

# Case Study



## NSW University Post Graduate Accommodation Village Sound Escape System

### Building type and overview

The NSW University Post Graduate Accommodation Village development is an 8 storey building predominantly for the accommodation of post graduate students. The building is a 'U' shaped building with a connection at the ends of the 'U' at levels 2 and 3 only. The upper levels of the building are divided into small rooms for student accommodation, with a number of communal dining rooms and lounge. Access to the student accommodation rooms is gained via a central corridors that is serviced by 3 fire isolated stairs and 2 passenger lifts for occupant evacuation.

### Challenges

- Extended travel distance from the entrance door of a number of sole occupancy units is greater than the BCA maximum allowable travel distance.
- The distance between alternative exits is greater than the BCA maximum allowable separation distance.
- There are instances where the public corridors are not fitted with the required smoke separation within the student accommodation levels.

### Solution

- Install Clevertronics *Sound Escape* system, an emergency lighting system in which the exit signs incorporate directional sound enabling faster evacuation of occupants and better utilization of fire isolated stairs.
- A *Sound Escape* EXIT sign has been positioned at each fire isolated stair exit on each of the 8 levels.
- *Sound Escape* has been interfaced to the building's fire detection and EWIS systems to activate the directional sounders in the event of an alarm. The *Sound Escape* Exit signs are an integrated part of the Zoneworks, addressable, emergency and exit lighting system installed throughout the building.

### Results

- The NSW University Post Graduate Accommodation Village utilises *Sound Escape* as part of an Engineered Solution to solve the problem of extended travel distances, extended distance between alternative exits and extended smoke separation distance.
- *Sound Escape* assists occupants to evacuate the building faster by increasing walking speed, increasing confidence and reducing decision times.
- This Engineered Solution is cost effective because the *Sound Escape* Exit signs are an integrated add-on to the Zoneworks Emergency Lighting System installed throughout the building.
- The *Sound Escape* Exits and emergency lighting system are automatically tested and capable of real time off site monitoring thus further enhancing compliance and safety features.