

Trail Bike Initiative

Building a Tasmania we
can all be proud of



Change
for a brighter
future

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The Plan to rebuild essential services

Addressing problem trail bike riding

Trail bike riding is becoming an increasingly popular recreational activity for many Tasmanians.

Unfortunately, the use of trail bikes in recreation reserves and bushland areas adjoined to residential areas, where it is prohibited, is becoming a widespread problem within Tasmanian communities and putting the safety of Tasmanians, and the Tasmanian environment, at risk.

The Liberals recognise these significant concerns and the work of community groups that are trying to address the many issues relating to the illegal and inappropriate use of trail bikes across the State.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will boost existing efforts to address the needs of local residents, trail bike riders, other land users and relevant government agencies through a variety of policy measures that focus on education, enforcement and diversion.

Diversion

There are very few designated areas for young Tasmanians in particular to safely and legally ride their trail bikes without causing a public nuisance, causing many to ride illegally. To meet this demand, a number of community groups have sought to establish purpose-built facilities to get riders off the streets, however, have had their intent constrained by sky-high insurance and licensing costs.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$160,000 to establish a fund to assist with the cost of public liability insurance and licensing fees for persons/groups who wish to develop facilities or stage events where riders can safely enjoy their sport.

Education

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will provide \$40,000 to develop and undertake an aggressive social and print media awareness campaign to educate trail bike riders on where they can legally ride in the State and promote the up-take of alternative recreational activities that exist, such as mountain bike riding.

Enforcement

Toughening existing legislation

There are a myriad of pieces of legislation that currently apply to the use of trail bikes in the community, including, for example, the *Traffic Act 1925*, the *Police Offences Act 1935* and the *Environment Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* and Regulations, many of which are applied in an ad hoc manner or not at all.

A majority Hodgman Liberal Government will ask the Tasmanian Law Reform Commission to review the existing law with a view to increasing existing enforcement powers and penalties in respect of the licensing and registration of trail bikes, noise issues and illegal off-track riding.

Greater Police presence

The Labor-Green government has slashed frontline police services in Tasmania as a result of its financial mismanagement. Fewer police mean that there is a reduced ability to deal with the issue of illegal trail bike usage across the State.

A majority Liberal Government will restore Tasmania Police to the levels in place before Labor and the Greens cut the frontline in 2011 (1,228 officers), by the end of our first term of Government.

Based on current police numbers of 1120, this will mean an extra 108 police on the beat.

Costings

\$200,000 over four years.

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