

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:

A reply to your correspondence to the Minister for the Environment – MD17/350

Date:

Mon, 6 Mar 2017 22:40:51 +0000

From:

Ministerial Correspondence Mailbox

<Ministerial.Correspondence@environment.nsw.gov.au>

To:

l.beringer@iinet.net.au <l.beringer@iinet.net.au>

Dear Mr Beringer

I refer to your email of 30 January 2017 to the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP, about excessive freight train noise. Your email was referred to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and I have been asked to reply.

I acknowledge your concerns regarding the impact of freight train noise on the Koolewong community and the length of time that it has taken to progress the EPA's proposed regulatory amendments.

The EPA has been undertaking extensive consultation on the proposed amendments to determine the necessity, purpose and content of the amendments. I can advise that the EPA's proposed changes to the regulation of the rail industry were submitted to the Minister for the Environment for her consideration with her commencement in the role in February 2017.

The EPA is hopeful that the amendments will be approved as soon as the Minister is comfortable with the proposed changes. Once enacted, rolling stock operators have six months from enactment to apply for their environment protection licences and the EPA has ten months from enactment to issue those licences. During that period, the EPA will be working closely with relevant stakeholders, including the rail industry and the community, to develop the content of the licences.

The EPA appreciates your efforts over many years to voice your concerns regarding the impact of freight train noise on the Koolewong community. Such information allows the EPA to assess the effectiveness of its regulatory framework, and as is the case at the moment, assess the need for change.

If you have any further questions about this issue, please contact Kyle Browne, Operations Officer, Metropolitan Infrastructure on (02) 9995 6107 or at [kyle.browne@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kyle.browne@epa.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

GISELLE HOWARD  
Regional Director Metropolitan  
Environment Protection Authority

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