

RETAINING WALL COLLAPSES

A large five-metre retaining wall collapsed after recent rain, sending tonnes of steel and concrete crashing down a steep building site in Woronora.

Two huge girders topped with three panels of loose slabs last week (photo). They were scattered like giant dominos, as the shallow soil supporting them was washed away, including part of a neighbour's yard.

There was no sign of concrete foundations for the girders, only steel buried in local clay on rock.

It was dubbed the Great Wall of Woronora on this website (Dec 2017), when a large boulder seemed dislodged by the excavators at 79 Prices Circuit.

Truckloads of clay and rock were removed from the site over a year by heavy equipment.

About 20 percent of the new wall has collapsed, despite approval by private engineers whose advertising sign has disappeared from the fence.

Massive excavations of clay and rock began about three years ago, gouging a deep hole in the hillside and left unsupported for some time.

The design of foundations is unknown, after longer girders were quickly dug in by workmen on weekend overtime, with a short length of ag-pipe buried to channel runoff – toward the panels further downhill.

Erosion continues from the disturbed site, as siltation traps fill up.

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Another construction site is similarly eroding at 97 Prices Circuit, with mud flooding the street with every storm, and filling Council drains.

Council has been advised, with little done to stop it. A workman once swept a short stretch of gutter after complaints, but left the rest of the street awash in mud.

Both excavations look abandoned with no sign of construction or remediation of the scarred sites.

