Council Policy

EXT 009: GEOTECHNICAL TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR STRUCTURES

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Objective

To determine the geotechnical suitability of a site for a building or structure.

Policy

Geotechnical Testing Requirements for Structures

A geotechnical in-situ assessment of the site for all classes of buildings must be undertaken (except class 10) prior to lodgement of a building application with the Shire of Esperance. At the discretion of the certifying Building Surveyor, this requirement may be waived for residential building additions if the site has previously had a geotechnical report and the additions are no greater than 50 square metres in area.

A geotechnical assessment of the site for a class 10 building may be required in circumstances where the size, location or site conditions necessitate.

Part A – Site Investigations

Testing shall be carried out in accordance with the current relevant Australian Standards, including, but not limited to:

- AS 1289 – Method of Testing Soils for Engineering Purposes; and
- AS 1726 – Geotechnical Site Investigations.

Testing shall be undertaken by a competent and suitably experienced person and test results shall be certified by a Qualified Engineer experienced in geotechnical investigations. Certified test results shall be submitted to the Shire of Esperance as supporting information accompanying any building application for which this policy applies.

It is the responsibility of the certifying Qualified Engineer to ensure site investigations, testing methods and procedures are carried out correctly and that test results adequately reflect site conditions.

Part B – Structural Design & Certification

Structural designs of slabs and footings for all buildings covered by this policy shall be undertaken with regard to the results of geotechnical/site investigation report required under Part A of this policy. To this end, slabs and footings shall be designed and certified by a Qualified Civil or Structural Engineer as being suitable for the site classification.

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