

Amherst Street Noise Wall

Community feedback report

Transport for NSW | August 2020

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Executive summary

This report provides a summary of the community consultation carried out by Transport for NSW for the concept design of the Amherst Street Noise Wall.

The proposed noise wall would help reduce the impacts of traffic noise for residents in Jenkins Street, Cammeray. Engagement with the community about a noise wall in this location has been carried out since late 2018.

The concept design for the noise wall was displayed for community feedback from 6 November to 1 December 2019. To notify the community about the display period, we:

- Distributed project updates via letterbox drop to 120 properties
- Door knocked 80 properties
- Held a community information session on 14 November 2019, which was attended by three people.

In total we received ten submissions during the concept design consultation. Key topics raised included:

- Length and height of the noise wall
- Visual amenity and landscaping
- Noise impacts including the potential noise reflection off the wall
- Appearance of the noise wall including material and colour.

After considering community feedback, we will proceed with the Amherst Street Noise Wall proposal with the following changes:

- Reduction in length of the proposed noise wall from 67.5 to 59 metres
- Reduction in height of the proposed noise wall from five metres to 4.5 metres
- Review of the colour and texture of the noise wall based on community feedback which will be presented in the proposed design in the Review of Environmental Factors (REF)
- Review the landscaping design, which will be presented the proposed design in the REF.

Further feedback was invited from the community in December 2019 on the proposed night work schedule for the construction of the noise wall. The preferred option based on community feedback involved working up to five nights a week between 8pm and 5am, taking around four months to build, weather permitting.

Next steps

The next step is to seek community feedback on the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) which assesses the environmental impacts of the proposed noise wall. All submissions received will be considered in finalising the proposal and will be responded to via a Submissions Report.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Transport for NSW (Transport) has identified some properties along Jenkins Street, Armstrong Street and Massey Street, Cammeray, which are above our acceptable road noise levels. These properties meet our Noise Abatement Program eligibility criteria for noise mitigation treatment, which aims to reduce the impact of noise for properties exposed to high traffic noise levels from existing State or Federal roads.

To reduce the impact of noise for properties in the area, we are investigating and implementing a proposed three-part strategy which involves:

1. Building the Amherst Street Noise Wall
2. Building the Massey to Amherst Street Noise Wall
3. Installing at-property treatments such as replacing doors/windows, installing secondary windows, sealing gaps and/or installing mechanical ventilation to eligible properties.

Transport has engaged with the community about the proposed noise mitigation options since 2018. A community information session for the proposed options was held on 22 November 2018 and was attended by 30 people.

This report focuses on the concept design consultation for the proposed Amherst Street Noise Wall.

1.2 The concept design proposal

The proposed noise wall is located along the Amherst Street off ramp, Cammeray. As part of the concept design, the noise wall would be 67.5 metres long and five metres high. It would be built on NSW Government land behind properties 45 to 57 Jenkins Street, Cammeray and we do not expect any impacts to those properties.

We carried out site investigations to inform the concept design in September 2019 which included ground surveys, geotechnical and utility investigations and arborist studies.

If approved, we expect to start construction of the noise wall from late 2020. Construction would take about four months to complete, weather permitting.

This community feedback report is focused on the concept design consultation carried out in late 2019.

2 Engagement approach

2.1 Engagement objectives

We consulted with the community on the concept design for the proposed Amherst Street Noise Wall to:

- Ensure we are listening to the community and understand the matters that are important to them
- Seek feedback, ideas and suggestions that will be considered when developing the final design and REF
- Build a database of engaged community members with whom we can regularly communicate with about the Project.

2.2 Values

Our values underpin our decisions and behaviours when working with customers, colleagues, stakeholders and partners.

- Customer focus - We place the customer at the centre of everything we do
- Collaboration - We value each other and create better outcomes by working together
- Solutions - We deliver sustainable and innovative solutions to NSW's transport needs
- Integrity - We take responsibility and communicate openly
- Safety - We prioritise safety for our people and our customers.

2.3 How engagement was carried out

Consultation on the concept design for the proposed noise wall was carried out between 6 November and 1 December 2019. Our engagement tools are outlined in table 1.

