

Enlarged Cotter Dam

Blasting activity during construction

During the different stages of construction of the Enlarged Cotter Dam project, blasting will be required to attain rock. Wherever possible, mechanical means will be used to excavate the rock, but failing this blasting will be required.

Planning and monitoring

The Enlarged Cotter Dam Blast Management Plan is the overarching document that outlines roles, responsibilities, procedures and legislative requirements for undertaking blasting activities.

The Blast Management Plan has been endorsed by the Commissioner, Emergency Services Agency, Territory and Municipal Services, Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), the Manager, Compliance Office of Regulatory Services, and the Department of Justice and Community Services.

Individual Blast Plans are developed for each and every blast undertaken. Every Blast Plan is required to be submitted to and approved by ACT WorkCover prior to the blast occurring.

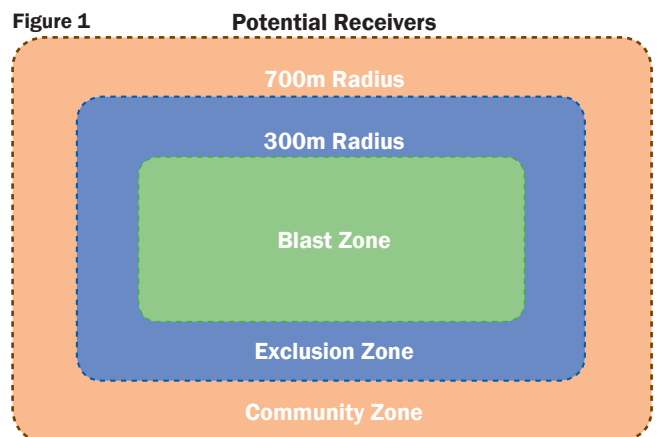
As part of ACTEW Corporation's quality control system for the project, inspection and test plans will be developed by an engineer for the blasting operations, and verification checklists will be signed and dated by the foreman and engineer for each blast. A Blast Report (including a blast video and monitoring data) will be generated for each blast and submitted to ACT WorkCover.

Blasting will be monitored at a number of selected compliance points (sensitive receivers) around the perimeter of the blast zone. Monitoring results will be collected for dust, noise and vibration and will be documented in environmental reports issued to the EPA on a weekly basis.

Safety

Three zones of responsibility will be established around every blast to mitigate risks and control hazards (see figure 1).

The blast zone is a 300m zone around the blast area that is controlled by the shot firer. The exclusion zone is a 700m radius zone around the blast area that is controlled by the construction team.



Prior to blasting, we will ensure the exclusion zone has been cleared of people. A community zone has been established and represents all sensitive receivers as well as our community interface outside the exclusion zone.

Community notifications

The size of the community zone has the potential to increase with each blast and current weather conditions. Should blasting be necessary, signage around the area will be updated, and information will be posted to ACTEW's website.

Twenty-four hours prior to a blast, ACTEW will notify the ACT Emergency Services of blasting operations occurring.

Traffic management

To ensure the safety of local traffic, all blasts will require a Traffic Control Plan to be submitted to Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) for approval. Traffic stoppage times will be minimised as road closures will only be in effect immediately prior to and during the blasting operations until the all clear is given (approximately 15-20 minutes).

Traffic controllers will be used to ensure all vehicles have exited the exclusion zone. Notification to public motorists will be provided by signage located at the outer limits of the exclusion zone.

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ACTEW working with ActewAGL

Storing and transporting explosives

No explosives will be stored onsite and only the quantity required for the blast is to be brought onto site. Transportation of explosives to site will be conducted by a person who has an ACT explosives licence, and in an approved vehicle.

Blasting hours

In accordance with Environmental Authorisation No.0701, blasting on the project will be limited to the hours of 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

Blast procedures

- Two days before a blast, signage around the Cotter area will be updated to promote the date of the next blast.
- On the day of the blast, security personnel and traffic controllers will be assigned to specific locations.

Blast count down

- Once an area has been made ready for the blast the superintendent will hand the control of the area over to the shot firer. (the shot firer is responsible for detonating the explosives)
- Immediately prior to the blast a siren will ring for one minute to indicate a blast is about to occur.
- After the blast a siren will sound three times to indicate the all clear, Roads will then be reopened to the public.

For general questions, project updates and to provide feedback, phone (02) 6248 3563.

For urgent matters, phone toll free 1800 211 242 (24-hour).

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