Case Study: Noise and Acoustics

BHP Billiton Fit-out, Brookfield Place

Location: Perth, Australia

This is a 6 Star Green Star rated fit-out, where hot-desking means the staff-to-floor space ratio has decreased dramatically. The real story however, is in productivity improvements. The open plan design provides people with a variety of workspaces, and encourages interaction between employees. Meeting rooms are available for quiet work, phone calls or brainstorming sessions.

Aaron James, Norman Disney & Young sustainability and acoustics consultant on the project, says: “Good acoustics are synonymous with quality. It’s less about high technology solutions and more about doing a high-quality job – ensuring rooms are well-sealed and any defects are rectified”.

There is also a flexible, mixed-use zone made up of lunch areas, lounges, a business centre and quiet areas. “The challenge was to create a space that is suitable for many activities – but with enough acoustic absorption that many people can be talking and working without affecting productivity. Acoustics can be overlooked, but are often the key to creating a productivity powerhouse,” James concludes.

With thanks to acoustic consultant NDY and GBC Australia.