

Fencing and revegetation along rural drainage assets

Guidance notes for landholders seeking Water
Corporation approval in collaboration with the Peel
Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC)

Contents

Background and Purpose	3
New Works Requirements	3
Guidance to complete an Online Application	4
Reference Drawings	6
Water Corporation Revegetation and Access Requirements	6
Water Corporation Bed Level Style Stock Crossing Requirements	7
Non-Water Corporation Asset Fencing and Revegetation requirements.	8
Department of Fire and Emergency Service (DFES) Fire Safety Manual	9
Completion	9

Fencing and revegetation along rural drainage assets: Guidance notes for landholders seeking Water Corporation approval in collaboration with the Peel Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC)

Background and Purpose

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) have provided Peel Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) funding to support building fences on drains in rural areas. Some of these drains are Water Corporation assets.

The purpose of this guidance note is to provide farmers, agencies, or property owners with easy-to-follow advice on the types of fences accepted, and the approvals required to work in the vicinity of Water Corporation assets, most commonly, the requirements when installing fencing along rural drainage assets. It is noted that this guide is to help support, in simple language, the requirements of the Water Corporation and the Drainage Design Standard 66. It is noted that this advice does not replace the requirements of the DS66 standard.

Where ground disturbing works are proposed in the vicinity of Water Corporation managed assets, it is the landholder's responsibility to complete a Water Corporation [Approvals for works](#) application. There is no cost for these applications, and completing it should take no longer than 10 minutes, provided all the supporting documents are on hand.

The guidance note is a supplementary support tool, to the advice provided by PHCC or Water Corporation officers.

New Works Requirements

All new projects and "Approvals for Works" are assessed on a case-by-case basis with consideration for specific site conditions. However, the following general requirements apply:

- Maintenance access to fenced off drains is to be provided with gates (4.2m wide minimum) installed at appropriate locations.
- Provision for maintenance is to be provided via a 4m wide clear access way (free of new planting) to one side of the drain. It is preferable that the side of the drain that receives the most run-off from adjacent paddock/s is the side that is planted. Where possible all existing/ remnant vegetation should be preserved.
- It is recommended new planting is not undertaken in the base of the drain; however, it is acknowledged plants may naturally colonise in the drain.
- Planting that extends into the maintenance access, may be subject to damage or removal if maintenance is required to maintain the function of the drain.

Guidance to complete an Online Application

When completing the Approval for Works application, the following attachments will need to be provided.

1. Before you dig Australia plans <https://www.byda.com.au/before-you-dig/>
2. Asset Protection Risk Assessment Form (APRA) [Microsoft Word - APRA Form for publishing.docx \(watercorporation.com.au\)](#)
3. Proposed Works Plans/ Sketches (refer to reference drawings below)
4. Farm Insurance policy number and details

As shown in the figure below, in the online application select 'Planting or removing trees' as the type of work.

Which of the following best describes the type of work you are doing? *

- Power pole or street light replacement
- Directional drilling
- Spike installation - Western Power
- Modifying the existing ground level
- Roadworks/road widenings
- Road closure notices
- Notice of proposals for new works
- Installing your equipment on our assets (telecommunication antennas)
- Site access request
- Planting or removing trees
- Excavations
- Works directly on Corporation assets (new and existing)
- Major infrastructure development (Main Roads WA projects, state infrastructure projects, etc.)
- Protection of assets general enquiry
- Installation of uni-pillar/mini-pillar
- Installation of NBN pit

In the application, it should be noted that the "New Works Requirements" are understood and will be adhered to. This can be done by including the dots points below in the "additional information" section at the bottom of the form.

- This stock exclusion and revegetation project is part of the Healthy Estuaries WA and The Bindjareb Djilba Protection Plan funded by the Peel Harvey Catchment Council.
- Access to the fenced off drain will be possible through farm gates (4.2m wide) as shown on maps/sketches provided.
- Access along one side of the drain will be kept for maintenance activities.
- Planting will be limited to the banks of the drain and not take place within the base of the drain.
- It is acknowledged that vegetation may be subject to removal or damage in the event that maintenance is required.

Additional information

Please provide any additional information to support your application

This stock exclusion and revegetation project is part of the Healthy Estuaries WA and The Bindjareb Djilba Protection Plan funded by the Peel Harvey Catchment Council.

Access to the fenced off drain will be possible through farm gates. (4.2m wide) as shown on maps/sketches provided.

