

Lady Talbot Drive closed due to public safety risk

Popular tourist route Lady Talbot Drive in Marysville State Forest is temporarily closed to reduce the risk posed by falling trees during the winter period.

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Acting District Manager – Murrindindi, Mick Morley, said: “We understand the road is popular with visitors, however, the safety of forest and park users must come first.”

“We are working with Parks Victoria, who also manage a section of the road, and the Marysville Visitor Information Centre on informing the community and tourism operators,” Mr Morley said.

“The tourist route is surrounded by large fire killed Mountain and Alpine Ash from the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires, some of which recently fell onto the road making it unsafe for motorists.

“DELWP recently carried out initial dangerous tree works in the area including limb assessment and removal at the edge of the road.

“Whole trees of large mountain ash, up to 70 metres high, have since fallen during the wet conditions of the past few weeks.

“Lady Talbot Drive gives access to some of the most spectacular rainforest walks near Marysville and we ask those planning a trip to be mindful of the closure and obey all traffic signage.

“The status of the road will be assessed prior to the commencement of the September school holidays in an effort to re-open it.”

Lady Talbot Drive starts on Marysville-Woods Point Rd and follows the Taggerty River valley up under the western flanks of Lake Mountain to the top of Mt Margaret Gap.

The main feature on the drive is the Beeches Rainforest Walk within the Yarra Ranges National Park.

There is still plenty to do in the area this winter including a visit to the snow at nearby Lake Mountain Alpine Resort or Cathedral Range State Park.

As part of an annual program, DELWP and Parks Victoria close a range of tracks during winter and spring in the Ovens, Upper Murray, Goulburn and Murrindindi districts.

For those wanting to plan their trip go to the Public Access Map site in the visiting parks and forests section at <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/forestry-and-land-use/visiting-parks-and-forests/visiting-state-forests/public-access-map>.

For maps of closures in parks check the ‘Safety/closures and conditions’ section at www.parks.vic.gov.au. You can also contact your local DELWP office by calling 136 186.