



ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE ASSESSMENTS



Several large scale epidemiological studies have shown that excessive noise can lead to increased annoyance, sleep disturbance and other health impacts (both short and long term).

Noise Policy Section, (EPA) NSW

Environmental noise is unwanted external sound and vibration coming from a variety of sources including industry, road and rail, construction and aircraft, and generally refers to unwanted or unpleasant sound. Too much noise can cause annoyance, stress, disturb sleep, disrupt simple day-to-day activities and, in the longer term, may cause adverse health effects.

The impact environmental noise has on people depends on the noise level, the noise characteristics and how it is perceived by the person effected by it. The impact of noise on an individual can be wide.

Analytical procedures have been developed to describe, measure and predict noise levels for proposed and existing projects.

When are Environmental Noise Assessments Required?

In Victoria the Government sets out its policies to control and reduce environmental pollution through State Environmental Protection Policies (SEPPs). The policies that relate to noise include:

- State Environmental Protection Policy (Control of Noise from Industry, Commerce and Trade) No. N-1 (SEPP N-1) and
- Statement Environmental Protection Policy (Control of Music Noise from Public Premises) No. N-2 (SEPP N-2).

SEPP N1 prescribes noise limits for commercial, industrial and trade and provides details on noise measurement procedures, including the measurement of background levels and adjustments to effective noise levels. SEPP N2 prescribes noise limits for music from indoor and outdoor venues, and typically applies to Restaurants, Bars and Music Venues.

Key Messages

- ▶ Environmental noise is unwanted sound caused by external sources.
- ▶ There are many health effects caused by noise exposure.
- ▶ Relevant legislation + regulations require companies to assess exposure + control the risk of noise.



Did you know?

▶ There is now sufficient evidence that community noise may pose a general public health risk

▶ A causal relation has been established between exposure to night noise and a health effect

▶ Noise pollution is considered not only an environmental nuisance but also a threat to public health

▶ The total burden of health effects from environmental noise would be greater than one million years in western Europe

World Health Organisation (WHO)
2009-2011

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Notably, the EPA Victoria and Department of Environment and Primary Industries have commenced a review of both SEPP N-1 and SEPP N-2. The process is likely to take a number of years, however it has already included a period of consultation with the public, industry stakeholders and acoustic consultants (including JTA Health Safety & Noise Specialists).

How JTA Noise Can Help

Environmental Noise Assessments conducted by JTA Noise are in line with the requirements of the relevant standards and policies and our assessments will:

- Identify noise issues and sources
- Measure the level of noise
- Assess the likely effect of the noise level
- Provide recommendations to assist with the compliance of relevant legislation and regulations, including keeping up-to-date with any changes that may affect our clients.

As recognised specialists in the area of noise and acoustics, we have vast experience in identifying, quantifying and controlling environmental noise from industrial and commercial sites, traffic, music, entertainment as well as noise in residential dwellings.

Our team of environmental noise assessment specialists will conduct an environmental noise assessment to ensure that you meet your responsibilities under relevant environmental noise legislation and regulations.

JTA can assist you in finding solutions to your noise issues including acoustic advice to help deal with existing problems and sound prediction modelling at the design stage to minimise your noise issues once your new building is complete.

Noise is unwanted sound and it's everywhere around us – where we live, work and play. JTA Noise (formerly known as Noise Management Services) is an expert in dealing with noise control and noise mitigation whether it's from occupational or environmental sources. We'll identify and measure noise sources to assess if you need to take action, determine what's causing the noise and then focus on how to reduce or eliminate the noise to healthy and acceptable levels.

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