

Noise Reference Group (NRG)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Context

The Kwinana Industries Council (KIC) commissioned Herring Storer Acoustics (HSA) to update the Cumulative Noise Model for the Kwinana Industrial Area, originally initiated by the KIC in 2001.

The purpose of the update was to assess any change in industry noise emission levels (sound radiated into the environment) and noise immission levels (the influx of sound at a particular location), that may have occurred since the 2001 study.

In general, variations to previous levels can be attributed to the addition or cessation of industries, expansion of existing industries or implementation of noise control programs by industry.

The 2005 data is considered by the KIC as an initial stage in understanding the status of current noise levels within the Kwinana area and will provide 'indicative' information to enable consideration of further analysis and actions for the KIC and its member industries. This may include further investigations and / or monitoring.

The formation of a noise reference group is a further initiative of the KIC towards a collaborative and inclusive approach in facilitating the assessment and development of recommendations in respect of the study on behalf of stakeholders.

It is intended that the assessment and recommendations will form the basis for consideration of future noise management options for the KIC.

Objective

To have a model that is accepted by the community, used by industry and accepted by the Department of Environment & Conservation; and a clear process to present any issues to industry.

Purpose

Specifically the purpose of the Noise Reference Group is to:

- Identify community noise concerns;
- Communicate with KIC to facilitate improvement;
- Recommend methods to investigate noise issues; and
- Provide feedback from community from actions taken to reduce noise emissions.

Working Principles

- The Noise Reference Group will meet on a regular basis. This will be reviewed by the group at a future date as determined by the group.

- The Noise Reference Group will consist of representation from:
 - Kwinana Industries Council (*2 representatives*)
 - Department of Environment and Conservation (*1 representative*)
 - Town of Kwinana (*1 representative at officer level*)
 - City of Rockingham (*1 representative officer level*)
 - City of Cockburn (*1 representative at officer level*)
 - The local Community (*2 - one elected member representative from the Town of Kwinana and City of Rockingham, nominated by relevant LGA. Note: City of Cockburn has confirmed they will not have a community representative*).
 - The Community and Industries Forum (*1 community representative*)
- Meetings will be chaired by an independent facilitator. The Kwinana Industries Council will act as the Executive Officer for Noise Reference Group Meetings.
- Noise Reference Group members will be provided with balanced and objective information to communicate to the organisations / groups they are representing.
- Specialist expertise will be seconded into the group as required. Matters can be referred to a specialist area as necessary.
- Issues by the public can be raised through members of the Noise Reference Group. Members of the press may only attend by invitation from the Noise Reference Group.
- Public comments by any group member on behalf of the Noise Reference Group can only be made after a formal resolution by the Group has been made to approve such comment. Members of the group will support the consensus view and any comments representing separate interests must be stated as to that fact.
- The Noise Reference Group will work together to promote an environment which fosters mutual respect and understanding.
- Observers could be permitted subject to agreement by, or invitation of, the Noise Reference group, only to observe and with no speaking or voting rights.

Desired Outcomes

- An improved understanding by all stakeholders, including the community at large, of the issues in respect of cumulative noise from all sources and specifically industry noise contribution to cumulative noise in the KIA.
- An improved understanding of the roles and relationships of relevant stakeholders regarding noise (Dept of State Development, Dept of Environment and Conservation, local government, industry, community and Dept for Planning and Infrastructure).
- Set of recommendations for Kwinana industries' consideration to clarify, or further research, potential noise impact issues and proposed noise management initiatives with the aim of an improved approach to industry noise management.
- An environment of trust and openness between industry, government and the broader community as stakeholders in the KIA.

Decision Making

The preference of the Noise Reference Group is that decisions are made on the basis of consensus. Unanimous consensus is the aim but where this is not possible it would go to a vote with a two thirds (2/3) majority rule of those members present. If a member is not present at a meeting the vote can be taken to the KIC Executive Officer or the Facilitator.

Quorum

Agreed that 5 constitutes a quorum and includes at least one community representative.