

## Loose Stone And Rubble Removal | SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

### TASK OR ACTIVITY: Loose Stone And Rubble Removal

Business Name:	ABN:	SWMS#
Business Address:		
Contact Person:	Phone:	Email:

### THIS SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT IS APPROVED BY THE PCBU OF THE PROJECT

Under the Work Health and Safety Regulation (WHS Regulation), a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) is required to ensure that a safe work method statement (SWMS) is prepared before the proposed work starts.

Full Name:		
Signature:	Title:	Date:
Details of the person(s) responsible for ensuring implementation, monitoring compliance of the SWMS as well as reviews and modifications of the SWMS.		
Full Name:	Title:	Phone:

### ALL PERSONNEL PARTICIPATING IN ANY ACTIVITY ON THIS SWMS MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATED

Safety meetings or toolbox talks will be scheduled in accordance with legislative requirements to first identify any site hazards, then to communicate those hazards and then to further take steps to either eliminate or control each hazard.

If an incident or a near miss occurs, all work must stop immediately. Depending on the severity of the incident, a meeting will be called with all workers to amend the SWMS if required. The meeting may also be an educational opportunity.

Any changes made to the SWMS after an incident or a near miss must be approved by the Person Conducting Business or Undertaking and communicated to all relevant personnel.

The SWMS must be kept and be available for inspection at least until the work is completed. Where a SWMS is revised, all versions should be kept. If a notifiable incident occurs in relation to which the SWMS relates, then the SWMS must be kept for at least two years from the occurrence of the notifiable incident.

### NAME OF ALL RELEVANT PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND COMMUNICATED TO IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF THIS SWMS

### CLIENT OR PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR DETAILS

Client:	SCOPE OF WORKS
Project Name:	
Project Address:	
Project Manager:	
Contact Phone:	
Date SWMS supplied to Project Manager:	

### ANY HIGH-RISK CONSTRUCTION WORK BEING CARRIED OUT

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> involves a risk of a person falling more than 2 meters  | <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on or near pressurised gas mains or piping                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on a telecommunication tower   | <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> involves demolition of an element of a structure that is load-bearing                           | <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on or near energised electrical installations or services                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> involves demolition of an element related to the physical integrity of a structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> involves, or is likely to involve, disturbing asbestos  | <input type="checkbox"/> involves tilt-up or precast concrete  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> involves structural alteration or repair that requires temporary support to prevent collapse    | <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out on, in or adjacent to a road, railway, shipping lane or other traffic corridor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in or near a confined space  | <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in an area of a workplace where there is any movement of powered mobile plant  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in/near a shaft or trench deeper than 1.5m or tunnel involving use of explosives | <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in areas with artificial extremes of temperature.                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> is carried out in or near water or other liquid that involves a risk of drowning.               | <input type="checkbox"/> involves diving work.   |

### ANY HIGH-RISK MACHINERY OR EQUIPMENT NEARBY

RISK MATRIX									
LIKELIHOOD	INSIGNIFICANT	MINOR	MODERATE	MAJOR	CATASTROPHIC	SCORE	ACTION	HEIRARCHY OF CONTROLS	
ALMOST CERTAIN	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE			 <p><b>Elimination</b> Remove the hazard.</p> <p><b>Substitution</b> Replace the hazard.</p> <p><b>Isolation</b> Isolate People from the hazard</p> <p><b>Engineering</b> Isolate the hazard.</p> <p><b>Administrative</b> Change the work.</p> <p><b>PPE</b></p>	
LIKELY	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	4A ACUTE	DO NOT PROCEED		
POSSIBLE	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	4 ACUTE	3H HIGH	Review before work starts.		
UNLIKELY	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	4 ACUTE	2M MODERATE	Ensure control measures in place.		
RARE	1 LOW	1 LOW	2 MODERATE	3 HIGH	3 HIGH	1L LOW	Monitor and keep records		