Planting will be limited to the banks of the drain and not take place within the base of the drain.

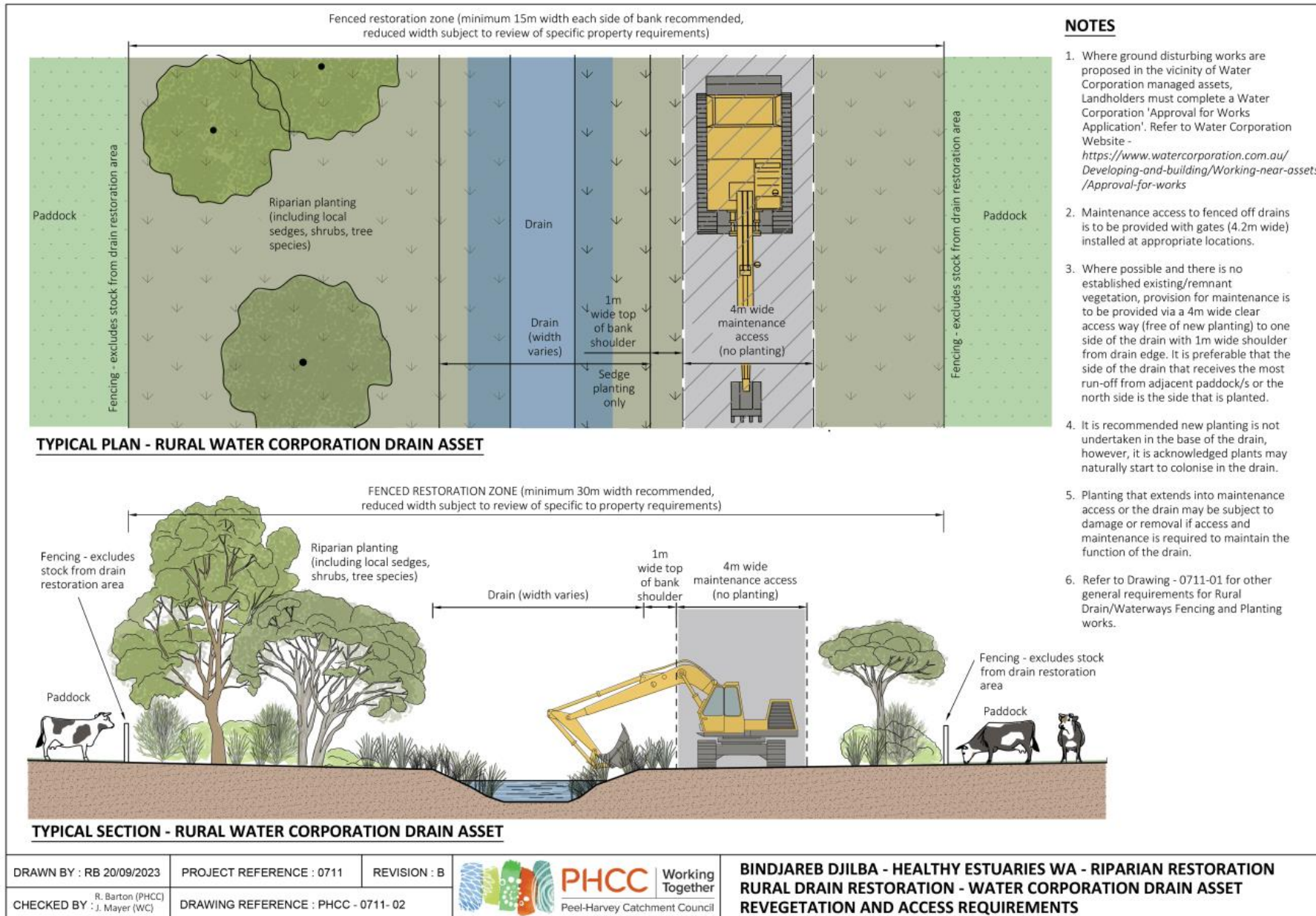
It is acknowledged that vegetation may be subject to removal or damage in the event that maintenance is required.

A diagram or sketch of the intended fencing and revegetation will need to be included with the application. The maps developed for the application can be provided by the PHCC's Healthy Estuaries Officer who can be contacted on 9369 8800.

