



Noise Regulatory Framework vs. Industry Best Practice: A Gap Analysis in a Western Australian Context

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ABSTRACT

Existing environmental noise regulatory frameworks are critical in providing the statutory basis for environmental noise assessments. However, advancements in the scientific understanding of noise impacts, along with the development of updated international standards, have revealed growing gaps between local regulations and broader industry best practice. These discrepancies create challenges in delivering outcomes that effectively address complex noise issues and meet evolving stakeholder expectations.

This paper examines key areas where local policies diverge from best practice within a Western Australian context. Drawing on recent project experience across multiple sectors, it highlights how these misalignments can lead to regulatory uncertainty, stakeholder dissatisfaction, and missed opportunities for more scientifically robust noise impact assessment and mitigation outcomes.

The paper also presents practical strategies to navigate these misalignments and help close the gap, supporting not only statutory compliance, but also the achievement of positive environmental and community outcomes.