

Operations in the TWWHA (Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area) Procedure



How does this procedure work?

This procedure identifies the levels of assessment and consent required to undertake work on public land within the TWWHA, and is based on the risk associated with an activity. The level of risk is determined by completing a risk assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Hazard Identification and Risk Management Procedure.

The requirements of this procedure do not negate the need to obtain other approvals, such as council approvals that may otherwise be required to lawfully undertake the works.

Categorising our activities in the TWWHA

All activities we perform within the TWWHA (on PWS land) are subject to one of three categories of PWS assessment. Depending on the activity to be undertaken and the likely impact of the activity, the level of notification and consultation with PWS will vary.

See Appendix A for an overview of the process. See Appendix B for definitions.

Category A Activities: Low risk and replacement activities

Category A Activities can be undertaken by us without the need for the express prior written consent of PWS provided any specific considerations are satisfied. This includes ensuring vegetation management and ground disturbance is limited to the existing infrastructure footprint.

The low risk / replacement activities considered to be Category A include:

- Maintenance and repair of roads, bridges and culverts.
- Installation, maintenance, repair and removal of fences, barriers, gates, and safety railings.
- Maintenance and repair of dams, weirs, spillways and other dam infrastructure.
- Maintenance, repair and removal of building and structures including but not limited to painting, re-cladding of existing buildings or structures.
- Fire hazard management near electricity infrastructure and other facilities.

- The maintenance and repair of powerlines and transmission lines including but not limited to pole, tower, conductor and insulator testing and vegetation management.
- The installation and modification of regulatory or safety signs (ensuring the signage is limited to a size reasonably necessary to meet regulatory or safety requirements).
- Maintenance, repair, and removal of plant, equipment and electricity infrastructure generally including but not limited to mechanical and electrical work on pump and associated equipment; transformer and switchgear maintenance; mechanical and electrical repairs on pumps and associated equipment; turbines; pumping stations; valves; rainfall gauges; repair of underground cables; flying fox; water gauging equipment; helipads; and communications facilities (given that the activity is not within the Wilderness or Self-Reliant Recreation Zones).
- Maintenance and repair activities relating to canals, flumes and other water conveyance assets including but not limited to the de-silting and debris clearing of canals (given that the activity is not within the Wilderness or Self-Reliant Recreation Zones).

Category B Activities: Environmental impact assessment

All activities identified as Category B require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be performed. The following activities are considered to be Category B Activities:

- Maintenance, repair, and removal activities that do not comply with the considerations listed for Category A activities;
- Activities involving renewal of assets where the residual risk is considered moderate or greater; and
- The removal of assets and infrastructure from the TWWHA (to provide PWS with the opportunity to contribute to the assessment process and identify rehabilitation requirements).

Low risk activities

Where a risk assessment determines the residual risk as low (for all criteria), the activity is to be treated as a Category A Activity with the exception that a copy of the risk assessment will be forwarded to the PWS Regional Manager along with the notification of the proposed activity.

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Moderate to extreme risk activities

Where a risk assessment determines the residual risk is moderate or higher for one or more criteria, and less than two criteria with a risk of extreme, we must notify the PWS Regional Manager in writing of the proposed activity while providing a copy of the risk assessment. The PWS Regional Manager must immediately acknowledge (in writing or by email) receipt of the notification of the proposed activity.

Extreme risk activities

Where a risk assessment identifies the residual risk of extreme for two or more criteria, we must prepare a Reserve Activity Assessment in accordance with a Category C Activity.

Category C Activities: Reserve Activity Assessment

A Reserve Activity Assessment (RAA) is required for:

- Any redevelopment activities, irrespective of the residual risk resulting from a risk assessment; and
- Any renewal activity OR new works not required for maintenance and operational activities, where a risk assessment identifies a residual risk of extreme for two or more assessment criteria.

It is worth noting that the RAA process can take a minimum of 3 months to be finalised.

Notification Process

Notification

Unless otherwise advised in writing by PWS, Category A Activities require notification to the relevant PWS Regional Manager prior to the activity commencing. The notification should be made as per the template available in Appendix C in the TWWHA. A copy of the EIA must also be provided if the activity is Category B.

Notifications should be sent to the PWS Regional Manager responsible for the management of the area affected by the works. Contact a member of the Environment Team if you are unsure of who to contact.