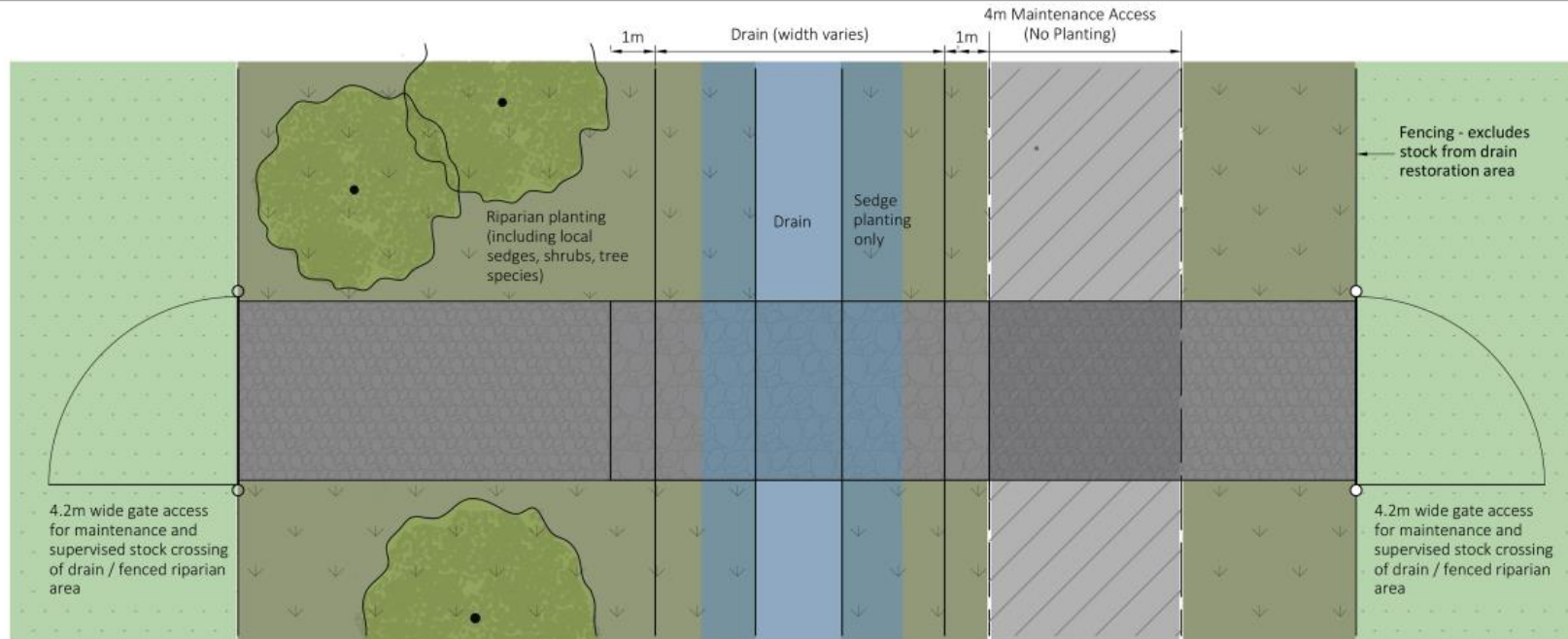
A diagram or sketch of any proposed stock crossing/s will also need to be submitted.

Reference Drawings

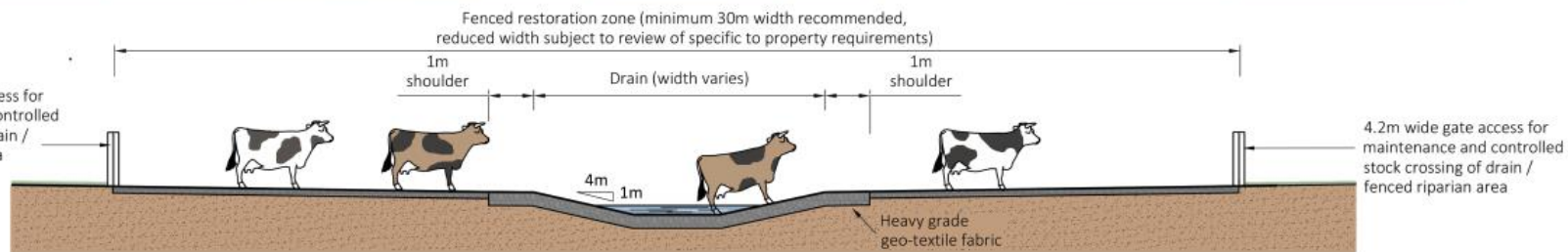
Water Corporation Revegetation and Access Requirements



