

# **ANATOMY OF A GOVERNMENT POLICY - THE MAKING OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES INDUSTRIAL NOISE POLICY**

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The development of this policy is traced from its beginnings as a need expressed by the community through to government endorsement as an official State policy. Early scoping processes are described focusing on a list of stakeholder needs including the need to account for background noise, cumulative impacts, land use planning principles, dose-response relationships, meteorological effects and the need for regulatory certainty and transparency.

Each step of the development is described with reasons for its inclusion. These include the overall philosophy of the policy approach, the background noise surveys, consultation processes, research and literature reviews, the philosophy of setting community protection levels, the approach to establishing criteria, the mechanism for compliance and enforcement and the State regulatory structure as a context to this work.

Particular features of the policy were in its guidelines on negotiation with a defined role for the interested parties and the policy's ability to be flexible, to respond to site specific conditions and to produce achievable noise limits. Giving legal backing to the policy is the licensing process which is also described.

A major new part of policy making described is the defined assessment of the effects of temperature inversion and downwind propagation on noise levels and how this forms a part of the criteria setting process.

The policy's performance since its release in January 2000 is reviewed with an analysis of its success to date.

## **Biography**

Until recently Roger was a senior environmental noise regulator with the New South Wales (Australia) EPA for over 10 years. The New South Wales (NSW) EPA has wide ranging powers to regulate industry, transportation and government activities and delegates powers to Municipal Governments to control community noise including vehicles. During Roger's time with the EPA he was able to gain State Government endorsement for State wide policies setting criteria on industrial noise, road traffic noise, vibration and community related noise. Preparations are currently well advanced for new policies on construction noise and rail noise.

Roger mounted many educational and training programs on the implementation of these policies both with practitioners, with enforcement agencies and the public including seminars, courses and training films. Over the years Roger has provided governments with wide ranging advice including such noise issues as politically sensitive concerts and motor cycles noise impacts to forensic evidence for police prosecutors in cases before criminal courts.

Prior to his time in the EPA Roger was a senior environmental specialist with the Australian Federal Airports Corporation with the task of analysing the environmental impacts (including the noise impacts) of airport development in Sydney including a new international airport and acting as the public face of the airport study to potentially affected communities.

Roger has also worked on validation of the Environmental Noise Model and the assessment of noise impacts from high speed rail.

A many and varied career has now brought Roger to Golder Associates in Calgary where he is a Senior technical Specialist mainly related to noise issues.