



# GREENING OF RIDDELL

Work health and safety guidance note:

## USING LAWN MOWERS

### **ASSESS THE RISK**

Parks Victoria to be advised when mowing needs to take place. Landholders adjacent to the Park may mow using their own mowers to mitigate fire risk.

GoR will mow as required. Anyone operating the GoR mower must be approved by GoR Committee to use the mower and trained in its use.

A risk assessment must be done for each site where mowing will take place and suitable control measures implemented.

Mower must be maintained in good working order and checked regularly by a competent person.

Any guards or attachments provided for safety must be used.

### **WALK-BEHIND AND RIDE-ON MOWERS – OPERATING PRECAUTIONS**

Before starting, make sure the lawn is clear of sticks, stones, wire and other debris.

Make sure there are no people in the immediate vicinity when mowing.

Wear suitable PPE – sun protective clothing, eye and hearing protection, gloves and high-grip and steel capped boots.

Disengage all blades and drive clutches before starting.

Start the engine carefully with feet well away from blades.

Stop the engine before pushing the mower over rough or loose surfaces e.g. gravel.

Do not mow very steep or slippery slopes.

Avoid walking backwards with a mower or pulling it towards you.

Do not over speed the engine, tamper with manufacture settings or safety features. e.g. auto cut out on mowers.

Never pick up or carry a mower while it is operating. Stop the engine before making adjustments, refuelling or removing blockages.

Disconnect the spark plug lead before clearing, repairing or adjusting the blades.

Never use hands to clear blockages between the blades – use a wooden stake or tool instead.

Always keep the mower on the ground when mowing. Tilting or lifting the lawnmower may cause stones to be thrown out.

Do not use the lawnmower if there is excessive vibration.

Store the mower and fuel in a cool, secure location. Fuel must be clearly labelled and stored in a suitable container.

### **REFUELLING**

Care should be taken not to spill fuel during refuelling.

Mowers should be moved at least three metres from the refuelling area before they are started up.

Mowers should not be left idling in the refuelling area.

An approved fire extinguisher, a rake or shovel and sand, or a piece of canvas to smother small flames should be kept close to the refuelling area.

### **FIRE SEASON**

During fire season anyone mowing should have appropriate equipment to extinguish a fire caused by sparking in compliance with MRSC and Parks Vic regulations, plus carry mobile phone to ring 000.

**NB:** A chaff bag is attached to the GoR mower.

Approved by: Heather McNaught President, Lyn Hovey Secretary & GoR Committee

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