

Grip Road Tree Removal to commence soon

South Gippsland Shire Council is preparing to remove 39 trees along Grip Road in Toora that have been identified as posing a potential risk to residents and road users.

An independent arborist report shows that the trees – which are located along the Avenue of Honour - have an increased likelihood of breakage and damage due to structural defects including stem decay, poor formation of major unions and a history of limb failure. As such, removal was recommended.

Due to the location of the trees, Council has been working closely with the community and RSL to select the most appropriate species for replanting. Replanting is expected to take place throughout autumn and winter 2025.

Many Avenues of Honour across the Shire are reaching the end of their life-cycle. When a tree on Council land such as a roadside, is diseased, dying or dangerous, Council will look to prune or remove the tree to minimise risk to our community. Before any removal occurs, all options are explored, including whether the tree can safely remain and provide habitat. When removal is necessary Council considers how the tree could be replaced and with what species.

Many Avenues of Honour include exotic species such as oak, plane tree and pine. Today we have a greater variety of species better suited to certain landscapes and environments. In order to create a long-lasting avenue, a different species of tree may be selected as a replacement.

Trees, provide many wonderful benefits: the shade from their canopies help to reduce street temperatures and can even reduce cooling costs in summer, they provide habitat and improve biodiversity, they clean our air producing oxygen and sequestering carbon, they can help with reducing wind and flood impacts, and they create inviting and beautiful spaces in our communities adding to our well-being.

Council plants around 500 additional street trees each year, and aims to replace removed trees where appropriate.

Quote attributable to Kerryn Ellis, Chief Executive Officer of South Gippsland Shire Council

“The removal of the trees along Grip Road is sad but necessary in this instance. To preserve the significance of the Avenue of Honour, Council will replace the trees with a plant species that will live longer and thrive in this area.”

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