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11 December 2023

Northern Beaches Council
725 Pittwater Road
Dee Why, NSW

Re: Bareena Park Tennis Club Extension of Hours Noise Impacts

Dear Northern Beaches Council

RWDI have been engaged by Bareena Park Tennis Club (the Club) to assist with a request for further information from the Northern Beaches Council. The request concerns the acoustic impact of the installation of lights to 3 of the courts at the existing Bareena Park Tennis Club, for the purpose of extending the operating hours of the club from daylight hours only, up to 9pm at all times of year.

The additional information requested by council is as follows:

- Noise generated in the evening (6pm – 9pm)
- Assessment against relevant standards pertaining to sound transmission;
- Recommendations to reduce noise and preventative measures;
- Certification that the noise impact complies with relevant acoustical standards.

Site Location

The site is located at 35 Vista Ave, Balgowlah NSW 2093, within the Northern Beaches Council Area. Residential receivers are located on all sides of the tennis club, with the nearest being 33 Vista Ave. Only the 3 tennis courts located towards the eastern boundary of the club are proposed to have their hours extended.

Existing Site Operations

The club currently operates 5 courts during daylight hours only, corresponding to approximately an 8:30pm close during the summer months. The proposed installation of lights would extend the operation of the three courts indicated until 9pm at all times of year. The club caters mainly for beginner to intermediate level players and has been operating continuously since 1957, predating the construction of residential housing in the surrounding area.

RWDI conducted long term noise measurements of existing operations from the 14th to the 24th of November 2023, to determine the variation in noise levels throughout the day, including during the daylight hours of the evening. The logger was located within the club grounds at a location and distance from the courts representative of that to the nearest



receiver. The activities were found to typically range in noise level from approximately L_{eq} 45 to 55 dBA depending on time of day and type of activity.

Proposed Site and Policy Context

There is no quantifiable noise policy in NSW designed for the purpose of assessing noise from small sporting clubs.

The Noise Guide for Local Government (NGLG) assesses noise based on its offensiveness, although there is no quantifiable definition to determine objectively whether noise is offensive. Offensive noise is defined by section 4 of the NGLG as:

Noise that, by reason of its level, nature, character or quality, or the time at which it is made, or any other circumstances:

Is harmful to (or is likely to be harmful to) a person who is outside the premises from which it is emitted, or

Interferes unreasonably with (or is likely to interfere unreasonably with) the comfort or repose of a person who is outside the premises from which it is emitted, or

Noise that is a level, nature, character or quality prescribed by regulations or that is made at a time, or in other circumstances, prescribed by the regulations.

Although the intermittent character of noise from sporting activities typically qualifies a noise as “offensive”, the long-term presence of the tennis club means this noise is not uncharacteristic of the area, and this would not be an appropriate reason to apply this classification in this case.

It could be argued that as sports noise is not present during the evenings in winter months, this represents a greater intrusion, however noise intrusion is not typically assessed on a seasonal basis, but on a worst-case daily basis. As such the presence of extended operations during summertime suggests that the same hours during winter would be no more intrusive than current operations.

The now superseded *Noise Control Manual (1994)* provided guidance for “Athletic sporting events involving crowds gathering to participate in or watch sporting competitions such as tennis, football, and BMX races” in which “The primary sources of noise... are public address systems and crowd noise”. Although tennis is mentioned in this policy, it is clear that this policy was intended for sources where crowd noise, not sporting noise, is the dominant noise source, which is not applicable to the Club, which has no formal spectator facilities.



Discussion of Impacts

The Club has been operating at the site for over 60 years, before the surrounding residential developments were established. The Club has always operated until 8.30pm in summer months when there is enough daylight, and this has been accepted by the local community as part of the character of the area.

The noise levels from people playing tennis at the Club are moderate and reasonable, typically ranging between 45 and 55 dBA L_{eq} at the nearest boundary, based on attended and unattended noise monitoring conducted by RWDI. These levels are not high or intrusive in an absolute sense and would not impact the use of the outdoor areas nor indoor areas if windows are open. Moreover, the ambient noise levels measured during the night while the club was not operational was 47 dBA $L_{eq(Period)}$, based on the unattended monitoring. This indicates that the noise from the Club during the day and evening is only slightly higher than the ambient levels, and not significantly intrusive or disruptive to the existing noise environment.

Furthermore, the Club would not be the only tennis facility in the council area that operates until 9pm, in close proximity to residential dwellings. The Allambie Heights Community Tennis, which is located in a similar residential setting, operates until 9pm and likely generates similar noise levels from tennis activities. We are not aware of any noise complaints from the neighbours of the Allambie Heights Community Tennis, which suggests that the noise impacts are tolerable and acceptable.

The main impact would be to just one room in the nearest residence (33 Vista Ave) that has windows facing both the tennis courts and traffic on Vista Avenue. The noise from the tennis courts is likely blended with some traffic noise from Vista Avenue, although it is not a road with high traffic volumes. The levels currently experienced at the boundary do not affect the peaceful enjoyment of the backyard and private open spaces of the nearest residence, nor any other neighbouring properties.

The use of noise screens or barriers was investigated, but due to the sloping topography, the minimum height required to adequately shield the uphill receiver was not feasible.

The Club will implement management measures to minimise the noise impacts. These measures should include:

- No social events or coaching during evenings (after 7pm);
- Signs should be installed within and around the tennis courts reminding players and spectators to keep noise to a minimum.

These measures are effective and reasonable and will demonstrate the Club's commitment to being a good neighbour and a community asset.



Conclusions and Recommendations

The Club is seeking approval to install lights on three of its five courts to extend its operating hours on these courts until 9pm all year round. This proposal is consistent with the long-term operation and character of the Club, which has been a part of the community for over 60 years.

The noise impacts from the proposal are expected to be minimal and reasonable, and would not adversely affect the amenity and comfort of the surrounding residents. The Club has also proposed management measures which will help keep noise levels to an acceptable level.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Remi Larmandieu', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Yours faithfully,

Remi Larmandieu MAAS, MIEAust
Senior Engineer
RWDI



Statement of Limitations

This letter entitled *Bareena Park Tennis Club Extension of Hours Noise Impacts*, dated 7/12/2023 was prepared by RWDI Australia Pty Ltd ("RWDI") for Bareena Park Tennis Club ("Client"). The findings and conclusions presented in this report have been prepared for the Client and are specific to the project described herein ("Project"). The conclusions and recommendations contained in this report are based on the information available to RWDI when this report was prepared. Because the contents of this report may not reflect the final design of the Project or subsequent changes made after the date of this report, RWDI recommends that it be retained by Client during the final stages of the project to verify that the results and recommendations provided in this report have been correctly interpreted in the final design of the Project.

The conclusions and recommendations contained in this report have also been made for the specific purpose(s) set out herein. Should the Client or any other third party utilize the report and/or implement the conclusions and recommendations contained therein for any other purpose or project without the involvement of RWDI, the Client or such third party assumes any and all risk of any and all consequences arising from such use and RWDI accepts no responsibility for any liability, loss, or damage of any kind suffered by Client or any other third party arising therefrom.

Finally, it is imperative that the Client and/or any party relying on the conclusions and recommendations in this report carefully review the stated assumptions contained herein and to understand the different factors which may impact the conclusions and recommendations provided.