

**MID GEORGES RIVER SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE:
LEAVE NO TRACE 4WD AND TRAIL BIKE RIDERS MATERIALS.**

Wednesday 30 March 2011

Leave No Trace Australia (LNTA) have developed minimal impact education resources for 4Wheel Drive enthusiasts and Trail Bike riders in the Greater Sydney area as part of the Mid Georges River Sustainability Initiative (MGRSI).

The MGRSI, funded by the NSW Environmental Trust, is a group that includes Bankstown and Sutherland Councils, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Georges River Combined Councils Committee.

LNTA's Executive Director Cameron Crowe said motorised recreation was a popular pastime for a growing number of people and it was important that environmental and social impacts were minimised so that people were able to continue to recreate without degrading the environment or impinging on other people's enjoyment.

"A number of factors are critical issues for 4WD and Trail Bike enthusiasts to maintain access to areas they currently enjoy" he said.

"Noise is the number one issue for trail bike riders in terms of social impacts, with biosecurity, fire, erosion, and waste disposal being key environmental issues."

"Campfire escapes have resulted in major wild-fire incidents in other parts of Australia, and Phytophthora dieback spread via soil being transported in warm, wet conditions another major issue."

"The emergence of Myrtle Rust in 2010 in New South Wales has already impacted on access to sites for recreation with Hornsby Council temporarily closing tracks to walkers and numerous instances of spread being recorded from activity in the bush" he said.

The production of these materials will provide much needed education for people seeking to access the region for motorised recreation.

With continued population growth and a range of land management challenges to accommodate a variety of activities across the greater Sydney region, it is important that all groups and individuals continue to improve their knowledge and minimal impact skills to ensure a healthy environment available for all to use.

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