

GUIDE TO USING THE IDAS DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FORMS

Guide 10

Acid sulfate soils

This Guide has been prepared to assist applicants and local governments determine if an application triggers referral to the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW) for consideration of acid sulfate soils (ASS) in accordance with State Planning Policy 2/02 (SPP 2/02) 'Planning and managing development involving acid sulfate soils'.

ASS have a chemical composition that, when disturbed, can result in the release of acid and metal contaminants into the environment. Typically, disturbance of ASS results from excavating or otherwise removing soil or sediment, extracting groundwater or filling of land. When an application is referred to NRW, the Department will provide advice to local government on avoiding the release of such contaminants into the environment.

This Guide is of particular assistance to people who need to complete parts D, E and F of Form 1 Development Application and the IDAS Assessment Checklist.

Development requiring referral

An application will require referral to NRW for consideration of ASS matters if the development is assessable (*other than building work only assessable against the building assessment provisions*) and on land -

1 in any of the following local government areas -

Aurukun	Cook	Maryborough
Bowen	Cooloola	Miriam Vale
Brisbane	Douglas	Mornington
Broadsound	Fitzroy	Noosa
Bundaberg	Gladstone	Pine Rivers
Burdekin	Gold Coast	Redcliffe
Burke	Hervey Bay	Redland
Burnett	Hinchinbrook	Rockhampton
Caboolture	Isis	Sarina
Cairns	Johnstone	Thuringowa
Calliope	Livingstone	Tiaro
Caloundra	Logan	Torres
Cardwell	Mackay	Townsville
Carpentaria	Maroochy	Whitsunday

AND

- 2 where the surface of the land is -
 - (a) below 20m Australian Height Datum (AHD) and the development involves the excavation of 1000m³ or more of soil or sediment at or below 5m AHD; and/or
 - (b) at or below 5m AHD and the development involves filling the development site with 1000m³ or more of material.

It should be noted that SPP 2/02 applies to development involving excavation or otherwise removal of 100m³ or more of soil or sediment, and/or filling involving 500m³ or more of material with an average depth of 0.5 metres or greater. However, referral to NRW is only required for development disturbing significantly larger volumes of material, being the development specified in column 1, as these volumes are likely to involve considerable environmental management requirements.

Types of applications likely to trigger referral

The types of applications likely to trigger referral will involve the following aspects of development -

- making a material change of use of premises where any associated work involves essential, significant excavating or filling e.g. canal estates, marinas, extractive industry, service stations and other uses where below ground car parking, storage or infrastructure is an unavoidable consequence of the use; and
- work involving significant excavating or filling.

Both code and impact assessment applications can trigger referral.

Information to be submitted with an application triggering referral for ASS

SPP 2/02 details the appropriate technical information that should be submitted with the application. In summary, the type of information that should be submitted includes -

- confirmation whether or not ASS are absent from the areas to be disturbed as part of the development;
- if ASS are present, details of their specific location and amounts of potential and existing acidity; and
- specific details of the proposed management strategies to be implemented to avoid the release of acid and metal contaminants into the environment. These may include avoidance, neutralisation or strategic reburial.

NRW and the SPP 2/02 Guideline can provide further technical guidance on these matters.

Where to send an application if it requires referral

NRW have regional offices throughout coastal Queensland. The local government or NRW can advise the applicant of the appropriate NRW office to refer the application. Contact details for NRW offices can also be found on the IPA website at www.ipa.qld.gov.au.

Alternatively, the local government may, on behalf of the applicant and with the applicant's agreement, comply with (for a fee) the referral requirements under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997*.