

Session 4

Erosion and Sediment Control Best Management Practices (BMPs)

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Overarching Principles

Erosion control is the key!!!

Manage Water

- look up, around and down
- assess where water comes from, how it will move through the site, and where it ends up

Manage Soils

- understand soil erodibility – some soils more erodible than others
- protect soils accordingly

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Planning

Planning considerations:

- Limit construction activities to the shortest practical duration
- Restrict active works areas to a manageable size
- Plan for diversion of run-on stormwater

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Scheduling

On sensitive or high erosion hazard sites, if possible plan construction for times when the rainfall activity is typically lower (e.g. April – October)

High erosion hazard site >500 t/ha/yr calculated soil loss using RUSLE

Be prepared though, heavy rain can occur at any time of year!

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Reduce Disturbance Areas

- Stage development where practical, reducing the area exposed to erosion at any one time
- Limit disturbance to 5m (preferably 2m) from essential work areas
- Use barrier fence (upslope) and sediment fence (downslope) to define work areas and “no-go” zones

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Managing Water Catch Drains/Diversion Banks



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Purpose

- Divert clean stormwater around works areas and help keep work areas dry
- Capture and convey dirty water to sediment traps
- General stormwater conveyance
- Shorten slope lengths
- Temporary or permanent features
- Very important tool in erosion control!

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Catch Drains



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Perimeter Bank



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Clean Water Diversion



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Bitumen Emulsion



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Shotcrete



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Managing Water Chutes for Steep Slopes



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Check Dams



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Check Dams



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Purpose

- Reduce velocity of flow in channels, reducing erosive energy
- Can provide moderate filtering/trapping capacity for coarse sediment
- Longer detention times can allow settling of some fine sediment, but this would almost certainly be re-eroded unless removed after each storm

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Example – ‘Geo-ridge’



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Example – biodegradable logs



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Maintenance

- Check for erosion problems during and after rain, especially at inlets and outlets
- Repair scoured areas and line with erosion resistant materials
- Remove accumulated sediment
- Provide new drains as construction proceeds to new areas
- Look for signs of localised flooding and redesign drains if necessary

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Inlet / Outlet Protection



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Failed Inlet Protection



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Velocity Reduction



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Stabilised Access

- Establish a single stabilised site access
- Helps limit disturbance and reduce erosion at a high traffic point(s)
- Reduces sediment tracking to road
- Reduces down-time after rain



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Maintenance

- Even out wheel ruts
- Remove sediment from sediment basin and replace or resurface gravel periodically
- Repair surface drains
- Sweep the road



Image: SEEC

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What would you do here?



Image: Strategic Environmental and Engineering Consulting (SEEC)

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“Stonewall” Stabilised Shoulders / Batters



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Stockpiles

- Store topsoil and subsoil separately
- Understand dispersive soil types (typically subsoils) – do not mix
- Preserve seed viability and soil structure (minimise re-working)
- Control erosion and prevent sediment pollution
- Longer term stockpiling – mulch cover or revegetation is a good option

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Stockpiles




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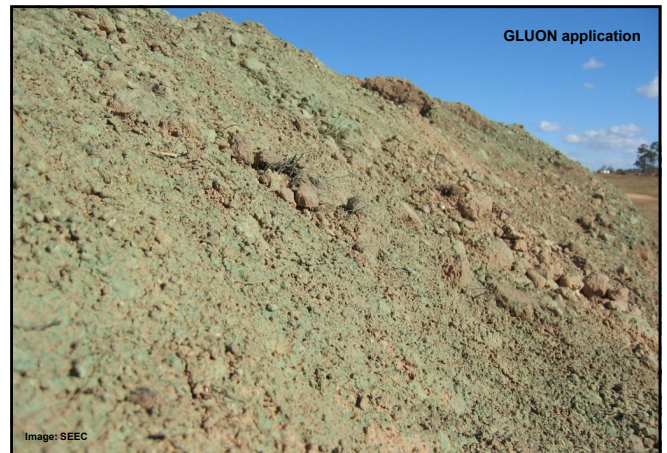
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Construction / Maintenance

