



A message from the Construction Occupations Registrar

Construction Note: 2022/01

Construction notes have been developed to raise awareness and educate the building and construction industry about common issues identified on building sites and best practice approaches to address them.

The issues outlined in these notes have been identified through compliance assessment by Access Canberra, feedback from the community, legislative reform across the City and Environment Directorate. Importantly, we welcome your input, if you have come across an issue that needs clarification or to provide feedback email us: CAMHR@act.gov.au

To Class A and B builders

Construction Occupations Registrar – Notice to builders regarding shoring of deep basement construction

In deep basement construction, shoring is required to allow construction of the basement works. Shoring construction poses significant safety risk to workers and the community, especially during and after wet weather or if ground becomes saturated.

In past years we have observed shoring failures that have substantial impacts on the owners, builders, consultants and specifically on the community.

It is important to take safety measures to avoid catastrophic outcomes due to shoring failure. It is critical to address all the risks associated with shoring and ensure that adequate controls are in place to support safety.

All builders are expected to continuously monitor and review the stability of their work during construction including temporary earthworks, retaining walls and basement construction.

The following parameters must be met before and during shoring construction:-

- Ensure all the geotechnical factors and structural loadings are considered in the shoring design.
- Ensure in-house design quality checks are performed before issuing the shoring construction drawings.
- Ensure regular inspection and monitoring of the shoring work. This would include survey monitoring as per design engineer's instructions.

- Ensure that the works are constructed strictly in accordance with the approved drawings.
- Monitoring of the weather forecast to enable changes/preventative measures to be made to the worksite in anticipation of extreme weather events.
- In case of rainfall events, arranging for an inspection by a suitably qualified engineer and/or a geotechnical engineer to assess the stability of the shoring works.
- Ensure that all stormwater systems (including pipes, drains, pits and swales) are installed and checked on regular basis.
- At the first sign of any movement/cracks or other issue, cording off the area and make safe, then arrange an inspection by a suitably qualified engineer and/or a geotechnical engineer to assess the situation and provide recommendations.

You have received this email from the ACT Construction Occupations Registrar as our records indicate you hold a current construction occupation licence to undertake work in the ACT building and construction industry. If you do not hold a current licence, or believe you have received this email in error, please email us at: cwpl@act.gov.au to be removed from future communications or to [unsubscribe](#).