

## 9.2 Standoff and Exclusion Zones

MAC-STE-STD-149 Working Near Slopes and Crests outlines default safe working / good work practice distances near slopes and crests in order to reduce the exposure of equipment and personnel to any potential geotechnical hazards that exist under normal conditions. Figure 3 shows the current standoff zone at MAC

To gain access inside a standoff zone and inspection and appropriate hazard assessment must be completed in line with the MAC-PRD-FRM-028 Geotechnical Operations Checklist

Exclusion zones that may be required to manage specific hazards will be outlined on the individual Geotechnical Hazard Alert (Refer to the current Active geotechnical Hazard list – HazRT).

 Document Reference - MAC-STE-MTP-013

## 7 Working in Standoff Zones

### 7.1 Vehicles / Equipment with Certified FOPs

Assess if required to work within the standoff zone. If required, assess the slope / crest using MAC's Geotechnical Operations Checklist (MAC-PRD-FRM-028). If answer 'yes' to any of the listed hazards implement the additional control measures listed in section 7.2. For a dig sequence where a 15m standoff zone is required and the cab of the equipment is required to enter the standoff of zone on a routine basis, a JHA for the dig sequence shall be completed.

When entering crest standoff, dozers must work at 90° to the edge, and maintain material between blade and open edge.

When drilling within the crest standoff, work at 90° to the edge.

Only persons trained in assessing wall conditions permitted to enter standoff zones.

### 7.2 Vehicles / Equipment without FOPs and Personnel on Foot

Assess if required to work within the standoff zone. If required, assess the slope / crest using MAC's Geotechnical Operations Checklist (MAC-PRD-FRM-028). Implement control measures for entering primary standoff zones listed on the checklist.

Controls are:

- Call Mining Supervisor to request entry into the standoff zone, advise any hazards observed during inspection, ask of any known geotechnical hazards (Mining supervisor to reference HAZRT OCE inspection report);
- Adequate lighting to observe the highwall / crest;
- Spotter must be used (if entering standoff on foot) – verbal and visual contact with the spotter must be maintained.

The Mining Supervisor may request a formal JHA for work within the Primary Standoff Zone.

All highwall hazards must be reported to Area Mining Supervisor and Statutory Mining Supervisor.

Only persons trained in assessing wall conditions permitted to enter standoff zones.

### 7.3 Additional Controls

As per the MAC-STE-MTP-036 Geotechnical Ground Control TARP, personnel required to enter/work within a standoff zone adjacent to a TARP level 1, must do so under a JHA completed and signed off by the Production Supervisor and Statutory OCE. For TARP level 2,3 and 4, work within a standoff zone must be undertaken under a Risk Assessment approved and signed off by the relevant Production Supervisor, Statutory OCE and Geotechnical Engineer (or representative).

If a TARP area is classified as an Exclusion zone no work can occur in the area (i.e., access is unable to be obtained through risk assessment). Exclusion zones must have a hard barrier.

## 10 Safe Working Principles

### 10.1 Highwall Bunds / Windrows

1. When looking over highwall windrows / bunds always keep your knees below the crest of the bund wall.
2. Do not walk on or over the crest of windrows or bunds at the crest of slopes unless the condition of the crest at the outside toe of the windrow is clearly visible and has been risk assessed.

### 10.2 Wet Weather

During wet weather events all work shall cease within standoff zones unless a specific wet weather JHA is completed and signed off by the Mining Supervisor.

Otherwise, re-entry into primary standoff zones cannot occur until wet conditions have ceased, the CMW has re-inspected the area and a new Geotechnical Operations Checklist has been completed.

### 10.3 Night Work

Where possible tasks that involve working within the Primary or Specified standoff distance should be restricted to day light hours where hazards are more visible.

 Document Reference - MAC-STE-STD-149