Erosion Control

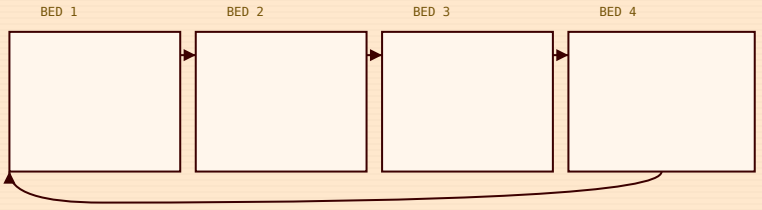
Stabilise soil on slopes and along waterways

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE One-off works, ongoing monitoring
TIME Days to weeks depending on scale

DIFFICULTY	TIME	COST	BEST SEASON	FREQUENCY
Moderate	Days–weeks	Low–moderate	Before the wet season	Established once, monitored ongoing

01 Slow the water, hold the soil

Most erosion control comes down to two principles: slowing water down before it gains erosive speed, and keeping soil covered and rooted so it isn't exposed to direct rain and runoff impact in the first place.



02 What you'll need

- Ground cover plants or mulch for exposed soil
- Contour banks, swales, or check dams for concentrated water flow paths
- Deep-rooted vegetation for slope and waterway stabilisation
- An understanding of water flow patterns across your specific site

03 Method

- **1.** Observe and map where water concentrates and gains speed across your property, particularly after heavy rain.
- **2.** Keep vulnerable soil covered — bare, exposed soil is dramatically more erosion-prone than vegetated or mulched ground.
- **3.** Slow concentrated flow with contour banks, swales, or small check dams in gully lines.
- **4.** Establish deep-rooted vegetation on slopes and along waterway banks specifically for stabilisation.
- **5.** Monitor after significant rain events and address new erosion promptly, before it worsens.

04 Troubleshooting

- **Erosion continuing despite planting** — vegetation alone may be insufficient for actively concentrated, fast-moving water; may need structural intervention (banks, check dams) as well.
- **New gullies forming** — indicates a concentrated flow path that needs addressing at the source, not just downstream.
- **Bank erosion along a waterway** — often needs specific bank-stabilising vegetation and possibly structural work; may also require approval if the waterway is regulated.
- **Uncertain about the right approach for a specific site** — erosion control is quite site-specific; local landcare groups or agricultural extension services often provide valuable, locally-informed guidance.

05 Timing & maintenance

BEST TIME	Establish erosion control measures before the wet season, when problems are most likely to develop or worsen.
DURATION	Vegetation-based measures take a season or more to establish; structural measures are effective immediately but need vegetation to become fully stable long-term.
MAINTENANCE	Regular monitoring after rain events, with prompt attention to any new erosion.
SIGNS OF SUCCESS	Stable, vegetated soil that isn't visibly moving or forming new channels after rain events.

06 Tips & variations

PAIRS WELL WITH

- Windbreaks & Shelterbelts
- Rotational Grazing at Property Scale

COMMON MISTAKES

- Relying on vegetation alone where concentrated, fast-moving water needs structural intervention too
- Ignoring small erosion issues until they develop into significant gullies

PRO TIP

Local landcare groups and agricultural extension services often have detailed knowledge of erosion patterns specific to your region's soil and rainfall — well worth consulting for a property-specific plan.