

New Part 2 of the Noise Guide for Local Government

The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) is currently revising the Noise Guide for Local Government and releasing individual Parts on a progressive basis. A new Part 4 on “Regulating Noise Impacts” was posted to the “noise” page of the DECCW website in March 2009.

A new Part 2 – “Noise Assessment” has now been released. This Part provides guidance on how to assess noise impacts and includes advice on how to measure noise levels.

The revised Part 2:

- Explains the three tests associated with noise pollution, the audibility test, the duration of noise test and the offensive noise test,
- Gives more advice about conducting the offensive noise test and gives examples of offensive noise,
- Provides a clearer explanation of intrusive noise and the difference between intrusive and offensive noise,
- Indicates how noise levels can be defined for Noise Control Notices and Prevention Notices,
- Describes in greater detail both the techniques and the traps in measuring noise and the correct sequence of steps for measurements in the field,
- Gives advice on the use and suitability of specific noise descriptors with an associated case study for illustration.

This Part outlines basic noise assessment principles for officers with little noise experience as well as providing a refresher for more experienced officers who deal with noise issues only occasionally. It is designed to assist officers conducting noise assessments to discharge their responsibilities under the POEO Act and Noise Control Regulation.

The new Part 2 can be downloaded from the DECCW website at <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/noise/nglg.htm> and inserted into the 4 post binder of the Noise Guide for Local Government to replace the out of date pages. Part 4 has been updated again to note the change in the department’s name and you may wish to download this as well.

Any questions about the Guide may be directed to Roger Treagus at DECCW on (02) 9995-5784