

[www.aaac.org.au](http://www.aaac.org.au)

# Association of Australasian Acoustical Consultants Guideline for Selection of an Acoustical Consultant

Version 1.0



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## 1.0 HOW DO I FIND AN APPROPRIATE ACOUSTICAL CONSULTANT?

A quick look on Google or in the Yellow Pages shows that there are dozens of listed “acoustical consultants”. Many are, in fact, not acoustical consultants but suppliers of materials or contractors.

Acoustical 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 Association of Australasian Acoustical Consultants (AAAC) is a body that establishes the competency of its member firms.

## 2.0 WHY CHOOSE AN AAAC ACOUSTICAL CONSULTANT?

Members of the AAAC are the consulting firms to choose for your project because of their:

- Recognition as the professional association in the industry;
- Commitment to and practice of the AAAC Code of Ethics;
- Up-to-date technology and state of the art practices;
- Requirement that members work only within their nominated areas of competence;
- Professional indemnity insurance cover;
- Active input to Standards, Codes of Practice, 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.

## 3.0 SELECTION OF THE ACOUSTICAL CONSULTANT

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

Competent acoustical consultants will likely be members of the Australian Acoustical Society (AAS) and be employed by a AAAC member firm.

## 4.0 HOW TO ENGAGE AN ACOUSTICAL CONSULTANT

- Visit [www.aaac.org.au](http://www.aaac.org.au);
- Determine a short list of possible consultants;
- Develop your own scope of work 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 firms whose proposals appeal to you;
- Negotiate conditions of engagement, but allow sufficient funds for the consultant to undertake the project properly;
- Make overall fees and hourly rates only one component of the selection decision.

## 5.0 SUMMARY

- Selecting an appropriate and competent acoustical consultant requires consideration of many factors, of which membership of the Association of Australian Acoustical Consultants (AAAC) is an essential requirement;
- Seek the opinions and experiences of others to assist the decision process;
- 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;
- Visit [www.aaac.org.au](http://www.aaac.org.au).

**For more information and other published AAAC Guidelines, go to [www.aaac.org.au](http://www.aaac.org.au)**

### Member Firms:

To contact a AAAC member, select a region from the link below:

<http://www.aaac.org.au/act>

<http://www.aaac.org.au/nsw>

<http://www.aaac.org.au/qld>

<http://www.aaac.org.au/sa>

<http://www.aaac.org.au/vic>

<http://www.aaac.org.au/wa>

<http://www.aaac.org.nz>

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