

8.2 Overlay Codes

8.2.1 Acid sulfate soils overlay code^{1 2}

8.2.1.1 Application

- (1) 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)**.
- (2) All provisions in this code are assessment benchmarks for applicable assessable development.

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 metal contaminants from *acid sulfate soils* does not have adverse effects on the natural environment, built environment, *infrastructure* or human health.
- (2) The purpose of the Acid sulfate soils overlay code will be achieved through the following overall outcomes:-
 - (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 Performance outcomes and acceptable outcomes

Table 8.2.1.3.1 Performance outcomes and acceptable outcomes for assessable development

Performance Outcomes		Acceptable Outcomes	
<i>Avoidance and Management of ASS</i>			
PO1	Development:- (a) does not disturb ASS; or (b) is managed to avoid or minimise the release of acid and metal contaminants, where disturbance of ASS is unavoidable.	AO1.1	The disturbance of ASS is avoided by:- (a) undertaking an ASS investigation conforming to the <i>Queensland Sampling Guidelines</i> ³ and soil analysis according to the <i>Laboratory Methods Guidelines</i> ⁴ ; (b) not excavating or otherwise removing soil or sediment 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

¹ Editor's note—the Acid Sulfate Soils Overlay Maps in **Schedule 2 (Mapping)** identify the following areas potentially subject to *acid sulfate soils*:-

(a) Area 1 (land at or below 5 metres AHD); and
(b) Area 2 (land above 5 metres AHD and below 20 metres AHD).

² Editor's note—the **Planning scheme policy for the acid sulfate soils overlay code** provides advice and guidance for achieving certain outcomes of this code, including guidance for the preparation of an ASS investigation report and management plan.

³ 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.

⁴ Ahern CR, McEInea AE and Sullivan LA (2004). Acid Sulfate Soils Laboratory Guidelines. Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Indooroopilly.

Performance Outcomes		Acceptable Outcomes	
			<p>(ii) previously saturated ASS being aerated.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The disturbance of ASS avoids the release of acid and metal contaminants by:-</p> <p>(a) undertaking an <i>acid sulfate soils</i> investigation conforming to the <i>Queensland Sampling Guidelines</i> and soil analysis according to the <i>Laboratory Methods Guidelines</i> or Australian Standard 4969;</p> <p>(b) neutralising existing acidity and preventing the generation of acid and metal contaminants using strategies documented in the <i>Soil Management Guidelines</i>⁵; and</p> <p>(c) preventing the release of surface or groundwater flows containing acid and metal contaminants into the environment.</p>
		AO1.2	Where potential or actual ASS is identified, they are managed in accordance with an ASS management plan.

⁵ 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.