

Southern Sydney Freight Line Environmental Protection Licence Monthly Report

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Australian Rail Track Corporation (the ARTC) is a Commonwealth Government-owned company responsible for operating the interstate rail freight network that links Australia's major mainland capital cities, including Perth, Brisbane, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney.

The ARTC is presently undertaking a program of works to improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of rail freight services along the North-South Rail Corridor between Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane. A major bottleneck in the rail freight network currently exists in southern Sydney, where freight trains share existing rail lines with the Sydney metropolitan passenger services operated by RailCorp. During morning and afternoon peak periods, freight services are not permitted to run due to passenger priority. As a result, freight services cannot arrive or depart Sydney at the optimum times.

To alleviate this bottleneck, the ARTC is constructing the Southern Sydney Freight Line (the SSFL), which will provide a dedicated freight line for a distance of 30 kilometres between Macarthur and Sefton in southern Sydney. The SSFL will provide a third track in the rail corridor specifically for freight services, allowing passenger and freight services to operate independently.

The SSFL will be constructed under a number of discrete contracts which have now been awarded to various contractors. The works that occurred during the period of January 2009 were mostly undertaken by Arenco, with minor investigations being carried out by Reed.

2. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide environmental monitoring, compliance and complaints management information to meet the requirements of condition R4 of Environmental Protection Licence No. 12971.

3. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY IN JANUARY 2009

Construction works during January 2009 have largely taken place in the Northern section of the works, with only some minor site investigation works occurring in Glenfield. A breakdown of the on-site activities has been provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Activity in January 2009

Location	Description of Works
Sefton Dive - Cooper Road to Woods Street	Piling took place under the Cooper Road bridge.
	Rocknail and shotcrete installation to the embankments either side of the Cooper Road bridge.
	Piling works to retaining walls, which included the placement of the steel reinforcement cages and concrete along Tewinga & Wellington Roads. Erection of ATF fencing to accommodate the piling rig at the Wellington Rd site.
	Piling was commenced adjacent to the Auburn Road bridge.

Glenfield	Potholing at Glenfield Flyover (Ch.40 000) and Glenfield Station (Ch.40 800)
Georges River Bridge	HV pole relocation
	Tree trimming
	Access route was established which included clearing, grubbing and construction of the access road.
	Establishment of site facilities at the level crossing on Elizabeth Street, Liverpool
	Piling works to the south end of the piled slab commenced
Villawood Station to Cabramatta Station (Ch.24 450 to 27 710)	Installation of the delineation fencing.
	Clearing and grubbing and removal of top soil.
West side of of Hector Street Bridge (Ch.21 650)	Sheet piling
Prospect Creek Bridge	Temporary works such as sheet piling to abutments
	Construction of a pile work platforms

4. NOISE AND VIBRATION MONITORING RESULTS

Noise and vibration monitoring commenced in January 2009 and was undertaken periodically in accordance with Condition M7 of the Environmental Protection Licence.

4.1 NOISE MONITORING

Noise monitoring was undertaken in accordance with condition M7 at two locations surrounding the Sefton Dive area. The results of the monitoring undertaken are provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of Noise Monitoring – January 2009

Location	Background Noise dB(A)	Equipment/Activities	Result dB(A)
In residential boundary of 63 Auburn Road	48	Drill Rig Caterpillar 315	66-68
		Bobcat S185 Turbo	69
		Steel cutting	72
In residential boundary of 5 Wellington Road	48	Drilling Rig Soilmeco SR-30 (initial drilling of sheet piles)	72 - 75
		Drilling Rig Soilmeco SR-30 (normal drilling of sheet piles)	79 - 80

The results for the Auburn Road location exceed the EPA guideline for noise from construction sites, if the residential location was to be exposed to this level of noise for more than four weeks. This work was completed in less than four weeks.

The results recorded at the Wellington Road location exceed the EPA guideline for noise from construction sites, even if the residential location was to be exposed to this level of noise for less than four weeks. This has triggered a non-conformance report and the contractor is currently investigating the cause of the elevated noise levels and

assessing whether alternative machinery or construction methods could be applied. It is noted that no noise complaints were received from residents in this area during January 2009. The contractor will provide a report to ARTC by 27 February 2009.

For full details of the noise monitoring undertaken in January 2009, please refer to Appendices C, D & E.

4.2 VIBRATION MONITORING

Construction activities during November have not involved the use of any vibration intensive plant and equipment or works within safe working distances of sensitive structures. As such no vibration monitoring has been required to be undertaken during this reporting period.

4.3 COMPLAINT NOISE AND VIBRATION MONITORING

There were three (3) complaints during January 2009 in relation to construction noise, however on each occasion ARTC was not undertaking works and the noise was created by others. For full details of complaints received in January 2009, please refer to **Section 7**.

5. DUST MONITORING RESULTS

Dust monitoring was carried out during January 2009 in accordance with Condition M8 of the EPL. The results of the analysis are now available and can be found in Appendix B.

The results show that the level of deposited dust inside the railway corridor, near the residential premises that are potentially the most affected by air pollution (dust) from construction of the part of Southern Sydney Freight Line between Cooper Road, Sefton, and West Street (South), Canley Vale was below the maximum total deposited dust level of $4\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{month}$, stipulated in the DECC's Approved Methods for Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW (2005), with the exception in the railway corridor near Bareena Street Bridge and Hector Street Bridge, where the total deposited dust levels were $4.4\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{month}$ and $9.5\text{g}/\text{m}^2/\text{month}$ in January 2009.

