

SCHEDULE 2—EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL ASSESSMENT

Preamble

Erosion and sediment control on building sites

Builders must not pollute the environment. The *Environmental Protection Act* provides for penalties for persons or entities causing environmental harm.

Soil erosion on building sites can be a major source of sediment pollution (environmental harm) in our watercourses. A single building site can lose up to four truckloads of soil in one storm. Washed from the sites into stormwater drains, this sediment can cause flooding and also affects the water quality and the fish stocks in our creeks, lakes and the Noosa River system.

Preventing sediment run-off from building sites is one of a number of ways that Council and industry are improving our watercourses.

Effective on-site erosion and sediment control provides the following benefits—

- A better looking, more marketable site;
- Improved wet weather working conditions;
- Reduced stockpile losses;
- Less mud and dust problems;
- Reduced clean-up costs;
- Fewer public complaints;
- Better public image;
- Cleaner watercourses; and
- Better fishing and swimming in our nearby watercourses.

1. Erosion Hazard Assessment Form

Controlling Factors	Points	Score	Checking
Predominant slope¹ of the whole site, prior to building works: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 - 3% slope • >3% - 5% slope • >5% - 10% slope • >10% - 15% slope • > 15% slope 	 0 1 2 4 5		
Soil type: (see 1 below) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandy soil/gravel • Sandy loam • Clay loam 	 0 1 2		

¹ The term 'predominant slope' is defined in Part 2 Section 2.12.

Controlling Factors	Points	Score	Checking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clay soil 	2		
Anticipated duration of site disturbance: (see 2 below) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duration < 2 weeks 2 weeks # Duration < 3 months 3 months # Duration < 6 months Duration > 6 months 	0 2 4 5		
Month that works are undertaken: (see 3 below) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> August, September April, May, June, July, November, October March December January February 	0 1 2 3		
Offsite sediment control (i.e. down slope of the soil disturbance): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score 1 point if there is no purpose built, operational and well maintained sediment traps (eg. sediment basin, gross pollutant trap or purpose built wetland) to catch sediment before it enters a water body with environmental values (eg. creek, natural wetland, river or bay) (see 4 below) 	1		
Run-off entering the site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score 1 point if stormwater run off entering the site is not diverted away from the soil disturbance 	1		
Extent of site disturbance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score 2 points if building work requires reshaping of the ground surface (eg. 'cut and fill' works) (see 5 below) Score 5 points if the area to be disturbed is greater than 600m² 	2 5		
Works within environmentally sensitive areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Score 11 points if the disturbance is within the banks of a watercourse (see 6 below) Score 5 points if the disturbance is within 50m of the top of bank of a watercourse Score 2 points if the disturbance is between 50m and 100m of the top of bank of a watercourse 	11 5 2		
TOTAL SCORE (See 7 & 8 below)			

Notes:

- Where there is more than one type of soil on the site, select the category with the highest point value.
- The time, from when the building site will first become vulnerable to erosion, to the time the soil will be fully stabilised (eg. grassing).
- If this time span covers more than one category, select the category with the highest point value. Note that if there is no grass/vegetation cover on the site before building work has started, the time span starts from the time this form is completed.
- If you are not sure, score 1 point.
- For the purpose of this form, 'cut and fill' works are those that will result in a steep batter or retaining wall above and/or below the building slab, greater than 1 metre in height. If the building slab has already been fully cut and stabilised (eg. grassed) during the subdivision stage, score 0 points.
- Watercourse means any clearly identifiable creek, stream or river, whether flowing permanently or intermittently.
- For a high risk site, the total score is ≥ 14 points.
- For a low risk site, the total score is < 14 points.

2. Erosion and Sediment Control Methods

Element	Solution
Minimise disturbance when excavating	Retain as much grassed area as possible on the site. These areas not only improve the appearance of the site they also filter much of the sediment from stormwater run-off before it reaches the drainage system.
Catch drains and perimeter banks	Allow for diversion of up slope stormwater around the work site and other disturbed surfaces.
Install a sediment barrier	Install sediment barriers down slope of the building site to filter coarse sediment before it can wash into gutters, drains and watercourses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose designed geotextile sediment fabric (i.e. not shade cloth) attached to posts with the geotextile buried in an upstream trench; or • Place turf of a minimum 600mm width along kerb line; or • Straw bales, staked in a 100mm (min) deep trench.
Single gravelled entry-exit	Restrict vehicle access to one entry-exit point. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graveling the access point will allow all weather access, will reduce the amount of soil carried off the site by vehicles, and will provide a permanent base for the driveway.
Early stormwater drainage connection	Connect a temporary or permanent downpipe/s to the stormwater system before laying the roof or slow and spread the flow from downpipe/s to avoid localised erosion. Downpipe/s may be temporarily removed during wall construction. All stormwater must discharge in a manner that does not cause soil erosion.
Concrete waste and washing	Waste concrete and household paint must not be allowed to wash into the gutters or the street.
Sand and soil stockpiles	Stockpiles must be placed wholly on the construction site and behind a sediment barrier.