

# Preserve Vegetation



## What is it?

Keep as much of the original vegetation (grass, trees, etc.) on the site by establishing **No Go Areas** for the building and construction phase as well as vegetated filter strips down-slope of the work site. Preserving grassed areas, trees and shrubs protects the soil from erosion and provides an effective filter for sediment runoff.

## Why is it important?

Sediment generated from erosion on building and construction sites can be a major source of pollution to local waterways. Follow the practices discussed in this fact sheet and you will minimise erosion from your site, meet your legal requirements and help protect our waterways.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

### Before starting site works:

Identify vegetation (trees, shrubs and grassed areas) on site which can be kept throughout the entire building and construction phase and mark this as a **No Go Area**. Include this information on the Soil and Water Management Plan if required (see **Fact Sheet 3**).

**Vegetation is the most effective soil stabiliser available on building and construction sites.** Keep groundcover along surface drainage areas and on steeper slopes. Retain significant areas of healthy grass down-slope of the worksite, these strips can be highly effective for filtering out coarse sediment. The flatter and wider the strips are, the more effective they become. Native vegetation along streams and waterways should be retained and protected from sediment by installing additional sediment control measures up-slope e.g. fibre rolls and sediment fences (see **Fact Sheet 14**). On exposed sites a 400 mm wide planted turf strip between the kerb and the footpath is a good last resort sediment control, filtering the runoff before it enters the stormwater system (see **Figure 6A**).

Where vegetation needs to be removed, leave it in place for as long as possible and stage earthworks to minimise the amount of site cleared at any time.

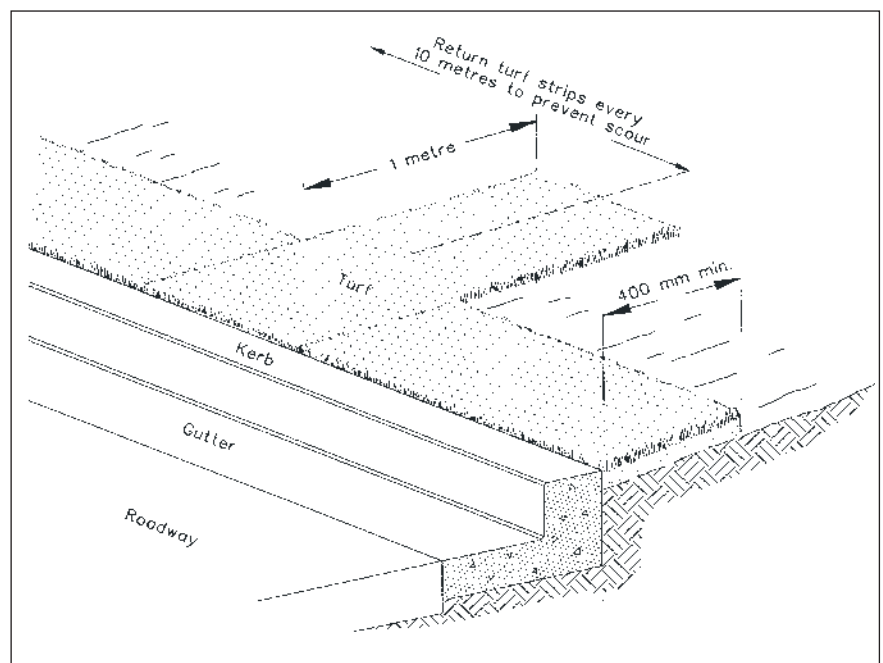


Figure 6A: Planted turf strip.

## Fact Sheet 6

### **Installing the control measures:**

Fence off the **No Go Area**. Place red tape or other bright materials around the trees, shrubs and grassed areas to be kept. Ensure staff and subcontractors know not to enter these areas or damage marked trees. Where practicable, maintain the planted turf strip in a healthy state during the building and construction process and ensure it is fenced-off to prevent traffic-induced damage.

### **List of fact sheets**

1. Soil & Water Management on Large Building & Construction Sites
2. Soil & Water Management on Standard Building & Construction Sites
3. Soil & Water Management Plans
4. Dispersive Soils – High Risk of Tunnel Erosion
5. Minimise Soil Disturbance
- 6. Preserve Vegetation**
7. Divert Up-slope Water
8. Erosion Control Mats & Blankets
9. Protect Service Trenches & Stockpiles
10. Early Roof Drainage Connection
11. Scour Protection – Stormwater Pipe Outfalls & Check Dams
12. Stabilised Site Access
13. Wheel Wash
14. Sediment Fences & Fibre Rolls
15. Protection of Stormwater Pits
16. Manage Concrete, Brick & Tile Cutting
17. Sediment Basins
18. Dust Control
19. Site Revegetation

### **Remember:**

*Everyone working on building and construction sites has a responsibility to prevent pollution. If you do have an accident and pollution occurs you are required by law to notify the site supervisor. If the site supervisor cannot be contacted, workers should immediately notify the local council so they can work with you to minimise any harm to the environment.*

### **Acknowledgement:**

Text in this brochure has been obtained and modified from the “Do It Right On Site” brochure series, kindly provided by the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils. Figure 6A from Landcom 2004 “Soils & Construction Volume I Managing Urban Stormwater (4th edition)”.

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