

Hi everyone

The purpose of this communication is to update you on progress of procurement of a high-volume mulcher/chipper for use in the Dolphin Sands/Cambria Drive area and request that you communicate with your Glamorgan Spring Bay Councillors asap to ensure a positive outcome for this project. Apologies up-front for the length of the email.

Background

As we are all acutely aware, fire has taken a heavy toll on our community. Over the years, a major cause of fires in the area has been burnoffs that have got out of control or have smouldered and later escaped.

In order to provide an alternative to burning for fuel load reduction (and hence reduce risk of future fires), the Dolphin Sands Community Association (DSCA) through the great work of Steve Barrett and Robyn Moore, were successful in obtaining a \$125,000 grant from the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). The grant was to "Support Council to purchase a portable Chipstar Negri R640 chipper/shredder for bushfire mitigation". Glamorgan Spring Bay Council (GSBC) unilaterally decided on the type of machine to purchase. The Council were very positive in their support of the project and agreed to it being owned, maintained and operated by them and available to communities in the area. They subsequently managed the procurement of the \$250,000 mulcher which arrived in Swansea earlier this year.

Current Situation

It has now been determined by GSBC that the mulcher is unfit for purpose. GSBC originally proposed the mulcher would be used to manage green waste at tip site(s) and be available to use in communities. Unfortunately, their assessment now is the mulcher is too small for the tip sites and too large to use on the roadside/on properties.

The DSCA is currently in negotiation with GSBC to determine a way forward. A number of options have been proposed by GSBC including selling the mulcher and purchasing a smaller machine which would be suitable for use in the community. DSCA and GSBC will need to undertake some delicate negotiations with NEMA to ensure that the original purpose of the grant (purchasing a chipper to mulch vegetation) is maintained and the grant is preserved under changed conditions, and to keep positive relationships with that NEMA. While it is to be determined, DSCA are concerned that the grant money transferred so far will need to be refunded should there be a major variation to the application.

What we **do not want** to happen is for the current situation to continue where we have minimal options to reduce fuel load. We do not want to lose the opportunity for green waste mulching on site by Council. The Dolphin Sands community has had too many fire disasters over the years and we need to work to ensure that things change for the safety and welfare of the community.

DSCA are keen to work collaboratively with Council to get a good outcome for the Dolphin Sands.

The committee believe the best outcome is for council to use an appropriately sized chipper to mulch vegetation on-site twice yearly, ongoing. Mulching should be covered by operational funding streams within councils regular budget allocations.

Call to Action

Before the Council holds a workshop on 14 April 2026 and makes a decision on 28 April 2026 at the Council meeting, I am asking you to contact Glamorgan Spring Bay councillors and make your opinion on the matter heard.

The DSCA committee believe the outcome should be as follows:

- GSBC should provide on site mulching, including provision of operators free of charge to Dolphin Sands area ratepayers twice yearly on an ongoing basis in order to reduce fuel load in the area.

You may have a different opinion, which is fine, but now is the time the community need to make ourselves heard on this matter. The email address to contact all councillors is council@freycinet.tas.gov.au If you would prefer to ring councillors, you can find their phone numbers on the GSBC website: <https://gsbc.tas.gov.au/contact/councillors/>

I want to make it clear, as stated above, the DSCA Committee are very keen to keep a positive and cooperative relationship with GSBC. I understand that a number of you are very frustrated with the current situation but I would ask that if you are communicating with Councillors or Council staff, it is in a respectful and cordial manner.

Be assured that the DSCA is working with GSBC to achieve a good outcome. Thank you for your assistance. Please contact the Association if you require further information.

Regards

David Galloway

President, DSCA