

# Rules and assessment criteria in Gwydir Management Zone B

This document summarises the rules for granting and amending flood work approvals in Management Zone B within the *Floodplain Management Plan for the Gwydir Valley Floodplain 2016*. The rules include amendments made to the plan in 2023.

The following rules are a guide only. Refer to the ‘as made’ section of the NSW legislation website for the detailed legal instrument written in the required statutory format. For more information about flood work approvals visit WaterNSW’s [website](#) or call 1300 662 077.

## Management Zone B – Flood extent

Management Zone B includes areas of the floodplain that are important for the conveyance of floodwater during large flood events and for the temporary pondage of floodwaters during the passage of a flood. Its outer boundary is defined by the modelled inundation extent of the large design flood (2012).

### Advertising rules

An application for a new or amended flood work approval in Management Zone B must be advertised, unless the flood work is or is proposed to be:

- no more than a maximum height of 40 cm above the natural surface level at any location, or
- used as a stock refuge, and:
  - accounts for no more than 5% of the total area of the landholding, and
  - is no more than 10 ha in size in any single location in Management Zone B, or
- used to protect infrastructure and the area enclosed by the flood work accounts for no more than 1% of the total area of the landholding.

## Assessment criteria

Flood work applications in Management Zone B must be assessed against the following assessment criteria. The assessment criteria are a guide only. Refer to the NSW legislation website for the detailed legal instrument written in the required statutory format.

For more information about flood work approvals visit WaterNSW's [website](#) or call 1300 662 077. Applicants may be required to submit technical studies or supporting information to demonstrate that a flood work or proposed flood work meets the criteria outlined in the plan.

Theme	Assessment criteria
<b>Ecological impacts</b>	<p>A flood work approval must not be granted or amended to authorise the construction of a flood work in Management Zone B unless, in the Minister's opinion, the flood work can be constructed to maintain adequate flood connectivity to the following under a range of flood scenarios including, at a minimum, scenarios for the 2004 and 2012 design floods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• flood-dependent ecological assets, and</li> <li>• facilitation of fish passage.</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural impacts</b>	<p>A flood work approval must not be granted or amended to authorise the construction of a flood work in Management Zone B unless, in the Minister's opinion, the flood work can be constructed to maintain adequate flood connectivity to the following under a range of flood scenarios including, at a minimum, scenarios for the 2004 and 2012 design floods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• flood-dependent Aboriginal cultural values, and</li> <li>• flood-dependent heritage sites.</li> </ul>
<b>Heritage site impacts</b>	<p>A flood work approval must not be granted or amended to authorise the construction of a flood work in Management Zone B if, in the Minister's opinion, the construction of the flood work is likely to disturb the ground surface of a heritage site or cause more than minimal erosion to a heritage site.</p>
<b>Drainage impacts</b>	<p>A flood work approval must not be granted or amended to authorise the construction of a flood work in Management Zone B unless, in the Minister's opinion, the flood work can be constructed to maintain adequate drainage on adjacent landholdings and other landholdings that may be affected by the proposed flood work.</p>

Theme	Assessment criteria
<p><b>Local hydraulic impacts</b></p>	<p><b>Note.</b> The following local hydraulic impact assessment criteria are not mandatory for flood works that are not required to be advertised.</p> <p>A flood work approval must not be granted or amended to authorise the construction of a flood work in Management Zone B if, in the Minister’s opinion construction of the flood work is likely to:</p> <p><b>Redistribution</b></p> <p>Redistribute the peak flood flow by more than 5% on adjacent landholdings and other landholdings that may be affected by the proposed flood work when compared to the peak flood flow under existing development conditions for a range of flood scenarios including at a minimum the 2012 design flood.</p> <p><b>Flood level</b></p> <p>Increase flood levels by more than or equal to 10 cm on adjacent landholdings and other landholdings that may be affected by the proposed flood work when compared to flood levels under pre-development and existing development conditions for a range of flood scenarios, including at a minimum the 2012 design flood.</p> <p><b>Flood flow velocities</b></p> <p>Increase flow velocity by more than 50% on the landholding under application, adjacent landholdings and other landholdings that may be affected by the proposed flood work when compared to flow velocity under pre-development and existing development conditions for a range of flood scenarios, including at a minimum the 2012 design flood unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increases of more than 50% are in isolated areas on the landholding and the landholder mitigates the impact on the flood wave so that the average impact across the landholding does not exceed 50%, and</li> <li>• increases in flow velocity do not exceed 50% at the boundary of the landholding</li> </ul> <p><b>Flood flow velocities and impacts on soil erodibility</b></p> <p>Increase flow velocity by an amount that is likely to have more than a minimal impact on soil erodibility on adjacent landholdings and other landholdings that may be affected by the proposed flood work, taking into account the ground cover on those landholdings.</p> <p><b>Flood flow velocities and impacts on high-value infrastructure</b></p> <p>Increase flood levels resulting in impacts on high value infrastructure when compared to flood levels under pre-development conditions and existing development conditions for a range of flood scenarios including, at a minimum, a scenario for the 2012 design flood.</p>

Theme	Assessment criteria
<p><b>Cumulative hydraulic impacts</b></p>	<p>A flood work approval must not be granted or amended to authorise the construction of a flood work in Management Zone B if, in the Minister’s opinion, construction of the flood work is likely to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• redistribute the peak flood flow by more than 5% at any of the Peak Discharge Calculation Points shown on the Peak Flood Flow Distribution (2012) Map (FMP007_Version 1) under existing development conditions, or</li> <li>• redistribute the peak flood flow by more than 5% at any location and under any other flood scenario considered relevant by the Minister</li> </ul>

## Exemptions

Some activities considered low-risk (such as some small ring embankments and low-level farm tracks) or covered by other legislation may be exempt from an approval. Please see WaterNSW’s [Exemptions to flood work approvals fact sheet](#).

## More information

More information about the Gwydir Valley Floodplain Management Plan on the NSW Department of Planning and Environment’s website, [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/plans-programs/plans/valleys/gwydir-valley](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/plans-programs/plans/valleys/gwydir-valley)