



Somerset
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Why We... Slash roadsides

SLASHING FACTSHEET



Roadside slashing is an essential Council service, creating safe, clear roadsides at a minimal cost.

Across the region, Council maintains around 400 kilometres of State controlled roads and almost 600 kilometres of sealed Council roads.

Just like the grass in your backyard, roadsides grow much faster in summer. Some routes, like the Brisbane Valley Highway, can be slashed 4 to 6 times a year.

Why does Council slash the grass on roadsides?

To manage vegetation effectively, Somerset Regional Council uses a combination of machinery, flail mowers for slopes, brush cutters for tight areas, and targeted chemical spraying for noxious weeds or places machinery can't reach.

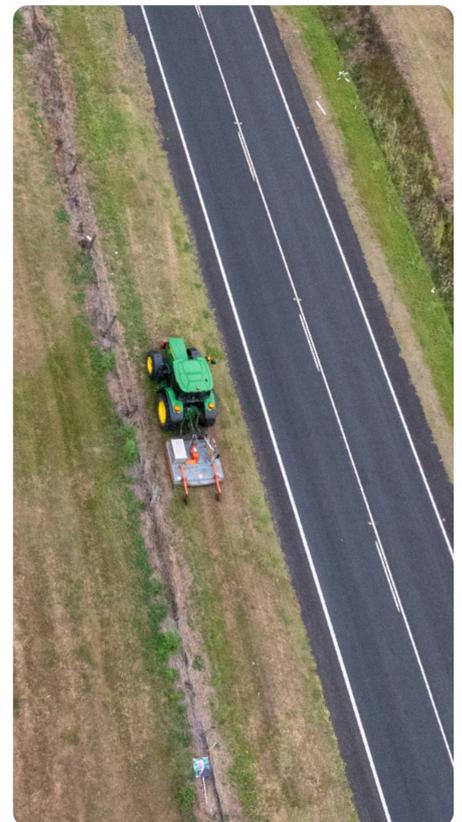
While spraying is useful, it's not a long term fix and comes with environmental, safety, and cost considerations, so it's used selectively.

Paving roads wider is not a viable option to reduce the need for slashing as it can create more problems than it solves.

More pavement increases heat, runoff and flood risk, costs more to maintain, and may impact nearby properties and infrastructure.

Grassed verges remain the safest and most practical solution for most locations.

There are many reasons we utilise slashing around the region. Council is committed to maintaining safety and visibility for all residents and visitors to Somerset.





Roadside slashing - FAQs



How frequently does Council slash a road in summer versus winter?

How often we slash depends largely on the weather. Just like the grass in your backyard, roadsides grow much faster in summer. We typically cut 1 to 2 slasher widths on Council roads. At times, work must be delayed due to fire danger, wet weather, or wildlife breeding seasons.



How do you safely pass a slashing tractor on the road?

Please treat a slashing tractor like any slow moving work vehicle. Slow down early, keep well back, and only overtake when it is completely safe and legal to. Do not tailgate or attempt to pass on blind corners or crests.



Why not spray overgrown weeds and grass with chemicals?

Spraying is useful, but it's not a long-term fix and comes with environmental, safety and cost considerations, so it's used selectively.



Where does Council avoid slashing?

There are many places where Council does not slash, either for safety, legal or environmental reasons. These include private property, steep or environmentally sensitive areas, gravel roads, utility infrastructure, and unused or unnamed road reserves. In urban areas, residents are responsible for maintaining the nature strip between the kerb and their property boundary.



How does Council decide when to slash?

Our mowing program helps guide where and when our teams work, but conditions on the ground can change quickly. We aim to step in when grass reaches about 70 centimetres high, or sooner if there's a safety risk such as blocked sight lines, fire hazards, fast seasonal growth, or high traffic areas that need extra attention.



Why does Council do slashing on TMR roads?

Council maintains around 400km of state-controlled roads and almost 600km of sealed Council roads. This work costs between \$1.5 and \$1.7 million each year, with slashing on state-controlled roads reimbursed to Council through the Road Maintenance Performance Contract.