Table 1

Project update (Appendix A)	<p>On 6 November 2019, project updates were distributed to about 120 residents via letterbox drop (distribution map provided in Appendix B).</p> <p>A further 80 properties were door knocked by the project team. Of the 80 properties door knocked, about 20 were home at the time.</p> <p>The project update was also provided to key stakeholders including Willoughby Electorate Office and North Sydney Council.</p>
Community information session	<p>A community information session was held at the Crows Nest Centre on Thursday 14 November 2019. The session was attended by three people.</p>
Meetings	<p>Meetings were held one resident and North Sydney Council during the display period to discuss the proposal.</p>

Project contact details

Community members were encouraged to contact the project team to ask questions and provide feedback:

- Phone: 1800 312 772
- Email: nap@rms.nsw.gov.au
- Mail: Locked Bag 928, North Sydney NSW 2059

3 Feedback summary

3.1 Overview

During the consultation period we received feedback from nine residents and North Sydney Council. The feedback received is summarised in Table 2. Out of the submissions received, eight were supportive of the proposal.

3.1.1 Feedback and Transport for NSW response

Table 2

Issue category	Number of submissions	Issues raised	Transport for NSW response
Length of the noise wall	Five	<p>Three submissions raised concerns about the potential sound reflection off the proposed noise wall impacting properties on Sexton Place and West Street, Cammeray. These submissions have requested the length of the noise wall be reduced by relocating the eastern end of the wall so that it is no longer behind the properties on Sexton Place.</p> <p>One submission requested the noise wall not be built next to 57 Jenkins Street, Cammeray due to visual impacts from the proposed wall.</p> <p>One submission requested the proposed noise wall length be increased by relocating the eastern end of the wall to the intersection of West Street and Amherst Street.</p>	<p>The proposed location of the eastern end of the noise wall was to avoid impacting the existing tree canopy along the off ramp from 57 Jenkins Street to West Street. Running the noise wall up to West Street would require the removal of established trees, resulting in a high impact on landscape character of the area. This area already has some protection from the existing Sexton Place noise wall and noise mound on the other side of the off ramp.</p> <p>As part of the concept design a noise wall reflection analysis was completed. The analysis showed there is no increase in noise for properties on Sexton Place and West Street due to the Amherst Street Noise Wall.</p> <p>Based on community feedback the length of the noise wall will be shortened from 67.5 metres to 59 metres.</p>

Issue category	Number of submissions	Issues raised	Transport for NSW response
Height of the noise wall	Five submissions	<p>Four submissions raised concerns a five metre wall was too high, causing visual impacts and changes in landscape character of the local area. Two comments also suggested a five metre wall was inconsistent with the height of the Sexton Place Noise Wall.</p> <p>One submission raised a concern the proposed noise wall was too low and should be increased to eight metres in height. Furthermore, concerns were raised that the height of the Massey to Amherst Street Noise Wall should be determined first before the Amherst Street Noise Wall.</p>	<p>The proposed height of five metres for the Amherst Street Noise Wall has been determined in accordance with the barrier assessment outlined in Transport's Noise Mitigation Guideline.</p> <p>We understand factors such as visual impacts, overshadowing and landscape character are important to the community.</p> <p>Based on community feedback we are proposing to reduce the wall height to 4.5 metres. This height is consistent with other noise walls in the area.</p> <p>The Massey to Amherst Street Noise Wall investigation is ongoing with directly impacted properties.</p>
Position and end of noise wall	Five submissions	<p>Asked for the proposed position of the noise wall be relative to private property boundaries and the design of the ending of the wall.</p>	<p>The proposed concept design of the Amherst Street Noise Wall is positioned one metre away from property boundaries to allow maintenance access behind the noise wall. This will allow us to maximise space in front of the noise wall for landscaping.</p> <p>The proposed concept design was for the noise wall to finish without a taper into the ground.</p> <p>Based on community feedback the position of the noise wall is accepted and the design of the end of the noise wall will be reviewed during the final design.</p>
Colour/finish of the wall	Five submissions	<p>There were a total of five submissions on the finish of the proposed noise wall including three on the colour and five on the material finish.</p> <p>One submission wanted to understand the proposed colour and material.</p>	<p>The concept design proposed a flat panel finish with a charcoal colour on the front similar to the existing Massey Street Noise Wall facing the off ramp and environmental green on the back of the noise wall facing the properties.</p>

