Slasher Mower			
Business Name:		ABN:	
Business Address:			
Contact Person:	Phone:	Email:	

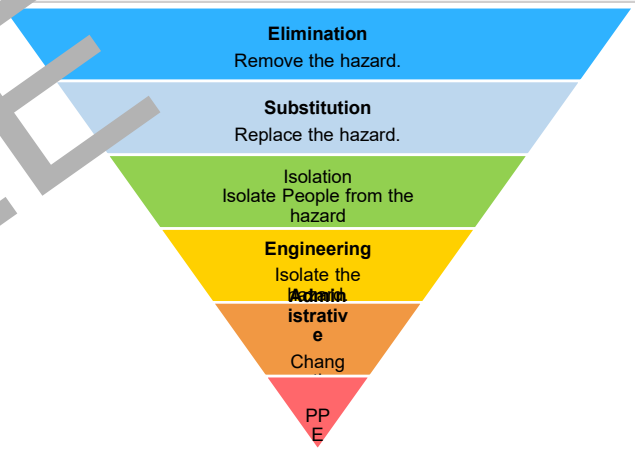
THIS RISK ASSESSMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU OF THE PROJECT		
Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation (WHS Regulation), a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) is required to ensure that a RISK ASSESSMENT is prepared before the proposed work starts.		
Full Name:		
Signature:	Title:	Date:

CLIENT OR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR DETAILS	SCOPE OF WORKS
Client:	
Project Name:	
Project Address:	
Project Manager:	
Contact Phone:	
Date Risk Assessment supplied to Project Manager:	

RISK MATRIX

LIKELIHOOD	INSIGNIFICANT	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR	CATASTROPHIC	SCORE	ACTION
ALMOST CERTAIN	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE		
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Rev before work
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACU	2M MO RATE	Ensure control measures in place.
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 H	1L LOW	Monitor and keep records.

HIERARCHY OF CONTROLS



Risk Rating & Required Action:

4A	Stop work. The risk is intolerable. E inate the hazar redesign the activity before proceeding. A Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) or hi er-level authorisati is required.
3H	Review and approve additional c rols b ask arts. Senior supervisor sign-off needed.
2M	Ensure all nominated controls are in ace and effe ive. Proceed with caution; monitor conditions.
1L	Proceed, following standard operating procedures Monitor and keep records.

Consequence Scale:

Consequence	People (injury/illness)	Project / Assets	Compliance / Reputation
Catastrophic	Fatality or permanent total disability	project shutdown	Significant regulator intervention; criminal prosecution
Major	Serious injury/illness (hospital > 5 days)	critical delay	Improvement notice; major media coverage
Moderate	Medical-treatment injury; lost-time > 1 day	moderate delay	Minor breach; adverse client comment
Minor	First-aid only, no lost time	negligible delay	Isolated non-conformance
Insignificant	No injury	no schedule impact	Deviation caught and corrected on site

Notes on Hierarchy of Controls:
Remember to apply controls in the preferred order shown by the coloured pyramid:

1. **Eliminate**
2. Substitute
3. Isolate
4. Engineering
5. Administrative
6. PPE

Always document **why** a lower-order control is accepted if elimination or substitution is not reasonably practicable.

aligned with Safe Work Australia's Managing the risk of fatigue at work *(2023) and ISO 45001:2018 clauses 6–8.*