- Place at least 2 m from property boundaries and hazard areas (e.g. waterways, roads, existing vegetation)
- Place stormwater diversion drains upslope and sediment fence downslope
- Keep height < 2 m if possible, and batters with 2:1 maximum slope
- Stabilise stockpiles that are in place for more than 10 days using vegetation or cover (~60% effective cover)

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Topsoil Stockpiles

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Sediment Controls

- Erosion controls must be a major priority at any development site, but inevitably are not 100% effective
- Sediment controls act along with good erosion control to minimise off-site pollution, as part of an overall “treatment train”


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Pollutants – Not Just Soil

- Suspended solids, especially sediment that can carry other pollutants “piggy-back” (e.g. nutrients, heavy metals)
- Nutrients
- Organic matter and other oxygen-depleting materials
- Pesticides
- Litter, construction wastes, hydrocarbons

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Vehicle Washdown

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Example – good practice



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Soil Type and Sediment Trapping Effectiveness

- The coarser the sediment, the easier to trap (generally)
- Effective capture of finer silts and clays requires long detention times and/or flocculation
- Dispersible sediments in particular may never settle out except with flocculation!

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Catchment and Runoff Characteristics

- For smaller catchments (<4,000 m²) small sediment traps (e.g. sediment fence) can be used to good effect if designed and installed properly
- Larger catchments require much larger traps (i.e. sediment basins)
- Possible to estimate sediment yield to help size sediment traps
- Keep traps offline (avoid concentrated flow) and divert clean water to improve effectiveness

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Function of Sediment Traps

- Sediment traps generally work by reducing flow velocities, allowing sediment and other pollutants time to settle
- It is a common misconception that traps work by “filtering” water (although this is a partial mechanism in some traps)

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Maintenance of Sediment Traps

- Inspect devices after each storm and:
 - remove sediment when sediment reaches 1/3 to 1/2 capacity
 - repair damage
 - assess effectiveness and install additional erosion and sediment controls as required
 - flocculate sediment basins capturing fine or dispersible sediment

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Mulch Bund Filter Strip



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Sediment Fence



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Purpose

- Use downslope of all disturbed areas
- Best used to dam water where it is inclined to pond (e.g. flat areas at base of batters)
- Designed for sheet flow, not concentrated flow
- Not appropriate in waterways
- Woven geotextile supported by star pickets, hardwood posts etc.
- Reinforce with steel wire or mesh for higher flows
- Construct along the contour to prevent water concentrating at one point
- Trap mainly sand and gravel – most silt and clay will pass through

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Effectiveness

- Sediment fence typically has pore openings typically ~ 0.035 mm
- clay and silt are <0.02 mm and much will pass straight through
- sand >0.02 mm and gravel caught with greater efficiency
- Trapped material will improve efficiency to a point.....maintenance required to ensure continued performance

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Examples - Poor Practice?



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Poor Location?



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Examples - Good Practice



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Inappropriate Use



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Maintenance Required



Sediment fence needs replacing. Note the sediment escaping through torn section

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Gravel Sausages and Kerb Inlet Filters



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Purpose

- Used to protect kerb-side stormwater inlets, grated drains etc.
- Can be moderately effective at trapping coarse sediment when selected, installed and maintained correctly
- Remove sediment regularly otherwise it will be re-mobilised
- Take care to avoid causing downstream flooding

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Examples – Good Practice



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Examples – Good Practice



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Example What's Good? What's Bad?



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Filter Bags/Dewatering




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Purpose

- Place at end of pipes to filter sediment
- Use when dewatering pits, trenches and sediment traps
- Locate in a well grassed area away from waterways during use
- Max. pore size ~0.2mm (traps sands and some silts)

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Dewatering – example




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Coarse Sediment Traps



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Example – ‘U’ Traps



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