

Date: 26 July 2016

File Number: N/A

Job Number: CR68376



Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

Environmental Services and Regulation

Southern Region – Compliance Investigations

BACKGROUND

Complaint Subject:	The subject of this complaint is the drying kilns at Schiffke Sawmill located at 134 Markwell Road Caboolture.
Complaint History:	<p>The noise complaint was lodged on 3 July 2015 relating to the noise generated by the drying kilns during the night time. The activity is not an ERA as it was deleted in the 2008 EP Reg changes, however it was decided EHP would investigate compliance with the development approval (DA) conditions that were part of the deleted ERA.</p> <p>7 September 2015 - A letter was issued to Schiffke Sawmill inviting them to formally respond to the department with how they manage noise from the activity and how they comply with noise emission criteria specified in the DA conditions.</p> <p>13 October 2015 – After noise logs were received by the department a site inspection was conducted to investigate the type of noises occurring on site and to isolate the drying kiln noise.</p> <p>5 November 2015 - Noise Monitoring was set up at complainant's house for unattended noise monitoring.</p> <p>20 May 2016 – Officers attended complainant's house to conduct background noise monitoring.</p> <p>This noise assessment is to confirm the background noise level and the compliance of the noise levels from the 5 November 2015 noise monitoring extraction.</p>
Object of Noise Assessment:	The object of the noise assessment is to assess the noise emitted by Schiffke Sawmill against the noise conditions F2 of the Environmental Authority IPDE00919808.
Complainant Name:	sch4p4(6) Personal information
Address:	sch4p4(6) Personal information
Contact #:	sch4p4(6) Personal information
Source Name:	Schiffke Sawmill
Address:	134 Markwell Road Caboolture
Contact #:	Steven Schiffke sch4p4(6) Personal information

Date of latest complaint: 3 July 2015

Date of initial noise assessment: 5 November 2015

Date of compliance noise assessment: 20 May 2016

Time of compliance noise assessment: 10:15pm to 11:15pm

Assessment officer: Toshi Yoshino

NOISE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

1. EQUIPMENT SETUP:

Table 1 lists the monitoring equipment utilised in the noise assessment.

Table 1: Monitoring Equipment

EQUIPMENT MAKE	DESCRIPTION	TYPE
Brüel & Kjær	Modular Precision Sound Analyzer Serial No.	Type 2250
Brüel & Kjær	1/2 inch Condenser Microphone Serial No.	Type 4189
Brüel & Kjær	Acoustical Calibrator Serial No.	Type 4231

Parameters for Sound Analyzer

The Sound Analyser was set to the following parameters:

- Fast response
- A weighted
- Enhanced Logging mode

The microphone was elevated to approximately **1.5 metres** above the ground at the front of the most exposed side of the complainant's residence, away from reflective surfaces and directed towards the source of the noise.

Calibration

Prior to the noise assessment the Sound Analyser was calibrated to 94.0 dB with a sensitivity of **47.77mV/Pa** and the deviation of **-0.02dB**. The calibration upon the completion of the noise measurement also complied with the deviation specified in the Australian Standard, at **+/-0.00dB**.

2. MONITORING CONDITIONS

The meteorological conditions at the time of the noise assessment were recorded at the monitoring site and are listed in Table 2.

Table 2: Meteorological Conditions at Monitoring Site

PARAMETER	READING
Atmospheric Pressure	1021
Weather Conditions	Clear
Temperature	14°C
Relative humidity	75%
Wind Speed	Still
Wind direction	N/A

Topography/ Layout of Monitoring Site

Approximately **80 metres** separate the complainant's residence and the source of noise.



3. MEASUREMENTS TAKEN

Measurement 1

The ambient noise level, including the source noise, was measured from the complainant's residence, on **20 May 2016** from 10:45pm.

Measurement 2

The ambient and background noise level was measured, from the complainant's residence with the activity halted, including the kiln turned off, from approximately 10:56pm of **20 May 2016**.

NOISE ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Measurement 1

The measured noise level (including the source noise) was **32 dB(LA_{max} adj-T)**. During the measurement the source noise level was audible at the complainant's residence.

Measurement 2

The measured ambient noise level (away from the influence of the source noise) was **30 dB(LA_{max} adj-T)**.

The source noise level was derived by conducting the following logarithmic subtraction:

Measurement 1: 32dB(A) – Measurement 2: 30dB(A)

$$= 10 \text{ Log}_{10} (10^{32/10} - 10^{30/10})$$

This results in a Source Noise Level of 30dB(LAmax adj-15 minutes)

Measurement 3

The measured background noise level is 22dB(LA90).

The Result

The Measurement result of the source noise is 30dB(LAmax adj-15minutes), and the background is 22dB(LA90). The source is +8dB(A) above background, measured at the sensitive place.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Identified Noise Source

The operation of the Schiffke Sawmill's kiln was audible from the complainant's residence at the time of the measurement. There are no other noises in the area that can be mistaken for the noise from the sawmill.

2. Method of Identifying Noise Source

The identification of the noise source was confirmed by observation at the time of the measurement. The kiln was arranged to be turned off for some time during the measurement, and the noise also went away during the period the kiln was turned off.

3. Operational Hours of Noise Source

The complainant states that the noise occurs on a constant basis throughout *the day and night*, although there are some differences between noise levels during the night and day.

4. Relevant Legislation

The relevant legislation is condition F2 of the historical Development Approval, IPDE00919808.

5. Breach of Legislation

Condition F2 of the DA, IPDE00919808 allows the activity to cause up to 3dB(A) above background for the time between 10pm and 7am measured at a sensitive location.

At the time of the compliance measurement, the activity is over the compliance level by +5dB(A) above, being +8dB(A) above the background level.

