



## Anglesea Heath

# Trail Biking and Four Wheel Driving Position Paper

Parks Victoria proposes to close some tracks in areas of high conservation value while maintaining many places where motorbikes and four wheel drive vehicles can still access the park. Community feedback is invited on the proposed changes, to ensure a safe and sustainable track network is provided for recreational vehicles, while providing other users the opportunity to also enjoy the Great Otway National Park (Anglesea Heath).

### Summary

Parks Victoria is committed to supporting a viable road and track network in the Anglesea Heath. The network will sustain emergency, visitor and management access and ensure the park's significant environmental and cultural values are protected.

The use and status of the existing road and track network in the Anglesea Heath has been reviewed by Parks Victoria, and vehicle access to the majority of the network is proposed to be retained. Options to minimise track duplication have been explored. Opportunities to enable other user groups, such as bushwalkers and mountain bikers, to safely access the heathland have also been identified.

This paper outlines the current issues, requirements and future opportunities for trail biking and four wheel driving in the Anglesea Heath.

### Context

Parks Victoria's strategy, **Shaping Our Future**, recognises the importance of conserving parks while providing opportunities for all people to enjoy these special places. Parks are great locations for a wide range of recreational activities, including trail biking and four wheel driving, where these activities can be

enjoyed while ensuring that the natural and cultural values of parks are protected for the future.

The **Great Otway National Park Management Plan** aims to provide opportunities for people to enjoy trail biking and four wheel driving where this is sustainable and compatible with the protection of other park values. Unauthorised driving of motor vehicles (including trail bikes) off-road is illegal, including driving or riding in natural areas or on designated bushwalking or mountain biking tracks. Single track trail bike riding (narrow tracks), unlicensed trail bike riding, and riding of unregistered trail bikes are also prohibited.

### Trail biking and four wheel driving objectives

The **Anglesea Futures Land Use Framework** was informed by extensive community consultation. The direction determined for the Great Otway National Park area (incorporating the Anglesea Heath) was to prioritise the protection of flora and fauna, with complementary active recreation where this would not detract from the main land use of conservation. This has informed Parks Victoria's approach.

The following objectives have been developed to manage the integration of the Anglesea Heath into the Great Otway National Park:

1. Continue to support trail biking and four wheel driving in defined areas
2. Streamline the road and track network where this protects significant natural or cultural values e.g. close and rehabilitate illegal tracks and formed tracks that are no longer required
3. Reduce vehicle access to areas where bushwalking and mountain biking can be provided (recreational activities which currently do not have dedicated area in this park)
4. Ensure changes to the road and track network maintain road function and traffic flow
5. Remove unlawful vehicle access to single track and conduct increased compliance operations to decrease illegal off-road and track use and better protect the fragile heathlands
6. Strengthen education and compliance to improve the safety of riders.

## What we are seeing

The Anglesea Heath contains many redundant and duplicated tracks that increase the footprint of environmental disturbance as well as maintenance costs.

In addition to 150 kilometres of official roads and vehicle tracks, over 200 kilometres of track has been created in the area from illegal trail biking and four wheel driving. The high density of tracks has created significant damage to the fragile heathlands. It has also increased safety concern for riders and limited the ability of visitors to enjoy other recreational activities and appreciate the Anglesea Heath.

## What is proposed and why

Parks Victoria is planning to close and modify vehicle access to some tracks in the Anglesea Heath. This rationalisation of the network aims to create a sustainable track network for vehicles which enhances emergency, visitor and management access plus protects the local environment. Refer to the map attached for more detail.

Licensed and registered trail bike and four wheel drive enthusiasts will continue to be able to use all open roads and tracks (i.e. public roads outside seasonally closed periods). Education and compliance will be strengthened to improve the safety of riders and help protect the heathlands.

## How these changes may affect you

Proposed changes to the road network will reduce public vehicle access in selected areas. In some cases, this will improve access for other user groups, such as bushwalkers and mountain bikers. Further details are provided in the Bushwalking and Mountain Biking Position Papers.

To support road users during the proposed change process, Parks Victoria will maintain access to popular roads where this can be done without compromising significant natural and cultural values. Parks Victoria also proposes developing a touring map to support visitors and provide information to trail bikers about more suitable areas for riding, such as Paddy's Swamp and Otway Forest Park.

## What do you think?

- What aspects of Anglesea Heath are attractive to trail bikers and four wheel drivers? Why?
- What ideas do you have to achieve a balance between trail biking, four wheel driving and other uses such as bushwalking and conservation?
- What are your thoughts about the changes proposed in the map attached? What roads would you like to remain open or to be closed, and why?
- Would you like to see the development of a trail biking and four wheel driving touring map?

## Have your say on the Great Otway National Park (Anglesea Heath)

Parks Victoria is interested in your thoughts. You can contribute by:

- Visiting the Parks Victoria stand at Anglesea Riverbank Market on Saturday 12 January (5:30-8pm)
- Attending a drop-in session on Wednesday 16 January (5-7:30pm) or Saturday 2 February (11-1:30pm) at Anglesea Hall - 1A McMillan Street, Anglesea
- Completing a survey at [engage.vic.gov.au](http://engage.vic.gov.au) or
- Emailing your comments to [Angleseaheath@parks.vic.gov.au](mailto:Angleseaheath@parks.vic.gov.au)

For more information go to [www.engage.vic.gov.au](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au)

# Anglesea Heath Proposed Vehicle Access

- Great Otway National Park (Anglesea Heath)
- National Parks, Reserves, & Forest Park
- Former Mining Area
- Private Property

## Vehicle Access

- Road Status Changes Proposed
- Existing Vehicle Access
- Area 9 Set aside for active recreation (mountain biking) in the Anglesea Futures Land Use Framework

- Proposed Access Status
- MVO - Management Vehicle Only
  - SC - Seasonal Closure
  - C - Closed