Water Corporation Bed Level Style Stock Crossing Requirements



TYPICAL PLAN



TYPICAL SECTION

NOTES

- Where ground disturbing works (including Stock Crossings) are proposed in the vicinity of Water Corporation managed drain assets, Landholders must complete a Water Corporation 'Approval for Works Application'. Stock and vehicle crossings with concrete pipes/culverts require detailed Engineer certified design drawings to be submitted with 'Approval for Works Application'. Refer to Water Corporation Website - <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Developing-and-building/Working-near-assets/Approval-for-works>
- If the drain/waterway is in a proclaimed surface water area, river or irrigation district under the Rights in Water and Irrigation (RIWI) Act, and plans involve disturbing the bed and/or banks (e.g. to install a stock crossing), the regional DWER office should be contacted for advice on whether a Bed and Banks permit is required. Small drainage channels and other small watercourses that do not appear on GIS datasets may still require a permit. The regional DWER team assess applications on a case-by-case basis, considering the risks to the system.
- Access to stock crossing and fenced riparian area is to be provided with gates (4.2m wide) installed at appropriate locations.
- Stock crossings shall minimise interference with the existing channel form and capacity. The flow capacity must not be reduced. They should be installed at a straight section and aligned perpendicular to the drain/waterway. Rock used to construct the crossing are to be hard, angular and not rounded or flat. The rock banks should extend to the full height of the embankment and 1m wide beyond top of bank to prevent scouring of the banks and to stabilise the access points to the crossing. The banks of the crossing should also be graded to a maximum 4:1 slope, with the lowest section of the crossing being in the centre of the channel. The depth of rock placement and size of rocks needs to be considered specific to site conditions. The crossing can be constructed with a large rock (e.g. 80-300mm granite) bottom layer or overlaid with smaller rock layer (e.g. 60mm granite ballast) compacted to form an interlocking rock matrix. Rock crossing is to be constructed upon a lining of heavy grade geo-textile fabric.

DRAWN BY : RB 20/09/2023

PROJECT REFERENCE : 0711

REVISION : B

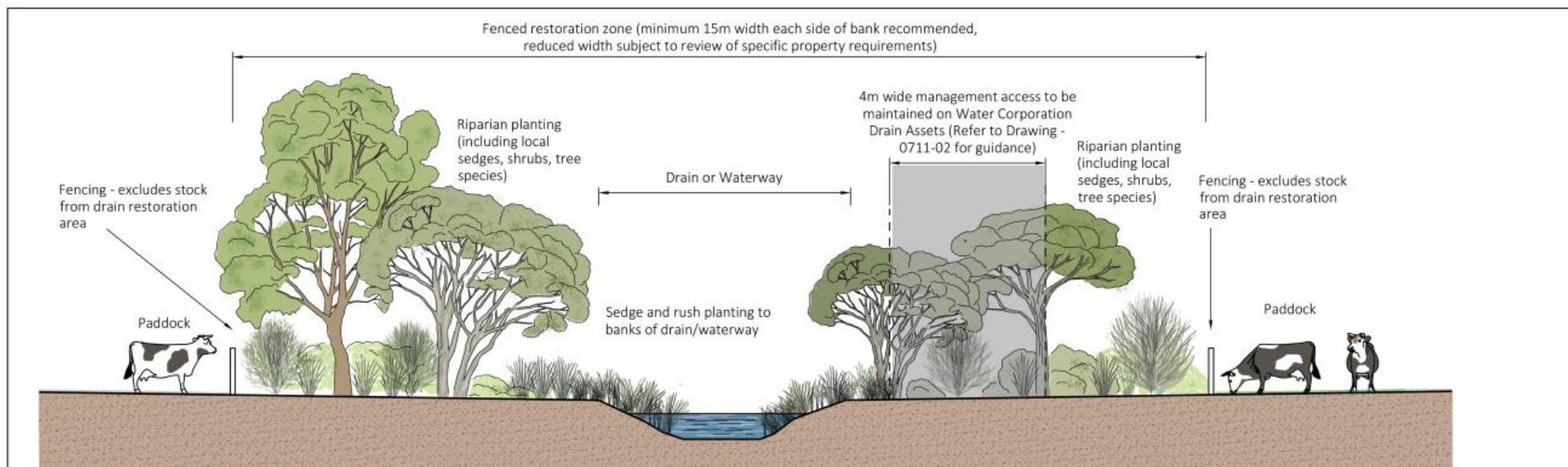


CHECKED BY : R. Barton (PHCC)
J. Mayer (WC)

