



Tom Bertwistle
Principal Planning Officer
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Submitted via Concurrence and Referral Portal

21 August 2024

Dear Mr Bertwistle

**Request for Additional Information on Noise Mitigation Options
Aurizon Port Services NSW Pty Ltd - Integrated Development DA-339886 –**

Thank you for notifying the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) of the additional information provided by Aurizon Port Services NSW (the Applicant) to support DA-339886 at 7 Bullock Road, Carrington.

The additional information provided by the Applicant includes:

- Aurizon Port Facility Storage Changes and Increases (DA-339886) – Response to Additional Submissions - Ethos Urban Pty Ltd – 29 July 2024.
- Aurizon Port Services NSW Expansion Response to Feasible Mitigation Measures - SLR Consulting Australia – 5 July 2024 (Addendum 2 NIA).

The information submitted was in response to our previous letter dated 14 May 2024, which requested the Applicant to advise on what feasible and reasonable mitigation measures would be implemented to address the potential night- time 6dBA noise exceedance for receivers R3 and R6 during container loading and stacking activities. In our letter, we noted that if Applicant believes there are no viable feasible and reasonable mitigation measures or control options, this needs to be assessed and justified.

During the stacking of containers, maximum noise levels are predicted to be 61 dBA for receivers R3 (in Stockton) and R6 (and Carrington). These results are 6dBA above the sleep disturbance noise level trigger (SDNL) assessed for the application. The Addendum 2 NIA considered the following potential mitigation measures to address these exceedances:

- Construction of a noise barrier
- Stacking of the ISO containers in a manner to provide shielding
- Scheduling of loading and unloading to occur only during the day and evening

The Addendum 2 NIA concluded that the noise wall and container stacking mitigation measures were not considered to be reasonable or feasible, as they are impractical and/or expensive and would result in negligible noise reduction. The scheduling of works to occur outside of the night-time period was also not considered reasonable or feasible given the need for 24-hour operation due to train timetabling, and customer/supplier requirements. The report does state that handling of containers would however be minimised during the night-time period, where possible.

After reviewing the additional information provided, the EPA is not satisfied that all feasible and reasonable mitigation measures have been investigated to address the potential night-time 6dBA exceedances of the SDNL's during container loading and stacking activities.

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The EPA requests the Applicant undertake further investigations into mitigation options to reach the best achievable noise level from container handling works occurring on the premises at night. These options may include further source and on-site works or operational controls, or offsite measures to reduce potential noise at impacted receptor locations.

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Nicholas Woodard on (02) 4908 6879 or by email to info@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Sincerely

Michael Howat
A/Unit Head - Operations
Environment Protection Authority