

Sara Roach

From:
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Cc:

MP 10_0048 MOD 4 Demolition of Harbour Control Tower

With this application for demolition,
Sydney is missing a unique opportunity to adapt and re-use this icon of the harbour.

My response to this proposal will concentrate on the noise section of the Noise and Vibration Report.

-In 4.2 and another place further on in the document the consultants state that "These (trucks) would enter/ leave via Pottinger St and Hickson Rd. This is impossible Pottinger St is only accessible from Hickson Rd and is blocked by bollards at the Windmill St end. The entry and departure route is Merriman to Bettington to Dalgety Terrace to Towns Place then to Hickson Rd. This may just be sloppy proof reading or it may be built in to the assessment of the noise affects on the streets after Merriman listed above.

5.1 States "that all practicable measures be taken to regulate noise emissions". This has not been our experience. The easiest measure to take, that is replacement of reversing beeps with quakers required the insistence of Planning NSW, given the proximity of residential property it should have been a given.

6.2.1 It is stated that the facades of the properties on Merriman St face south. They do not they face almost due west, they face both the current works and the harbour control tower. Given that all but two dwellings are terraces all windows are either at the front or back of the properties. The free standing houses have two windows at the front and the terraces 3 windows. This error changes the expectation of the levels of internal noise.

I take issue with the background noise levels for Merriman St that have been used to date, in three reports and a review by the EPA. The first report done by Acoustic Logic Consultancy for JBA Urban Planning Consultants report dated 30/6/10 lists the dB(A)L90 for Merriman St as 54db and for Kent St and Dalgety Terrace as 50 and 48 respectively.

This could not be accurate given Kent and Dalgety have a constant stream of traffic. Merriman St is a dead-end whose existence is largely unknown to most people. The traffic is very occasional and noise from the harbour minimal.

The subsequent reports do not clearly state the background levels but it appears from statements in the current report that these are the numbers still being used.

I have measured with less sophisticated equipment, which is however calibrated, to find our daytime background level to be below and up to 40db, when there is some light work on site it jumps to 42.

My measurements during sandstone sawing + rock breaking + truck movements ranged between 50 to 60 db and most commonly between 54 to 58db. These measurements were made standing at my open front door. I also measured in my backyard which was 2db less. I note this to draw attention to the consultants claim that the housing in Merriman St will mitigate the sound levels in Dalgety Terrace and Towns Place. I think not.

I think there is enough doubt about the veracity of the background levels, so far used, that a new set need to be done. It is not accurate that given ongoing work on the site that it is impossible to do new measurements, as the consultant claims. There are regular no- work days and half days etc and there is a year before the work is to be started.

Given the proximity of this work and the expected extreme noise levels of the equipment the potential for damage to hearing is real.

Regards

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