Advice from PWS

In regards to Category B Activities, PWS have up to six weeks from the receipt of the notification to advise if it agrees with the risk assessment, propose any additional management or mitigation actions, or require additional information. You should avoid proceeding with the activity until this response period has lapsed. Any advice provided by PWS should be captured within the risk assessment.

No response from PWS

Should you fail to receive advice or a determination (as the case may be) from PWS within the timeframe set out above, you should provide an additional notice to PWS that you will be proceeding with the activity as per the risk assessment previously provided.

Still not sure or need more info? Please contact us at environment@hydro.com.au

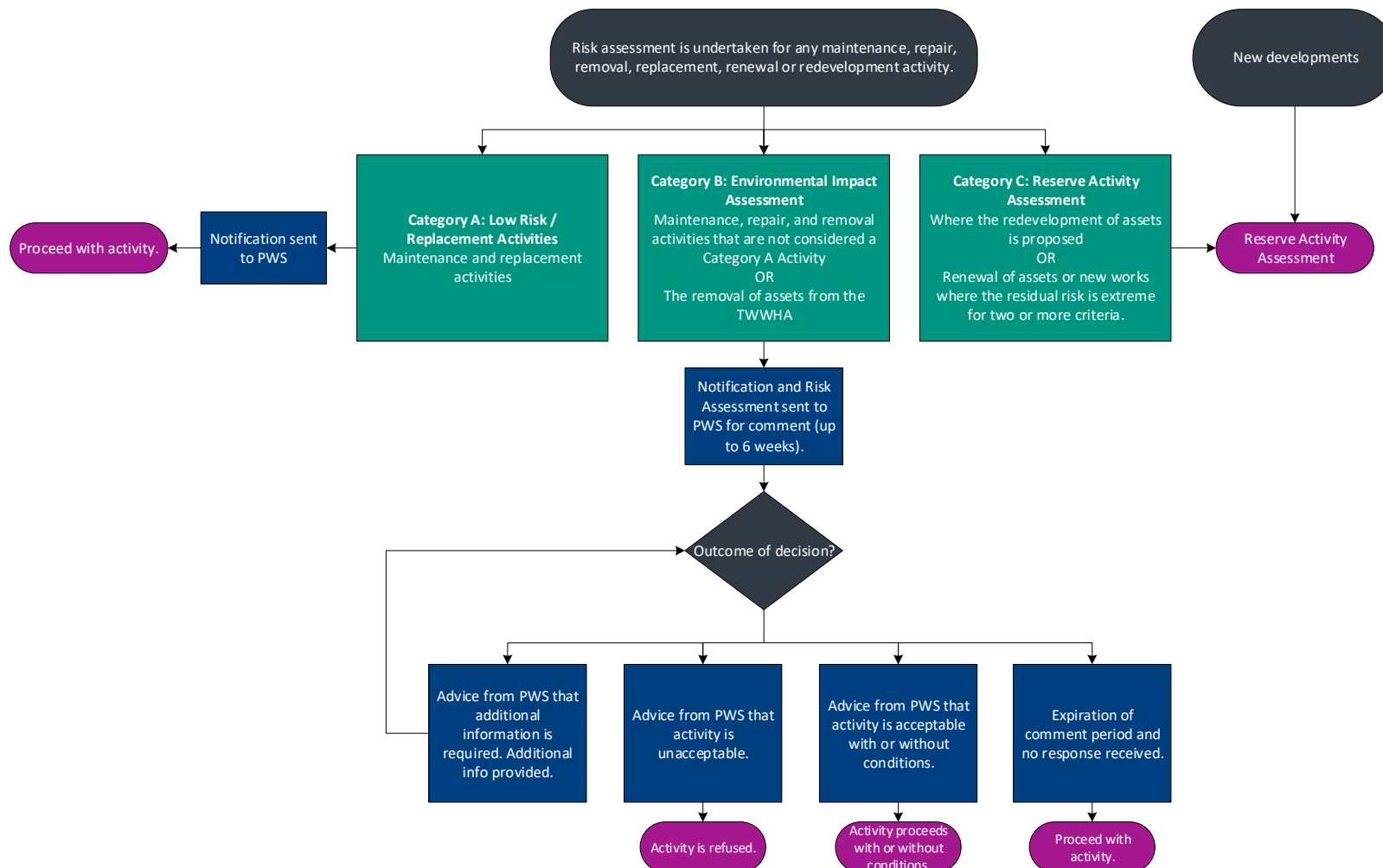
Emergency powers

In the event of an emergency, we are allowed to undertake activities on existing infrastructure without notice, but we must notify the relevant PWS Regional Manager as soon as practicable. If undertaking work during an emergency, we must:

- Take reasonable measures to avoid unnecessary damage to the values of the TWWHA;
- Follow any reasonable direction of the PWS Regional Manager (or delegate); and
- Once the emergency situation has passed, repair, or compensate for, any damage done by us to public infrastructure.

