

Protection of natural assets during development ...

Many development sites have known incremental impacts on the natural environment. For sites in built-up areas, the effects are usually remote, including run-off carrying poisons, building materials in various forms and of course, silt, all of which impact on the local waterways and eventually via the river systems, the bays and oceans.

Other sites are located close to or bordering on natural assets ... most commonly creeks or rivers, or areas of natural or semi-natural "bush" or "beach". Given the scarcity value and the local as well as regional ecological and environmental values of such natural assets, it might be expected that planning and building approvals processes for proposed developments would seek to protect such assets.

Recent examples suggest that in fact, there is no protection as the illustration from a recent site demonstrates.



Examination shows the silt barriers rendered completely useless, the bank vegetation stripped, the bank unprotected, trees removed and all built up debris, which provides both surface protection and habitat, stripped.