

The below answer sheet is for your own self-assessment.  
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## Design & approval of developments that impact the water table / aquifer

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**1. What type of basement excavation is considered an aquifer interference activity under NSW legislation?**

Any excavation that receives groundwater inflows or seepage is considered an aquifer interference activity and must be assessed in accordance with relevant NSW legislation.

**2. What is the two-stage approval process required for aquifer interference works in NSW?**

The two-stage process involves:

1. Review of the proposal by WaterNSW and DCCEEW at the development application stage; and
2. Obtaining a Water Supply Works Approval (WSWA) prior to construction.

**3. What role does DCCEEW play in assessing aquifer interference activities?**

DCCEEW may be involved in the assessment of higher-risk aquifer interference activities, providing review and conditions to ensure groundwater impacts are minimised and managed over the life of the development.

**4. What is the role of a hydrogeologist in developments that impact the water table or aquifer?**

A hydrogeologist assesses groundwater conditions and prepares the technical evidence needed to demonstrate compliant, low-impact aquifer management.

**5. How are tanked basements generally classified by WaterNSW in terms of risk?**

Tanked basements are typically classified as low risk due to their minimal long-term impact on the aquifer.

**6. Why are drained basement applications subject to more onerous review than tanked basement applications?**

As drained basements can have ongoing impacts on the aquifer, they are reviewed by both WaterNSW and DCCEEW and may require additional assessment, documentation and special conditions to demonstrate minimal harm over the life of the development.