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Noise Abatement Plan for Open Air Concerts and Events in Parramatta Park

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Noise Management Plan for the Parramatta Park Trust

Noise Abatement Plan	3
Types of Events and Appropriate Actions	3
Common Actions for each event.....	3
Red Events	4
Types of Red Events	4
Number of Red Events	4
Noise Limits for Red Events	4
Time Limits for Red Events.....	5
Actions for Red Events	5
Green Events.....	8
Types of Green Events	8
Noise Limits for Green Events	8
Time Limits for Green Events	8
Actions for Green Events.....	9
Appendix A Additional Information.....	10
Allowed operating times and information for promoter and sound engineers of higher noise impact events	10
Notification Letter.....	11
Letter Drop Area	12

Overview

Parramatta Park Trust hosts a variety of open air events that may have an acoustic impact outside the park.

This noise management plan has been developed to ensure that events adhere to the applicable noise limits, to minimise the impact of noise on nearby residences during events and to allow the venue to operate in a sustainable manner.

Noise Abatement Plan

The Parramatta Park Trust's noise abatement plan proposes a practicable noise control method that can be applied to all types of events held at the park.

The noise abatement plan has been developed using data from past events, current practices for outdoor venues and the previous plan.

A review of results and this plan will be undertaken annually at the end of the season. The review will include a summary of events held, focusing on any noise measurements taken, complaints received, any problems with adhering to the plan and if required, recommendations for further action or changes to ensure compliance.

Due to the variety of events held at Parramatta Park and the complexity of control measures, events have been divided into two categories: Red and Green.

Events are categorised on their likely noise impact and the actions required to minimise the impact.

Types of Events and Appropriate Actions

Common Actions for each event

- Sound engineers and promoters will be informed of noise limits and noise reduction procedures prior to each event. They will also be informed of allowed operating times, noise limiting and reporting requirements.
- A complaints hotline will be established for the duration of each event.
- Parramatta Park will provide notification of all known event dates at the start of the season and update the details on their website as new events are booked. Notification will include: Event operating hours, type of event, hotline number. The notice and the letter drop area are given in Appendix A.

Noise Management Plan for the Parramatta Park Trust

- A record of the actual operating times, results, complaints and action taken will be recorded and kept for every event.
- Fireworks shows are to be of 15 minutes or less duration.
- Bump in and bump out may only occur between 7:00am and 11:00pm. Bump in/out via Macquarie Street entrance allowed 6:00pm-6:00am at times Park visitors and event patrons are not using this entrance.

Red Events

Types of Red Events

Higher noise risk events have been categorised as “Red”. Their noise emissions are likely to be close to or exceed the noise limits at Noise Sensitive Locations if not controlled.

They include, but are not limited to:

- All music based events, concerts and music festivals with over 3,000 patrons
- Music based events with multiple/extra stages/speakers out of The Crescent
- All events that are likely to exceed or have previously been measured above LAmax 65 dB(A) or LCmax 80 dB(C) at noise sensitive locations
- Events that have speakers within 150m of a noise sensitive area
- Events that Parramatta Park may deem Red

Number of Red Events

There will be no more than 15 Red events per financial year and no more than 4 red events in any calendar month.

Noise Limits for Red Events

The residential limits are based on the EPA Noise Guide for Local Government (EPA 2013/0127), modified to include a low frequency limit. The limits are considered similar compared to many other outdoor venues and are summarised below:

Location	Noise Limit, LAmax dB(A)	Noise Limit, LCmax dB(C)
Noise sensitive areas	75	90

Time Limits for Red Events

The time limits for Red events are summarised below:

Friday, Saturday or the day immediately before a public holiday	11:00am-11:00pm, max music time of 10 hrs
Other Days	11:00am-10:00pm, max music time of 10 hrs
New Year Eve	Until 1:00am NYD, max music time of 10 hrs, subject to reduced noise limit of Lmax 65 dB(A) and Lmax 80 dB(C) after midnight.
Sound checks	10:00am-6:00pm
Bump In/Out*	7:00am-11:00pm

* Bump in/out via Macquarie Street entrance allowed 6:00pm-6:00am at times Park visitors and event patrons are not using this entrance.

