

# Seeking professional advice on acoustics



## Fact Sheet

If there is any risk of your business impacting your surroundings with noise, you should seek advice from an acoustics consultant to support your planning permit application.

The nature of the acoustic advice will depend on many factors, including:

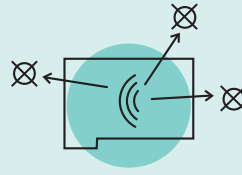
- the scale of the proposal
- access to your proposed site and surrounds to carry out surveys
- the proximity of neighbours or nearby businesses
- proposed hours of operation
- risk of impacts
- whether the proposal is well defined



While each application is different, you can expect an acoustic consultant to carry out the following works and processes to support your application:

1.

Identify sensitive receivers proximate your site



2.

Inspect the site to measure existing background and ambient noise



3.

Determine the appropriate noise limits



4.

Review your proposal to understand the types and levels of noise to be emitted



5.

Model and calculate the likely noise impacts from your site



6.

Provide recommendations to control the noise emissions from your site



The acoustic consultant will use varying tools depending on the specific issue, but may include:

- Handheld sound level meters or vibration analysers so that direct observations can be made
- Continuously recording noise or vibration loggers, so that long-term statistical measurements can be made over a number of days
- Specialised computer software and modelling packages

It is important to understand that the assumptions, recommendations or evidence within the acoustic report need to be consistent with your planning application proposal and plans. Recommendations within an acoustic report can generally be taken to mean requirements for a proposal to meet the relevant noise limits. Therefore, application plans and/or permit conditions need to capture these requirements before an application can be approved or endorsed. Certain permit conditions may require acoustic testing to be carried out before or after the commencement of the permitted use to verify compliance.



**To find a qualified acoustic consultant, visit:**

Association of Australasian Acoustical Consultants - [aaac.org.au/vic](http://aaac.org.au/vic)

Australian Acoustical Society - [acoustics.org.au/membership/find-a-member](http://acoustics.org.au/membership/find-a-member)