

Desilting and excavated material

This guideline applies where a person is required to remove or amend a flood work and doing so will result in the removal of spoil material that might have an effect on the flow or distribution of water.

Flood works and spoil material

A 'flood work' is defined under the *Water Management Act 2000* and includes structures such as barrages, causeways, cuttings and embankments adjacent to rivers, lakes or estuaries and/or on floodplains that have an effect on the flow or distribution of water. Spoil material removed for demolition or amendment of a flood work must be distributed to ensure that the adequate passage of floodwater and prevention of diversion of floodwater from natural flow paths.

Floodplain management plans (FMPs) provide the framework for coordinating the development of flood works on a whole-of-valley basis. Floodplain management plans have commenced for the 5 valleys of the NSW northern Basin. These include the Border Rivers, Gwydir, Macquarie, Barwon-Darling and Namoi valleys. These plans contain rules that will apply to flood works that can be amended for approval. Refer to Management Zone A – rules and assessment criteria relevant to the valley where flood works are situated. See <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/plans-programs/plans/valleys>.

Removal of spoil material

To adequately remove spoil from the removal or amendment of 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:

- not distributing spoil material on the floodplain for a channel or drain which is not approved
- not increasing height of banks -
 - where the bank height is set at a limited height
 - where it is an approved supply channel/drain which is below ground level within a flood prone area and is subject to the criteria in the relevant Floodplain Management Zone A rules and assessment criteria, where it must be less than 10 cm above natural surface.
- placing material in windrowed mounds parallel to the direction of flow, with max 5% of the width (see relevant Floodplain Management Zone A rules and assessment criteria)
- placing material onto high ground not subject to flooding such that it will not interfere with the flow or distribution of flood water.