legal noise emission requirements.

The researchers will also talk to rural residents who live adjacent to popular forest riding areas, to better understand the issues they may have with trail bike use in their area.

Trail Bike Operations

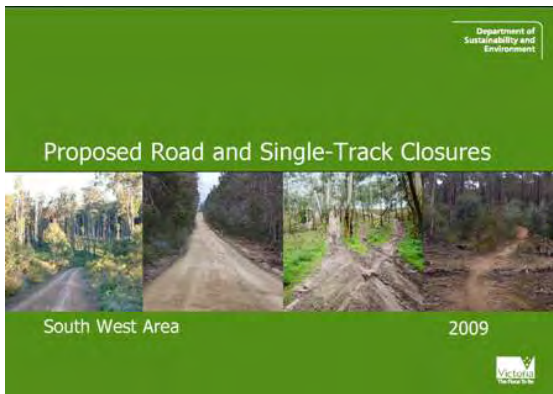
Visitors to State forests across Victoria are increasingly likely to meet DSE forest officers conducting patrols on trail bikes. Fifteen DSE staff with motorcycle riding experience have undertaken additional training to become qualified to ride the Yamaha, Kawasaki and Honda trail bikes.



"People may be a bit surprised at first to see Forest Officers on trail bikes but it makes a lot of sense. Staff can travel around the forest very easily, and get to meet lots of visitors; it certainly helps our information and education work to be more effective", said Roger Pitt, Trail Bike Project Manager

South West Regional Information

Proposed Road and Single-Track Closures



The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) proposes the closure of some roads and tracks located on forested public land in the South West Area of Victoria. The roads and tracks proposed for closure are located in the Midlands and Otway Forest Management Areas.

On ground works include the closure of some roads and areas of single-track on public land, fencing, soil preparation and tree planting.

A plan of the proposed works can be obtained by calling the DSE Customer Service Centre (CSC) on 136 186, or via the DSE website www.dse.vic.gov.au/forests > (Quick Links) Road and Track Closures. Alternatively, plans may be viewed at the following DSE offices: Ballarat, Colac, Daylesford and Geelong.

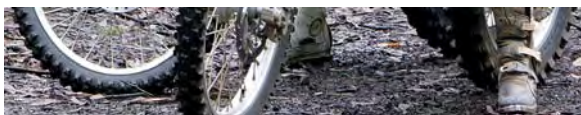
DSE seeks to obtain community feedback on the proposed road and single-track closures. Written submissions close - Monday 2 March 2009

Otways – Community Reference Group

The East Otways trail bike community reference group (CRG) is committed to bringing trail bike riding on to a sustainable footing in the Otways.

The combined skills and experience of group members is assisting DSE to be creative in its aim of ensuring trail bike riding is undertaken in accordance with good environmental management principles within the Great Otway National Park, Otway Forest Park and Anglesea Heath.

The CRG recently released a media release about the positive work of the reference group. A copy of this media release is available on the DSE website www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes > News, media & publications



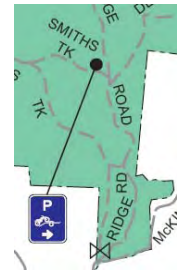
Ross Creek and Enfield State Forest

DSE has engaged a consultant to design a Trail Bike Visitor Area at the southern end of State Forest Road, Ross Creek. Draft plans of this site will soon be available on the DSE trail bike project website www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes

Some areas in Ross Creek and Enfield State Forest are included in the Proposed Road and Single-Track Closure Plan. These road and track closures, and associated rehabilitation work will support the development of a Trail Bike Visitor Area in Ross Creek State Forest.

Cobaw State Forest

DSE has formalised a Trail Bike Visitor Area (TBVA) in the Cobaw State Forest. The TBVA is located at the intersection of Ridge Rd and Smiths Track. This area will soon have an information board. Work is progressing on finalising a map for this information board and riders.



Enforcement

DSE, Parks Victoria, local Police and the Victoria Police Special Solo Unit (police on trail bikes) recently conducted a multi-agency trail bike compliance operation in the forest areas around Ballarat. Further compliance operations have been conducted in the Wombat State Forest and Cobaw State Forest.



DSE, Parks Victoria and the Victoria Police Special Solo Unit prepare for a compliance operation.

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