



1: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (NSW): RESPONSIBILITIES

Environmental 'best management practice' (BMP) is the guide to undertaking day-to-day activities in a way that is least likely to harm the environment. This information sheet gives current best practice guidelines developed by the NSW Government.

The NSW Government's Environmental Best Management Practice Guideline for Concreting Contractors was developed by representatives from

- Master Builders Association (MBA)
- Australian Pre-Mixed Concrete Association (APMCA)
- Concrete Pumping Association (CPA)
- Civil Contractors Federation (CCF)

Institute of Public Works Engineering Aust (IPWEA)

together with other industry groups & stakeholders.

The NSW BMP contains the following as best practice guiidelines:



This BMP guideline applies to concrete contractors (individuals or companies) taking delivery of fresh concrete and having the responsibility to place, transfer and/or finish the concrete into its final position.

The BMP guideline should be followed, unless there is an alternative course of action that achieves the same or better environmental outcomes during concreting activities...

Obligations of the site manager/supervisor

The site manager has the overall responsibility for construction issues, occupational health and safety (OH&S) and environmental management of the site. The site manager also has the responsibility to ensure that all workers on the site are aware of and are undertaking their duties in compliance with relevant environmental legislation and industry standards.

Obligations of the concrete pumping contractor

The concrete pumping contractor has a responsibility to ensure that all staff and/or subcontractors act in ways that do not cause environmental harm through spillage or leakage of concrete.

It is the responsibility of the concrete pumping contractor to ensure concrete residue and/or washdown residue from their activities does not contaminate drains or waterways. Clean-up of all equipment, including the receiving hopper, pipelines and hoses, must also be done in a manner that does not contaminate drains or waterways.

Wash-down water produced during clean-up of equipment must be disposed of in a manner that does not and will not contaminate nearby drains, waterways or soil. It is the responsibility of the concrete pumping contractor to manage the disposal of excess concrete and wash-down water generated during the pumping and clean-up operation. Disposal to the sewer system is not permitted without prior consultation with the local sewage authority...

THE PROFESSIONAL SOLUTION FOR CONCRETE WASTE MANAGEMENT

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2: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (NSW) : ON-SITE PUMPING

6 Concrete pumping (see figure 6) Purpose

Proper management during the pumping of concrete can minimise the risk of any detrimental impact on the environment.

Applications

 for concrete pumping contractors working on construction sites

• for site managers overseeing concrete-pumping activities.

Best management practices

• Where possible, concrete pumping equipment should be set up on the construction site. This reduces the potential of leakages from hoppers, hoses and fittings that could contaminate the stormwater system.

• Ensure adequate protective screens are erected around the pump area to prevent concrete splashing into street gutters or stormwater drains.

• Where possible, ensure the pumping of concrete occurs at a location on the site where any spillage will not contaminate the stormwater system.

• Where a concrete pump is located on a roadway or footpath where excess material could enter the stormwater system, appropriate bunding to trap spilled material should be installed. Portable concrete collection units (plastic or metal trays or receptacles) should be placed under pumping equipment to collect any spilled material during works (see figure 2).

• Hoses, hoppers, wheelbarrows and other equipment must be washed in the site wash-down area after all excess material has been removed by hand.

• Excess and residue concrete from the hopper and line should either be collected and sent back with the delivery truck or placed in the site's designated concrete• masonry recycling receptacle.

• To minimise the amount of wash-down water generated, scrape excess concrete residue from the hopper before washing. Do not wash out the hopper directly into the street gutter.

• It is the responsibility of the concrete contractor to properly manage the disposal of wash-down water generated during the cleaning process. Options for collection, treatment and disposal of wash- down water should be discussed with the site manager.

• Wash-down water from the hopper must not contaminate the stormwater system. The wash-down area should be used only for small volumes of wash-down water and is not to be used as a disposal point.

• Mud, soil and stones carried off-site are regarded as pollutants. Therefore, tyres and undercarriages must be clean before vehicles leave the construction site.

Figure 6 Concrete pumping



The unit can then be removed to allow excess wet concrete to be handled without contaminating the stormwater system.



Inspection and maintenance

• Inspect and maintain the machinery regularly to minimise leaks and drips.

Pollution controls should be in place before concrete is pumped. The concrete pump contractor should inspect pollution controls to ensure they are adequate, and should liaise with the site manager if there are any problems.
The site or project manager or delegate must maintain vigilance during the work activities to ensure that pollution control procedures are being followed.

• Placing equipment or material where it is likely to pollute the environment may result in on-the-spot fines or prosecution.

Extracted from the NSW Government's Environmental Best Management Practice Guideline for Concreting Contractors

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