

### *Why are they important?*

A roof collects a large amount of water. The immediate connection of downpipes (following roof completion) to the permanent stormwater system can significantly reduce the amount of water on site and decrease site wetness.

In Lake Macquarie City, it is a condition of consent that immediately after completion of any roof, a disposal system is installed which disposes of stormwater without causing any adverse environmental impacts.

On every site, all reasonable efforts should be taken to install a temporary downpipe that will direct roof water away from disturbed soil and the work area. The water leaving the temporary downpipe or 'discharge', needs to flow in a manner that is unlikely to cause soil erosion or inconvenience to neighbouring properties.

The use of temporary (flexible and non-flexible) downpipe connections allows for their removal during working hours to minimise disruption to building activities. However, these temporary downpipes must be reconnected at the end of the work day or when it is raining or if rain is imminent or likely to occur after-hours.



### *Costs of failing to manage roof water*

- Decreased efficiency of onsite sediment controls by increasing the volume of water required to be treated by these controls
- Increased likelihood of failure of controls during rainfall due to increased volume of water
- Increased soil erosion, especially near the outlets of downpipes or below guttering holes
- Increased generation of mud onsite and opportunity for increased tracking of mud and soil from the site
- Increased building delays through increased frequency and length of soil saturation onsite
- Increase soil erosion within or along service trenches
- Decreased site safety due to site wetness
- Increased risk of flooding neighbouring sites or houses, and possible expensive legal action



## What installation standard of a temporary downpipe is acceptable?

- Hard flexible or non-flexible pipe, plastic in many colours, from hardware stores and online;
- Securely fixed to gutter and at the pipes lowest point;
- Empty into stormwater system or direct water away from excavations;
- Re-install following removal for onsite works or safety issues;
- Daily inspection of temporary downpipes is essential.



## Environmental legislation and Council Development Consents

Under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO), allowing sediment or sediment laden water to enter any waterway including street gutters, stormwater drains, swales or creek lines (flowing or not) is considered to be water pollution. Penalties and notices can apply including fines of up to \$5 million.

Council will enforce the POEO where necessary, however we endeavour to provide information about erosion and sediment control and encourage you to help us protect the Lake by reducing water pollution.

Non-compliance with the conditions of a Development Consent is a breach of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and may also attract fines.

## Further information

- **Council's website;**
- the 'Blue Book' - *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction*, Landcom (2004) 4th Ed;
- International Erosion Control Association (Australasia)(IECA) (free downloads) [www.austieca.com.au](http://www.austieca.com.au);
- Call Council's Erosion and Sediment Control Officer on **02 4921 0333**; or
- *Builders Pocket Guide* [www.bpg.co.nz](http://www.bpg.co.nz) (be aware that some practices outlined are not permitted in the Lake Macquarie City Council area).

## Acknowledgements and disclaimer:

This fact sheet has been prepared utilising information from *Fact sheet 10 Early Roof Drainage Connection*, Derwent Estuary Program, Dec 2008., and *Best Practice Erosion and Sediment Control* (IECA). 2008.

This fact sheet is for general information only and is not intended to cover every situation. It is not a regulatory document. Obtain your own independent professional advice.

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