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
1. Governance, WHS Duties and Legal Compliance	• Lack of clear allocation of WHS duties for slasher mower operations under WHS Act 2011 and WHS Regulations • Inadequate senior management oversight of plant risks, leading to unmanaged critical hazards (entanglement, ejection of objects, rollover) • Failure to consult with workers and Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs) on slasher mower risks and controls • No systematic process to identify, assess and review risks associated with slasher mowers in line with the hierarchy of control • Non-compliance with relevant Australian Standards, Codes of Practice and manufacturer's safety information for tractor-mounted and towed plant • Inadequate incident and near-miss reporting and investigation processes related to slasher mow	High	• Establish and document a Plant Safety Man ment Procedure that specifically includes tractor-mounted and towed slashers, aligned with S Act 2011 WHS Regulations and relevant codes of practice • Assign clear WHS responsibilities for slasher er manage t to officers, managers, supervisors and workers, and include the in position descri ns and rformance reviews • Maintain a legal register refere ing applicable leg , Australian Standards (e.g. AS/NZS for guarding, tractors a d equi ent) and OEM manuals relevant to slasher mowers, and review annually • Implement a rmal risk m agemen ss for all plant, requiring documented risk assessments for slashe owers efore f use, on intro uction of changes, and at scheduled review intervals • Esta is a consu ion procedure that requires engagement with workers and HSRs when selecting, modify g c changi work systems involving slashers • Imple nt a ructure ncident and near-miss reporting and investigation system (including near-miss action, ntang ment or PTO incidents) with corrective actions tracked to completion and shared with wo rs • Require ficers to periodically verify due diligence for plant risks (e.g. scheduled WHS audits, review of t ning, maintenance and inspection records for slasher mowers)	Medium
2. Procurement, Design and Suitability of Slasher Mower and Tractor	• Procurement of s sher mowers or tractors that are n it for pur the terrain, vegetati duty c e • Purchase of plant without compliar guarding on power take-off (PTO shafts, driveline, blades, nd rotating components • Lack of roll-over protective structure (ROPS) and seat belts on tractors used with slashers on uneven or sloped ground • Inadequate consideration of compatibility between tractor and slasher (power rating, hitch type, weight balance, braking capacity) • Failure to obtain or retain manufacturer's operation, maintenance and safety instructions and hazard information	High	• Implement a formal plant procurement procedure that requires WHS review and sign-off before purchasing or hiring slasher mowers and tractors, including risk assessment and compatibility check • Specify minimum safety requirements in procurement documents (e.g. compliant PTO guards, blade guarding, ROPS, seat belts, safety decals, emergency stop controls where applicable) • Ensure tractors used with slashers have suitable power, weight and braking capacity, and that slasher weight and configuration are compatible with the tractor and intended terrain • Require evidence of compliance with relevant Australian Standards and OEM safety requirements prior to purchase or hire • Obtain, record and keep current all OEM manuals, safety bulletins and technical data for tractors and slashers in a central plant register accessible to workers and supervisors • Avoid procurement of second-hand or modified slashers where safety performance, origin or maintenance history cannot be verified, unless subject to a formal engineering and WHS review • Include contractual requirements for hire companies to provide current inspection tags, service records and safety information for hired slashers and tractors	Medium

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
	• Selection of plant without engineered controls to manage ejection of objects (e.g. inadequate chain guards, skirts, deflectors)			
3. Plant Risk Management, Change Management and Engineering Controls	• Unsystematic or informal risk assessments that do not identify critical mechanical and operational hazards of slasher mowers • Uncontrolled modifications to tractors or slashers (e.g. removal or alteration of guards, fabrication of mounts) without engineering assessment • Failure to consider changes in terrain, vegetation density, or operating environment (public access, roadside, near infrastructure) • Inadequate controls for ejection of rocks, sticks or debris from the slasher path into people, vehicles or property • Lack of documented safe systems to manage work near roads, buildings, utilities and other plant	High	• Apply a formal plant risk management pro[illegible]s prior to introducing or materially altering slasher mowers, using a standardised risk assessment templa[illegible] and involving experienced operators and HSRs • Document all identified hazards (e.g. entanglement, crush, ejection, noise, vibration, roll-over) and apply the hierarchy of control, prioritising elimination and engineering controls over administrative controls and PPE • Implement a formal change management procedure to review WHS impacts of any modifications to tractors or slashers (including guards, frames, hitches and hydraulic systems), with engineering sign-off where required • Require pre-use engineering assessment when adding or changing attachments that may affect stability, centre of gravity or braking performance of the tractor-slashers combination • Define exclusion zones and engineered solutions (deflectors, chain curtains, side and rear guards) for slasher operation near public areas, buildings, parked vehicles, livestock and other workers • Develop planning guidelines for slasher work in higher-risk locations (e.g. road reserves, easements, near watercourses, on slopes), requiring task-specific risk assessment and traffic/control plans • Periodically audit plant risk assessments for slashers to ensure they remain current and reflect operational changes, incident learnings and new technology	Medium
4. Guards, Safety Devices and Isolation Systems	• Removed, damaged or defective guards on PTO shafts, drivelines and rotating components leading to entanglement or contact • Inadequate or missing guarding around slasher blades and discharge points resulting in ejection of objects at high speed • No formal system to inspect, maintain and verify integrity of guards, safety chains, skirts and shields • Ineffective isolation procedures for maintenance, cleaning or clearing blockages (e.g. reliance on informal shutdown practices) • Defeated or bypassed safety devices due to production pressure or poor supervision	High	[redacted]	Low

