

Environmental Guidance Note – Mulching and Slashing

HSE DOCUMENT

Mulching and Slashing requires site specific practices and environmental controls to mitigate potential impacts and minimise the effects on the environment.

Mulching and slashing operations are designed to manage vegetation with a minimum of soil disturbance and/or damage to ground cover.



The following controls are mandatory for all mulching and slashing operations:

Controls for Mulching and Slashing

- Mulching/Trittoring should not be undertaken on lands classed as *Vulnerable Land –Steep or Highly Erodible-* (generally land exceeding 18°)
- Avoid mulching/trittoring long runs slopes >12°, leave some standing vegetation to intersect the slope and assist soil stability
- AVOID disturbing soil by locking tracks or undertaking tight turns
- AVOID disturbing the soil with mulcher/trittor heads. Set mulched heads to have 100mm of clearance (minimum)
- Ensure mulcher hammer/cutters/blades are set a minimum 100mm above ground level to minimise damage to ground cover and minimise soil disturbance
- Slashers should be set to 200mm in areas dominated by native vegetation
- Mulch depth should not exceed 100mm
- Mulched material should be evenly spread over the treated area; a minimum of 70% mulch cover is required to mitigate soil erosion
- If significant damage, removal of low growing ground cover or significant soil disturbance is likely to occur consult an Environment Business Partner for advice prior to undertaking works

