

The Editor
Hills Shire Times

15 September 2009

Dear Sir

I refer to the article "Applicant Defends Report" (*Hills Shire Times*, 15 September 2009, p.4). I would like to take issue with several statements about the Noise Assessment Report prepared for Go Ape.

Michael Ledzion is quoted as saying, "The analysis was done on the basis of 15 people screaming at the tops of their voices". In fact, screaming is not mentioned at any stage in the report.

Mr Ledzion further states, "The report considers everything that needs to be considered to provide a worst case scenario demonstrating that residents are truly not affected." However, the report misidentifies the location of the course. Consequently, it also misidentifies the nearest affected residents, who are on the eastern side of the valley, only 100m from the landing zone of the east-west zip line.

The report also completely fails to identify Bidjigal Reserve itself as a noise-sensitive location. Users of the Murri-yanna Track and the tracks at the northern end of the course should have been taken into account.

RSA Acoustics principal, Rodney Stevens says, according to the article, that "noise impact devices were installed at a number of sites". Page 6 of the Report states "The logger (Serial Number 87049) was located at Ted Horwood Reserve". If there was more than one logger, why does the report show, and give the data from, only one location? Why is that logger in the middle of three actively used sporting fields, next to a car park, near Renown Road, and hundreds of metres away from the "most or potentially most affected noise-sensitive location/s"?

Further, Mr Stevens is quoted as saying "You are allowed to make noise five decibels above the existing background level." The report considers only the bare five decibel "intrusiveness" criterion. At no stage are the character of the noise and "modifying factor" adjustments even mentioned.

The intrusiveness criterion used depends on a reliable measurement of the existing background noise level. Given the location of the noise logger, the report completely fails to provide any measurement of the existing level at the most noise-sensitive locations.

The report also fails to comply with the NSW Industrial Noise Policy on many counts. For example, there is no record of periods of affected data (due to adverse weather and extraneous noise), nor any statement indicating the need for any re-monitoring.

Yours faithfully
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