

Summary of Findings from KR Acoustic Impact Assessment: Rushcutters Bay Youth Recreation Area  
July 2018

Woollahra Council engaged KR Acoustics to conduct an independent acoustic impact assessment of noise generated by a proposed Youth Recreation Area which will include a skateboard plaza, to be located at the South West corner of Rushcutters Bay Park.

The report was based on noise measurement of a similar existing park, Fernside in the suburb of Waterloo.

The assessment was carried out in compliance with procedures listed in the Protection of the Environment Operations Act (2008) and relevant Australian Standards.

Impulsive sound is defined as a single pressure peak or a single burst of multiple pressure peaks for durations usually less than one second. Impulsive noise is penalised with up to 5dB.

Noise impact is assessed against two criteria: Intrusiveness and Amenity. Intrusiveness is a relative criteria based on the existing background noise, while Amenity criteria is based on absolute limit for the specific time and locality.

Noise is identified as intrusive if it is noticeably louder than the background noise and considered likely to disturb or interfere with those who can hear it. According to the Council Noise Guide, noise measured at the boundary of premises is considered intrusive if it exceeds 5dB(A) above the background noise. Woollahra council also requires that the noise limit during night time (10pm-7am) should not exceed background noise.

The report did note that traffic noise is producing intermittent noise which can only mask the impulsive noise from the Recreation Youth Facility some of the time.

The assessment by KR Acoustics showed that the noise from the proposed Youth Recreation Area can be acceptable with respect to the noise limits, provided usage of the park after during night time (10pm-7am) is not permitted.