

PERFORMANCE SOLUTIONS

Developing Performance Solutions using Expert Ergonomics and Human Engineering

WHAT IS ERGONOMICS?

Ergonomics, also known as *Human Factors* (which means “fitting things to people”), draws on scientific data about humans’ true capabilities and limitations. It is often the key to a well-justified Performance Solution, by considering the attributes of users of a facility, when and how they use it, as well as explaining how people actually see, move, understand and sense their surroundings. It takes into account the breadth of human behaviour, human size, strength, abilities, and limits. Ergonomics is a powerful tool in developing justified Performance Solutions.

OUR APPROACH

Dohrmann Consulting is a team of engineers and ergonomists familiar with the National Construction Code (NCC) and its requirements. We routinely consider non-complying building elements – planned or existing – where it is desired to seek a solution (a “Performance Solution”) consistent with the NCC’s Performance Requirements, but where one or more Deemed-To-Satisfy (DTS) provisions (meeting the Performance Requirements) has not been fulfilled.

We can examine your situation without obligation and advise whether an alternative is likely to be possible. If an alternative Performance Solution is feasible, we will provide a fixed-price quotation for producing a report addressing all the necessary NCC formalities and authorities. The report will describe the functional aspects of a solution in a manner sufficient to fulfil all necessary ergonomics/safety criteria implicit in the applicable NCC Performance Requirements, and will be structured to satisfy the requirements of the building surveyors who issue approval prior to final occupancy.

The quotation will set out a recommended approach and provide the supporting information you may need to obtain the approval of your client (including ABN, insurance and timing).

FEES

Fees depends on the scope and complexity of the DTS non-compliance, and whether a site visit is needed (which is not always the case). There is no fee to make an enquiry.

If it is necessary to engage in a preliminary round of discussions of alternatives, perusal of your material, or consideration of matters affecting the plan, a small fixed fee will apply. This fee will be deducted from the Performance Solution fee if we proceed to the preparation of a Solution.

The Performance Solution fee includes:

- All necessary perusal of any advice and documentation provided, including communications with you;
- site visit, measurements, inspection (if necessary);
- consideration of all proposed and present uses and users of the identified facilities, and their implications;
- preparation of a Performance Solution;
- a report detailing our assessment, with formal presentation of a Performance Solution, in a form ready for certifier examination.

ABOUT DOHRMANN CONSULTING

Dohrmann Consulting is Australia’s longest-established independent firm of professional engineers and certified professional ergonomists, specialising in occupational health and safety, ergonomics and injury prevention.




We regularly review non-compliant building elements and provide justified Performance Solutions across a wide range of areas including all aspects of access and egress, disability, stairs, landings, headroom, doors, fire stairs, as well as slip resistance requirements.

We routinely provide expert reports in personal injury litigation throughout Australia, and are well resourced through forty years of consulting, expert opinion and engagement in building and interiors planning to give you reliable advice.




INFORMATION/MATERIALS WE NEED TO PROVIDE A QUOTE

ABOUT YOUR CLIENT	Name of your client
	Site address and name of the building (<i>if there is one</i>).
NCC/BCA	Confirmation of the NCC/BCA version applicable (<i>year of publication</i>).
	Class of Building (<i>building classification under the NCC</i>).
NON-COMPLIANCE(S)	Copy of certifier’s report detailing the relevant non-compliance(s).
	Confirmation of the relevant clauses in the NCC/BCA where non-compliance has been identified.
	Accurate identification of the non-compliance(s) requiring attention, by drawing number and grid reference, and/or by mark-up.
DRAWINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS, DIAGRAMS	Relevant drawings identified by number, and/or sketches and drawings illustrating the affected area(s).
	Any photographs or diagrams which provide clarification or assistance (<i>if applicable</i>).
EXIT/FIRE ESCAPE	Confirmation of the status of the affected area(s) as a Required Exit and/or fire escape.
TECHNICAL/BUILDING ISSUES	Any heritage overlay or advice received.
	Any technical or building issue which has made NCC/BCA compliance difficult or impossible in this case.
SURFACE	Likelihood or opportunity for surface water or spillage.
DISABILITY ACCESS	Any known obligations to meet disability access (DDA) provisions.
ACCESS RESTRICTIONS	Any restrictions on access to the area (e.g. is it restricted to maintenance or repair staff, cleaners? use of locks?).
LIGHTING	Where illumination is involved, the type, level, quality, and control of lighting.
STEPS	Where steps are involved, dimensions of all risers, goings, landings, and handrails.
	Specific non-slip tread treatment, including at the nosings (<i>if applicable</i>).
RAMPS	Where ramps are involved, the length and slope of the ramp.
USER PROFILE	An outline of the likely uses of the area: Who are the most common users or occupants? What are their purposes? Frequency of access?
	Whether there is likely access by children and or the elderly.
	Hours of access to the area.

CONTACT US

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