

Erosion and Sediment Control Fact Sheet

Environmental Health Section

Why is sediment a problem?

Soil erosion, sediment and litter from building sites can be major sources of stormwater pollution and can cause significant harm to our sensitive marine environments like the Great Barrier Reef. Polluted stormwater contains many pollutants which can enter our local creeks, rivers, and marine environments, causing harm to native animals, plants, fish breeding habitats and recreational areas.

How can this information help you?

By following this guideline, you will:

- Prevent stormwater pollution from entering our waterways and marine environments including the Great Barrier Reef.
- Avoid causing environmental harm to our aquatic coastal environments.
- Preserve our pristine environment that supports our coastal lifestyle and our region's tourism industry.
- Avoid potential enforcement action such as a fine.
- Promotes and associates your business with protecting the environment.

What is the law?

The Queensland *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act) sets out several legal requirements and offences relating to sediment pollution and water contamination. All Queenslanders have legal obligations under the EP Act to take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent environmental harm.

What do we expect you to do?

For you to comply with the law, you are legally obligated to ensure that your erosion and sediment control measures are installed. Amongst the others, you must ensure that you have correctly installed the:

- Sediment Barrier (Sediment or Silt fencing);
- Diversion drain/bank;
- Entry/Exit Point (Rumble Pad); and
- Early Stormwater Drainage Connection (Temporary or permanent downpipes).

Please see the attached Checklist.

What can happen if you do not follow the law?

You will be polluting our creeks, rivers, the Coral Sea and the Great Barrier Reef, and could be liable for fines of up to \$222,000.

Council's Environmental Health Officers will regularly visit new and existing construction sites to ensure erosion and sediments controls are in place. Always take precautions to prevent polluted stormwater run-off from leaving your property.



Erosion and Sediment Control Fact Sheet

Environmental Health Section

Erosion and Sediment Control Daily Checklist

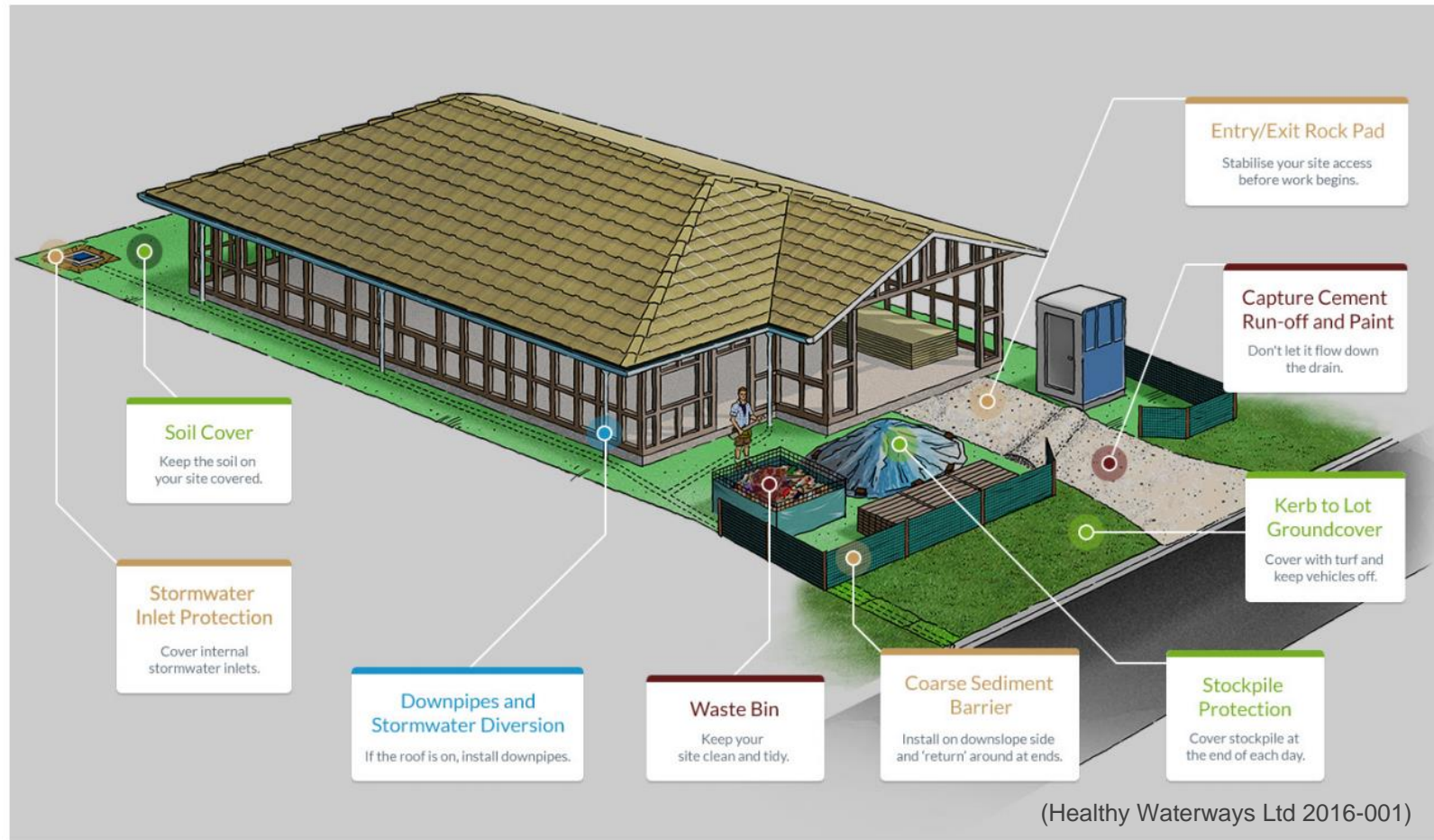
Council recommends that you hire a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) to assist you on this matter. This checklist was designed for a typical building site to assist you with your erosion and sediment control management.

