



EARTHWORKS FACTSHEET

BACKGROUND

Earthworks involve the excavation or filling of land.

WHEN DO EARTHWORKS REQUIRE APPROVAL?

Development consent is not required for any earthworks that are done fully in accordance the relevant provisions of [State Environmental Planning Policy \(Exempt and Complying Development Codes\) 2008](#).

Where not all exempt development provisions are satisfied, development consent is required for earthworks. It may be possible for earthworks to obtain approval under complying development provided that complying development is applicable to your land. This can be sought by obtaining a planning certificate via Council's website.

Alternatively, a development application for the earthworks can be submitted to Council via the [NSW Planning Portal](#).

WHAT ARE THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS OF EARTHWORKS?

Earthworks undertaken that do not meet the legislative requirements can have serious environmental impacts such as:

- Changes to local drainage patterns and potentially causing flooding;
- Erosion of soil creating rills, tunnels and gullies;
- Pollution of nearby waterways with soil contaminants and mud;
- Damage to vegetation from changes in ground level and impacts on the root zone;
- Redirection of water onto neighbouring properties; and
- Encouragement of weed growth due to soil disturbance.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF DOING UNAPPROVED WORKS?

If you undertake unapproved Earthworks you may be prosecuted and fined. You also risk damaging your property, your neighbour's property and the environment. You may be subject to additional fines if you damage other's property or the environment.



Interpreter Service available, call 131 450 131 450 خدمة الترجمة الشفوية متاحة، اتصل على رقم 131 450 可提供傳譯服務，請致電 131 450 Hemm servizz tal-interpretu, cempel 131 450