

17 August 2015

The Secretary
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attn: Karen Jones, Director, Infrastructure

Dear Ms Jones

Re: Proposed Amendment to SSD 5363 to construct an acoustic enclosure for the generator at Hornsby Hospital

Background

In June 2013, approval was granted for Stage 1 of the Redevelopment of Hornsby Hospital. As part of that proposal a standby generator was proposed near the corner of Derby and Burdett Streets. Conditions E3 and E4 dealt with the noise associated with operational plant, machinery or other equipment on site and required that the noise levels do not exceed 5dB(A) above the background noise level when measured at the boundary of the site.

Following the installation of the standby generator, noise testing has identified that this cannot be achieved. Norman Disney Young (NDY), Health Infrastructure's (HIs) acoustic consultant, has undertaken testing of a range of options and it has become apparent that an acoustic barrier is required to be installed around the generator to ensure the noise levels meet those required by the consent.

The purpose of this amendment is to seek approval for the acoustic enclosure that is required to be built around the generator.

Description of the proposal

The proposal involves the construction of an acoustic barrier around the standby generator which is located to the rear of the building on the Burdett Street boundary and close to the Derby Road boundary (refer Drawing WH.AR.1002 attached).

The approved proposal includes a timber screen boundary fence that is approximately 2600mm above from ground level. However, this has been found insufficient to deal with the acoustic impacts of the generator based on testing in May 2015. In order to comply with the conditions of the approval, the contractor has investigated several alternatives to reduce the noise impacts, including the inclusion of additional mufflers and reorienting the vent vertically.

Our acoustic engineer has advised that the only way to comply with the required criteria is to construct a block wall. This wall will be constructed

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The wall proposed is an additional 3000 mm higher than the approved fence and is constructed of blockwork to match the existing wall. The acoustic wall must extend 1500 mm above the generator exhaust in order to meet the specified noise criteria.

The, however none of these were able to achieve the acoustic criteria. In fact, along with the proposed wall, additional mufflers have also been added and the venting has been vertically to further reduce the noise impacts on adjacent residential areas.

Impacts of the proposal

The most significant impact of the acoustic walls is the visual impact when viewed from Derby and Burdett Streets. In order to ameliorate this impact the proposed walls will be treated/painted to blend in with the existing building and additional landscaping added. There is no feasible alternatives to construction of the wall and while there will be a visual impact, especially in the short term before vegetation matures, this is considered to be less detrimental to residential amenity than the noise that would be experienced by neighbours during the regular testing of the generator (once a month on a Saturday morning).

Additional information

In order to provide additional information, copies of advice from NDY in Advice J-28 dated 3 February; J-30 dated 18 February and J-32 dated 27 May 2015, along with a copy of the original acoustic report approved in 2013.

Recommendation

Approval is sought to amend SSD 5363 to allow the construction of acoustic walls around the standby generator in accordance with the attached plans

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Sangster".

Sam Sangster
Chief Executive