

Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) - Working in, over or adjacent to water

ORGANISATION DETAILS			
Principal contractor:	Brendan McKenna Earthmoving PTY LTD	Contact number:	0417 710 806
Project manager or supervisor:		Contact number:	
Person completing the SWMS:	Brendan McKenna	Contact number:	0417 710 806
Position:	Site Manager	Reviewed by:	Ron Broadhurst
Date prepared:	19/05/26	Review date:	19/05/28
PROJECT DETAILS			
Project	Vernon Conservation Park – Fireline Construction Works		
Project Reference	P263811		
What is the scope of the work?	Working in, over or adjacent to water, including low-level creek crossings and drainage/waterway areas within approved work zones.		
Who else was consulted/involved in preparing this SWMS?	This SWMS has been reviewed and amended for the Vernon Conservation Park project in consultation with management, supervisors and workers undertaking the task. It must be reviewed during site induction, daily pre-starts and when site conditions change, including rainfall, creek level changes, ground instability, environmental constraints or changes to approved work areas.		
What high risk work activities are covered by this SWMS?	Working in, over or adjacent to water. Working near low-level creek crossings. Plant movement and fireline works near drainage lines, wet ground or waterway areas.		
References: Legislation, Australian Standards, Codes of Practice, MSDS and SOPs.	WHS Act 2011 (Qld) and WHS Regulation 2011 (Qld) / Managing the Risk of Falls at Workplaces Code of Practice / Managing the Work Environment and Facilities Code of Practice / Excavation Work Code of Practice (where ground disturbance is undertaken near water) Environmental Protection Act 1994 (Qld) / Biosecurity Act 2014 (Qld) / QPWS / client project requirements, site induction, approvals and environmental controls / Relevant BME SWMS, EMP, SSMP, pre-start and emergency response requirements		
Plant involved in the scope of work:	Excavator, dozer, grader, end loader, light vehicles, trucks, trailers, pumps or other equipment approved for use on the project and listed in the Plant and Equipment Register.		
What high risk licence classes will be required to do the work?	Plant operation competencies / licences as applicable to the item of plant being operated. TMI competency where traffic signage or traffic guidance scheme controls are installed or adjusted. QPWS site induction required for all workers and subcontractors before commencing work.		

Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) - Working in, over or adjacent to water

The following notes apply to the risk controls where relevant:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): The following PPE will need to be worn by workers at times on this project as directed:

☐ High Vis Garments
 ☐ Hearing protection
 ☐ Safety Glasses
 ☐ Hard Hats
 ☐ Gloves
 ☐ Safety Footwear
 ☐ Other

Additional job-specific PPE requirements: High visibility clothing, safety footwear, hard hat, gloves, safety glasses, hearing protection and other PPE as directed by the task, site conditions and pre-start risk assessment. Life jackets / personal flotation devices must be used where the pre-start risk assessment identifies a drowning risk that cannot be eliminated by exclusion zones, set-back distances, edge protection or alternative work methods.

Job-specific requirements for Vernon Conservation Park:

- Work must remain within approved fireline, access track and crossing locations only.
- Disturbance outside approved work areas is prohibited and environmental controls must be maintained during all works near water.
- Creek crossings, drainage lines and wet areas must be assessed each day before plant access.
- Works must not proceed through water, wet areas or unstable ground where the risk of bogging, bank damage, uncontrolled sediment release, plant instability or drowning is unacceptable.
- Do not enter or disturb waterways unless approved by the client / QPWS and controlled under the EMP and daily pre-start.
- Stop work and contact the Site Manager / Supervisor if conditions change, water levels rise, ground becomes unstable, fauna is present, or environmental controls are not effective.

The purpose of this SWMS is to provide guidelines and information to effectively control risks associated with working in, over or adjacent to water, including drowning, plant instability, slips/trips, environmental disturbance and emergency response requirements.

IMPORTANT SAFETY MESSAGES

1. Plan the job carefully and assess hazards in relation to the waterway, creek crossing, ground condition, access route, weather forecast, worker competency and the worker's ability to swim.
2. Use controls to prevent entry into water where possible, including approved access routes, exclusion zones, set-back distances, spotters, edge protection, rescue equipment and life jackets where required.
3. Complete a site-specific risk assessment before unusual work, work after rain, work near flowing water or work where water depth, ground condition or bank stability is uncertain.
4. All hazards and risks must be reduced so far as is reasonably practicable before work commences.