**Notes on Hierarchy of Controls:** Elimination methods are the most effective and preferred when controlling a hazard. Substitution is the second most effective method of controlling a hazard. Engineering by isolation is the third most effective, while Administrative Controls by changing the work is the fourth most effective method. PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is the least effective method.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)											
Select the appropriate PPE above suitable for the equipment used or the job task being performed (if applicable).											
FOOT PROTECTION	HAND PROTECTION	HEAD PROTECTION	HEARING PROTECTION	EYE PROTECTION	RESPIRATORY PROTECTION	FACE PROTECTION	HIGH-VIS CLOTHING	PROTECTIVE CLOTHING	FALL PROTECTION	SUN PROTECTION	HAIR/JEWELLERY SECURED
											
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other PPE Required:											
Permit or Licenses Requirements						Mandatory Qualifications and Training					

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
1. Preparation	Tripping, Equipment failure	2M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a site assessment to identify all potential tripping hazards and ensure they are marked or removed before work begins.</li> <li>- Clearly delineate work areas with safety cones and barriers to prevent unauthorised access and reduce the risk of trips.</li> <li>- Ensure all workers wear appropriate footwear with non-slip soles to enhance stability on uneven surfaces.</li> <li>- Regularly inspect tools and equipment for any signs of wear, damage, or malfunction to prevent equipment failure.</li> <li>- Develop and communicate a maintenance schedule for all equipment to ensure it is in proper working order before use.</li> <li>- Train workers on the correct use and handling of equipment to minimise the risk of accidents and equipment damage.</li> <li>- Implement a clean-as-you-go policy to regularly remove loose stones and rubble from active walkways to avoid tripping hazards.</li> <li>- Provide adequate lighting in work areas to improve visibility and help workers spot potential tripping or equipment hazards.</li> <li>- Offer training on proper lifting techniques to prevent strain-related injuries during stone and rubble removal.</li> <li>- Position first aid kits and trained personnel nearby to respond quickly in case of injuries related to tripping or equipment failure.</li> </ul>	1L
2. Site Assessment	Insufficient lighting, Inadequate signage	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensure all work areas are adequately illuminated, using portable lighting solutions if necessary, to maintain visibility and safety at all times.</li> <li>- Position floodlights strategically around the site to eliminate any shadows that may obscure hazards or obstacles during stone and rubble removal operations.</li> <li>- Conduct a thorough assessment of existing lighting conditions during different times of the day and make necessary adjustments or enhancements.</li> <li>- Install clear and prominent signage in and around the work zone to alert workers and visitors of ongoing loose stone and rubble removal activities.</li> <li>- Use reflective signs and markers, especially during twilight or low-light conditions, to enhance visibility and guide personnel safely through the site.</li> <li>- Regularly check and maintain all signs to ensure they remain clean, legible, and correctly positioned throughout the duration of the project.</li> <li>- Erect barricades with warning lights in areas where physical hazards cannot be immediately removed to prevent accidental entry into hazardous zones.</li> </ul>	2M

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide workers with reflective vests or other high-visibility clothing to ensure they are easily seen by equipment operators and others on the site.</li> <li>- Train all staff on the importance of maintaining clear pathways and the correct protocol for reporting insufficient lighting or inadequate signage.</li> <li>- Set up emergency lighting backups, such as battery-powered lamps, to ensure the site remains operational during unexpected power outages.</li> <li>- Implement periodic walkthroughs by supervisors to identify and rectify any lapses in lighting or signage needs promptly.</li> <li>- Coordinate with local authorities when necessary to employ temporary traffic control measures for public roads affected by construction activities.</li> </ul>	
3. Set-up Area	Poor ergonomics, Back	3H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct a pre-start briefing to educate workers on proper posture and techniques for lifting and moving materials.</li> <li>- Use mechanical aids such as trolleys, wheelbarrows, or skid steer loaders to minimise manual handling where possible.</li> <li>- Enforce team lifting procedures for heavy or awkward loads to distribute weight evenly and decrease strain.</li> <li>- Encourage workers to take regular breaks to prevent fatigue which can contribute to poor ergonomics and injury.</li> <li>- Provide adjustable PPE such as lumbar support belts for tasks involving prolonged bending or lifting.</li> <li>- Designate a clear path for load transfer to reduce unnecessary twisting or reaching motions that can cause strain.</li> <li>- Arrange the work area to minimise travel distance between the collection point and disposal area.</li> <li>- Ensure workspaces are well-lit to allow for adequate visibility when handling and manoeuvring materials.</li> <li>- Incorporate rest breaks and stretching exercises into the daily schedule to aid in muscle recovery and flexibility.</li> <li>- Offer training sessions focused on ergonomics, including instruction on recognising warning signs of musculoskeletal disorders.</li> <li>- Set up appropriate signage and barriers to keep non-essential personnel out of the work area, reducing clutter and distraction.</li> </ul>	2M
4. Protective Measures Check	Improper use of PPE, Lack of training	3H	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div>	2M



