Summer Roadside Slashing Program to Begin

South Gippsland Shire Council's annual summer roadside vegetation slashing program will begin soon, covering approximately 226 kilometres of identified priority roads.

Delivered by contractors, this seasonal program complements Council's routine roadside maintenance program, which slashes roadsides along approximately 1,185 kilometres of unsealed rural roads throughout the year to manage vegetation and maintain visibility for road users.

Priority roads are identified in consultation with the Country Fire Authority, taking account of bushfire risk, school bus routes and access to coastal holiday areas, including locations with limited road access.

Slashing is the broad scale cutting of grass and vegetation using a boom arm attached. While it may not appear neatly mown, the primary aim is to reduce roadside fuel loads, assist in managing grassfire risk and to maintain traffic safety.

Slashing both sides of a road can require multiple passes, averaging about three kilometres per day. Terrain, vegetation and roadside obstacles influence the time required and the area that machinery can safely reach. The work focuses on fire risk management and road safety, with the finish varying according to roadside conditions.

Timing the summer vegetation slashing is important – we aim to cut the grass as it starts to dry out. Cutting too early while the grass is still green can trigger faster regrowth, which can dry out later in summer.

While this work occurs, you may see increased slashing activity in your local area. Please slow down, follow signs and any traffic control directions, and pass only when safe. On narrower roads, you may need to wait until there is sufficient room to pass safely.

Quote attributable to Cr Nathan Hersey, Mayor South Gippsland Shire Council:
"With the warmer weather we are now seeing rapid spring growth of grass along our roads.

Therefore, Council is starting our annual grass slashing program to start reducing that fuel load ahead of summer."

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