

Erosion and sediment control – Building construction sites



Why is erosion and 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 local waterways and sensitive marine environments like the Great Barrier Reef.

What regulates erosion and sediment?

Under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, allowing sediment or sediment laden water to enter any waterway is water pollution and an offence.

This includes street gutters, stormwater drains, swales, or creek lines (flowing or not).

It is also an offence to carry out earthwork that exposes the earth where soil could reasonably be expected to wash or otherwise move into waters, roadside gutters, or stormwater drainage, without taking all reasonable and practical sediment control measures.

What can you do?

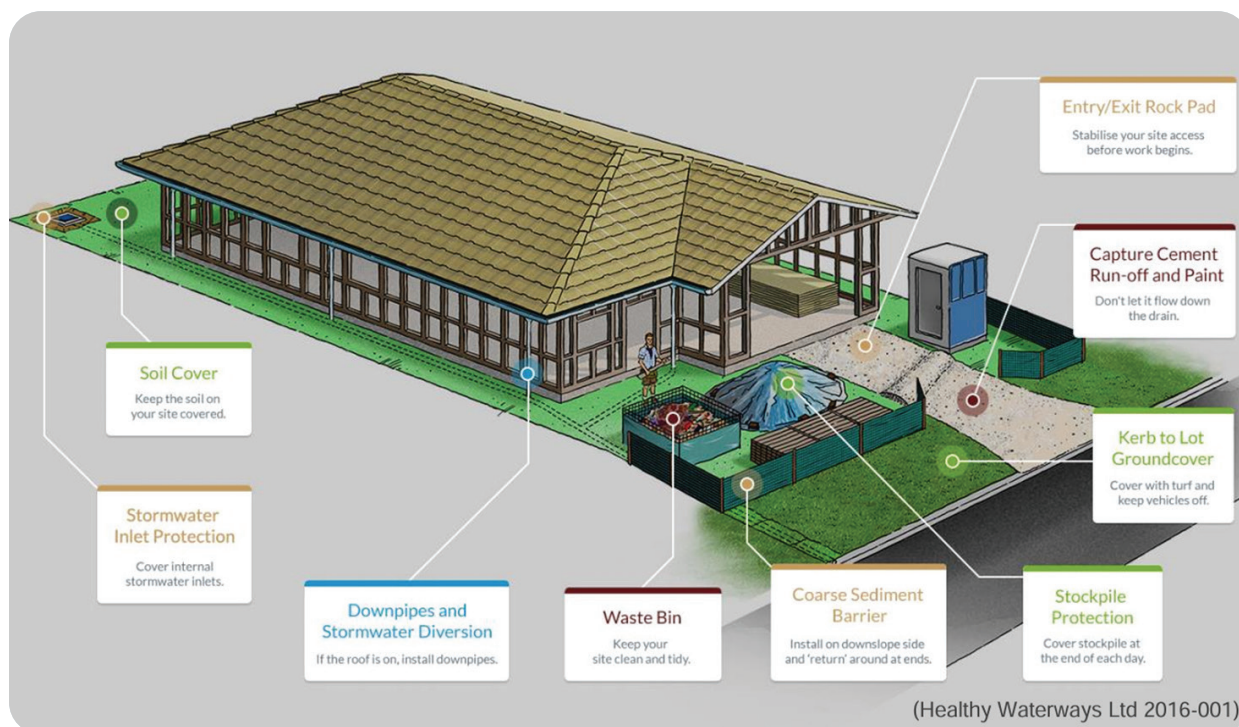
As part of construction works you must:

- Ensure all building materials, skips and portaloo's are kept within the property boundaries.
- Clear just prior to commencing works and limit clearing to only areas necessary, or in stages.
- Cover areas of bare soil as soon as possible using temporary covers such as spray on soil binders, mulch, gravel, sheeting plastic and geofabric.

- Cover stockpiles when not in use.
- Maintain grass and vegetation on undisturbed areas.
- Install a suitably sized rock/gravel pad or rumble grid at entry /exit points to prevent sediment tracking onto the road.
- Divert stormwater upstream and away from disturbed areas for the duration of works.

For further information, contact council's Development Planning and Engineering Program on 1300 MACKAY (622 529) or email council@mackay.qld.gov.au

Erosion and sediment control in practice



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

Fact sheets

These fact sheets are based on those produced by the Southeast Queensland Healthy Waterways Partnership and IECA Australasia.

For more detailed information please visit <https://waterbydesign.com.au/esc>