



## Stay Safe This Fire Season

South Gippsland Shire Council is urging local residents to ensure their properties are fire ready following recent prosecutions for last year's fire prevention notices.

Fifteen cases were heard at the Korumburra Magistrates Court last week against land owners who had not paid infringement notices for failing to comply with fire prevention notices issued during the last fire season.

Most landowners received fines between \$1,600 and \$2,000 while two people with a history of similar offending were fined \$5,000 each.

Local Laws inspected approximately 1,800 properties last season and issued 1,200 fire prevention notices directing land owners to reduce the risk of bushfire by slashing grass and removing combustibles from their property.

Any person that received an infringement notice and didn't act accordingly had the matter referred to the court.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Manager Regulatory Services Matthew Patterson wanted to remind residents of the importance of being prepared for the fire season ahead.

"The fines administered by the court on this occasion indicate how seriously the courts view such matters.

"People have responsibilities to themselves and their communities to ensure their properties are maintained to minimise the threat of fire.

"Fire can have serious consequences, taking both assets and lives in some cases, it is in all our interests to ensure we do everything we can to prevent such an occurrence happening," said Mr Patterson.

For advice regarding preparation for the upcoming fire season please contact Council's Local Laws team on 5662 9200 or visit [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

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