SOIL CLASSIFICATION

Source: "Building Code of Australia 1996 – Volume Two"

Explanatory information:

Table 3.2.4.1
GENERAL DEFINITION OF SITE CLASSES

Class	Foundation
A	Most sand and rock sites with little or no ground movement from moisture changes
S	Slightly reactive clay sites with only slight ground movement from moisture changes
M	Moderately reactive clay or silt sites which can experience moderate ground movement from moisture changes
H	Highly reactive clay sites which can experience high ground movement from moisture
E	Extremely reactive clay sites which can experience extreme ground movement from moisture changes
A to P	Filled sites – see AS 2870
P	Sites which include soft soils, such as soft clay or silt or loose sands; landslip; mine subsidence; collapsing soils; subject to erosion reactive sites subject to abnormal moisture conditions or sites which cannot be classified otherwise

Note: For classes M, H & E further division based on the depth of the expected movement is required. For deep-seated movements, characteristic of dry climates and corresponding to a design depth of suction change H_S, equal to or greater them 3 m, the classification shall be M-D, H-D or E-D as appropriate. For example, H-D represents a highly reactive site with deep moisture changes, and H represents a highly reactive site with shallow moisture changes.