

Following the recent flood of July 2022, previous flooding events of both this year and the March 2021 flood event we want property owner to know we are seeking to work with them to ensure that any more time and money invested in riverbank works are going to have the intended outcome. We all want restoration works along the riverbanks to be long lasting in order to:

- Prevent future erosion
- Provide resilience in future flood events
- Contribute to a healthy riparian corridor and river system
- Limit any negative impacts on the environment and adjoining properties
- Be approved as per legislation
- Consider a range of issues such as engineering design, safety, appropriate fill material choices, and construction documentation, and
- Place owners in a position that they are able to sell their property in the future and not be hampered by lack of approvals.

Since the 2021 floods, Council has been working with the relevant State agencies seeking advice to enable works to be undertaken within relevant legislative requirements and approval processes.

We are also aware that that many property owners have undertaken works to either restore the riverbank to its previous state or to modify works beyond bank stabilisation or to construct features which did not exist prior to the March 2021 flood or the most recent flood. In relation to this most recent flood we have been and will continue to be provided with data on damage to property.

We want to help make sure that any works are sustained and regularised and as such we ask that you contact us to discuss works that you would like to undertake:

Please contact Council to book a meeting. Council is offering this service free of charge.

1. Please complete the Pre-lodgement Advice Meeting Form found on Council's website by going to Plan and Build >Forms and Publications.
2. Email the completed form to **council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au** with the subject line 'Flood Recovery – Pre-lodgement Advice Meeting'.

Councils Development Services Support Officer will contact you to arrange a meeting date and time. If you require assistance please call Council on **02 4560 4234**.

What to bring to the meeting

To assist with any discussions held at the meeting, it would be beneficial if you are able to provide any plans that you may have already had drafted, and any relevant photos of the site. These can be emailed through with your pre-lodgement advice meeting form.

Meeting location

Currently meetings will be held online by either the 'Zoom' or 'Microsoft Teams' meeting online services. Council will send you a link so that you can join the online meeting at the arranged date and time. Alternatively, we can hold the meeting over the phone if this is more suitable.

What if I choose not to have a meeting or do nothing?

Council is aware that people are undertaking illegal works and receive complaints regarding unapproved works and we wish to advise that these are under investigation and such investigation can lead to compliance action that includes issuing Development Control Orders requiring works to be regularised and enforcing the undertaking of these works and the issuing of penalties. These Orders may include requiring the property owner to restore and/or remediate the site by removing the unauthorised material at a significant cost.

The importation of fill and/or other materials requires certification. It will be necessary for property owners to provide certification evidence that the material is Virgin Excavated Natural Material (VENM) or Excavated Natural Material (ENM). Further, Council's Compliance team will be seeking full disclosure details of the transporter of all material/s imported and records pertaining to where the material was sourced from and by whom.

In addition, all unauthorised works on the riverbank will be required to be referred to the NSW Government Natural Resource Access Regulator, Crown Lands and NSW Fisheries for their review. These agencies may instigate separate compliance actions for any works undertaken along waterways.

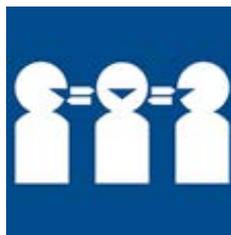
More Information

For more information on the Natural Resource Access Regular, and 'Controlled Activity Approvals' required for actions carried out on waterfront land, please see the NSW Government Website:
www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/nrar/how-to-apply/controlled-activities/what-is-a-controlled-activity

If you would like to learn more about managing erosion before and after floods, please see the factsheet prepared by Local Land Services:

www.lls.nsw.gov.au/help-and-advice/emergency-and-biosecurity/floods

Contact Council's Development Services or Compliance Coordinator or email **council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au** should you have any further enquires.



This document contains important information. If you do not understand it, contact the Telephone Interpreter Service on **131 450**.