However, the background level of 22dB(A) is very low, and the sound output of 30dB(A) is very low for anywhere other than a place of significantly low background.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above assessment of the source noise, I recommend that:

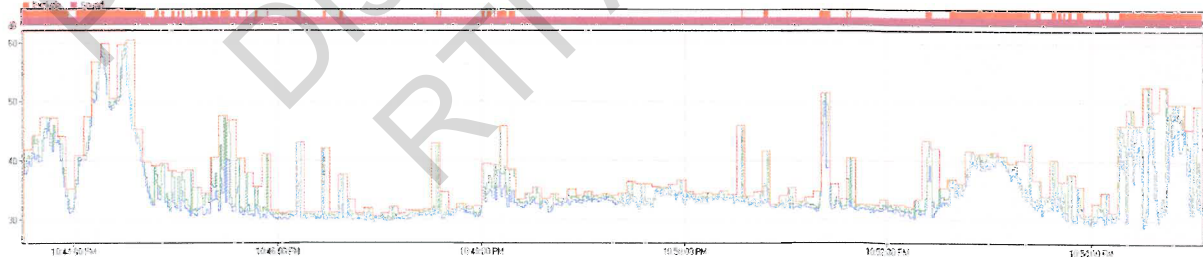
1. *The operator be informed of the breach of the conditions.*
2. *An inquiry is made in regards to any mitigation actions taken by the operator to minimise the environmental impact.*
3. *The actions be assessed against General Environmental Duty.*
4. *Take appropriate enforcement should there be inadequacies in the mitigation measures. However, consideration must be given to the fact that the background is extremely low and that the land use has been approved for the purpose of this activity.*

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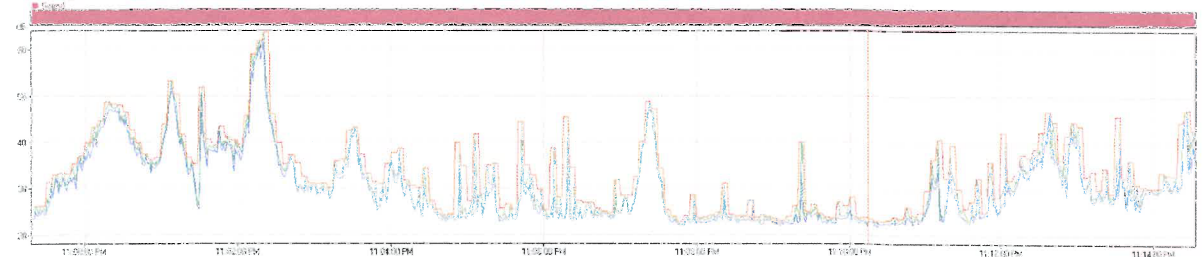
Toshi Yoshino
Senior Environmental Officer
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

Attachment:

Screen grabs of the analysed data:
Source noise with extraneous noises removed



Background and Ambient noise



Certificate of Registration

No: ENRE00759508

This registration certificate is issued by the Environmental Protection Agency and takes effect from: 07-MAR-2008.

The anniversary day for the purposes of the Annual Return remains: 10 April.

This registration certificate is a requirement of section 73F of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* and authorises the registered operator to undertake the activity listed below at the following place; subject to the conditions set out in a development approval attached to the premises, or the relevant code of environmental compliance.

Registered Operator:-

Schiffke Sawmill Pty Ltd
134 Markwell Road
CABOOLTURE QLD 4510

Place:-

Lot 3 Plan 208214

Located at:-

134 Markwell Road, CABOOLTURE QLD 4510

Registered Activity: -

ERA 67(a) Sawmilling or woodchipping - sawing, cutting, chipping, compressing, milling or machining logs, drying logs in a kiln, or manufacturing secondary wooden products, in a mill or works having a design production capacity of more than 500 t or more but less than 5 000 t a year.

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Delegate

Environmental Protection Agency

Date: 11/7/8



Development Permit

EPA Permit¹ number:	IPDE00919808
Application (Converted Development Approval) No.	SR2720
Relevant Laws and Policies:	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> and any subordinate legislation

Development Description

Property/Location

Lot 3, 208214, County of Canning, Parish of Canning.

located at: 134 Markwell Road
CABOOLTURE QLD 4510

Carrying out of Environmentally Relevant Activity (ERA)

67(a) - Sawmilling or woodchipping - sawing cutting, chipping, compressing, milling or machining logs, drying logs in a kiln or manufacturing secondary wooden products in a mill or works having a design production capacity of 500 t or more but less than 5 000 t per year.

Additional information for applicants

This approval pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* does not remove the need to obtain any further approval for this development which might be required by other State and / or Commonwealth Legislation. Applicants are advised to check with all relevant statutory authorities. Applicants also should comply with all relevant legislation.

It is a requirement of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* that if the owner or occupier of this site becomes aware a notifiable activity (as defined under schedule 2 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*) is being carried out on this land or that the land has been affected by a hazardous contaminant, they must, within thirty (30) days after becoming so aware, give notice to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Environmentally Relevant Activities

The aforementioned description of any environmentally relevant activity (ERA) for which this permit is issued is simply a restatement of the ERA as prescribed in the legislation at the time of issuing this permit. Where there is any conflict between the abovementioned description of the ERA for which this permit is issued and the conditions specified herein as to the scale, intensity or manner of carrying out of the ERA, then such conditions prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

¹ Permit includes development approvals, approvals, permits, authorisations, certificates, sanctions or equivalent/similar as required by legislation administered by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service



This permit authorises the ERA. It does not authorise environmental harm unless a condition within this permit explicitly authorises that harm. Where there is no such condition, or the permit is silent on a matter, the lack of a condition or silence shall not be construed as authorising harm.

