

Modification Request for the Meadowbank Education Precinct Schools Project, 2 Rhodes St, Meadowbank (SSD-9343-Mod-3).

**Submission to object to modification request for extended construction hours:**

**Suzanne Mann, 44 Maxim St, West Ryde.**

**Modification Request for the Meadowbank Education Precinct Schools Project, 2 Rhodes St, Meadowbank (SSD-9343-Mod-3).**

**I object to the modification request to extend the approved construction hours for the Meadowbank Education Precinct Schools Project.**

Under the existing development consent, the approved construction hours are between 7:00am and 6:00pm Mondays to Fridays and between 8:00am and 1:00pm on Saturdays, with no night work scheduled and no work occurring on Sundays or public holidays. There is also existing provision to extend these hours, provided noise levels do not exceed the existing background noise level plus 5 dB, where works may be undertaken between 6:00pm and 7:00pm, Mondays to Fridays and between 1:00pm and 4:00pm on Saturdays. This is in line with the EPA's Interim Construction Noise Guideline and should provide adequate time for construction works without further adverse impact on the surrounding residents.

Ryde Development Control Plan 2014 (RDCP) Part 8.1 Construction Activities of the RDCP states that construction hours may be varied provided the applicant demonstrates 'that due to the nature of the work being undertaken, or the location of the site, residents in the vicinity of the construction site will not be adversely affected'.

What noise assessors, may consider "acoustically acceptable" is not necessarily acceptable to those living with the continual, daily noise.

The amenity of surrounding residents is already adversely affected by the current approved construction hours - e.g. people working from home, parents at home with young children, shift workers.

The current increased noise levels from construction works have resulted in raised volumes for conversation, radio and television. It is at times not possible to open windows or doors because of the continual and intrusive noise, particularly if trying to run a Zoom meeting/training session.

However, this is a strong, supportive residential community that has accepted the current level of disruption in support of improved educational facilities for the community benefit.

The current construction hours are bearable because, even using the existing 'additional hours' extension, construction works will conclude by 7pm M-F (commonly meal time and a time for families to gather and converse), and 4pm Saturdays. Sundays are uninterrupted and should remain that way - a day of rest and relief from the ongoing construction noise.

I feel that further extending construction hours is unnecessarily intrusive.

It is unfair to subject surrounding residents to further intrusion early in the mornings (an often stressful time in normal circumstances - getting everyone organised for the day, without the addition of persistent construction noise) and then well into the night (10pm!), and 7 days a week, with no end in sight, as no indication has been given of a timeframe for this additional intrusion.

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Examples of potential for additional noise 7 days per week -

\* The addition of two construction vehicles (four movements) per hour during the proposed extended work hours - reversing alarms - essential for site safety, but a very intrusive, intermittent and jarring noise for surrounding residents.

\* External facades and landscaping - Cumulative noise of external works, with numerous workers operating power tools, and deliveries of materials.

There must be a balance between resident amenity and community benefit, and the proposed extension of construction hours tips that balance further away from resident amenity.

Therefore I formally object to the modification request for extension of construction hours on the Meadowbank Education Precinct Schools Project.

*C4. Notwithstanding condition C3, provided noise levels do not exceed the existing background noise level plus 5 dB(A), works may also be undertaken during the following hours:*

*(C4.1) Monday to Friday 6am and 7am and 6pm to 10pm the use of the tower cranes to be conducted onsite.*

*(C4.2) Monday to Friday working between 6am and 7am; 6pm and 10pm including the following activities only:*

*a. Internal works once the façade is installed including fixings; finishing, services installation and the like.*

*b. External waterproofing, painting and the like.*

*c. External landscaping including activities which do not include power tools or motors (including vehicles).*

*d. Low-noise power and battery hand-held tools only and shall exclude use of the following tools:*

*i) Angle grinders*

*ii) Hammer drills*

*iii) Jackhammers*

*iv) Circular saws and*

*v) Any tools that generates a noise level equal to, or louder than any of the above listed tools.*

*e. General façade installation*

*f. Deliveries using a maximum 12.5m trucks*

*(C4.3) Working hours Saturday between 6am and 8am; 1pm and 4pm, including the following activities only:*

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*c. External landscaping including activities which do not include power tools or motors (including vehicles).*

*d. Low-noise power and battery hand-held tools only and shall exclude use of the following tools:*

*i) Angle grinders*

*ii) Hammer drills*

*iii) Jackhammers*

*iv) Circular saws and*

*v) Any tools that generates a noise level equal to, or louder than any of the above listed tools.*

*e. The use of the tower cranes*

*f. façade installation*

*g. Deliveries using up to 12.5m trucks*

*(C4.4) Working hours Sunday between 6am and 4pm, including the following activities only:*

*a. Internal works including fixings; finishing, services installation and the like. b. External waterproofing, painting and the like.*

*c. External landscaping including activities which do not include power tools or motors (including vehicles).*

*d. Low-noise power and battery hand-held tools only and shall exclude use of the following tools:*

*i) Angle grinders ii) Hammer drills iii) Jackhammers*

*iv) Circular saws and*

*v) Any tools that generates a noise level equal to, or louder than any of the above listed tools.*

*e. The use of tower cranes.*

*f. Façade installation.*

*g. Deliveries using maximum 12.5m trucks*