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Submission to Future Melbourne Committee

City of Melbourne, Council Meeting Room, Melbourne Town Hall Administration Building
21 July 2020, 5.30pm – Meeting No.81

Agenda Item 7.1 - Notice of Motion: Regulation of building works nuisances

The Southbank Residents Association fully supports this motion.

The residents of Southbank have endured continuous construction for many years, and it is not over yet. There are several projects that are either due to start, on the drawing board or in the planning stage.

The City of Melbourne procedures for out-of-hours construction permits are thorough and residents are notified in good time. However, the breaches of these permits are a frequent occurrence. The financial penalties specified in the legislation are inadequate as a disincentive for the scale of the construction projects that Southbank experiences. Because these costs are small, they are merely considered as a cost of business.

We hope that the City of Melbourne's action on this matter can persuade the State Government to amend the relevant legislation so that there is punitive equality, basing the fine not just on the offense, but also on the offender's income and ability to pay. That is, the amount should be proportionate to the amount of unfair advantage gained by the wrongdoer.

Tony Penna
President
Southbank Residents Association