



30 September 2016

Ref: 05148/6735

Ashton Coal Operations Limited
P.O. Box 699
Singleton NSW 2330

RE: SEPTEMBER 2016 NOISE MONITORING RESULTS

This letter report presents the results of noise compliance monitoring conducted for the Ashton Coal Project (ACP) commencing at 12:38 a.m. on Tuesday 20 September, 2016.

Noise measurements of fifteen minutes duration were taken in one third-octave bands at the following locations (as shown in Figure 1 in **Appendix A**)

Location 1:	N2
Location 2:	N3
Location 3:	N4

Noise monitoring was conducted as per the requirements of the ACP Noise Management Plan (NMP) version D, effective April 2014. The NMP requires noise monitoring at three locations during the night time period only.

At the time of the current monitoring the open cut mining operations were not operating (the North East Open Cut had finished production). The underground mine was operating. The CHPP was operating during the night. No trains were loaded.

Meteorological data used in this report were supplied by the mine from their automatic weather stations. Wind speeds and direction have been interpreted from data measured over 10 minute intervals. Temperature inversion strength was extrapolated from a mine operated weather station with gauges at two and 10 metres.

Noise emission levels were measured with a Brüel & Kjær Type 2250 Precision Sound Analysers. These instruments have Type 1 characteristics as defined in AS1259-1982 "Sound Level Meters". Calibration of the instruments was confirmed with a Brüel & Kjær Type 4231 sound level calibrator prior to and at the completion of measurements.

To avoid undue influence of noise from local traffic on roads adjacent to some measurement locations, where practical, this noise has been excluded from the measurements prior to further analysis.

Measured noise levels for the monitoring are summarised in the following table. The total measured Leq is shown in the table. This was analysed with the Bruel & Kjaer “Evaluator” software to quantify the contributions of the various noise source(s) to the overall. The noise sources are listed in the comments column with the contribution of each shown in brackets. The noise goal for mining operations at ACP is **38 dB(A) Leq (15 min)** for all operating times during the day and evening. At night the noise goal is **36 dB(A) Leq (15 min)**. The contribution of mine noise from ACP is shown in bold. Any exceedance of the noise criteria are shown in red.

Table 1 ACP Noise Monitoring Results – 20 September 2016 – Night						
Location	Time	dB(A) Leq	Comments	WS (m/s)/ Direction	Inversion °C/ 100m	ACP Noise Sources
N2	1:00 am	51	Traffic (51), other mine (32), frogs (25), ACP inaudible	0.7/247	>+3	n/a
N3	12:38 am	45	Traffic (45), other mine (33), frogs (26), ACP inaudible	0.5/6	>+3	n/a
N4	12:49 am	44	Traffic (42), frogs (39), other mine (30), ACP inaudible	0.7/290	>+3	n/a

The results shown in Table 1 indicate that, under the operational and atmospheric conditions at the time, noise emissions from ACP were inaudible and therefore did not exceed the noise criterion at any monitoring location.

Noise emissions from ACP must comply with tonal, impulsive or low frequency modifying factor levels as per definitions in the NSW Industrial Noise Policy. ACP was compliant with all of the above.

In addition to the operational noise, the noise from ACP must not exceed 46 dB(A) L1 (1 min) between the hours of 10 pm and 7 am. This is to minimise the potential for sleep disturbance as a result of individual loud noises from the mine.

To avoid undue disturbance to residents the L1 (1 min) noise level from the operational measurements are used to show general compliance with the sleep disturbance criterion. That is, as the distance between the noise source and the operational noise monitoring location is significantly greater than the distance between the operational noise monitoring location and the sleep disturbance monitoring location (i.e. 1m from the facade of the house) there will be little variation in L1 (1 min) levels between the two monitoring locations. It must be noted, however, that the sleep disturbance criterion is to be measured near a bedroom window. As the internal layout of each residence is not known, to consider a worst case, this is assumed to be facing towards the mine.

The measured L1 (1 min) noise from ACP did not exceed the sleep disturbance criterion at any time or location.

The ACP unattended noise monitor (SX 40) is currently located in the vicinity of the N2 monitoring location. A comparison of the results of the 15 minute attended monitoring at the SX 40 Sentinex location commencing at 1:00 am and the data from the unattended monitor commencing at 1:00 am is shown in **Table 2**.



Table 2 Comparison Noise Monitoring Results – 20 September 2016 – SX 40								
Type	Time	dB(A), Leq	All Mines dB(A), Leq	ACP Contribution dB(A), Leq	Criterion dB(A) Leq	Wind speed (m/s),dir ^o	Inversion °C/ 100m	Identified Noise Sources
Attended N2	1:00 am	51	35	<20	36	0.7/247	>+3	Traffic (51), other mine (32), frogs (25), ACP inaudible
Unattended SX 40	1:00 am	41	35	<20	36	0.7/247	>+3	<1kHz(40.7), >1kHz (29)




Monitor SX 40 measures noise levels in all 1/3 octave bands and the analysis of this data shows that the noise in frequencies below 1kHz totals 46 dB(A). Noise in these frequencies is often regarded as mining noise (due to the low frequency nature of mining noise at distances removed from the source) but in this instance, as determined by the attended monitoring, noise from traffic on the New England Highway is clearly the dominant low frequency noise source and is accompanied by noise from another mine.

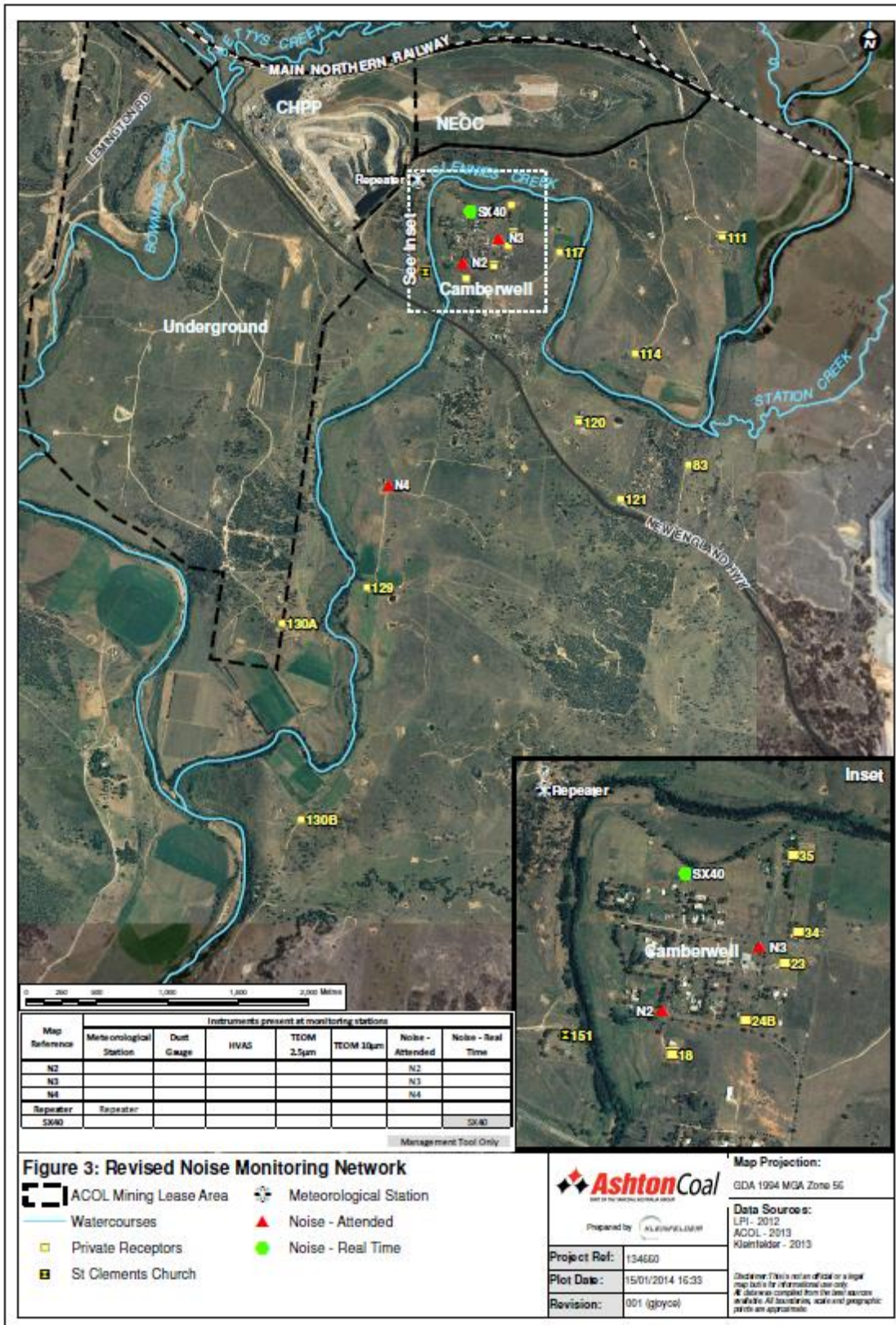
The comparison of noise levels from the unattended logger and the attended noise monitoring shows a skewed correlation in frequencies below 1kHz with traffic being the dominant noise source.

We trust this report fulfils your requirements at this time, however, should you require additional information or assistance please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

SPECTRUM ACOUSTICS PTY LIMITED

Field work / position	Report Author / position	Report Review / position
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