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6. Equipment Inspection	Machinery faults, Broken tools	3H		2M
7. Commence Work	Falling objects, Struck by moving vehicle	4A		3H





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SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
9. Load Rubble into Bins	Crushing injury from rubble falling, Trips over rubble	4A		3H
10. Secure Loaded Rubble	Mishandling causing injury, Instability of loaded bins	3H		2M

[illegible]

4A

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JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
16. Emergency Procedures Familiarisation	Not knowing emergency procedures, Panic situations	3H	<div>SAMPLE</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div>	2M
17. Health Monitoring	Unnoticed health deterioration, Unrecorded injuries	2M	<div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div>	1L

4A

JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK
19. Welfare Facilities Inspection	Mould growth, Improper sanitation	3H		2M
20. Site Closure and Sign-off	Incorrect closure procedures, Overlooking hazard spot checks	3H		2M



JOB STEP	POTENTIAL HAZARDS	IR	CONTROL MEASURES	RR
SPECIFIC WORK STEPS	HAZARDS THAT MAY ARISE	INITIAL RISK	SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE PUT IN PLACE TO ELIMINATE OR CONTROL THE RISKS	RESIDUAL RISK

SAMPLE

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE – CALL 000 FOR EMERGENCIES

Ensure to have an Emergency Management Plan in place as well as adequate numbers of trained first aid staff with easy access to fully stocked first aid kits, rescue equipment, material safety data sheets, adequate access to emergency communication equipment and fire-fighting equipment suitable for all classes of fire and ignition sources.

## LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE. DELETE THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES IF ANY STATE THAT ARE NOT APPLICABLE

### Queensland & Australian Capital Territory

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011

Legislation QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/work-health-and-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice QLD: <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Legislation ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice ACT: <https://www.worksafe.act.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

### Victoria

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/occupational-health-and-safety-act-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice VIC: <https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/compliance-codes-and-codes-practice>

### New South Wales

Work Health and Safety Act 2011

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2017

Legislation NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/legal-obligations/legislation>

Codes of Practice NSW: <https://www.safework.nsw.gov.au/resource-library/list-codes-of-practice>

### Western Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022

Legislation Western Australia: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/legislation>

Codes of Practice WA: <https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/worksafe/codes-practice>

### Northern Territory

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011

Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Regulations 2011

Legislation NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/workplace-safety-laws>

Codes of Practice NT: <https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

### Safe Work Australia Links

Law and Regulation (All States): <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/law-and-regulation>

Model Codes of Practice: <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/resources-publications/model-codes-of-practice>

### Model Codes of Practice

- Managing noise and preventing hearing loss at work
- Confined spaces
- Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals
- Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace
- Welding processes
- First aid in the workplace
- Managing the risk of falls at workplaces
- Hazardous manual tasks
- Managing the risk of falls in housing construction
- Managing electrical risks in the workplace
- Demolition work
- Excavation work
- Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination
- Managing the work environment and facilities
- How to manage work health and safety risks
- Managing risks of plant in the workplace
- Construction work

### South Australia

Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)

Legislation for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/resources/legislation>

Codes of Practice for SA: <https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/workplaces/codes-of-practice#COPs>

### Tasmania

Work Health and Safety Act 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 2012

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012

Work Health and Safety (Transitional) Regulations 2012

Legislation for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/acts-and-regulations>

Codes of Practice for TAS: <https://worksafe.tas.gov.au/topics/laws-and-compliance/codes-of-practice>

Details of permits, licenses or access required by regulatory bodies (add or delete as required):

- Permits from local council
- Authorisation to commence work
- Any required documents.

