

Erosion and sediment control on building sites

Builders in Queensland must not pollute the environment. Soil erosion on building sites can be a major source of sediment pollution in our waterways. A single block can lose up to four truckloads of soil in one storm. Washed from sites into the stormwater drains, this sediment can cause flooding, damage Council infrastructure and affects the water quality in our creeks, rivers and the Coral sea.

Effective on site erosion and sediment controls provides the flowing benefits

- More marketable site
- Improved wet season working conditions
- Improved drainage and reduced site wetness
- Reduced stockpile losses
- Less mud and dust problems
- Reduced clean-up costs
- Fewer public complaints
- Better public image
- Better fishing
- Less damage on our environment

Prevention

Preventing sediment run-off from building sites is one of the ways that Council and industry are improving stormwater quality in the whole of the Cairns Regional Council local government area from Wujal Wujal through to Miriwinni.

Stormwater is not Wastewater

It flows untreated into our waterways that provide vital habitats for animals and plants. It is your responsibility to help keep stormwater pollution free.

Remember

Everyone has a responsibility to protect the environment. Site supervisors are required to make sure that all workers including sub contractors are doing the right thing. It is unlawful for any contaminant other than stormwater to enter a stormwater system. If you do have an accident and pollution occurs, you are required by law to notify Council so it can work with you to minimise any harm to the environment.

Regulation of building sites

Council Environmental Protection Officers enforce the environmental legislation and undertake routine inspections of building sites. They issue warning notices to clean up sites and issue on the spot fines if satisfactory environmental outcomes are not achieved.

For free guidelines and technical fact sheets on this issue, please contact:

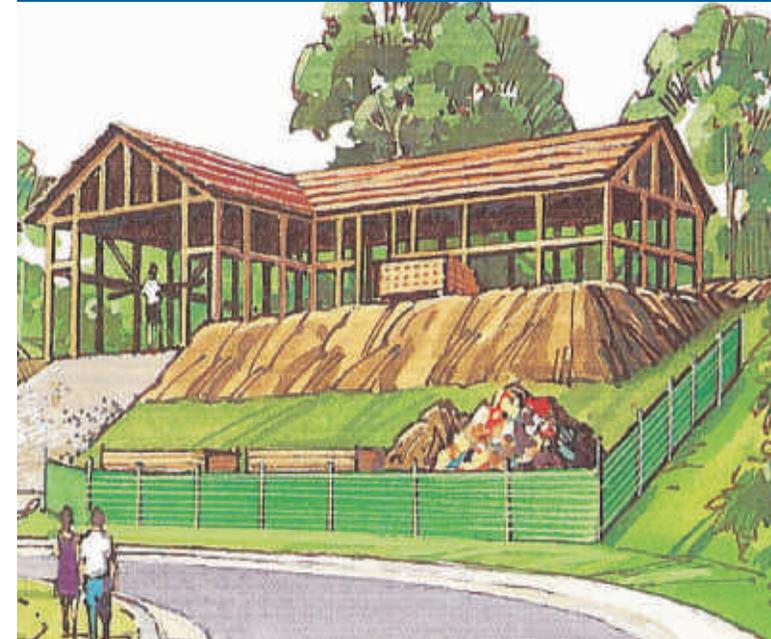
Cairns Regional Council
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Visit the CRC website
on www.cairns.qld.gov.au



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Erosion & Sediment Control

Stormwater Pollution Prevention



Here's what YOU can do to reduce erosion and sediment from YOUR site

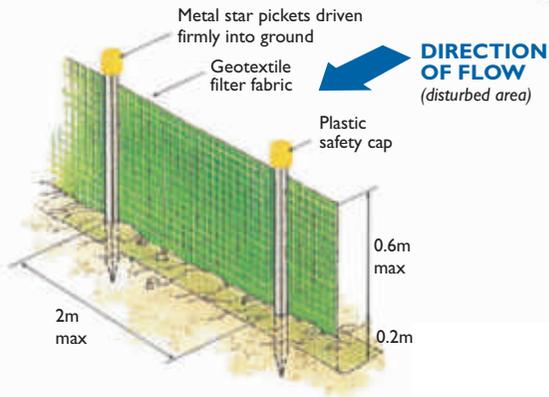
The following site management practises will minimise sediment run-off from YOUR building site

Minimising disturbance when excavating

Preserve as much grassed area as possible as these areas not only improve the appearance of your site, they also filter much of the sediment from stormwater run-off before it reaches the drainage system.

Catch drains and perimeter banks

Where possible allow for diversion of up slope stormwater around the work site and other disturbed surfaces.



Install a sediment barrier

Sediment barriers down slope of the building site filter coarse sediment before it can wash into the gutters, drains and waterways.

Sediment Barrier Techniques

- Geotextile sediment fabric attached to posts with geotextile buried in an upstream trench; or
- Place turf on a minimum 600mm width along kerb line.

Concrete waste and washing

Waste concrete and household paint must not be allowed to wash into the gutters or the street.

Sand and soil stockpiles

Stockpiles should be placed wholly on the construction site and behind a sediment barrier.

Single gravelled entry-exit

Restrict vehicle access to one entry-exit point where possible. Graveling the access point will allow all weather access, will reduce the amount of soil carried off the site by vehicles, and will provide a permanent base for the driveway.

Early stormwater drainage connection

Connect a temporary or permanent downpipe/s to the stormwater system before laying the roof - or slow and spread the flow from downpipes to avoid localised erosion. Downpipes may be temporarily removed during wall construction. All stormwater should discharge in a manner that does not cause soil erosion.