

Te Tai o Poutini Plan  
Reporting Officer Summary Statement  
Noise - Ngā Oro



## Introduction

1. Tēnā koutou. My name is Ruth Evans. I am a planning consultant from Barker & Associates. I authored the s42A report and s42A addendum report for this hearing topic. My qualifications and experience are set out in the s42A report.
2. This hearing stream covers the Noise chapter of the proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan (pTTPP/the plan). The Noise chapter seeks to manage the emission of noise, including the nature and timing of noise, and potential effects of noise on amenity and people's health and wellbeing. The provisions recognise that there are zones where a higher level of noise can be expected. The provisions require acoustic insulation for new buildings used for a sensitive activity where located in close proximity to activities which have the potential to generate greater noise levels, for example the State Highway network and airports.
3. Submissions and further submissions received on this chapter range from general support, to general opposition, including the deletion of some provisions. A number of submitters sought amendments to, or the deletion of, the requirement for acoustic insulation in particular. Some submitters have requested more stringent noise limits while others have sought higher noise limits.
4. I have read all written evidence and legal submissions filed since finalising the s42A report. I have made further recommendations on changes to the provisions as set out in the s42A addendum report circulated on 31 August in response to submitter evidence.
5. Unless it is specifically detailed in the addendum report, my opinion has not yet changed in response to the written evidence, and the recommendations in the s42A report still stand.
6. My recommendations have been informed by the expert advice of Mr Peakall, an acoustic engineer contracted by West Coast Regional Council to assist with analysing submissions for this topic.

## Recommended amendments (s42A report and s42A report addendum)

7. The key amendments I have recommended are:
  - a. Amendments to NOISE-R2 (permitted activities) to ensure that the permitted activities are measurable, to improve overall clarity and to reflect appropriate limitations based on technical advice.
  - b. Amendments to NOISE-R3 (acoustic insulation) to:
    - i. Introduce two new overlays: the Road Noise Overlay in relation to the State Highway, and the Westport Rifle Range Noise Overlay for land adjoining the Westport Rifle Range. A further overlay may be introduced in relation to the rail network. I will address this shortly. The Road Noise Overlay replaces the State Highway setbacks contained in NOISE-R3 1. a. and b. The Westport Rifle Range Overlay addresses a number of submissions requesting acoustic insulation requirements for sensitive activities near the Westport Rifle Range.
    - ii. Focus the insulation requirements on habitable rooms and spaces used for sleeping.
    - iii. Provide an appendix of acceptable construction solutions that will achieve compliance with the requirements of this rule.
  - c. Deletion of NOISE-R5, NOISE-R6, NOISE-R7, NOISE-R8 and NOISE-R11. These rules contained maximum noise limits for emission and receipt of noise on a zone by zone basis. These rules are recommended to be replaced by new rule NOISE-RX which consolidates and streamlines the maximum noise limit based on the zone the noise is received in. The daytime, night time and weekend and public holiday hours have been streamlined so they are the same across all zones. Maximum noise limits for each zone are as recommended by Mr Peakall. I have a further

amendment to recommend in relation to noise received in the Mineral Extraction and Buller Coalfield Zones that I will address shortly.

- d. Amendments to NOISE-R9 (noise from port activities in the Port Zone) to require activities to be conducted in accordance with a Port Noise Management Plan.
- e. Amendments to NOISE-R10 (noise from the Airport Zone) to provide for unplanned engine testing as a permitted activity, and to require activities to be conducted in accordance with a Noise Management Plan.
- f. A new restricted discretionary activity rule – NOISE-13A for new buildings for sensitive activities within the 60dB contour of the Westport Rifle Range Noise Overlay.

#### Additional amendments and other matters

- 8. Since filing the addendum myself and Mr Peakall have had a pre-hearing discussion with representatives for KiwiRail. I understand that KiwiRail are preparing mapping information that can inform a Rail Noise Overlay. Similar to the Road Noise Overlay, if this is included it will replace the railway setbacks currently included in Rule 3. If the mapping supplied by KiwiRail is suitable to create an overlay I support it's inclusion in place of the setbacks because it is easier for plan users to use a map identify whether they are subject to the rule. I consider that the potential Alert Overlay may be complementary to the wider overlay/s that delineate the areas where acoustic insulation is required.
- 9. I have further considered the definition of sensitive activity and the concerns raised by Ms Heppelthwaite in relation to it encompassing recreation and sporting activities. I note that the requirements for acoustic insulation in Rule 3 are for habitable rooms and/or spaces used for sleeping and therefore would not extend to recreation/sporting buildings such as club houses. Sensitive activities are also referred to in Rule 4 in relation to emission of noise from temporary military training activities and Rule 13A in relation to sensitive activities within the 60dB contour of the Westport Rifle Range Overlay. These references could be amended to add 'except recreation and sporting activities'.
- 10. I recommend including reference to 'and maintained' in Rule 3 clause c. i., similar to the other clauses that refer to 'designed, constructed and maintained'.
- 11. In response to the evidence of Mr Hegley, Mr Peakall and I have reviewed the maximum noise limit recommended for the Mineral Extraction and Buller Coalfield Zones in new Rule RX. Given the nature of these zones being focussed on providing for mineral extraction activities and the non-complying status of other activities including sensitive activities, I am comfortable that the 65dB noise limit does not need to apply across the zone to all activities. To account for any existing sensitive activities in these zones, I recommend including a noise limit at the notional boundary of any sensitive activity (similar to the notified approach). This is particularly relevant for the Mineral Extraction Zone which is extensive. For consistency this approach to noise limits at the notional boundary of sensitive activities is also recommended to apply to sensitive activities within all the zones subject clause 3 of new Rule RX.
- 12. And finally, a clarification in relation to recommended mapping and provisions associated with the Westport Rifle Range – the new overlay is intended to include both the 55dB and 60dB contours.