

# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

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## 1. PURPOSE

By taking greater cognisance of natural hydrological patterns and processes it is possible to develop storm water management systems in a manner that reduces these potentially negative impacts and mimic nature. The main risks associated with inappropriate storm water management are increased erosion risk and risks associated with flooding.

This Storm Water Management Plan addresses the management of storm water runoff from the development footprint and significant impacts relating to resultant impacts such as soil erosion and downstream sedimentation. The main factors influencing the planning of storm water management measures and infrastructure are:

- » Topography and slope gradients;
- » Placing of infrastructure and infrastructure design;
- » Annual average rainfall; and
- » Rainfall intensities.

The objective of the plan is, therefore, to provide measures to address runoff from disturbed portions of the development footprint, such that they:

- » do not result in concentrated flows into natural watercourses i.e. provision should be made for temporary or permanent measures that allow for attenuation, control of velocities and capturing of sediment upstream of natural watercourses, provided the relevant water use authorisation allows for this.
- » do not result in any necessity for concrete or other lining of natural watercourses to protect them from concentrated flows off the facility infrastructure, if not necessary, and provided the relevant water use authorisation allows for this.
- » do not divert flows out of their natural flow pathways, thus depriving downstream watercourses of water, unless permissible in any relevant water use authorisation.

**This Storm Water Management Plan must be updated and refined once the construction/ civil engineering plans have been finalised following detailed design.**

## 2. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

In the design phase, various storm water management principles should be considered including:

- » Prevent concentration of storm water flow at any point where the ground is susceptible to erosion.
- » Reduce storm water flows as far as possible by the effective use of permissible attenuating devices (such as swales, berms, silt fences) where allowed in terms of any water use authorisation, if applicable. As construction progresses, the storm water control measures are to be monitored and adjusted to ensure complete erosion and pollution control at all times.
- » Silt traps must be used where there is a danger of topsoil or material stockpiles eroding and entering streams and other sensitive areas.

- » Construction of gabions and other stabilisation features on steep slopes may be undertaken to prevent erosion, if deemed necessary and where allowed in terms of any water use authorisation, if applicable.
- » Minimise the area of exposure of bare soils to minimise the erosive forces of wind, water and all forms of traffic.
- » Ensure that development does not increase the rate of storm water flow above that which the natural ground can safely accommodate at any point in the sub-catchments.
- » Ensure that all storm water control works are constructed in a safe and aesthetic manner in keeping with the overall development.
- » Plan and construct storm water management systems to remove contaminants before they pollute surface waters or groundwater resources.
- » Contain soil erosion, whether induced by wind or water forces, by constructing protective works to trap sediment at appropriate locations. This applies particularly during construction.
- » Avoid situations where natural or artificial slopes may become saturated and unstable, both during and after the construction process.
- » Design and construct roads to avoid concentration of flow along and off the road. Where flow concentration is unavoidable, measures to incorporate the road into the pre-development storm water flow should not exceed the capacity of the culvert. To assist with the storm water run-off, gravel roads should typically be graded and shaped with a 2-3% crossfall back into the slope, allowing storm water to be channelled in a controlled manner towards the, natural drainage lines and to assist with any sheet flow within the development footprint.
- » Design culvert inlet structures to ensure that the capacity of the culvert does not exceed the pre-development storm water flow at that point. Provide detention storage on the road and/or upstream of the storm water culvert. Where any culverts are required within watercourses, this may only be undertaken if absolutely necessary and where the relevant water use authorisation allows for this, where applicable.
- » Where water use authorisation is required and permits, design outlet culvert structures to dissipate flow energy. Any unlined downstream channel must be adequately protected against soil erosion.
- » Where the construction of a building causes a change in the vegetative cover of the site that might result in soil erosion, the risk of soil erosion by storm water must be minimised by the provision of appropriate artificial soil stabilisation mechanisms or re-vegetation of the area. Any inlet to a piped system should be fitted with a screen or grating to prevent debris and refuse from entering the storm water system.
- » Preferably all drainage channels on site should remain in the natural state so that the existing hydrology is not disturbed.

### **3.1. Engineering Specifications**

Detailed engineering specifications for a Storm Water Management Plan describing and illustrating the proposed storm water control measures must be prepared by the Civil Engineers during the detailed design phase and should be based on the underlying principles of this Storm Water Management Plan. This should include erosion control measures. Requirements for project design include:

- » Erosion control measures to be implemented before and during the construction period, including the final storm water control measures (post construction) must be indicated within the Final/Updated Storm Water Management Plan.
- » All temporary and permanent water management structures or stabilisation methods must be indicated within the Final/Updated Storm Water Management Plan.

- » The drainage system for the development footprint should be designed to specifications that can adequately deal with a 1:50 year intensity rainfall event or more to ensure sufficient capacity for carrying storm water around and away from infrastructure.
- » Procedures for storm water flow through a site need to take into consideration both normal operating practice and special circumstances. Special circumstances in this case typically include severe rainfall events.
- » An on-site Engineer or Environmental Officer is to be responsible for ensuring implementation of the erosion control measures on site during the construction period.
- » The EPC/ Civils/ Construction Contractor holds ultimate responsibility for remedial action in the event that the approved storm water plan is not correctly or appropriately implemented and damage to the environment is caused.

During the construction phase, the contractor must prepare a Storm Water Control Method Statement to ensure that all construction methods adopted on site do not cause, or precipitate soil erosion and shall take adequate steps to ensure that the requirements of the Storm Water Management Plan are met before, during and after construction. The Storm Water Control Method Statement must also comply with any relevant water use authorisation, where applicable. The designated responsible person on site, must be indicated in the Storm Water Control Method Statement and shall ensure that no construction work takes place before the relevant storm water control measures are in place, and are in compliance with any relevant and applicable water use authorisation.

An operation phase Storm Water Management Plan should be designed and implemented if not already addressed by the mitigations implemented as part of construction, with a view to preventing the passage of concentrated flows off hardened surfaces and onto natural areas.