SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

Business name

Document: SWMS-001 Rev 1
Prepared: 9 Nov 2026
Review by: 9 Dec 2026
Highest risk after controls: Medium

1. BUSINESS AND JOB DETAILS

Job	Install stormwater drainage	**Start date**	9 Nov 2026
Working hours	7:00 am to 3:30 pm	**Trade**	Excavation and earthworks

2. HIGH RISK CONSTRUCTION WORK COVERED BY THIS SWMS

	Risk of a person falling more than 2 metres		Work on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines
	Work on a telecommunication tower		Work on or near energised electrical installations or services
	Demolition of an element of a structure that is load-bearing or related to its physical integrity		Work in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere
	Likely to involve disturbing asbestos		Work involving tilt-up or precast concrete elements
	Structural alterations or repairs that require temporary support to prevent collapse		Work on, in or next to a road, railway, shipping lane or other traffic corridor in use by traffic other than pedestrians
	Work in or near a confined space	**YES**	Work in an area with movement of powered mobile plant
	Work in or near a shaft or trench with an excavated depth greater than 1.5 metres		Work in an area with artificial extremes of temperature
	Work in or near a tunnel		Work in or near water or other liquid that involves a risk of drowning
	Use of explosives		Diving work
	Work on or near pressurised gas distribution mains or piping		

3. JOB STEPS, HAZARDS AND CONTROLS

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
1	Get BYDA plans and mark the pipe run	Hitting underground services	**Extreme Possible / Catastrophic**	1.1 Keep machine buckets well clear of marked services and use a spotter. [Isolate] 1.2 Scan the area with a cable locator before digging and mark services on the ground. [Engineering] 1.3 Hand dig or vacuum excavate to expose services before using a machine near them. [Engineering] 1.4 Lodge a free BYDA (Before You Dig Australia) request and get the plans before any digging. [Administrative] 1.5 Keep plans or locate tickets on site and check them again if the work	**Medium Rare / Catastrophic**	Site supervisor

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
				area grows. [Administrative] 1.6 If you hit a service, stop, get everyone clear, and call the owner and emergency services. [Administrative] 1.7 Wear safety boots, gloves and hi-vis when digging. [PPE]		
2	Cut hard surfaces with water suppression	Silica dust from concrete, brick, stone and tiles Saw cuts and kickback Loud noise Rules: WHS Regulations, Chapter 8A (Crystalline silica substances and engineered stone); WHS Regulation 2011, Part 4.1 Noise	**Extreme Likely / Catastrophic**	2.1 If the job involves engineered stone: do not supply, fabricate or install engineered stone benchtops, panels or slabs (banned since 1 July 2024). Removing, repairing or making minor changes to existing engineered stone is only allowed with water suppression or on-tool extraction, a fitted respirator, and written notice to the regulator before the work starts. [Eliminate] 2.2 Order materials cut to size, or use low-dust methods such as score and snap or a block splitter. [Substitute] 2.3 Cut outdoors or in a separate area, with other people well away and upwind. [Isolate] 2.4 Use water on the blade or on-tool dust extraction connected to an H-class vacuum. [Engineering] 2.5 Clean up with a vacuum or wet methods. Never dry sweep or use compressed air. [Administrative] 2.6 If the cutting, grinding or drilling is high risk, prepare a silica risk control plan (or include the r.529CA assessment in this SWMS), train workers in silica risks and give them the plan before work starts. [Administrative] 2.7 Wear a fit-tested P2 (or better) respirator. [PPE] 2.8 Keep blade guards fitted and working, and use the riving knife on table saws. [Engineering] 2.9 Use push sticks and clamps, and support long pieces so they do not pinch the blade. [Engineering] 2.10 Use a sharp, undamaged blade made for the material. [Administrative] 2.11 Stand to one side of the blade line, out of the kickback path. [Administrative] 2.12 Let the blade stop fully before reaching in or putting the saw down. [Administrative] 2.13 Use quieter tools and methods, such as cut-to-size materials, low-noise machines and battery tools. [Substitute] 2.14 Keep noisy plant away from work areas, and use screens or distance between the noise and people. [Isolate] 2.15 Keep tools maintained and use mufflers on compressors and generators. [Engineering] 2.16 Limit time on noisy tools and rotate workers. [Administrative] 2.17 If you have to shout to be heard 1 metre away, wear hearing protection. [Administrative] 2.18 Keep exposure below 85 dB(A) over 8 hours. Give hearing tests to workers who often need hearing protection. [Administrative]	**Medium Unlikely / Major**	Site supervisor
3	Dig the trench and pits, protecting edges	Trench or excavation collapse Being hit by mobile plant Falling through a floor opening	**Extreme Possible / Catastrophic**	3.1 Use methods that keep people out of the trench, such as directional boring or working from the surface. [Eliminate] 3.2 Barricade or cover the excavation so people and plant cannot fall in.	**Medium Rare / Catastrophic**	Site supervisor

