

From: "I.beringer" <l.beringer@iinet.net.au>
Subject: **Freight train noise**
Date: 20 December 2012 10:28:07 PM AEDT
To: "I.beringer" <l.beringer@iinet.net.au>
Reply-To: <l.beringer@iinet.net.au>
➤ 1 Attachment, 399 KB

Dear All,

the NRNC received a letter from the EPA (see attachment) which shows that some Government departments starting to take notice of our complains. However we want more action on their side because the freight train noise is ever present.
If you feel offended by the noise and want to support the NRNC please ring the following Number to report the noise. Rail Greenline: 1300 656 999

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Regards

Fred



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

Our reference: MD12/4593
Our contact: Benn Treharne, 9995 6507

Mr Chris Hughes
Northern Rail Noise Committee
28 Brooklyn Road
BROOKLYN NSW 2083

Dear Mr Hughes

I refer to your email of 11 October 2012 to the Minister for the Environment, the Hon Robyn Parker MP, regarding the Rail Regulatory Review Discussion Paper and the initiatives being developed to manage the environmental impacts of noise and vibration from the rail network. The Minister has referred your email to the Environment Protection Authority and I am responding on her behalf.

The Rail Regulatory Review Discussion Paper has been prepared by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) in consultation with Transport for NSW, RailCorp and the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC). The paper has recently been finalised and will be presented to the Chief Executive Officers of these three organisations for consideration and endorsement of the regulatory approach.

Following this, public consultation on the discussion paper will be undertaken and a copy of the relevant supporting documentation will be provided to the Northern Rail Noise Committee for comment.

I acknowledge your request for additional information regarding the initiatives being developed and implemented to manage the environmental impacts of noise and vibration from the rail network. I can advise that the EPA is working with RailCorp and ARTC to reduce the operational noise impacts from the network through pollution reduction programs (PRP) issued on their respective environment protection licences.

One current PRP involves ongoing locomotive noise monitoring in the Hunter region. The purpose of the noise monitoring is to provide the EPA with accurate information to determine locomotive performance and appropriate management measures. Once implemented, this will have noise reduction benefits for the whole of the NSW rail network.

Further, Transport for NSW has established a Rail Noise Steering Committee at a senior level and has

invited officers from the EPA, Ministry of Health and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to develop an action plan to mitigate rail noise, and rail freight noise in particular.

One initiative the EPA is pursuing under this plan is to require ARTC and RailCorp to introduce rail noise abatement programs to provide mitigation for homes alongside their networks that are acutely affected by rail noise, on a priority basis. The key requirements for such programs have been developed and the Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the EPA, Mr Barry Buffier, recently wrote to the Chief Executive Officers of the two network managers seeking confirmation that they would be prepared to implement such programs.

If you would like more information about the progress being made with this initiative, please contact Ms Lorraine Phillips, Manager, EPA Noise Policy, on 9995 5904.

PO Box 668 Parramatta NSW 2124
Level 7, 79 George St Parramatta NSW 2150
Tel: (02) 9995 5000 Fax: (02) 9995 6900
ABN 30 841 387 271
www.environment.nsw.gov.au