SAFE WORK METHOD STATEMENT (SWMS)

Business name

Document: SWMS-001 Rev 1
Prepared: 9 Nov 2026
Review by: 9 Dec 2026
Highest risk after controls: Medium

1. BUSINESS AND JOB DETAILS

Job	New home construction	**Start date**	9 Nov 2026
Working hours	7:00 am to 3:30 pm	**Trade**	General building

2. HIGH RISK CONSTRUCTION WORK COVERED BY THIS SWMS

YES	Risk of a person falling more than 2 metres		Work on or near chemical, fuel or refrigerant lines
	Work on a telecommunication tower		Work on or near energised electrical installations or services
	Demolition of an element of a structure that is load-bearing or related to its physical integrity		Work in an area that may have a contaminated or flammable atmosphere
	Likely to involve disturbing asbestos		Work involving tilt-up or precast concrete elements
	Structural alterations or repairs that require temporary support to prevent collapse		Work on, in or next to a road, railway, shipping lane or other traffic corridor in use by traffic other than pedestrians
	Work in or near a confined space	**YES**	Work in an area with movement of powered mobile plant
	Work in or near a shaft or trench with an excavated depth greater than 1.5 metres		Work in an area with artificial extremes of temperature
	Work in or near a tunnel		Work in or near water or other liquid that involves a risk of drowning
	Use of explosives		Diving work
	Work on or near pressurised gas distribution mains or piping		

3. JOB STEPS, HAZARDS AND CONTROLS

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
1	Set up the site: fencing, signs, toilets, power and induction	Public entering the work area Electric shock from leads and power tools Rules: WHS Regulation 2011, Part 4.7 and AS/NZS 3012	**High** **Possible / Major**	1.1 Fence off the site with secure temporary fencing and lock the gates when you leave. [Isolate] 1.2 Give pedestrians a safe, marked path around the work, with ramps for prams and wheelchairs. [Isolate] 1.3 Use hoarding, covered walkways or catch fans where work is above public areas. [Engineering] 1.4 Put signs at each entry: site name, contact number and "No unauthorised entry". [Administrative] 1.5 Make the site safe at the end of each day: cover holes, lower plant,	**Low** **Rare / Major**	Site supervisor

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
				remove ladders and lock tools away. [Administrative] 1.6 Use a spotter when moving plant or materials across public paths. [Administrative] 1.7 Use battery-powered tools where you can. [Substitute] 1.8 Plug all tools into an RCD-protected outlet or a portable RCD. [Engineering] 1.9 Keep leads off the ground and out of water, using lead stands or hooks. [Engineering] 1.10 Check leads, plugs and tools before every use. Tag out and remove anything damaged. [Administrative] 1.11 Test and tag leads, tools and RCDs at the intervals in AS/NZS 3012 (every 3 months on construction sites). Push-button test portable RCDs before each use. [Administrative] 1.12 Do not use tools in rain or wet areas unless they are rated for it. [Administrative] 1.13 Wear safety boots and dry gloves. [PPE]		
2	Site cut, footings and slab	Being hit by mobile plant Hitting underground services Trench or excavation collapse Wet concrete and cement burns Rules: WHS Regulation 2011, Part 5.1 Plant; WHS Regulations, Part 6.3 Division 3 (Excavation work, r.304 to 306)	**Extreme Possible / Catastrophic**	2.1 Separate people and plant with barriers, exclusion zones and marked walkways. [Isolate] 2.2 Use plant with working reversing alarms, cameras and lights. [Engineering] 2.3 Have a traffic management plan showing plant routes, loading areas and pedestrian paths. [Administrative] 2.4 Use a spotter when reversing or working near people. [Administrative] 2.5 Keep machine buckets well clear of marked services and use a spotter. [Isolate] 2.6 Scan the area with a cable locator before digging and mark services on the ground. [Engineering] 2.7 Hand dig or vacuum excavate to expose services before using a machine near them. [Engineering] 2.8 Lodge a free BYDA (Before You Dig Australia) request and get the plans before any digging. [Administrative] 2.9 Use methods that keep people out of the trench, such as directional boring or working from the surface. [Eliminate] 2.10 Barricade or cover the excavation so people and plant cannot fall in. [Isolate] 2.11 Shore, bench or batter the walls of any trench 1.5 metres deep or more before anyone goes in, unless a geotechnical engineer advises in writing that the sides are safe. [Engineering] 2.12 Keep spoil, materials and plant at least 1 metre back from the edge. [Engineering] 2.13 Inspect the excavation at the start of each shift and after rain or anything that could weaken it. Record it. [Administrative] 2.14 Use long-handled tools and pumps to cut down contact. [Engineering] 2.15 Wash concrete off skin straight away with clean water. [Administrative] 2.16 Have clean water and eye wash at the pour. [Administrative] 2.17 Wear waterproof gloves, long sleeves and gumboots with trousers	**Medium Rare / Catastrophic**	Site supervisor

