

Noise Attenuation Program

WHITE BAY CRUISE TERMINAL AND WHITE BAY BERTH 4 NOISE MITIGATION STRATEGY

About the Noise Mitigation Strategy

Port Authority of NSW has developed the Noise Attenuation Program to address noise impacts from cruise ships at White Bay Cruise Terminal and White Bay Berth 4. The Noise Attenuation Program forms part of the overall Noise Mitigation Strategy.

The Noise Attenuation Program aims to provide noise mitigation treatments for eligible properties where cruise ship noise has been identified as exceeding the eligibility trigger for White Bay Cruise Terminal and White Bay Berth 4.

Eligibility

Who is eligible for attenuation?

Properties identified on the map below are eligible under the Noise Attenuation Program. The eligibility trigger is defined as where average noise levels exceed 55dBA at night.

Noise Mitigation Strategy key elements

1 Noise Attenuation Program

Attenuation is being provided to properties where noise exceeds the eligibility trigger.

2 Noise Restriction Policy

Sets out a policy for ships that cause excessive noise from vessel operations and non-safety related noise including on-deck music and public announcements.

3 Noise monitoring

Continuous real-time noise logging to monitor noise levels and guide ongoing noise management.



What is the eligibility trigger?

To be eligible for the Noise Attenuation Program, a property must experience noise levels of 70 decibels during the day, 60 decibels during the evening, and 55 decibels during the night. The property must also be an approved and occupied dwelling.

What if my property is not eligible but I believe it should be?

If your property is not eligible but you think it should be, please contact Port Authority and request a formal assessment. Following an assessment, eligibility will be considered on a case by case basis.

Noise treatments

What noise treatments are available for my property?

Noise treatments undertaken at a property may include architectural acoustic treatments. This involves improving the sound-resistance of a property via measures such as replacing or upgrading windows and doors with those that are acoustically rated; enclosing or sealing gaps, vents and openings where practical; upgrading window and door seals; and provision of fresh air ventilation (fitted with filters) to rooms so windows can be kept closed to restrict the noise. Only facades that are directly or 'side on' affected by cruise ship noise will be treated. Treatments are only provided to habitable rooms such as living areas and bedrooms. Where outdoor noise is a concern noise treatments for courtyards and external areas (in addition to the internal areas) at eligible properties would be considered on a case by case basis where possible.

Similar treatments are extensively used by other NSW Government agencies for reducing noise in properties impacted by main roads and rail.

How are the treatments determined for my property?

A consultant will assess your property and its requirements in accordance with typical standards used by other NSW Government agencies. Port Authority will provide the property owner with a copy of the proposed scope of works ahead of any work starting.

Will acoustic treatment change the look of my property?

Acoustic treatment is done in consultation with you and can match the look and style of your property. The treatment would be designed with consideration of any impact on the heritage aspect of the property.

Benefits of attenuation

What are the benefits of acoustic treatment for my property?

Properties that have acoustic treatment are generally more sound-resistant than those with standard glazing and fittings. Other benefits include better temperature insulation.

What type of window system will be used?

Typically the most effective system is one that is acoustically rated and has thick laminated glass as the main part of the window. Double glazed systems are not usually used as for some noise frequencies there can be a reduction in noise attenuation performance.

Attenuation process

How does the process work to have my property attenuated?

Port Authority will send you a letter of offer for acoustic treatment. If you wish to take up the offer simply respond to the letter. The letter includes information on how to respond to the offer.

Once you respond, Port Authority or its acoustic consultant will visit you and make recommendations on treatments and also ask you to review the scope of works. Once the scope is agreed, you will be asked to sign an agreement so the work can start.

How does Port Authority determine which dwellings are treated first?

Attenuation will be offered to all eligible properties at the same time. However rollout of treatment will be prioritised on order of agreement with the property owner.

How long will it take to treat my property?

It will typically take a few weeks to complete attenuation once the materials have arrived. In addition you should expect on average six weeks for the materials to arrive once they have been ordered.

What is the agreement?

The agreement is a consent and agreement form for the proposed work and allows authorised contractors access to the property to undertake the work.

Funding

Is there any cost to me for attenuation?

No. If Port Authority offers to acoustically treat your property there is no cost to you.

What is the maximum amount that can be spent on attenuating my property?

There is no maximum and treatment will be specific for each property. No monetary compensation will be provided in lieu of treatment.

Contact



For queries regarding the Noise Attenuation Program, please contact Port Authority on 02 9296 4962.

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