

## Fact Sheet – SEDIMENT AND EROSION

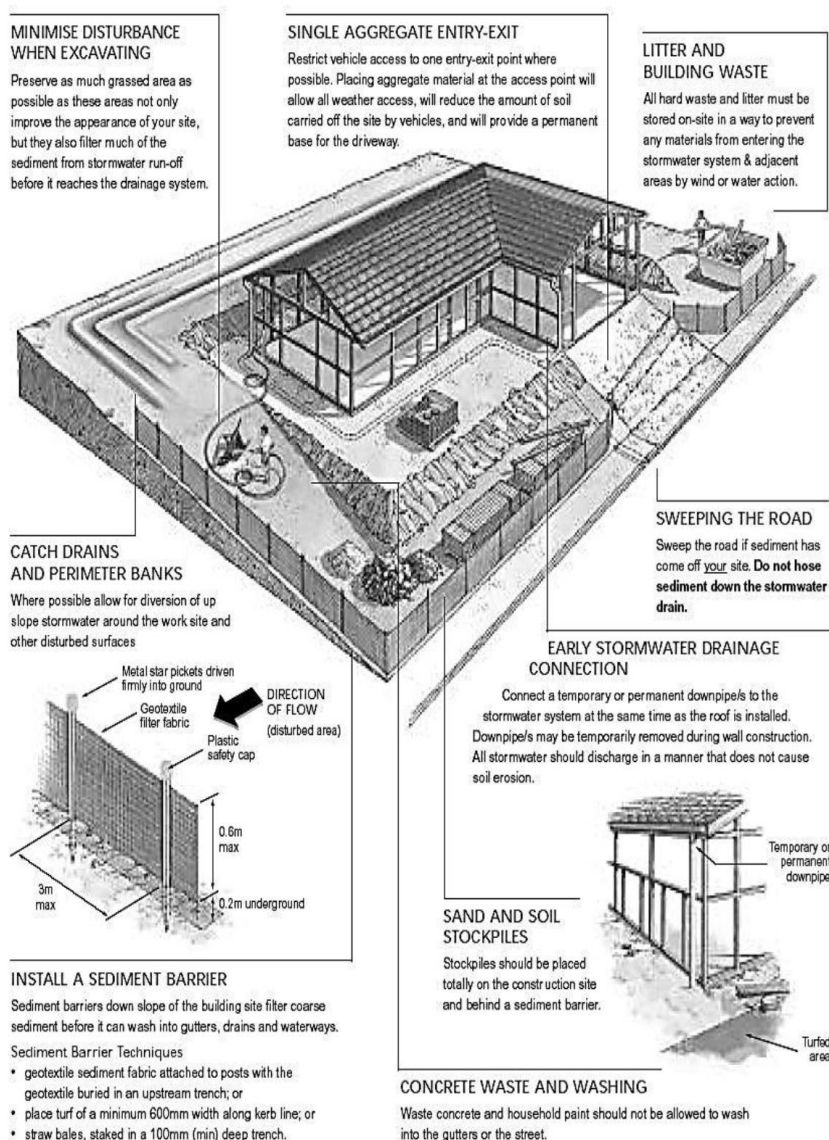
Sedimentation and erosion can cause water contamination which poses a serious threat to the environment. Builders and developers have obligations by law to prevent the deposit or release of sand, sediment, silt, rubbish or building materials from building sites into gutters, stormwater drains and waterways.

What to builders and developers need to do?

- Install and maintain sediment fences to control run-off
- Place gravel sausages to reduce material entering stormwater drains
- Install waste containers on site by using skip bins or geofab to enclose waste

A good building site will have the following elements:

- An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
- Minimising the extent and duration of soil disturbance, especially during the wet season
- Erosion controls – to protect the soil surface
- Drainage controls – to manage stormwater run-off
- Sediment controls – to capture sediment
- Progressive stabilization & revegetation
- Monitoring and maintenance





## Sediment

There are two types of sediment, coarse and fine, and different management practices are required to control each. Builders must ensure that they implement effective site controls that do not contribute to sedimentation of waterways or cause windblown soil loss.

Sediment control measures must:

- Be put in place before any excavation or earthmoving takes place
- Be maintained until the end of construction and the site is stabilized
- Not divert stormwater into neighbouring properties
- Not cause erosion.

## Sediment fences

Capture coarse particles such as sand, but do not filter fine particles such as clay.

## Site entry and exit

Stabilised entry/exits are designed to shake vehicles to remove sediment from tyres and prevent sediment tracking onto roads and should be used on all building sites.

## Soil and sand stockpiles

The incorrect storage of stockpiles is a major cause of pollution in our waterways. Stockpiles should have a designated location that is at least 2 metres (preferably 5 metres) away from areas that are likely to have high flows such as driveways and kerb inlet pits. They should not be located on the footpath and should be behind sediment controls that will prevent the stockpile washing into the stormwater system.

## Litter and Waste

All hard waste and litter must be stored on site in a way that prevents any materials from entering the stormwater system and nearby areas by wind or water action. Litter traps should be formed on at least three sides with geofab as a windbreak, otherwise a skip can be used. Litter is a major source of pollution of our waterways on the Cassowary Coast.

## Fines for failure to implement erosion and sediment control measures

Builders and home-owners have a legal responsibility under the [Environmental Protection Act 1994](#), and the subordinate [Environmental Protection \(Water\) Policy \(2009\)](#), to minimise or prevent environmental harm. If you don't take appropriate erosion and sediment control measures, you may be subject to receive on-the-spot fines.

Where there is evidence of continual non-compliance, Penalty Infringement Notices (PIN) will be issued.

The current on-the-spot fines (**2023/2024**) for allowing sediment to pollute a waterway start at \$11,610.00 for a corporation and \$2322.00 for an individual.

Should a matter proceed to prosecution, a court may impose a penalty of up to \$257,742.00.

By following best practice guidelines, builders on the Cassowary Coast will be doing their part to ensure that runoff generated from their building site does not cause damage to the region's waterways and in turn, minimises the risk of environmental harm and the potential associated fines.

## Further Information

For further information contact Council at 1300 763 903 or email [enquiries@cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au)

DSN:3441783