Wambo Coal Mine and Rail Spur

Environmental Noise Monitoring May 2017

Prepared for Wambo Coal Pty Limited



Noise and Vibration Analysis and Solutions

Global Acoustics Pty Ltd PO Box 3115 | Thornton NSW 2322 Telephone +61 2 4966 4333 Email global@globalacoustics.com.au ABN 94 094 985 734

## Wambo Coal Mine and Rail Spur

Environmental Noise Monitoring May 2017

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#### **Prepared** for

Wambo Coal Pty Limited PMB 1 Singleton NSW 2330

#### Prepared by

Global Acoustics Pty Ltd PO Box 3115 Thornton NSW 2322

Kheekes

Prepared: Michael Swanson Acoustics Technician

QA Review: Katie Weekes **Environmental Scientist (Acoustics)** 

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Global Acoustics were engaged by Wambo Coal (WC) to conduct a noise survey around the Wambo Coal Mine (WCM), and the Wambo Coal Rail Spur (WCRS).

A noise survey around both the WCM and the WCRS is required monthly as a condition of their current development consents (relevant extracts from both are provided in the following report sections).

Environmental noise monitoring described in this report was undertaken during the night of 15/16 May 2017.

Attended noise monitoring was conducted at a total of four locations for WCM and the WCRS (see Figure 1) during May 2017.

The survey purpose is to quantify and describe the existing acoustic environment around the WCM and WCRS and compare results with relevant development consent conditions or modelled EIS noise levels.

Attended monitoring was conducted during the night period in accordance with the EPA 'Industrial Noise Policy' (INP) guidelines and Australian Standard AS 1055 'Acoustics, Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise'. The duration of each measurement was 15 minutes.

#### **Operational Noise Assessment**

Noise levels from WCM and WCRS complied with the L<sub>Aeq,15minute</sub> and L<sub>A1,1minute</sub> development consent criteria at all monitoring locations during the May 2017 survey.

#### Low Frequency Noise Assessment

None of the 4 measurements occurred during which WCM was measurable (not "inaudible" or "not measurable"), within 5 dB of the relevant criterion and where meteorological conditions resulted in criteria applying (in accordance with the EPL). No further analysis of low frequency noise was required.

**Global Acoustics Pty Ltd** 

# Table of Contents

1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Monitoring Locations and Frequency	2
1.3 Terminology & Abbreviations	4
2 PROJECT CONSENT AND CRITERIA	5
2.1 Wambo Coal Mine Development Consent and EPL	5
2.2 Wambo Coal Rail Spur Development Consent	6
2.3 Industrial Noise Policy Modifying Factors	7
2.3.1 Tonality, Intermittent and Impulsive Noise	7
2.3.2 Low Frequency Noise	7
3 METHODOLOGY	9
3.1 Overview	9
3.2 Attended Noise Monitoring	9
3.3 Meteorological Data	10
3.4 Weather Conditions	
3.5 Attended Noise Monitoring Equipment	11
4 RESULTS	
4.1 Monitoring Locations	
4.2 Plant Locations	
4.3 Attended Noise Monitoring	13
4.3.1 Wambo Coal Mine Noise	
4.3.2 Low Frequency Assessment	14
4.4 Atmospheric Conditions	
5 DISCUSSION	16
5.1 Noted Noise Sources	16
5.1.1 N01, 15 May 2017	
5.1.2 N03, 15 May 2017	
5.1.3 N16, 15 May 2017	20

5.1.4 N23, 15 May 2017	21
6 SUMMARY	22
6.1 Operational Noise Assessment	22
6.2 Low Frequency Assessment	22

# **Appendices**

Α	DEVELOPMENT CONSENT AND EPL	23
В	CALIBRATION CERTIFICATES	33
С	METEOROLOGICAL DATA	38

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

Global Acoustics were engaged by Wambo Coal (WC) to conduct a noise survey around the Wambo Coal Mine (WCM), and the Wambo Coal Rail Spur (WCRS). The mine and spur operate under separate development consents and have been monitored separately. Reporting, however, has been combined in this document.

Wambo Coal operates both open cut and underground mining operations from their mine at Warkworth, NSW. The open cut operations include use of heavy mobile equipment in open cut pits, on haul roads and on waste rock emplacements. The underground operations have surface facilities. Both operations utilise a coal handling and preparation plant (CHPP) including conveyors, bins and other material-handling infrastructure.

The WCRS is located between Mt Thorley and Warkworth Village, New South Wales (as shown in Figure 1) and includes the following components:

- a product coal stockpile and reclaim area, product coal conveyor, train loadout bin, rail loop and a rail spur from the Wambo Coal Mine to Mount Thorley;
- rail transport of product coal to the market, an intermittent activity that can take place at any time; and
- a locomotive refuelling facility.

A noise survey around both the WCM and the WCRS is required monthly as detailed in the Noise Management Plan (NMP).

Environmental noise monitoring described in this report was undertaken on the night of 15/16 May 2016.

The survey purpose is to quantify and describe the existing acoustic environment around WCM and WCRS and compare results with relevant limits.

## 1.2 Monitoring Locations and Frequency

Attended noise monitoring was conducted at a total of four locations for WCM and the WCRS. Table 1.1 outlines the monitor type and frequency for the noise monitoring locations shown in Figure 1.

