

# MEDIA RELEASE

---

Thursday 10 June 2010

## **Forest track closures for winter - Don't forget! They're slippery when wet**

Hundreds of roads and tracks in Victoria's forests and parks are about to be temporarily closed for winter and spring from next Thursday (17/6/10).

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and Parks Victoria run the seasonal road closure program to ensure driver safety as well as protect our forest roads from damage during the cooler months.

Parks Victoria Four Wheel Drive Program Manager Gail Wright said: "The roads and tracks are closed between June 17 and October 28 2010 when the track surfaces are most likely to be wet."

"The closures are necessary because the roads and tracks in our parks and forests become more difficult for drivers to use safely over this period," Ms Wright said.

"Some forest tracks would suffer significant damage if they were left open all year round so we assess them each year and close any that require it."

"Victorians love their parks and forests and we take that into account by closing the roads and tracks after the Queens Birthday long weekend and re-opening most of them in time for the Melbourne Cup weekend."

DSE Manager – Statewide Roding Richard Teychenne said: "By protecting our forest roads and tracks we can reduce erosion and cut the amount of silt which is washed into our rivers, creeks and reservoirs."

"We want everyone who uses the roads and tracks in our forests and parks to make sure they know which ones are still open over winter and stick to those during the closure period," Mr Teychenne said.

"In Gippsland, I've also worked closely with Four Wheel Drive Victoria on determining which roads and tracks are to be closed, checking the condition of roads and tracks and assisting with some of the closures."

"As always we want anyone driving in our parks and forests to stay on the designated routes, take their rubbish home and take particular care with campfires."

For more information about road closures contact the DSE Customer Service Centre on 136 186 or Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or go to "before you go" at [www.parkweb.vic.gov.au](http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au)

### **Media contacts –**

**DSE (Nick Talbot) 0408 473 278 or Parks Victoria (David Petty) 0427 031 264**