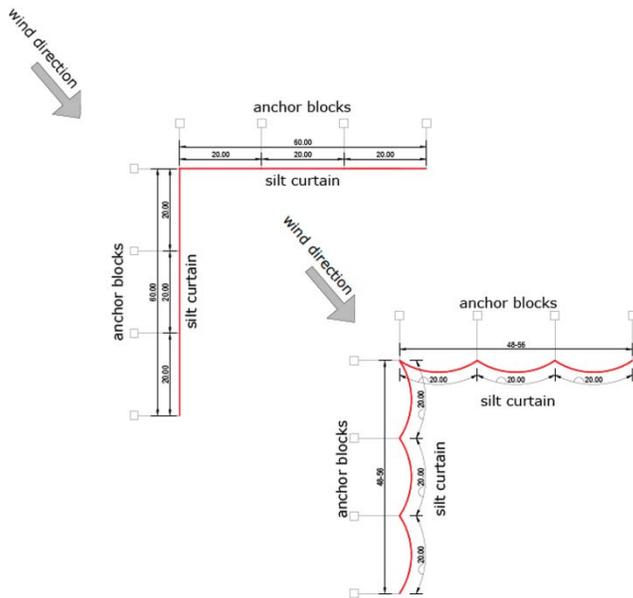


# Silt Curtains

## Position & Length

# Technical Note



The objective of a silt curtain is to provide a settlement area for suspended sediment to settle out of the upper portion of the water column, which reduces the distribution area and minimises any potential environmental damage to the containment area.

### Silt Curtain Position

The silt curtain should be placed a minimum of 50m or more away from any discharge or reclamation to prevent risk of submersion due to an increase in seabed level that might reach the curtain. If there is a strong discharge, this also reduces the forces on the curtain and provides a greater settlement area and increases the volume of water contained within the the curtain, which in turn, reduces the velocity of flow leaving the area underneath the curtain. A high flow will accelerate in the reduced area between the curtain and the seabed, which can cause seabed scouring and resuspend

sediment on the outside of the curtain. Other general considerations for placement to consider is that they should be placed outside the area of any breaking waves and, where possible, parallel to the flow of water or waves.

### Silt Curtain Length

To determine the overall length of the silt curtain, it is recommended to add a minimum of 10% to any straight line measurements taken from site or drawings. It is very difficult to install any marine barrier in wave or tidal conditions in a straight line and it is natural that there will be a slight curve between the anchor points. These curves can increase the actual length of curtain required on site by as much as 10-20% to cover the same distance as the drawing. This extra length will also compensate for any measuring, increase the ease of installation and reduce forces on the curtain, which could lead to failure.