#### Table 1.1: WAMBO COAL MONITORING LOCATIONS AND FREQUENCY<sup>1</sup>

Site Reference	Site Location <sup>2</sup>	Monitor Type	Consent Requirements	Frequency
N01	Lambkin Residence	Attended	Mine Development Consent	Monthly
N03	Kelly Residence	Real-time & Attended	Mine and Rail Spur Development Consents	Continuous & Monthly
N16	Muller Residence	Real-time & Attended	Mine Development Consent	Continuous & Monthly
N20	Thelander Residence	Real-time	Mine Development Consent	Continuous
N21	Wambo South Residence	Real-time	Mine Development Consent	Continuous
N23	Redmanvale Road	Attended	Mine Development Consent	Monthly

Notes:

1. Sourced from the Wambo Coal Noise Monitoring Plan – EMP008, February 2014; and

2. Monthly attended monitoring locations are shown in italics.





Source: Google Maps

Figure 1: WCM Attended Noise Monitoring Locations

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## 1.3 Terminology & Abbreviations

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

#### Table 1.2: TERMINOLOGY & ABBREVIATIONS

Descriptor	Definition
L <sub>A</sub>	The A-weighted root mean squared (RMS) noise level at any instant
L <sub>Amax</sub>	The maximum A-weighted noise level over a time period or for an event
L <sub>A1</sub>	The noise level which is exceeded for 1 per cent of the time
L <sub>A10</sub>	The noise level which is exceeded for 10 percent of the time, which is approximately the average of the maximum noise levels
$L_{A50}$	The noise level which is exceeded for 50 per cent of the time
L <sub>A90</sub>	The level exceeded for 90 percent of the time, which is approximately the average of the minimum noise levels. The $L_{A90}$ level is often referred to as the "background" noise level and is commonly used to determine noise criteria for assessment purposes
L <sub>Amin</sub>	The minimum A-weighted noise level over a time period or for an event
LAeq	The average noise energy during a measurement period
dB(A)	Noise level measurement units are decibels (dB). The "A" weighting scale is used to describe human response to noise
SPL	Sound pressure level (SPL), fluctuations in pressure measured as 10 times a logarithmic scale, the reference pressure being 20 micropascals
SEL	Sound exposure level (SEL), the A-weighted noise energy during a measurement period normalised to one second
Hertz (Hz)	Cycles per second, the frequency of fluctuations in pressure, sound is usually a combination of many frequencies together
VTG	Vertical temperature gradient in degrees Celsius per 100 metres altitude. Estimated from wind speed and sigma theta data
SC	Stability Class. Estimated from wind speed and sigma theta data
Day	This is the period 7:00am to 6:00pm
Evening	This is the period 6:00pm to 10:00pm
Night	This is the period 10:00pm to 7:00am

## 2 PROJECT CONSENT AND CRITERIA

## 2.1 Wambo Coal Mine Development Consent and EPL

WCM was granted consent (DA 305-7-2003) in February 2004, which enables the extension of current open cut and underground mining operations. The latest modification to this consent was approved in October 2016. The relevant sections of this modification are reproduced in Appendix A.

The *Wambo Coal Environmental Management System, Noise Management Plan* (EMP008, February 2014) was prepared in accordance with Schedule 4. The Noise Management Plan (NMP) indicates that monitoring will be conducted for WCM activities, and the noise levels to be used for assessment. Monitoring for noise from mining activities is undertaken at the properties numbered N01, N03, N16 and N23.

It should be noted that properties N01 and N03 are subject to acquisition upon request, as detailed in Schedule 4, Condition 1 of DA 305-7-2003. As such, there are no operational noise goals that apply directly to these properties.

Environment protection licence (EPL) number 529 applies to the site and the noise section of the most recent version is reproduced in Appendix A.

Table 2.1 summarises relevant noise assessment criteria for WCM.

#### Table 2.1: WAMBO COAL MINE NOISE CRITERIA

Location	Location Day Evenir LAeq,15minute dB LAeq,7		Night L <sub>A1,1minute</sub> dB
N01 <sup>2</sup>	NA	NA	NA
N03 <sup>2</sup>	NA	NA	NA
N16 <sup>1</sup>	35	40	50
N23 <sup>1</sup>	35	38	50

Notes:

1. Criteria from modified development consent DA 305-7-2003; and

2. N01 and N03 are acquisition upon request and criteria are NA 'not applicable'.

In accordance with the consent and EPL, the noise limits identified in Table 2.1 apply under meteorological conditions of:

- wind speeds of up to 3 m/s at 10 metres above ground level; or
- temperature inversion conditions of up to 3°C/100 metres, and wind speeds of up to 2 m/s at 10 metres above ground level.

## 2.2 Wambo Coal Rail Spur Development Consent

The WCRS consists of two Development Applications (DA's):

- The Wambo Rail Loop (DA 177-8-2004), modified in February 2012 to include a rail refuelling facility; and
- The Wambo Rail Line (DA 235/97).

The *Wambo Coal Environmental Management System, Noise Management Plan* (EMP008, February 2014) was prepared in accordance with Schedule 4. The NMP indicates that monitoring will be conducted for WCRS activities, and the noise levels to be used for assessment. The relevant section of the consent is reproduced in Appendix A.

Monitoring for noise from rail activities has previously been undertaken at properties numbered N01, N24 and N25 for rail pass-by noise. Locations N24 and N25 have been removed from the monitoring program following long-term demonstrated compliance. Monitoring is still undertaken at N01 as part of the mine consent, however, monitoring of the rail activities is no longer required. As detailed in the NMP, monitoring at these locations will recommence following any complaints or if there is a change in rolling stock.

It should be noted that properties at N01 are subject to acquisition upon request, as detailed in Schedule 4, Condition 1 of DA 305-7-2003. As such, there are no operational noise goals that apply directly to this property.

Quarterly monitoring of the rail loading facility is no longer undertaken at N03, due to a demonstrated history of compliance. Should anything change with the procedure for refuelling or a resident complaint be received, further monitoring will be undertaken to determine changes to received noise levels.

## 2.3 Industrial Noise Policy Modifying Factors

Noise monitoring and reporting is carried out generally in accordance with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) 'Industrial Noise Policy' (INP). Chapter 4 of the INP deals specifically with modifying factors that may apply to industrial noise. The most common modifying factors are addressed in detail below.

As detailed in L4.3 of the EPL:

*The modification factors in Section 4 of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy shall also be applied to the measured noise levels where applicable.* 

2.3.1 Tonality, Intermittent and Impulsive Noise

As defined in the INP:

Tonal noise contains a prominent frequency and is characterised by a definite pitch.

Impulsive noise has high peaks of short duration and a sequence of such peaks.

Intermittent noise is characterised by the level suddenly dropping to the background noise levels several times during a measurement, with a noticeable change in noise level of at least 5 dB. Intermittent noise applies to night-time only.

Years of monitoring have indicated that noise levels from mining operations, particularly those levels measured at significant distances from the source are relatively continuous. Given this, noise levels from WCM at the monitoring locations are unlikely to be intermittent. In addition, there is no equipment on site that is likely to generate tonal or impulsive noise as defined in the INP.

#### 2.3.2 Low Frequency Noise

#### **INP** Method

As defined in the INP:

*Low frequency noise contains major components within the low frequency range (20 Hz to 250 Hz) of the frequency spectrum.* 

As detailed in Chapter 4 of the INP, low frequency noise should be assessed by measuring the site only C- weighted and site only A-weighted level over the same time period. The correction/penalty of 5 dB is applied *if the difference between the two levels is 15 dB or more*.

#### **Broner Method**

Low frequency noise can also be assessed using the method specified in the paper "*A Simple Method for Low Frequency Noise Emission Assessment*" (Broner JLFNV Vol29-1 pp1-14 2010). If the site only C-weighted noise level at a receptor exceeds the relevant modifying factor trigger, a 5 dB penalty (modifying factor) is added to predicted levels. This method is included to provide a comparison with the INP method.

#### Low Frequency Assessment Methods

Low frequency assessment methods are detailed in Table 2.2.

#### Table 2.2: LOW FREQUENCY ASSESSMENT METHODS AND MODIFYING FACTOR TRIGGERS

Method	Calculation Method	Night Period Modifying Factor Trigger	Day Period Modifying Factor Trigger
Broner, 2010	Site only L <sub>Ceq</sub>	>60	>65
INP, total	Site only $\mathrm{L}_{Ceq}$ minus site only $\mathrm{L}_{Aeq}$	>=15	>=15

The EPA is currently undertaking a review of the assessment of low frequency noise. While a Draft Industrial Noise Guideline (ING) was released in September 2015, low frequency noise results from WCM have been compared to the assessment methods and modifying factor triggers presented above. The applicability of these triggers has been considered when applying low frequency modifying factor corrections.

# 3 METHODOLOGY

## 3.1 Overview

Noise monitoring was conducted at the nearest residences in accordance with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) 'Industrial Noise Policy' (INP) guidelines and Australian Standard AS 1055 'Acoustics, Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise'. WCM was in operation for all monitoring.

A measurement of  $L_{A1,1minute}$  corresponds to the highest noise level generated for 0.6 second during one minute. In practical terms this is the highest noise level emitted from the Wambo Coal noise source during the entire measurement period (i.e. the highest level of the worst minute during the 15-minute measurement).

As indicated in the consent conditions, the  $L_{A1,1minute}$  measurement should be undertaken at 1 metre from the dwelling façade and the  $L_{Aeq,15minute}$  measurement within 30 metres of the dwelling. However, the direct measurement of noise at 1 metre from the façade is not practical during monitoring for this project. In most cases, monitoring near the residence is impractical due to barking dogs or issues with obtaining access. In all cases, measurements for this survey were undertaken at a suitable and representative location.

Weather forecasts of predicted wind speeds and rainfall are always previewed prior to commencement of monitoring. Approval to undertake monitoring is then sought from our client. This procedure gives the best chance of monitoring during suitable atmospheric conditions. However, forecasts are computer models generated for a general area based on a number of atmospheric variables. These models are often generated 12 to 24 hours prior to commencement of monitoring and are only as accurate as the model inputs.

## 3.2 Attended Noise Monitoring

Attended noise monitoring was conducted at all locations during the night period. The duration of all measurements was 15 minutes.

Attended monitoring is preferred to the use of loggers when determining compliance with prescribed limits; it allows an accurate determination of the contribution, if any, to measured noise levels by the source of interest (in this case WCM).

If the exact contribution of the source of interest cannot be established, due to masking by other noise sources in a similar frequency range, but site noise levels are observed to be well below (more than 5 dB lower than) any relevant criterion, a maximum estimate of the potential contribution of the site might be made based on other measured site-only noise levels, for example,  $L_{A10}$ ,  $L_{A50}$  or  $L_{A90}$ . This is generally expressed as a 'less than' quantity, such as <20 dB or <30 dB.

The terms 'Inaudible' (IA) or 'Not Measurable' (NM) may also be used in this report. When site noise is noted as IA, no site noise was audible at the monitoring location. When site noise is noted as NM, this means some noise was audible but could not be quantified. If site noise was NM due to masking but estimated to be significant in relation to a relevant criterion, we would employ methods as per the Industrial Noise Policy (e.g. measure closer and back calculate) to determine a value for reporting.

Therefore, all sites noted as NM in this report are due to one or more of the following reasons:

- site noise levels were extremely low and unlikely, in many cases, to be even noticed;
- site noise levels were masked by another relatively loud noise source that is characteristic of the environment (e.g. breeze in foliage or continuous road traffic noise) that cannot be eliminated by moving closer; and/or
- it was not feasible or reasonable to employ INP methods such as move closer and back calculate. Cases may include, but are not limited to, 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.

## 3.3 Meteorological Data

Meteorological data was obtained from the Wambo meteorological station. Atmospheric parameters included wind speed, wind direction, rainfall and sigma theta. This data allowed correlation of atmospheric parameters and measured noise levels. Meteorological data was available in 5 minute intervals.

When meteorological data is provided in less than 15-minute intervals, an analysis must be conducted to determine the meteorological conditions present for the majority of the measurement period and whether those conditions relate to noise criteria being applicable. In order to accurately compare 5-minute meteorological data to 15-minute noise level measurement periods, a rolling 15-minute meteorological interval was produced by converting each 5-minute meteorological interval into an average of the preceding three 5-minute intervals. The rolling 15-minute meteorological interval which most closely matched the 15-minute noise level measurement period as the predominant meteorological conditions for that measurement period.

Where rolling averages could not be used (such as for VTG and stability class), the predominant condition, corresponding with the majority of 5-minute meteorological intervals, was adopted.

## 3.4 Weather Conditions

Weather conditions were recorded at each location during each noise level measurement. Although the consent is not specific as to where the meteorological data should be sourced, information from WCM has been used as it is measured with an elevated anemometer as is required by the consent. The anemometer at WCM is not overly distant from the monitoring locations and is considered to be representative of the general area. Wind speeds measured at 10 metres above ground are usually higher than those measured closer to ground level. In accordance with consent conditions, noise criteria only apply in wind speeds up to 3 metres per second.

## 3.5 Attended Noise Monitoring Equipment

Equipment used to measure environmental noise levels are listed in Table 3.1. Calibration certificates are provided in Appendix B.

#### Table 3.1: ATTENDED NOISE MONITORING EQUIPMENT

Model	Serial Number	Calibration Due Date
Rion NA-28 sound level analyser	00701424	22/05/2017
Rion NA-28 sound level analyser	01070590	28/06/2018
Pulsar 106 acoustic calibrator	74813	25/07/2018
Pulsar 106 acoustic calibrator	79631	30/03/2019

## 4 RESULTS

## 4.1 Monitoring Locations

There were a total of four attended noise monitoring locations during this survey as listed in Table 4.1 and shown in Figure 1.

#### Table 4.1: WAMBO ATTENDED NOISE MONITORING LOCATIONS

Descriptor	Monitoring Location
N01	367 Wambo Road, Bulga
N03	1071 Jerrys Plains Road, Warkworth
N16	Rear of 'Kilburnie', Golden Highway, Jerrys Plains
N23	207 Redmanvale Road, Jerrys Plains

### 4.2 Plant Locations

During monitoring undertaken on 15/16 May 2017, equipment in operation was as follows:

- ME/03/WMAO EX211 top load feeding material to RL160 dump;
- GM/02/GMA0 EX212 top load GM0 waste to input ramp;
- ME/02/WMAO EX213 double bench Wambo A waste to RL120 dump;
- ME/02/WMB EX214 top load Wambo B coal to CHPP;
- MP/23/WMAO EX215 top load last of wedge for Wambo A coal, then conventional bench Rider C waste to RL20 dump; and
- MP/27/WWAO EX217 double bench Whybrow waste to RL160 dump.

### 4.3 Attended Noise Monitoring

Noise levels measured at each location during attended 15 minute surveys are provided in Table 4.2; discussion as to the noise sources responsible for these measured levels is provided in Chapter 5 of this report.

#### Table 4.2: MEASURED NOISE LEVELS – MAY 2017<sup>1</sup>

Location	Start Date and Time	L <sub>Amax</sub> dB	L <sub>A1</sub> dB	L <sub>A10</sub> dB	L <sub>A50</sub> dB	L <sub>Aeq</sub> dB	L <sub>A90</sub> dB	L <sub>Amin</sub> dB	L <sub>Ceq</sub> dB
N01	15/05/2017 23:42	38	35	33	30	30	27	24	52
N03	15/05/2017 22:50	50	48	44	39	41	38	36	64
N16	15/05/2017 22:48	45	42	39	35	36	32	30	52
N23	15/05/2017 22:21	39	34	30	27	28	24	21	49

Notes:

1. Levels in this table are not necessarily the result of activity at WCM or WCRS.

#### 4.3.1 Wambo Coal Mine Noise

Noise levels generated by activity at WCM are shown in Table 4.3 and Table 4.4, where comparison of measured  $L_{Aeq,15minute}$  and  $L_{A1,1minute}$  levels for WCM is made with relevant noise criteria.

#### Table 4.3: LAea.15minute GENERATED BY WCM AGAINST NOISE CRITERIA – MAY 2017

Location	Start Date and Time	Wind Speed m/s	VTG °C/100m <sup>7</sup>	Criterion L <sub>Aeq,</sub> 15min dB <sup>1</sup>	Criterion Applies? <sup>3,9</sup>	WCM <sup>L</sup> Aeq,15min dB <sup>4,5</sup>	Exceedance <sup>6,8</sup>
N01 <sup>2</sup>	15/05/2017 23:42	1.1	3.0	NA	NA	<30	NA
N03 <sup>2</sup>	15/05/2017 22:50	0.8	4.1	NA	NA	40	NA
N16	15/05/2017 22:48	0.7	4.1	40	No	34	NA
N23	15/05/2017 22:21	0.2	4.1	38	No	NM	NA

Notes:

1. Development consent criterion;

2. Monitoring location is within Zone of Affectation, criterion not applicable (NA);

3. Noise emission limits identified in the above table apply under meteorological conditions of:

• Wind speeds of up to 3 m/s at 10 metres above ground level; or

Temperature inversion conditions of up to 3°C/100m, and wind speeds of up to 2 m/s at 10 metres above ground level.

4. Estimated or measured LAeq, 15minute attributed to WCM;

5. NM denotes WCM audible but not measurable, IA denotes inaudible;

6. NA in exceedance column means atmospheric conditions outside conditions specified in development consent and so criterion is not applicable, or, there is no applicable criterion;

7. Vertical temperature gradient (VTG) calculated using sigma theta values according to INP procedures;

8. Bold and red text indicate an exceedance of relevant criterion; and

9. Criterion may or may not apply due to rounding of meteorological data values.

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Location	Start Date and Time	Wind Speed m/s	VTG °C/100m <sup>7</sup>	Criterion L <sub>A1,1</sub> min dB <sup>1</sup>	Criterion Applies? <sup>3,9</sup>	WCM L <sub>A1,1</sub> min dB <sup>4,5</sup>	Exceedance <sup>6,8</sup>
N01 <sup>2</sup>	15/05/2017 23:42	1.1	3.0	NA	NA	32	NA
N03 <sup>2</sup>	15/05/2017 22:50	0.8	4.1	NA	NA	49	NA
N16	15/05/2017 22:48	0.7	4.1	50	No	45	NA
N23	15/05/2017 22:21	0.2	4.1	50	No	NM	NA

#### Table 4.4: LA1.1minute GENERATED BY WCM AGAINST NOISE CRITERIA – MAY, 2017

Notes:

- 1. Development consent criterion;
- 2. Monitoring location is within Zone of Affectation, criterion not applicable (NA);
- 3. The noise emission limits identified in the above table apply under meteorological conditions of:
  - Wind speeds of up to 3 m/s at 10 metres above ground level; or
  - Temperature inversion conditions of up to 3°C/100m, and wind speeds of up to 2 m/s at 10 metres above ground level.
- 4. Estimated or measured LA1,1minute attributed to WCM;
- 5. NM denotes WCM audible but not measurable, IA denotes inaudible;
- 6. NA in exceedance column means atmospheric conditions outside conditions specified in development consent and so criterion is not applicable, or, there is no applicable criterion;
- 7. Vertical temperature gradient (VTG) calculated using sigma theta values according to INP procedures;
- 8. Bold and red text indicate an exceedance of relevant criterion; and
- 9. Criterion may or may not apply due to rounding of meteorological data values.

#### 4.3.2 Low Frequency Assessment

Table 4.5 provides statistics for attended noise monitoring undertaken around WCM during May 2017.

#### Table 4.5: ATTENDED MEASUREMENT STATISTICS FOR WCM – MAY, 2017

Conditions	Total for May 2017	
Number of measurements	4	
Number of measurements where WCM was measurable,	0	
within 5 dB of the relevant criterion and criterion applied		

None of the four measurements occurred during which WCM was measurable (not "inaudible" or 'not measurable"), within 5 dB of the relevant criterion and where meteorological conditions resulted in criteria applying (in accordance with the EPL). No further analysis of low frequency noise was required.

## 4.4 Atmospheric Conditions

Atmospheric condition data measured at each location are shown in Table 4.6. Data is routinely recorded on a site-by-site basis to show conditions during the monitoring period. Monitoring is not undertaken during periods of rain or hail.

#### Table 4.6: MEASURED ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS – MAY, 2017

Location	Start Date and Time	Temperature degrees	Wind Speed m/s	Wind Direction MN	Cloud Cover eighths
N01	15/05/2017 23:42	9	_	-	2
N03	15/05/2017 22:50	10	-	-	2
N16	15/05/2017 22:48	10	-	-	2
N23	15/05/2017 22:21	10	-	-	2

Notes:

1. Wind speed and direction measured at 1.8 metres; and

2. '-' indicates calm conditions.

Data obtained concurrently by the meteorological station and used for compliance assessment is provided in Appendix C.

## 5 DISCUSSION

## 5.1 Noted Noise Sources

Table 4.2 presents data gathered during attended monitoring. These noise levels are the result of many sounds reaching the sound level meter microphone during monitoring. Received levels from various noise sources were noted during attended monitoring and particular attention was paid to the contribution of WCM, if any, to measured levels. At each receptor location, the  $L_{Aeq,15minute}$  and  $L_{A1,1minute}$  (night-time only) for the WCM (in the absence of any other noise) was, where possible, measured directly, or, determined by frequency analysis. These levels are summarised in Table 4.3 and Table 4.4. Time variations of noise sources in each measurement, their temporal characteristics, are taken into account via statistical descriptors.

From these observations summaries have been derived for each location. The following chapter sections provide these summaries. Statistical 1/3 octave band analysis of environmental noise was undertaken, and Figure 3 to Figure 6 display the frequency ranges for various noise sources at each location for L<sub>A1</sub>, L<sub>A10</sub>, L<sub>A90</sub>, and L<sub>Aeq</sub>. These figures also provide, graphically, statistical information for these noise levels.

An example is provided as Figure 2 where it can be seen that frogs and insects are generating noise at frequencies above 1000 Hz; mining noise is at frequencies less than 1000 Hz (this is typical). Adding levels at frequencies that relate to mining only allows separate statistical results to be calculated. This analysis cannot always be performed if there are significant levels of other noise at the same frequencies as mining; this can be dogs, cows, or, most commonly, road traffic.

It should be noted that the method of summing statistical values up to a cut-off frequency can overstate the  $L_{A1}$  result by a small margin but is entirely accurate for  $L_{Aeq}$ .

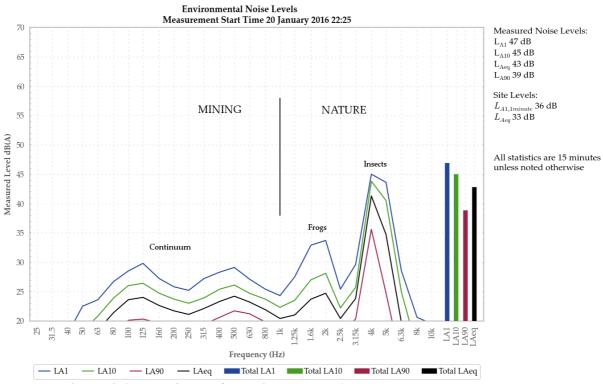
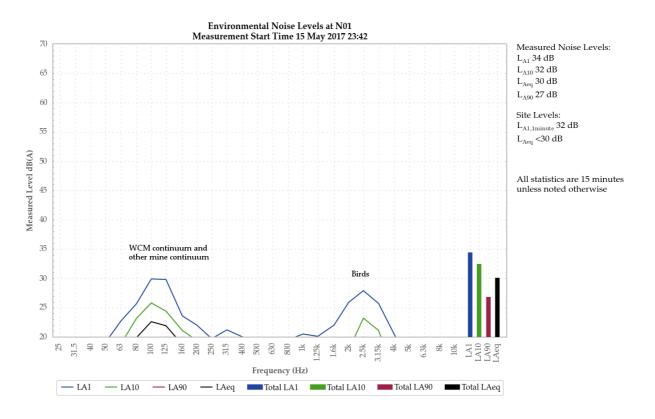


Figure 2: Sample graph (see Section 6.1 for explanatory note)

#### 5.1.1 N01, 15 May 2017



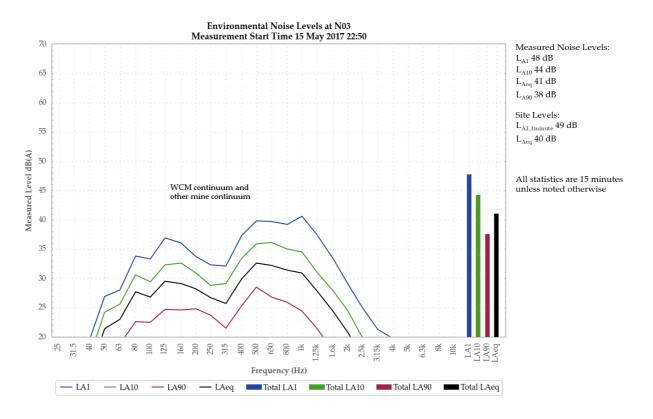
#### Figure 3: Environmental Noise Levels, N01 - Lambkin

An exhaust and engine continuum from WCM was audible throughout the measurement, generating the site only  $L_{Aeq}$  of less than 30 dB. Surges in the continuum generated the  $L_{A1,1minute}$  of 32 dB.

WCM continuum combined with another mine continuum primarily generated all measured levels. Birds were a minor contributor to the measured  $L_{A10}$ .