In addition to this permit, the person to carry out the ERA must be a registered operator under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. For the person to become a registered operator, they must apply for a registration certificate under section 73F of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Delegate of Administering Authority
Environmental Protection Act 1994

Date: 11/9/8

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Conditions of the Development Approval

This development approval consists of the following schedules of conditions relevant to various issues:

The aforementioned description of the environmentally relevant activity (ERA) for which this development approval is issued is simply a restatement of the activity as prescribed in the legislation at the time of issuing the approval. Where there is any conflict between the above description of the ERA for which this development approval is issued and the conditions as specified in this development approval as to the scale, intensity or manner of carrying out of the ERA, then such conditions prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

This development approval consists of the following schedules-

Schedule A - General Conditions

Schedule B - Air

Schedule C - Water

Schedule D - Stormwater Management

Schedule E - Land Application

Schedule F - Noise

Schedule G - Waste Management

Schedule H - Self Monitoring and Reporting

Schedule I - Definitions

Schedule J - Approved Documents

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SCHEDULE A - GENERAL CONDITIONS

Compliance with Development Approval

- (A1) Contaminants must not be released to the environment other than in accordance with this development approval.
- (A2) The registered operator of this development approval must:
- (a) install and operate all works and control equipment, and
 - (b) take all measures, perform all acts and do all things,
- necessary to ensure compliance with the conditions of this development approval.

Display of Development Approval

- (A3) A copy of this development approval must be kept in a location readily accessible to personnel carrying out the activity.

Records

- (A4) Any record required to be kept by a condition of this development approval must be kept at the approved place and be available for examination by an authorised person.
- (A5) Copies of any record required to be kept by a condition of this development approval must be provided to any authorised person or the administering authority on request.

Alterations

- (A6) No change, replacement or operation of any plant or equipment is permitted if the change, alteration or operation of the plant or equipment increases, or is likely to substantially increase, the risk of environmental harm or environmental nuisance.

Nuisance

- (A7) Notwithstanding any other condition of this development approval, this development approval does not authorise any release of contaminants which causes or is likely to cause an environmental nuisance beyond the boundaries of the approved place.

Release of Visible Light

- (A8) Any visible light released from the approved place must not, in the opinion of an authorised person, cause an environmental nuisance at or beyond the boundary of the approved place.

End of Conditions for Schedule A

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SCHEDULE B - AIR

Release of Contaminants to the Atmosphere

- (B1) Except as otherwise provided by the conditions of the air schedule of this development approval the environmentally relevant activity must be carried out by such practicable means necessary to prevent or minimise the release or likelihood of release of contaminants to the atmosphere.
- (B2) Contaminants must only be released to the atmosphere from those release points specified in Table 1 of the air schedule.
- (B3) Contaminants released from each release point specified in Table 1 of the air schedule must be directed vertically upwards without any impedance or hindrance.
- (B4) Contaminants must be released to the atmosphere from a release point at a height not less than the corresponding height stated for that release point in Table 1 of the air schedule.

SCHEDULE B -Table 1

RELEASE POINT NUMBER	SOURCE DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM RELEASE HEIGHT (metres)
1	Cyclone exhaust located at the southern end of the planing shed	5.0

SCHEDULE B - Table 2

RELEASE POINT NUMBER	Contaminant	RELEASE LIMIT	RELEASE LIMIT UNITS
1	Particulates	0.25	g.m ⁻³

Noxious or Offensive Odour

- (B5) Notwithstanding any other condition of this development approval no release of contaminants from the approved place is to cause a noxious or offensive odour beyond the boundaries of the approved place.

Dust Control

- (B6) All sealed traffic areas must be cleaned as necessary to minimise the release of dust and particulate matter to the atmosphere.

Dust Minimisation: Traffic Movements

- (B7) Trafficable areas must be sealed with bitumen or an equivalent hard surface, or otherwise maintained to the satisfaction of the administering authority, in a condition which minimises the release of wind blown or traffic generated dust.

Loss of Materials During Transit

- (B8) The tailgates of all trucks leaving the premises must be securely fixed prior to loading and immediately after unloading to prevent loss of materials.

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- (B9) Trucks transporting sawdust and/or bark from the premises must be covered immediately after loading to prevent wind-blown releases and spillage. The covering must be maintained until immediately before unloading the trucks.

End of Conditions for Schedule B

Published on DES
Disclosure Log
RTI Act 2009

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SCHEDULE C - WATER**Release of Contaminants to Waters**

- (C1) Except as otherwise provided by the conditions of the water schedule of this development approval the environmentally relevant activity must be carried out by such practicable means necessary to prevent or minimise the release or likelihood of release of contaminants to waters.
- (C2) Contaminants must not be directly or indirectly released from the approved place to any waters or the bed and banks of any waters except as permitted under the water schedule or the stormwater management schedule or to a sewer as permitted or otherwise agreed from time to time by the relevant Local Government.

End of Conditions for Schedule C

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SCHEDULE D - STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**Contaminant Releases Caused by Rainfall**

- (D1) Except as otherwise provided by the conditions of the stormwater management schedule and the water schedule of this development approval, the environmentally relevant activities must be carried out by such practicable means necessary to prevent or minimise the contact of incident rainfall and stormwater runoff with wastes or other contaminants, and prevent or minimise the release or likelihood of release of any such contaminated runoff from the approved place.
- (D2) The maintenance and cleaning of vehicles and any other equipment or plant must be carried out in areas from where contaminants cannot be released into any waters, roadside gutter or stormwater drainage system.
- (D3) Any spillage of wastes, contaminants or other materials must be cleaned up as quickly as practicable. Such spillages must not be cleaned up by hosing, sweeping or otherwise releasing such wastes, contaminants or material to any stormwater drainage system, roadside gutter or waters.

