

My submission to REJECT the proposal to increase the hours of work on the Meadowbank Education Schools Precinct.

The reasons are as follows: -

1. The impact of the noise on residents' sleep.

Since the start of the project, the workers on the project have started making noise from 5:30am, Mondays to Fridays.

Noise details:

The current permitted work time is 7am however workers arrive and park from 5am, making noise and waking my family up, which includes a paramedic, essential worker and an HSC student. This has been reported to Caroline Anthony, Communications Manager who advised there is nothing that can be done. The only way to stop it is to legally make start time after 7am. The effects of sleep deprivation due to construction noise are clearly documented in numerous reputable medical journals.

The workers arrive with music pumping; open and slam doors on large utes; open their boot to get their work boots out and sit in their car, with music blaring while putting boots on; slam doors; walk away from their car and use remote to lock the car with an echoing 'beep beep'. They then see their mates and have chats about their victories on the weekend, as if they are in a noisy pub. Standing outside bedroom windows with voices and laughter echoing through suburbs. This happens with the 12 car parking spaces around our house. If work starts at 6:00am noise will start from 4:30am. Please, please, please do not allow the early starts and late finishes to happen. Workers have no respect for the residents. This is out of control of construction companies as Caroline Anthony has advised they cannot do anything about workers on the street. The only way to stop it is to make start times later; and finish times earlier.

This noise has been reported to Dept Planning, Caroline Anthony, EPA, Victor Dominello on a regular basis. The response from Caroline ANthony was the noise was not being made by construction workers - it was TAFE students. This is rubbish and has been laughed at by all in the Residents Action Group. What TAFE students turn up at 5:30am, in high vis jackets to walk down Macpherson St to the Schools site - for a 9:00am TAFE start. This is insulting that we are told an 'audit' was conducted on cars and the cars do not belong to construction workers. One Construction worker drives a red sedan; another a hotted up BMW. The results of the audit show we are being taken for idiots. We are not stupid and we need respect from whoever is reading our submissions.

The DA confirmed parking for 100 construction vehicles however 7 days per week the vehicles do not use this parking. The construction parking lot is empty while residents are unable to park within 100m of their homes. Reported by residents to Caroline Anthony on a weekly basis and no action taken which has fixed the issue.

Many houses are heritage listed with no/little driveway parking. Residents need to be able to park in their own streets.

Residents are unable to have multiple visitors as visitors need to park 500m away. This is 7 days per week, including precious weekends when we want to enjoy families and friends at our homes.

These parking issues demonstrate that street parking is taken up by construction workers and could be from 4:30am until 10:30pm. That is not fair and reasonable for residents.

## Truck noise

The DA lists Macpherson St (our residential street) as not to be used by construction vehicles. It is used daily, including from 6:00am. Evidence including the Who, What, Where and When of breaches of the DA have been forwarded to Caroline Anthony with a response 'I am working on it' and it is never resolved. The photos of hundreds of breaches are available from CCTV. The excuse that the vehicles belong to a build on Constitution Rd is incorrect as from my bedroom I see the vehicles enter the See St entrance. I realise that this submission is not re the TAFE building however the lack of response to DA breaches shows residents have no power to stop noisy trucks.

A second type of traffic incident breaching work hours approved by the current DA has been reported on 4 occasions, however has occurred at least 4 times per week since December 2020 - it relates to the ute which places the traffic signs out, used for both the Schools and TAFE building. The signs are a necessity, however not when they are placed at 5:30 am. If you permit the DA to start from 6am, then construction noise will start from 4:30am. Even 23rd April 2021, after being promised that the workers would not put signs out prior to 7am, the ute with signs parked outside my bedroom window and idled the noisy diesel, rattling vehicle from 6:40am - 6:55am. The response from Caroline Anthony was 'Ok, that was supposed to have been rectified so I'll raise that immediately with the team'. Raising with the team and hearing this day after day has not resolved the issue hence a 6am start MUST be prohibited. PLEASE.

If our constant reporting of incidents prior to 7am cannot stop the noise and sleep disturbance, then the DA cannot be changed to a 6am start. Also, the 7am start needs to be mandated and penalties for any residential noise out of these approved times.

My argument is that if the Compliance and Communications managers employed to listen to residents' complaints and responsible for fixing compliance issues cannot fix them after multiple urgent requests, then the DA cannot and should not be changed to allow work to start at 6am.

The fact that as per the following document that there is no resolution to the issue of workers parking on the streets shows that this issue will be more detrimental to residents if the work hours start at 6am and finish at 10pm.

