

## About us

---

Styles Group are a team of 8 consultants specialising in the measurement, prediction and assessment of noise and vibration effects. We provide noise and vibration expertise to local authorities across New Zealand.

We take pride in providing local authorities with the highest quality advice to ensure statutory bottom lines for the management noise effects are achieved in a way that represents contemporary best practice.

Our advice is underpinned by our significant combined experience working for Councils and the private sector across New Zealand under Resource Management Act and Local Government Act processes.

We support Councils across New Zealand to:

- Streamline their after-hours noise control contract management
- Develop Standard Operating Procedures for service of infringement fines, abatement notices and equipment seizures
- Provide training to planning, enforcement and environmental health officers
- Provide advice on the measurement and assessment of noise effects under regulatory and policy frameworks.

## Core services

---

- Noise measurements and analysis
- Development of noise compliance, monitoring and enforcement strategies
- Noise training to staff, elected representatives and contractors
- Environmental noise modelling, predictions and analysis
- Assessment of noise effects for resource consent applications, Notice of Requirements and plan changes
- Technical (peer) review of acoustic reports and development of effective and enforceable resource consent conditions
- Preparation and presentation of expert evidence at judicial hearings
- Development of District Plan noise policy frameworks, including Section 32 analysis.

## Noise training

---

Styles Group provide a variety of noise training courses, developed in response to the noise challenges faced by local authorities, and the specific training requirements of the wide range of Council officers involved in noise regulation. To date, over 2,000 resource management and environmental health professionals have attended our training courses.

### **2018-2019 course feedback:**

*“Awesome training, very well pitched, exactly what we wanted, every day knowledge and use of a noise meter. Daniel having a EHO background was also helpful”*

*“An amazing course that all of us could relate to, Daniel’s understanding of the Council meant that the topics were relevant and interesting”*

*“I would recommend all planners attend this course. It was very instructive and educational. I would make it part of a set of compulsory courses for planners”.*

Our training courses are delivered by Jon Styles and Daniel Winter. As former Environmental Health Officers, Jon and Daniel have first-hand experience of the specific challenges faced by local government.

## Training courses

---

Our noise training courses include:

- Dealing with unreasonable noise, conducting sound level measurements, applying Acoustical Standards and methods for effective investigation and enforcement.
- Noise contract management, dealing with repeat offenders and getting the most out of noise contracts.
- Excessive noise control training for contracted noise control officers.
- Understanding noise and effects (tailored for planners, decision makers and elected representatives).

We can tailor a training package from any of the above options, or develop content that is specific to the noise training needs of your organisation.

## Review services

---

The technical or 'peer' review process serves a critical function. It ensures that an experts' recommendations are subjected to the scrutiny of other experts in the same field- ensuring that technical advice is accurate and robust, and has been prepared in accordance with relevant Acoustical Standards and legislation.

We routinely carry out technical reviews of noise and vibration assessments for central government and local authorities throughout New Zealand.

Our technical review service will identify whether the noise assessment:

- Identifies all noise sources accurately;
- Provides an accurate prediction of noise levels;
- Applies relevant NZ Standards appropriately;
- Adopts the correct District Plan rule and assessment criteria;
- Contains any information gaps that require a request for further information under Section 92 of the RMA;
- Contains conditions of consent that are effective and legally enforceable under the RMA.

## National Planning Standards

---

The first set of national planning standards (NPS) were gazetted by the Minister for the Environment in April 2019. The purpose of the planning standards is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning system by providing nationally consistent definitions and noise and vibration metrics

The Noise and Vibration Metrics Planning Standard (NVMPS) provides direction on the noise measurement methods and symbols which must be adopted under District Plans. The Definitions Standard also requires District Plans to adopt the acoustical terms defined within the Standard.

Styles Group are working with several local authorities to update their District Plans to comply with the acoustical requirements of the NPS.

## Contact us

---

If you would like to discuss training options, or other ways we can provide noise advice to your organisation, please contact us on:

Phone: 09 308 9015

Email: [daniel@stylesgroup.co.nz](mailto:daniel@stylesgroup.co.nz)