DRAWING REFERENCE : PHCC - 0711- 03

**BINDJAREB DJILBA - HEALTHY ESTUARIES WA - RIPARIAN RESTORATION
WATER CORPORATION MANAGED DRAIN ASSET
ARMORED - BED LEVEL STYLE STOCK CROSSING REQUIREMENTS**

Non-Water Corporation Asset Fencing and Revegetation requirements.



TYPICAL SECTION - RESTORED RURAL PROPERTY DRAIN/WATERWAY (NON WATER CORPORATION ASSET)

NOTES

FENCING

1. The fencing installed shall be sufficient to prevent stock entering the waterway/drain. A minimum of four-wire electric fencing (or an agreed alternative) shall be installed.
2. Maintenance Access to fenced off drains is to be provided with gates (4.2m wide) installed at appropriate locations.

SITE PREPARATION

3. Site preparation should be undertaken once stock have been permanently removed.
4. Site preparation, such as ripping, and/or mounding, and/or scarification is required and should be undertaken to create optimal soil conditions for seed germination and seedling establishment (e.g. when the site is dry or sufficiently moist, but not saturated) ensuring this does not cause sediment run-off into the waterway/drain.
5. Ripping depths of up to 200-500mm below the soil surface can improve the growth of seedlings and should be done when the soil is dry.
6. Mounding is recommended on soils which are prone to water logging. The topsoil in the mound is beneficial for plant survival.
7. Weeds must be sprayed before planting takes place and weeds must be effectively controlled up to the time of planting. Where couch and/or kikuyu are present, at least two applications of herbicide are recommended. Applications of a knockdown herbicide and a pre-emergent herbicide have given the best results.
8. Necessary feral animal control is to be undertaken prior to planting. Tree guards may be used where feral animal control is not practical.

PLANTING

9. Local, endemic species are to be used for all planting. Planting methods and species should be suitable for the local site conditions including soil type and topography and may include planting or direct seeding.
10. The recommended planting density for sedge and rush species is 6-10 tubes per m².
11. The planting of highly flammable species (e.g. Eucalypts due to their highly combustible oils) should be avoided or minimised with spacing between trees to be considered to provide adequate separation between trees at mature size.

APPROVALS

12. If the drain/waterway is in a proclaimed surface water area, river or irrigation district under the Rights in Water and Irrigation (RIWI) Act, and plans involve disturbing the bed and/or banks (e.g., to install a stock crossing), the regional DWER office should be contacted for advice on whether a Bed and Banks permit is required. Small drainage channels and other small watercourses that do not appear on GIS datasets may still require a permit. The regional DWER team assess applications on a case-by-case basis, considering the risks to the system.
13. Where ground disturbing works are proposed in the vicinity of Water Corporation Managed Assets, Landholders must complete a Water Corporation 'Approval for Works Application'. Refer to Drawing - 0711-02 for guidance on requirements for fencing and restoration works in the vicinity of Water Corporation Managed Assets and to Water Corporation Website <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/Developing-and-building/Working-near-assets/Approval-for-works>.

DRAWN BY : RB 20/09/2023	PROJECT REFERENCE : 0711	REVISION : B		BINDJAREB DJILBA - HEALTHY ESTUARIES WA - RIPARIAN RESTORATION RESTORED RURAL PROPERTY DRAIN/WATERWAY FENCING AND REVEGETATION REQUIREMENTS
CHECKED BY : R. Barton (PHCC) : J. Mayer (WC)	DRAWING REFERENCE : PHCC - 0711- 01			

Department of Fire and Emergency Service (DFES) Fire Safety Manual

A guide to Constructing and Maintaining Firebreaks can be found here:

<https://publications.dfes.wa.gov.au/publications/a-guide-to-constructing-and-maintaining-fire-breaks>

Completion

On completion of the application, record your Protection of Assets Assessment (POA) number. This number will help identify your application, if you are seeking an update from the Water Corporation or PHCC.