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Identify each task in order	Specify the hazards/risks you have identified	What are the risks to health and safety?	Who is responsible for implementing and monitoring controls?
Arriving on site, pre-start waterway assessment	Hazard: • Inadequate planning • Changed site conditions • Wet/unstable ground • Communication blackspots Risk: • Unsafe work area • Drowning • Plant rollover or bogging • Delayed emergency response	Complete daily pre-start and site-specific risk assessment before working near any creek crossing, drainage line, wet area or waterway. Confirm workers have completed the QPWS site induction and understand approved work areas, environmental controls and emergency arrangements. Check weather forecast, recent rainfall, water level, flow, bank stability, ground condition, bogging risk and plant access/egress. Confirm communication method and check-in arrangements, especially in known blackspot areas. Inspect rescue equipment, first aid equipment and emergency access. Confirm required plant, attachments and PPE are suitable and serviceable. Do not commence work if water level, ground condition or visibility makes the task unsafe. Escalate to the Site Manager / Supervisor for reassessment.	Site Manager or Supervisor
Working adjacent to water, drainage lines or creek crossings	Hazard: • Water hazard • Slips, trips and falls • Unprotected edges or banks • Submerged objects Risk: • Drowning • Fall into water • Injury from unstable banks or hidden hazards	Establish exclusion zones and safe set-back distances from water edges, unstable banks and soft ground. Use approved access points only. Do not walk or work on unstable banks, soft edges or unverified ground. Keep workers clear of plant operating areas and water edges unless required for the task and authorised by the Supervisor. Use spotters where visibility, access, bank stability or plant positioning creates increased risk. Use life jackets / flotation devices where identified by the risk assessment. Maintain good housekeeping around access tracks, crossing approaches and work areas to reduce slip/trip hazards. Stop work if water levels rise, flow increases, visibility reduces, or bank/ground condition deteriorates.	Site Manager or Supervisor

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Operating plant near low-level creek crossings or wet ground	Hazard: - Plant working near water - Soft or unstable ground - Loss of traction - Bogging or rollover Risk: - Crush injury - Plant rollover - Drowning - Environmental harm from bank damage, sediment release or fuel/oil spill	Assess each crossing and approach before plant movement. Confirm the route is approved, stable and within the designated work area. Keep plant away from water edges where practicable and maintain safe operating distances. Use low speed, controlled movements and avoid sudden turning, braking or slewing near banks, wet ground and crossings. Do not enter water or soft ground unless authorised and assessed as safe by the Supervisor. Use a spotter where the operator has limited visibility or where ground condition, alignment or bank stability is uncertain. Do not park, refuel or service plant in or near waterways unless emergency controls are in place. If plant becomes bogged or unstable, stop work, isolate the area and develop a recovery plan before attempting recovery.	Plant Operator / Site Manager or Supervisor
Environmental controls while working near water	Hazard: - Sediment runoff - Water contamination - Fauna interaction - Work outside approved area Risk: - Environmental harm - Habitat disturbance - Water pollution - Injury from wildlife interaction	Maintain erosion, sediment and water management controls required by the EMP and daily pre-start. Keep disturbance to the minimum area required and remain within approved fireline, track and crossing locations. Disturbance outside approved work areas is prohibited. All activities must remain within approved fireline, crossing and access track alignments. Do not push spoil, vegetation, waste, sediment, fuel, oil or chemicals into waterways, drainage lines or creek beds. Inspect controls before work, during work and after rainfall or changes in water flow. If fauna is encountered, stop work in the immediate area and allow it to move away or contact the Supervisor / QPWS for direction. Report spills, sediment release, damaged controls or unauthorised disturbance immediately.	All workers / Site Manager or Supervisor
Emergency response and rescue from water	Hazard: - Person falls into water - Medical emergency - Limited access or communications Risk:	No person is to work alone where there is a risk of falling into water, drowning or delayed emergency response. Confirm emergency access, muster point, first aid arrangements and communication method at the pre-start. Keep rescue equipment available where the risk assessment identifies a water rescue risk.	All workers / Site Manager or Supervisor

Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) - Working in, over or adjacent to water

	• Drowning • Serious injury • Delayed rescue or emergency treatment	Do not enter water to attempt rescue unless trained, it is safe to do so, and it does not create a second casualty. Use reach/throw rescue methods where possible. Contact emergency services if required and notify the Site Manager / Supervisor immediately. Preserve the incident scene where required and complete incident reporting in accordance with BME IMS requirements.	
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This SWMS has been developed in consultation and has been read, understood and signed by all workers undertaking the scope of works:

Print Names:	Signatures:	Dates: