

## **Ashton Coal**

### **Monthly attended noise monitoring - September 2024**

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Prepared for Ashton Coal Operations Pty Ltd

September 2024

# Ashton Coal

## Monthly attended noise monitoring - September 2024

Ashton Coal Operations Pty Ltd

E231043 RP#9

September 2024

Version	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by	Comments
1	25 September 2024	Kirsten Garlick	Robert Kirwan	Final

Approved by



**Robert Kirwan**

Associate Acoustics Consultant

25 September 2024

Level 3 175 Scott Street

Newcastle NSW 2300

ABN: 28 141 736 558

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

EMM Consulting Pty Ltd (EMM) was engaged by Ashton Coal Operations Pty Ltd to conduct a monthly noise survey of operations at Ashton Coal Operations (Ashton Coal, the site) located at Glennies Creek Road, Camberwell NSW. The survey purpose was to quantify the acoustic environment and compare site noise levels against specified limits.

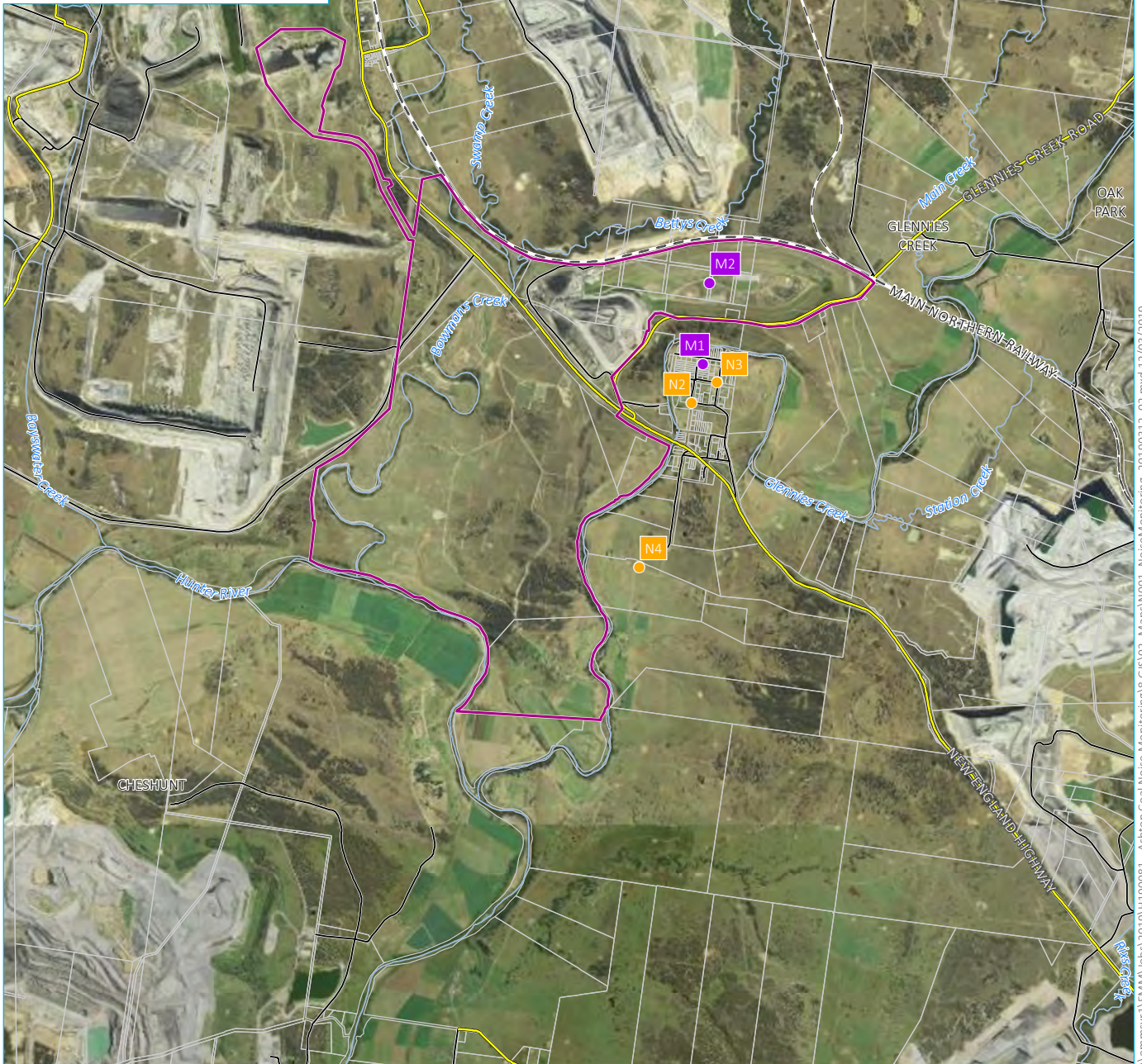
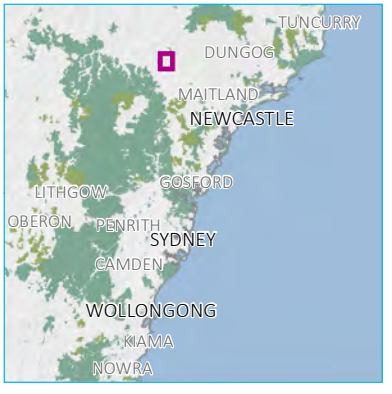
Attended environmental noise monitoring described in this report was done during the night period of Tuesday 17 September 2024 at three monitoring locations.

## 1.2 Attended monitoring locations

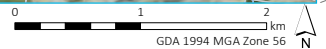
Site monitoring locations are detailed in Table 1.1 and shown on Figure 1.1. It should be noted that Figure 1.1 shows actual monitoring positions, not necessarily the location of residences.

**Table 1.1** Attended noise monitoring locations

Location descriptor/ID	Description/address	Coordinates (MGA56)	
		Easting	Northing
N2	Camberwell Village (west)	320297	6405670
N3	Camberwell Village (north-east)	320554	6405839
N4	South of New England Highway	319776	6404101



Source: EMM (2019); DFSI (2017); GA (2011)



**KEY**

- Site boundary
- Noise monitoring location
- Meteorological station
- Rail line
- Main road
- Local road
- Watercourse/drainage line
- Cadastral boundary

Noise monitoring locations and Ashton colliery boundary

Ashton Coal  
Monthly attended noise monitoring  
Figure 1.1

\\emmsvr1\EMM\Jobs\2019\H190081 - Ashton Coal Noise Monitoring\GIS\02\_Maps\N001\_NoiseMonitoring\_20190312\_02.mxd 12/03/2019

### 1.3 Terminology and abbreviations

Some definitions of terms and abbreviations which may be used in this report are provided in Table 1.2.

**Table 1.2 Terminology and abbreviations**

Term/descriptor	Definition
dB(A)	Noise level measurement units are decibels (dB). The “A” weighting scale is used to approximate how humans hear noise.
L <sub>Amax</sub>	The maximum root mean squared A-weighted noise level over a time period.
L <sub>A1</sub>	The A-weighted noise level which is exceeded for one per cent of the time.
LA1,1minute	The A-weighted noise level which is exceeded for one per cent of the specified time period of one minute.
LA10	The A-weighted noise level which is exceeded for 10 per cent of the time.
LAeq	The energy average A-weighted noise level.
LA50	The A-weighted noise level which is exceeded for 50 per cent of the time, and is also the median noise level during a measurement period.
LA90	The A-weighted noise level exceeded for 90 percent of the time, also referred to as the “background” noise level and commonly used to derive noise limits.
LAmin	The minimum A-weighted noise level over a time period.
LCeq	The energy average C-weighted noise energy during a measurement period. The “C” weighting scale is used to take into account low-frequency components of noise within the audibility range of humans.
SPL	Sound pressure level. Fluctuations in pressure are measured as 10 times a logarithmic scale, with the reference pressure being 20 micropascals.
Hertz (Hz)	The frequency of fluctuations in pressure, measured in cycles per second. Most sounds are a combination of many frequencies together.
AWS	Automatic weather station used to collect meteorological data, typically at an altitude of 10 metres
VTG	The vertical temperature gradient in degrees Celsius per 100 metres altitude.
Sigma-theta	The standard deviation of the horizontal wind direction over a period of time.
IA	Inaudible. When site noise is noted as IA then there was no site noise at the monitoring location.
NM	Not Measurable. If site noise is noted as NM, this means some noise was audible but could not be quantified.
Day	Monday – Saturday: 7 am to 6 pm, on Sundays and Public Holidays: 8 am to 6 pm.
Evening	Monday – Saturday: 6 pm to 10 pm, on Sundays and Public Holidays: 6 pm to 10 pm.
Night	Monday – Saturday: 10 pm to 7 am, on Sundays and Public Holidays: 10 pm to 8 am.
Temperature inversion	A meteorological condition where the atmospheric temperature increases with altitude.

Appendix A provides further information that gives an indication as to how an average person perceives changes in noise level, and examples of common noise levels.

## 2 Noise limits

### 2.1 Development consent

Ashton Coal noise limits are provided in Table 1, Condition 2 of Appendix 6 of the current development consent 309-11-2001-i (DC) dated 6 July 2022. Relevant sections of the DC are reproduced in Appendix B.1.

### 2.2 Environment protection licence

Ashton Coal noise limits are provided in Condition L4.1 of the current EPL 11879 (EPL) dated 3 November 2022. Relevant sections of the EPL are reproduced in Appendix B.2.

### 2.3 Noise management plan

The approved current NMP (dated April 2023) adopts three attended noise monitoring locations that are representative of residences outlined in the DC and EPL. Relevant sections of the NMP are reproduced in Appendix B.3.

### 2.4 Noise limits

Noise limits based on the NMP and consistent with the DC and EPL are as shown in Table 2.1.

**Table 2.1 Noise impact limits, dB**

Location	Day $L_{Aeq,15minute}$	Evening $L_{Aeq,15minute}$	Night $L_{Aeq,15minute}$	Night $L_{A1,1minute}$
N2	38	38	36	46
N3	38	38	36	46
N4	38	38	36	46

### 2.5 Meteorological conditions

The DC and EPL specify the following meteorological conditions under which noise limits do not apply if:

- during periods of rain or hail
- average wind speed at microphone height exceeds 5 metres per second (m/s)
- wind speeds are greater than 3 m/s at 10 metres above ground level
- temperature inversion conditions are greater than 3°C/100 m.

### 2.6 Additional considerations

Monitoring and reporting have been done in accordance with the NSW EPA 'Noise Policy for Industry' (NPfI) issued in October 2017 and the 'Approved methods for the measurement and analysis of environmental noise in NSW' (Approved Methods) issued in January 2022.



## 3 Methodology

### 3.1 Overview

Attended environmental noise monitoring was done in general accordance with Australian Standard AS1055:2018 'Acoustics, Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise' and relevant EPA requirements.

Meteorological data was obtained from the Ashton Coal on-site weather station (AWS) which allowed the correlation of atmospheric parameters with measured noise levels.

### 3.2 Attended noise monitoring

Attended noise monitoring was done during the night period at each location. The duration of each measurement was 15 minutes. Atmospheric conditions were measured at each monitoring location.

Measured sound levels from various sources were noted during each measurement, and particular attention was paid to the extent of site contribution (if any) to measured levels. At each monitoring location, the site-only  $L_{Aeq,15\text{minute}}$  and  $L_{Amax}$  were measured directly or determined by other methods detailed in Section 7.1 of the NPfI.

The terms 'Inaudible' (IA) or 'Not Measurable' (NM) may be used in this report. When site noise is noted as IA, it was inaudible at the monitoring location. When site noise is noted as NM, this means it was audible but could not be quantified. All results noted as IA or NM in this report were due to one or more of the following:

- Site noise levels were very low, typically more than 10 dB below the measured background ( $L_{A90}$ ), and unlikely to be noticed.
- Site noise levels were masked by more dominant sources that are characteristic of the environment (such as breeze in foliage or continuous road traffic noise) that cannot be eliminated by monitoring at an alternate or intermediate location.
- It was not feasible or reasonable to employ methods, such as to move closer and back calculate. Cases may include rough terrain preventing closer measurement, addition/removal of significant source to receiver shielding caused by moving closer, and meteorological conditions where back calculation may not be accurate.

If exact noise levels from site could not be established due to masking by other noise sources in a similar frequency range but were determined to be at least 5 dB lower than relevant limits, then a maximum estimate may be provided. This is expressed as a 'less than' quantity, such as <20 dB or <30 dB.

For this assessment, the measured  $L_{Amax}$  has been used as a conservative estimate of  $L_{A1,1\text{minute}}$ . The EPA accepts sleep disturbance analysis based on either the  $L_{A1,1\text{minute}}$  or  $L_{Amax}$  metrics, with the  $L_{Amax}$  representing a more conservative assessment of site noise emissions.

### 3.3 Meteorological data

As per EPL Condition L4.4, this assessment determined stability categories for the attended monitoring period using the direct measurement method as per Fact Sheet D of the Noise Policy for Industry (2017).

The temperature lapse rate was calculated using data from two weather stations; Sentinex Unit 40 weather station (M1) located in Camberwell Village and Ashton Coal 'repeater' weather station (M2 – the site AWS) located in the north-eastern open cut area as shown in Figure 1.1. This was calculated for each 15-minute measurement using the following formula:

$$\text{Temperature lapse rate} = (\Delta T) \times (100/(\Delta H))$$

Where:

- $\Delta T$  = temperature measured at M2 (at 10 metres above local ground level) minus temperature measured at M1 (at 10 metres above local ground level)
- $\Delta H$  = the vertical height difference between M2 and M1 (equal to 73 metres).

### 3.4 Modifying factors

All measurements were evaluated for potential modifying factors in accordance with the NPfl. If applicable, modifying factor penalties have been reported and added to the measured site only  $L_{Aeq}$  noise levels.

Low-frequency modifying factor penalties have only been applied to site-only  $L_{Aeq}$  if the site was the only contributing low-frequency noise source. Specific methodology for assessment of each modifying factor is outlined in Fact Sheet C of the NPfl.

### 3.5 Instrumentation and personnel

Attended noise monitoring was conducted by Isaac Hepworth. Qualifications, experience, and/or demonstration of competence is in accordance with the EPA's Approved methods and supportive documentation is available upon request.