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
5. Operator Competency, Licensing and Training Systems	• Operators using tractors and slasher mowers without adequate competency-based training or assessment • No verification of driver licences or high-risk work licences where required for related plant or road use • Inconsistent understanding of hazards such as PTO entanglement, roll-over risk, ejection of objects and work on slopes • Lack of competency in performing basic safety checks, interpreting warning signage and responding to abnormal conditions • Training not refreshed, documented or adapted when new plant models or attachments are introduced	High	[redacted]	Medium
6. Procedures, Safe Work Systems and Supervision	• Absence of clear written procedures planning and managing slasher operations across different environmen and seasons • Reliance on inform custom and practice rather tha standardised safe work systems • Inconsistent supervision leading to variable compliance with safety requirements, especially among contractors and seasonal workers • Failure to define operating limits for terrain gradient, ground conditions, speed and weather • No system to integrate slasher operations with other site activities, leading to interaction risks	High	[redacted]	Medium
7. Maintenance, Inspection and Plant Integrity Management	• Inadequate planned maintenance for tractors and slasher mowers leading to mechanical failure (e.g. brakes, steering, hydraulics, PTO, blades)	High	[redacted]	Medium

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
	• Unrecorded or ad hoc repairs and part replacements compromising plant safety performance • Failure to detect wear and damage to critical components such as blades, blade carriers, couplings, tyres and hitch points • No clear process for taking defective plant out of service and preventing unauthorised use • Limited competence of personnel performing maintenance on critical systems associated with slasher mowers		[redacted]	
8. Work Environment, Terrain and Journey Management	• Operation of slasher mowers on unsuitable slopes, unstable ground, edges of drains or embankments, increasing roll-over risk • Poor planning of access routes to an from work areas, requiring travel on unsafe tracks or public roads without controls • Inadequate asses ent of ground hazards such as h den stumps cks, rubbish or irrigatio fra re th can be struck and ejected • Lack of controls for working in proximity to water bodies ditches or soft shoulders • No formal journey management process for remote or isolated slasher operations	High	[redacted]	Medium
9. Traffic, Public Interface and Access Control	• Interaction between tractor-slasher units and other vehicles, plant or pedestrians, particularly in road reserves, depots and shared work sites • Lack of traffic control plans when operating near or within live traffic environments	High	[redacted]	Medium

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
	• Inadequate signage, beacons or lighting on tractors and slashers during roadside or low-visibility operations • Uncontrolled entry of members of the public, visitors or other workers into the slasher operating envelope • Poor communication between slasher operators and other work crews in the vicinity		[redacted]	
10. Contractor, Labour Hire and Visitor Management	• Use of contractors or labour hire workers to operate slasher mowers without verified competency or adequate supervision • Poor information sharing between PCBUs regarding plant risks, site hazards and control measures • Inconsistent safety standards where multiple PCBUs are involved in slasher operations on the same site or network • Visitors or third parties enter operating areas without understanding slasher-related risks	Hig	[redacted]	Medium
11. Remote, Isolated and After-Hours Work	• Operators working alone with slasher mowers in remote or low-traffic areas without effective communication or monitoring • Delayed emergency response following rollover, entanglement or medical events due to isolation • Fatigue associated with long travel times, extended shifts or seasonal peak work	High	[redacted]	Medium