| Item and/ or Location to check | Timing | | | | |
|---|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------|------------|
| | Start of works | duration of works | Each day – throughout the | Roof laid | Completion |
| Is the builder's sign displayed | | | | | |
| Are the sediment fences erected adequately/ correctly? Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geotextile sediment fence buried at least 200 mm below ground Built-up sediment should not exceed 1/3 of the height of the sediment fence No tears or rips Not laying down or covered over by materials | | | | | |
| Is the entry/ exit pad (rumble pad) in the correct location? Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the tradespeople/ suppliers using this entry point? | | | | | |
| Does the entry/ exit point (rumble pad) require maintenance? Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the entry/ exit pad got excessive sediment in it? Turn over with machine to expose the coarse aggregate again. Aggregate must be 40 mm or greater. Is there a bunding/diversion drain above the rumble pad to divert sediment behind the sediment fence? Are the tradespeople using an adjacent lot to gain entry to the site? If so, are there control measures in place to prevent the movement of sediment off the lot and into the gutter? | | | | | |
| Is the road clean of sand, silt and mud? Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do the tradespeople have the capacity to clean-up the sediment before they leave the site? | | | | | |
| Is there a contained area for building waste on-site? Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a skip bin and/ or mesh trap | | | | | |
| Have the tradespeople and suppliers been made aware of the requirements for erosion and sediment control, and the consequences involved if there is a breach? | | | | | |
| Are the 'wet trades' setting/washing up behind a sediment fence on grassed areas that will hold the volume of waste? | | | | | |
| Are the stockpiles/ sand/ soil adequately protected? Note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covered by plastic sheet. Located behind a sediment fence. Sand bags around base. | | | | | |
| Are the temporary downpipes correctly connected? | | | | | |
| Has the client been advised about erosion and sediment control requirements? Note: The site must have adequate control measures on-site at all times, even after hand over. | | | | | |

Please note that this checklist may vary depending on your building/development site.

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

The following site management practices will minimise erosion and sediment runoff from your building site.



Legend: ■ Erosion controls ■ Sediment controls ■ Drainage controls ■ Other pollutant controls

If you are unsure of your obligations under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* regarding the control of erosion and sediment, please contact the Environmental Health Section on 07 4945 0242 or info@whitsundayrc.qld.gov.au.

These fact sheets are based on those produced by the South East Queensland Healthy Waterways Partnership and IECA Australasia. For more detailed information please visit <https://hlw.org.au/download/erosion-and-sediment-toolkit-for-house-builders/>