



## Protection from flood and storm tide inundation

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# Contents

Introduction .....	1
» Purpose of the guideline.....	1
Background .....	2
» Draft State Planning Policy .....	2
» State Development Assessment Provisions.....	3
» Habitable floor levels.....	3
MEDQ position .....	5



# Introduction

## Purpose of the guideline

This guideline outlines the Minister for Economic Development Queensland (MEDQ) standards for protection of development from flooding and storm tide inundation in Priority Development Areas (PDAs) in Queensland.

This guideline should be read in conjunction with the provisions of PDA development schemes and interim land use plans (ILUPs). A development scheme or ILUP may specify a different standard.



# Background

## State Planning Policy

State interest - natural hazards

The Queensland Government's position in protecting people, property, economic activity, social well being and the environment from the adverse impacts of flooding and coastal hazards is set out in the State Planning Policy (SPP) released in December 2013.

Flooding and storm tide inundation are addressed in the draft SPP under State interests - natural hazards when making or amending a local planning instrument and local government development assessment provisions. The SPP sets out mandatory requirements for flooding hazard and coastal hazard.

## Habitable floor levels

The Queensland Urban Drainage Manual (Table 7.03.1) requires freeboard of not less than 300mm below the finished floor level (FFL) of adjoining properties when designing major drainage infrastructure.



## MEDQ position

The MEDQ adopts the Queensland Government's policy position set out in the SPP and SPP guidance material in relation to flooding and storm tide inundation.

The following tables set out the MEDQ's standards to ensure development is adequately protected from flood and storm tide inundation.

Table 1: MEDQ standards for flood protection

	MEDQ standards	
Defined Flood Event (DFE)	1. The DFE adopted <sup>5</sup> by the relevant Council for the area <sup>6</sup> , or	
	2. Where 1 is not available, the DFE adopted by the Council for a similar area, or	<p>⊘ For options 2 and 3 the DFE will be identified through a flood study undertaken by an appropriately qualified professional engineer in accordance with the preferred methodology set out in the Draft SPP mandatory requirements: flooding hazard.</p>
	3. Where 2 is not available, the 1% AEP flood.	
Habitable floor level (or 'freeboard')	1. The habitable floor level or freeboard adopted by the relevant Council for the area, or	
	2. Where 1 is not available, the habitable floor level or freeboard adopted by the Council for a similar area, or	
	3. Where 2 is not available, 300 mm above the DFE adopted for the area.	
Development assessment criteria	1. Where the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning has endorsed the Council planning scheme as adequately reflecting the SPP, the relevant provisions in the planning scheme, or	
	2. Where the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning has not endorsed the Council planning scheme as adequately reflecting the SPP, the performance criteria set out in the Draft SPP mandatory requirements: flooding hazard section 4, and, for the specified community infrastructure, the recommended flood levels in Table 1 of the Draft SPP mandatory requirements: flooding hazard.	

<sup>5</sup> Adopted means adopted by a resolution of Council or by incorporation in a planning scheme.

<sup>6</sup> For the purposes of this guideline 'area' means all or part of a PDA.

Table 2: MEDQ standards for storm tide protection

	MEDQ standards
Storm tide inundation area	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The storm tide inundation area adopted by the relevant Council, or</li> <li>2. Where 1 is not available, the storm tide inundation area identified through a coastal hazard risk assessment undertaken by an appropriately qualified professional engineer in accordance with the preferred methodology set out in the Coastal hazard technical guide, or</li> <li>3. Where 2 is not available the relevant default defined storm tide event level set out in the Coastal hazards technical guide.</li> </ol>
Habitable floor level (or 'freeboard')	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The habitable floor level or freeboard adopted by the relevant Council for the area, or</li> <li>2. Where 1 is not available, 300 mm above the storm tide inundation level.</li> </ol>
Development assessment criteria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Where the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning has endorsed the Council planning scheme as adequately reflecting SPP, the relevant provisions in the planning scheme, or</li> <li>2. Where the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning has not endorsed the Council planning scheme as adequately reflecting SPP (once adopted), the relevant parts of the Draft SPP mandatory requirements: coastal hazard.</li> </ol>





For more information contact us on:  
Economic Development Queensland  
GPO Box 2202 Brisbane Qld 4001  
Telephone: (07) 3452 7880  
Email: [edq@dilgp.qld.gov.au](mailto:edq@dilgp.qld.gov.au)  
Web: [www.edq.qld.gov.au](http://www.edq.qld.gov.au)