

# Toolbox Talk - Environment

## Silt



### DID YOU KNOW?

Silt is the term used for very fine sand, clay or other material carried by water. Silt can be washed off construction sites via storm drains, overland, land drains etc. which ultimately lead to a watercourse.

Silt can be caused by:

- Rainwater run-off from areas where topsoil has been stripped
- Pumping out and dewatering of excavations
- Cleaning of ditches and drains.

### WHY?

- high levels of silt suspended in water can suffocate fish by blocking their gills, remove essential oxygen from the water, kill plants, animals and insects living in the water by stopping sunlight reaching them
- silt running into drains carries the risk of blocking them and cause flooding and pollution

It is illegal to allow silt to enter a watercourse or drain.

Silt pollution is easily traceable to the site from where it originated. In the past it has been a major cause of prosecution.

**Anyone found guilty of allowing contaminated water into a watercourse can face imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine.**

### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

- ✓ Report it immediately if you see silty water is seen entering a watercourse or drain
- ✓ Only discharge silty water into designated settlement systems i.e. attenuation basins
- ✓ Check the site drainage and settlement systems are working. Any discolouration may indicate high pollution loading
- ✓ Monitor weather forecasts and plan work accordingly



Keeping our team safe



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