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
		or void Rules: WHS Regulations, Part 6.3 Division 3 (Excavation work, r.304 to 306); WHS Regulation 2011, Part 5.1 Plant; WHS Regulation 2011, Part 4.4 Falls		[Isolate] 3.3 Shore, bench or batter the walls of any trench 1.5 metres deep or more before anyone goes in, unless a geotechnical engineer advises in writing that the sides are safe. [Engineering] 3.4 Keep spoil, materials and plant at least 1 metre back from the edge. [Engineering] 3.5 Provide a safe way in and out, such as a ladder near where people work. [Engineering] 3.6 Inspect the excavation at the start of each shift and after rain or anything that could weaken it. Record it. [Administrative] 3.7 Separate people and plant with barriers, exclusion zones and marked walkways. [Isolate] 3.8 Use plant with working reversing alarms, cameras and lights. [Engineering] 3.9 Have a traffic management plan showing plant routes, loading areas and pedestrian paths. [Administrative] 3.10 Use a spotter when reversing or working near people. [Administrative] 3.11 Make eye contact with the operator before going near. Stay out of the swing radius. [Administrative] 3.12 Cover every hole and penetration with a fixed, secured cover marked "HOLE" or "DANGER". [Isolate] 3.13 Put guardrails with toe boards around stairwells, lift shafts, voids and open edges. [Isolate] 3.14 Install stairs early and fit temporary handrails as soon as they go in. [Engineering] 3.15 Never remove a cover or guardrail without approval. Put it back straight away. [Administrative] 3.16 Inspect covers and barriers daily and after other trades have been through. [Administrative]		
4	Lay pipe to grade and set pits	Lifting and carrying heavy loads Hazardous chemicals Rules: WHS Regulation 2011, Part 4.2 Hazardous manual tasks; WHS Regulation 2011, Chapter 7 Hazardous chemicals	**High Likely / Moderate**	4.1 Plan to avoid carrying: have materials delivered, and old items picked up, as close as possible to where they are used. [Eliminate] 4.2 Use lighter or smaller loads: order smaller bags and shorter lengths, and drain or break down old items before moving them. [Substitute] 4.3 Use trolleys, pallet jacks, hoists, vacuum lifters or plant instead of carrying by hand. [Engineering] 4.4 Use a two-person lift for anything heavy, long or awkward. Plan the route first and clear it. [Administrative] 4.5 Keep the load close, back straight and no twisting. Turn with your feet. [Administrative] 4.6 Rotate tasks and take breaks on long lifting jobs. [Administrative] 4.7 Wear gloves for grip and safety boots to protect your feet. [PPE] 4.8 Choose the least harmful product that does the job, for example water-based instead of solvent-based. [Substitute] 4.9 Use chemicals in well-ventilated areas, or use fans and extraction in closed rooms. [Engineering] 4.10 Read the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) before use and keep a register of hazardous chemicals on site. [Administrative]	**Medium Unlikely / Moderate**	Site supervisor