Actions for Red Events

To ensure the noise and time limits are achieved, the following measures will be implemented:

Prior to the Event:

- Stage configuration will be determined in consultation with an acoustical consultant to minimise the impact of noise on nearby residences and achieve the noise limits. Alternately, the main stage will face west in The Crescent and smaller stages will be placed facing away from noise sensitive areas with 200m between the noise sensitive area and the back and side of any stage and 500m between the noise sensitive area and the front of any stage. Array speakers will be flown at less than 9m high and faced downwards. Delay speakers may be required to provide adequate coverage.
- A sound check will be performed prior to the event. The sound check will finish before 6:00pm the day before the event and/or start after 10:00am the day of the event. During the sound check, appropriate music levels will be set at each of the stages to ensure they are started at appropriate levels.
- Residents will be informed of any Red events via a letter drop from the event organizer. Notification will include: Event operating hours, type of event, hotline number. The letter drop area is given in Appendix A.
- An acoustic consultant, qualified to the satisfaction of Parramatta Park, will be appointed to monitor the noise emissions, investigate complaints, provide advice

Noise Management Plan for the Parramatta Park Trust

to the Park managers and promoters and provide detailed reporting of the noise emissions from the event.

- This noise management plan will be given to promoters and become part of the venue's conditions.

During the Event:

- The music noise limit and time limits at all noise sensitive locations will be limited to the levels given in the Parramatta Park Sound Plan.
- A complaints hotline will be established for the duration of the event.
- Frequent monitoring by a qualified acoustic consultant of pre determined noise sensitive locations and any additional locations that may become necessary based on the conditions and complaints encountered. The predetermined noise sensitive locations are:
 - corner of Queens Road and Park Avenue
 - North, east end of Oakes Street
 - East end of Amos Street
 - Corner of Macquarie and Pitt Streets
- The noise measurement program will maintain a register of noise measurement locations, times and actual noise level readings.
- A qualified acoustic consultant will investigate any complaints, the results of the investigation and the action taken recorded and reported back to the resident if desired. The hotline number is TBA.
- The hotline operator will follow the procedure outlined below:
 - Hotline will record name, address, number and nature of complaint
 - Complaint details will be forwarded by phone or radio to qualified acoustic consultant
 - At the property, the acoustic consultant will measure the music level, contact the event organiser if a reduction is required, discuss levels with the resident if requested
 - Noise monitoring staff will radio the production manager to reduce sound level as appropriate
 - Effect of reduction will be measured, recorded and reported back to the hotline
- During the event, the organiser will ensure that an employee or agent is present at the sound-mixing desk and is able to exercise ultimate control of the noise levels from all of the sound amplification equipment for the duration of the event.

Noise Management Plan for the Parramatta Park Trust

- The acoustic consultant will be in two way radio and mobile phone contact with the production manager, sound engineers, event organiser, and hotline staff throughout the event.
- The production manager and sound engineers/ audio supplier will agree to the requirement to reduce music levels as requested by the acoustic consultant or venue management.
- Procedures will be implemented to allow for a quick reduction of the music levels of all stages if required. The production manager will ensure that sound engineers reduce music levels when instructed by sound monitoring or venue staff.
- A summary of the measurement data and complaint investigations will be presented to the promoter and the venue within 1 business day of the event
- A report containing the results of the monitoring and control will be presented to the promoter and the venue within 30 days of the event.

Green Events

Types of Green Events

Lower noise risk events have been categorised as “Green”. Their noise emissions are likely to be significantly below the noise limits.

They include, but are not limited to:

- Fun runs or similar with amplified announcements that have small active (powered) speakers that are placed more than 150m and pointing away from noise sensitive areas
- Small stages that:
 - Cater for less than 1,000 patrons and
 - Are more than 300m from any noise sensitive area and
 - Have less than 2,500 watts total speaker (or amplifier) power output
- Small music stages in The Crescent catering for less than 3,000 patrons
- Films and theatrical presentations in The Crescent
- Events without amplification
- Events that are likely to be, or have previously been measured, below LAmax 65 dB(A) and LCmax 80 dB(C) at all noise sensitive locations at all times.
- Events that Parramatta Park may deem Green

All other events are Red.

