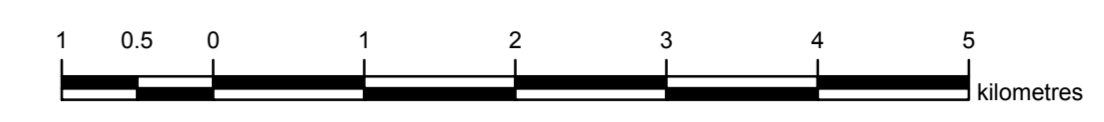


# ACID SULFATE SOILS BAJOOL - PORT ALMA AREA

Scale 1:50 000



Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator (MGA Zone 58)  
Horizontal Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia (GDA94)  
Note: This map is GDA compliant

## REFERENCE

### ACID SULFATE SOILS (ASS)<sup>1</sup> ON RELATIVELY UNDISTURBED LAND

Depth	Depth Code	Depth to Actual Acid Sulfate Soil <sup>2</sup> (pH ≤4.0)	Depth to Strongly Acidic Soil layer <sup>2</sup> (pH >4.0 to ≤5.0)	Depth to Potential Acid Sulfate Soil <sup>2</sup>
0 - 0.5m	0	A0	a0	S0
0.5 - 1m	1	A1	a1	S1
1 - 2m	2	A2	a2	S2
2 - 3m	3	A3	a3	S3
3 - 4m	4	A4	a4	S4
4 - 5m	5	A5	a5	S5
>5m	5+	A5+	a5+	S5+

**NOTE:** ♦ The depth codes above imply that a predominance of profiles in the map unit fall within the nominated depth range.

♦ Actual acid sulfate soil layers (designated with an A code) often overlie potential acid sulfate soil layers (designated with an S code). Where this occurs e.g. A0S2 the map unit is coloured according to the depth of the upper surface of the 'actual' layer (A0) and overlaid with yellow dots. An 'a' preceding the soil depth code indicates a strong acid soil layer with field pH ranging from > 4.0 to ≤ 5.0. This may or may not be a result of sulfide oxidation. While 'a' depth code is shown on the map, no colour is assigned to it.

♦ In areas where there is varying depth to an ASS layer that cannot be separately mapped at the operative scale, a forward slash is used e.g. S1/S2. The areas are coloured according to the shallowest depth of the occurrence.

♦ Subscript N indicates areas with oxidisable sulfur values that exceed the action criteria<sup>4</sup> but contain varying amounts of carbonate materials that may compensate for the potential acidity. Commonly the carbonate materials are naturally occurring shell fragments, coral fragments or Foraminifera. Depth codes are as above e.g. a potential acid sulfate soil (rich in carbonate) occurring at 1 to 2m depth is designated S2<sub>N</sub>.

**S<sub>LA</sub>** Limited field assessment but occurs in a landscape position where there is a reasonable probability of ASS occurrence. This is usually land where the present use precludes any disturbance e.g. National Parks, Reserves etc., or land where accessibility is severely restricted.

### ACID SULFATE ON DISTURBED LAND

**S<sub>DL</sub>** Disturbed land, e.g. Saltworks, Reclaimed Land, Marina, Aquaculture, Quarry, Urban, Industrial likely to contain ASS (in some cases partial or full treatment may have been undertaken). Limited field investigation.

### LAND WITH A LOW PROBABILITY OF ACID SULFATE SOIL OCCURRENCE

**LP** Land predominately below 5m AHD<sup>5</sup> with low probability of ASS occurrence. Limited field investigation.

### LAND NOT ASSESSED

**NA** Land not assessed for sulfidic materials as part of this survey.



<sup>1</sup> Acid sulfate soil is the generic term used to define soils derived from estuarine sediments containing iron sulfides (pyrite) or containing the acidic products of the oxidation of sulfides. The term includes actual and potential acid sulfate soils. Unless used with the superscript P, the code 'S' implies sulfidic sediments of Holocene age. The superscript F implies sediments of Pleistocene age<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> An 'A' preceding the soil depth code indicates the probable depth to an Actual Acid Sulfate Soil (AASS)<sup>3</sup> layer or horizon which has mobile acidity in the form of ionic hydrogen, aluminium, iron or acid salts. AASS are soils where yellow jarosite mottles occur and/or a field pH of ≤ 4.0 exists and/or the existing acidity exceeds the 'Action Criteria'. Extensive areas with high actual acidity derived from sulfide oxidation may constitute significant environmental hazard. An 'a' preceding the depth code indicates the probable depth to a soil layer or horizon with field pH ranging from >4.0 to ≤ 5.0. This may or may not be a result of sulfide oxidation as some soils with high organic matter may have low pH from organic acids. Further analysis for existing acidity is usually required to determine if the 'Action Criteria' is exceeded.

<sup>3</sup> An 'S' preceding the soil depth code indicates the probable depth to a Potential Acid Sulfate Soil (PASS)<sup>3</sup> layer or horizon. PASS are soils where the oxidisable sulfur percentage or titratable sulfidic acidity or net acidity exceeds the prescribed 'Action Criteria' in note 4. Testing for oxidisable sulfur is conducted by the Chromium Reducible Sulfur (S<sub>CR</sub>) method or the Suspension Peroxide Oxidation Combined Acidity and Sulfur (SPOCAS) method.

<sup>4</sup> Net acidity or oxidisable sulfur 'Action Criteria' that trigger treatment are currently: Sands, 18 mol H<sup>+</sup>/t (0.03 %S); Loams to light clays, 36 mol H<sup>+</sup>/t (0.06 %S); Medium to heavy clays, 62 mol H<sup>+</sup>/t (0.1 %S). When deciding whether treatment is required net acidity should be calculated as defined in the Acid Sulfate Soils Laboratory Methods Guidelines (Ahern et al 2004) and compared to the Action Criteria above. NOTE: for disturbances > 1000 tonnes, the action criteria is 18 mol H<sup>+</sup>/t (0.03 %S) regardless of soil texture.

<sup>5</sup> The reliability of elevation data is variable across the study area. AHD refers to Australian Height Datum.

<sup>6</sup> The primary focus of ASS investigation in this study are the sulfidic sediments that were deposited in the Holocene epoch, that is, during the last 10 000 years. Experience in coastal stratigraphic mapping shows that similar, but much older sulfidic sediments of Pleistocene age can occur, still in a reduced (anaerobic) state, being buried under either cemented sands or old, consolidated alluvium. They are far less common than the Holocene equivalents, and have been found beneath land whose surface is both above and below 5m AHD. Generally, Pleistocene sediments will be found at greater depths below the surface than equivalent Holocene sediments.

<sup>7</sup> The distinction between AASS and PASS is rarely clear and that it is not uncommon for a soil layer or horizon to contain both AASS and PASS. Likewise the severity of AASS or PASS can vary in their distribution vertically or spatially. Mapping codes reflect the dominant category based on this sampling. In most cases detailed sampling and analysis is usually required under the State Planning Policy 2/02 'Planning and Managing Development Involving Acid Sulfate Soils'.

NOTE: This map should be read in conjunction with the accompanying report for this area.

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