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
				worn over the top. [PPE]		
3	Frame and roof with scaffold and edge protection	Falling from height Falling from a roof edge Crane and lifting failure Rules: WHS Regulation 2011, Part 4.4 Falls; WHS Regulation 2011, Part 4.5 High risk work and Part 5.1 Plant	**Extreme Likely / Catastrophic**	3.1 Do the work from the ground where you can, for example pre-assemble on the ground or use extension poles. [Eliminate] 3.2 Install guardrails or edge protection on all open edges before work starts. [Isolate] 3.3 Use a scaffold, mobile work platform or EWP instead of working off a ladder. [Engineering] 3.4 Where edge protection is not practical, use a fall restraint or fall arrest system on a rated anchor point. [Engineering] 3.5 Everyone working at height holds a White Card and has been briefed on this SWMS before going up. [Administrative] 3.6 Have a written emergency and rescue plan, tested before work starts, so a worker hanging in a harness can be brought down within minutes (WHS Regulations r.80). [Administrative] 3.7 Do what you can from the ground or from a scaffold at the gutter line, for example pre-assemble parts on the ground. [Eliminate] 3.8 Install edge protection or guardrails on all open roof edges before work starts. [Isolate] 3.9 Use a perimeter scaffold with handrails and toe boards along the eaves where practical. [Engineering] 3.10 Where guardrails cannot be fitted, use fall restraint on certified roof anchors so workers cannot reach the edge. [Engineering] 3.11 Only workers briefed on this SWMS go on the roof. Stop and review the SWMS if the roof, weather or method changes. [Administrative] 3.12 Use one safe, controlled access point and keep others off the roof. [Administrative] 3.13 Have a written emergency and rescue plan, tested before work starts, for any worker using a harness (WHS Regulations r.80). [Administrative] 3.14 Barricade the lift zone and keep everyone out from under the load. [Isolate] 3.15 Use a crane rated for the load at the radius, set up on firm ground with outrigger pads. [Engineering] 3.16 Check slings, chains, shackles and hooks before use. Remove anything damaged or not tagged. [Engineering] 3.17 Plan the lift: weight, radius, ground, path and landing area. Use a written lift plan for complex lifts. [Administrative] 3.18 Crane operators and doggers or riggers hold the right High Risk Work Licence. [Administrative]	**Medium Rare / Catastrophic**	Site supervisor
4	Lock up: brick, windows and roof covering	Lifting and carrying heavy loads Silica dust from concrete, brick, stone and tiles Glass handling and breakage Rules: WHS Regulation 2011, Part 4.2 Hazardous manual tasks; WHS Regulations,	**Extreme Likely / Catastrophic**	4.1 Plan to avoid carrying: have materials delivered, and old items picked up, as close as possible to where they are used. [Eliminate] 4.2 Use lighter or smaller loads: order smaller bags and shorter lengths, and drain or break down old items before moving them. [Substitute] 4.3 Use trolleys, pallet jacks, hoists, vacuum lifters or plant instead of carrying by hand. [Engineering] 4.4 Use a two-person lift for anything heavy, long or awkward. Plan the route first and clear it. [Administrative]	**Medium Unlikely / Major**	Site supervisor

