Procedural guide

Summary sheet

Standard work method for the assessment of the lawfulness of releases to waters from Building and construction sites (less than 2500m²)

This document has been prepared to provide officers authorised under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act) with an assessment tool for undertaking Erosion and Sediment Control Practices (ESC) compliance inspections at construction sites in Queensland and to aid the decision making process in applying enforcement provisions under the EP Act.

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### PART A — Assessment of actual or potential water contamination

1) Has the activity caused or does it have the potential to cause sediment build up, through act or omission, in the receiving environment?  
   *(Y N)*

2) Has the activity caused or does it have the potential to cause releases, flows or discharges containing prescribed water contaminants to waters, roadside gutters or stormwater drainage?  
   *(Y N)*

* (If the answer to either 1 or 2 is ‘yes’, proceed to Part B.)
* (If both answers are ‘no’, no further action is required at this time.)*

### PART B — Assessment of lawfulness of depositing prescribed water contaminants or release of stormwater run-off

1) Is the release of the prescribed contaminant(s) and/or the build-up of sediment expressly permitted by a development condition of a relevant development approval?  
   *(Y N)*

   *(If the answer is ‘yes’, no further action is required at this time. If the answer is ‘no’, proceed to question (2))*

2) Use the following questions to assess compliance with the general environmental duty (GED).

**2.1) Erosion control**

*Is soil cover maximised by:*

   a) Clearing is limited to only the area necessary to undertake building work  
      *(Y N)*

   b) Clearing of existing soil cover (grass) only occurs immediately before building work starts  
      *(Y N)*

   c) Areas of bare soil not being actively worked are covered  
      *(Y N)*

*Are stockpiles protected by:*

   d) Ensuring stockpiles are not placed on top of sediment barriers (e.g. sediment fences)  
      *(Y N)*

   e) Ensuring stockpiles are not located in overland flow paths. If unavoidable, runoff is directed around the stockpile  
      *(Y N)*

   f) Ensuring stockpiles are not located in overland flow paths. If unavoidable, runoff is directed around the stockpile  
      *(Y N)*

   g) Has exposed soil between the lot boundary and the kerb been covered with turf?  
      *(Y N)*

   h) Are stockpiles fully contained within the lot (not on the verge)?  
      *(Y N)*
### 2.2) Drainage Control

| a) | If the roof is in place, have permanent or temporary downpipes been connected to all gutter outlets to connect all roofwater runoff to the underground stormwater system? | Y Y Y | N N N |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| b) | If there is an area of land upslope of the building site greater than 1500m² in area, have catch drains been provided to divert upslope runoff around bare areas of the site and been implemented as follows:  
   i) Catch drains are lined with geofabric, UV resistant plastic or turf  
   ii) Catch drains are located within the building site  
   iii) Catch drains discharge to the roadway or to a stormwater drain safely without causing erosion | Y Y Y | N N N |

### 2.3) Sediment Control

| Has a stable entry/exit rock pad been installed which: | Y Y Y | N N N |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| a) | Is at least 2m wide? | Y Y Y | N N N |
| b) | Extends from the kerb to the building slab? | Y Y Y | N N N |
| c) | Consists of geofabric overlaid with 40-75mm diameter rock laid at least 150mm thick? | Y Y Y | N N N |
| d) | Is covered with an additional layer of 25-50mm diameter gravel within the verge to make it safe for pedestrians? | Y Y Y | N N N |
| e) | Includes a bund to direct upslope runoff to a sediment trap? | Y Y Y | N N N |
| f) | Has been replaced or refreshed if clogging of the rock with sediment has occurred? | Y Y Y | N N N |
| g) | For lots which fall away from the road to an internal stormwater inlet pit, has the pit been covered in filter cloth and surrounded by a sediment collection pit in order to prevent entry of coarse sediment into the pit? | Y Y Y | N N N |
| h) | Are sediment fences installed downslope of all areas of bare site soil and in accordance with the following:  
   i) Is the sediment fence buried at least 200mm into the ground?  
   ii) Are support posts provided at intervals no greater than 2m?  
   iii) Does the sediment fence extend at least 450mm above ground level?  
   iv) Are returns in the sediment fence provided? | Y Y Y | N N N |
| i) | If sediment fences are not installed, is the site less than 500m² and less than 2% slope and have alternate sediment barriers been provided? | Y Y Y | N N N |
2.4) Other Pollutants

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<tr>
<th>a) Pollutants such as paint, plaster and cement are prevented from entering the stormwater system by:</th>
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<tr>
<td>i. Washing equipment only in a contained area that cannot reach the stormwater system</td>
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<td>ii. Containing runoff when cutting materials with water-cooled saws</td>
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<tr>
<td>iii. Ensuring cement-wash from exposed aggregate driveways is contained in a collection trench and residue is disposed of without release to the stormwater system</td>
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[Y] [N]