

# Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust: Noise Management Plan

# NEWSLETTER



February 2008

**The Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust (Trust)** is a NSW Government agency established to manage Centennial Parklands on behalf of the people of NSW. Centennial Parklands encompasses the three parks – Centennial Park, Moore Park and Queens Park.

The mission of the Trust is to manage Centennial Parklands as a place of national significance for the enjoyment, social connection and well-being of the community.

The Parklands host over 100 events every year and has done so for many years. While the majority of events are charitable events, there are a small number of larger-scale events and activities in the Parklands that result in noise and access impacts on neighbours and park visitors.

The Trust has undertaken a number of measures over the years to minimise impacts of these events on its neighbours, however in line with best practice in the industry, the Trust is now looking to further manage noise impacts from events that typically involve amplified music. While the number of these types of events has remained relatively similar over the years, the Trust aims to continue to improve their management.

## The Process

In November 2007, the Trust engaged Environmental Resources Management (ERM) to prepare a Noise Management Plan (the Plan).

In preparing the Plan, ERM undertook the following activities:

- Review of noise management practices by the Trust;
- Noise modelling;
- Analysis of previous noise reporting;
- Analysis of the Trust's complaint data and management systems;
- Focus group and survey research; and

- Undertook interviews with residents and groups identified by the Trust and the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC).

The majority of complaints surrounded the large events with amplified music in the Parklands and as a result, major events such as these are the focus of the Plan.

In addition to understanding the direct noise impacts of events in the Parklands, the study identified a number of other issues associated with events, including:

- Crowd control;
- Traffic management; and
- Communication between the Trust and its residential neighbours.

## Summary of Research Results

The results from ERM's research are found in more detail on the Trust's website at:

[http://www.centennialparklands.com.au/about\\_us/consultation/jobs/projects/noise\\_management\\_plan](http://www.centennialparklands.com.au/about_us/consultation/jobs/projects/noise_management_plan)

Some of the key findings included:

- The majority of residents within two kilometres of the Parklands report that they do not hear noise generated from the Parklands, however around one-third of residents who did report hearing noise described it as being "too loud".
- Residents who lived adjacent to the Parklands are most exposed to noise – although some localities are more exposed to noise than others.
- Some residents closer to the Parklands reported they could hear and feel noise in their homes, while others heard noise but did not consider it intrusive.



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- There was a strong view amongst residents that the Trust should extend its efforts to minimise noise impacts upon those residents who did experience high noise levels.
- Communication between the Trust and its neighbours was seen as an area requiring improvement – residents felt they could better plan for events which might disrupt their day-to-day lives with improved communication about such events.
- Overall, residents felt that the benefits of living close to the Parklands currently outweighed the noise impacts they are exposed to during events.

## Key Recommendations

From its research, ERM have summarised a number of recommendations from the community and from its review of best practice within the industry. These include:

- Improvements in the flow of communication and feedback between the Trust and its neighbours.
- Reviewing and expanding current traffic management and crowd control approaches associated with major events.
- Producing a publicly available summary sound report within several working days of the event – highlighting performance, acceptable noise level exceedances, and measures taken to ensure exceedances did not reoccur.
- Establishing a predictive noise procedure during sound tests to better understand the potential noise levels produced by major events.

A more complete summary of findings are available on the Trust's website.

## Draft Plan Exhibition and Information Sessions

The Trust is now required to exhibit the draft noise management plan for public review.

In order to meet DECC deadlines for the development and implementation of the Plan, an exhibition will be held over three days:

- Dates: Thursday 28 February to Saturday 1 March 2008
- Times: 10.00 am to 4.00 pm daily
- Venue: Parklands Office, Centennial Park

In addition, ERM and the Trust will be available to present and discuss research results and development of the Plan at a special interactive information session.

- Date: Saturday 1 March 2008
- Time: 2.00 pm
- Venue: Parklands Office, Centennial Park

In order to prepare the logistics for this session, we ask that those interested parties proposing to attend, indicate in advance by email at [au.centennialpark@erm.com](mailto:au.centennialpark@erm.com) or phone on 1800 253 902.

## Feedback and further information

If you cannot attend the exhibition or information session and would like further information or to leave feedback on the Plan, please contact ERM by:

- § Email: [au.centennialpark@erm.com](mailto:au.centennialpark@erm.com)
- § Phone: 1800 253 902

All the latest information, including more detail on the Plan and the research can be found at:

[http://www.centennialparklands.com.au/about\\_us/consultation/jobs/projects/noise\\_management\\_plan](http://www.centennialparklands.com.au/about_us/consultation/jobs/projects/noise_management_plan)

Please note, the current contact details will be available until March 31, 2008. Updated details will be forthcoming.