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
	• Limited visibility and increased interaction risk during dawn, dusk or night operations		[redacted]	
12. Health Monitoring, Ergonomics and Noise/Vibration Management	• Prolonged exposure to whole-body vibration from operating tractors with slashers on uneven ground • Excessive noise levels from tractor engines and slasher blades causing potential hearing damage • Musculoskeletal strain from poor seat adjustment, controls layout, or repeated climbing on and off plant • Heat stress, sun exposure and dehydration during extended outdoor slasher operations • Lack of systems to monitor and manage cumulative exposure to noise, vibration and environmental stressors	Medium	[redacted]	Low
13. Emergency Preparedness and Incident Response	• Inadequate preparedness for rollover, entanglement, fire, medical, ejection-related incidents during slasher operations • Lack of clear procedures for raising alarms and coordinating emergency response in remote or distributed work sites • Limited operator and supervisor training in first aid and emergency decision-making specific to plant incidents • Poor post-incident management leading to incomplete investigations and	High	[redacted]	Medium

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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
	missed opportunities for system improvements		[redacted]	
14. Documentation, Recordkeeping and Continuous Improvement	• Incomplete or inconsistent documentation of plant records, risk assessments, training and inspections for slasher operations • Difficulty demonstrating due diligence and compliance during regulatory inspections or audits • Failure to systematically learn from incidents, near misses, worker feedback and technological developments • Outdated procedures and risk assessments not reflecting current pla terrain or work practices	Medium	[redacted]	Low

EMERGENCY RESPONSE – CALL 000 FOR EMERGENCIES

Ensure to have an Emergency Management Plan in place as well as adequate numbers of trained first aid staff with easy access to fully stocked first aid kits, rescue equipment, material safety data sheets, adequate access to emergency communication equipment and fire-fighting equipment suitable for all classes of fire and ignition sources.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE. DELETE THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES FOR ANY STATE THAT ARE NOT APPLICABLE

Queensland & Australian Capital Territory
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011
Legislation QLD: https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-health-and-safety-laws
Codes of Practice QLD: https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice
Legislation ACT: https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations
Codes of Practice ACT: https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice

New South Wales
Work Health and Safety Act 2011
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2025
Legislation NSW: https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/legislation
Codes of Practice NSW: https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/list-of-codes-of-practice

Northern Territory
Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011
Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011
Legislation NT: https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-safety-laws
Codes of Practice NT: https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/forms-and-resources/codes-of-practice

South Australia
Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)
Legislation for SA: https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/legislation
Codes of Practice for SA: https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/workplaces/codes-of-practice#COPs

Tasmania
Work Health and Safety Act 2012
Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2012
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012
Work Health and Safety (Transitional) Regulations 2012
Legislation for TAS: https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations
Codes of Practice for TAS: https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice

Details of permits, licenses or access required by regulatory bodies (add or delete as required):

- Permits from local council
- Authorisation to commence work
- Any required documents.

Victoria
Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004
Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017
Legislation VIC: https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-regulations
Codes of Practice VIC: https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice

Western Australia
Work Health and Safety Act 2020
Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022
Legislation Western Australia: https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/legislation
Codes of Practice WA: https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/codes-practice

Safe Work Australia Links
Law and Regulation (All States): https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/law-and-regulation
Model Codes of Practice: https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-publications/model-codes-of-practice

Model Codes of Practice

- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work
- Confined spaces
- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Welding processes
- First aid in the workplace
- Managing the risk of falls at workplaces
- Hazardous manual tasks
- Managing the risk of falls in housing construction
- Managing electrical risks in the workplace
- Demolition work
- Excavation work
- Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination
- Managing the work environment and facilities
- How to manage work health and safety risks
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace
- Construction work