



17 April 2015

John Merritt
Chief Executive Officer
VicRoads
60 Denmark Street
KEW VIC 3101

Ask for: Kathleen McClusky
Phone: 9932 1004
Our Ref: A2105994

Dear Mr Merritt,

Review of the VicRoads Traffic Noise Reduction Policy

Thank you for your letter received 17 March 2015 regarding the review of the VicRoads Traffic Noise Reduction Policy.

Hobsons Bay City Council welcomes any improvements and additions to sound walls throughout the municipality. The current Noise Reduction Policy specifies that one approach to reduce the overall level of traffic noise is to retrofit noise barriers along older freeways. Council supports the replacement or retrofitting of existing walls to reduce noise in line with best practice. It is suggested that VicRoads should work with the EPA and local resident groups to identify areas that are detrimentally affected by noise so they can be targeted for upgrades.

Further to this, Council acknowledges that VicRoads have recently undertaken works to remove graffiti and improve the appearance of noise barriers along the West Gate and Princes Freeways. These efforts are appreciated by Council and we encourage ongoing improvements along our freeway corridors including landscaping, litter removal and general maintenance.

However, the continued improvements and maintenance to noise walls will not be able to be carried out without a funding implementation scheme. Any review of the existing policy must include a strategy that supports the sufficient allocation of financial resources allocated to reduction of noise, particularly for those residents who live in areas that don't comply with current standards.

A number of VCAT decisions and Planning Panel Reports have discussed road and rail acoustics in depth including the Panel reports for Amendments C82 and C86 of the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme and Amendment C63 of the Maribyrnong Planning Scheme. Council requests that VicRoads consider the discussion in these reports as part of the policy review.

Consideration of acoustic matters from road noise as part of planning scheme amendments and planning permit applications would benefit from inclusions within the Victorian Planning Provisions or a planning practice note. This would create greater

guidance for decision makers and potential opportunities for funding from contributions when considering applications. Council would encourage you to work with the Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning to develop a planning framework for dealing with noise from roadways.

If you wish to discuss this matter further please contact Kathleen McClusky, Manager Strategy and Advocacy on 9932 1004 or email kmccclusky@hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Natalie Walker', with a stylized, flowing script.

Natalie Walker
Director Strategic Development