



Media release

Off road vehicles and trail bikes – the dirt on it all

At the annual City of Swan General Meeting of Electors on 21 December 2009, Gidgegannup community members raised their concerns in relation to trail bike nuisance behaviour in the area.

A reporting and response plan is in place and is outlined below to promote what people can do to help stop the problem.

Swan Valley/Gidgegannup Ward councillor Darryl Trease said residents needed to report offences to be heard.

First up, they needed to report offences. That can be done by:

- Phoning police on 131 444 for ORV/trail Bikes offences **on** roads, or
- The City of Swan on 9267 9267 for ORV/trail bike offences **off** roads.

He said off road vehicle users need to know the laws around their use and use their vehicles accordingly.

Rules are:

- It is legal to operate an off road vehicle and trail bike on private property with permission for up to two hours per day
- It is legal to operate an off road vehicle in the designated ORV/trail bike area at the Gngangara Pine Plantation only
- It is an offence to operate an ORV/trail bike at any other time or place within the City of Swan

Mr Trease said when a report or a phone call from a complainant of off-road vehicle activity on City land or on private property without permission is placed details are provided to the Customer Services operator.

The information is then forwarded to the Customer Advocate team and an available Customer Advocate will attend the location as soon as possible.

“The Customer Advocate may need to contact the complainant to seek clarity or gather further information in relation to directions for example.

“In this regard it is imperative that contact name and phone number is left when making a report.

“ It can be very difficult to capture offenders as there are no number plates to help find the owner of offending vehicles.

Cr Trease said putting up bollards or gates might deter activity for a short while, but evidence suggested that eventually offenders would find other entry sites.

However, he encouraged residents to take the time to make report incidents and follow the process noted above because without them, nothing could be done.

When Police officers received a complaint they took a written report from any person wishing to make a complaint about driver behaviour and carried out an investigation if there was a reasonable chance that the riders can be identified.

As with most complaints made to police, however, the person reporting must be willing to go to court to assist Police in proving the matter should there be a plea of not guilty.

Once a report has been taken, if Police can identify the rider, they will be spoken to and depending upon age, previous history, and rider behaviour will be dealt with according to legislation.

It can be difficult for Police to identify drivers as bikes generally don't have individual means of identification.

ENDS

Media contact: Helen Pickering
 Public Relations Officer
Phone: (08) 9267 9138
Fax: (08) 9267 9257
Mob: 0417 987 795
Email: helen.pickering@swan.wa.gov.au
Date: 6 February 2009
Web: www.cityofswan.com