



25 May 2013

Honourable A J Simpson MLA
Minister for Local Government
8th Floor, Dumas House
2 Havelock Street, WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

I am writing to request the opportunity to meet with you to discuss aspects of the State Trail Bike Strategy including the registration of trail bikes.

The negative environmental impact and damage to trail infrastructure from trail bikes not only spoils the experience for non-motorised trail users, but also undermines the work of land managers, not-for-profit trails groups and their volunteers.

The Bibbulmun Track Foundation receives regular feedback from walkers frustrated by the damage done to the Bibbulmun Track and by the inability to identify the riders due to lack of number plates and the use of full faced helmets which not only provide the riders with anonymity but, combined with the noise, are very intimidating.

In the words of one walker *"Work done by volunteers using hand tools had been ruined. Steps had been ripped apart, water runoff directors had been torn from their positions and wheel furrows/erosion are evident; just to mention a few.*

My partner and I confronted a group of five motor cycles on the track but were brushed aside. These bikes had no number plates and we were therefore unable to identify them and could do little but accept their abusive gestures. I foresee an illegal motor bike injuring a bush walker. For DEC officers to deal with these unregistered law breakers must put yet another impost on the DEC budget."

From a trail bike rider's perspective – it is legal to buy a bike, but there are too few places to ride legally - and existing areas need to be upgraded to provide a pleasant and safe alternative.

As you are aware, the State Trail Bike Strategy addresses all the issues including compulsory registration of trail bikes which will raise funds to upgrade off road reserves and educate riders to respect our national parks and non-motorised trails. The opportunity to meet with you to discuss this issue would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Mike Wood
Chairman, Bibbulmun Track Foundation