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
		Chapter 8A (Crystalline silica substances and engineered stone)		4.5 Keep the load close, back straight and no twisting. Turn with your feet. [Administrative] 4.6 If the job involves engineered stone: do not supply, fabricate or install engineered stone benchtops, panels or slabs (banned since 1 July 2024). Removing, repairing or making minor changes to existing engineered stone is only allowed with water suppression or on-tool extraction, a fitted respirator, and written notice to the regulator before the work starts. [Eliminate] 4.7 Order materials cut to size, or use low-dust methods such as score and snap or a block splitter. [Substitute] 4.8 Cut outdoors or in a separate area, with other people well away and upwind. [Isolate] 4.9 Use water on the blade or on-tool dust extraction connected to an H-class vacuum. [Engineering] 4.10 Clean up with a vacuum or wet methods. Never dry sweep or use compressed air. [Administrative] 4.11 If the cutting, grinding or drilling is high risk, prepare a silica risk control plan (or include the r.529CA assessment in this SWMS), train workers in silica risks and give them the plan before work starts. [Administrative] 4.12 Wear a fit-tested P2 (or better) respirator. [PPE] 4.13 Use suction lifters, glass trolleys or a glazing robot for large panes. [Engineering] 4.14 Store glass upright on racks and secure it. Never lay it flat or lean it loosely. [Engineering] 4.15 Use two or more people for large panes, and clear the carry route first. [Administrative] 4.16 Mark new glass with tape or stickers so nobody walks into it. [Administrative] 4.17 Clean up broken glass straight away into a marked container. [Administrative]		
5	Fit out with all trades, managing who works where	Slips and trips Electric shock from live wiring General dust Rules: WHS Regulation 2011, Part 4.7 General electrical safety	**Extreme Possible / Catastrophic**	5.1 Plan walkways and keep them clear of materials, hoses and leads. [Eliminate] 5.2 Run leads and hoses overhead on hooks or stands, or along walls, not across walkways. [Engineering] 5.3 Fill or cover holes, and lay boards or mats on muddy access paths. [Engineering] 5.4 Clean up offcuts, packaging and spills as you go, not at the end of the day. [Administrative] 5.5 Keep work areas, stairs and access paths well lit. [Administrative] 5.6 Isolate the power before any work. Do not do live work except in the limited cases the WHS Regulations allow (r.157; in Qld, the Electrical Safety Regulation 2013). [Eliminate] 5.7 Lock out and tag the isolation point with your own personal lock and danger tag. [Isolate] 5.8 Test before you touch: prove dead at the point of work with a voltage tester, proving the tester on a known live source before and after (AS/NZS	**Medium Rare / Catastrophic**	Site supervisor

#	Job step	Hazards	Risk before	Controls	Risk after	Responsible
				4836). [Engineering] 5.9 Only licensed electricians do electrical work. [Administrative] 5.10 Check for back feeds from solar, batteries and generators that can keep a circuit live after the main switch is off. [Administrative] 5.11 Use low-dust products, such as dust-reduced or pre-mixed compounds. [Substitute] 5.12 Seal off the work area with plastic sheeting in occupied buildings. [Isolate] 5.13 Use tools with dust extraction and a vacuum for clean up. [Engineering] 5.14 Lightly mist the area with water to keep dust down, away from anything electrical. [Engineering] 5.15 Never dry sweep or blow dust off with compressed air. [Administrative]		
6	Final clean, remove the site fence and hand over	Poor housekeeping and waste	**Medium Likely / Minor**	6.1 Order materials to size and send packaging back where you can. [Eliminate] 6.2 Put skip bins and waste chutes close to the work. [Engineering] 6.3 Clean as you go, and do a full clean up at the end of each day. [Administrative] 6.4 Keep exits, stairs and walkways clear at all times. [Administrative] 6.5 Stack materials neatly on level ground, away from edges. [Administrative] 6.6 Wear gloves when handling waste. [PPE]	**Low Unlikely / Minor**	Site supervisor

Risk key: risk = likelihood x consequence on a 5 x 5 matrix. Low, Medium, High, Extreme. Work must not start while the risk after controls is high or above. Controls are listed in order of the hierarchy of control: Eliminate, Substitute, Isolate, Engineering, Administrative, PPE.

