
MINUTE 17 OF THE EXPERT PANEL
Instructions to Panel Appointed Acoustic Expert and directions to
Applicant and DCC
Southern Link Inland Port FTAA-2604-1207
25 September 2026

[1] The purpose of this Minute is to record further instructions to Panel Appointed Acoustic Expert advisor: Acoustic Engineering Services Limited and issue directions to the applicant and DCC acoustics experts.

[2] Following the Noise Hearing held on 14 September 2026, the applicant prepared an updated set of conditions for the DCC resource consents on 21 September 2026 (applicants updated conditions).¹ Those conditions include amendments to noise conditions 58, the addition of 58A and amendments to condition 60. The applicant has also proposed additions to condition 71B to address noise mitigation at 273 Dukes Road North.

[3] DCC provided suggested amendments to the applicants updated conditions on 21 September 2026 (DCC amendments).² The applicant subsequently provided a response to those matters on 22 September 2026 (applicants response to DCC).³

[4] The EPA will provide copies of those documents to Dr Trevathan.

[5] The applicant's updated conditions propose the retention of the 2GP nighttime 40dBLAeq (15mins) noise limit at the notional boundary of residences that are greater than 350m from the Industrial Zone during Stage 1 and 2 of the SLIP but seek an increase to 45dBLAeq (15mins) at Stage 3, for reasons of

¹ [Conferences, workshops and hearings](#)

² [Conferences, workshops and hearings](#)

³ [Conferences, workshops and hearings](#)

operational flexibility.

[6] During the Noise Hearing, the Panel understood the issue primarily relates to receivers east of the site where heavy vehicle movements on site may be vulnerable to non-compliance with the 40dB LAeq (15min) threshold if additional trucks were to arrive on site. We also understood from the experts that increases of noise (JWS Q1.1) of up to 2dB may be “imperceptible” yet a 5dB change “clearly noticeable”, albeit those conclusions were based on the LAeq(24hr) noise level.

[7] On that basis at the Conditions Hearing the Panel explored with the applicant whether an ~43dBLAeq (15min) would be a more appropriate threshold at Stage 3. The applicant indicated it would seek further advice from Mr Shanks to understand the operational implications; however the Panel would like your advice on the following matters:

[8] Please review the applicants updated conditions (58, 58A, 60 and 71B, DCC response and the applicant’s response to DCC) and advise the Panel:

- a) Is DCC condition 60B that there be no nighttime operations in Stage 1 no longer necessary in light of the applicant’s proposed 40dBLAeq noise limit at Stage 1 and 2.
- b) Is DCC condition 60D (sequencing of the construction of the Stage 2 warehouses) no longer necessary in light of the applicant’s proposed 40dB LAeq noise limit at Stage 1 and 2.
- c) Is the Panel correct in our understanding that an increase in noise level’s up to ~3dB is unlikely to be perceived by sensitive receivers, but a 5dB increase would be clearly noticeable and may cause significant adverse health effects?
- d) Based on your understanding of the applicant’s operational noise modelling is ~43dB LAeq(15min) achievable at the notional boundaries East of the site at 345 Puddle Alley (owned by the

applicant) or at 243 Puddle Alley?

- e) Are there any practical difficulties for noise monitoring and compliance with operational noise limits if the Panel were to provide for an increase in noise levels, either ~43dB LAeq(15min) or 45dB LAeq(15min) for the properties east of the SLIP (Puddle Alley) but retain 40dB LAeq (15mins) elsewhere for properties that are more than 350m from the Industrial Zone.
- f) Is the noise mitigation for 273 Dukes Road North provided for in condition 71B, appropriate and reasonable regardless of whether the noise limit for Stage 3 at the notional boundary of 273 Dukes Road North is 40, 43 or 45dB LAeq(15min) to address increased heavy vehicles road noise at Stage 1, 2 and 3, or just Stage 2 and 3, or just Stage 3?

[9] The Panel requests your response, in the form of a statement of expert evidence by **5pm on 1 October 2026**.

[10] Mr Styles for DCC may provide a statement of evidence in response to questions in [8] (c)-(f) by **5pm on 1 October 2026**

Further directions to the Applicant

[11] Following the receipt of Dr Trevathan's opinion and from Mr Styles the applicant may file a statement in response from Mr Shanks by **5pm on 6 October 2026**.

[12] The Applicant is to file a final a set their proposed conditions by **midday on 9 October 2026**.



Cindy Robinson

Expert Panel Chair