



# Finance Technical Guideline

## TG010 Acid Sulfate Soils

### 1 Purpose

This guide sets out Finance's requirements for managing acid sulfate soils. This guide should be circulated as appropriate to project managers and consultants.

### 2 Distribution of acid sulfate soils in Western Australia

Acid sulfate soils are widespread around coastal regions of WA and are also locally associated with freshwater wetlands and saline sulfate rich groundwater in some agricultural areas. In WA acid sulfate soils are likely to be found in, though not limited to, the following locations:

- peaty wetlands in the Perth metropolitan area such as Stirling, Gwelup, Bayswater and Ashfield
- estuarine, floodplain, damp land and seasonal wetland areas between Perth and Dunsborough, including the Peel-Harvey, Leschenault and the Vasse-Wonnerup estuarine systems
- tidal, intertidal and supratidal flats along the northwest coastline including the Pilbara and Kimberley regions
- Scott River on the Scott Coastal Plain
- Albany and Torbay on the south coast
- some parts of the Wheatbelt where secondary land salinisation has occurred

### 3 Managing acid sulfate soils

Project managers should ensure that sites have been assessed for the presence of acid sulfate soils. This check should occur prior to site selection. (Refer Appendix A).

An acid sulfate soils investigation should be carried out if any dewatering or drainage works (either temporary or permanent), or the excavation of 100 cubic metres or more of soil is proposed on land:

- depicted in Landgate's shared land information platform's WA atlas map viewer as being wholly or partially in an area of "high to moderate acid sulfate soils"; or

- where site characteristics or local knowledge indicate that there is a high to moderate risk of disturbing acid sulfate soils at this location.

The results of the acid sulfate soils investigation should be taken into account in the design of the project, and disturbance of acid sulfate soils should be avoided wherever practicable.

## 4 References and further information

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation *Acid Sulfate Soils*, including:

- *Acid sulfate soils in WA*
- *ASS risk maps*
- *ASS guidelines*, including:
  - *Identification and investigation of acid sulfate soils and acidic landscapes* (Revised June 2015)
  - *Treatment and management of soils and water in acid sulfate soil landscapes* (Revised June 2015)

<https://www.der.wa.gov.au/your-environment/acid-sulfate-soils>

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation December 2014 *Assessment and Management of Contaminated Sites* <http://www.der.wa.gov.au/your-environment/contaminated-sites/61-contaminated-sites-guidelines>

Western Australian Planning Commission, 2008 *Acid Sulfate Soils Planning Guidelines* [http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/dop\\_pub\\_pdf/acid\\_sulfate\\_soils\\_planning\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/dop_pub_pdf/acid_sulfate_soils_planning_guidelines.pdf)

## 5 Document Control

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## 6 Document Approval

This guideline was endorsed and approved for use on 6 July 2021 by:

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## Appendix A: Acid Sulfate Soil Assessment Process