Issue category	Number of submissions	Issues raised	Transport for NSW response
		<p>Two submissions requested the noise wall be environmental green to match the back of the Sexton Place Noise Wall.</p> <p>One submission objected to the proposed material choice without any further commentary.</p> <p>One submission raised concern the proposed finish presents an industrial structure and did not blend in with the local landscape character.</p>	<p>Based on the community feedback the colour of the noise wall will be reviewed with the proposed colours presented in the proposed design during the REF display.</p>
Texture of the wall	Two submissions	<p>Two submissions received raised concerns about potential for the noise wall to reflect sound and increase noise for residents living in front of the noise wall. They also suggested that textured panels like Metcalfe Street Noise Wall would help reduce reflected sound.</p>	<p>The proposed concept design had flat noise wall panels. As part of the concept design a noise wall reflection was completed. This analysis has determined there is no increase in noise for properties on Sexton Place and West Street due to the Amherst Street Noise Wall.</p> <p>Noise wall panels with texture, including the Metcalf Street Noise Wall are still reflective panels. Concrete panels with a texture do not increase the panels' ability to perform acoustically.</p> <p>We will review an appropriate texture to the noise wall panel as part of the final design, which will be presented during the REF display.</p>
Landscaping	Three submissions	<p>One submission had questions around how many trees are proposed to be removed and proposed landscaping. This submission also requested the vegetation next to their property be removed and replaced with suitable landscaping.</p> <p>Two submissions requested the proposed landscaping include low shrubs and trees with a touching canopy.</p>	<p>The concept design included landscaping with lower shrubs and some trees.</p> <p>We will review feedback from the community and update the landscape design as part of the proposed design, which will be presented during the REF display.</p> <p>Landscaping is not proposed to be planted outside the footprint of the noise wall project.</p>

Issue category	Number of submissions	Issues raised	Transport for NSW response
		Two submissions requested additional planting on the Sexton Street side of the off ramp.	
Other projects	Two submissions	Questioned why the Amherst Street Noise Wall is progressing faster than the Massey to Amherst Street Noise Wall.	<p>The Amherst Street Noise Wall is being built on Transport land, which has allowed us to progress this project further compared to the Massey to Amherst Street Noise Wall.</p> <p>The Massey to Amherst Street Noise Wall involves property adjustments by agreement with nine properties and we have met with most of the impacted property owners.</p> <p>They have requested further information to help make an informed decision. We have completed further investigations including surveys on private property and are currently developing a concept design for further discussion with property owners.</p>
Other noise walls	Three submissions	<p>Three submissions received were not related to the proposed Amherst Street Noise Wall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A further noise wall extension to the end of Sexton Place Noise Wall • Purchase or lease of Transport land to allow residents to build a noise wall • Installing a noise wall on Transport land with permission. 	<p>We are not proposing to extend the Sexton Place Noise Wall.</p> <p>We are not proposing to sell or lease any Transport land in this area.</p>
Increase in Noise	Four submissions	Four submissions state the noise from the Warringah Freeway has increased in recent years.	The Noise Abatement Program is investigating the Amherst Street Noise Wall and Massey to Amherst Street Noise Wall to help mitigate the impact of noise. Any property which remains above our noise criteria is eligible for at-property treatment.

3.2 Night work options

Community feedback was invited between 6 December and 20 December 2019 about night work options for the construction of the proposed noise wall. We door knocked residents and distributed about 120 notifications via letterbox drop (Appendix C).

The proposed night work options included:

- **Option 1:** Working up to five nights a week between 8pm and 5am, Work would take about four months to complete, weather permitting.
- **Option 2:** Working up to four nights a week between 8pm and 5am meaning one less night work each week and additional respite for residents. Work would take about five months to complete, weather permitting. This option will take about one month longer to complete.

Nine responses were received, with eight residents choosing option 1 and one resident advised no option was suitable. This feedback will be considered in the proposed design and presented during the REF display.

3.2.1 Feedback summary

Table 3

Feedback	Option 1 up to five nights	Option 2 up to four nights
1	yes	
2	yes	
3	Yes	
4	Yes	
5	Yes	
6	Yes	
7	Yes	
8	No	No
9	Yes	

4 Decision

We would like to thank everyone who provided comments and feedback about the proposed Amherst Street Noise Wall.

