

Proposed Road and Single Track Closures Site Visit Saturday 13th February 2010 Mount Disappointment State Forest

In October 2009 DSE released the Proposed Road and Single Track Closure Plan (North East) for a 6 week public consultation period. Over 15 submissions were received during this time. Following an internal review of the submissions DSE ran a site visit to further discuss and hear from stakeholders the concerns and issues in relation to the proposed closures. The following provides a summary of the actions arising from the site visit.

Attendees:

Michael Findlay (MototrailsOZ Pty Ltd)
John Elfrink (MototrailsOZ Pty Ltd)
James Trafacante - 4WD Vic
Albert Belcher - Euroa Resident/ GV 4WD Club
Sarah Simpson - Euroa Resident/ GV 4WD Club
Robin Miller - Alex 4WD Club
Sarah Durrant - BEAM (Broadford Env. Action Group)
Louise Munk Klint - 4WDVic
Jason Lock - 4WDVic
Peter Ross - AMTRA
Paul Smith - AMTRA
Ngarie Butterfield - PNL 4WD
Richard Wadsworth (DSE – Stat wide Rec and Tourism Coordinator)
Garry McClusky (DSE – Forest and Fire Officer, Broadford)
Felicity Wardlaw (Trail Bike Project Officer – North East)

Key Actions Arising From Site Visit

1. Mount Disappointment State Forest

Majority of Mount Disappointment is closed to public access since 2009 bushfires this provided it difficult to constructively discuss the key closures in this area. It was agreed to review the proposed closure in approximately 6 months when the forest is re-opened.

Action: Reassemble group in 6 months to meet and review the road and tracks closures, with the possibility of reinstating track 5 and 7.

2. Goulburn State Forest: Abbotts Track

This track was identified as priority for closure to address the public safety issues raised by Victoria Police and to address environmental issues (severe erosion and track diverging into and following the creek). This track is also located in a Special Protection Zone¹ to protect Ecological Vegetation Classes.

Alternative options other than closures were suggested at the site meeting including– Nominating the track as an MVO with track access agreement established between interested stakeholders and DSE.

¹ Special Protection Zone: This zone is managed for conservation. This zone forms a network designed to link and complement established conservation reserves.

Action: Interested stakeholders to advise Felicity Wardlaw (DSE) if they wish to attend a meeting to discuss closure of Abbotts Track. Felicity Wardlaw will then arrange a meeting with interested stakeholders and DSE local forest staff.

3. Rubicon State Forest: Second Creek Track, No. 6 and No 5

DSE has listed these tracks as priority for closure primarily due to environmental issues e.g. erosion and fauna protection. Of particular interest was the proposed closure of Second Creek Track. This track is located within a Special Protection Zone for Spotted Tree Frog (Critically endangered frog species). The track crosses Taponga Creek, which is a listed special protection habitat zone for this frog species. There have also been issues with increased stream sedimentation, unofficial campsite and associated water pollution and stream bank erosion from motorised vehicles.

Alternative options other than closures were suggested at the site meeting however further discussion with local forest staff is required.

Action: As per previous action, interested stakeholders are to advise Felicity Wardlaw (DSE) if they wish to attend a meeting to discuss closure of track in Rubicon Area. Felicity Wardlaw will then arrange a meeting with interested stakeholders and local DSE staff.

4. Marysville : Triangle

DSE propose to close a small section of track in the Marysville triangle forest area. This section of track is a priority for closure due to the track containing live telecommunications fibre optic cables. If Telstra no longer require the track for management purposes DSE will look at management issues.

Action: DSE to continue working with Telstra in regards to management of the track containing underground optic cables. DSE keep PNL and other stakeholders informed of outcome.

5. Toolangi State Forest

The priority for closure is a small network of single and 4WD tracks leading onto the Sugar Loaf Pipeline Line MVO track. This is a private MVO track managed by Melbourne Water.

Action: Toolangi State Forest: With no objections raised DSE will progress with the closure of the track network in this area.

6. Strathbogie State Forest

DSE are proposing to close one single/4WD tracks in Glen Burn Rehab Area (previous closure of coupe track) and one track near the Rocky Ned Track (Track 1 in plan).

Alternative options other than closures were suggested at the site meeting however further discussion with local forest staff is required.

Action: Interested stakeholders are to advise Felicity Wardlaw (DSE) if they wish to attend a meeting to discuss closure in Strathbogie's. Felicity Wardlaw will then arrange a meeting with interested stakeholders and local DSE staff.

Summary of Actions

1. Mount Disappointment: Reassemble group in 6 months to meet and review the road and tracks closures, with the possibility of reinstating track 5 and 7.
2. Goulburn State Forests: Interested stakeholders to advise Felicity Wardlaw (DSE) if they wish to attend a meeting to discuss closure of Abbots Track. Felicity Wardlaw will then arrange a meeting with interested stakeholders and DSE local forest staff.
3. Rubicon State Forest: As per previous action, interested stakeholders are to advise Felicity Wardlaw (DSE) if they wish to attend a meeting to discuss closure of track in Rubicon Area. Felicity Wardlaw will then arrange a meeting with interested stakeholders and local DSE staff.
4. Marysville State Forest: DSE to continue working with Telstra in regards to management of the track containing underground optic cables. DSE to keep PNL and other stakeholders informed of outcome.
5. Toolangi State Forest: With no objections raised DSE will progress with the closure of the track network in this area.
6. Strathbogie State Forest: Interested stakeholders are to advise Felicity Wardlaw (DSE) if they wish to attend a meeting to discuss closure in Strathbogie's. Felicity Wardlaw will then arrange a meeting with interested stakeholders and local DSE staff.