



**The Hon. John Ajaka MLC**  
Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Roads  
Member of the Legislative Council

ML13/05734

Ms Helen Orchard  
Honorary Secretary  
Koolewong and Point Clare - Tascott Progress Association Inc  
kpctpa@bigpond.com.au

Dear Ms Orchard,

Thank you for your email of 4 June 2013 to the Minister for Transport regarding freight train noise. The Minister has asked me to respond on her behalf.

The Association may be assured the NSW Government is working to deliver a comprehensive approach to improve the environmental performance of the freight industry in NSW and manage the impacts of rail noise.

In 2012, tests carried out in Beecroft showed improved lubrication techniques could substantially reduce wheel squeal. I am pleased to advise lubrication equipment at the Koolewong, Tascott and Point Clare area is now being upgraded to improve reliability and will be reviewed over the next year using enhanced noise monitoring systems. In addition, a noise detection system was installed on this line to help operators cut the noise from their fleets by identifying misaligned axles.

The government's measures will also reduce the number of trains idling at locations such as coal loading facilities, freight terminals and ports and, as a result, improve the noise and air emissions of trains across the network. The government recognises the importance of introducing and encouraging new technology to limit idling and new upgraded trains which are quieter and more efficient.

In addition to these approaches, all practical measures are taken to reduce noise emissions from trains, the tracks and other structures across the rail network. This includes rail and train wheel profile grinding and the removal of track surface irregularities to reduce noise emissions.

I hope this has been of assistance.

Yours faithfully,

11 JUL 2013

**John Ajaka MLC**  
Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Roads