

State Development Assessment Provisions guidance material

State Code 15: removal of quarry material from
a watercourse or lake

WSS/2017/3912

Version 2.0

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Version history

Version	Date	Comment
1.00	03/07/2017	New guideline approved and published.
1.01	1/11/2019	Updated the departmental branding
2.0	15/03/2022	Updated to reflect SDAP 3.0

Approval

Position	Name	Date
Director, Water Operations, Divisional Support	Ian Gordon	15/03/2022

Contents

1.0	Overview	3
1.1	Introduction	3
1.2	SDAP Assessment Process	3
1.3	Using the guidance material	3
2.0	Performance outcomes	4
2.1	Addressing all performance outcomes	4
	Glossary	6

1.0 Overview

1.1 Introduction

Queensland's planning and development framework, underpinned by the *Planning Act 2016*, sets out how development applications should be made and assessed.

The State Development Assessment Provisions (SDAP) provide assessment benchmarks for the assessment of development applications involving the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA).

The purpose of this guidance material is to assist applicants in preparing development applications for removal of quarry material from a watercourse or lake in response to requirements in State Code 15: Removal of quarry material from a watercourse or lake.

1.2 SDAP Assessment Process

SARA uses SDAP to deliver a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to the state's assessment of development applications. SDAP provides transparency on what the state assesses by outlining the matters of interest to the state for development assessment.

For further information about the assessment process including copies of the SDAP and state codes visit <https://planning.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/>.

For further information on water related activities visit www.business.qld.gov.au.

1.2.1 Pre-Lodgement

A pre-lodgement meeting with SARA is strongly recommended prior to lodging the development application. This meeting will assist an applicant to understand the requirements for technical assessments under the code based on the particular circumstances of the proposed development. This will help to identify any potential issues or additional information requirements.

Generally, for development applications involving removal of quarry material from a watercourse or lake, SARA is the assessment manager and the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water provides technical advice on whether the application complies with the code.

Contact your local office for pre-lodgement advice www.rdmw.qld.gov.au/about-us/contact.

1.3 Using the guidance material

This guidance material consists of the following:

- Part 1: Introduction to the code and guidance material
- Part 2: Context and advice on supporting actions and methodology intended to assist the applicant in demonstrating compliance with the code
- Part 3: Glossary.

Please note the use of this guidance material alone does not guarantee compliance with all requirements for removal of quarry material from a watercourse or lake. This guidance material should be interpreted as advice when preparing a development application.

2.0 Performance outcomes

This section provides guidance on the minimum requirements to demonstrate compliance with the performance outcomes outlined in the code. There are no acceptable outcomes for this code.

Table 1 lists all the performance outcomes under the code relevant to particular works for the removal of quarry material from a watercourse or lake.

Table 1: All development

Performance outcomes
PO1 Works do not have an unacceptable impact on the natural river ecosystem processes, including naturally occurring geomorphic processes.
PO2 Works do not have an unacceptable impact on riverine or estuarine environments, including habitats for aquatic species.
PO3 Works do not adversely impact on the physical integrity of the watercourse or lake .
PO4 Works do not adversely impact built instream infrastructure .
PO5 Works do not impede other users' physical access to either water or quarry resources.

Source: SDAP State Code 15, Version 3.0, 4 February 2022

2.1 Addressing all performance outcomes

To meet the performance outcomes in the code, applicants may provide an operations plan that outlines the location, extent and specific details about the development being proposed.

The level of detail required for the operations plan will depend on the size of the operation and size of the watercourse or lake the development is occurring in.

An operations plan may contain:

- commencement and completion dates of the operation
- amount of material to be removed
- a map or sketched plan showing the location of the excavation and showing removal areas relative to the bed and banks of the watercourse
- method of extraction
- details of the instream volumes of sand and gravel available within the site
- method and rate of extraction
- depths of extractions below natural surface level
- working batters and final batter slopes
- existing and proposed access tracks
- existing infrastructure (e.g. water pumps, pipes, bridges, fences, telephone or power cables)
- condition of the watercourse or lake, including bank slumping and erosion
- likely effects on existing in-stream habitats, including waterholes, pools, riffles or nesting sites
- likely effects on riparian landowners at the site of proposed extraction.

Further information may also be required for larger operations. This may include:

- any site-specific management strategies
- existing quarry material allocations, if known
- existing operators in tidal reach, if known
- annual mean sediment transport rate (division between non-tidal and tidal), if known
- sediment supply to estuaries and the coast, if known
- proposed end use of the site
- location, extent and design of earthworks proposed to ensure stability of bed and banks
- details of the proposed timeframe for commencement and completion of rehabilitation works including details of any progressive rehabilitation to be undertaken during the operation.

To improve the scientific rigour underpinning an operations plan, it is also recommended (especially for larger operations) that the plan is prepared by a suitably qualified person.

Glossary

Lake includes:

1. if a feature is identified on the watercourse identification map as a lake, means the feature identified on the map; or
2. otherwise, includes:
 - a) a lagoon, swamp or other natural collection of water, whether permanent or intermittent
 - b) the bed and banks and any other element confining or containing the water.

Quarry material means material, other than a mineral within the meaning of any Act relating to mining, in a watercourse or lake. Quarry material includes stone, gravel, sand, rock, clay, earth and soil unless it is removed from the watercourse or lake as waste material

Suitably qualified person a person who has an **appropriate level of qualifications and expertise** in assessing the impacts of quarrying operations on the geomorphology, hydraulics and geomorphic environment of watercourses.

An appropriate level of qualification and expertise includes:

- demonstrable competency, experience and expertise in
 - undertaking activities associated with the removal of quarry material from a watercourse
 - riverine geomorphology and environmental impacts associated with quarrying operations
 - hydraulics with particular reference to sediment transport, deposition and erosion processes, **or**
- sufficient knowledge and experience to certify that where the suitably qualified and experienced person has relied on certification provided by other component expert/s*
 - they consider it reasonable to rely on that advice and information, and
 - the expert providing the advice and information has knowledge, competency, suitable experience and demonstrated expertise in the matters related to quarrying operations within watercourses.

Watercourse a watercourse:

1. is a river, creek or other stream, including a stream in the form of an anabranch or a tributary, in which water flows permanently or intermittently, regardless of the frequency of flow events:
 - a) in a natural channel, whether artificially modified or not; or
 - b) in an artificial channel that has changed the course of the stream
2. includes any of the following located in it:
 - a) in-stream islands
 - b) benches
 - c) bars
3. does not, however, include a drainage feature
4. further, unless there is a contrary intention, a reference to a **watercourse** in the *Water Act 2000*, other than in section 5 or in the definitions in schedule 4 to the extent they support the operation of section 5, is a reference to anywhere that is:
 - a) upstream of the downstream limit of the **watercourse**
 - b) between the lateral limits of the **watercourse**
 - c) a reference to the *Water Act 2000* to, or a to a circumstance that involves, land adjoining a **watercourse**, is a reference to, or a circumstance that involves, and effectively adjoining a **watercourse**.

Section 5AA of the *Water Act 2000* provides for the watercourse identification map that identifies the known extent of **watercourses** and drainage features that are managed under the *Water Act 2000*. Please be aware that the majority of minor **watercourses** and drainage features in Queensland have not yet been mapped, as indicated in the mapping, and therefore it should not be the only source of information that is relied upon when interpreting the SDAP provisions or identifying assessment triggers.



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