Equipment used to measure environmental noise levels is detailed in Table 3.1. Calibration certificates are provided in Appendix C.

**Table 3.1 Attended noise monitoring equipment**

Item	Serial number	Calibration due date	Relevant standard
Rion NA28 sound level meter	30131882	23/01/2025	IEC 61672-1:2013
Svantek SV-36 acoustic calibrator	138014	07/08/2025	IEC 60942:2017

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Total measured noise levels and atmospheric conditions

Overall (all sources) noise levels measured at each location during attended measurements are provided in Table 4.1. Discussion as to the sources responsible for measured levels is provided in Section 5 of this report.

**Table 4.1 Total measured noise levels, dB – September 2024<sup>1</sup>**

Location	Start date	Time	L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>A1</sub>	L <sub>A10</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>A50</sub>	L <sub>A90</sub>	L <sub>Amin</sub>
N2	17/09/2024	22:47	59	54	50	46	43	38	33
N3	17/09/2024	22:26	60	52	45	42	37	33	31
N4	17/09/2024	22:00	55	48	40	38	36	32	28

Notes: 1. Levels in this table are not necessarily the result of activity at the site.

Atmospheric condition data measured by the operator during each measurement using a hand-held weather meter is shown in Table 4.2. The wind speed, direction and temperature were measured at approximately 1.5 metres above ground. Attended noise monitoring is not done during rain, hail, or wind speeds above 5 m/s at microphone height.

**Table 4.2 Atmospheric conditions measured at microphone height – September 2024**

Location	Date	Time	Temperature °C	Wind speed m/s	Wind direction ° Magnetic north	Cloud cover 1/8s
N2	17/09/2024	22:47	15.4	-	-	0
N3	17/09/2024	22:26	13.2	-	-	0
N4	17/09/2024	22:00	11.4	-	-	0

### 4.2 Site only noise levels

#### 4.2.1 Modifying factors

There were no modifying factors, as defined in the NPfI, applicable during the survey.

## 4.2.2 Monitoring results

Table 4.3 provides site noise levels in the absence of other sources, where possible, and includes weather data from the site AWS. Limits are applicable if weather conditions were within specified parameters during each measurement.

**Table 4.3 Site noise levels and limits – September 2024**

Location	Start Date	Time	Wind		Stability Class	VTG °C/100m	Limits apply? <sup>1</sup>	Limit, dB		Site level, dB <sup>2</sup>		Exceedance, dB	
			Speed m/s	Direction° <sup>3</sup>				L <sub>Aeq,15minute</sub>	L <sub>A1,1minute</sub>	L <sub>Aeq,15minute</sub>	L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq,15minute</sub>	L <sub>Amax</sub>
N2	17/09/2024	22:47	5.1	303	D	-1.0	No	<35	<35	<35	<35	NA	NA
N3	17/09/2024	22:26	6.3	308	E	0.0	No	36	46	32	36	NA	NA
N4	17/09/2024	22:00	5.9	309	E	0.3	No	36	46	<30	<30	NA	NA

- Notes:
1. Noise emission limits are applicable if weather conditions were within parameters specified in Section 2.5. N/A in exceedance column indicates that limits were not applicable due to weather conditions.
  2. Site-only L<sub>Aeq,15minute</sub>, includes modifying factor penalties if applicable.
  3. Degrees magnetic north, “-” indicates calm conditions.
  4. IA in the site level column means that the site was deemed inaudible at that location.
  5. NM (not measurable) in the site level column means that the site was audible but could not be quantified.

# 5 Discussion

## 5.1 Noted noise sources

During attended monitoring, the time variations (temporal characteristics) of noise sources are considered in each measurement via statistical descriptors. From these observations, summaries have been derived for the location and provided in this chapter. Statistical 1/3 octave-band analysis of environmental noise was undertaken, and the following figures display frequency ranges of various noise sources at each location for  $L_{A1}$ ,  $L_{A10}$ ,  $L_{Aeq}$ ,  $L_{A50}$ , and  $L_{A90}$  descriptors. These figures also provide, graphically, statistical information for these noise levels.

An example is provided as Figure 5.1, where frogs and insects are seen to be generating noise at frequencies above 1000 Hz, while industrial noise is observed at frequencies less than 1000 Hz.

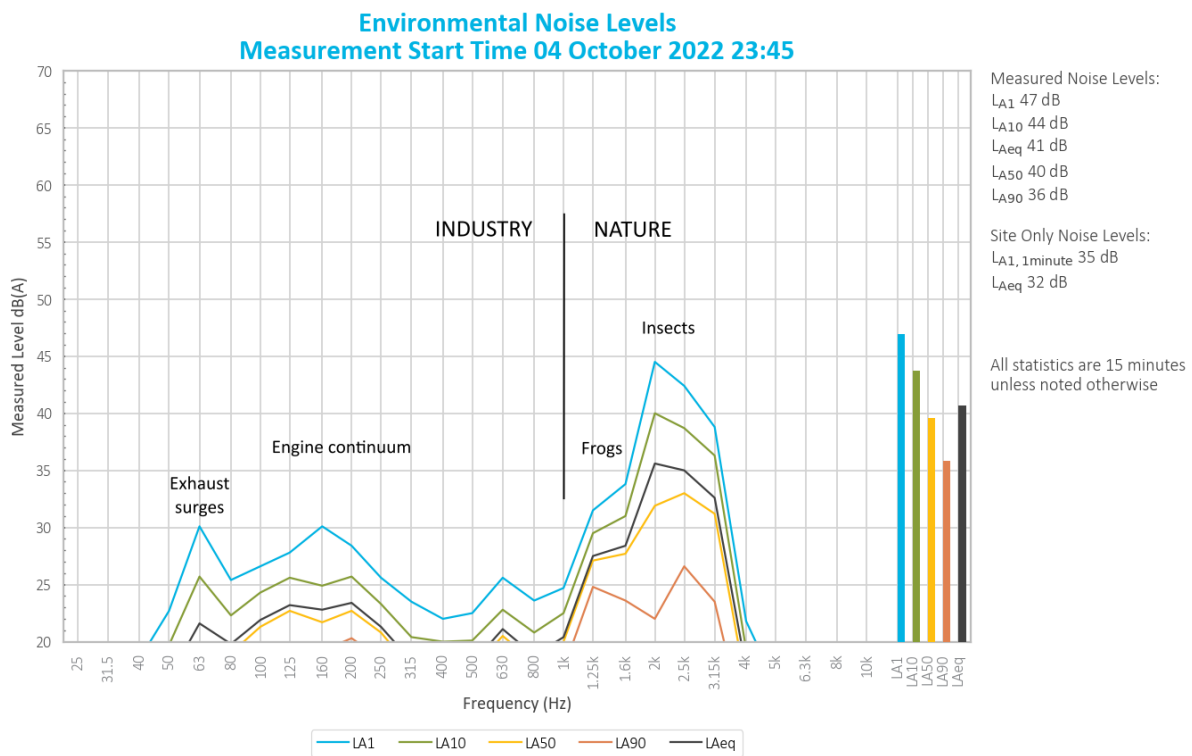
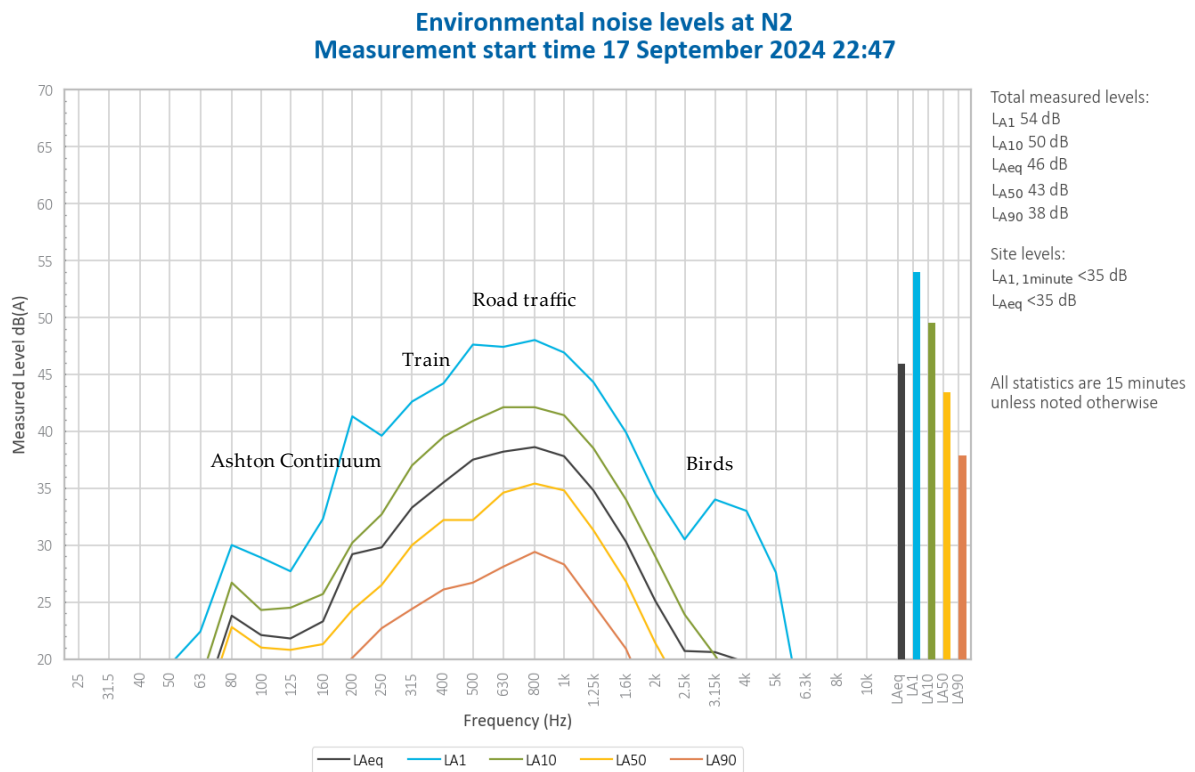


Figure 5.1 Example graph

## 5.2 N2 – Camberwell Village (west)



**Figure 5.2 Environmental noise levels - N2, Camberwell Village (West)**

Ashton Coal mine hum was consistently audible throughout the measurement. This generated a site-only  $L_{Aeq,15\text{minute}}$  and  $L_{Amax}$  of less than 35 dB.

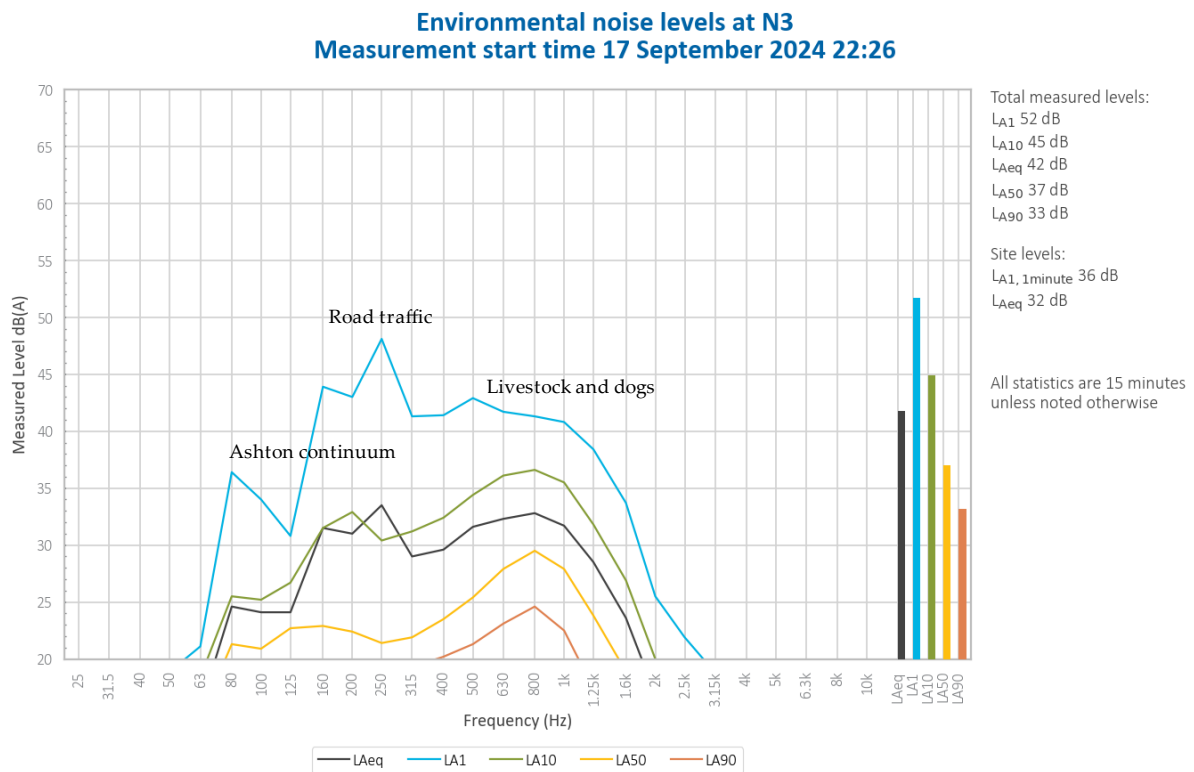
Road traffic and train noise were the main contributors to measured levels.

Noise from birds was also noted.

### 5.2.1 Cumulative mining noise at N2

No noise from other mines in the vicinity was noted, therefore there was no cumulative mining noise.

### 5.3 N3 – Camberwell Village (north-east)



**Figure 5.3 Environmental noise levels – N3, Camberwell Village (North-East)**

Ashton Coal mine hum was consistently audible throughout the measurement. This generated a site-only  $L_{Aeq,15\text{minute}}$  of 32 dB and  $L_{Amax}$  of 36 dB.

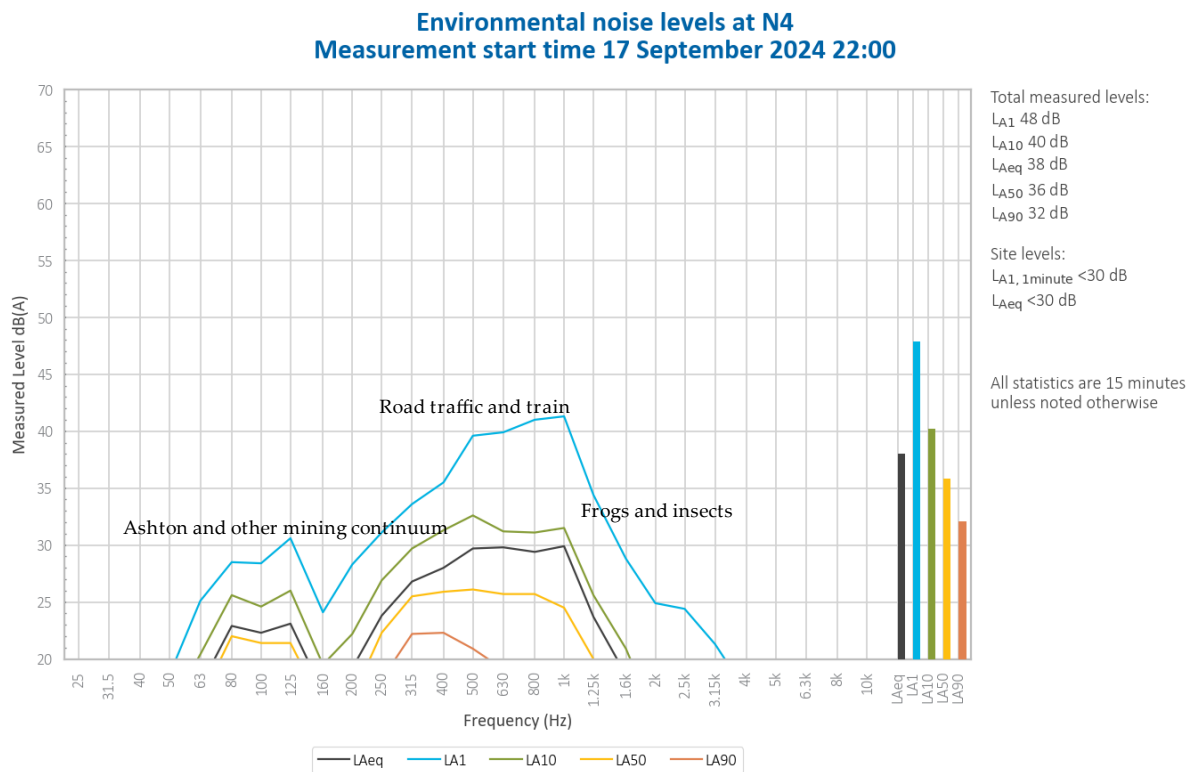
Road traffic noise, livestock and dogs were the main contributors to measured levels.

Noise from frogs, insects, birds and other mines in the vicinity was also noted.

#### 5.3.1 Cumulative mining noise at N3

The cumulative mining noise level was estimated to be  $L_{Aeq,night}$  31 dB (i.e. Ashton Coal mine noise of  $L_{Aeq,15\text{minute}}$  32 dB + other mine noise of  $L_{Aeq,15\text{minute}}$  of less than 30 dB less 3 dB as per NPfI methodology) which is below the relevant  $L_{Aeq,night}$  40 dB limit. A graph of the total noise levels measured in the one-third octave frequency bands is shown in Figure 5.3.

## 5.4 N4 – South of New England Highway



**Figure 5.4 Environmental noise levels – N4, South of New England Highway**

Ashton Coal mine hum was consistently audible throughout the measurement. This generated a site  $L_{Aeq,15\text{minute}}$  and  $L_{Amax}$  of less than 30 dB.

Road traffic, train noise, livestock and other mining continuum were the main contributors to measured levels. Noise from insects, frogs, birds and dogs was also noted.

### 5.4.1 Cumulative mining noise at N4

Other mining operations in the vicinity were consistently audible during the operator-attended noise survey at monitoring location N4. The cumulative mining noise level was estimated to be  $L_{Aeq,night}$  30 dB (i.e. Ashton Coal mine noise of  $L_{Aeq,15\text{minute}}$  30 dB + other mine noise of  $L_{Aeq,15\text{minute}}$  30 dB less 3 dB as per NPfl methodology) which is below the relevant  $L_{Aeq,night}$  40 dB limit. A graph of the total noise levels measured in the one-third octave frequency bands is shown in Figure 5.4.



## 6 Summary

EMM Consulting Pty Ltd (EMM) was engaged by Ashton Coal Operations Pty Ltd to conduct a monthly noise survey of operations at Ashton Coal. The survey purpose was to quantify the acoustic environment and compare site noise levels against specified noise limits.

Attended environmental noise monitoring described in this report was done during the night period of Tuesday 17 September 2024 at three monitoring locations as per the approved NMP.

Noise from the site complied with relevant limits at all monitoring locations during the September 2024 survey.

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# Appendix A

Noise perception and examples

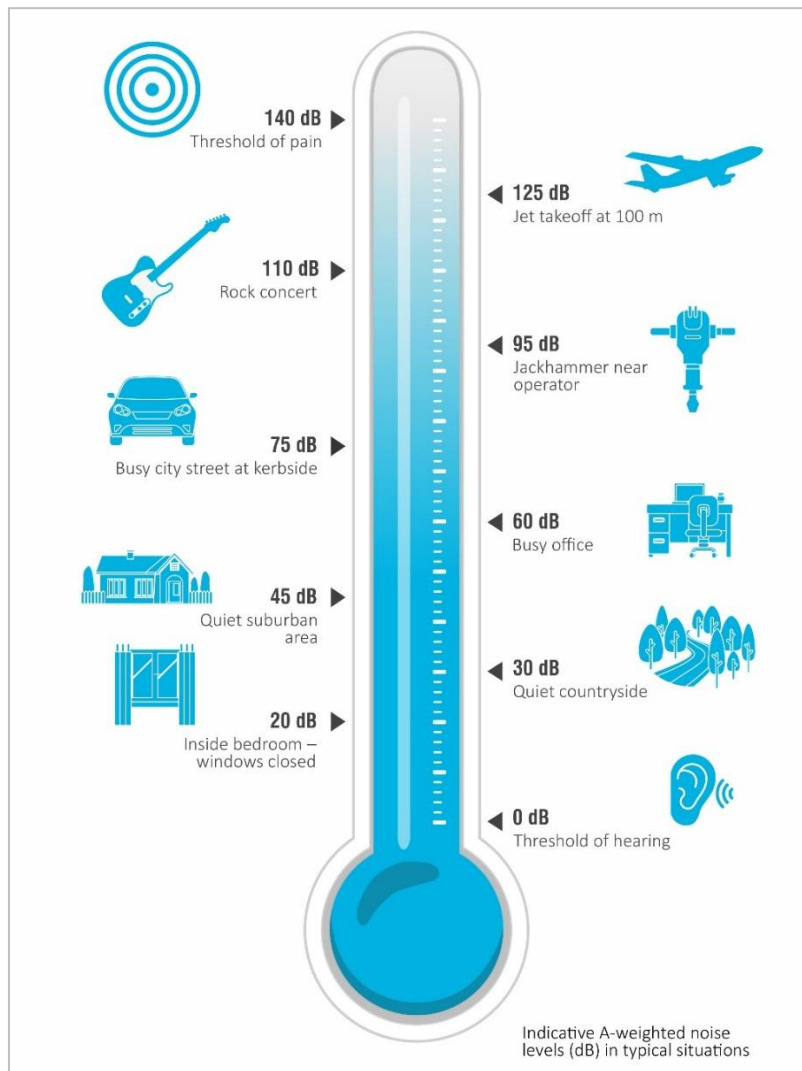
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## A.1 Noise levels

Table A.1 gives an indication as to how an average person perceives changes in noise level. Examples of common noise levels are provided in Figure A.1.

**Table A.1 Perceived change in noise**

Change in sound pressure level (dB)	Perceived change in noise
up to 2	Not perceptible
3	Just perceptible
5	Noticeable difference
10	Twice (or half) as loud
15	Large change
20	Four times (or a quarter) as loud



**Figure A.1 Common noise levels**

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# Appendix B

Regulator documents

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## B.1 Development consent

### APPENDIX 6 ALTERNATE NOISE CONDITIONS

#### NOISE

##### Application

- Conditions 2 to 3 below have effect during times when open cut mining operations are not being undertaken at the Ashton Mine Complex, in the opinion of the [Planning Secretary](#).

##### Noise Criteria

- Except for the noise-affected land in Table 1 of Schedule 3, the Applicant must ensure that the noise generated by the development does not exceed the criteria in Table 1 at any residence on privately-owned land or on more than 25 per cent of any privately-owned land.

Table 1: Noise Criteria dB(A)

Receiver No.	Receiver	Day ( $L_{Aeq}(15min)$ )	Evening ( $L_{Aeq}(15min)$ )	Night ( $L_{Aeq}(15min)$ )	Night ( $L_{A1}(1min)$ )
-	All privately-owned land	38	38	36	46

Noise generated by the development is to be measured in accordance with the relevant requirements of the *NSW Industrial Noise Policy*. Appendix 8 sets out the requirements for evaluating compliance with these criteria.

However, these noise criteria do not apply if the Applicant has an agreement with the relevant owner/s of the residence/land to generate higher noise levels, and the Applicant has advised the Department in writing of the terms of this agreement.

##### Additional Noise Mitigation Measures

- Upon receiving a written request from the owner of any residence on any privately-owned land where subsequent operational noise monitoring shows the noise generated by the development exceeds the noise limits in Table 2, the Applicant must implement additional reasonable and feasible noise mitigation measures (such as double glazing, insulation, and/or air conditioning) at the residence in consultation with the owner.

If within 3 months of receiving this request from the landowner, the Applicant and the landowner cannot agree on the measures to be implemented, or there is a dispute about the implementation of these measures, then either party may refer the matter to the [Planning Secretary](#) for resolution.

Table 2: Additional Noise Mitigation Criteria dB(A)  $L_{Aeq}(15min)$

Receiver No.	Receiver	Day ( $L_{Aeq}(15min)$ )	Evening ( $L_{Aeq}(15min)$ )	Night ( $L_{Aeq}(15min)$ )
-	All privately-owned land	38	38	38

##### Notes:

- Noise generated by the development is to be measured in accordance with the relevant requirements of the *NSW Industrial Noise Policy*. Appendix 8 sets out the requirements for evaluating compliance with these criteria.
- For this condition to apply, the exceedance of the criteria must be systemic.

## APPENDIX 8 NOISE COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT

### Compliance Monitoring

1. Attended monitoring is to be used to evaluate compliance with the relevant conditions of this approval.
2. Data collected for the purposes of determining compliance with the relevant conditions of this approval is to be excluded under the following meteorological conditions:
  - a) during periods of rain or hail;
  - b) average wind speed at microphone height exceeds 5 m/s;
  - c) wind speeds greater than 3 m/s measures at 10 m above ground level; and
  - d) temperature inversion conditions greater than 3°C/100m.
3. Unless otherwise agreed with the **Planning** Secretary, this monitoring is to be carried out in accordance with the relevant requirements relating for reviewing performance set out in the NSW Industrial Noise Policy (as amended from time to time), in particular the requirements relating to:
  - a) monitoring locations for the collection of representative noise data;
  - b) equipment used to collect noise data, and conformity with Australian Standards relevant to such equipment; and
  - c) modifications to noise data collected, including for the exclusion of extraneous noise and/or penalties for modifying factors apart from adjustments for duration.
4. To the extent that there is any inconsistency between the Industrial Noise Policy and the requirements set out in this Appendix, the Appendix prevails to the extent of the inconsistency.

### Determination of Meteorological Conditions

5. Except for wind speed at microphone height, the data to be used for determining meteorological conditions **must** be that recorded by the meteorological station located in the vicinity of the site (as required by condition 18 of Schedule 3).

## B.2 Environmental protection licence

Section 55 Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

# Environment Protection Licence



Licence - 11879

24	Groundwater monitoring	Monitoring up-gradient of Glennies Creek alluvium at coordinates 319294, 6404588 (Easting, Northing), identified as WML120B in Figure 1.
25	Groundwater monitoring	Monitoring mid-gradient of Glennies Creek alluvium at coordinates 319468, 6403528 (Easting, Northing), identified as WML129 in Figure 1.
26	Groundwater monitoring	Monitoring down-gradient of Glennies Creek alluvium at coordinates 318965, 6402842 (Easting, Northing), identified as WMLP336 in Figure 1.
27	Groundwater monitoring	Monitoring up-gradient of Barrett coal seam at coordinates 318431, 6407214 (Easting, Northing), identified as GM1 in Figure 1.
28	Groundwater monitoring	Monitoring up-gradient of Pikes Gully coal seam at coordinates 319292, 6404580 (Easting, Northing), identified as WML120A in Figure 1.
29	Groundwater monitoring	Monitoring mid-gradient of Pikes Gully coal seam at coordinates 319220, 6403928 (Easting, Northing), identified as WML262 in Figure 1.
30	Groundwater monitoring	Monitoring up-gradient of Upper Liddell coal seam at coordinates 319215, 6403958 (Easting, Northing), identified as WML181 in Figure 1.
31	Groundwater monitoring	Monitoring mid-gradient of Upper Liddell coal seam at coordinates 319188, 6404325 (Easting, Northing), identified as WML183 in Figure 1.

P1.4 The following points referred to in the table below are identified in this licence for the purposes of weather and/or noise monitoring and/or setting limits for the emission of noise from the premises.

### Noise/Weather

EPA identification no.	Type of monitoring point	Location description
12	Meteorological Station – to determine meteorological conditions for noise monitoring	Meteorological monitoring at coordinates 320522, 6406815 (Easting, Northing), identified as Repeater on Figure 2.
13	Noise monitoring	Monitoring at coordinates 320554, 6405839 (Easting, Northing), identified as N3 on Figure 2 and representative of Noise Assessment Group 2.



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14	Noise monitoring	Monitoring at coordinates 320297, 6405670 (Easting, Northing), identified as N2 on Figure 2 and representative of Noise Assessment Group 1.
15	Noise monitoring	Monitoring at coordinates 319776, 6404101 (Easting, Northing), identified as N4 on Figure 2 and representative of Noise Assessment Group 3.
32	Meteorological Station – to determine meteorological conditions for noise monitoring	Monitoring of temperature at 'M1' at coordinates 320259, 6405971 (Easting, Northing).

- P1.5 For the purposes of Condition P1.1, P1.2 and P1.3, Figure 1 refers to the plan titled "Ashton Underground Mine Environment Protection licence 11879 Premises Boundary, Surface Infrastructure" dated 30/08/19 (EPA reference DOC19/761196).
- P1.6 For the purpose of Condition P1.4, Figure 2 refers to the plan titled "Ashton Underground Mine Environment Protection licence 11879 Premises Boundary, Monitoring" dated 30/08/19 (EPA reference DOC19/761196).
- P1.7 The datum for grid references in this Licence is the Geodetic Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94), Zone 56.

## 3 Limit Conditions

### L1 Pollution of waters

- L1.1 Except as may be expressly provided in any other condition of this licence, the licensee must comply with section 120 of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.

### L2 Concentration limits

- L2.1 Flares must be operated by the licensee such that there is no visible emission other than for a total period of no more than 5 minutes in any 2 hours, except for heat haze.

### L3 Waste

- L3.1 The licensee must not cause, permit or allow any waste to be received at the premises unless specified in this licence.
- L3.2 The Licensee must not dispose of waste on the premises unless authorised by a condition of this Licence.

### L4 Noise limits

- L4.1 Noise from the premises must not exceed the noise limits specified in the table below.

Residences referenced in this table are from the consent DA 309-11-2001-i and summarised in the EPA





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reference DOC19/761196.

Location	Day LAeq(15 minute)	Evening LAeq(15 minute)	Night LAeq(15 minute)	Night LAeq(1 minute)
EPA Point 13	38	38	36	46
EPA Point 14	38	38	36	46
EPA Point 15	38	38	36	46
All other privately owned residences	38	38	36	46

L4.2 For the purpose of Condition L4.1:

- a) Day is defined as the period from 7am to 6pm Monday to Saturday and 8am to 6pm Sundays and Public Holidays,
- b) Evening is defined as the period from 6pm to 10pm, and
- c) Night is defined as the period from 10pm to 7am Monday to Saturday and 10pm to 8am Sundays and Public Holidays

L4.3 The noise emission limits identified in condition L4.1 apply under the following meteorological conditions:

- a) wind speeds up to 3m/s at 10m above ground level; and
- b) temperature inversion conditions up to 3 degrees C/100m.

L4.4 For the purposes of condition L4.1:

- a) Data recorded by the closest and most representative meteorological station installed on the premises at EPA Identification Point 12 must be used to determine meteorological conditions; and
- b) Temperature inversion conditions (stability category) are to be determined by the methods referred to in Fact Sheet D of the Noise Policy for Industry (2017) using EPA Identification Points 12 and 32.

## 4 Operating Conditions

### O1 Activities must be carried out in a competent manner

O1.1 Licensed activities must be carried out in a competent manner.

This includes:

- a) the processing, handling, movement and storage of materials and substances used to carry out the activity; and
- b) the treatment, storage, processing, reprocessing, transport and disposal of waste generated by the activity.

### O2 Maintenance of plant and equipment

O2.1 All plant and equipment installed at the premises or used in connection with the licensed activity:

- a) must be maintained in a proper and efficient condition; and
- b) must be operated in a proper and efficient manner.

## B.3 Noise management plan



Relevant parts of the DA have been reproduced in Appendix A along with reference to where they have been addressed in this document.

### 4.2 Applicable Criteria

Noise criteria for the ACP are divided into three categories:

- Impact assessment criteria;
- Additional noise mitigation criteria; and
- Cumulative noise acquisition criteria.

The RUM must adhere to a single set of noise criteria relating to noise generated by the RUM development.

#### 4.2.1 Impact Assessment Criteria

In accordance with Condition 2, Appendix 6 of the Ashton DA and Condition L4.1 of EPL 11879, noise generated by the development within the ACP must not exceed the limits specified in **Table 3** at any privately-owned land or on more than 25 per cent of any privately-owned land. The noise limits are provided in decibels (dB).

**Table 3: Ashton Noise Impact Criteria dB(A)**

Location	Day	Evening	Night	
	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)	L <sub>A1</sub> (1 minute)
Any residence not owned by the Applicant or not subject to an agreement between the Applicant and the residence owner as to an alternate noise limit.	38	38	36	46

In accordance with Condition 12, Schedule 3 of the RUM DA, noise generated by development in the ACOL-operated RUM must not exceed the limits specified in **Table 4** at any residence on privately-owned land or on more than 25 per cent of any privately-owned land.

**Table 4 RUM Noise Impact Criteria dB(A)**

Location	Day	Evening	Night	
	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)	L <sub>A1</sub> (1 minute)
Any residence not owned by the Applicant or not subject to an agreement between the Applicant and the residence owner as to an alternate noise limit.	35	35	35	45

#### 4.2.2 Additional Noise Mitigation Criteria

If noise emissions generated by the ACP exceed the criteria displayed in **Table 5** at any residence on privately-owned land, then, upon receiving a written request from the landowner, ACOL will implement additional reasonable and feasible noise mitigation measures (such as double glazing, insulation and/or air conditioning) at the residence in consultation with the owner.

**APPROVED DOCUMENT IS UNCONTROLLED WHEN PRINTED**

Title: Plan- Ashton Coal Operations Noise Management Plan			
Document ID: ACC-ENVI-5016		Owner: Phil Brown	
Last Review:	Next Review: 17/05/2026	Revision Number: 4	

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Table 5 Additional Noise Mitigation Criteria dB(A)<sup>a</sup>

Location	Day	Evening	Night
	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15 minute)
Any residence not owned by the Applicant or not subject to an agreement between the Applicant and the residence owner as to an alternate noise limit.	38	38	38

<sup>a</sup> Exceedance of the criteria must be systemic.

#### 4.2.3 Cumulative Noise Acquisition Criteria

If noise emissions generated by the ACP, and other mines exceed the criteria in Table 6 at any residence on privately-owned land or on more than 25 per cent of any privately-owned land (except for noise affected residential receivers in Condition 1, Schedule 3 of the Ashton DA) then, upon receiving a written request for acquisition from the landowner, ACOL together with the relevant mines, will acquire the land in accordance with the Acquisition Process (as defined in Conditions 7 and 8, Schedule 4 of the Ashton DA).

Table 6 Cumulative Noise Acquisition Criteria dB(A)

Location	Day	Evening	Night
	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (period)	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (period)	L <sub>Aeq</sub> (period)
Camberwell Village	60	50	45
All other privately-owned land	55	50	45

#### 4.3 Existing Environment

The ACP is located in the Hunter Valley region of New South Wales and is bound by the Main Northern Railway to the north, Hunter River to the south and Glennies Creek to the east with the New England Highway dividing the open cut from the underground mining areas.

Other mining operations in the area include the Ravensworth Complex, the Mount Owen Complex, Rix's Creek Open Cut, Integra Underground and Hunter Valley Operations.

The closest sensitive receivers are located in Camberwell. There are currently 13 private landholdings in the local area, 11 of these have an occupied residence.

Ambient noise levels within the village of Camberwell are influenced by the New England Highway to the south, the railway line to the northeast and surrounding mining operations. Attended noise monitoring has confirmed that the major contributing noise source is usually the New England Highway. Noise from ACP has been noted at times in Camberwell Village, historical reports show this has been infrequent and at relatively low levels.

