

# ‘DIRT-BIKE DISNEYLAND’: Sawn and gone.

An illegal “jump park” for dirt-bikes in Woronora bushland (pictured) has been finally demolished by the State Government, after intervention by the former NSW Environment Minister, Mark Speakman. In contrast our local State MP, Lee Evans, did nothing when contacted by WVRA a year ago.



Woodchips were flying as crews moved in with chainsaws and heavy equipment recently, and trucked out this “dirt-bike Disneyland” along rough gravel roads. A useful amount of pine offcuts remains on site, if any locals would like remove them before next winter.

Large and illegal structures built by dirt-bikers were first reported to WVRA Inc by local bushwalkers late in 2016. Originally, complications arose when Sutherland Shire Council was contacted, since the illegal structures are in bush reserve, along a fire

trail east of Forbes Creek about 2km from Thorp Rd, Woronora. Sydney Water owned the land, but several other bodies were also involved, taking time to sort out.

We published several articles, and contacted Environment Minister Speakman and Heathcote MP Lee Evans. The cogs began to turn when Mr Speakman got involved although he represents Cronulla. Our own MP declined to act on this State issue in local bushland, although he did thank WVRA for advising him anyway. Both are Liberal MPs from the Shire, with very different attitudes.

## NO POLICE ACTION

News of this illegal construction by motorcyclists and mountain bikers were published first by WVRA’s website and then taken up by The Leader newspaper.

Sutherland Police did nothing after a former police Chief Inspector ‘X’ from the Shire had defended the illegal “jump park” publicly, and confessed to using such facilities himself as a dirt-biker – and breaking the law. No charges were laid by Sutherland Police, despite complaints of assault on bushwalkers confronted by speeding motorcyclists, narrowly missing a collision with local children. Persistent local action has paid off, with help from a sympathetic politician.

*Recent stories below (click on links)*

**DIRT-BIKE 'DISNEYLAND' FOR DEMOLITION.** An illegal dirt-bike Disneyland is to be demolished in protected bushland near Woronora, months after its discovery by a local bushwalker. The State Government has declared it to be unlawful in sensitive natural parkland. 12 Feb 2017



## [Illegal ramps at Woronora to be removed | St George & Sutherland ...](#)

Feb 16, 2017 - This "dirt-bike Disneyland" was illegally built, as prohibited "infrastructure", and is illegally used by motorcycles too. A (Facebook) logo looks just like a motorcycle doing a big speedway slide, boot on the ground -- and they use bushwalkers like slalom poles...

## [Father 'threatened' by dirt bike rider at Woronora | St George ...](#)

Mar 24, 2017 - Police are investigating after a bushwalker was allegedly threatened in front of his two young children by a dirt bike rider, who was riding on Crown land at Woronora illegally. The father, who did not wish to be named, said two dirt bikes went close to hitting his children, 4 and 6. ASSAULT DANGER IN BUSHLAND. Sutherland police are investigating an attack reported on an elderly bushwalker by motorcyclists in an isolated reserve near Woronora. The 66-year-old retiree was taking photos near an outlaw “jump park” built by dirt-bikers, when two young motorcyclists began to follow him.... 27 Dec 2016.

--By Don Pagé, [www.woronoravalley.com](http://www.woronoravalley.com) 28 January 2018

## DEMOLITION FOR 'DIRT-BIKE DISNEYLAND'

An illegal dirt-bike Disneyland is to be demolished in protected bushland near Woronora, months after its discovery by a local bushwalker.

Repeated complaints were made to various authorities by WVRA Inc, as crime escalated from repeated destruction on gates of fire trails; illegal use by 4WDs and motorcycles; and assault of a walker by motorcyclists with photos provided to police.

"The structures are unlawful," advised the Lands section (Department of Industry, DoI), in a letter of 5 February 2017 to a member of the WVRA Inc. It plans "to have the structures removed" soon (one pictured, 15 metres long). It is against the Crown Lands Act 1989 to build, or to use, such structures. New signs go up shortly.



### **POLICE TURN A BLIND EYE**

Sutherland Police have refused to prosecute after the public exposure of the elaborate illegal facility, despite photos of vehicles illegally on tracks nearby. A former senior shire policeman had defended the illegal "jump park" in writing, and confessed to using such facilities himself – a breach of the law (see above, and previous article).

Police also know the identity of another illegal dirt rider – a motorcyclist who was airlifted to hospital at public expense from a fire trail nearby after hitting a tree recently. The State Government has been asked to recover costs of the rescue, about \$10,000, and to prosecute.

A site meeting in January was held with police, Sutherland Shire Council, the Rural Fire Service and WVRA Inc, but nothing definite resulted. Damage to public property has cost thousands lately.

### **CCTV CAMERAS FOR PROSECUTION**

Council has been asked to apply for State funding available for CCTV cameras around this sensitive bushland, to prosecute offenders.

RFS bureaucrats created friction by a decision to keep open permanently internal gates of Sydney Water, contrary to SW's actions as owner. This open-gate decree by RFS invited a new fire hazard – a motocross track unobstructed for kilometres in protected parkland around Woronora.

Many motorcycles have no spark arrestor in their exhausts, creating a daily fire risk. Campfires are being lit near 'Disneyland' in total fire-bans, and rubbish left scattered.

RFS friction with Sydney Water arose as locks have been opened and left hanging on a gate, inviting theft, then gates left unlockable. Other locks/chains have been cut and stolen.

An RFS spokesman claimed that it wanted internal gates open permanently for "safety reasons" in bushfires, less than 1pc of the time. RFS has no such legal authority outside of emergencies.

Open gates allowed illegal access for 4WD deliveries of timber to build the dirt-bike playground.

"DoI Lands has the authority to remove the structures and to remediate the site under the Crown Lands Act 1989," a departmental spokesperson said. Many trees were destroyed in building the illegal dirt-bike playground.

[www.woronoravalley.com](http://www.woronoravalley.com) 12 Feb 2017