

POLICY:-	
Policy Title:	Hazardous Noise Policy
File reference:	F10/618-04
Date Policy was adopted by Council initially:	20 February 2014
Resolution Number:	29/14
Other Review Dates:	N/A
Resolution Number:	N/A
Current Policy adopted by Council:	20 February 2014
Resolution Number:	28/14
Next Policy Review Date:	2016

PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES:-	
Date procedure/guideline was developed;	
Procedure/guideline reference number:	

RESPONSIBILITY:-	
Draft Policy Developed by:	Work Health and Safety Coordinator
Committee/s (if any) consulted in the development of this policy::	Work Health and Safety Committee
Responsibility for implementation:	General Manager
Responsibility for review of Policy:	Work Health and Safety Coordinator

PURPOSE

Upper Lachlan Shire Council is committed to the provision and maintenance of a safe workplace. This policy has been developed to provide the framework for the management and control of exposure to excessive noise (Hazardous Noise) in the workplace, based on the exposure standard for noise as determined by AS/NZS 1269.1:2005.

RATIONALE

This policy aims to ensure compliance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011, in relation to the requirement of the Council to ensure the health and safety of, and provide a safe working environment for, workers of the organisation specifically in reference to the risk of hearing loss and exposure to excessive noise levels.

OBJECTIVES

To ensure that Council effectively manages the risk of hearing damage and loss at work, Council will ensure:

- Sources of occupational noise are assessed and recorded to determine the associated risk level;
- The Hierarchy of Control is utilised when implementing effective controls for sources of hazardous noise;
- The effectiveness of hazardous noise risk control measures will be monitored and evaluated;
- Noise ratings and other relevant information will be considered when determining suitability of plant and equipment for purchase, lease and use within the workplace;
- Education, training and instruction will be provided to those at risk of exposure to noise and regularly required to use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to control the risk of such exposure;
- Personal Protective Equipment, including hearing protection, will be provided to workers at risk of exposure to hazardous noise;
- Audiometric testing will be conducted on employees identified as meeting the requirements of the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 for such testing, and will occur at intervals determined by the Regulation.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Management:

Management have a number of significant responsibilities in relation to the management and control of hazardous noise in the workplace which include, but are not limited to:

- Ensuring all relevant statutory requirements are met, and complied with;
- Developing, implementing and maintaining appropriate hazardous noise control procedures, programs and documents;
- Ensuring effective means of consultation with workers are provided in relation to the dissemination of information about hazardous noise, risks associated with noise, and controls used to manage these risks;
- Ensuring all workers and management are aware of the controls in place to manage the risks associated with hazardous noise;
- Investigating breaches of the policy (or legislative requirements) and enforcing compliance;

- Providing workers with relevant education, training and instruction when required;
- Reviewing and updating the policy at regular intervals or as necessary to ensure it remains current and relevant.

Workers:

All workers have a responsibility to comply with their statutory requirements as determined by the relevant legislation. Workers must also comply with current, accepted work practices (as determined by Risk Assessments, Safe Work Method Statements, Safe Operating Procedure, Site Safety Rules or other approved documentation), and participate in all activities appropriate to the control and reduction of risks associated with noise in the workplace.

Relevant Legislation and Council Policies

- Safe Work Australia National Code of Practice for Managing Noise and Hearing Loss at Work
- Work Health and Safety Policy
- New Employees Pre Placement Health Assessment Policy
- Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment Procedure

Variation:

Council reserves the right to vary or revoke this policy