

Managing noise across Airport Link

Vital infrastructure projects such as Airport Link, Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) and the Airport Roundabout Upgrade require the use of heavy machinery, blasting and tunnelling. All of these activities generate noise which must be managed by the construction teams across all project sites.

The Queensland Coordinator-General is an independent entity that assesses major infrastructure projects across the State. For these projects the Coordinator-General has set strict guidelines for monitoring and controlling noise in the community.

AIRPORT LINK

NORTHERN BUSWAY (WINDSOR TO KEDRON)

AIRPORT ROUNDBABOUT UPGRADE

HOW WILL I BE NOTIFIED ABOUT WHAT NOISE WILL BE TAKING PLACE NEAR ME?

Community notifications are circulated regularly to residents on and near the project route to advise of upcoming construction activities. You will be notified of specific activities such as demolition, drilling, blasting and commencement of tunnelling before they take place.

If you live in an area that is likely to be exposed to particularly high levels of noise, you may already have been contacted by a member of the project team.

HOW IS NOISE MONITORED?

Noise is monitored both before and during construction phases of the project. Noise monitors are placed at various locations along the Airport Link and Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) route and recordings are taken over fifteen minute periods at various times of the day.

Noise modelling of construction activities is currently being undertaken and compared to existing noise levels. If the combined total construction-generated noise is predicted



to exceed the set noise goals, mitigation measures must be undertaken.

Throughout the construction process, regular spot checks of noise levels will be carried out to ensure mitigation measures are effectively reducing noise impacts.

HOW MUCH NOISE IS PERMITTED?

The Coordinator-General has set daytime construction noise goals for inside homes and offices for the Airport Link, Northern Busway (Windsor to Kedron) and Airport Roundabout Upgrade. These are in line with Australian standards.

Type of Building Occupancy	Maximum Construction Internal Noise Goals (Decibels)	
	Constant	Intermittent
Residential Buildings (living areas)	45 (near major roads) 40 (near minor roads)	55 (near major roads) 50 (near minor roads)
School Music Rooms	45	55
School Teaching Area	45	55
School Library	50	60
School Gymnasium	55	65
Commercial Buildings (office space)	45	55
Commercial Buildings (retail space)	50	60

Approximate examples of common sounds:

Whisper: 20 decibels

Quiet Office: 45 decibels

Lawnmower: 70 decibels

Jet Taking Off: 140 decibels

WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS FOR BLOCKING NOISE?

There are three main solutions for blocking noise from a worksite during construction:

1. Timber Noise Walls

These are designed to provide an acoustic shield that bounces sound back into the construction site, rather than letting it pass into the surrounding areas.

2. Absorbing Noise Barriers

These are made of absorbent materials (eg. fabric or foam) that soak up the sound before it can pass into the surrounding areas.

3. Noise Mounds

Similar to Absorbing Noise Walls, a Noise Mound is made of soil that soaks up the sound from the construction site.

In extreme cases, some homes affected by very high levels of construction noise will have a noise mitigation plan developed specifically for their property. Mitigation measures can include double glazing and even air conditioning.

WHAT CAN I DO IF I THINK THE NOISE IS OVER THE REQUIRED LEVELS

Regular monitoring is carried out on noise levels across all areas of the project. However, if you have reason to believe the construction noise is constantly above the set targets, please contact the construction team on 1800 721 783 (freecall, 24 hours).



AIRPORT LINK

Airport Link is a mainly underground toll road planned between Brisbane's northern suburbs, the airport and the inner city. It will be a fully electronic toll road stretching 6.7km (including 5.25km of tunnel) that will relieve traffic congestion and promote free-flowing traffic in Brisbane's inner northern suburbs and cater for cross-city travel.

NORTHERN BUSWAY (WINDSOR TO KEDRON)

The 3km section of the Northern Busway between Windsor and Kedron is being built with Airport Link to maximise benefits and minimise local impacts and costs. About 1.5km of this section of Busway is in tunnel. The dedicated buses only road way will result in faster, more frequent and more reliable bus trips with no traffic lights or congestion.

CNI

CNI is a Queensland Government-owned company that is managing the delivery of both projects plus the Airport Roundabout Upgrade. Both the Airport Link toll road and the Busway are being built by BrisConnections and are expected to be completed in mid-2012.