



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

Reference Specifications

The standard drawings must be read in conjunction with the relevant reference specifications. The Reference Specifications for Civil Engineering Work define default technical provisions acceptable to Brisbane City Council. These provisions are included but are not limited to the following elements: Material properties; Work execution standards, Compliance criteria, Construction tolerances, and Quality control testing.

Poor Subgrade

In the context of this document, subgrade is defined as the prepared formation on which a pavement or slab is constructed or the top portion of earthworks immediately below the pavement or slab. Subgrade is considered to be the top 150 mm in cuttings and the top 300 mm in embankment unless stated otherwise.

Treat fill subgrade as "poor" unless testing certificates are provided to demonstrate that fill materials have been compacted to achieve a minimum 95% standard relative compaction. The subgrade is considered "poor" if subject to one or more of the following conditions:

- Soaked CBR less than 5.
- Clays or silts with liquid limit >90 or plasticity index >60.
- Allowable bearing pressure <75 kPa.

Rule of thumb field identification of "poor" subgrade. Conduct tests on freshly exposed or excavated surfaces, ie prior to drying out.

Material

Slow draining cohesive materials (silts, clays, sandy clays) - soft subgrade

Free draining non-cohesive materials (gravels and clean sands) - loose subgrade

Fine grained soils having high plasticity

Field identification

- Easily penetrated with thumb
- Moulded with strong pressure
- Faint heel marks
- Geologist's pick can be pushed in 30 or 40 mm (sharp end)
- Easily penetrated with 12 mm bar pushed by hand
- Small resistance to shovelling
- Can be readily rolled into threads when moist
- Greasy to the touch
- Show considerable shrinkage on drying
- Highly compressible soils