



THE ADMINISTRATION OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Soil classification and standards for underground water tanks in Norfolk Island

The Administration of Norfolk Island has formally adopted a set of soil classifications identified by Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) in a study conducted in 2005. That study recommended that the whole of Norfolk Island (apart from the flat ground at Kingston) should be classified as “Class H” soils, which are defined in Australian Standard *AS 2870-1996 Residential slabs and footings - construction* as being highly reactive. The PB study also recommended that the flat ground at Kingston should be classified as either “Class S” or “Class M” soils, which are slightly or moderately reactive.

The adoption of these classifications provides a definite standard for the design of footings on Norfolk Island. Deemed-to-comply engineer designed standards for proposed buildings situated on Class H soils are contained in AS 2870-1996.

AS 2870-1996 also allows for the use of other locally-proved materials or methods of design not referred to in the Standard but which are in accordance with engineering principles. When it comes to extensions and additions to existing buildings, footings of similar proportions and details to those used in the original building can be used, provided the performance of the original building has been satisfactory and there are no unusual moisture conditions.

The Administration’s Health, Building & Quarantine Office holds a copy of Australian Standard AS 2870-1996, which contains approved engineering designs for footings suitable for Norfolk Island soils. That Office also holds engineer approved designs for underground tanks. Persons wishing to enquire about material and design requirements should contact the Health, Building & Quarantine office on telephone 22609, fax (23609) or email building@admin.gov.nf

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