

I live in Meadowbank and the extension of construction hours will adversely affect me and my wellbeing.

I object to this amendment request and ask the Department of Planning Industry and Environment to reject this proposal.

Since the start of the project, the construction associated noise has started from 5:30am, Mondays to Fridays.

This noise includes the arrival of construction staff in their big powerful utes with music blaring, doors slamming and the “hello bro” yelled excitedly from one end of the street to the other end – the construction staff appear to be young and they are noisy.

The staff often arrive early and sit in their cars with the engine running listening to music or radio. This isn't illegal obviously, but it is very difficult for those who live close by.

The noise from arriving construction workers is waking me up early and I am continually tired. And now I'm being asked to have an even earlier start and a very late finish – the answer is no.

I worry about the children in the area – there are two pre-school children, three primary aged children and two high school students within the three blocks of land where I live. These children are waking up early with the noise and now its being proposed that there is no easing of the noise even on weekends – young children need their sleep - it is recommended a child has 10-12 hours sleep per night – this proposal will not allow that to occur.

I keep my windows shut because of the noise, the dust and the smell. Kids are supposed to play outside.

This proposal is just so unfair to the residents of this area. We have had to put up with construction inconvenience, noise, dust, traffic, etc, etc, etc, for at least 10 years – that includes heavy trucks, speeding, truck horns, and even lolly pop people on just about every road. I really think this proposal is far beyond reasonable.

The workers probably are not aware of the noise and disturbance they make, and if they were told, they would probably forget from one day to the next, but it is a real issue and its unfair that residents are expected to suck it up. Large constructions projects and the issues they bring, has been going on in this area for more than 10 years. We are tired of it, we have more than done our bit and to ask for more is unreasonable and unfair.

I am aware that a few of my neighbours have complained on multiple occasions about noise, dust and lack of parking - with next to no result. Its very frustrating and depressing and demoralising, and I feel so sorry that they are trying to fix a bad situation and failing. They feel they are talking to a brick wall.

I particularly understand multiple complaints have been made to Dept Planning, Caroline Anthony, EPA. Ms Anthony's response was to blame the TAFE students for the noise.

TAFE students have always been in this area, I have lived with TAFE students for the entire time I've lived in Macpherson Street – which is since 2000 – the students do not make a noise arriving and leaving – sure the occasional student will do a wheelie and speed but they mostly leave singly and not in noisy groups. They do not start early. This blaming of students is an insult to our intelligence and underlines the lack of respect Ms Anthony has shown towards the residents, and her obvious lack of investigation into complaints.

Ms Anthony should be aware that TAFE students start arriving in the area around 8am, and they don't wear high vis jackets. I know this as a fact, as they are arriving and walking to TAFE most weekday mornings when I'm walking to the train station. I work at Surry Hills and I catch the first train after 8.10am.

I understand my neighbour was told an 'audit' was conducted on the parked vehicles (I wonder at what time of the day and on what day) and the reported outcome is that the parked cars do not belong to construction workers. What a load of rubbish. I live here, I know the lay of the land and I know the difference in parking availability, and noise levels since construction commenced, and most TAFE students drive old vehicles not new ones. I have noticed that the TAFE teachers appear to have some very nice cars (pre-construction days I could see them in the teacher's car park). These cars now appear to be parking on the streets too.

I suggest that the vast majority of parking space is taken by the construction people, as most of the available parking is gone from very early morning. This is obvious because of the type of car – expensive utes, 4WD, even sports type cars which were not as evident in the past.

Many houses in this area do not have on-site parking, so it's unfair and unreasonable to expect the residents to accept that they or their visitors will have no parking until the construction completes – although I shudder to think how 60 car spaces will service the completed site. Another stuff up in the making. It's just so unfair.

Truck noise, dirt and dust - its continual despite the promise that these trucks will not use Macpherson Street. The promises made to residents are a joke, there are continually trucks speeding in the street; turning into Macpherson Street from Bowden Street. Just check the dirt on the road – it's obvious the white clay coating on the road is from construction vehicles. It frightens me that a child will be hit and this risk will increase with an increase in working weekend hours. Kids on bikes and large construction trucks – what a combination.

I have just returned to work after a long period of illness. I was at the letterbox on one occasion in the past two weeks at around 2pm and counted three large construction trucks roaring down Macpherson Street, one after another. I was astounded.

I'm so fed up with the standard response from Ms Anthony, "Okay, 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 any issues. Its tiresome, its annoying and its making the residents angry.

There has been consistent reporting by residents of incidents, and this has not improved the situation.

The Compliance and Communications managers employed to listen to residents' complaints and responsible for fixing compliance issues have been unable to remedy the situation, and despite this the residents are now being asked to undertake even more disruption to their lives.

Extending working hours is just unfair, its unreasonable. Its intrusive to family life, its an imposition, it inhibits the ability of the residents to relax, to enjoy their environment. To relax after a working week and to mentally prepare for the week ahead.

The request suggests that the Schools project is behind schedule and the request is being made to enable a catch up and finish to schedule. I understand fully the need to have the school ready for the new year – my wonderful neighbours moved 5 years ago to another area because of the dreadful overcrowding situation with Meadowbank primary. I just don't believe the residents of Meadowbank have to make the sacrifice and nor should we be pressured to do so, it's just another form of bullying.

I do wonder what the bonus to the construction workers is for finishing on schedule? I also wonder why I have to fight for the right to maintain a safe living environment.

End of submission