

About the Noise Mitigation Strategy

A noise mitigation strategy has been developed to address the ongoing issue of noise from cruise ships at White Bay Cruise Terminal (WBCT).

The strategy includes a suite of initiatives that have been designed to minimise the impact of cruise ships on the local community. The package has been developed by the Port Authority of NSW.

Key elements of the Noise Mitigation Strategy

- 1. Noise Attenuation Program:** noise attenuation comprising of physical treatments to homes to a defined area of residences where noise modelling indicates that average noise levels reach or exceed 55 decibels at night ('attenuation eligibility threshold').
- 2. Noise Restriction Policy:** a new policy restricting on-deck music and public announcements not related to safety and restrictions for ships which cause further exceedances of the attenuation eligibility threshold. Non-compliant ships will be given an initial warning to make improvements; a second non-compliance will result in a loss of priority booking status plus overnight relocation of the ship; and a third non-compliance will result in future bookings not being allowed.
- 3. Noise Logging:** continuous real-time logging to monitor noise levels and guide ongoing noise management.

About the Noise Attenuation Program

The noise attenuation program is one of a number of initiatives being undertaken in response to cruise ship noise at WBCT as part of the noise mitigation strategy.

The program is designed to provide physical treatments to homes that will reduce the levels of noise experienced in areas affected by cruise ships. The program will include the following noise reduction treatments:

- Upgrading windows or external doors
- Enclosing or sealing gaps, vents and openings, where practical
- Installing new windows or external doors
- Installation of ventilation systems to allow for the circulation of fresh air when windows are closed.

Who is eligible for attenuation?

To be eligible for the noise attenuation program a residence must meet all of the following criteria:

- Experience an average noise level of at least 70 decibels during the day, 60 decibels during the evening, or 55 decibels at night
- Is classified as an approved and occupied residence
- Is no more than 100 metres from the WBCT site boundary.

The attenuation eligibility threshold of 55 decibels (external to residences) considers the urban / industrial interface maximum level and a 'penalty' of 5 decibels for low frequency noise as per the Environment Protection Authority's Industrial Noise Policy. The 100 metre boundary was benchmarked against other NSW Government attenuation programs.

Residents that are not eligible but consider that they may warrant special consideration can contact Port Authority who will assess their residence on a case by case basis.

The actual combination of noise attenuation treatments for each residence is subject to individual property inspection and consultation with the homeowner. The proposed treatments have been used by other NSW Government agencies in noise attenuation programs.

Noise Attenuation Program – identified area

The noise attenuation program is available to eligible residences living in the area identified below:



Community consultation

A drop-in centre has been established to give local residents the opportunity to discuss the noise mitigation strategy including the Noise Attenuation Program with representatives from the Port Authority of NSW.

Session dates and times are:

- Tuesday 29 November (6pm–9pm)
- Wednesday 30 November (11am–2pm)
- Thursday 1 December (6pm–9pm)

Community will have until 5pm, Tuesday 31 January 2017 to provide written comment on the noise mitigation strategy. For further information including a copy of the feedback form, visit the Port Authority website (address below).

Timing

The rollout of the noise mitigation strategy can commence following consideration of feedback from the community consultation and endorsement from the Department of Planning & Environment. It is anticipated the noise attenuation program will be implemented over two years from early 2017.

Funding

The Port Authority of NSW has allocated \$5.3 million to fund the noise mitigation strategy.

Contact us

- E** noisestrategy@portauthoritynsw.com.au
W www.sydneyports.com.au/noisestrategy
T 9296 4595, Phillip Vander Reest – Project Manager, Noise Attenuation Program