Erosion & Sediment Control Standard

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1	16/03/2026	Executive People & Stakeholder	Original version for publication

TasNetworks acknowledges the palawa (Tasmanian Aboriginal community) as the original owners and custodians of lutruwita (Tasmania). TasNetworks, acknowledges the palawa have maintained their spiritual and cultural connection to the land and water. We pay respect to Elders past and present and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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About this standard

This Standard outlines TasNetworks requirements for managing erosion and sedimentation during work to minimise impacts on the surrounding environment.

If erosion and sedimentation is not effectively managed throughout the works and asset management life cycle, it can lead to impacts to land and waterways and can cause public nuisance. It can also cause to secondary impacts to significant environmental values (e.g. threatened plants, animals and their habitat).

1. Scope

This Standard applies to all TasNetworks employees and contractors undertaking activities which may cause erosion or sedimentation. It covers all maintenance and construction work.

2. Common terms & definitions

Table 1: Key terms & definitions

Key term	Definition
Erosion	Erosion is the process where soil or rock is worn away and moved by water, wind, or gravity. It happens when ground surfaces are disturbed or left unprotected, causing soil to wash or blow away.
Erodible surfaces	An erodible surface is any ground or material that can be easily worn away or carried off by wind, water, or movement. Examples include: • Bare soil or exposed earth • Loose sand or gravel • Unsealed batters or embankments • Stockpiles of soil • Disturbed ground on construction sites
Sedimentation	Sedimentation is the process where eroded soil or particles settle and build up in a new location, such as in drains, waterways, or low-lying areas.
Steep areas	A slope that is angled enough to significantly increase the speed of water runoff, making soil more likely to be washed away
Erosion & Sediment Control Plan	An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) is site specific plan that outlines the drainage, erosion and sediment controls, including their location, type and maintenance requirements.

3. Principles

The following four principles must underpin the approach to erosion & sediment control:

1. Prevent erosion and sedimentation before it occurs rather than relying on controls.
2. Minimise the area and duration of soil disturbance
3. Retain vegetation cover where possible.
4. Inspect controls regularly and maintain them in effective condition.

In addition to the above, the construction and maintenance of access tracks must be undertaken in accordance with the Forest Practices Code (**FPC**), including but not limited to consideration of waterway exclusion zones, and both construction and operational drainage management.

Details on how to implement the general requirements in this Standard can be found in *Erosion and Sediment Control: The Fundamentals for Development in Tasmania*.

4. Plan

At TasNetworks, an Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA)must be undertaken prior to any operational work being undertaken. Refer to TasNetworks Environmental Risk Management Standard for further details on the assessment type required.

An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) is site specific plan that outlines the drainage, erosion and sediment controls, including their location, type and maintenance requirements. TasNetworks may request a ESCP from contractors prior to ground disturbing work. An ESCP may be required for larger or high impact projects, including (but not limited to) work where:

- There is greater than 100m^2 or 75$m^3$of ground disturbance.
- Excavation will occur within a waterway protection zone
- Access tracks are being constructed on steep or highly erodible surfaces; or
- The Environment & Sustainability Team specify the requirement for an ESCP.

The requirements of an ESCP are outlined in *Erosion and Sediment Control: The Fundamentals for Development in Tasmania,* on page 19.

When on site, work managers and delivery personnel must ensure an appropriate assessment has been completed to identify potential drainage, erosion and sediment risks and controls prior to starting work.

Table 2 outlines the key stages of the planning process and the general requirements of each stage.

