

# Review of the *Traffic Noise Management Guidelines: Information Sheet*

What are the *State Road Traffic Noise Management Guidelines* (the *Guidelines*)?

The *Guidelines* are a publicly available tool developed by the Department of State Growth (DSG) to manage road noise emissions associated with use, development and maintenance of the State Road network. The *Guidelines* are free to be used by other stakeholders, such as local government, and also provide the public with a useful and informative resource.

The *Guidelines* establish a process to identify current and future road noise emissions that exceed nominated trigger-levels for eligible scenarios. This information is used to identify individual buildings that may be eligible for noise mitigation. From this, suitable noise mitigation measures are identified via a *hierarchy of mitigation*.

What do you need to know?

The *Guidelines* were first released in 2011, and since this time, a number of challenges and opportunities for improvement to the *Guidelines* have been identified. The *Guidelines* have been reviewed in consultation with key stakeholders, and thirty-two issues were identified, addressed and classified under four broad categories:

1. Substantive issues requiring guideline revision or a well-considered decision to not revise;
2. Interpretation issues requiring better explanation in the guidelines;
3. Minor editorial issues warranting amendment; and
4. Ideas warranting consideration but subsequently no or only cursory editorial action.

Additional information and discussion on this process was captured by a *Record of Considerations* document which is accessible along with the *Guidelines* and other supporting documentation.

What are the main changes?

The *Guidelines* have been re-structured in to three *Parts* to better support the diversity of users:

*Part A: Non-technical Summary* – guideline summary for non-technical readers

*Part B: Executive Guidelines* – guideline summary for designers and decision-makers, and

*Part C: Full Guidelines.*

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More generally, there were several areas that caused users some confusion when interpreting and applying the *Guidelines*. These included (in part) a perception of unfairness when determining eligibility, road projects that triggered multiple scenario definitions, the test of *Reasonableness, Practicality and Cost-Effectiveness* and use of the *Guidelines* by non-technical readers. Most issues were minor and easily accommodated by the review.

Other key outputs of the review include the development of a series of tables to document decision-making which mirror the *Guidelines* format, and development of a *qualitative evaluation matrix* to help identify noise mitigation options.

How do I apply the *Guidelines*?

The process by which the *Guidelines* are applied has not changed, and have simply been refined the existing process to make it easier to use. Users follow three decision-making tables, which:

- define whether the project is an “eligible scenario” for further consideration under the Guidelines,
- where a project is an eligible scenario, the decision-making tables help identify eligible buildings and develop mitigation solutions.

To ensure that decision-making processes are captured, the new Guidelines have a series of record-keeping templates, to allow users to keep records on relevant considerations, and support consistent and transparent decision-making.

All parties undertaking noise studies for the Department must apply the *Guidelines* to the full extent.

Where can I get help interpreting and applying the *Guidelines*?

The *Guidelines* are written to suit both non-technical (Part A) and technical (Part B) users. Should users require additional support, they can contact the *Environment & Development Approvals (EDA) Unit* at [eda@stategrowth.tas.gov.au](mailto:eda@stategrowth.tas.gov.au) or the Project Manager Dick Shaw on 6166 3391.

Where can I find a copy of the *Guidelines* and supporting documentation?

Internet: [http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/road/traffic/\\_nocache](http://www.transport.tas.gov.au/road/traffic/_nocache)

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