



Waterway Barrier Works

frc environmental's specialist freshwater ecologists provide cost-effective fish passage assessment services for all types of waterway barrier works, ensuring practical solutions that are aligned with regulatory requirements.

What are 'Waterway Barrier Works'?

A waterway barrier is infrastructure that impacts fish passage. Barriers can disrupt connectivity between fish breeding and feeding grounds, and prevent fish from finding refuge (e.g. permanent waterholes during the dry season). Waterway barrier works include weirs, culverts, bed-level crossings, levees and bunds, and temporary installations, such as working platforms and silt curtains.

The *Planning Act 2016* provides the framework for land use planning and development assessment in Queensland. The State Planning Policy, an instrument under the *Planning Act 2016*, identifies 17 state interests, including 'waterways that provide fish passage'.

Some types of waterway barrier works are considered 'accepted development', depending on the type and design of the infrastructure, and the characteristics of the waterway. However, where proposed development may impact a matter of state interest, development is assessed against the State Development Assessment Provisions, with State Code 18 relating to waterway barrier works. Further assessment using the Significant Residual Impact Guidelines may also be required.

Waterways at risk from waterway barriers are mapped by the State Government (the default mapping), and also include features that meet the State definition of a waterway, that may not be included in this mapping.

How can frc environmental help?

frc environmental has suitably qualified and experienced fisheries biologists and aquatic ecologists, and the credibility and expertise developed over 3 decades of practice. We can help you by:

- ground-truthing mapped waterways
- providing expert advice where the default classification is inappropriate
- surveying fish and aquatic habitat to determine fish passage requirements
- assessing proposed infrastructure designs against the Accepted Development Guidelines, State Code 18 and the Significant Residual Impact Guidelines
- inspecting waterway barrier works during and after construction to confirm they comply
- designing and implementing fish way monitoring programs.

This benefits you by:

- saving considerable time and expense
- minimising delays due to project implementation
- reducing the risk of onerous conditions (e.g. excessive monitoring)
- avoiding damage to your reputation due to 'non performance'.

