



Deputy Premier
Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade

Our ref: MC15/2544

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3 JUN 2015

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil,*

Thank you for your letter of 7 May 2015 about petition number 2353-15 received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly requesting the Queensland Government to consider altering the current time limits on noise for building works, imposing a new limit between 8.00am and 6.30pm Monday to Friday, with a complete ban on construction related vehicles arriving on site outside of these hours.

Noise and noise pollution is currently regulated under Chapter 8, Part 3B of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (the EP Act). The EP Act also provides default standards for a number of regulated activities. For example, the current default noise standard for building work from section 440R of the EP Act states that "[a] person must not carry out building work in a way that makes an audible noise...on a business day or Saturday, before 6.30a.m. or after 6.30p.m... or... on any other day, at any time".

For projects that are approved by the relevant local council and where noise may be a particular concern, council may impose alternative hours of operation as development conditions in the development approval issued for the project.

Additionally, the EP Act allows a local government to prescribe a noise standard for specific regulated activities and associated times. Where the local government applies its own local law, the provisions of that local law override the times specified in the EP Act.

The enforcement and regulation of all matters relating to noise standards are devolved to the local government under section 99 of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008*. Concerns regarding a potential breach of noise standards should be referred to the relevant local government for appropriate action.

Given the legislative arrangements already in place including alternative hours of operation being able to be imposed as a development condition, there are currently no plans to pursue any legislative amendment on this issue.

Yours sincerely

JACKIE TRAD MP
DEPUTY PREMIER
Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure,
Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade