Many forestry operations require rivers to be temporarily crossed. Temporary river crossing designs can include a culvert and log structure sitting in the bed of the flow path, or log bridges that span across it. The design varies with the river and approach of the extraction track.

Poorly planned, constructed or maintained temporary crossings pose one of the greatest opportunities for sediment delivery to water.
Crossings
3.6 Temporary Crossings

A Where and when to use
1. When temporary access is required across a river.

B Where not to use
1. When crossing permanently dry gullies.

C Design
1. Plan for temporary harvest crossings at the harvest planning phase.
2. Consider factors such as the catchment size, the river’s banks, width and substrate, and downstream infrastructure.
3. Aim to minimise the number of crossings needed to safely and productively harvest.
4. Ensure the crossing locations are clearly marked out for the operator.

D Construction
1. Minimise the disturbance of the natural shape of the river.
2. Minimise soil entering the river during construction.
3. Reduce potential sediment entering the water body from the approach tracks:
   a. Wherever practicable, maintain the track grade over the crossing.
   b. Consider corduroying the approaches or use slash on the approaches to limit rutting.
   c. Construct the track approaches so that extracted logs do not sweep off the crossing into the river (e.g. logs can be driven vertically at corners and crossing entrances to keep trees aligned to the crossing).
4. If logs are placed in the bed of the river, a culvert of at least 300 mm diameter must be installed at the base of the crossing.

E Maintenance and removal

Maintenance
1. Maintain river crossings and approaches so that stormwater control is effective. River crossings can be difficult to maintain in wet periods.
2. Ensure culverts are not getting blocked with woody debris from the harvest operation.
3. Maintain the integrity of log crossings.
4. During wet weather limit the use of the crossing to minimise mud accumulating on the track leading into and away from the crossing.
5. Stop operations when the approach tracks or the crossing are releasing sediment to the river and divert any track stormwater onto the cut-over.

Crossing removal
6. Remove the material used to construct the crossing within one week of finishing the harvesting operation.
7. Crossing material should be placed in a location that minimises the risk of it entering the river.
8. Rehabilitate or decommission the approaches.

National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry
Particular relevant provisions for crossings are Regulations 38 – 49.