

Removal or decommissioning of unapproved flood works

This guideline applies where a landholder must remove existing unapproved flood works, above and below ground, except for exempt works as defined in the WaterNSW [Flood work exemptions](#) fact sheet.

What is a flood work?

A 'flood work' is defined under the *Water Management Act 2000* and includes structures such as barrages, causeways, cuttings and embankments adjacent to rivers, estuaries or lakes and/or on floodplains that have an effect on the flow or distribution of water.

Removal of flood works

To adequately remove unapproved flood works a person must ensure the unapproved work leaves no effects on the 'natural' flow path or drainage flows by taking steps such as:

- removing above ground works to ground level in low areas or flood flow paths
- filling in below ground channels or drains or have block banks adequate to prevent any diversion of flows from their 'natural' flow path
- placing material taken from an unapproved flood work on a flood prone area in windrowed mounds parallel to the flow direction (bread loaves), with max 5% of the width
- relocating material onto high ground not subject to flooding such that it will not interfere with the flow or distribution of flood water.

It is important there is no effect on flow patterns to environmental or cultural assets (such as woodlands) or onto other properties. If minimal works remain in place but have no impact on flow or drainage patterns, these will not be considered as an unapproved flood work.

The landholder may be required to provide evidence to demonstrate that no flood work remains in place or has been created by the removal of material (see Guidance Note 2), with a survey and photos as necessary.