

## Requirements for consultants undertaking contaminated land assessments in the Northern Rivers



Northern Rivers' councils have made changes to the reporting requirements for any site contamination assessments in the Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed local government areas.

These six councils are participating in the Council Regional Capacity Building program. This NSW EPA grant funded program has been developed to support council officers and provide a regionally consistent approach to the assessment and management of contaminated land.

From 1 July 2020, all contaminated land reports submitted to the above six councils must attach the completed Contamination Report Summary Table (enclosed) to the front of each report. Reports will not be reviewed unless the summary table is attached.

This summary table has been developed to ensure that essential and mandatory information (required by ASC NEPM and the NSW EPA *Consultants reporting on contaminated land: Contaminated land guidelines*) is included in contamination reports (the first time).

The consultant simply records the relevant page numbers on the summary table. This method is similar to the approach taken by many EPA accredited auditors and will readily confirm if this critical information has been considered and documented.

This process also provides clarity around site investigation expectations and reporting standards across the region, which will assist consultants to plan and price projects and develop guideline compliant report templates.

### Why the change?

Increasingly, reports presented to councils are not complying with the requirements of the *National Environmental Protection (assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999* (ASC NEPM) and NSW EPA guidelines.

Compliance with these guidelines is required to demonstrate the investigations have been adequately designed to determine site suitability and identify risks to human health and the environment. Any deviation from the ASC NEPM and NSW EPA guidelines must be documented and justified.

Currently, any report submitted to the NSW EPA must be prepared, or reviewed and approved, by a certified consultant. Other organisations across the state have taken a similar approach. The Northern Rivers councils recognise there are some limitations with this approach in our region, so they have adopted the summary table to improve report standards.

This approach has been developed in consultation with the NSW EPA, local EPA accredited site auditors and several local consultants.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the summary table, please contact your relevant council or Christine Pitman directly via [christine.pitman@ballina.nsw.gov.au](mailto:christine.pitman@ballina.nsw.gov.au) or 6686 1214.



*This project has been funded by the New South Wales Government through the EPA's Contaminated Land Management Program*

**Northern Rivers Contaminated Land Program - Contamination Report  
Summary Table**



<b>Property description and address</b>	<b>Page no.</b>
e.g. Lot and DP, map of entire site as well as the investigation area(s)	
<b>Conceptual Site Model</b>	
e.g. Contamination sources, receptors and exposure pathways between sources and receptors	
<b>Sampling and Analysis Quality Plan (SAQP)</b>	
Justification for the sampling design (how will the data be representative and relevant)	
Frequency and pattern of sampling	
Justification for analytical plan (especially if the project uses composite samples)	
Data quality objectives	
<b>Sampling Methodology</b>	
Description of sample methodology	
Description of media sampled and sample depth interval (e.g. borehole logs, or soil description)	
<b>Notable contaminant concentrations e.g. maximum specific concentrations and validation results</b>	
Soil and groundwater concentrations and comparison against appropriate EIL, HIL, HSL and GILs etc.	
Discussion on QA/QC	
Statistical analysis	
<b>Nature of works carried out</b>	
e.g. soil investigation, ground water investigation, excavation, on-site remediation, removal of soil, validation sampling, backfilled with imported soil with ENM classification	
<b>Nature and extent of residual contamination</b>	
Contamination identified in investigation, contamination unable to be remediated within the scope of the work, or areas not assessed	
<b>Waste removed</b>	
During remediation (details of classification and disposal)	
<b>Remediation Summary</b>	
What was removed or treated? Was it successful, is residual contamination remaining? Is there a need for an ongoing Environmental Management Plan?	
<b>Appropriately experienced and qualified practitioners</b>	
Practitioner is appropriately experienced and qualified with adequate professional indemnity (PI) insurance for the work undertaken	
<b>Statement of suitability</b>	
The land is considered suitable for [residential, residential with limited soil access, open space, industrial/commercial] land use, other (describe).	
<b>Report details</b>	
<b>Report title:</b>	
<b>Produced by:</b>	<b>ABN:</b>
<b>Provided to:</b>	<b>Council on:</b>
I _____ of _____ state that I have undertaken this assessment in accordance with the guidelines made and approved by the NSW Environment Protection Authority.	
<b>Name:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>
<b>Contact details email/ph:</b>	