

11. Noise

11.1 Modifications to Boat Maintenance Area

The site Master Plan has been revised to move the boat maintenance area further away from properties along Shute Harbour Road. The boat maintenance area is now 100m seaward of Shute Harbour Road whereas previously it was immediately adjacent to Shute Harbour Road. The closest property to the boat maintenance area is now 130m (to the property boundary along Shute Harbour Road). Most activities will take place adjacent to the seaward boundary of the boat maintenance area which is 230m from the nearest property boundary.

Mobile screens are typically used in boatyards to shield boats being worked on outside a shed from wind that might otherwise blow away dust from hull's being scraped or blow dust onto hulls being painted. These screens are typically plastic. If, after measurement of noise emissions from operations at the boat maintenance area, further noise attenuation was found to be required, screens made of noise attenuating materials may be used between boats being worked on and noise sensitive locations.

Operational impacts from noise at the boat maintenance area are described in Section 11.3.1 of the Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement and it is concluded that operational noise is unlikely to create significant noise related impacts for residents adjacent to the proposal on Shute Harbour Road. Noise levels at the Coconut Grove area are expected to be even lower given the greater distance between Coconut Grove and the boat maintenance area and the barriers to noise created by buildings on the site. Prevailing south east/easterly winds are unlikely to significantly increase noise levels in the Coconut Grove area due to the distance to this location. These may however reduce the noise levels at properties along Shute Harbour Road, west of the project.

It is also noted that boat maintenance facilities require an Environmental Authority. The Environmental Authority is likely to require appropriate controls over noise emissions to ensure that the goals of the *Environmental Protection Policy (Noise)* are met.

11.2 Noise from Construction Activities

It is noted that the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and associated regulations do not set any noise limits for construction noise. Time restrictions for construction noise are set in the Environmental Protection Regulations 1998 and restrict construction activities audible at the site boundary to 6:30 am to 6:30 pm Monday to Saturday.

Given that there is tourist accommodation close to the construction site, further restrictions will be placed on noisy construction activities wherever possible as follows:

- ❑ No audible construction related noise at the site boundary before 7:00 am and after 6:00 pm Monday to Friday (based on Whitsunday Shire Council request)
- ❑ No audible construction related noise at the site boundary before 8 am and after 3 pm Saturday
- ❑ No pile driving before 8 am or after 5:30 pm.

It is noted that there may be some occasions where noise activities may extend outside these hours, for example when tidal conditions or weather conditions require work to continue after 5:30 pm. Where such events are to occur, local residents and businesses will be notified and every effort made to minimise disturbance. It is expected that the EPA restrictions of 6:30 am to 6:30 pm will be adhered to.

Construction activities not resulting in audible noise at the boundary may be carried out before or after these hours.

The construction schedule will depend to some extent when approval is gained for the project. Once the project is approved, construction is expected to commence promptly to avoid any further delays to the development. Wherever possible, noisy activities will be undertaken outside of peak tourist seasons. Where this cannot be achieved, the time limits discussed above will still be adhered to.

The assessment of construction noise levels presented in Section 11.2.2 of the Supplementary EIS included internal movements of trucks and other equipment involved in earthmoving.

11.3 Noise from Boat Ramp

It is noted that the boat ramp is located adjacent to tourist accommodation (hotel and serviced apartments, buildings A and B) and that some noise from activities at the boat ramp may impact on occupants of these buildings. Both these buildings will be designed to open onto the marina basin so that any balconies and most windows will face in the opposite direction to the boat ramp. At the hotel, service areas will be placed at the rear of the building, to maximise views across the marina for guests. In addition, these buildings will be air conditioned so that occupants will be able to leave windows at the rear of the buildings closed if they are disturbed by noise from the boat ramp. If these building design features are adopted, it is unlikely that disturbance from the boat ramp will significantly impair the quality of stays for occupants.

11.4 Location of Construction Working Area

The construction working area will be located at the north end of Coconut Grove adjacent to the headland. The area will be used for site offices and carparking for construction staff.

Delivery and storage of materials will take place across the site depending on where these are to be used.