Bunding

- (D4) All chemical drum storages must be banded so that the capacity of the band is sufficient to contain at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the maximum design storage volume within the band.
- (D5) All bunding must be constructed of materials which are impervious to the materials stored.
- (D6) All bunding must be roofed where practicable.

End of Conditions for Schedule D

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SCHEDULE E - LAND APPLICATION**Release of Contaminants to Land**

- (E1) Except as otherwise provided by the conditions of the land application schedule of this development approval the environmentally relevant activities must be carried out by such practicable means necessary to prevent or minimise the release or likelihood of release of contaminants to land.

End of Conditions for Schedule E

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SCHEDULE F - NOISE**Emission of Noise**

- (F1) Except as otherwise provided by the conditions of the noise schedule of this development approval the environmentally relevant activities must be carried out by such practicable means necessary to prevent or minimise the emission or likelihood of emission of noise.
- (F2) The emission of noise from the approved place must not result in levels greater than those specified in Table 1 of the Noise Schedule.

SCHEDULE F - TABLE 1

NOISE LIMITS AT A NOISE SENSITIVE PLACE	
Period	Noise Level at a Noise Sensitive Place Measured as the Adjusted Maximum Sound Pressure Level <i>L_{Amax adj, T}</i>
7 am - 6 pm	Background noise level plus 5 dB(A)
6 pm - 10 pm	Background noise level plus 5 dB(A)
10 pm - 7 am	Background noise level plus 3 dB(A)
NOISE LIMITS AT A COMMERCIAL PLACE	
Period	Noise Level at a Commercial Place measured as the Adjusted Maximum Sound Pressure Level <i>L_{Amax adj, T}</i>
7 am - 6 pm	Background noise level plus 10 dB(A)
6 pm - 10 pm	Background noise level plus 10 dB(A)
10 pm - 7 am	Background noise level plus 8 dB(A)

End of Conditions for Schedule F

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SCHEDULE G - WASTE MANAGEMENT**General**

- (G1) Waste must not be released to the environment, stored, transferred or disposed contrary to any condition of this development approval.
- (G2) Waste must not be burnt or allowed to burn at the approved place or removed and burnt elsewhere unless specifically permitted by a development approval.
- (G3) An area must be set aside for the segregation and storage of recyclable solid wastes.
- (G4) Where a no-cost recycling service is available, recyclable waste must not be deposited in the general waste stream.

Waste Storage and Handling Conditions

- (G5) All loading/unloading of bulk materials must take place only within designated vehicle loading/unloading areas.

End of Conditions for Schedule G

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SCHEDULE H - SELF MONITORING AND REPORTING

Complaint Recording

- (H1) All complaints received by the registered operator of this development approval relating to operations at the approved place must be recorded in a log book with the following details:
- (i) time and date of complaint;
 - (ii) type of communication (telephone, letter, personal etc.);
 - (iii) name, contact address and contact telephone number of complainant (Note: if the complainant does not wish to be identified then "Not identified" is to be recorded);
 - (iv) response and investigation undertaken as a result of the complaint;
 - (v) name of person responsible for investigating complaint; and
 - (vi) action taken as a result of the complaint investigation and signature of responsible person.
- (H2) The complaints record required by condition number H1 must be maintained for a period of not less than five (5) years.

Incident Recording

- (H3) A record must be maintained of events including but not limited to:
- (i) the time, date and duration of pollution control equipment malfunctions;
 - (ii) any shut-downs of the Cyclone
 - (iii) the hours of operation of the plant;
- (H4) The record required by condition number H3 must be maintained for a period of not less than five (5) years.

Notification of Emergencies and Incidents

- (H5) As soon as practicable after becoming aware of any emergency or incident which results in the release of contaminants not in accordance, or reasonably expected to be not in accordance with the conditions of this development approval, the registered operator of this development approval must notify the administering authority of the release by telephone or facsimile.
- (H6) The notification of emergencies or incidents as required by condition number H5 must include but not be limited to the following:
- (i) The registered operator of the development approval;
 - (ii) the location of the emergency or incident;
 - (iii) the number of the development approval;
 - (iv) the name and telephone number of the designated contact person;
 - (v) the time of the release;
 - (vi) the time the registered operator of the development approval became aware of the release;
 - (vii) the suspected cause of the release;
 - (viii) the environmental harm and or environmental nuisance caused, threatened, or suspected to be caused by the release; and
 - (ix) actions taken to prevent further any release and mitigate any environmental harm and or environmental nuisance caused by the release.
- (H7) Not more than fourteen (14) days following the initial notification of an emergency or incident, the registered operator of the development approval must provide written advice of the information supplied in accordance with condition number H6 in addition to:
- (i) proposed actions to prevent a recurrence of the emergency or incident;

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- (ii) outcomes of actions taken at the time to prevent or minimise environmental harm and or environmental nuisance, and
- (iii) the results of any environmental monitoring performed.

Monitoring of Contaminant Releases to the Atmosphere

- (H8) The registered operator of this development approval must monitor and record contaminant releases to the atmosphere at the release points specified in Schedule H Table 1 to investigate any complaint of particulate emissions upon receipt of a request from the administering authority to carry out such monitoring:
- (a) All determinations must be made by a person or body registered by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) for the required determinations,
 - (b) Monitoring provisions for the release points listed in Schedule H Table 1 must comply with the Australian Standard AS 4323.1 - 1995 "Stationary source emissions Method 1: Selection of sampling provisions".
 - (c) The following tests must be performed for each required determination specified in Table 1:
 - (i) gas velocity and volume flow rate,
 - (d) where practicable samples taken must be representative of the contaminants discharged when emissions are expected to be maximum.