## SIGNATORIES OF THE SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT

The signed and dated personnel listed below have cooperated in the consultation and development of this Safe Work Method Statement which has been approved by the Person/s Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU). In signing this Safe Work Method Statement each individual acknowledges and confirms that they have read this SWMS in full, having raised any questions for items on this Safe Work Method Statement that require clarification, and confirms that they are competent, skilled and knowledgeable for the task assigned to them. Every person acknowledges that they have received the relevant training and qualifications where required, before carrying out any work contained in this Safe Work Method Statement. By signing this Safe Work Method Statement each individual agrees to work safely, to follow any safe work instructions which are provided, and agrees to use all Personal Protective Equipment where appropriate.

Worker Name	Signature	Date

## SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT MONITORING AND REVIEW

**The SWMS must be reviewed regularly** to make sure it remains effective and must be reviewed (and revised if necessary) if relevant control measures are revised. The review must be carried out in consultation with workers (including contractors and sub-contractors) who may be affected by the operation of the SWMS and their health and safety representatives who represent that work group at the workplace.

When the SWMS has been revised the PCBU must ensure that all persons involved with the work are advised that a revision has been made and how they can access the revised SWMS, including all persons who will need to change a work procedure or system as a result of the review are advised of the changes in a way that will enable them to implement their duties consistently with the revised SWMS. All workers that will be involved in the work must be provided with the relevant information and instruction that will assist them to understand and implement the revised SWMS.

**The SWMS must be monitored regularly** for the effectiveness of ensuring hazard controls are effective in reducing the risk of incidents, keeping the workplace safe for all personnel. The person responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the Safe Work Method Statement should employ a multi-faceted approach which includes but is not limited to:

1. Spot Checks.
2. Consultation with workers, contractors and sub-contractors.
3. Internal audits on a continual basis.

An approach of continuous improvement, promptly recording inconsistencies or deficiencies, followed up by immediate corrective action and consultation with all relevant personnel ensures that the PCBU is consistently developing ever-improving systems of safe work principles.

REVIEW NUMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NAME							
INITIALS							
DATE							

### SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT REVIEW CHECKLIST

This Safe Work Method Statement Review Checklist is to be followed and used upon initial development of the SWMS to help ensure that all steps have been adequately taken before work commences. Think of this document as an internal audit review checklist before commencing work, and may form part of a Toolbox Talk (safety meeting) and may be used as an opportunity for education and training.

ITEMS WHICH MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE SWMS	COMPLETED	COMMENTS
The company details have been entered, including the project name and address.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
All relevant personnel consulted during the development of the SWMS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Name, signature, position and date signed of the person approving the SWMS.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Specific personnel and qualifications, experience is noted in the SWMS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Provides a step-by-step process of tasks required to carry out the activity or task.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Adequate risk assessment of any identified hazards has been completed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Foreseeable hazards are identified and documented for each step.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Any hazards listed in any site risk assessments have been added to the SWMS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SWMS initial risk (IR) column as well as residual risk (RR) column completed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Check control measures added to the SWMS are the most effective selected.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Responsible person is assigned and listed on the SWMS for the implementation of control measures.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Permit or licenses requirements specified, such as Hot Work, Electrical Work, Work at Heights etc.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SWMS identifies plant and equipment to be used.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Details of inspection checks required for any equipment listed as noted on the SWMS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Describes any mandatory qualifications, experience, training or skills required to perform the work.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Applicable personal protective equipment is selected on the SWMS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Reflects and documents any legislative references and/or Australian Standards.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Identifies any hazardous substances used with specific control measures in line with any SDS.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>REVIEWED BY</b>		<b>DATE REVIEWED</b>
<b>SIGNATURE</b>		<b>DATE COMPLETED</b>