

Rules and assessment criteria in Gwydir Management Zone C

This document summarises the rules for granting and amending flood work approvals in Management Zone C 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 C – Flood fringe and flood protected areas

Management Zone C contains elevated areas or areas protected by existing flood work development.

All flood works

Flood work applications in Management Zone C must be assessed against the assessment criteria

Assessment criteria

Flood work applications in Management Zone C 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
Ecological impacts	<p>A flood work approval must not be granted or amended to authorise the construction of a flood work in Management Zone C 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 2012 design flood and the 1% AEP flood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flood-dependent ecological assets, and • facilitation of fish passage.
Cultural impacts	<p>A flood work approval must not be granted or amended to authorise the construction of a flood work in Management Zone C 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 2012 design flood and the 1% AEP flood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flood-dependent Aboriginal cultural values, and • flood-dependent heritage sites.
Heritage site impacts	<p>A flood work approval must not be granted or amended to authorise the construction of a flood work in Management Zone C 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>
Drainage impacts	<p>A flood work approval must not be granted or amended to authorise the construction of a flood work in Management Zone C 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>Local hydraulic impacts</p>	<p>Note. The following local and cumulative hydraulic impact assessment criteria may be applied at the Minister’s discretion.</p> <p>In determining whether to grant or amend a flood work approval to authorise the construction of a flood work in Management Zone C, the Minister may have regard to whether construction of the flood work would be likely to:</p> <p>Redistribution</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 under one or more flood scenarios</p> <p>Flood level</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 under one or more flood scenarios</p> <p>Flood flow velocities</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 under one or more flood scenarios unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • increases in flow velocity do not exceed 50% at the boundary of the landholding <p>Flow velocities and impacts on soil erodibility</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>Flow velocities and impacts on high-value infrastructure</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 under one or more flood scenarios.</p>

Theme	Assessment criteria
<p>Cumulative hydraulic impacts</p>	<p>In determining whether to grant or amend a flood work approval to authorise the construction of a flood work in Management Zone C, the Minister may have regard to whether construction of the flood work would be likely to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • redistribute the peak flood flow by more than 5% at any location and under any other flood scenario considered relevant by the Minister

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