

About the FNAP

The Freight Noise Attenuation Program (FNAP) aims to minimise the impact of freight rail noise on homes and some sensitive use community buildings adjacent to NSW Government managed rail corridors.

The FNAP will provide noise reduction treatments to homes affected by high levels of freight rail noise along NSW Government managed rail corridors between Nowra and Newcastle, and west to Lithgow.

Strategic Noise Action Plan

The NSW freight rail network plays a vital role in supporting our economy and reducing congestion on our roads – but as this role grows, so too do potential noise impacts on NSW communities.

The FNAP is one of a number of initiatives being undertaken in response to the NSW Government's Strategic Noise Action Plan (SNAP), which was developed to minimise the impacts of rail freight noise on NSW communities. The SNAP aims to:

1. Reduce freight rail noise at its source e.g. wheel squeal and idling engine noise)
2. **Delivering noise reduction treatments at properties impacted by high levels of existing freight rail noise; and,**
3. Improving planning controls to ensure rail noise is properly addressed at the design stage of future developments.

Who is eligible for this program?

Transport for NSW has developed a set of eligibility criteria for the FNAP, which are similar to standards used by other NSW Government agencies in noise attenuation programs.

To be eligible for the FNAP, a home must meet all of the following criteria:

- Exposed to external rail noise levels above 70dBA during the day ($L_{Aeq(15hour)}$ 7am to 10pm) or 65dBA during the night ($L_{Aeq(9hour)}$ 10pm to 7am). TfNSW determine these levels by measuring rail noise levels across the network. If the dwelling is not near any previous noise monitoring locations or within a designated catchment area then further noise monitoring may be undertaken.
- Classified as an occupied residence or other noise sensitive land use according to accepted definitions across government.
- Not part of a building that is more than 3 levels above the ground, as these buildings are not eligible under the program.
- Not part of a development that was approved after 1 January 2009 because these homes should have been built to meet internal noise limits in line with the State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure). If Transport for NSW has not

collected noise data in your area and you meet other criteria, we will conduct noise monitoring at or near your home.

To find out whether your home is eligible for treatments, you need to submit an application form available at freight.transport.nsw.gov.au/FNAP

Buildings other than homes

Applications for other noise sensitive buildings such as schools and places of worship that may be eligible will be assessed on a case by case basis, prioritising night time noise impacted sites.

Using tried and tested treatments

The FNAP is designed to provide treatments that will reduce the levels of freight noise experienced in living and sleeping areas that face the rail corridor.

The FNAP will treat homes using the following noise reduction treatments:

- installation of new or upgraded windows
- installation of new or upgraded external doors
- enclosing or sealing gaps, vents and openings, where practical
- installation of ventilation systems to allow for the circulation of fresh air when windows are closed.

Similar treatments have been used extensively by Roads and Maritime Services for reducing noise in homes impacted by main roads.

Costs

We look for treatment options that are cost-effective, fair and practical. Treatments are limited to no more than \$30,000 for each home.

Treatment is free if you have owned your home for seven years or more at the time of offer. If you have owned your home less than seven years, we will offer building treatments on a cost- sharing basis outlined below:

Ownership time (at offer)	Owner contribution
0–2 years	85%
2–3 years	70%
3–4 years	55%
4–5 years	35%
5–6 years	20%
6–7 years	10%
7+ years	0%

If the dwelling is sold after the applicant applies for building treatments, we will calculate the owner contribution as if the ownership has not changed.

Rolling out the program

The FNAP is a ten year program with funding available to treat about 200 homes per year along rail corridors managed by the NSW Government. The homes will be in an area bound by Nowra in the south, Lithgow in the west and Newcastle in the north.

The FNAP is only available to residents living next to rail corridors managed by the NSW Government. If you live next to a rail corridor managed by the Australian Government (Australian Rail Track Corporation) or a private operator, you will need to contact them directly to discuss noise issues and mitigation initiatives in your neighbourhood.