Schedule H - Table 1
Required Release Point Determinations

RELEASE POINT NUMBERS	DETERMINATION REQUIRED	FREQUENCY
1	Particulate matter	Refer condition

Records

- (H9) Records must be kept of the results of all monitoring of releases of contaminants to the atmosphere for a period of at least five (5) years.

Noise Monitoring

- (H10) Monitoring and recording of noise levels from the environmentally relevant activity to check conformity with condition F2 of the noise schedule must be undertaken at the monitoring positions described as:
- (i) The southwestern corner of the property boundary
 - (ii) The northwestern corner of the property boundary
 - (iii) Halfway between monitoring point (i) and (ii) on the western boundary.
 - (iv) The northeastern corner of the property boundary
 - (v) The southeastern corner of the property boundary
- (H11) For the purposes of checking compliance with condition F2 of the noise schedule, monitoring and recording the noise levels from the environmentally relevant activity must be undertaken for at least the following descriptors, characteristics and conditions:
- (i) $L_{Amax, Adj, T}$
 - (ii) $L_{A90, T}$ (or $L_{A90, T}$);
 - (iii) $L_{AN, T}$ (where N equals statistical levels of 1, 10, 50, 90 and 99);
 - (iv) $L_{Aeq, T}$.

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- (v) The level and frequency of occurrence of impulsive or tonal noise;
 - (vi) Atmospheric conditions including temperature, relative humidity and wind speed and direction; and
 - (vii) Effects due to extraneous factors such as traffic noise.
- (H12) The registered operator of this development approval must monitor and record the noise levels to investigate any complaint of noise nuisance upon receipt of a request from the administering authority to carry out such monitoring.
- (H13) The method of measurement and reporting of noise levels must comply with the *Department of Environment and Heritage Noise Measurement Manual, second edition, March 1995*, or more recent additions or supplements to that document as become available.
- (H14) The method of measurement and reporting of noise levels must be undertaken by a person or body acceptable to the administering authority.
- (H15) Records must be kept of the results of all monitoring of noise levels and other information required to be recorded in conjunction with such monitoring for a period of at least five (5) years.

Report Submission

- (H16) The registered operator of this development approval must ensure that the results of all monitoring performed in accordance with this development approval are submitted with the initial Annual Return. Each subsequent Annual Return must include details of the results of monitoring performed during the twelve (12) months preceding that Annual Return.

Exception Reporting

- (H17) The registered operator of this development approval must notify the administering authority in writing of any monitoring result which indicates an exceedance of any development approval limit within twenty-eight (28) days of completion of analysis.
- (H18) The written notification required by condition number H17 above must include:
- (i) The full analysis results, and
 - (ii) Details of investigation or corrective actions taken, and
 - (iii) Any subsequent analysis.

End of Conditions for Schedule H

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SCHEDULE I – DEFINITIONS

- (11) For the purposes of this development approval any term not otherwise defined in the Act and any subordinate legislation made pursuant to the Act or in the Definitions Schedule of this development approval has the meaning conferred to that term in its common usage.
- (12) In the event of any inconsistency arising between the meaning of any term provided in the Definitions Schedule of this development approval and any common usage of that term, the meaning conferred in the Definitions Schedule of this development approval prevails.

For the purposes of this development approval the following definitions apply:

- (13) "Act" means the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.
- (14) "Administering Authority" means the Environmental Protection Agency or its successor.
- (15) "Land" means land excluding waters and the atmosphere.
- (16) "cubic metre" ("m³") means the volume of dry gaseous contaminant which occupies 1 cubic metre at a temperature of zero degrees Celsius and at an absolute pressure of 101.3 kilopascals.
- (17) " $L_{Amax\ adj, T}$ " means the average maximum A-weighted sound pressure level, adjusted for noise character and measured over a time period of not less than 15 minutes, using Fast response.
- (18) "Background noise level" means either:
- $L_{A90, T}$ being the A-weighted sound pressure level exceeded for ninety percent (90%) of the time period not less than 15 minutes, using Fast response, or
- $L_{A\bar{g}, T}$ being the arithmetic average of the minimum readings measured in the absence of the noise under investigation during a representative time period of not less than 15 minutes, using Fast response.

End of Conditions for Schedule I

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SCHEDULE J – APPROVED DOCUMENTS

- (J1) The environmentally relevant activity must be constructed, operated and maintained in accordance with all undertakings of the development approval application and any other documents approved by the administering authority as set out in the Approved Documents Schedule.
- (J2) In the event of any inconsistency arising between the undertakings of the development approval application or other approved documents as set out in the Approved Documents Schedule and the conditions of this development approval, the conditions of this development approval must apply.

End of Conditions for Schedule J

END OF CONDITIONS

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Noise pollution

Noise from many activities or equipment may disturb neighbours, disrupt their sleep and interfere with daily activities. If loud enough, noise can also affect their health. This fact sheet may help you to reduce noise and meet legal requirements. Talk to neighbours. Find out what concerns they have and ask them for suggestions about solving problems. Solutions can often be found that satisfy everyone.

