

Trail Bike Visitor Area Taking Shape

The first Trail Bike Visitor Area funded as part of the Trail Bike Project is under construction near Noojee in Gippsland. This pilot project is the result of many months of community consultation in respect of location, design and facilities to be provided. Trail bike riders, local residents, and other outdoor recreation user groups have all provided input to the development.

Providing visitor facilities for trail bike riders in appropriate locations will reduce the use of less suitable areas where noise, environmental damage, parking congestion and public safety issues have increased. Riders will be encouraged to use the new visitor areas, which will provide comprehensive information on responsible riding, legal requirements for riding in State forest and some suggested riding routes.

Trail Bike Compliance Training

More than 70 DSE and Parks Victoria Authorised Officers attended trail bike specific compliance training at Marysville, Sale and Horsham during October and November. More frequent compliance operations will initially focus on providing riders with information on responsible riding practices and their legal obligations, but will move towards prosecutions for off-road riding, which is an increasingly common offence in some areas.

Rider Information Initiatives

With the support of the Victorian Motorcycle Advisory Council, more than 1000 people attending the Australian Motorcycle Expo at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre went home with DSE trail bike riding information packs which included practical guidance on where to ride, legal requirements for riding in the bush, and responsible riding practices.

New Trail Bike Signs

VicRoads and DSE have worked together to develop a new set of information signs specifically designed for trail bike riders. The new signs will designate advisory Low Noise Zones close to residential and recreation areas, areas where riding is discouraged and directional signage to Trail Bike Visitor Areas. In some cases trail riding routes will be signposted to assist riders unfamiliar with the area.



Some of the new trail bike information signs

Environment Protection Authority Trains DSE Staff in Noise Emission Testing



Lou Raffa (EPA), Wally Notman (DSE), Snr. Constable Anthony Wolfe (Victoria Police) and Adrian Parker (DSE) conduct a noise test on a police Special Solo Unit trail bike. DSE staff are working with the EPA to reduce the number of excessively noisy trail bikes being used in State forests. Nominated DSE staff will be trained by the EPA to conduct indicative noise tests in the field. Riders whose bikes are found to be excessively noisy will be required to have their bikes tested at an EPA approved noise testing centre to ensure they comply with the 94dB(A) maximum noise limit.

North West Regional Information

Bendigo Safe Week

Trail bike safety was a key element of the DSE message to 1500 primary school students attending the Safety Week program, September 11 - 13. Some of the other agencies participating in Safety Week included Victoria Police, RSPCA, and CFA. The theme for the event is safety and DSE developed its sessions around safe camping and trail bike riding in the bush.

Bendigo Trail Bike Community Forum

Representatives of trail bike riders, local residents, forest recreation groups and businesses and agencies with an interest in trail bike activities came together for the Bendigo Trail Bike Forum on October 3. In small groups, the participants explored issues surrounding trail bike riding in State forests, and worked together to suggest potential solutions. The evening was a success with eight key issues identified and a number of possible solutions put forward. These suggested solutions have been sorted into short, medium and long term and of state-wide or local relevance. A more detailed summary is available from Adrian Parker (contact details below).



Bendigo Trail Bike Forum

Rehabilitation project at Knowsley State Forest

Rehabilitation work within the Knowsley State Forest will encourage more sustainable use of the forest and provide for a broader range of recreational users. Rehabilitation works will involve ripping for tree establishment, installing some bollards to provide better safety, establishment of picnic tables and sign posting. The local Axedale Primary School

will be involved in the tree planting activities planned for May 2008.

It is envisaged that this site will form a base for the Axedale Primary School environmental activities in the future.



New bollards provide improved safety

Elmore Field Days

The Trail Bike Project was part of the DSE Public Land Stewardship display at the Elmore Field Days, October 2 -4. A large number of people visited the joint DSE/DPI marquee and there was significant interest in the Trail Bike Project. The main topics of enquiry were: where can I ride my bike, recreational registration and underage riding in the bush. Trail Bike Project staff will be attending similar events to provide information about trail bike riding in our forests.

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www.dse.vic.gov.au/trailbikes