[https://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/infrastructure/projects/m/meadowbank-education-precinct/dec-2020/B12\\_ENV-PLN-001-SMEEP\\_Rev.5\\_updated\\_24.11.2020.pdf](https://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/infrastructure/projects/m/meadowbank-education-precinct/dec-2020/B12_ENV-PLN-001-SMEEP_Rev.5_updated_24.11.2020.pdf)

There is clear evidence that sleep disturbances are associated with health deterioration, and growing evidence that exposure to noise pollution, around-the-clock, negatively affects health, too. It has also been proven that nocturnal noise pollution significantly impairs sleep, objectively and subjectively. Whether these noise-induced sleep disturbances represent the link between environmental noise exposure and negative health outcomes still remains uncertain. However, the emerging data suggest that indeed nocturnal environmental noise may be the most worrying form of noise pollution in terms of its health consequences, possibly because of its synergistic direct and indirect (through sleep disturbances) influence on biological systems. Duration and quality of sleep should thus be regarded as risk factors or markers significantly influenced by the environment and possibly amenable to modification through both education and counseling as well as through measures of public health. One of the means that should be proposed is avoidance at all costs of sleep disruptions caused by environmental noise. Environmental noise and sleep disturbances: A threat to health? [DemianHalperin](#)

Other challenges regarding the submission:

Sunday should not be used for construction

Sunday working hours being extended to 6am - 4pm should never be permitted.

Sunday is a day of rest for families.

Sunday should be vehemently protected as a day of rest for both people and the planet. In many countries, eg Germany, noise is prohibited to help keep the roads and residential areas clear, quiet and clean. Our suburb used to be quiet on a Sunday and needs to remain, for the health and wellbeing of residents. Please.

Definition of ambient noise

The definition of the additional noise of the modified proposal is ambient + 5db. There is no where to indicate what ambient is. Alex McGuirk, Senior Compliance Manager at Dept Planning has also questioned this definition. Legally, the approval for this extra noise cannot be approved as 'ambient' has not been defined to the residents in a clear and available document. The noise emanating from the TAFE build construction has had detrimental health effects and is a very important issue to consider. I realise they are considered as separate construction sites however as they are both State Significant Builds with the same Communications Manager, Caroline Anthony, there is a direct link.

Schools Construction is behind Project Management schedule

The project managers of the Schools project are obviously behind their schedule and being pushed to finish something that was very late starting. It is presumably an election promise that once completed, will be used by politicians for campaigning photos. Project Directors will no doubt get bonuses for meeting deadlines. What compensation is there for local residents? None. DO NOT penalise residents by increasing work hours, when someone hasn't done their job correctly, ie planning works to a schedule. As a recent Meadowbank Public School parent and volunteer who has seen the school increase from 156 in 2013 to 600 students now, I know full well the pressure on ensuring the build is completed, but not at the expense of the health and wellbeing of residents.

Communication of compliance issues

The residents in the vicinity of the Schools and TAFE builds are so frustrated with the communication of compliance issues.

There have been numerous agencies contacted and no action.

I contacted Council. Council said contact EPA. EPA said contact Dept Planning. Dept Planning said contact EPA. I contacted Victor Dominello. Victor's team said contact the EPA. Then said contact Council. I simply ask that Mr Dominello helps the residents in his constituency.

I have relevant communication emails if you would like them from Managers in the above Departments sending myself and residents on a wild goose chase and not resolving. Complaints have been sent daily to the Communications Manager (Caroline Anthony) and no satisfactory resolution, only frustration even though the Who, What, Where and When of each issue has been clearly documented. The Compliance Register may indicate that the issue has closed however the Corrective and Preventative Actions are not working. Hundreds of text messages and emails have been sent by numerous residents.

The resident's action group is sleep deprived and fed up. Any help would be appreciated. On 21April2021, Caroline Anthony promised documentation re resolving issues would be forthcoming. The text stated "Hi Louise. There are a number of actions underway to resolve the issues have raised once and for all". 'I'll send it today'. It's the 25April and still has not been sent.

The documenting of complaints via the Dept Planning portal is cumbersome and the website is hard to find. Even on Friday 23 April 2021, after submitting 5 serious breaches and videos with photos, I was initially told the attachments were not there. Residents are fed up and exhausted and need a more reliable method to have their grievances listened to and actioned upon. Please.

I acknowledge that the NSW State Government has permitted construction times to be expanded due to COVID. Please note that many residents work from home, again mandated by their companies due to COVID. Personally, my company has shut the Sydney office and I have no choice but to work from home. The stress of the noise of the TAFE building site, compounded by the noise of the Schools building is exhausting. The diesel crane echoes through the houses and backyard, and despite numerous calls and emails to Caroline Anthony, EPA and Victor Dominello, nothing has been done. The crane driver starts prior to 7am every day, calling out and speaking loudly. Then revs the diesel engine like it is a V8 engine. Complaints are well documented and nothing has been done.

#### The DA amendment documentation

Your letter requesting feedback for the DA amendment does not have a clear deadline. Please ensure all responses received until 11:59 on 26April2021 are accepted. For future DA amendments, please clearly advise a date and time that is not ambiguous. Even the Senior Compliance Manager from Dept Planning could not decipher the deadline.

In summary, the request to extend the hours of operation of the Schools site should be denied for the sake of the residents, not just in immediate streets, however for residents in Ryde, Meadowbank and West Ryde.

Cc: Mr Victor Dominello