Ways you can reduce noise

- *Limit hours of use:* Talk to neighbours about when the noise disturbs them. Most people are concerned about noise at night or early in the morning when they are trying to sleep.
- *Select location carefully:* Carry out the noisy activity away from neighbours and sensitive areas, such as in a garage or shed.
- *Choose quiet equipment:* Replacing noisy equipment with a quieter or smaller model may help.
- *Regular maintenance:* Regular maintenance can decrease noise and improve effectiveness.
- *Install fences or barriers:* A solid fence with no gaps can reduce noise levels.
- *Consider an acoustic enclosure:* Some fixed equipment, such as compressors and vacuum equipment can be enclosed in a wooden box with an absorbent lining and adequate ventilation. This can effectively reduce noise. Contact the manufacturer or installer for advice.
- *Modifications:* Sometimes modifications can be made to the activity or equipment to reduce noise.
- *Alternatives:* In some circumstances, alternative activities or equipment may be effective in producing less noise. Consider carrying out the activity inside or at another location.

The law

Queensland's *Environmental Protection Act 1994* includes requirements for noise nuisances. Council is legally required to enforce them. If issues between neighbours cannot be resolved and complaints continue, council will investigate and may issue a direction notice. The notice details the offence, and gives a time-frame for the problem to be rectified. Council may issue an infringement of 15 penalty units for an individual or 75 penalty units for a corporation for non-compliance. Please refer to the penalty unit fact sheet available at www.lgtoolbox.qld.gov.au for more information about penalty units.

Complaints to council

When investigating a noise complaint, council will consider:

- the amount of noise;
- the duration, rate and type of noise;
- the environment and the potential impact;
- views of other neighbours or complainants;
- other relevant criteria.

Where can I get further information?

Council has a great information tool available on our website called LG Toolbox. LG Toolbox is accessible here: <http://www.lgtoolbox.qld.gov.au/MoretonBayRC/EH/Pages/default.aspx>.

I have read through the Toolbox information but have further questions, who can I contact?

For further assistance and information please contact Moreton Bay Regional Council on 07 3205 0555 or email mbrc@moretonbay.qld.gov.au.

7 September 2015

Schiffke Sawmill Pty Ltd
134 Markwell Road
CABOOLTURE QLD 4510

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Complaint alleging noise nuisance from activities at 134 Markwell Road,
Caboolture by Schiffke Sawmill Pty Ltd.**

The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (the department) has received a complaint expressing concern that activities from Schiffke Sawmill Pty Ltd (Schiffke) at 134 Markwell Road Caboolture (the site) are causing noise nuisance to a nearby premises. The role of the department is to investigate this matter and ensure that where a genuine problem is found to exist, appropriate action is taken to rectify the problem.

The complaint refers to noise nuisance being experienced particularly as a result of night time operations at the site. The complaint details noise disturbance is occurring from operations on Friday night through to Sunday night and is allegedly from the drying timber process. A review of departmental records show that noise issues linked to the drying timber process, vehicles and general site operations has been raised with you on at least two occasions in April 2009 and November 2004.

Schiffke previously held an environmentally relevant activity (ERA) with the department (development approval IPDE00919808, attached). Due to changes to the legislation in 2009, the activity conducted on site was determined to no longer be an ERA. The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (the Act) states that although no longer an ERA, development conditions of development approvals are still current. Therefore, the noise conditions of the development approval still apply.

Conditions F1 and F2 of your development approval IPDE00919808 relate to noise emission with condition F2 stating:

"The emission of noise from the approved place must not result in levels greater than those specified in Table 1 of the Noise Schedule."

You are invited to provide a formal response to the department demonstrating how Schiffke Sawmill Pty Ltd manage noise from the activity and comply with the noise emission criteria specified in development approval conditions. A response to this matter is requested on or before **Monday 21 September 2015**, quoting reference number CR68376 and addressing your response to:

Katrina Wood
Environmental Services and Regulation
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
PO Box 808
CABOOLTURE QLD 4510

The department is focused on achieving environmental outcomes and looks forward to the prompt resolution of the matter raised above.

Should you have any further enquiries, please contact Katrina Wood, Environmental Officer of the department on telephone (07) 5316 8404.

Yours sincerely,

sch4p4(6) Personal information

Cate Puschmann

A/Manager (Brisbane/Moreton Bay)

Southern Queensland Compliance

Environmental Services and Regulation

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

Attachment 1: Development Approval

From: KARLE Matt
Sent: Monday, 1 August 2016 2:24 PM
To: COOPER Nadine; YOSHINO Toshi; WOOD Katrina
Subject: RE: Schiffke noise



Hi there.

Low BG is a very difficult situation. A permit which does not reflect this leads to great difficulty.

I recommend ordinary escalation process – show cause regarding non-compliance and see how the client responds. If they are doing all they reasonably and practically can then this is part of their defence. If they aren't doing all they can, and don't propose to, then ordinary process applies.

If there is no chance they can comply, then an EE may be appropriate, to investigation options and best practice given low BG, which could then be used to amend EA?

Regards

Matt Karle

Manager, South Queensland Compliance – Brisbane Moreton Bay
Environmental Services and Regulation
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

P 07 5316 8403
33 King Street, Caboolture Qld 4510

From: COOPER Nadine
Sent: Wednesday, 27 July 2016 12:32 PM
To: YOSHINO Toshi <Toshi.Yoshino@ehp.qld.gov.au>; WOOD Katrina <Katrina.Wood@ehp.qld.gov.au>; KARLE Matt <Matt.Karle@ehp.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

Yep, barriers would be more \$\$ for what they would get. I was wondering what they could do for a shroud at the source which would also allow sufficient airflow.....I have only really had experience with a/c's, pool pumps and exhausts using shrouds/isolators etc.

From: YOSHINO Toshi
Sent: Wednesday, 27 July 2016 12:14 PM
To: COOPER Nadine; WOOD Katrina; KARLE Matt
Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

I'll leave it up to you guys to decide.

