

RAR Methodology: Permanent Structures and the Simple Assessment

This letter is intended to clarify the Simple Assessment Methodology as outlined in Schedule A of the Riparian Areas Regulation (RAR) in respect to the use of permanent structures when determining the Vegetation Category. This guide is not intended to replace the procedure outlined in the RAR Assessment Methodology, but to offer clarification on the use of **permanent structures** during different parts of the Simple Assessment. For a detailed description of the Simple Assessment, please see the RAR Assessment Methodology.

One of the first steps when undertaking a Simple Assessment is to determine the existing and potential vegetation width which will result in the determination of the Vegetation Category by drawing the 30m and 200m assessment boundaries. The 200m assessment boundary must go both upstream and downstream of the center line of the subject property, for a **total of 400m**. Once these lines are drawn, permanent structures must be marked to determine the average potential riparian width. **For this step of the evaluation, permanent structures only include buildings with foundations.** Structures such as roads, parking lots, trails, dykes, and playing fields are NOT included as a permanent structure for this part of the assessment and measurements should be made beyond them to the first structure with a foundation, or to the assessment boundary.

The permanent structures listed in Table 2-3 of the Assessment Methodology refer to permanent structures **for the purpose of grand-parenting structures within the SPEA**, and should not be used as a reference for permanent structures when determining the potential vegetation width. The paragraph that precedes Table 2-3 makes reference to the table being used for 'guidance on what is a "permanent structures" (sic) for the purpose of determining potential vegetation'. This refers to determining the SPEA width as outlined in Figure 2-2 and 2-3. For example, if a vegetation category 2 is determined, the SPEA may be 15-30 m depending on whether there are permanent structures in the SPEA. Table 2-3 may be used as a guide to determine whether structures in the SPEA are permanent or temporary for this part of the assessment.