Based on the historical meteorological data collected by ACOL's M2 (repeater) weather station the most common winds in winter are from the west-northwest and the east-southeast in summer. Prevailing winds act to enhance noise from surrounding noise sources (road, rail and mining).

**APPROVED DOCUMENT IS UNCONTROLLED WHEN PRINTED**

Title: Plan- Ashton Coal Operations Noise Management Plan		
Document ID: ACC-ENVI-5016	Owner: Phil Brown	
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# Appendix C

Calibration certificates


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**Acoustic  
Research  
Labs Pty Ltd**

Unit 36/14 Loyalty Rd  
North Rocks NSW AUSTRALIA 2151  
Ph: +61 2 9484 0800 A.B.N. 65 160 399 119  
www.acousticresearch.com.au

**Sound Level Meter**  
**IEC 61672-3:2013**  
**Calibration Certificate**  
Calibration Number C23032

<b>Client Details</b>	EMM Consulting Level 3/175 Scott Street Newcastle NSW 2300	
<b>Equipment Tested/ Model Number :</b>	Rion NA-28	
<b>Instrument Serial Number :</b>	30131882	
<b>Microphone Serial Number :</b>	04739	
<b>Pre-amplifier Serial Number :</b>	11942	
<b>Firmware Version :</b>	2.0	
<b>Pre-Test Atmospheric Conditions</b>	<b>Post-Test Atmospheric Conditions</b>	
<b>Ambient Temperature :</b> 24°C	<b>Ambient Temperature :</b> 23.5°C	
<b>Relative Humidity :</b> 47.3%	<b>Relative Humidity :</b> 46.1%	
<b>Barometric Pressure :</b> 100.14kPa	<b>Barometric Pressure :</b> 100.16kPa	
<b>Calibration Technician :</b> Shaheen Boaz	<b>Secondary Check:</b>	Dylan Selge
<b>Calibration Date :</b> 23 Jan 2023	<b>Report Issue Date :</b>	25 Jan 2023
<b>Approved Signatory :</b>		Ken Williams

Clause and Characteristic Tested	Result	Clause and Characteristic Tested	Result
12: Acoustical Sig. tests of a frequency weighting	Pass	17: Level linearity incl. the level range control	Pass
13: Electrical Sig. tests of frequency weightings	Pass	18: Toneburst response	Pass
14: Frequency and time weightings at 1 kHz	Pass	19: C Weighted Peak Sound Level	Pass
15: Long Term Stability	Pass	20: Overload Indication	Pass
16: Level linearity on the reference level range	Pass	21: High Level Stability	Pass

The sound level meter submitted for testing has successfully completed the class 1 periodic tests of IEC 61672-3:2013, for the environmental conditions under which the tests were performed.

However, no general statement or conclusion can be made about conformance of the sound level meter to the full requirements of IEC 61672-1:2013 because evidence was not publicly available, from an independent testing organisation responsible for pattern approvals, to demonstrate that the model of sound level meter fully conformed to the requirements in IEC 61672-1:2013 and because the periodic tests of IEC 61672-3:2013 cover only a limited subset of the specifications in IEC 61672-1:2013.

Uncertainties of Measurement -			
Acoustic Tests		Environmental Conditions	
125Hz	±0.13dB	Temperature	±0.1°C
1kHz	±0.13dB	Relative Humidity	±1.9%
8kHz	±0.14dB	Barometric Pressure	±0.014kPa
Electrical Tests	±0.13dB		

*All uncertainties are derived at the 95% confidence level with a coverage factor of 2.*



This calibration certificate is to be read in conjunction with the calibration test report.

Acoustic Research Labs Pty Ltd is NATA Accredited Laboratory Number 14172. Accredited for compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 - Calibration.

The results of the tests, calibrations and/or measurements included in this document are traceable to SI units.

NATA is a signatory to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement for the mutual recognition of the equivalence of testing, medical testing, calibration and inspection reports.

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# CERTIFICATE OF CALIBRATION

CERTIFICATE NO: **C50817**

EQUIPMENT TESTED : Acoustic Calibrator

**Manufacturer:** Svantek

**Type No:** SV 36

**Serial No:** 138014

**Class:** 1

**Owner:** EMM Consulting

Suite 01, 20 Chandos St

St Leonards NSW 2065

**Tests Performed:** Measured Output Pressure level, Frequency & Distortion

**Comments:** See Details and Class Tolerance overleaf.

## CONDITION OF TEST:

**Ambient Pressure** 1013 hPa  $\pm 1$  hPa

**Temperature** 22  $^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$

**Relative Humidity** 41 %  $\pm 5\%$

**Date of Receipt :** 05/08/2024

**Date of Calibration :** 07/08/2024

**Date of Issue :** 07/08/2024

**Acu-Vib Test** AVP02 (Calibrators)

**Procedure:** Test Method: AS IEC 60942 - 2017

**CHECKED BY:** *KB*

**AUTHORISED**

**SIGNATURE:**

*Hein Soe*

Accredited for compliance with ISO/IEC 17025 - Calibration

Results of the tests, calibration and/or measurements included in this document are traceable to SI units through reference equipment that has been calibrated by the Australian National Measurement Institute or other NATA accredited laboratories demonstrating traceability.

This report applies only to the item identified in the report and may not be reproduced in part.

The uncertainties quoted are calculated in accordance with the methods of the ISO Guide to the Uncertainty of Measurement and quoted at a coverage factor of 2 with a confidence interval of approximately 95%.

**Acu-Vib Electronics**  
ACOUSTICS AND VIBRATIONS

Head Office & Calibration Laboratory  
Unit 14, 22 Hudson Avenue, Castle Hill NSW 2154  
(02) 9680 8133  
www.acu-vib.com.au



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Acoustic and Vibration  
Measurements

## **Australia**

### **SYDNEY**

Ground floor 20 Chandos Street  
St Leonards NSW 2065  
T 02 9493 9500

### **NEWCASTLE**

Level 3 175 Scott Street  
Newcastle NSW 2300  
T 02 4907 4800

### **BRISBANE**

Level 1 87 Wickham Terrace  
Spring Hill QLD 4000  
T 07 3648 1200

### **CANBERRA**

Suite 2.04 Level 2  
15 London Circuit  
Canberra City ACT 2601

### **ADELAIDE**

Level 4 74 Pirie Street  
Adelaide SA 5000  
T 08 8232 2253

### **MELBOURNE**

Suite 9.01 Level 9  
454 Collins Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
T 03 9993 1900

### **PERTH**

Suite 3.03  
111 St Georges Terrace  
Perth WA 6000  
T 08 6430 4800

## **Canada**

### **TORONTO**

2345 Yonge Street Suite 300  
Toronto ON M4P 2E5  
T 647 467 1605

### **VANCOUVER**

422 Richards Street Unit 170  
Vancouver BC V6B 2Z4  
T 604 999 8297

### **CALGARY**

606 4th Street SW 11 Floor  
Calgary Alberta T2P 1T1



[linkedin.com/company/emm-consulting-pty-limited](https://www.linkedin.com/company/emm-consulting-pty-limited)



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