Shielding at 50m or so may be ineffectual. The further the source gets to the receptor, the less efficient a barrier gets.

I would say the "new kiln" is probably causing more noise due to the more recent design of air intakes, which is designed to get higher air flow in order to make them more efficient and thus less air pollutants.

Either way, your call. I've said my bit, but the recommendation will reflect your enforcement decision.

Regards,

Toshi Yoshino

Senior Environmental Officer
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
P 07 5583 2146

From: COOPER Nadine

Sent: Wednesday, 27 July 2016 11:41 AM

To: YOSHINO Toshi; WOOD Katrina; KARLE Matt

Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

My thoughts:

From having heard the noise first hand it was definitely audible and a significant difference from being off to on.

I think part of the issue is that the kilns runs 24/7 (including all weekend) albeit in 2 different operating modes, but this does not allow any break in its noise emission.

If there are things that the site can practically do (noise barrier, acoustic shrouds on the noisy parts of the kiln, reducing hours they use it etc) I think that they should at least attempt to address as much of the noise as they can reasonably reduce (particularly as it does run 24/7 and they have indicated that they are unable to shut it off for any period as this will extend out their timber drying times too far). Once they have everything that they can practically do then and it is still a problem, then we could look at where to at that point.

The new kiln's were only introduced a few years ago, and it has only been since then that there has been a noise problem (whilst the activity has been operating there for many years).....Katrina correct me if I am wrong.

s73

This one is a historically regulated ERA that no longer requires a permit.

N

From: YOSHINO Toshi

Sent: Wednesday, 27 July 2016 11:14 AM

To: WOOD Katrina

Cc: COOPER Nadine

Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

Hi,

I've done the noise assessment, but I am in a bit of a conundrum as to the outcome.

The source noise is 30dB(A), which is really low. But the background noise level is 22dB(A). +8dB(A) above background, so it's a technical breach.

In saying that, there is not a single activity that would cause less than 30dB(A) at this distance, and if the land use has been approved for this purpose, I would personally say it's unreasonable to enforce this level of noise. The noise is barely audible, and has no tonal or impulsive character which would otherwise make it irritating.

It even meets the Planning for noise control's planning level for "Rural residential, church and hospitals" criteria. 30dB(A) is a totally reasonable level for outside of a premises in this type of location.

What would you like me to do about the recommendation?

Regards,

Toshi Yoshino

Senior Environmental Officer
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
P 07 5583 2146

From: WOOD Katrina
Sent: Tuesday, 26 July 2016 11:41 AM
To: YOSHINO Toshi
Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

Hey Toshi,

I have filled this in where I can for you. I stopped at the noise assessment methodology.

If you need more info from me just let me know

Thanks



Katrina Wood
Environmental Officer
South Queensland Compliance | Environmental Services & Regulation
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

P 07 5316 8404
Level 4, 33 King Street, Qld Caboolture 4510
PO Box 808 Caboolture, Qld 4510

From: YOSHINO Toshi
Sent: Thursday, 14 July 2016 3:31 PM
To: WOOD Katrina <Katrina.Wood@ehp.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

Hey,
I know what you could do for me though...
Can you use this one as a template and start filling in the first 2 pages? (sorry, some of the bits are pictures cut and pasted from a previous version, but you will get the idea...)
When I do the re-assessment, I will populate the rest of it in.

Is that possible?

Toshi Yoshino
Senior Environmental Officer
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
P 07 5583 2146

From: WOOD Katrina
Sent: Thursday, 14 July 2016 3:27 PM
To: YOSHINO Toshi
Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

Thanks Toshi, please keep Nadine or myself in the loop as to how it goes.

Thanks



Katrina Wood
Environmental Officer
South Queensland Compliance | Environmental Services & Regulation
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

P 07 5316 8404
Level 4, 33 King Street, Qld Caboolture 4510
PO Box 808 Caboolture, Qld 4510

From: YOSHINO Toshi
Sent: Thursday, 14 July 2016 2:54 PM
To: WOOD Katrina <Katrina.Wood@ehp.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

Hey,

It's been on hold.. sch4p4(6) Personal information It's on the back of my mind constantly.
I will definitely work on it in the next week or so. Sorry...

Regards,

Toshi Yoshino
Senior Environmental Officer
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
P 07 5583 2146

From: WOOD Katrina
Sent: Thursday, 14 July 2016 2:49 PM
To: YOSHINO Toshi
Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

Hi Toshi,

Wondering how this noise data analysis is coming along for Schiffke Sawmill?

Cheers



Katrina Wood
Environmental Officer
South Queensland Compliance | Environmental Services & Regulation
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

P 07 5316 8404
Level 4, 33 King Street, Qld Caboolture 4510
PO Box 808 Caboolture, Qld 4510

From: YOSHINO Toshi
Sent: Wednesday, 8 June 2016 10:29 AM
To: WOOD Katrina <Katrina.Wood@ehp.qld.gov.au>; COOPER Nadine <Nadine.Cooper@ehp.qld.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

The time seems approximately right.
I'll look into it a bit further.

Toshi Yoshino

Senior Environmental Officer
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
P 07 5583 2146

From: WOOD Katrina

Sent: Wednesday, 8 June 2016 10:16 AM

To: YOSHINO Toshi; COOPER Nadine

Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

Hey Toshi,

I have attached my notes from the Friday night noise monitoring.

I have that the monitoring started at 10:36. I was using my iPhone to view the time and not the noise monitor so perhaps they are out of sync?

Going off my notes and time at:

10:42 - a car drove past

10:44 – 2 cars drove past

Not sure if this information is going to help.

