

PRESERVE VEGETATION AND MAKE NO-GO-AREAS

WHAT IS THIS?

Preserving grass, trees, and shrubs to protect soil from erosion by rain or wind is your cheapest and most effective form of erosion control. By keeping vegetation over half your development site, you will likely reduce the amount of erosion by half, halve the clean-up and maintenance work, and reduce the cost of keeping sediment controls operational during works. Preserving topsoil and existing vegetation along the lower boundaries of your development site can complement formal controls by acting as a natural sediment filter for upslope runoff.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

Before starting site works:

Plan to keep as much of the original vegetation (grass, trees, shrubs) on the site by establishing 'No-Go-Areas' outside of the building and construction footprint and include this information on your approved ESCP (see page 17). The purpose of a No-Go-Area is to be a buffer and natural sponge for runoff from rain. It is particularly important to preserve vegetation in areas which are down-slope of the work site, where they can complement your formal on-site controls. Fence off the No-Go-Areas by placing coloured tape or other bright materials around the vegetated areas to be protected. Ensure function and maintenance of No-Go-Areas and other protected vegetation is included in all site inductions.

Keep groundcover plants bordering surface drainage areas and on steeper slopes. Native vegetation along streams and waterways must be retained and protected from sediment by installing additional sediment controls up-slope (e.g. fibre rolls and sediment fences, see page 67). Where vegetation in or adjacent to drainage channels has been approved for removal by the council, leave it in place for as long as possible to act as a natural erosion and sediment control, and stage earthworks to minimise the amount cleared at any time.

Once site works have commenced:

Maintain your No-Go-Areas and any public nature strips adjacent to your site. **DO NOT** allow vehicles to drive over or park on these areas. **DO NOT** allow materials to be stored or stockpiles to be made in these areas. Any native or non-weedy vegetation removed should be mulched and utilised on-site (see page 39).

Note: In the case of subdivisions, the responsibility to preserve vegetation rests with both the subdivider and their civil contractors and the individual lot developers.