

I am writing this submission as a part-owner and resident of a nearby residential apartment building that will be directly affected by the Grocon proposal for a 25-storey building and the modification proposal to SSD7338 (MOD 4) – increase in Construction Hours from the approved 0700-1700 Monday to Saturday to 0600-0000 Monday to Saturday.

Once again, Grocon is riding rough shot over surrounding residents' concerns. First of all it ignored resident's concerns of loss of amenity through loss of iconic Darling Harbour views (and subsequent loss in property values) through the totally inappropriate scale of this development on the Darling Harbour Waterfront and the wasteful and ugly bulbous architecture design of the building, that unnecessarily protrudes over Wheat Road blocking views, now it is attempting to increase construction hours to meet the construction programme imposed by its corporate overlords at the expense of the sanity and amenity of surrounding residents. The justification given that the increase in construction hours would result in a shortened construction timeframe is not quantified in any of the documentation.

I totally object to the proposed increase in construction hours to 18 hours per day from 0600-0000 Monday to Saturday), for an indefinite (undisclosed period) presumably to the project is finished as the construction noise imposed, cumulative impacts with other construction projects will be too much to bear for someone who is trying to live in the city. For one to live in the city it must be truly liveable. Piling operations until midnight and re-starting at 0600 is not acceptable and is contrary to residential amenity.

The noise assessment and hence the submitted Statement of Environmental Effects is flawed for the following reasons:

1. There is no assessment of construction noise on the nearby residential receivers.
2. The assessment has used the City of Sydney construction noise guideline as the most appropriate criteria. While the project should comply with this guideline it should also comply with the DECC Interim Construction Noise Guidelines.
3. There is no Sleep Disturbance Assessment using LA1,1min or LAmax.
4. The Background Noise Monitoring of which the noise assessment is based does not take into account that the background levels are much quieter during weeknights (Sunday to Thursday nights) than on Friday and Saturday nights and it is 5 years old so may not be relevant anymore.
5. The noise assessment does not include a map of where the construction equipment would be located in a 'worst-case scenario'.
6. The noise assessment takes predicated Sound Power Levels from AS2436:1981. The latest version of this standard is AS2436:2010, which includes updated Sound Power levels for various construction equipment as well as the requirement to undertake sleep disturbance assessments.
7. The assessment does not consider all possible equipment that may be in use at one particular time through the worst-case scenario. E.g. there is no generators, lighting towers, trucks apart from a concrete truck, nor is there any statement as to what the worst-case scenario is.
8. The assessment makes a commitment that that in Category 2 and 4 periods there would be no hydraulic or pneumatic (pneumatic?) hammering, rock/concrete sawing or angle grinding. This does not rule out some of the noisiest pieces of machinery to be in operation during these periods, including piling, concrete pumping, concrete truck, concrete vibrator and crane operator.

9. The assessment does not make any commitments for respite periods from night time works (apart from Sunday night). This would make life intolerable for nearby noise receivers.
10. The assessment does not indicate the type of piling proposed. This is relevant as sheet piling is much louder than other piling methods (e.g. screw piling).
11. The assessment nor the Statement of Environmental Effects do not indicate the expected duration of the extended construction hours.