

TOOLBOX TRAINING SESSION – EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

PONY CLUB TRAIL, HASSANS WALLS

Background

The Sydney Catchment Authority (SCA) has approved our trail, but on the condition that we have input from a certified professional in erosion and sediment control (Andrew Macleod).

The SCA are worried that our trail will experience severe soil erosion if not constructed and maintained properly because it is in a high rainfall area and on very steep land. Eroded soil could get into local waterways and cause pollution.

Sign-Off

The SCA has put a condition on us that Andrew Macleod has to sign off at the end of construction to say that the trail is properly built in accordance with best-practice to minimize the risk of erosion. He will only sign off on the trail if it's done right!

Construction Methods

The two key principles to remember when thinking about controlling erosion:

1. Ground cover (e.g. rocks, leaf litter, mulch, timber boards etc.)
2. Control drainage.

Andrew's team has provided us with model plans, all of which adopt these two principles in one form or another. If you intend to modify the trail from the model plans, keep these two principles in mind.

These environmental aspects are not designed to get in our way or restrict our trail, but we do need to keep them in mind when constructing.

Sediment traps are considered secondary to ground cover and drainage control – it's best to build it properly so it won't erode so much over time.

Some things to remember

Minimise the amount of ground you disturb at all times.

Cover up exposed soils as much as possible, even if it's just putting a tarp over a stockpile overnight.

The completed trail shouldn't have excess exposed soils (e.g. outside of berms) – use leaf litter to protect soils in non-tread areas.

Rocks and timber are great armouring methods to protect the tread surface from erosion.

Ask yourself where water will flow when it rains – if it's going to flow over bare soils, it's going to cause erosion. If possible, provide protective ground cover.