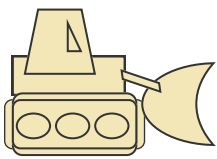


Best Practice Earthmoving



Earthmovers and excavators risk prosecution and a damaged reputation, if they do not abide by environmental legislation. Follow these tips to help protect the environment and your business reputation.



Top 5 Tips for Earthmovers

1. Make sure the landowner has obtained necessary approvals

Council consent is needed for certain earthworks, including earthworks that are significant in scale (e.g. cutting and filling of greater than 600mm) or in sensitive areas (e.g. near waterways). To avoid becoming entangled in legal issues between Council and the landholder, ensure the landholder has the necessary approvals for you to undertake the earthworks requested.

2. Protect trees and vegetation on site.

To protect trees and vegetation from death and disease avoid cutting, filling, stock piling and using



Barriers can be used to mark vegetated areas as 'no go' areas.

heavy machinery near trees. Earthworks should not occur within the 'drip zone', which extends as far out as the tree's canopy. By staying out of this zone you can avoid machinery bumps to trees, soil compaction and root damage.

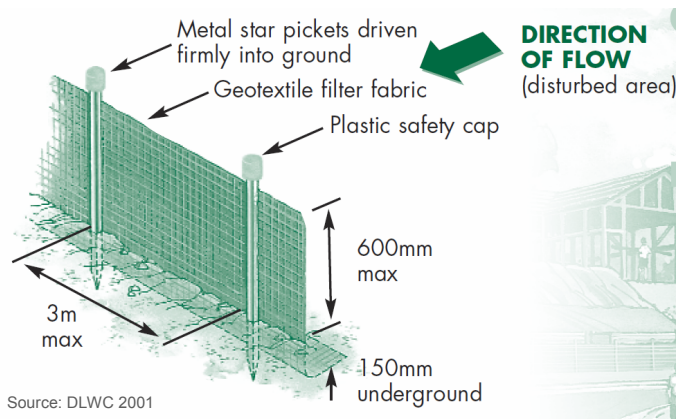
Remember, any damage to trees may also require prior approval.

3. Keep the soil on the site

Make sure soil cannot be washed or blown off your work site. Using sediment fences down-slope of your work area will help you do this.

Stock piles of soil need to be kept away from creek and drainage areas and should be covered.

Make sure machinery (especially wheel tracks) is clean before leaving the site. Any cleaning should occur behind sediment fences to avoid run off.



Ensure sediment fences are constructed correctly and maintained so that soil cannot wash past the fence.

4. Transport any waste to a lawful facility

Any excavated material to be taken off site must be disposed of at a lawful waste disposal facility. Contact your local council for details on your nearest waste facility.

Transporters of waste risk hefty fines if any waste is dumped illegally in the bush or on the roadside and our community and environment suffers too. Try to keep copies of waste dockets/receipts from waste facilities as proof you have done the right thing.

5. Be proud of doing the right thing

Tell your customers you care about protecting the environment. Doing the right thing and abiding by environmental legislation distinguishes you and your business as a professional and respectable operation.



Further Information

Newcastle City Council
282 King St
PO Box 489
NEWCASTLE 2300
Ph: 02 49742000
email: mail@ncc.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.ncc.nsw.gov.au

Internet resources

Your Home

Technical Manual on 'sustainable communities' has free guides on protecting biodiversity, site management and sediment control

Visit: www.yourhome.gov.au

Managing Waste from Construction Sites

Free brochure available from the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water at:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/waste/manbuildingwaste.htm

Industry guidelines

The Blue Book—Managing Urban Stormwater

Available for order at: www.landcom.com.au

AS 4970-2009: Protection of Trees on Construction Sites

Available for order at: www.standards.com.au

