

## Mud on Public Roads Causing Traffic Hazards

Mud and topsoil in drains and on roads can affect road safety, damage the environment and have a financial impact on both the community and farmers. In recent years the issue has become a growing concern in South Gippsland.

Erosion from ploughing for crops, mud on tractor tyres and crossing drains without a properly constructed driveway are some of causes for the issue.

These problems can lead to slippery roads which cause accidents and blocked drains where water can erode the road surface. Silt can also enter waterways, rivers and oceans causing environmental issues, not to mention the loss of valuable topsoil that farmers need for their crops.

Clean up can be expensive for the community and the farmer. Recent roadway clean-ups have cost thousands of dollars that would be otherwise spent on scheduled and preventative maintenance.

Council would like to work with farmers in taking preventative steps to avoid any losses to both their farm and the public. Measures farmers can take include; constructing proper driveways for access into paddocks, bunding and silt control.

This will reduce the need for any litter abatement notices, fines or charges for the cost of clean-up and damages.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Manager Operations Fred Huitema has emphasized; the importance of the issue.

"Council appreciates the hard work farmers do for our community, which is why it is important for us to work with them to find solutions to reduce the amount of mud on our roads.

"We are hoping these measures will ensure our roads are safer for the community to utilise," said Mr Huitema.

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