

Bunnings Hillsdale – Joint Acoustic Report – Prepared by Brian Clarke (Wilkinson Murray) and Steven Cooper (The Acoustic Group)

The current proposal is understood to be covered NE loading dock with operations of up to 4 large trucks (LRV, articulated or similar) per hour using the loading dock and associated ramp.

Issue	Agreed	Disagreement
Current proposal that was assessed in the most recent acoustic report is a covered loading dock with operations of up to 4 large trucks (LRV or Articulated trucks) per hour using the loading dock and associated access road. It is understood that this is consistent with Bunnings application and the reference to 4 trucks per day was incorrectly reported in the initial application (not in the acoustic assessment)	On the basis of the operations of one truck being unloaded by a forklift in a 15 minute periods, a covered loading dock with a 5 metre barrier, noise levels at most affected residence will be well below the site specific noise criteria. Predicted to be not less than 8 dBA below the criteria by Wilkinson Murray.	
Increased operation of 2 large trucks in a 15 minute period with 2 forklifts.	Based on predictions noise levels at residences will still be 4-5 dBA below established noise criteria at the most potentially affected residence. Whilst this may represent a change in the application, from an acoustic perspective this is acceptable in that it satisfies the design criteria. The use of more than one forklift in the dock to unload the truck will be acoustically acceptable, with respect to the established design criteria.	

Issue	Agreed	Disagreement
Compliance Testing	Post completion compliance testing is considered appropriate. This will ensure that operations are acoustically acceptable and address the issue raised by Council as to whether the Bunnings Building will provide shielding to residences from industrial noise and thereby reduce background noise levels. This would be confirmed at compliance testing.	
Subjective Description of Noise Impact	Mr Cooper advises that the <i>Supplementary Report & Summary of Submissions to the Joint Regional Planning Panel</i> from Botany Council (dated 31 July 2014) identified by way of a letter of 17 February 2014 issued to Bunnings for acoustic matters to be addressed. Items 5 of the letter required an explanation in layman terminology of a change in the noise impact that will occur at residences. The acoustic assessment submitted to the Council is on an Leq basis which is an energy average level. A Leq does not identify the range of levels that will occur during such operations. The use of the access driveway and covered loading dock will generate a range of noise levels that will vary from inaudible to intermittent audible events.	Mr Clarke is of the opinion neither standard council policy nor EPA INP requires a subjective description of the noise impact in normal assessments. Mr Clarke advised intermittent noise is typically associated with reversing alarms on trucks and forklifts. The configuration of the dock is such that trucks will not have to reverse. All forklifts will be fitted with broadband alarms that will be adjusted to a low level on site to eliminate this potential acoustic issue. Mr Cooper advised that Council required a subjective impact on residences and this has not been provided.

Issue	Agreed	Disagreement
	As the proposed operating hours do not involve night time operations there is no requirement for assessment of maximum noise under EPA procedures. (i.e. sleep disturbance)	

Recommended Approval Conditions

- Main loading dock and access road to have cover and 5 metre barrier in accordance with revised application. Maximum number of large truck movements (LRV, articulated truck or similar), to be limited to 4 trucks per hour using the North East loading dock and access road.
- Compliance testing to be conducted after completion to demonstrate compliance with appropriate criteria based on ambient noise levels once the Warehouse has been constructed and the facility is in operation.

Signed 14th August 2014



Steven Cooper – The Acoustic Group



Brian Clarke – Wilkinson Murray