Freight Noise Attenuation Program

Monitoring noise

Noise trigger levels for the FNAP

To be eligible for the Freight Noise Attenuation Program (FNAP) homes must be exposed to an rail freight noise of at least 70 decibels during the day (LAeq(15hour) 7am to 10pm) or at least 65 decibels during the night (LAeq(9hour) 10pm to 7am). These trigger levels have been developed in coordination with other government agencies, including the NSW Environment Protection Authority, NSW Health and the Department of Planning and Environment.

We understand that different people have different levels of sensitivity to noise. However, in order to make the program fair, the noise trigger levels for FNAP are consistent across NSW.

How is noise monitoring conducted?

If the application falls into a location already monitored, Transport for NSW will use existing noise data to assess an application for the FNAP.

If Transport for NSW has not collected noise data in your area and you meet the other criteria, we will conduct noise monitoring.

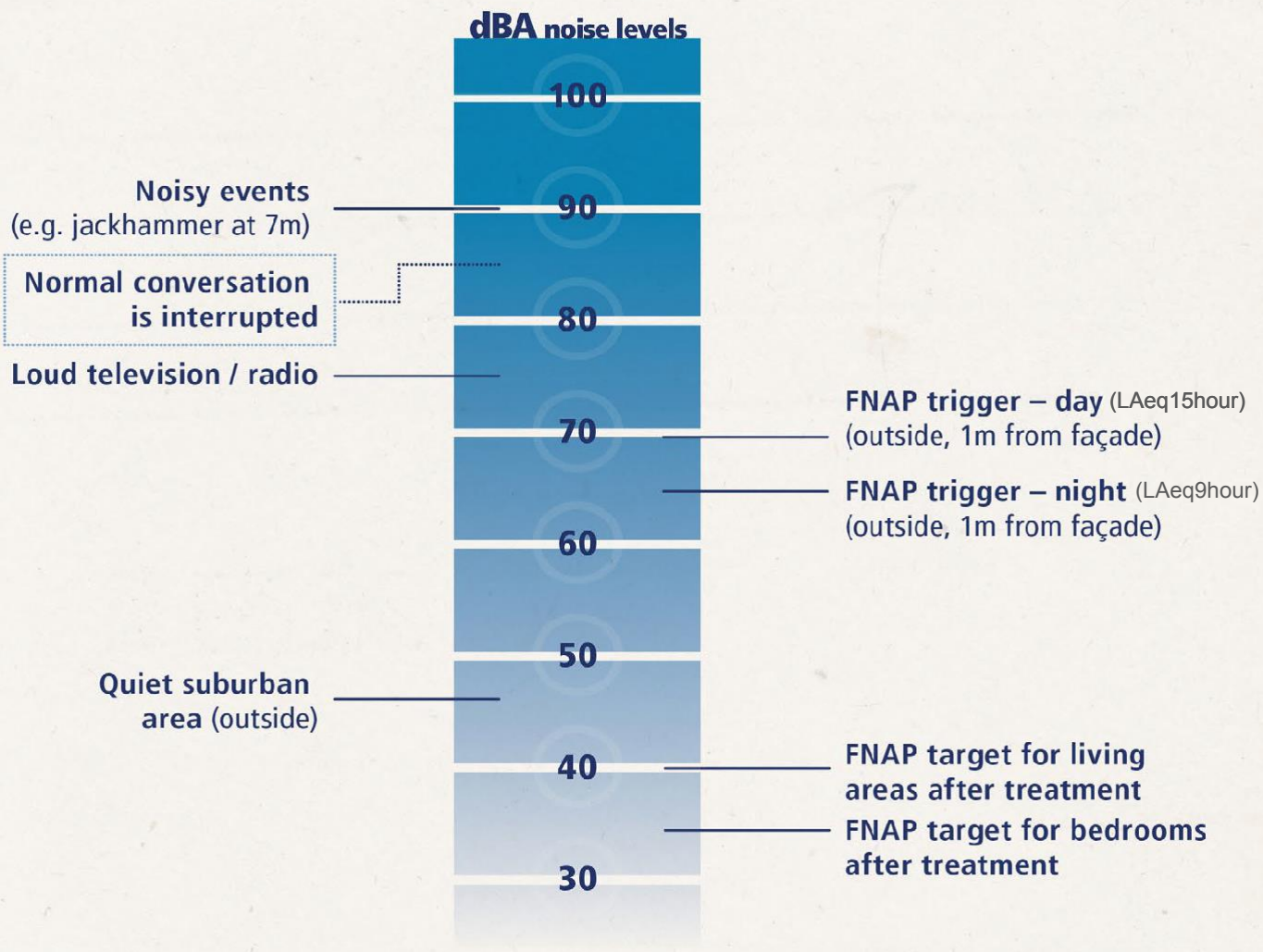
Usually the noise logger will be placed in the rail corridor close to the railway tracks to avoid interference from other noises such as roads and shielding from the landscape. If this is the case, the acoustic advisor will adjust the measure to one metre from the residence façade using standard and proven methods.

If noise monitoring is undertaken at a property, an acoustic advisor will typically place a noise logger one metre from the most exposed façade of the home under consideration.

The monitoring takes place over a two week period.

Outcomes of the noise monitoring

Once complete, we will use the noise monitoring data to confirm whether or not your home is eligible for treatment under the FNAP. We will also note the number of freight train events that exceed 85 decibels during the night. This will help to identify the most noise exposed homes.


dBA noise levels
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
Noisy events
(e.g. jackhammer at 7m)
Normal conversation is interrupted
Loud television / radio
Quiet suburban area (outside)
FNAP trigger – day (LAeq15hour)
(outside, 1m from façade)
FNAP trigger – night (LAeq9hour)
(outside, 1m from façade)
FNAP target for living areas after treatment
FNAP target for bedrooms after treatment