

Environmental Management for Road Works

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HOW CAN YOU PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT?

- Prevent sedimentation from washing down into waterways
- Prevent areas from eroding and losing their topsoil/ vegetation
- Encourage biodiversity to ensure that landforms remain stable

HOW CAN YOU SAVE MONEY ON A CONSTRUCTION JOB?

- “Weatherproof” earthworks from scouring out during wet weather
- Prevent pipes from silting up
- Minimise the need to retrim batters and maintain earthworks

HOW CAN YOU SAVE MONEY ON MAINTAINING THE ROADSIDE?

- Prevent pipes from silting up
- Prevent scours and erosion
- Encourage grasses that do not require continual mowing
- Prevent landslips and rockfalls

WHY SHOULD YOU PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

- It makes sense from an operational viewpoint – it saves work
- It sets an example to the community and other contractors
- It improves the quality of our life – cleaner waterways, better fishing etc
- There are severe penalties if you don't

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU SHOULD DO?

- Ask your managers
- Seek advice from government agencies (e.g. Soilcon or DNR)
- Seek advice from environmental groups (e.g. Greening Australia)
- Talk to other Councils (e.g. ADC and Central Western NSW Councils)
- Local nurseries and horticulturists

SOME COMMON PRACTICES WHICH CAUSE CONCERN

- Unwittingly disturbing an environmentally sensitive area
- Excessive clearing of trees or vegetation
- Not controlling runoff
- Not intercepting sediments before they enter structures or waterways
- Large areas being left without revegetation treatments being implemented
- Spills and wastes not being managed

AREAS OF IMPACT

- Areas “of site” e.g. gravel pits
- Adjacent landholders
- Downstream landholders
- The general public (noise, dust, vibration nuisances)

MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

- Environmental assessments (REFs) – identifies areas of concern
- Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) – details actions to take
- Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plans (ESCPs)
- Environmental content in site inductions
- Regular documented environmental inspections – ensures EMP is being implemented
- Environmental audits – independent verification of environmental performance

SOME THINGS YOU CAN DO

- Make staff aware of environmentally sensitive areas
- Make staff aware of environmental good practice
- Make staff aware of how to implement standard tasks e.g. installing a silt fence
- Carry out inspections – no use telling staff to do it if there is no follow up
- Periodic workshops from “experts” e.g. Soilcon, DNR
- Use one job to set the standard in you Council and show it off
- Have a series of standard treatments e.g. hay bales and silt fencing
- Reward / recognise good environmental performance (internally or externally)
- Improve the environment – encourage tree planting by community groups