

State Planning Policy 1/03:

Mitigating the Adverse Impacts of Flood, Bushfire and Landslide

Frequently Asked Questions

NATURAL HAZARD MANAGEMENT AREAS

ISSUE	QUESTION	RESPONSE
Natural Hazard Management Areas	Why doesn't the SPP include a default natural hazard management for flood?	<p>Unlike the situation for bushfire and landslide, it has not been possible to identify a workable default natural hazard management area for flood because there is a lack of reliable State -wide data on flooding. Also the flood studies that are required to generate reliable flood data can be resource intensive for local governments. In the absence of reliable flood data it is not feasible to mandate a specific level of flood immunity that would be equally applicable to all parts of the State.</p> <p>For these reasons the SPP states that: "... the appropriate flood event for determining a natural hazard management area (flood) is the 1% annual exceedance probability (AEP) flood". However, the SPP retains the flexibility for local governments to adopt a different Defined Flood Event (DFE) depending on the circumstances of individual localities. Local governments proposing to adopt a lower DFE than 1% AEP will be required to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Departments of Emergency Services and Natural Resources & Mines that the proposed DFE is appropriate to the circumstances of the locality.</p>
Natural Hazard Management Areas	What level of detail is required in the natural hazard management area maps?	<p>The natural hazard management areas are the principal mechanism for triggering the development assessment aspects of the SPP and/or planning scheme. Therefore, the NHMA overlay maps will need to clearly identify whether individual sites are affected. The detail of mapping should be related to the accuracy of the natural hazard assessment study results or other data relied on to determine the NHMA (e.g. historical flood data). It may be appropriate to include a disclaimer on NHMA maps that the NHMA is not the predicted extent of the particular hazard but an area within which the hazard potential needs to be considered. Therefore, the disclaimer could also state that the areas identified on the map are not necessarily the full extent of areas prone to the natural hazard.</p> <p>Also, it will be necessary to identify High and Medium bushfire risk areas on an NHMA (bushfire) map, and the flood level(s) applicable to all properties within an NHMA (flood). This information is essential to the achievement of some of the Specific Outcomes and associated Solutions set out in Appendix 5 to the SPP Guideline.</p>