After careful consideration of all feedback received, we will progress with the Amherst Street Noise Wall with the following changes:

- Reduction in length of the proposed noise wall from 67.5 metres to 59 metres
- Reduction in height of the proposed noise wall from five metres to 4.5 metres
- Review of the colour and texture of the noise wall based on community feedback which will be presented in the proposed design in the REF
- Review the landscaping design, which will be presented the proposed design in the REF.


4.1 Next steps

We will finalise our proposed design and display the REF for community feedback. All submissions received will be considered in finalising the proposal and will be responded to via a Submissions Report.

We will keep the community informed as the project progresses.


Appendices

Appendix A: Project update – Concept design




NSW
GOVERNMENT

November 2019



Amherst Street Noise Wall

Project Update



The Amherst Street Noise Wall will help reduce traffic noise for nearby residents on Jenkins Street, Cammeray.

Following community feedback and early investigations, we have now completed a Concept Design for the proposed new noise wall.

Features

We are proposing to build the new wall along the Amherst Street off ramp at Cammeray. The location of the noise wall is shown on the map over the page.

Our assessments have concluded the wall will be most effective if it is about 70 metres long and about five metres high.

More information about the noise wall will be presented in the Review of Environmental Factors which will be on exhibition for public comment in early-2020.

Our work schedule

If approved, we will aim to start construction of the noise wall mid-2020. We expect it will take about eight months to build, weather permitting.

Have your say

Your feedback is important to us and we would like to hear your thoughts on our design before we progress with our detailed planning work and environmental assessments. There are a number of ways you can have your say on our proposal:

Community feedback session

We invite you to join us on **Thursday 14th November** at the Crows Nest Centre to find out more about the new noise wall. The Crows Nest Centre is located at 2 Ernest Place, Crows Nest.

Drop in any time between from 3pm and 6.30pm to meet our team, and provide your feedback.

Phone

Members of our project team are available to discuss the project and take your feedback between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Our team can be contacted on 1800 312 772.

Email

You can email your questions and feedback through to us at nap@rms.nsw.gov.au

Please provide us with your valuable feedback on our Concept Design by **Sunday 1 December 2019**.

We thank you for your interest in our work and look forward to hearing from you.

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Work area





Contact our team

Thank you for your patience while we complete this important work. Please contact us if you have more questions.