Aircraft, insects, and frogs were also noted at low levels.

#### 5.1.2 N03, 15 May 2017



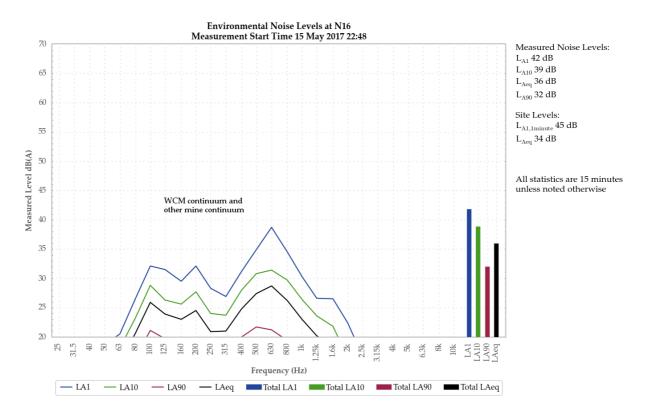
#### Figure 4: Environmental Noise Levels, N03 - Kelly

An engine continuum from WCM was audible throughout the measurement, generating the site only  $L_{Aeq}$  of 40 dB. Surges in the continuum generated the  $L_{A1,1minute}$  of 49 dB.

WCM was primarily responsible for all measured levels. A continuum from another mine was a minor contributor to the measured  $L_{A10}$ ,  $L_{Aeq}$  and  $L_{A90}$ .

Distant road traffic, possums, insects, and frogs were also noted at low levels.

#### 5.1.3 N16, 15 May 2017



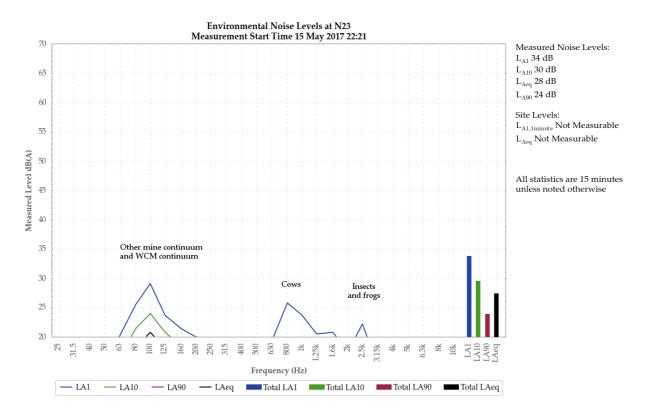
#### Figure 5: Environmental Noise Levels, N16 - Muller

An exhaust, engine and fan continuum from WCM was audible throughout the measurement, generating the site only  $L_{Aeq}$  of 34 dB. Surges in transmission noise generated the  $L_{A1,1minute}$  of 45 dB.

WCM combined with a continuum from another mine was responsible for all measured levels.

Insects were also noted at low levels.

#### 5.1.4 N23, 15 May 2017



#### Figure 6: Environmental Noise Levels, N23 - Carter

A low-level continuum from WCM was audible, but was not measurable.

A continuum from another mine generated all measured levels.

Cows, insects, and frogs were also noted.

# 6 SUMMARY

Environmental noise monitoring described in this report was undertaken during the night of 15/16 May 2017.

## 6.1 Operational Noise Assessment

Noise levels from WCM complied with the  $L_{Aeq,15minute}$  and  $L_{A1,1minute}$  development consent criteria at all monitoring locations during the May 2017 survey.

## 6.2 Low Frequency Assessment

None of the 4 measurements occurred during which WCM was measurable (not "inaudible" or "not measurable"), within 5 dB of the relevant criterion and where meteorological conditions resulted in criteria applying (in accordance with the EPL). No further analysis of low frequency noise was required.

**Global Acoustics Pty Ltd** 

# APPENDIX

# A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT AND EPL

## A.1 WAMBO COAL MINE DEVELOPMENT CONSENT

#### A.1.1 Relevant Wambo Coal Mine Development Consent Conditions

The relevant sections of the October 2016 modified conditions are reproduced below:

#### SCHEDULE 4 SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

#### ACQUISITION UPON REQUEST

1. Upon receiving a written request for acquisition from the landowner of the land listed in Table 1, the Applicant must acquire the land in accordance with the procedures in conditions 9-11 of schedule 5:

Table 1: Land subject to acquisition upon request

2 – Lambkin	23A & B - Kannar
13C - Skinner	31A,B,C & D - Fisher
19A & B – Kelly	51 – Hawkes
22 – Henderson	56 - Haynes

Note: For more information on the numbering and identification of properties used in this consent, see Attachment 1 of the EIS for the Wambo Development Project. Lands titled 23A & B – Kannar, 31A,B,C & D – Fisher, 51 – Hawkes and 56 – Haynes have been acquired and are now mine-owned.

#### <sup>1</sup>NOISE

#### Noise Impact Assessment Criteria

6. The Applicant must ensure that the noise generated by the Wambo Mining Complex does not exceed the noise impact assessment criteria presented in Table 9.

