



Earthworks and retaining walls

Types of earthworks

Earthworks can include:

- cutting/excavating soil
- filling/depositing soil

Retaining walls

Retaining walls include all built vertical landscaping elements designed to retain soil. Retaining walls can be on property boundaries or located within properties.

Is approval from Council required?

Council approval may or may not be required depending on the works planned.

1. Exempt development (no approval required)

The State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 provides standards for earthworks, retaining walls and structural support.

Earthworks, retaining walls and structural supports of a maximum depth/height of 600 millimetres do not require approval.

2. Development application

If the requirements for exempt earthworks, retaining walls and structural support cannot be satisfied, a development application must be lodged with Council.

Chapter 4 of the Kiama Development Control Plan (DCP) limits cutting and filling of a site to 900 millimetres away from the perimeter of a building.

Chapter 2 of the Kiama Development Control Plan (DCP) requires the submission of a Soil Analysis Report with development applications that involve:

- removing soil from site
- bringing soil onto site.

For more information on soil testing refer to Council's Soil Testing Classification and Disposal Fact Sheet.

Dividing fences

Retaining walls may also form part of a dividing fence. For more information on dividing fences refer to Council's Fences Fact Sheet.



Lodgement of a development application

Submission of a development application must be accompanied by the development application fee.

Fee estimates can be requested by using Council's online request form.

Building certification

Council provides building certification services that are flexible and personalised. More information about this service is available on our [website](#).

Need help?

If you have any questions, Council's Development Assessment staff are available for brief consultations and to provide general advice at Council's Customer Service counter between 8.45am and 11am Monday to Friday.

Appointments may be made outside these hours, subject to availability. Council staff cannot assist in the preparation of your application or the supporting documents.

Disclaimer

This fact sheet provides a summary of key elements of earthworks. Any person using this document must do so on the basis that, not every scenario and issue can be addressed, and discussion with Council should be undertaken. This document is subject to change without notice.