

Managing Upper Murray Creeks and Woodlands

Works on waterways - what do I need to know?

There are rules related to works on waterways in NSW in order to minimise the risk to our stream systems and the downstream users. Streams are dynamic natural systems that have a lot of energy at times, and all actions that change the way energy is flowing usually have the potential to have negative consequences for others up or down stream. These actions can be planned and designed so that negative consequence is alleviated or eliminated.

Types of things that might need a permit, especially on third order streams and above - any in-stream structures (erosion works), bridges, crossings, gravel or sand removal, bank stabilisation structures, realignment)

How do you know if you need one?

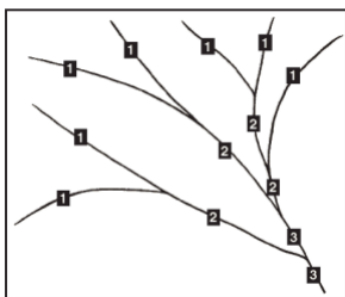
Controlled Activities are defined in the Water Management Act 2000 - if you are doing something that disturbs the soil within 40m of a permanent stream you should check. In some Council areas you might also need to get a Council approval, and if the area is Crown Land, you may also require permission from them

Go to this website <https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/licensing-and-trade/controlled-activity-approvals>

It has a **Waterfront e-tool** you can work through to determine whether what you want to do is requiring one.

The website also has information on:

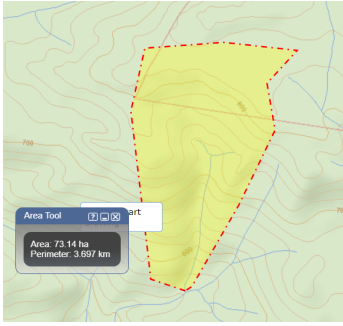
- Exemptions
- How to apply
- Guidelines



Is my creek considered a "main stream"?

Does it have a name on a topographical map? Is it a third order stream? Stream Order is determined by determined according to the Strahler system (below) on the stream lines on a 1:25000 topographic map or online [here](#). Permits may be required for work on streams 3rd order and above, including dam construction.

The rules are complex and difficult to navigate, but don't expose yourself to potential issues with compliance by not finding out



How big is the catchment?

The higher the stream order, the bigger the catchment. To estimate the size of the catchment, you can use a topographic map or an online map with streams and contours (SIXMaps or google terrain view can work). Start at the most downstream point on the stream of interest of the stream line and draw a line or polygon that follows the highest contour line around it that doesn't cross another streamline

A rule of thumb is if the catchment is larger than 50 ha, this indicates that any structures need to be professionally designed to reduce the risk of failure.

What do I need to be able to fence the creek off?

Determine off stream watering needs - are there dams or troughs in the adjoining paddocks? If you have to leave an area on the waterway open for stock access, consider gravelling the entry to minimise damage to the river bank



Determine a fencing line - Although it is tempting to straighten the fence by going closer to the outside bends, remember that creeks erode most on outside bends. If the bend is still active, either address the erosion or leave a decent buffer to accommodate some movement.



Always consider the high water levels when determining the fence distance - cattle and sheep love to walk fencelines and if the areas are boggy, they will do more damage. Also consider at least a 10m buffer above any gully headcuts. Stock walking the fence can accelerate erosion inside the fenced area.



Potentially useful resources can be found at :

Soil Conservation Service <https://www.scs.nsw.gov.au/>
Murray Local Land Services <https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/murray>
www.riversofcarbon.org.au

Not sure of the rules? Find out

<https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/licensing-and-trade/controlled-activity-approvals/guidelines>
<https://maps.six.nsw.gov.au/> - look at aerial imagery of your property and do some measuring
<https://www.snowyvalleys.nsw.gov.au/Building-Planning/Planning/Local-Environmental-Plans>
<https://www.crownland.nsw.gov.au/>
<https://www.nrar.nsw.gov.au/>



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