



DOC23/605231-7

Department of Planning and Environment
Mr Shaun Williams
Via NSW Planning Portal
Also via Email: shaun.williams@planning.nsw.gov.au

18 July 2023

Request Additional Information - Integrated Development - DA-339886

Dear Shaun Williams

Thank you for the request for General Terms of Approval from the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) for Concurrence and Referral (CNR) CNR-57227 application DA-339886 by Aurizon Port Services NSW Pty Ltd at 7 Bullock Road, Carrington (Lot 16 DP 1190232 and Lot 220 DP 1195310).

The Applicant is seeking to expand its existing operations to include external storage and handling of containerised cement of up to 85,000 tonnes per annum as well as an increase in the maximum internal storage and handling capacity of the site for zinc, copper and lead concentrates and the introduction of mineral sands, from 70,000 tonnes to 130,000 tonnes at any one time. These increases are associated with an increase in vehicle, train, and shipping movements.

The EPA has reviewed the following documents:

- Port of Newcastle Operational Expansion Statement of Environment Effects – Ethos Urban Pty Ltd – 30 May 2023
- Aurizon Port Services NSW Expansion Noise Impact Assessment – SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd – 27 March 2023.

The EPA considers additional information about the proposed development is needed to allow the EPA to properly consider whether we can provide general terms of approval for the proposal.

Noise Impacts – Operational Noise

The EPA requests the Department of Planning and Environment to seek from the proponent further information regarding the assessed noise impacts and the mitigation measures currently discussed in the provided Statement of Environment Effects (SEE).

As summarised in Section 6.2.2 of the SEE, the Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) demonstrates, under noise-enhancing weather conditions, the night-time period at receivers R2 and R6 (103 Bourke Street, Carrington and 70 Hunter Street, Stockton) are predicted to exceed the relevant Project Noise Trigger Levels (PNTLs) by up to 2dB from expanded operational activities. The EPA understands that the exceedances are from plant and equipment (particularly from forklifts and from the movement and storage of the proposed shipping containers with a reach stacker) operating to the south of the current premises.

The EPA notes in Table 11 of the SEE that mitigation measures to reduce the noise emitted from the forklift and the reach stacker were considered by means of engine cowling upgrades, cooling

Phone 131 555

TTY 133 677

Locked Bag 5022

4 Parramatta Square

info@epa.nsw.gov.au

Phone +61 2 9995 5555

ABN 43 692 285 758

Parramatta

12 Darcy St, Parramatta

www.epa.nsw.gov.au

(from outside NSW)

NSW 2124 Australia

NSW 2150 Australia

fan upgrades and/or exhaust muffler upgrades. These were however not deemed feasible due to costs and the potential to reduce the efficiency and reliability of the forklift and reach stacker.

Section 3.1 of the Noise Policy for Industry 2017 (EPA, 2017) states the following:

Where the project noise trigger level is exceeded, assess the feasible and reasonable mitigation measures that could be implemented to reduce noise down towards the relevant project noise trigger level. If it is reasonable to achieve these levels, the proponents should do so. If not, then achievable noise levels should be identified. It is not mandatory to achieve the trigger levels but the assessment should provide justification if they cannot be met. An assessment of the acceptability of residual impacts should also be provided.

The EPA has in the past received complaints from Stockton residents concerned about noise from activities across the Hunter River. The EPA is concerned about incremental “noise creep”, with background noise levels slowly increasing over time, and having impacts on residential amenity.

It is understood, based on Table 11 of the SEE, that the above noise control measures have the potential to have an individual source noise reduction of 5-10 dB. The EPA therefore requests further justification regarding how the proposed modifications to the forklifts and reach stacker (cowling upgrades, cooling fan upgrades and/or exhaust muffler upgrades) would affect their efficiency and reliability to operate on site. Alternatively, the proponent could provide written commitment to the noise controls, given that the proposal represents a significant increase in activities at the premises.

It is requested that the Applicant provide the information to the EPA, via the Department of Planning and Environment. Upon receipt of the above information the EPA will resume its assessment of this proposal.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Nicholas Woodard on (02) 4908 6888 or via email at info@epa.nsw.gov.au

Sincerely

PETER JAMIESON
Unit Head – Regulatory Operations
Environment Protection Authority