Table 2: Requirements for planning & site set up

Planning & Site Set up Stage	General Requirement
Design	**Objective: Design the work so ground disturbance is minimised, and the likelihood of erosion and sedimentation is reduced.**
	Undertake an ERA as per the TasNetworks Environmental Risk Management Standard to ensure work that has a high risk of causing erosion and sedimentation is identified and appropriately managed. Develop an ESCP where required.
	Locate assets and access tracks to avoid steep and erodible surfaces
	All Access tracks must be designed to Class 4 All Weather Standard including specified drainage requirements – Section B2 and B3 FPC 2020, unless otherwise agreed
	Where the soil is potentially contaminated, ensure a site-specific soil management plan is prepared, and additional erosion controls are specific to prevent the mobilisation of contaminated material.
Site Setup	**Objective: Set up the site so erosion and sedimentation are prevented and implementing controls is achievable.**
	Set up the site in accordance with any requirements outlined in the ERA or ESCP.
	Designate entry/exit points and stabilise as required.
	Where erosion & sediment risk is high (e.g. steep slopes), schedule work during dry periods and cease significant earth work during periods of high rainfall.
	Stage works where required to reduce the area of disturbance at any given time
	Designate lay down areas for equipment and vehicles to reduce mechanical movement over ground. Laydown areas must be 50m away from waterways.
	Identify areas where stockpiles will be located, ensuring that they are away from waterways and drainage lines.
	Avoid ground disturbing work, and/or the use of heavy machinery within waterway protection zones as per the FPC.

5. Control

The control stage involves on-site implementation. Table 3 outlines the objectives and requirements for the different control stages. Controls should be checked periodically to ensure they remain effective and are modified as required if conditions change. All controls specified in an ERA or ESCP must be implemented and must align with the objectives specified below.

Table 3: Requirements for the control stage

Control Stage	General Requirement
Erosion Controls	**Objective: Stabilise exposed ground to prevent soil being washed or blown away.**
	Apply temporary or permanent cover to exposed areas such as mulch, vegetation, or erosion matting.
	Cover, shape, or vegetate exposed soils to minimise erosion.
	Apply suppression measures in dry or windy conditions.
	Place excavated soil upslope of open trenches
Sediment Controls	**Objective: Trap any displaced soil on-site and stop it from entering drains or the surrounding environment.**
	Install barriers downslope of disturbed areas or stockpiles to capture sediment. Compact stockpiles where practical.
	Place structures in flow paths to reduce velocity and encourage settlement.
	When dewatering, pump water through appropriate filtration or settlement methods before release.
	Direct dewatered flows to stable, vegetated areas or designated treatment systems.
Drainage controls	**Objective: Divert clean water so it bypasses the construction area.**
	Divert clean surface water around disturbed areas with equipment or earth.
Post construction controls	**Objective: Stabilise the site so erosion and sedimentation are reduced throughout the life of the site, and any construction impacts are rehabilitated**
	Remove stockpiles by removing off site, or spreading over the site (if applicable)
	Close temporary access tracks by blocking off access.
	Cover disturbed areas to promote vegetation growth (e.g. cover with hydro mulch, geotextile etc) or revegetate where natural regrowth is unlikely to occur.
	Engage with an environmental specialist to determine the most appropriate rehabilitation plan where significant ground disturbance has occurred and/or the area is susceptible to erosion and sedimentation.
	Undertake additional post construction monitoring in high-value environmental areas e.g. national parks, areas with threatened species.

6. Assurance & Training

6.1 Assurance

TasNetworks will undertake inspections of ESCPs and construction activities in accordance with the TasNetworks HSE Inspection & Field Assessment Planner.

For projects with increased erosion and sedimentation risk, TasNetworks may request that Contractors undertake their own assurance program against the requirements in this Standard and provide evidence of this program to TasNetworks.

6.2 Training & competence

Relevant TasNetworks team members will be provided with training and awareness activities to support implementation of this Standard.

Contractors, including approved subcontractors, must ensure their personnel are competent to effectively implement the requirements of this Standard and, where applicable, complete the required TasNetworks training through the TasNetworks Learning Management System.

Relevant internal documents

Document name	Reference number
TasNetworks Environmental Risk Management Standard	R0002759377

Relevant external compliance obligations & information

Name
Environmental Management & Pollution Control Act 1994
Erosion And Sediment Control, The Fundamentals for Development in Tasmania
Forest Practices Code

www.tasnetworks.com.au