Noise Limits for Green Events

The noise limits for Green Events are summarised below:

Location	Noise Limit, LAmax dB(A)	Noise Limit, LCmax dB(C)
Noise sensitive areas	65	80

Time Limits for Green Events

The time limits for Green Events are summarised below:

All Days	9:00am-10:00pm
Events with no amplified music operating	7:00am-10:00pm

Actions for Green Events

To ensure the noise and time limits are achieved, the following measures have or will be implemented:

Prior to the Event:

- All announcement speakers will be placed more than 150m away from noise sensitive areas
- All stages will be placed more than 300m from noise sensitive areas
- All speakers will face away from the closest noise sensitive areas

During the Event

- Parramatta Park or its appointed representative will self-monitor, control and report on the entire event according to the Self Monitoring Procedures below:
 - Use a basic analogue Sound Level Meter (e.g. Jaycar Digital) to monitor noise level emission from the speakers
 - Set the meter to "A" weighted and use SLOW or "S"
 - Use the high range
 - Hold the meter at shoulder height, well away from the body and point it at the speakers
 - The average level should be no more than:

Location	Noise Limit, SPL dB(A)
20m from Stage in The Crescent	90
10m from other smaller stages	90
3m from active announcement speakers	75

- Record the measured levels and measurement details
- Check the levels at the start of the event and regularly when speakers are operating and insist that reductions in the music levels are made when required

Appendix A Additional Information

Allowed operating times and information for promoter and sound engineers of higher noise impact events

The Parramatta Park Trust have put in place a series of controls that apply to all promoters, sound engineers, events and music emitted from The Park. This is to reduce the impact of noise on the surrounding residents and to ensure that The Park can operate in a sustainable manner.

To ensure that Events do not breach the noise limits the following requirements must be strictly observed:

- Event music may only be played between 11:00am and 10:00pm, except on Friday and Saturday and the day before a public holiday, which allow operation until 11:00pm. 1:00am operation is allowed on NYE subject to a reduced noise limit after midnight. Sound checks may be performed between 10:00 am and 6:00pm. No amplified music may be played outside these times. Duration of music will be 10 hours or less for higher impact events.
- Bump in and bump out may only occur between 7:00am and 11:00pm. Bump in/out via Macquarie Street entrance allowed 6:00pm-6:00am at times Park visitors and event patrons are not using this entrance.
- Music levels at the nearest resident are limited to LAmax 75 dB and LCmax 90 dB. This will be achieved by The Park manager or appointed acoustical consultant advising the sound engineers or production manager to adjust the music levels as required throughout the event. If the required reduction is not achieved, management may need to shut down the offending stage. The sound engineers must be advised of this requirement prior to the event.
- The noises limits typically, but not always, restrict the music levels to Leq 93-98 dB(A) at The Crescent stage mixing desk and Leq 87-94 dB(A) at smaller stages outside of The Crescent.
- The promoter, production manager and audio supplier will agree to the requirement to reduce music levels as requested by the acoustic consultant or venue management.

Notification Letter

Dear Resident

“Promoter” would like to inform you of their event to be held in Parramatta Park on .

The event will be monitored more rigorously, using a system that has worked successfully on this type of event in the past.

To ensure the event complies with noise limits and that there is minimal disruption to the surrounding residential area, the following measures will be implemented:

- 1 Continual monitoring of the sound levels throughout the event to ensure that sound emissions from the site comply with noise limits. A qualified acoustic consultant will independently monitor events that have been categorised as likely to cause annoyance.
- 2 Limitations will be placed on the type and positioning of sound systems.
- 3 All staff and contractors have been fully briefed and understand the requirements that govern this event.

While you may hear music throughout the day, compliant noise should not interfere with normal conversation.

The Parramatta Park Trust can be contacted on phone no at any time during the event to report any noise related problems you may be experiencing. Upon receipt of a complaint, the sound levels in your immediate area will be measured to ensure the event complies with the noise limits. If the sound level breaches any part of the Park’s requirement the offending music will be reduced to comply. You will be notified of the result of our investigations and the course of action undertaken.

“Promoter” will take any necessary precautions to ensure that the noise effects of our events on the surrounding precincts are minimised.

Signed

Letter Drop Area

