



SEDIMENT TASK FORCE - FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SUCCESS FACTORS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DOING IT WELL



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



SWAN CANNING
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Success Factors of Local Governments Doing it Well

Local Governments can expend large amounts of time and money “cleaning up” sediment that has left subdivision, building and construction sites (including roads) because of inadequate on-site erosion and sediment control.

This includes the costs of sweeping roads, repairing, and maintaining stormwater management systems and Water Sensitive Urban Design infrastructure, responding to public complaints, the issuing of infringements and remediating or restoring rivers, wetlands and parks.

The following success factors for managing erosion and sediment loss have been recommended to Local Governments by Local Governments across Australia who are committed to improving their management of this important issue. These recommendations aim to help minimise the financial and environmental impacts of unmitigated erosion and sediment control during urban development.

Most importantly:

- Ensure your Local Government’s own publicly funded development projects meet legislative requirements and fulfil the conditions of your own Local Government’s policies and guidelines to effectively prevent on-site erosion and sediment loss during subdivision and building. It is important to lead by example and meet the same requirement of the private urban development projects you are assessing.
- Do not rely on the goodwill of builders and developers to voluntarily adopt best practice erosion and sediment control measures. Instead, proactively assist builders and developers to understand and fulfil their obligations.
- Secure a sufficient level of resourcing for monitoring and compliance.

Ensure you:

- Focus on what is locally relevant and important.
- Review and improve your regulatory framework, compliance, planning and reporting procedures, documentation, incentives and financial disincentives (so they act as a deterrent).
- Aim for compliance that reflects policy and best practice standards*.
- Secure corporate ownership and commitment (at senior management level).
- Achieve cross-department awareness of the issue and knowledge of erosion and sediment control management tools, strategies and infrastructure.
- Facilitate Departments working together to monitor and enforce compliance.
- Empower all staff able to observe potential breaches to have the knowledge, skills and authority to report incidents of non-compliance.
- Implement a centralised incident reporting system to quickly resolve breaches and to assess collective impacts (including downstream impacts).
- Provide high quality education and training to build staff and industry capacity.
- Invest in infrastructure to capture the “sediment that got away” and aim for cost recovery for this investment.
- Commit to regular assessments (e.g. water quality monitoring, drainage infrastructure damage checks, sediment source investigations, analyse investment in environmental restoration).
- Identify key barriers to successful management and adopt new strategies to respond to issues identified in assessments.

**All erosion and sediment controls installed on site should be in accordance with International Erosion Control Association Australasia (IECA) best practice (www.austieca.com.au/publications/resources)*

Further Information

Including STF On-Site Compliance Checklist for Local Government Officers

[Perth NRM: Sediment Taskforce](#)

[Tucker, P \(2011\). Building staff capacity: the key to erosion and sediment control](#)

[Healthy Land and Water](#)

[Healthy Waterways. Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Internal Management Systems Review Report Template & Action Plan](#)

[Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW, \(2007\)](#)

[IECA \(Australasia\) - Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control \(BPESC\) Document](#)

NB: The links provided are accurate as of October 2021. The Sediment Task Force takes no responsibility for the continued accuracy or availability of the links or content contained within the linked sites. If you discover a link that is no longer working, please advise us by email (comms_admin@perthnrm.com) and we will ensure future versions of this document are updated accordingly.



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