There appears to be no reason for the excessive dust found at Bareena Street Bridge, as the ARTC are yet to commence any work in that area. ARTC's contractor, Arenco, has been undertaking a number of works nearby to the Hector Street Bridge including sheet piling, clearing and grubbing, and top soil removal. Arenco has undertaken all the appropriate dust control measures as listed in section 5.2, and is unable to provide a reason for the excessive dust levels recorded. Arenco has since raised a non-compliance report with its subcontractor and will be installing one-size gravel at the entrance to the site compound as an additional measure for dust and erosion sediment control.

5.1 DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION OF ON SITE DUST MONITORING

There were no complaints relating to dust or air quality during this reporting period. For full details of complaints received in January 2009, please refer to **Section 7**.

5.2 DUST MANAGEMENT MEASURES

A set of comprehensive controls were employed to minimise dust from on site activities. The range of controls is detailed in the Dust Management Sub Plan (ARTC CEMP).

Controls utilised during the reporting period included:

- Using water carts to control dust emissions during works and keeping exposed excavation surfaces dampened to control dust generation;
- Ensuring vehicle speeds within the worksite areas are kept to a minimum;
- Preventing and where necessary cleaning any dirt tracked onto public roadways from construction vehicles;
- Covering spoil loads and securing tailgates prior to trucks leaving the worksite;
- Being prepared to cease/ modify work practices if excessive dust generation from construction activities occurs (e.g. from high winds, surface dirt accumulation etc), until dust emissions can be controlled. This action was not required during the month; and
- Conducting regular visual inspections of worksites to assess effectiveness of dust control measures.

5.3 WIND MONITORING

ARTC is in the process of engaging a consultant to install weather monitoring stations on site and provide monthly reports on weather conditions, including wind roses. For this report, data from the Bureau of Meteorology's Bankstown Airport Weather Station is provided. The Daily Weather Observations for January 2009 are included in Appendix A.

The average wind speed for the period of January 2009 was 16 km/h, with the maximum wind gust recorded at 35km/h in a SE direction at 3pm on Friday 2 January 2009.

6. SOIL MONITORING

Soil sampling was undertaken at the Prospect Bridge site where the new bridge will be constructed adjacent to the existing railway. Prospect Creek is identified as a potential acid sulphate soils site. The sampling was undertaken by Environmental Investigation Services on 14/1/09 and the pH of soil leachates from the samples was in the range pH 5.1 – pH 5.6 indicating that surface soils are not acidic.

7. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT

7.1 COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

There were seven (7) complaints and eight (8) requests for information received during January 2009 as summarised in **Table 3**.

Table 3: Summary of Complaints – January 2009

LGA	Date	Issue/Complaint	Response	Status	Type
Liverpool	29/12/08	Complaint: about mistake in notification.	Apologised and noted mistake.	Closed	Communication
Liverpool	03/01/09	Complaint: Construction Noise, still working at 8.30pm.	Advised called that ARTC was not working at that time.	Closed	Construction Noise
Liverpool	03/01/09	Complaint: Construction Noise, still working at 8.30pm.	Advised called that ARTC was not working at that time.	Closed	Construction Noise
Liverpool	05/01/09	Request for Information: proximity of the line to residents and noise issues.	Advised location of line and mitigation works.	Closed	Route Planning
Liverpool	06/01/09	Complaint: Jack hammers being used 5.45am,	Advised caller that ARTC was not	Closed	Construction Noise

LGA	Date	Issue/Complaint	Response	Status	Type
		excessive noise.	working at that time.		
Liverpool	14/01/09	Request for Information: basis for planning of the route	Directed the caller to the ARTC website for an understanding of the freight strategy.	Closed	Route planning
Liverpool	21/01/09	Request for Information: looking at purchasing property at address 4 Wiltshire street, Minto. Wants to know if you will be wanting this property for the project so then he won't purchase it.	Tried to contact complainant, but wrong number recorded	Closed	General
Liverpool	22/01/09	Request for Information: Rail closure from 7 Feb Chester Hill station, person in wheelchair how does he cross to shops besides going 3km to next crossing	ARTC phoned and confirmed disability access at Chester Hill would be maintained.	Closed	Disability Access
Liverpool	26/01/09	Request for Information: wanting info for community if sound barriers are going to be put up	Spoke to called and discussed location of noise walls	Closed	Operational Noise
Liverpool	26/01/09	Complaint: Unable to sleep due to the noise and the freight trains.	Explained the project and approvals.	Closed	Construction and Operational
Liverpool	26/01/09	Complaint: Lack of information regarding construction times on the web site	Phoned caller back and provided extra information	Closed	Project Timetable
Liverpool	27/01/09	Complaint: Work has started on the Bridge over Prospect Creek. We have not received any notification about work starting	Phoned to say that work has begun in the area, but not work associated with Community impacts	Closed	Communication
Liverpool	28/01/09	Request for Information: Which side is the SSFL being constructed	Phoned caller and discussed the SSFL	Closed	Route Planning
Liverpool	28/01/09	Request for Information: Wanting to know the finishing date of the project	Provided information verbally and via website	Closed	Planning
Liverpool	29/01/09	Request for Information: Diagrams on web site	Provided information verbally and via website	Closed	Route Planning

7.2 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

There were no Community Liaison Group Meetings (CLGs) held in January 2009. CLGs will resume in February as follows:

- Fairfield CLG 4th February 2009 at 6.00pm
- Bankstown CLG 11th February 2009 at 6.00pm
- Campbelltown/Liverpool CLG 18th February 2009 at 6.00pm

During January, information briefings have been held with the following organisations:

- NSW Taxi Council
- Bus Organisations
- Police and Emergency Services
- Chris Hayes MP, Member for Werriwa
- Jason Clare MP, Member for Blaxland
- Nick Lalich MP, Member for Cabramatta

- Bankstown Council
- Consultation with shop keepers on Chester Hill Road in regards to road closure
- Notification issued to resident regarding road closure at Chester Hill

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