Construction noise, vibration and out-of-hours work

The CBD and South East Light Rail will provide sustainable and reliable modern transport from the CBD to Sydney’s South East that will meet the needs of the community now and into the future.

What is expected during construction?

Typical construction work in each zone could include:
- investigation work – involves surveying and locating services before trenching and excavating the road surface and footpaths to test utility pits and the condition of utilities such as electricity, gas, water and telecommunications;
- construction zone work - involves identifying, protecting and modifying utility services, excavating the road and combined services trench, constructing the track slab, laying of rails and reinstatement of drainage system, kerbs and footpaths;
- installation of stops, shelters and poles for lighting and overhead wires; and
- commissioning and finishing work – including the testing of the Light Rail Vehicles and landscaping.

How will people know when work will be starting near them?

The construction schedule is published on the Sydney Light Rail website (www.sydneylightrail.com.au) and updated to reflect changes. As work in each zone is planned, local stakeholders may be notified in a number of ways:
- letterbox drop of notifications within 500m of work zone;
- door knocks for local residents to highlight scope, timings and mitigation activities;
- consultation on local access plans to premises whose access is directly impacted by work;
- drop-in sessions;
- local community and business forums;
- advertisements on radio, online and in newspapers for major road closures; and
- information on the Sydney Light Rail website and Facebook page.

General work hours

Where possible, work will occur during the standard construction hours to minimise impacts:
- 6am to 10pm Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm Saturday in the CBD; and
- 6am to 6pm Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm Saturday outside the CBD.

High noise impact works will occur during the following standard construction hours:
- 8am to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm Monday to Friday; and
- 8am to 12pm on Saturdays.

What are high noise impact work?

High noise impact works and activities include jack hammering, rock breaking or hammering, sheet piling, impact pile driving, vibratory rolling, cutting pavement, concrete or steel, or other surface work that generates impulsive, tonal or low frequency noise.

High noise impact activities that exceed the noise management levels must be in continuous blocks of no more than three hours with at least one hour respite between each block.

Some construction activities, such as the use of vacuum trucks, will involve noise but are not high noise impact.

Noise reduction barriers are used to lessen construction noise impacts.
Noise and vibration impacts will be minimised

Some residents and businesses who live near the project worksites may at times be able to hear noisy activities. Every effort will be made to reduce the construction impact to residents and businesses while work takes place.

All feasible and reasonable noise and vibration mitigation and management measures will be implemented during construction. This may include noise barriers, respite periods for high noise works and use of quieter plant and equipment.

Where possible, vehicles will be switched off when not in use to minimise noise. Also to minimise noise, project contractors use vehicles fitted with less intrusive, pulsed ‘quacker’ reversing alarm systems compared to the louder ‘beeper style’ alarms. Efforts will be made to schedule the noisiest work during the day and early evening.

In April 2016, Acciona, the project’s main construction partner, obtained an Environment Protection Licence (EPL) from the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). The licence conditions relate to pollution prevention and monitoring and cleaner construction through recycling and reuse. The obligations to manage noise and vibration impacts are contained in the EPL and the Conditions of Approval.

Noise and vibration will be monitored

Monitoring will be conducted during vibratory works to ensure compliance with structural requirements. Noise monitoring will be undertaken to determine if noise levels are similar to predicted levels. Where noise results differ from what was predicted, the scope of the activity will be reviewed and where possible additional management measures implemented (e.g. additional noise blankets will be installed, orientation/location of machinery reassessed).

Out-of-hours works

Weekend and night work will be necessary at times for safety and traffic reasons. Affected stakeholders will be notified in advance on a case-by-case basis.

Out-of-hours works may take place in any of the following circumstances, as detailed in the Conditions of Approval, the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan and the EPL:

- where daytime work would have a major impact on network traffic conditions; or
- where work would cause unacceptable risks to construction personnel safety, public safety, road network operational performance and/or essential utility services; or
- where emergency work is required to avoid harm to people, property and/or the environment; or
- where there is delivery of oversized machinery, equipment, materials or structures that police or other authorities require special arrangements for safety; or
- a variation to EPL has been approved by the EPA; or
- construction noise levels will be low.

Community Notification

Notifications are distributed to impacted properties along the light rail route. Please see the interactive map on our website for all notifications regarding work in your area.

For out-of-hours work, residents and businesses that may be affected by noise will always be notified before the work is undertaken.

Who do I contact with an enquiry or complaint about construction?

For all urgent enquiries or complaints: 24-hour Construction Response Line 1800 775 465
For all project enquiries: 1800 684 490
Email: projects@transport.nsw.gov.au
Visit: www.sydneylightrail.com.au
For the latest information on construction locations: www.livetraffic.com