 rms.nsw.gov.au/nap

 nap@rms.nsw.gov.au

 1800 312 772

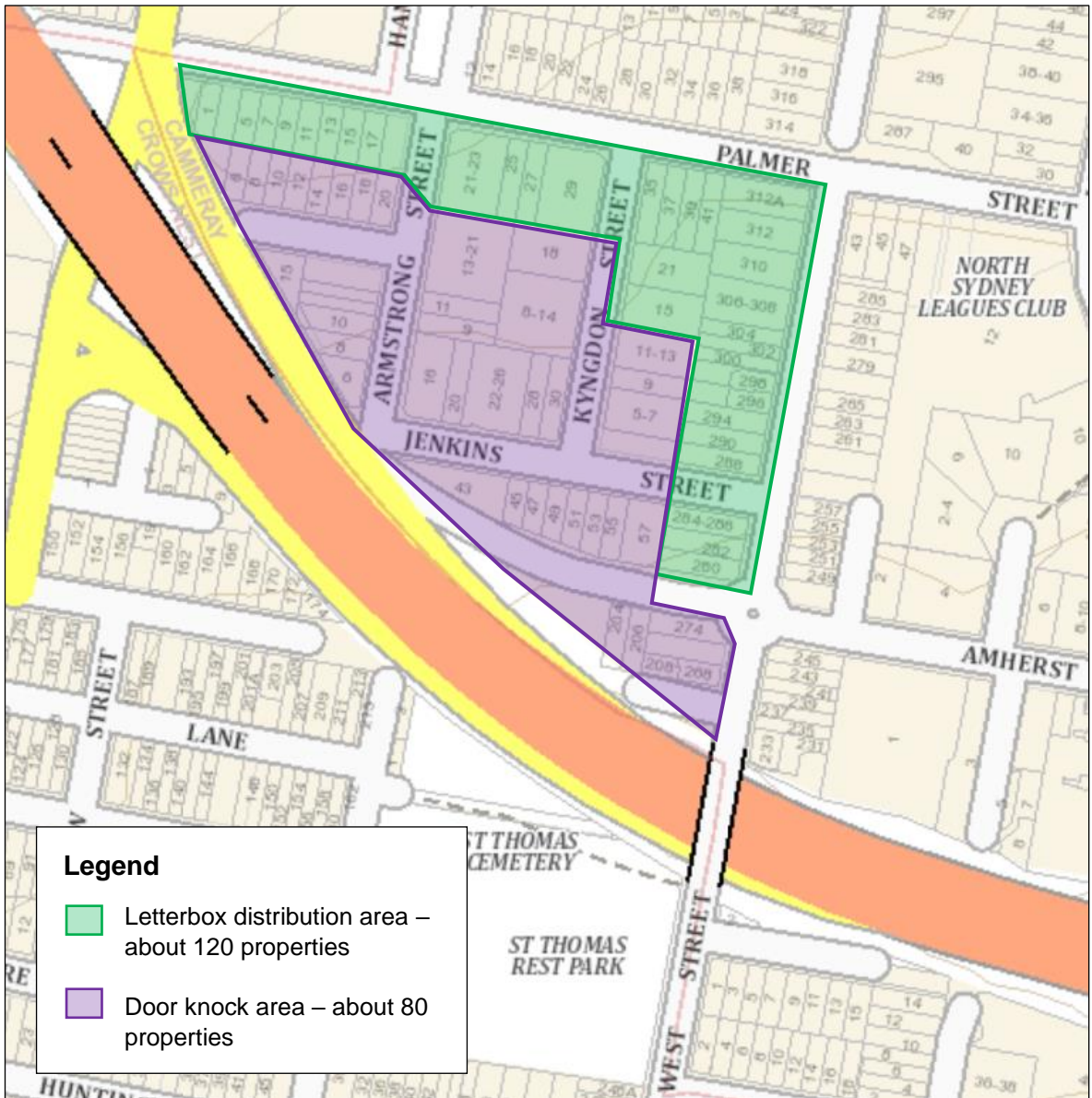
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Appendix B: Distribution map



Appendix C: Notification – Have your say night work

December 2019



Amherst Street Noise Wall

We're planning to build a new noise wall on the Amherst Street off ramp to help reduce traffic noise for nearby residents on Jenkins Street, Cammeray.

Help us with our planning

To ensure we build the new noise wall as quickly and safely as possible, we will need to carry out work at night when there is less traffic. We would like your help to plan for our night work by telling us what option works best for you.

Your feedback is important to us and will help shape how we deliver the new noise wall. To let us know your preference please call or email us by **Friday 20 December 2019**. Our contact details are on the back of this leaflet.

OPTION 1

We expect to finish our work in about **four months**, weather permitting.

Working up to five nights a week between 8pm and 5am, will help us finish our work faster.

OPTION 2

We expect to finish our work in about **five months**, weather permitting.

Working up to four nights a week between 8pm and 5am will mean less night work each week and additional respite for you, but it will take us about a month longer to finish our work.



Additional information about our work

Regardless of which option is favoured, we will always make every effort to minimise noise by ensuring noisy work is completed before midnight and we will turn off machinery and vehicles when not in use.

Our noisy work can include breaking up rock, jack hammering, piling into rock and concrete drilling. Our less noisy work will take place after midnight and can include truck and crane movements, loading trucks with excavated material and lifting noise wall panels into place.

The exact nights we will be working will be finalised closer to construction, and there will be some weeks where we are not carrying out any night work. The nights we work will depend on

our program, weather conditions and permits to work on the road. We will notify you before the start of any night work.

We will also need to carry out work through the day. This work will be carried out between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am and 1pm on Saturdays. No work will be carried out on public holidays.

Next steps

We will include the preferred night work schedule in our Review of Environmental Factors (REF), which is still being finalised. We expect the REF will be on display for your feedback in early 2020.

We thank you for your interest in our work and look forward to hearing from you.

Contact our team

Thank you for your patience while we complete this important work. Please contact us if you have more questions.

-  transport.nsw.gov.au/nap
-  nap@transport.nsw.gov.au
-  1800 312 772
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