

FERAL BIKERS' WAR ON BUSHLAND

Feral dirt-bikers have escalated their war on Woronora bushland, destroying a metal barrier on a fire trail to give them permanent illegal access.

Previously, padlocks on gates were cut as fast as they were replaced. The State Government seems powerless to stop these determined law-breakers.

The latest attack removed thick steel rails to bypass completely one crucial gate, and create their own motocross playground through many kilometres of bush reserve, unobstructed from Woronora to Engadine or Loftus.

Increasingly brazen after lack of police action over complaints, speeding motorcyclists almost ran down two local children, 4 and 6, a year ago.

When their father angrily berated the riders, one stopped to assault him, but

sped off when the victim began to take video on his mobile phone (separate story).



HIDDEN CAMERAS PLANNED

The dirt-biker was identified from a previous assault on a 66-year-old bushwalker, who provided Sutherland Police with clear video. They took no action despite a formal complaint. Photos were also supplied of two cars with number plates, illegally on bush tracks but again police took no action. Local rumour has it that one dirt-biker has family in the NSW Police.

A portable grinder was likely used in this latest attack on fire-trail barriers, while oxy-cutting gear was used in the past. Both create a major fire risk in dry bushland.

The gap cut in the barrier saves the feral dirt-bikers the 30 seconds to dismount and open a gate whose padlock has been regularly cut and stolen. Now they can ride around without stopping.

The two-wheeled vandals are aware that any major repair could take months for various authorities to liaise and organise.

Meanwhile, the illegal motocross race track is open for business.

Authorities have been asked to improve barriers and to install hidden video cameras at key sites to get evidence for prosecution.

The State MP for Heathcote Lee Evans has been asked to find funding from the NSW Government.

Malicious damage is far more serious than trespass, and punishable by up to five years in prison.

Sutherland Shire is widely known for its natural beauty, but is suffering everywhere from abuse which goes unchecked mostly. Woronora bushland has steep terrain makes it easier to put gates on trails at natural bottlenecks.

Menai's bushland has been devastated by 4WDs and motorcycles due to remoteness and easy entry, mainly from Heathcote Road. Woronora's bush is in suburbia, used daily by walkers and mountain bikers, whom speeding motorcyclists treat as slalom poles. --www.woronoravalley.com 1 February 2018