

Media Release

Wednesday, 6 June 2018 | Media contact: Rachel Dawkins 0407 821 153

More park and forest road closures from June 14

Some roads and tracks in Gippsland's forests and parks will be temporarily closed during winter and spring.

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) and Parks Victoria run the Seasonal Road Closure program to ensure driver safety and to protect forest and park roads from damage during the cooler months.

Gippsland's Acting Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Kelly Rash said: "The second and main round of the road closures for 2018 comes into effect from Thursday, June 14.

"This follows the initial round of closures, which started on May 1," Ms Rash said.

"The road closure program is an important procedure during the winter and spring months.

"The program helps limit the damage done to forest roads and tracks during the wetter seasons and in doing so ensures dangerous and difficult to negotiate sections of road are closed off from motorists.

"These measures also help maintain water quality in rivers, creeks and reservoirs by reducing the amount of erosion and silt washed away from roads and tracks.

"We encourage the social and recreational use of Victoria's beautiful natural resources, including four-wheel driving, but some sections of the forest road network would rapidly disintegrate if opened for the entire year.

"Together FFMVic and Parks Victoria consult with a range of stakeholders, including Four Wheel Drive Victoria, to identify sections of the road network which require closures.

"Most of the roads and tracks are re-opened in time for the Melbourne Cup Weekend, but the closure period can be extended if the conditions demand it."

To plan a trip and check road closures visit <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/visiting-state-forests/forest-and-road-closures>

For information on seasonal closures in parks, including opening and closing dates, visit <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/safety/closures/seasonal-road-closures2>

You can also contact your local DELWP or Parks Victoria office by calling 136 186, or Parks Victoria on 13 19 63.