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20190000.1/1216A/R0/TT

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**ATTN: CHRIS SAVVA**

## **Meadowbank Schools – Response to Agency Queries – Acoustics**

Acoustic Logic prepared a *Noise Impact Assessment* with respect to the Meadowbank Schools (MEEP) project (*Noise Impact Assessment*, Revision 9, dated 27/9/2019).

This letter presents our response to issues raised by government agencies with respect to acoustics regarding the MEEP project.

### **Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment.**

**Item 1** - To inform the Department's consideration of the likely impacts from construction, provide an assessment of predicted construction noise impacts on nearby sensitive receivers and consideration of mitigation measures, including indicating their effect (as required by the SEARs).

#### ***ALC Response:***

- Construction noise criteria were identified in section 5.4 of the *Noise Impact Assessment*. Discussion with respect to construction noise and vibration impacts is discussed in section 6.8 of the *Noise Impact Assessment*.
- The EPA Interim Construction Noise Guidelines were identified in the *Noise Impact Assessment* for work done during standard work hours. The ICNG set the following trigger/noise management levels:
  - For residential receivers – a “Background + 10” noise management trigger and a 75dB(A) High Noise Affected trigger level.
  - For industrial receivers – a 75dB(A) Noise Management trigger applies.

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- A “noise management trigger” is not a strict/stop work noise limit. It is a noise level which if exceeded, reasonable and feasible noise mitigation should be adopted.
- The site is not immediately adjoined by residential development, although there is residential development in the vicinity (See Street).
- As with any large construction project, intermittent exceedances of the “Background+10dB(A)” Noise Management Level will occur from time to time (primarily from demolition, civil works, construction of structure). Given there is at least a roadway separation between the site and the residences (See Street), exceedances of the Highly Noise Affected trigger or the Industrial Receiver trigger are in fact unlikely.
- Precise identification of activities that may exceed either a “Background+10” or 75dB(A) noise limit is typically done once construction methods are known (after appointment of a contractor). This is typically done in a Construction Noise Management Sub Plan.
- It is a routine requirement in SSD Approval conditions of consent to include a requirement to produce a Construction Noise Management Sub Plan to identify activities that require additional noise management. A condition of this nature is recommended.

**Item 2** - The Department notes that the Application seeks hours of construction in accordance with Ryde Development Control Plan and that these hours exceed the Interim Construction Noise Guidelines. In addition, the EPA has recommended construction work is limited to standard ICNG hours.

**ALC Response:**

- It is reasonable to adopt the permitted construction hours of the local government area in which the project will be built. The Ryde Council DCP permits hours longer the EPA ICNG standard construction hours. Adopting the Ryde DCP would therefore permit work until:
  - 7pm, as opposed to 6pm on weekdays and
  - 4pm as opposed to 1pm on Saturdays.
- Work outside of EPA Standard Construction Hours (6pm weekdays, 1pm Saturdays) is typically assessed using a more stringent trigger level (being Background+5dB(A)) at the residence.
- The Ryde Council DCP does not set noise emission limits.
- It would therefore be consistent with both the EPA guidelines and the Ryde Council DCP if a “Background + 5dB(A)” noise trigger level is adopted for work conducted between 6pm-7pm on Weekdays and between 1pm-4pm on Saturdays.

**EPA.**

**Item 1** - Traffic noise impacts, including pick-up/drop-off comply with relevant criteria (NSW Road Noise Policy, DECCW 2011) based on 2031 predicted traffic volumes. The NIA propose hours of construction work described in the City of Ryde Development Control Plan 2014. These differ from the recommended standard hours of construction work described in Table 1 of the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECCW, 2009) (ICNG). The EPA recommends that construction work is limited to the standard ICNG construction hours.

**ALC Response:**

- Discussion regarding construction hours to set noise limits consistent with both the EPA ICNG and Ryde Council DCP is addressed in the response to DPIE (item 2) above.

**Item 2** - Noise from mechanical plant, the public address system, and the school bell has not been assessed.

**ALC Response:**

- Mechanical plant, public address systems and school bells were all discussed in section 6.4 of the *Noise Impact Assessment*.
- We further note that the EPA has recommended conditions of consent with respect to noise from mechanical plant, public address systems and school bells, which we believe are reasonable and should be included in conditions of consent.

**Item 2** - Furthermore, any approval should require the applicant to adopt the noise mitigation described in section 6.5 and 6.7 of the NIA to manage operational noise; and section 6.8 of the NIA to manage potential construction noise impacts.

**ALC Response:**

- These are recommendations taken from the *Noise Impact Assessment* prepared by this office, and it is agreed that they should be adopted.

Please contact us should you have any further queries.

Yours faithfully,



Acoustic Logic Consultancy Pty Ltd  
Thomas Taylor