

## 8.2 Overlay codes

### 8.2.1 Acid sulfate soils overlay code

#### 8.2.1.1 Application

This code applies to assessable development:-

- (a) subject to the Acid sulfate soils overlay shown on the overlay maps contained within **Schedule 2 (Mapping)**; and
- (b) identified as requiring assessment against the Acid sulfate soils overlay code by the tables of assessment in **Part 5 (Tables of assessment)**.

#### 8.2.1.2 Purpose and overall outcomes

- (1) The purpose of the Acid sulfate soils overlay code is to ensure that the generation or release of acid and associated metal contaminants from acid sulfate soils (ASS) does not have significant adverse effects on the natural environment, built environment, infrastructure or human health.
- (2) The purpose of the code will be achieved through the following overall outcome:-
  - (a) development ensures that the release of acid and associated metal contaminants into the environment is avoided by either:-
    - (i) not disturbing acid sulfate soils (ASS) when excavating or otherwise removing soil or sediment, extracting groundwater or filling land; or
    - (ii) treating and, if required, undertaking ongoing management of any disturbed ASS and drainage waters.

#### 8.2.1.3 Assessment benchmarks

**Table 8.2.1.3.1 Assessment benchmarks for assessable development**

Performance outcomes		Acceptable outcomes	
Avoidance or management of ASS			
<b>PO1</b>	Works:- (a) do not disturb ASS; or (b) are managed to avoid or minimise the release of acid and metal contaminants, where disturbance of ASS is unavoidable.	<b>AO1.1</b>	ASS are identified and the disturbance of ASS is avoided by:- (a) undertaking an ASS investigation conforming to the <i>Queensland Sampling Guidelines</i> <sup>1</sup> and soil analyses according to the <i>Laboratory Methods Guidelines</i> <sup>2</sup> or Australian Standard 4969; (b) not excavating or otherwise removing soil or sediment identified as containing ASS; (c) not permanently or temporarily extracting groundwater that results in the aeration of previously saturated ASS; and (d) not undertaking filling on land at or below 5 metres AHD that results in:- (i) actual ASS being moved below the water table; or (ii) previously saturated ASS being aerated.

<sup>1</sup> Ahern CR, Ahern MR and Powell B (1998). Guidelines for Sampling and Analysis of Lowland Acid Sulfate Soils (ASS) in Queensland. Department of Natural Resources, Indooroopilly.

<sup>2</sup> Ahern CR, McEInea AE and Sullivan LA (2004). Acid Sulfate Soils Laboratory Methods Guidelines. Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Indooroopilly.

Performance outcomes		Acceptable outcomes	
			<p><b>OR</b></p> <p>The disturbance of ASS avoids the release of acid and metal contaminants by:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) undertaking an acid sulfate soils investigation conforming to the <i>Queensland Sampling Guidelines</i> and soil analyses according to the <i>Laboratory Methods Guidelines</i> or Australian Standard 4969;</li> <li>(b) neutralising existing acidity and preventing the generation of acid and metal contaminants using strategies documented in the <i>Soil Management Guidelines</i><sup>3</sup>; and</li> <li>(c) preventing the release of surface or groundwater flows containing acid and metal contaminants into the environment.</li> </ul> <p><b>AO1.2</b> Where potential or actual ASS are identified, they are managed in accordance with an ASS management plan.</p> <p>Editor's note—the <b>Planning scheme policy for information that Council may require</b> provides guidance for the preparation of an ASS management plan.</p>

<sup>3</sup> Dear SE, Moore NG, Dobos SK, Watling KM and Ahern CR (2002). Soil Management Guidelines. Queensland Acid Sulfate Soils Technical Manual. Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Indooroopilly.