

WIAL Southern Seawall Renewal Project

Acoustics (Environmental Noise and Vibration)

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Discipline/expertise: Noise

Issued to: Susannah Goble, Senior Advisor Planning WCC

Introduction

This memo responds to a request for comment from the expert panel assessing the Wellington International Airport Limited (WIAL)'s substantive application to replace and upgrade its southern seawall, and associated activities, under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). This memo provides comments on the effects of the project on **Acoustics (Noise and Vibration)**.

Pre-lodgement feedback on the draft application

In a document dated 17th September 2025 I reviewed the Tonkin & Taylor Noise and Vibration Assessment *Tonkin & Taylor Ltd WIAL Southern Seawall Renewal Project – Construction noise assessment Wellington International Airport Limited August 2025 Job No: 1092629 v0.4* and supporting Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan *Tonkin & Taylor Ltd Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan – Southern Defences Renewal Project Wellington International Airport Limited August 2025 Job No: 1092629 v0.5*.

The assessment confirms that the proposal undertaken is in accordance with the relevant District Plan provisions and applicable standards; however, construction noise limits under NZS 6803:1999 will not always be achieved, particularly during night-time works and, to a lesser extent, some daytime activities. Vibration levels are predicted to remain below guideline thresholds and are not expected to result in adverse effects on structures or sensitive receivers.

Given the already elevated ambient noise environment associated with airport operations, the overall daytime noise effects are considered manageable, provided robust mitigation measures, monitoring, community engagement, and the consistent application of Best Practicable Options are implemented, with particular emphasis on minimising night-time noise effects. Night-time works are *unavoidable* due to airport **obstacle limitation surface (OLS) constraints**, with activities scheduled between approximately 8:00pm and 6:30am.

Based on the assessment findings and best practice under NZS 6803:1999 and section 16 of the RMA, effective management of night-time construction noise requires a layered approach incorporating active management, monitoring, review, and stakeholder engagement, to be implemented through a comprehensive Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan (CNVMP). On this basis, the proposed noise and vibration conditions are supported.

Review of application (and regulatory assessment)

The Tonkin & Taylor noise and vibration assessments have been prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 2024 Wellington City District Plan and the applicable New Zealand acoustic standards for environmental noise, construction noise, and vibration. Tonkin & Taylor's methodology is considered fit for purpose.

Post-lodgement work with the applicant

In a document dated 31 October 2025 I reviewed the final Fast Track submission dated October 2025 (1092629 v1.0) for the Tonkin & Taylor Noise and Vibration Assessment (B.14 Tonkin & Taylor – Noise and Vibration Assessment.pdf). I consider that it meets the statutory requirements to adequately assess the application. The final report formalises the August 2025 draft, incorporates previous feedback, adds new mitigation measures and a more detailed traffic noise assessment, and integrates WIAL's property and ventilation mitigation programmes, without materially changing the construction methodology or noise modelling outcomes. The updated traffic assessment indicates minor increases in road traffic noise (approximately 1 dB $L_{Aeq,24h}$, and up to 2 dB during peak periods on Lyall Parade), which are below perceptible levels and not considered significant.

Overall, the final report strengthens the supporting technical information, and our original conclusions remain unchanged; accordingly, the proposed noise and vibration conditions and the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan are supported as appropriate for managing effects arising from the project.

Outstanding matters

There are no other outstanding matters that require resolution.

Proposed conditions

We support the proposed conditions relating to noise and vibration. Given the nature and scale of the proposed development, we consider the recommended detailed noise and vibration conditions, along with the Construction Noise and Vibration Management Plan, to be appropriate and key documents in the ongoing management of noise and vibration for this project.

The CNVMP is recommended to set out required measures, monitoring, and reporting requirements to minimise and manage construction noise and vibration effects on sensitive receivers or both day and nighttime activities, with a strong focus on nighttime effects. A key part of the CNVMP will be community consultation and engagement.

Other matters

There are no other subject-specific matters I believe are relevant to the panel's decision.

Lindsay Hannah.

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