

Where can I ride my motorbike in State forest?

July 2003

FS0003

ISSN 1440-2262

Richard Wadsworth - Melbourne

Where can I ride my motorbike in State forest?

Riding your motorbike through forest is a popular pursuit and there are many areas of State forest where riders can enjoy Victoria's great outdoors.

You are welcome to use roads in State forest open to the public, provided you follow the guidelines set out below. Roads open to the public in Victoria's national parks and reserves are also available for use by motorbikes.

Your legal requirements

- You must be fully licensed, and your motorbike must be road registered and roadworthy.
- Drive only on roads open to the public (it is illegal to drive off formed roads). Roads open to vehicles are public roads, so all normal road rules apply.
- Motorbikes and other vehicles may only use roads constructed for the passage of vehicles with four wheels. Walking tracks or tracks created informally by vehicles are NOT roads. Some roads are closed to all but management vehicles, bicycles and walkers.
- Some roads may be closed seasonally for reasons of safety, weather, or to minimise erosion. These roads may not be used while they are closed. They are usually signposted or enforced by barriers.

When are permits required?

In State forest, permits are required for:

- events that are of a competitive nature or that may pose a risk to public safety
- commercial events (ie. entry fees apply, prizemoney involved)

- club or group activities involving more than 20 motorbikes
- any activity involving constructions or the marking of a course



- any activity requiring the total or near total exclusive use of DSE picnic or campgrounds

To apply for a permit, please contact the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) at least four weeks prior to the event for non-competitive events and at least 12 weeks prior to the event for competitive events.

Recreational registration

On the 1st May 1999, new laws affecting the registration of recreation vehicles came into force. A new category of registration 'Recreation Motorcycle' is now available for use by licensed riders on local roads and forest roads outside built up areas (Built up areas are defined by speed limits of less than 100km/h).

Whilst reduced fees and different construction standards apply to motorbikes with recreation motorcycle registration (compared to fully registered road motorbikes), the normal road rules (ie. it is illegal to drive off formed roads) continue to apply. For further information on Recreation Motorcycle registration, please contact VicRoads.

Registration of 3 and 4 wheeled recreation vehicles

There is no registration facility for 3 or 4 wheeled recreation vehicles other than full road registration. For further information please contact VicRoads.

No licence? Unregistered vehicle?

Motorbikes and other recreational vehicles not able to be registered for use on public roads can only be used on a designated bike track or on private land.

There are a number of clubs and tracks for such vehicles throughout Victoria. For more information contact Motorcycling Victoria (☎ 9482 5422).

Tread Lightly – Be a responsible rider

- Respect the rights of other visitors.
Remember many people head to the bush for peace and quiet. Avoid riding noisy vehicles in popular areas. Should you meet people horse riding, walking or cycling – slow down and drive well clear of them.
- Stay on the road. Do not ride “off-road”, or on closed roads. Pioneering a new road or track or riding cross-country is not only illegal, it also damages the environment you have come to enjoy.
- When driving, be prepared for the unexpected. Timber trucks, 4WD’s, hikers, horse riders, cyclists and native animals may also be using your chosen track.
- Before leaving on a trip, check road conditions. Do not use roads and tracks when they are wet or likely to be damaged.
- Be safety conscious – plan your trip carefully, maintain your vehicle and be fully equipped. Leave details of your proposed trip with a responsible person.
- Report fallen trees or limbs across roads to the nearest DSE office (for State forest) or

Parks Victoria office (for parks and reserves).

- Leave no trace. Take all rubbish home.
- Take care with fire – observe all fire regulations and Total Fire Ban days. Don’t let your exhaust emit sparks.
- Join a club and support responsible motorbike riding.

For more information

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) is responsible for managing Victoria's State Forest. For further information contact the DSE's Customer Service Centre on 136 186.

For further information about where to go in national parks and reserves, contact the Parks Victoria hotline on ☎ 131 963.

Visit DSE's Forests Service website

<http://www.dse.vic.gov.au>

then select “Forestry”.



This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its officers do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.