

## SELECTION OF AN ACOUSTIC CONSULTANT

### 1. How do I find an acoustic consultant, and how do I know they are appropriate?

A quick look on Google or in the Yellow Pages would show that there are dozens of listed "acoustic consultants". Many are, in fact, not acoustic consultants but suppliers of materials or contractors.

Acoustic consulting is not like architectural, accounting or medical consulting where there is a requirement for registration to practice to ensure that non-qualified people cannot practice. Hence there is a great need for potential clients to be especially careful in their selection process.

The AAAC is a body which establishes the competency of acoustic consultants.

### 2. Why choose an AAAC accredited acoustic consultant?

Members of the Association of Australian Acoustical Consultants (AAAC) are the consulting firms to choose for your project because of their:

- Being the recognised professional association for the industry
- Commitment to and upholding the AAAC Code of Ethics
- Up-to-date on existing technology and state of the art practices
- Requiring members to work only within their nominated areas of competence
- Requires all members to have professional indemnity insurance cover
- Active input to Standards, Codes of Practise, Legislation and Industry Guidelines
- Requirement to be free of commercial activities which may affect their impartiality
- Commitment to undertake regular professional training and development of all staff.

AAAC members are competent and capable in their field of expertise, and are able to provide professional, unbiased advice, and to deliver practical innovative and cost-effective solutions to problems.

### 3. Selection of the Acoustic Consultant

Before selecting a consultant at random, seek out the experiences of others who have used acoustic consultants in the past; e.g. Council Town Planning Departments, Private Town Planners, Mechanical Services Engineers, Architects and Developers.

Competent acoustic consultants will not only be members of the Australian Acoustical Society (AAS), but most importantly members of the AAAC.

### 4. How to engage an Acoustic Consultant

- Determine a short list of possible consultants
- Develop your own scope or talk to one of your choices to help develop a scope of work for your project
- Request a proposal and capability statement from each firm
- Consider the various proposals
- Talk to those whose proposals appeal to you
- Negotiate conditions of engagement, but allow sufficient funds for the consultant to do the project properly
- Make overall fees and hourly rates only one component of the selection decision.

### 5. Summary

- Selecting an appropriate and competent acoustic consultant requires consideration of many factors, of which membership of the AAAC, the Association of Australian Acoustical Consultants is an absolutely essential requirement.
- Choose a consultant not only on the basis of hourly rates and overall fees, but more importantly on the ability of the consultant to provide practical, efficient noise control project designs or solutions.
- Seek the opinions and experiences of others to assist the decision process.