4. PPE AND PERMITS

Required PPE	Permits and plans
Steel cap boots Hi-vis shirt or vest Hard hat Safety glasses Hearing protection (earmuffs or plugs) Work gloves Safety harness and lanyard Sun protection (brim hat, long sleeves, SPF 50+) Chemical-resistant gloves (nitrile) Safety goggles Knee pads Half-face respirator (P2 or P3 filters) Cut-resistant gloves P2 dust mask	Roof access permit Working at heights permit Lift plan

5. PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Plant / equipment	Licence or training needed	Inspection needed	Rego / ID	Last inspected	Certificate / report
Excavator	Verification of competency (VOC) for the machine	Operator pre-start check each shift; servicing and inspection to the manufacturer			
Concrete pump (boom or line)	High Risk Work Licence PB for truck-mounted concrete placing booms (not needed for line pumps)	Pre-start check each shift; concrete placing booms are registered as an item of plant and inspected to the manufacturer and AS 2550.15			
Crane (Franna or mobile)	HRWL for the crane class (e.g. C2, CN, C6), plus Dogging licence (DG) where slinging needs judgement or the load is out of the operator's view	Pre-start check each shift; routine, annual and major inspections to the manufacturer and AS 2550; mobile cranes over 10 t are registered as an item of plant			
Fixed scaffold	Scaffolding HRWL (SB, SI or SA) to erect, alter or dismantle where a fall of more than 4 m is possible	Over 4 m: not used until a competent person gives a written handover certificate (WHS Regulations r.225(2)); inspected before use after any incident, alteration or repair and at least every 30 days (r.225(3))			
Nail gun					
Circular saw		Test and tag every 3 months on construction sites (AS/NZS 3012); visual check and RCD push-button test before use			
Telehandler	3 t or less: trained and assessed (VOC). Over 3 t with a jib, hook or winch: High Risk Work Licence CN (non-slewing mobile crane). Slewing telehandlers: slewing crane licence (C2, C6 and up). Victoria: any non-slewing telehandler over 3 t needs CN or the Victorian telehandler licence	Operator pre-start check each shift; periodic inspection to the manufacturer			

6. TRAINING REQUIRED FOR THIS WORK

- Silica risk training before work starts (WHS Regulations r.529CD)

7. CREW COMPETENCY, TICKETS AND LICENCES

Crew listed at sign-on below, with ticket and licence numbers.

8. EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

Emergency number	000	**First aid kit**	In the work vehicle
Fire extinguisher	In the work vehicle	**Alarm and evacuation**	Shout for help and stop work. Make the area safe and go to the assembly point. Call the emergency number and send someone to meet the ambulance.
Reporting incidents	Notify the regulator immediately of any notifiable incident and preserve the site.		

9. IMPLEMENTING, MONITORING AND REVIEWING THE CONTROLS

How they are put in place	Controls are set up before the work starts. The person responsible explains this SWMS to every worker before they start, and workers sign to confirm they understand it.	**How they are monitored**	The person responsible checks the controls are in place before work starts each day and during the work, and talks to the workers about any problems. Stop work and review this SWMS if the work changes, the controls are not working, after any incident, or if a worker raises a concern.
When it is reviewed	Reviewed when the work or site changes, after any incident, if a control is not working, or if a worker or health and safety representative asks.		

Legal basis: Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011, Part 6.3 (Victoria: OHS Regulations 2017). A SWMS must be prepared before any high risk construction work starts. It must list the high risk work, the hazards and risks, the control measures, and how those controls will be put in place, monitored and reviewed. It must be easy for the workers to read and understand.

Keep this SWMS, and every revised version, until the high risk construction work is finished, where workers and inspectors can see it on site. If a notifiable incident happens during the work, keep it for at least 2 years after the incident.

10. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT RECORD

Rev	Date	By	What changed
1	9 Nov 2026		First issue

11. SIGN-OFF

	Name	Signature	Date	
Prepared by				
Person responsible (supervisor)				
Principal contractor review				Accepted for use: Yes / No

By signing below, each worker confirms they were consulted on and have read and understood this SWMS, and will follow it. If the work cannot be done as this SWMS says, stop as soon as it is safe and do not restart until the SWMS is reviewed.

Name	Role / company	Tickets / licences	Inducted	Signature	Date

Name	Role / company	Tickets / licences	Inducted	Signature	Date