

5 September 2020

Mr. Andrew Rode
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
Locked Bag 5002
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Andrew

Lidsdale Siding MOD 3 – Additional Information Request

Please find below a response to requested additional background and assessment of noise impacts of the Lidsdale Siding Project at the St John Evangelist Church (R13).

Question: *The reason that this receiver has not previously had a noise limit imposed, and whether this rationale still applies for the current modification.*

Response: The specific rationale as to why this receiver hasn't previously had a noise limit imposed is uncertain. It could be that a church is not as sensitive to noise as a residence and, if there is a residence near by, as is the case here, it is not uncommon for there to be no noise limit for a church. That is, the nearby residence having a noise limit would mean noise at the church would be managed by virtue of that residence's existence nearby.

It should be noted that services only occur twice a month on a Sunday morning if attended.

Question: *Within the context of an updated noise model and new noise assessment under the Noise Policy for Industry what would be the appropriate noise limits for this receiver.*

Response: The appropriate recommended amenity noise level for a place of worship is an internal noise level of 40dB LAeq period. In this case, there is potential for contribution from other industry so the project amenity noise level applicable to noise from Lidsdale Siding would be internal 35dB LAeq period (recommended level minus 5dB). This would equate to internal 38dB LAeq,15-minute based on the assumption outlined in the NPfI to standardise the assessment time period. The typical assumed reduction from outside to inside a structure is 10dB based on a typical residential structure with windows partially open. Hence, the original Lidsdale Siding - Modification 3 Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) (EMM, 2020) report established a project noise trigger level (PNTL) (external) of 48dB LAeq,15-minute. However, given the construction type and non-operable windows, a conservative reduction of noise from outside to inside would be in the order of 20dB. Hence, an appropriate external noise limit would be 58dB LAeq,15-minute when the church is in use.

Question: *What is the eligibility of this receiver for mitigation measures under the Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy (VLAMP).*

Response: Page 17 of the VLAMP states that a consent authority cannot apply voluntary mitigation and voluntary land acquisition rights to “modifications of existing developments with legacy noise issues, where the modification would have beneficial or negligible noise impacts.” The results of noise modelling presented in the NIA, and subsequent responses to requests for additional information from the EPA, indicate negligible difference in operational noise levels as a result of the proposed modification. Notwithstanding the preceding, the predicted operational noise levels at the church (up to 52dB LAeq,15-minute under noise enhancing weather conditions) do not exceed the appropriate external noise limit. Hence, there is no requirement to consider additional noise mitigation measures.

If you require any further information in regard to this matter, please contact me on my mobile, 0407 207 530, or email james.wearne@centennialcoal.com.au.

Yours sincerely


James Wearne
Group Manager Approvals