

Retaining Walls

Do I need certification?

A Private Building Certifier must be engaged and a Building Approval obtained for all retaining walls unless the retaining wall meets the requirements of 'Accepted Development'.

Additional approval may also be required if the retaining wall is located in proximity to property boundaries, easements and infrastructure.

When is a retaining wall 'Accepted Development'?

A retaining wall is Accepted Development if it meets the following criteria:

- The total height, and the cut or fill retained by the wall, is no more than 1 metre in height above the natural ground level;
- It complies with all relevant Council siting and planning requirements;
- It is no closer than 1.5m to a building or another retaining wall;
- It is structurally adequate and compliant with the Building Code of Australia;
- All other relevant approvals are obtained to construct the wall over any infrastructure such as sewer pipes, stormwater mains, easements and
- It is not part of the fencing for a regulated swimming pool

When do Council need to be aware?

Council will generally only become involved in issues associated with existing retaining walls where:

- There is imminent danger of the retaining wall collapsing and causing injury to people or damage to property;
- A wall was built without the required approvals; or
- A wall is trespassing onto Council land.

Disputes between neighbours regarding the construction, maintenance and location of retaining walls are a civil matter that is handled through the State Government's Dispute Resolution Centre:

Mackay – Whitsundays Dispute Resolution Centre

Email: drc.mkywhit@justice.qld.gov.au

Phone: 4889 8402 or 1800 501 576

