

PAGE 18

Council stalls on fine for run-off

By SAM BENDER

MAROOCHY Council has refused to fine developers who breached its standards for sediment run-off into Cornmeal Creek.

A spokesman said the council could not fine the Wises Farm developers until after an investigation by the Environmental Protection Agency was completed.

The council was able to fine developers a maximum of \$300 a day they breached the requirement.

It allowed no more than 50 milligrams per litre of water of suspended solids to escape development sites into Maroochy waterways.

But it could not do so prior to the investigation being finalised, the spokesman said.

Developments along Wises Road recorded turbidity more than 40 times the allowable amount to escape its sites last week.

Since then council officers had conducted regular water quality tests and devices to reduce sediment run-off had been installed.

A spokeswoman from the Environmental Protection Agency said officers were working to establish the source of the sediment run-off and water samples were being analysed.



INVESTIGATION: Mr Dunne.

"The EPA will establish whether all reasonable and practical measures were taken at these sites to prevent environmental harm," she said.

Maroochy councillor and environment co-chair Bruce Dunne said the investigation would determine why the sediment devices in place did not work to limit the amount of sediment run-off from the site.

He said developers had increased the size of sediment catchment pits and had installed jute matting and landscaping measures to reduce run-off.

Maroochy Mayor Joe Natoli was unavailable for comment yesterday and attempts to contact the developers were unsuccessful.