

# Inspecting soil erosion and sediment loss from building, subdivision and construction sites

## On-Site Checklist for Local Government Officers in Western Australia

Use this checklist to monitor for compliance with your Local Government's erosion and sediment control Local Laws, policies, plans and/or guidelines for managing erosion, sediment runoff, sand drift and dust and State Government legislative provisions of the *Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004* and the *Planning and Development Act WA 2005*.

Soil erosion from building, subdivision and construction sites is a major source of stormwater pollution. When it enters our waterways, sediment (soil, sand, silt, mud) and litter washed from urban areas can cause short and long term environmental problems. It can also block drains leading to localised flooding and damage stormwater drainage infrastructure and Water Sensitive Urban Design technologies.

It is the responsibility of the developer or builder and any personnel employed by the developer or builder (building subcontractors, site supervisors, tradepersons and project managers) to prevent soil erosion and sediment transport (including dust) from building sites.

Contact details of Officer attending site and name of LGA:

Site address and date and time of inspection:

Brief site description:

Name of property owner, developer and/or builder (if known):

Reason for site assessment: (e.g. scheduled or random check, follow-up after a rain, wind or storm event, response to a complaint or follow up visit where a warning or infringement notice has been issued).

Local Government Officer to determine:	✓ or ✗
No sand, mud or soil of any type is;	
(a) leaving the site by means of wind or water	
(b) associated with the site locale covering the footpath, road kerb and/or road surface	
(c) clearly travelling to or entering the stormwater entry pits	
(d) clearly travelling to or entering drains	
All sand and/or soil stockpiles are adequately covered	
All stockpiles of sand, soil etc. are adequately located behind a sediment fence	
No dust is observed moving off-site during wind	
Dust control measures are being used as needed	
Slopes are adequately stabilised to prevent erosion	
Clean water is being appropriately diverted at site	
If needed, a tyre wash has been installed	
The site is adequately prepared for a rainfall event	
Downpipes are correctly connected	
The site entry/exit points are clear of excessive sediment	
All site traffic is entering/exiting the site from the designated entry/exit points	
Sediment fences have been erected; and	
(a) fences are free of tears/rips	
(b) the posts are installed with the required spacing	
(c) the fences are standing upright	
(d) the build-up of sediment does NOT exceed 1/3 of the height of the sediment fence	
Sediment control devices other than sediment fences are free from excessive sediment deposition	
There is evidence that road and path cleaning is being undertaken regularly (A return visit may be necessary).	

Organisational reporting requirements	✓ or ✗	Date/comment
Project manager, developer or builder is notified of actions they are required to undertake (document conversation)		
Verbal warning issued ( <b>and/or</b> )		
Written warning issued		
Follow up site visit to ensure compliance		
Infringement notice issued		
Project manager, developer or builder is informed of the timeframe they have to rectify the situation		
Follow up site visit to ensure compliance		
Further action required (eg fine or prosecution)		
Incident resolved		

### Potential actions to recommend to the developer, builder(s) and/or project manager to ensure sediment is controlled on site to avoid an infringement and/or possible prosecution

#### Stop sand from blowing off-site

Sweep sand off footpaths, roads and gutters back onto site.

Securely cover stockpiles at the end of each day.

Locate stockpiles behind a sediment fence.

Ensure sand is delivered and stored appropriately.

Use dust control measures (look for dust moving off-site during wind). For example, cover or wet exposed sand/soil, hydro-mulch or install a sediment fence; mulch or seed for longer term stockpiles.

Stabilise slopes to prevent erosion.

#### Prevent water from flowing off-site

Ensure downpipes are correctly connected.

Prepare the site for rainfall events. (For example, divert excess water from site, securely cover stockpiles, install a sediment trap and/or fence).

#### Stop sand, mud or soil from moving to or entering the stormwater entry pits

Install sediment bunding around drains.

Install stormwater drain inserts in gully entry drains.

#### Retain sediments on site

Install a dedicated wash down area (tyre wash).

Clear site entry/exit points from excessive sand, mud or soil.

Ensure all site traffic is entering/exiting the site from the designated entry/exit point.

Stabilise entry/exit points with gravel.

Remove excessive sand, mud or soil from sediment control devices.

Install adequate sediment control fences.

Make sure the build-up of sediment **does not** exceed 1/3 of the height of an installed sediment fence.

Relocate or repair existing sediment control fences.

### Tips for Local Government Officers



1. Look for sand or soil in gutters, around drains or on the road, blocked stormwater drains, localised flooding and/or dust.



2. Refer to the conditions of your LGA's local law, policy, plan or guidelines that deals with erosion and sediment control from construction and building sites.



3. Determine whether this incident is a minor or a major breach of the conditions of your local law, policy, plan or guidelines.



4. Recommend erosion and sediment control best practice interventions (refer to potential actions table above).



5. Recommend that all sub-contractors are made aware of their responsibility to control erosion, sediment loss and/or sand drift from site.



6. Encourage voluntary compliance.



7. Ensure adequate follow up site visits and appropriate time frames for the breach to be addressed, depending on the level of risk.



8. Acknowledge that the breach has been resolved.

Download this checklist at [www.perthnrm.com/resources/resources-sediment-management](http://www.perthnrm.com/resources/resources-sediment-management)

This checklist has been developed as part of the Sediment Task Force Project which is sponsored by: