



## Media release

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### Solution to unwelcome noise on its way

An “at source” solution to the Rio class ship noise has been actioned.

Port Otago has been working with Maersk to address the low frequency “rumble” emitted by the shipping line’s Rio class ships. The noise originates from exhaust gas pulsation of the auxiliary engines running the ships generators. These generators power the refrigeration unit for up to 1250 refrigerated containers on board. Because Port Chalmers is the last port of call before departing New Zealand for Malaysia, the ships are generally carrying a large refrigerated load of local produce – such as lamb, apples, cheese and fish – and the generators are working hard to keep products at the correct temperature for the duration of their journey.

As an interim step to reduce the impact on the neighbourhood, Port Otago and Maersk moved the ships’ arrival and departure times to be in port only one weeknight – rather than two nights over the weekend. In the meantime, both parties have continued working on an at-source solution.

Maersk Fleet Group Manager Clyde Peres says the solution involves fitting a large silencer onto one of the auxiliary engines on each Rio ship. The silencers will reduce the low frequency noise of the exhaust via a 5m long and 1.8m diameter muffler.

“Six of these silencers – one each for the six Rio class ships in the rotation – have been manufactured in Lithuania and are being shipped to Singapore right now. They are expected at the Port of Tanjung Pelepas by the end of November and are planned to be retrofitted to the engines, as each Rio transits the port.”

Port Otago Chief Executive Kevin Winders: “It’s great that the world’s largest shipping line has listened, values the importance of our social licence and is now making a significant investment to solve the problem.

Fingers crossed that, come New Year, we will see the first of the big red Rios with the retrofit complete and the ‘beginning of the end’ to the unwelcome noise in our neighbourhood.”

Mr Winders says the community will be updated when a firm installation date for the first ship has been set.

### Contact

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