

37. EROSION & SEDIMENTATION CONTROL

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Wyong Shire Council is committed to the protection and restoration of our lakes, watercourses and drainage systems. Urban runoff is a major source of pollutants entering our waterways and the sediment within this runoff is immensely detrimental to the well being of the lakes and wetlands.

All Development Application proposals, Exempt or Complying Development proposals or applications for the assessment of an Activity as described under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, where the project involves site disturbance, excavation, stockpiling or filling, must consider erosion and sedimentation control for the subject site.

The publication *Managing Urban Stormwater; Soils and Construction* by LANDCOM, known in the building and civil engineering industries as the "Blue Book", is considered to be the industry standard for erosion and sedimentation control. While the current version of the Blue Book is generally referred to as being best practice, it does not address local conditions in detail and is not particularly user friendly for small scale development. To address this issue Wyong Shire Council has two separate policies that consider erosion and sedimentation control for small and large sites separately. Small sites are addressed in *Council Policy E1– Erosion and Sedimentation Control* and larger sites are dealt with in *Development Control Plan 2005 Chapter 67*.

Which Policy applies to my site?

- Small Sites 0 - 250 m²

The development of small sites (disturbance of less than 250m² of land) does not require the preparation of a formal plan, but the project will still need to be undertaken in accordance with the principles detailed in Council's *Erosion and Sedimentation Control Policy E1*.

- Site Disturbance 250m² - 2500m²

For sites with an area of between 250 and 2500m², Council requires that the proposed method of erosion and sedimentation control is provided in the form of an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan (ESCP). *Council's Erosion and Sedimentation Control Policy E1* provides information on erosion and sedimentation control for these sites.

- Site Disturbance 2500m² or greater

Erosion and sedimentation control requirements for sites with an area of 2500m² or greater are covered in Appendix A of *Development Control Plan 2005, Chapter 67 Engineering Requirements for Developments* and are to be accompanied by a Soil and Water Management Plan (SWMP).

- Environmentally Sensitive Sites

Environmentally sensitive sites (i.e. - sites on >10% slope or sites adjacent to a watercourse or other environmentally sensitive areas) will require more detailed consideration. Environmentally sensitive sites with an area of less than 250m² are to be accompanied by an ESCP. Environmentally sensitive sites with an area of 250 to 2500m² are to be accompanied by an SWMP.

It is advisable that you contact Council if you are unsure which description best fits your site.

Both *Council Policy E1– Erosion and Sedimentation Control* and *Development Control Plan 2005 Chapter 67* are available on Council's Website or through Council's Customer Service Department.

These documents provide direction for addressing erosion and sedimentation control but the preparation of a plan alone does not ensure that pollution incidents will not occur. The discharge of any sediment from the site may constitute an offence. Maintenance and attention to potential problems is essential.

There should be no reliance on those undertaking works on surrounding development sites to provide adequate erosion and sedimentation control for a site that you are responsible for.

Council will be regularly inspecting the erosion and sediment controls provided for sites where soil disturbance is taking place. These controls are to be maintained at all times. Failure to implement the erosion and sediment controls may result in action being taken under the relevant legislation. On the spot fines may be imposed by Council Officers and Officers from the Environment Protection Authority. Further action including larger fines may be incurred through legal action, for significant incidents.

Varying site constraints will determine the 'method of control'. For on-site advice, contact Council's Health and Building Surveyors and for more information regarding larger sites contact Council's Development Engineering Department, on (02) 43505555.