

Dam Maintenance & Repairs

July 2016

DO I NEED A DAM WORKS PERMIT?

To ensure dams remain in a safe and working condition, regular dam monitoring is recommended.

With regular use and exposure to a variety of weather conditions, dams can need a bit of repair and maintenance to ensure they remain in working order for the long term.

For the majority of cases, maintenance and repairs on a dam do not require any formal approval, as this type of dam works are exempt under the *Water Management (Dam Works Exemption) Order 2005*. The following provides some examples of dam works that can be undertaken on an existing dam without a dam works permit.

EXAMPLES OF TYPES OF DAM WORKS THAT CAN BE UNDERTAKEN ON AN EXISTING DAM WITHOUT REQUIRING A DAM PERMIT

- Minor repairs to a dam wall to add more topsoil to the wall or rock protection on the upstream batter slope. The works must not change the maximum height of the dam wall or steepen the batter slopes or change any of the pre-existing/permitted dimensions of the dam;
- Minor repairs to a dam to repair or replace an eroded section of the dam wall, as long as the works are confined to no more than;
 - 10% of the horizontal width of the dam wall between the upstream and downstream batter slopes; or
 - 20% of the horizontal length of the dam wall, measured at any height between each end of the dam wall;
- Minor repairs to spillway as long as the designed flood capacity is not reduced (i.e. the same volume of water can still be passed through the spillway channel);

- Remove vegetation from the spillway, dam wall or within the dam storage area. Note: Before removing stumps, especially on the embankment itself, please seek professional advice;
- To place any protective topsoil, gravel, rock or other natural material to prevent erosion or other damage to –
 - a dam embankment; or
 - a spillway, as long as the designed flood capacity is not reduced (i.e. the same volume of water can still be passed through the spillway channel);
- Make repairs, to outlet pipes or control valves, that do not reduce the pre-existing flow capacity of those outlet pipes or control valves;
- To de-silt a water storage area, if the dam wall is left untouched and the pre-existing/ permitted storage capacity of the dam is not increased;
- Repairing or maintaining a fish-pass around or over an existing dam wall.

Please note that in some cases, the level of repair will not fit with the exemption examples shown above and therefore a new dam works permit is required. This will include cases where a dam has been breached completely or where the previous permitted requirements no longer meet current standards (for example spillway and outlet pipe capacities).

Where repairs are likely to be outside of the exemption, a dam works permit will be required. Contact your local dam consultant for further advice on how to apply for a dam permit.

More information on the Dam Construction approval and permitting processes, including relevant codes and forms is available at www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/water/dams

If you would like advice on maintenance or repair works, please contact your local Regional Water Management Officer directly, or contact DPIPWE on water.operations@dpipwe.tas.gov.au or **1300 368-550**.

