

As a result of amendments made to the State Planning Policy¹ post the release of Version 7 of the FNQROC Development Manual², there has been an amendment to the erosion and sediment control treatment requirements on construction sites. The primary change, amongst others is the movement away from the design sizing of a stormwater sediment basin being the flow of the 80th percentile over a five day event, to a standard of:

'All exposed areas greater than 2500 m² must be provided with sediment controls which are designed, implemented and maintained to a standard which would achieve at least 80% of the average annual runoff volume of the contributing catchment treated (i.e. 80% hydrological effectiveness) to 50mg/L Total Suspended Solids (TSS) or less, and pH in the range (6.5–8.5)^{1(pg 80)}

The state has provided design guidelines and alternative design options, in conjunction with operation guidelines in Reference 3, below. The technical note for Local Government compliance and regulation has also been provided, see reference 4.

References:

¹<https://dilgpprd.blob.core.windows.net/general/spp-july-2017.pdf>

²<http://www.fnqroc.qld.gov.au/files/media/original/004/0ea/606/c67/D5-Stormwater-Quality-Design-Manual-0317-Issue-7.pdf> (Reference D5.10, point 4.)

³<https://www.austieca.com.au/documents/item/697>

⁴http://hlw.org.au/u/lib/mob/20180328105904_cb560dd500c0a8474/technical-note-for-local-government-complying-with-the-spp-2017_sediment-controls.pdf

Compliance with the above State Planning Policy is compulsory, however it is noted that to date, feedback surrounding this policy is that the requirement is considered unreasonably onerous, and exceedingly difficult to comply with in the context of the Far North Queensland Volume of Rainfall.

Discussions with State Government on reviewing this requirement are ongoing.