



SEDIMENT TASK FORCE

PREPARING A SITE FOR WEATHER EMERGENCIES



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



SWAN CANNING
RIVERPARK



Perth NRM

Is your site prepared for unexpected weather and emergencies?

A well-managed subdivision, building or construction site is prepared for all weather conditions and other emergencies.

When developing an Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) (STF IS-AA-2) and/or Site Management Plan it can help to categorise erosion and sediment loss risks as 'likely' and 'unlikely but possible', even for unexpected weather conditions, as part of your pre-construction and risk management planning.

While sediment controls can be up to 90% effective at reducing sediment runoff during normal conditions, this effectiveness of sediment controls however reduces dramatically during storm events.

Prepare your site.

- **A good plan considers individual site characteristics** - soil type, slope, extent, nature and duration of soil disturbance, climate, season, site location and access.
- **Aim for best practice erosion and sediment control on site** - during normal weather conditions, extreme conditions and anywhere in between.
- **Communicate your plan** to all involved so they know you are prepared for all weather events, and who is responsible for what action.
- **Prepare for control measure failures** - include specific details on how soil, sediment and builders sand will be contained on site and consider flow bypass systems that divert water so it does not run through your site.
- **Use the terrain** - Gravity induced settlement of sediments is best practice for all sites. Place your sediment "collectors" including sediment fences or traps on the downslopes.

Prevention is better (and cheaper) than the cure.

- **Conduct regular and frequent site inspections**, particularly when rain is predicted and during and after high rainfall and storm events.
- **Sweep up** soil, silt, sand, or mud that could move, or has moved, from your site, and return it to site. Check pavements, roads and gutters.
- **Regularly remove sediment/silt already captured by sediment control fences.**
- **Keep materials on site** – It is better to have it and not need it than the other way around. Keep spare rolls of geofabric and posts/stakes on site for "running repairs" to sediment fences.
- **Reapply crushed rock to entry/exit site access points** if there is sediment build-up.
- **Repair eroded drainage channels** by adding rocks, turf or erosion control blankets and matting.
- **Know where the flow goes** – Use sediment/silt socks/tubes to protect the drainage system where runoff from your site is likely to go. Implementation of any sediment controls within verges, footpaths and roadways should ensure that they do not present a hazard for vehicles and/or pedestrians.
- **Report** erosion and sediment loss in your incident logbook and respond accordingly.

Further Information

[Perth NRM: Sediment Task Force](#)

[International Erosion Control Association \(Australasia\)](#)

[IECA \(Australasia\) - Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control \(BPESC\) Document](#)

[Healthy Land & Water](#)

For the Latest Innovations in Erosion and Sediment Control

[IECA \(Australasia\) - Environmental Excellence Awards](#)



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