



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Stronger site controls key to protecting waterways for recreation and wildlife

With increasing residential building activity<sup>1</sup> and a wetter-than-usual spring forecast<sup>2</sup>, the upcoming 'Get the Site Right' Blitz Week (25-29 August 2025) serves as an urgent reminder for builders to focus on proper site management to protect our rivers, beaches, and harbours from construction and demolition waste.

Get the Site Right is a joint effort by catchment groups, local councils, and the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to strengthen erosion and sediment controls on building sites across NSW, preventing waste and sediment runoff from polluting local waterways.

The campaign's urgency is underscored by findings from the March 2025 blitz, which revealed that compliance on construction sites was only 48.3 per cent. Regulatory staff across 20 councils and the EPA inspected 867 sites and issued more than 70 penalty notices totalling \$404,780 for breaches including sediment run-off and poor stockpile controls.

With harsher penalties now in place, including on-the-spot fines starting at \$15,000 for individuals and \$30,000 for corporations, the August blitz is a critical reminder for builders and developers to get their sites right.

NSW EPA Executive Director Operations Jason Gordon emphasised the importance of effective site management.

"Proper erosion and sediment control is not just a regulatory requirement – it's essential for protecting our waterways and the communities that rely on them," Mr Gordon said.

"During heavy rain, even minor compliance breaches on construction sites can potentially cause major pollution incidents in our rivers and creeks," he added.

Sydney Coastal Councils Group (SCCG) Chair, Councillor Shannon Welch highlighted the mounting pressures that coastal councils face from urban development and climate-driven rainfall and the importance of the campaign.

"Stronger site controls are not only about compliance, they're about protecting the health of our waterways, safeguarding biodiversity and ensuring safe recreational spaces for our communities," Councillor Welch said.

"The SCCG commends the collaborative effort behind this initiative and encourage builders and developers to take proactive responsibility for their environmental impact," Councillor Welch added.

A range of educational material, including a site maintenance checklist and information leaflets for builders and home renovators, can be accessed here: [ourlivingriver.com.au/getthesiteright](http://ourlivingriver.com.au/getthesiteright)



Members of the public are encouraged to report pollution incidents, including poor sediment control, to their local council or the NSW EPA by emailing [info@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@epa.nsw.gov.au) or phoning the Environment Line on 131 555.

– ENDS –

**Note to Editors:**

Overlay available for media use [here](#).

Images available on request.

<sup>1</sup> [Australian Construction Activity Stalls in Q1 2025, with Residential Building Offering a Bright Spot | Master Builders Association](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Australian climate outlooks](#)

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