

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Managing construction noise

#### What is noise?

Noise is defined as an 'unwanted sound'. Everybody perceives noise differently, and everyone has a different tolerance level for noise.

#### What noise will be generated during dredging?

During dredging, the dredge will produce noise similar to the sound of an engine running. Modifications have been made to the dredge to reduce noise levels specifically for this project. This involves:

- lining the engine bay with high-quality sound absorbing materials
- sealing the engine bay and fan areas along joints and gaps
- inserting noise-reducing materials into the covers of mufflers
- covering the area above the engine bay with rubber
- placing noise-absorbent and sound-deflecting materials around the fans, external handrails and centre section of the backhoe body.

To dispose of dredged material, tugs tow barges to a disposal site located approximately six nautical miles offshore. The noise produced will be similar to that of the tug boats currently operating in the Port of Eden.

During the fabrication of scour protection, there will be some noise from the fabrication works and from truck deliveries. This will take place during normal construction hours, which are from 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday and from 8 am to 1 pm Saturdays. The use of horns and alarms on vehicles at the Breakwater Wharf will be minimised.

#### What noise will be generated during construction of the marine structures?

During construction of the marine structures noise will be generated from:

- construction vehicle movements
- loading, unloading, moving equipment and construction materials
- excavating
- piling
- drilling pile rock sockets
- pre-cast and in-situ concreting works
- saw cutting and breaking concrete.

The noise will be temporary and will change as the work progresses.

Before the commencement of the marine structures, the successful tenderer will be required to prepare a construction environmental management plan (CEMP). The CEMP will detail the mitigation measures to be put in place to manage construction noise.

## What legislation covers noise?

Our management of construction noise is guided by the following key documents:

- the project's state significant infrastructure approval, which details the conditions under which the project must operate, including management of construction noise
- *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
- AS 2436-1981 'Guide to Noise Control on Construction, Maintenance and Demolition sites'
- Interim construction noise guideline.

In addition, the environmental impact assessment for the project addressed the requirements of the above. Where the requirements could not be met, additional mitigation measures were developed to reduce noise impacts.

## How will noise levels be assessed and monitored?

Noise is assessed by averaging the quietest and loudest (actual and/or predicted) measured noise levels, with consideration to how the human ear perceives sound.

Three noise monitors (sound loggers) have been installed at various locations around Snug Cove, which enable project staff to remotely monitor noise levels 24 hours per day. In addition, a noise specialist will be present periodically throughout the project to measure noise levels at various residential and commercial locations in Eden.

## Why is noise monitoring being done?

We recognise construction noise can be a major annoyance, especially for residents and businesses. We are committed to mitigating and limiting the impact of construction noise wherever possible.

Noise monitoring is also a requirement of the project's state significant infrastructure approval.

## How can I find out more about the project?

To get more information about the project, contact us by:

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