

Noise Management at Open Air Concerts and Events in Western Sydney Parklands

Noise Management in Western Sydney Parklands is governed by legislative requirements particularly the Protection of the Environment Act and Regulation Safeguards and Management Measures.

The following safeguards minimise the potential for noise nuisance.

Restrictions on the hours of operation of events are as follows:

- 8 am to midnight on any Friday, Saturday or day immediately before a public holiday, or
- 8 am to 10 pm on any other day.

Amplified music is generally limited to:

- between the hours of 9:00am and 10:00pm, and will be no longer than 11:00am-10:00pm generally.
- between the hours of 9:00am and 11:00pm on Friday, Saturday or the day immediately before a public holiday.
- Sound checks between 9am and 8pm.

The Event Organiser shall employ audio specialists to install a sound amplification and measurement system aimed at minimising the impact of noise at neighbouring residential and commercial premises.

Previous experience of open air concerts and large events held at Western Sydney Parklands indicates that:

- Initial sound measurements carried out at the residential and commercial premises during pre event sound tests should determine the final set up of a sound amplification system;
- the stage and main speakers should face away from residents; and
- diffuse smaller speaker arrays at multiple locations, instead of large multiple banks of speakers adjacent to the stage, are preferred.

Specified noise levels for open air concerts and events at Western Sydney Parklands

Levels at residential premises (open air concerts)

The A-weighted and C-weighted maximum sound pressure levels (L_AMax and L_CMax) emanating from open air concerts held at Western Sydney Parklands should not exceed 65 dB(A) and 80 dB(L), respectively, when measured at boundaries of the nearest residential premises.

Accountability for compliance with Sound limits

- The **Event Organiser** is accountable for ensuring that noise is kept within the specified levels.

- The **Event Organiser** may deputise a person who shall retain ultimate control of the volume of sound from amplification systems used during open air concerts; and be accountable for compliance with the specified sound limits.
- The **Event Organiser** shall provide Trust staff with regular reports on any noise complaints and their resolution.

Noise Measurement

The **Event Organiser** shall engage suitably qualified acoustical consultants to carry out sound measurements during open air concerts and events including sound checks.

Location of noise measurements at residential premises

During open air concerts and events held at Western Sydney Parklands, noise should be measured at the boundaries of the nearest residential premises, in the first instance to establish ambient levels and during the event to measure compliance.

Instrumentation

During open air concerts, the sound measurements should be carried out with NATA-calibrated, class 1, real-time sound analysers that will allow determination of the:

- a. overall A-weighted and C-weighted maximum sound pressure level; and
- b. one-third octave band spectrum of excessive noise, if any.

Note:

- During FMX demonstrations, the noise measurements should be carried out with NATA calibrated, class 1, sound level meters that will allow determination of the overall A-weighted maximum sound pressure level.
- During Pyrotechnic displays both sound analysers and sound level meters should allow to measure the linear maximum peak sound pressure level [LLMax (Peak)].

Operational requirements for noise measurements

- the A-weighted maximum sound pressure level (LAMax) will be measured at least once, at the beginning of sound tests, rehearsals and concerts, at all locations listed as above;
- the **Event Organiser** will be notified by two-way radio/mobile telephone immediately the specified sound levels are breached;
- any breach of the specified sound levels will be reported in relevant frequencies (at one-third octave or one octave bands, depending upon the resolution of the graphic equaliser at the mixing desk), which will allow for prompt accurate sound reduction, with minimum deformation of music;
- there will be a **complaint hot line** available to the public during the sound tests, rehearsals and concerts for processing noise complaints as below.

Procedure for sound level breaches during open air concerts

Whenever the LAMax and/or LCMMax emanating from open air concerts and events held at the Park:

- reach/reaches 3 dB or less below the sound limits as above:- the acoustical consultants carrying out measurements of sound at any of the locations listed above will warn the Event Organiser, of the likelihood of breach;
- breaches the specified limits:- the consultants will notify the Event Organiser of noise reduction in one- or one-third (depending on the type of the mixing desk) octave band spectra;
- after receiving a warning or a notification, the Event Organiser will direct the person in control of the mixing desk or other sound controlling device, to reduce the volume of music/announcements according to instructions from the consultants; and
- the Event Organiser shall log each incidence of either scenario as above, which will be provided to the Trust.

Complaints Hotline

- The **Event Organiser** shall publicise, by a letter box drop of residents as required by the Park Trust of the event the date, time and nature of the event and the number of a complaints **hot line** not less than one month prior to any open air concert or other event.
- For the duration of any open air concert and/or event including sound checks, the **Event Organiser** shall maintain and continuously monitor the publicised **hot line** for receiving and responding to noise and any other complaints.
- In the event that a noise complaint is received the **Event Organiser** shall record the name, number and location of the complainant and explain the procedure to resolve the complainant.
- The **Event Organiser** shall immediately notify the acoustical consultants carrying out measurements of noise of the complaint and the location.
- The consultants will immediately measure the noise levels at the complaints location.
- In the event that the complaint is verified the **Event Organiser** will notify the sound engineer to bring the sound levels back within the specified range.
- The **Event Organiser** shall call the complainant back advising them of the results of the investigation into their complaint and apologise for any breach.

Register of Noise Complaints

The **Event Organiser** shall maintain a register of all noise and other complaints received during any open air concert or event.

Acoustical Reports

Within five (5) working days after an open air concert or event held at Western Sydney Parklands, the **Event Organiser** will submit to the Trust an acoustical report presenting

results of noise measurements carried out during the event including ambient noise levels, together with the complaints register.

Special notes for FMX Demonstrations

Procedure for noise approaches and exceeds limits during FMX demonstration

Whenever the LAMax emanating from FMX demonstration held at the Park:

- reach/reaches 3 dB or less below the noise limits as above the acoustical consultants carrying out measurements of noise at the locations listed above will warn the **Event Organiser** accountable for compliance with the limits of a likelihood of breach; and
- exceed/exceeds the limits, the consultants will notify the **Event Organiser** of breach with the limits and the required noise reduction.
- After receiving a warning or a notification, the **Event Organiser** will direct the promoter of Australian FMX demonstration to check/confirm that all participating motorbikes still comply with the limit set up by Motorcycling Australia for Motocross and Supercross (that no modifications to motorbikes that result in the higher noise emission have been done since the testing at the commencement of the event.