

SAFE USE OF POWER TOOLS ON THE TRACK

Purpose of this document:

To provide basic safety information on the use of battery-operated power tools.

Who is this document for?

Sectional volunteers who intend to use battery-operated tools in maintaining their section of the Bibbulmun Track.

CAUTION

This document does not cover the use of 240-volt power tools.

Battery operated tools covered by this document are: Drills, Sanders, Hedge-trimmers, Pruning 'shears' and Reciprocating saws.

TAKE 5

Take 5 minutes before you start the task to think through how you intend to complete the task safely. Identify the PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to be used.

PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY

- Ensure you are familiar with the instruction manual for the safe operation of the power tool.
- Check the tool body for cracks or damage, missing or loose screws.
- Ensure all guards/dust collectors are in place and operational.
- Ensure you have the correct cutting blade/drill bit/sanding disk for the job.
- Check any cutting tools before use, like drill bits or blades for damage.
- Inspect the *workpiece* to ensure there are no items that might damage the drill bit/cutting blade, such as embedded nails, screws, or bolts.

OPERATING SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Wear appropriate PPE for the task: Safety Glasses, Earmuffs, Gloves and Dust Mask.
- Ensure your work area is clear of people and obstacles.
- Make sure you are well balanced and stable when using the power tool.
- Keep fingers and hands clear of moving parts.
- Do not adjust the power tool while its running.
- Allow the power tool to reach operating speed before using it on the *workpiece*.
- Remove the battery before changing cutting blades.