

## State Planning Policy 1/03:

### *Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Flood, Bushfire and Landslide*

## Frequently Asked Questions FLOOD & FLOOD – STORM TIDE ISSUES

ISSUE	QUESTION	RESPONSE
<b>Flood Issues</b>	<b>What factors need to be considered when deciding on an appropriate Defined Flood Event (DFE) for determining a natural hazard management area (flood)?</b>	<p>The key factors that should be considered are outlined in Appendix 2 to the SPP Guideline as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “potential economic and social impacts of a range of flood events;</li><li>• community desires and expectations;</li><li>• environmental values of and objectives for the floodplain;</li><li>• consistency with adopted DFEs in adjoining;</li><li>• localities (whether or not within the same local government area);</li><li>• emergency response requirements e.g. warning times, refuges, evacuation routes, recovery measures; and</li><li>• management and mitigation measures”.</li></ul> <p>However, the SPP recognises that a simpler approach may be appropriate in certain circumstances. Therefore Appendix 2 also sets out a number of floodplain management planning alternatives that may be more suitable for low rate-base local governments with a low population growth rate.</p> <p>It should be noted that local governments may decide to adopt different DFEs for different parts of the local government area depending on the characteristics of particular localities.</p>
<b>Flood Issues</b>	<b>Who is responsible for reviewing flood studies?</b>	<p>Local governments (and their consultants) have the primary responsibility for ensuring that flood studies are conducted to an acceptable standard.</p> <p>The Department of Natural Resources and Mines (NR&amp;M) is the State Government’s lead agency for flooding, and can provide technical advice on flooding and floodplain management study issues. DES is responsible for the implementation of the SPP. As part of the implementation of the SPP, it is proposed that NR&amp;M and DES in conjunction will assess flood studies for completeness and accuracy and whether the conclusions of the study are adequately reflected in the planning scheme strategies and measures (e.g. that the proposed DFE is appropriate).</p>

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<b>Flood Issues</b>	<b>Why doesn't the SPP cover dam break?</b>	<p>Dam break is a high consequence, low probability event. The generally accepted approach worldwide is that it is regarded as a residual risk (i.e. a risk that a community is prepared to accept and manage through safety audits of dam structures, evacuation and counter disaster planning rather than through land use planning).</p> <p>Under the Water Act 2000, an owner of a referable dam may be required to provide information about the dam's safety to decide licence conditions. The DNRM includes linkages between referable dam emergency plans and local counter disaster plans as a condition of approval under the dam safety provisions of the Water Act 2000.</p>
<b>Flood Issues – Storm Tide</b>	<b>Why doesn't the SPP address storm tide inundation, and how is this hazard being addressed?</b>	<p>Storm tide is a coastal hazard and is addressed under the State Coastal Management Plan (State Coastal Plan) along with other coastal hazards, including coastal erosion. To avoid duplication and potential conflict, it was decided that the SPP should not attempt to address storm tide, except that the SPP requires the cumulative flood impacts of storm tide inundation to be considered when determining the extent and severity of flood hazard under the SPP.</p> <p>The State Coastal Plan describes how the coastal zone of Queensland is to be managed and addresses coastal management issues. Storm tides are a component of physical coastal processes and they have a number of impacts on foreshores and low-lying coastal areas including inundation and erosion.</p> <p>The State Coastal Plan establishes the statewide policy direction for storm tide inundation. Regional coastal management plans will identify the regional context in relation to storm tide inundation and where regional information is available may identify areas at risk and specific regional measures to address the risks.</p> <p>The EPA is currently developing Guidelines for storm tide hazard that will be consistent with the SPP. In this way, the approach to dealing with storm tide inundation in planning schemes and through the development assessment process will be consistent with the approach to rainfall flooding in the SPP.</p>

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<p><b>Flood Issues – Storm Tide</b></p>	<p><b>How should the impact of storm tide inundation be incorporated into a flood study?</b></p>	<p>Storm tide inundation may be addressed in a flood study in a number of ways, depending on the topography and dominant type of flooding. Where the dominant type of flooding is as a result of rainfall runoff, the effect of storm tides is the same as that of tides generally, i.e. they reduce the rate at which flows can discharge to the sea. This results in raised flood levels for the area of the floodplain within the tidal influence.</p> <p>Where storm surge is the dominant flooding mechanism (i.e. very low lying coastal areas), the “flood study” should become a “storm surge study” and EPA – Beach Protection needs to be consulted/involved.</p> <p>It should be noted that there may be instances where both forms of flooding are significant. Therefore it should be the aim of the “flood study” to determine the extent of each so that management measures can be developed that address the whole flooding problem.</p>