

Professional Short Course

National Acid Sulfate Soils Guidance – identification and assessment

Draft Course Program

Thursday 28 May, 2026

Introduction to acid sulfate soils and sampling: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

9:00 to 9:15	Welcome and introductions	Graham Lancaster EAL, SCU
9:15 to 10:10	Introduction to acid sulfate soils	Dr Nick Ward EAL, SCU
10:10 to 10:50	Introduction to National acid sulfate soil guidance	Graham Lancaster EAL, SCU
10:50 to 11:10	Morning tea	
11:10 to 11:40	When do sites need to be investigated for acid sulfate soils?/Desktop assessment	Graham Lancaster EAL, SCU
11:40 to 12:25	Field assessment and sampling	Dr Nick Ward EAL, SCU
12:25 to 12:50	Describing acid sulfate soil field properties – land and soil	Dr John Grant FSE, SCU
12:50 to 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 to 17:00	Field trip (Minjungbal Nature Reserve and McLeods Creek)	Dr John Grant FSE, SCU

Friday 29 May, 2026

Assessment and management of acid sulfate soils: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

9:00 to 9:15	Welcome and introductions	Graham Lancaster EAL, SCU
9:15 to 10:15	Introduction to laboratory assessment of acid sulfate soils	Dr Nick Ward EAL, SCU
10:15 to 10:25	Short break	
10:25 to 10:55	Introduction to laboratory assessment of acid sulfate soils (continued)	Dr Nick Ward EAL, SCU
10:55 to 11:15	Morning tea	
11:15 to 11:45	Interpretation and analysis of laboratory and field results (case studies)	Graham Lancaster EAL, SCU
11:45 to 12:45	Interpretation and analysis of laboratory and field results (practical exercise)	Dr Nick Ward EAL, SCU
12:45 to 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 to 14:20	Interpretation and analysis of laboratory and field results (practical exercise continued)	Dr Nick Ward EAL, SCU
14:20 to 14:30	Short break	
14:30 to 15:10	Interpretation and analysis of laboratory and field results (practical exercise continued)	Dr Nick Ward EAL, SCU
15:10 to 15:25	Afternoon tea	
15:25 to 16:00	Acid sulfate soil management and the latest Queensland guidelines	TBA Qld Government
16:00 to 16:10	Short break	
16:10 to 16:50	Acid sulfate soil management and the latest Queensland guidelines (continued)	TBA Qld Government
16:50 to 17:00	Conclusion	Graham Lancaster EAL, SCU

Professional Short Course

National Acid Sulfate Soils Guidance – identification and assessment

Draft Field Trip Itinerary

Thursday 28 May, 2026

Introduction to acid sulfate soils and sampling: 13:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Time	Location	
13:30	Southern Cross University, Bilinga	Depart venue
13:40	Minjungbal Aboriginal Cultural Centre, Tweed Heads	Dr John Grant Overview of the Minjungbal Nature Reserve soils
14:15		Depart
14:25	Caltex Service Station, Chinderah	Toilet break
14:40		Depart
14:45	Robert Quirk's Sugar Cane Farm, McLeods Creek, Duranbah	Robert Quirk, Dr John Grant, Graham Lancaster & Troy Shepherd Site introduction Field assessment and sampling including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of field indicators (plant, soil and water), • appropriate sampling regimes, • sampling equipment, • soil sampling techniques and how to transport samples, and • the field peroxide test. Monosulfidic Black Ooze (MBO)
16:40		Depart
17:00	Southern Cross University, Bilinga	Arrive back at venue