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Appendix A – Process Details



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Appendix B – Definitions

Emergency means a situation where, on reasonable grounds, there is a threat of imminent:

- failure of power supply;
- deterioration of power supply reliability;
- deterioration of water management infrastructure or capacity;
- threat to public safety; or
- threat to property.

Existing Electricity Infrastructure means all electricity infrastructure:

- shown on the Electricity Infrastructure GIS Layer;
- existing as at the commencement date; and
- that has been installed in accordance with the Electricity Entities Operation Plan.

Ground Disturbance means the alteration to the natural surface of the ground by physical or mechanical means and includes the placing of spoil or other materials in any location.

Infrastructure Footprint is the area of land currently occupied by a road, building, works, structure, or other electricity infrastructure asset and includes the minimum amount of additional area directly adjacent to the asset as is required to be maintained for operational and safety purposes.

It includes any area of land occupied by an existing access track to an electricity infrastructure asset, which land is required to be maintained so as to enable vehicular or pedestrian access to the asset.

It also includes any area around an electricity infrastructure asset that was previously cleared or disturbed to enable the construction and maintenance of the asset. In relation to vegetation control, it includes any area required to be managed for fire Risk pursuant to:

- a State or Commonwealth law; or
- an industry or agency guideline endorsed or approved by the PWS, conditionally or unconditionally.

Management Plan means the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan 2016.

Redevelopment has the meaning set out in Chapter 8 of the Management Plan i.e. is where substantial change to the layout and appearance is involved. A significant deviation to the route of a transmission line, the raising of lake levels outside of agreed operational plans or significant widening or realignment of a canal.

Replacement has the meaning set out in Chapter 8 of the Management Plan i.e. typically applies to a component which wears out e.g. a tower, turbine, lining of a canal. Replacement of such items forms part of normal maintenance work.

Renewal has the meaning set out in Chapter 8 of the Management Plan i.e. in renewal, the locations and general appearance are similar to that existing but the electricity entity needs to take account of new technology, design standards and safety. Examples of renewal include:

- raising the crest level of a dam without increasing the full supply level of the storage; alternatively increasing the size of a spillway;
- widening roads and canals;
- increasing the height of transmission towers;
- enlarging a switchyard by up to 50%;
- changing the number of penstocks whilst adhering to the original alignment;
- minor deviations to the route of a road or canal or transmission line e.g. a few metres shift over 3-5 kilometres; and
- a large deviation in a localised area e.g. realigning a road or canal over a gully, not around it.

Vegetation Management is the management of vegetation, including cutting and removal, within an existing infrastructure footprint.

Vegetation Clearance is the management, including cutting and removal, of vegetation outside an existing infrastructure footprint.

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Appendix C – Notification Template

TO: Relevant PWS Regional Manager

CC: HT Environment Team

Subject: NOTIFICATION OF CATEGORY A ACTIVITY - "Insert location of works: name"

Attachment: Location Map

Dear "Type name of recipient"

Location of Works: "Insert location of works: MGA55 coordinates"

Please be advised that Hydro Tasmania is planning maintenance works on the "Insert location of works".

"Insert description of works" *[e.g. Works will consist of vegetation control from the top of the road to the water level in the canal approximately 5 m each side of the canal in order to minimise the risk of damage to the canal from falling vegetation and blockage].*

Works are due to commence on the "Insert date of commencement" and it is anticipated that they will be finished by the "Insert date of completion".

The person responsible for the project is "Insert name of officer", who can be contacted on "Insert phone number (mobile)". Please contact this person should you have any queries.

The works are consistent with the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan 2016 and the accompanying Electricity Entities Operations Plan (EEOP) as agreed to by Hydro Tasmania. The works will be undertaken in accordance with Hydro Tasmania's Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) System (including procedures relating to environmental impact assessment).

The planned works are consistent with Category A Activities - Low Risk Replacement Activities identified within the EEOP. The EEOP states that this category of works can be completed by Hydro Tasmania without the need for express prior written consent of the PWS, following notification by Hydro Tasmania.

Please contact the "Insert Project manager" if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

"Insert Full E-mail Signature"