

CLEAN BUILDING SITES – SEDIMENT AND EROSION

Environmental Protection Act 1994

WATER CONTAMINATION

Water contamination from building site waste causes a serious impact on the environment. Builders and developers have obligations to prevent the deposit or release of sand, sediment, silt, rubbish or building materials into Council gutters, stormwater drains and waterways.

POTENTIAL PENALTIES

Council's Environmental Health Officers enforce the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to ensure that the potential discharge of sediment, sand, silt runoff and/or rubbish discharge into Council waterways is prevented to protect water quality.

If you cause water contamination, Council's officers can issue on-the-spot fines for failing to comply with the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

BUILDING SITE MANAGEMENT

A good building site will have the following elements:

- » minimised extent and duration of soil disturbance, especially during the wet season
- » erosion controls - to protect soil surface
- » drainage controls - to manage stormwater run-off
- » sediment controls - to capture sediment
- » progressive stabilisation and revegetation
- » monitoring and maintenance.

PREVENTING WATER CONTAMINATION

The following measures can help avoid water contamination:

- » Install and maintain sediment fences to control runoff.
- » Place gravel sausages to reduce material entering stormwater drains.
- » Ensure waste containers are available.
- » Construct building waste containers using corrugated iron and stakes.
- » Empty waste containers and clear other waste storages on a regular basis.

COMMON BUILDING SITE DEFICIENCIES

Check to ensure that your building site doesn't have any of these common deficiencies.

- » No establishment of stabilised entry and exit points.
- » Unnecessary site disturbance (such as parking or driving on exposed soil).
- » Failure to divert upslope water.
- » Failure to install sediment controls such as sediment fences or turf strips.
- » Delays in connecting downpipes to stormwater drains.
- » Incorrect siting of stockpiles.
- » Failure to install and/or maintain adequate drop inlet sediment traps.

EFFECTS OF POORLY MANAGED BUILDING SITES

The following are some of the potential impacts of a poorly managed site.

- » Increased costs to the developer for replacement of materials.
- » Council issued directives to fix the problem, which may include on-the-spot fines
- » Environmental harm to waterways and beaches.
- » Hazards for other vehicles and pedestrians.
- » Harm to wildlife.

MORE INFORMATION

If you require further information, visit Council's website townsville.qld.gov.au, or call Council's Customer Service Centre on 13 48 10.