

Factsheet

February 2024



Purpose

The Mulgoa Road upgrade project recognizes that construction noise can be a source of annoyance and is committed to mitigating and minimising construction noise impacts, wherever possible.

What is noise?

Noise is defined as 'unwanted sound'. Noise is perceived differently from one person to the next and is measured on a scale of units called decibels. Experts measure and assess noise within a representative period of time in a manner that the human ear perceives it.

What is construction noise?

Construction noise is unwanted sound caused by construction works or activities. It is temporary and often varies as construction activities change and work progresses.

Construction activities that have the potential to generate unwanted noise include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Earthwork activities
- Project vehicle movements
- Reversing alarms and beepers
- Asphaltting and concreting
- Sawcutting and breaking of rock and concrete
- Loading, unloading or moving equipment and construction materials.

What will our construction noise sound like?

Construction activities will impact you differently depending on what work we are completing and what equipment is being used. Generally, the highest noise emitting equipment that is used throughout a whole night shift is a vacuum truck. If this truck is operating approximately 20 meters from your property you can expect to experience noise levels of 75dB.

This is similar to heavy trucks passing by or a vacuum cleaner. If the truck is operating 200 meters away at the next intersection for example the expected noise levels are

How do we manage construction noise?

We prepare a noise and vibration management plan for each project which documents how we will work to reduce construction noise and vibration. It includes:

- An outline of all construction noise conditions and requirements.
- Identification of potentially impacted stakeholders
- Details of all mitigation measures that will be considered, where feasible and reasonable, where the construction noise and vibration impacts may exceed guidelines
- Procedures for managing noise, including for example providing respite periods when works at night are required.

How do we reduce construction noise impacts?

Given that construction noise is temporary, that it varies over time and that it is by nature difficult to mitigate, a feasible and reasonable approach is taken to mitigation, based upon the requirements of the EPA's Interim Construction Noise Guideline, as supported by Transport for NSW guidelines. Mitigation measures adopted to reduce and manage noise during construction include:

- Maximising the distance between noisy equipment and residential areas
- Scheduling noisy work at less sensitive time periods (before midnight where background noise from large traffic volumes is still high)
- Regular maintenance of equipment
- Installing noise control equipment on machinery and tools
- Noise compliance monitoring
- Locating compounds, stockpiles as far as possible away from residential areas
- Use of temporary noise barriers

- Scheduling respite periods for high noise activities, such as saw cutting (such as three hours on, one hour off)
- Providing advanced notice of planned noisy work to neighboring communities to help them plan.

Unfortunately, in some instances, we have limited options available to reduce noise impacts given the type and range of machinery and equipment required to carry out the tasks.

Where noise is excessive and prolonged, respite periods will be scheduled to provide some relief to neighbours.

Out of hours

Work is carried out during standard construction hours (from 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday and from 8am to 1pm on Saturdays) wherever possible. However, 'out of hours' work, (at night and over the weekend) are required where

it is necessary to close roads and traffic lanes for construction activities to ensure the safety of our workers and to minimise impacts to peak period commuter traffic. Other activities that may occur outside standard hours include, but are not limited to:

- Delivery of large or oversize machinery, prefabricated elements and construction materials
- Utility relocation such as telephone, water, power or sewerage
- Emergency work.

Contact and further information

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Sound levels in decibels (approximate)