Cheers



Katrina Wood

Environmental Officer

South Queensland Compliance | Environmental Services & Regulation

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

P 07 5316 8404

Level 4, 33 King Street, Qld Caboolture 4510

PO Box 808 Caboolture, Qld 4510

From: YOSHINO Toshi

Sent: Friday, 3 June 2016 9:20 AM

To: COOPER Nadine; WOOD Katrina

Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

As per my original email, this sound corresponds to about 10:48pm. (so the file starts around 10:46pm?)
I think that is around 15-20 minutes into the overall recording, but I will have to look again to confirm.

Toshi Yoshino

Senior Environmental Officer
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
P 07 5583 2146

From: COOPER Nadine

Sent: Friday, 3 June 2016 9:18 AM

To: WOOD Katrina; YOSHINO Toshi

Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

There were instances of various other extraneous noises at different times – planes, helicopter, cars trucks. Some of these were recorded, but not 100% of instances

Initially (when I was having trouble calibrating and called you Toshi there was a significant amount of helicopter noise). Is that recording from the very beginning of our measurement or just a snippet somewhere in the middle?

Katrina can check against notes of when other extraneous noises also occurred – aligning with this timing

There was definitely the kilns running though

From: WOOD Katrina
Sent: Friday, 3 June 2016 8:47 AM
To: COOPER Nadine
Cc: YOSHINO Toshi
Subject: FW: Schiffke noise

Hi Nadine,

Please see below email from Toshi.

I have listened to this and at the beginning I can hear the sawmill drying kilns, at the 2:00 mark it sounds like the kilns are making the “humming” noise but a lot louder.

I am not 100% sure if it is the kilns though.

What are your thoughts?

Thanks

From: YOSHINO Toshi
Sent: Thursday, 2 June 2016 1:06 PM
To: WOOD Katrina
Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

Hey Katrina,

About 2:00 into this audio file, is a section that corresponds to about 10:48pm on the night of the noise assessment. It's strongly low frequency based and is tonal and harmonic at 31.5Hz and 63Hz. Can you tell what it is that's happening there?

It sounds somewhat like a truck idling to me, but I'm not sure if it's something at the Sawmill?

Regards,

Toshi Yoshino
Senior Environmental Officer
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
P 07 5583 2146

From: WOOD Katrina
Sent: Thursday, 2 June 2016 9:56 AM
To: YOSHINO Toshi; COOPER Nadine
Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

Attached for you Toshi



Katrina Wood
Environmental Officer
South Queensland Compliance | Environmental Services & Regulation
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

P 07 5316 8404
Level 4, 33 King Street, Qld Caboolture 4510
PO Box 808 Caboolture, Qld 4510

From: YOSHINO Toshi
Sent: Thursday, 2 June 2016 9:51 AM
To: COOPER Nadine; WOOD Katrina
Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

What's Schiffke's noise conditions?

Toshi Yoshino
Senior Environmental Officer
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
P 07 5583 2146

From: COOPER Nadine
Sent: Wednesday, 1 June 2016 9:40 AM
To: YOSHINO Toshi; WOOD Katrina
Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

We set the meter up in exactly the same spot as the logging, so if the house was having that influence, it would be the same for both sets of measurements.
And ultimately it will be up to the delegate – so none of use ☺

From: YOSHINO Toshi
Sent: Wednesday, 1 June 2016 9:10 AM
To: COOPER Nadine; WOOD Katrina
Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

There is a possibility that the measurement is right, and the complainant's house has some weird acoustics (deadening of low freq), if the background is 20ish.

But when the ambient is that low, it's difficult to comply for anyone...

It becomes a moral decision then... The department is not allowed to hinder development, but no one can comply in an area like this. Being just outside a fairly major town like Caboolture, is it reasonable to expect a background to remain at 20dB?

Oh, well... not up to me to decide that... is it?

Toshi Yoshino
Senior Environmental Officer
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
P 07 5583 2146

From: COOPER Nadine
Sent: Wednesday, 1 June 2016 9:02 AM
To: YOSHINO Toshi; WOOD Katrina
Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

Fingers crossed.

The other night when there was no kilns running – I looked at the real time display a few times and reading was about 22 LAeq. When the kilns were running it was about 30-32.

The 1/3 octave display was showing a spread of frequencies – higher in the middle bands.

From: YOSHINO Toshi
Sent: Wednesday, 1 June 2016 8:56 AM
To: COOPER Nadine; WOOD Katrina
Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

Really weird.

Significant higher frequency portion and barely any low frequency portion... not sure what is going on.

Anyway, I'm downloading it at the pace of one day's monitoring per day, so I'm only up to day 3. I hope to look at the second day's data today.

I'll also try and look at the stuff you took the other day. Hopefully, that would have more info.

Toshi Yoshino
Senior Environmental Officer
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
P 07 5583 2146

From: COOPER Nadine
Sent: Wednesday, 1 June 2016 8:37 AM
To: YOSHINO Toshi; WOOD Katrina
Subject: RE: Schiffke noise

Eeekkkk!!!

From: YOSHINO Toshi
Sent: Tuesday, 31 May 2016 2:14 PM
To: WOOD Katrina; COOPER Nadine
Subject: Schiffke noise

Hi Nadine and Katrina,

I am looking at some of the data from the November logging, but it seems there is something strange about it. I can hear the noises, but it's measuring at 13dB mostly, and so much more high frequency than lower frequencies. I will look into it further, but there may have been something completely wrong with the meter.

Regards,



Queensland
Government

Toshi Yoshino
Senior Environmental Officer
South Queensland Compliance | Environmental Services and Regulation
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection

P 07 5583 2146
Level 1, APVC Building, 14 Edgewater Court, Robina, Gold Coast QLD 4226
PO Box 4244, Robina QLD 4230