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
				4.11 Keep chemicals in labelled containers. Never decant into drink bottles. [Administrative] 4.12 Store chemicals away from heat, food and drink, and keep products that react with each other apart. [Administrative] 4.13 Have eye wash and a spill kit nearby, and wash hands before eating. [Administrative] 4.14 Wear chemical-resistant gloves and safety glasses or goggles as listed on the SDS. [PPE] 4.15 Use a respirator with the right cartridge if the SDS calls for one. [PPE]		
5	Backfill, compact and reinstate surfaces	Hand-arm and whole-body vibration Loud noise Poor housekeeping and waste Rules: WHS Regulation 2011, Part 4.1 Noise	**High Likely / Moderate**	5.1 Use low-vibration tools and methods, such as a breaker on an excavator instead of a hand jackhammer. [Substitute] 5.2 Keep tools sharp and well maintained, and use anti-vibration handles and seats. [Engineering] 5.3 Limit trigger time on high-vibration tools and rotate workers. [Administrative] 5.4 Keep hands warm and dry, and take regular breaks. [Administrative] 5.5 Report tingling, numbness or white fingers early. [Administrative] 5.6 Wear earplugs or earmuffs rated for the noise. [PPE] 5.7 Loud noise: see step 2 for the full controls [Administrative] 5.8 Order materials to size and send packaging back where you can. [Eliminate] 5.9 Put skip bins and waste chutes close to the work. [Engineering] 5.10 Clean as you go, and do a full clean up at the end of each day. [Administrative] 5.11 Keep exits, stairs and walkways clear at all times. [Administrative] 5.12 Stack materials neatly on level ground, away from edges. [Administrative]	**Medium Unlikely / Moderate**	Site supervisor

Risk key: risk = likelihood x consequence on a 5 x 5 matrix. Low, Medium, High, Extreme. Work must not start while the risk after controls is high or above. Controls are listed in order of the hierarchy of control: Eliminate, Substitute, Isolate, Engineering, Administrative, PPE.

4. PPE AND PERMITS

Required PPE	Permits and plans
Steel cap boots Hi-vis shirt or vest Safety glasses Work gloves Hearing protection (earmuffs or plugs) Half-face respirator (P2 or P3 filters) P2 dust mask Hard hat Chemical-resistant gloves (nitrile) Safety goggles Overalls	Excavation / dig permit

5. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Plant / equipment	Licence or training needed	Inspection needed	Rego / ID	Last inspected	Certificate / report
Excavator	Verification of competency (VOC) for the machine	Operator pre-start check each shift; servicing and inspection to the manufacturer			
Wacker plate					
Hand tools					
Concrete saw					

6. TRAINING REQUIRED FOR THIS WORK

- Silica risk training before work starts (WHS Regulations r.529CD)

7. CREW COMPETENCY, TICKETS AND LICENCES

Crew listed at sign-on below, with ticket and licence numbers.

8. EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

Emergency number	000	**First aid kit**	In the work vehicle
Fire extinguisher	In the work vehicle	**Alarm and evacuation**	Shout for help and stop work. Make the area safe and go to the assembly point. Call the emergency number and send someone to meet the ambulance.
Reporting incidents	Notify the regulator immediately of any notifiable incident and preserve the site.		

9. IMPLEMENTING, MONITORING AND REVIEWING THE CONTROLS

How they are put in place	Controls are set up before the work starts. The person responsible explains this SWMS to every worker before they start, and workers sign to confirm they understand it.	**How they are monitored**	The person responsible checks the controls are in place before work starts each day and during the work, and talks to the workers about any problems. Stop work and review this SWMS if the work changes, the controls are not working, after any incident, or if a worker raises a concern.
When it is reviewed	Reviewed when the work or site changes, after any incident, if a control is not working, or if a worker or health and safety representative asks.		

Legal basis: Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011, Part 6.3 (Victoria: OHS Regulations 2017). A SWMS must be prepared before any high risk construction work starts. It must list the high risk work, the hazards and risks, the control measures, and how those controls will be put in place, monitored and reviewed. It must be easy for the workers to read and understand.

Keep this SWMS, and every revised version, until the high risk construction work is finished, where workers and inspectors can see it on site. If a notifiable incident happens during the work, keep it for at least 2 years after the incident.

10. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT RECORD

Rev	Date	By	What changed
1	9 Nov 2026		First issue

11. SIGN-OFF

	Name	Signature	Date	
Prepared by				
Person responsible (supervisor)				
Principal contractor review				Accepted for use: Yes / No

By signing below, each worker confirms they were consulted on and have read and understood this SWMS, and will follow it. If the work cannot be done as this SWMS says, stop as soon as it is safe and do not restart until the SWMS is reviewed.

Name	Role / company	Tickets / licences	Inducted	Signature	Date

Name	Role / company	Tickets / licences	Inducted	Signature	Date