Table 9: Noise impa	ct assessment criteria	a dB(A))	
Day	Evening/Night	Night	Land Number
LAeq(15 minute)	LAeq(15 minute)	LA1(1 minute)	
35	41	50	94 – Curlewis
			3 – Birrell

<sup>1</sup> Incorporates EPA GTAs

Day LAeq(15 minute)	Evening/Night LAeg(15 minute)	Night LA1(1 minute)	Land Number
Energ(15 minute)	Energ(15 minute)		4B – Circosta
			15B - McGowen/Caslick
			16 – Cooper
			23C – Kannar
			25 – Fenwick
35	40	50	28A & B – Garland
			33 - Thelander/O'Neill
			39 – Northcote
			40 - Muller
			254A – Algie
			5 – Strachan
			6 - Merrick
35	39	50	7 - Maizey
			37 - Lawry
			48 - Ponder
			1 - Brosi
			17 - Carter
			18 - Denney
			38 - Williams
35	38	50	49 - Oliver
			63 - Abrocuff
			75 - Barnes
			91 - Bailey
			27 - Birralee
			43 - Carmody
35	37	50	137 - Woodruff
			163 - Rodger/Williams
			246 - Bailey
			13B - Skinner
			178 - Smith
35	36	50	188 - Fuller
			262A, B & C - Moses
35	35	50	All other residential or sensitive receptors, excluding the receptors listed in condition 1 above

Notes:

• Noise generated by the Wambo Mining Complex is to be measured in accordance with the relevant requirements, and exemptions (including certain meteorological conditions), of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy

#### Land Acquisition Criteria

 If the noise generated by the Wambo Mining Complex exceeds the criteria in Table 10, the Applicant must, upon receiving a written request for acquisition from the landowner, acquire the land in accordance with the procedures in conditions 9-11 of schedule 5.

Table 10: Land acquisition criteria dB(A)	
Day/Evening/Night	Property
LAeq(15 minute)	
43	94 - Curlewis
	23C – Kannar
	254A - Algie
40	All other residential or sensitive receptor, excluding the receptors listed in condition 1 above

Note: Noise generated by the Wambo Mining Complex is to be measured in accordance with the notes presented below Table 9 above. Property 23C – Kannar has been acquired and is now mine-owned.

#### **Operating Conditions**

- 8. The Applicant must:
  - (a) implement best management practice to minimise the operational, low frequency and traffic noise of the Wambo Mining Complex;
  - (b) operate a comprehensive noise management system for the Wambo Mining Complex that uses a combination of predictive meteorological forecasting and real-time noise monitoring data to guide the day to day planning of mining operations and the implementation of both proactive and reactive noise mitigation measures to ensure compliance with the relevant conditions of this consent;
  - (c) maintain the effectiveness of noise suppression equipment (if fitted) on plant at all times and ensure defective plant is not used operationally until fully repaired;
  - (d) ensure that noise attenuated plant (if used) is deployed preferentially in locations relevant to sensitive receivers;
  - (e) minimise the noise impacts of the Wambo Mining Complex during meteorological conditions when the noise limits in this consent do not apply;
  - (f) co-ordinate the noise management for the Wambo Mining Complex with the noise management at nearby mines (including HVO South, HVO North and Mt Thorley Warkworth mines) to minimise the cumulative noise impacts of these mines and the Wambo Mining Complex,

to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

#### Noise Management Plan

- 9. The Applicant **must** prepare a Noise Management Plan for the Wambo Mining Complex to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This plan must:
  - (a) be prepared in consultation with the EPA, and submitted to the **Secretary** for approval by the end of June 2013;
  - (b) describe the measures that would be implemented to ensure:
    - best management practice is being employed;
    - the noise impacts of the Wambo Mining Complex are minimised during meteorological conditions when the noise limits in this consent do not apply; and
    - compliance with the relevant conditions of this consent;
  - (c) describe the proposed noise management system in detail;
  - (d) include a monitoring program that:
    - uses a combination of real-time and supplementary attended monitoring measures to evaluate the performance of the Wambo Mining Complex;
    - adequately supports the proactive and reactive noise management system for the Wambo Mining Complex;
    - includes a protocol for determining exceedances of the relevant conditions in this consent;
    - evaluates and reports on the effectiveness of the noise management system for the Wambo Mining Complex;
    - provides for the annual validation of the noise model for the Wambo Mining Complex; and
  - (e) include a protocol that has been prepared in consultation with the owners of nearby mines (including HVO South, HVO North and Mount Thorley Warkworth mines) to minimise the cumulative noise impacts of these mines and the Wambo Mining Complex.

The Applicant must implement the approved management plan as approved from time to time by the Secretary.

## A.2 WAMBO RAIL SPUR DEVELOPMENT CONSENT

The relevant sections of the February 2012 modified conditions for the rail spur are reproduced below:

#### SCHEDULE 4 GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

#### ACQUISITION UPON REQUEST

1. Upon receiving a written request for acquisition from the landowner of the land listed in Table 1, the Applicant shall acquire the land in accordance with the procedures in conditions 1-3 of schedule 5.

Table 1: Land subject to acquisition upon request

19 - L Kelly 55 - E & C Burley
--------------------------------

Note: For more information on the numbering and identification of properties used in this consent, see Attachment 1A and Attachment 1B of the SEE for the Alterations to the Wambo Development Project – Rail and Train Loading Infrastructure.

2. While the land listed in Table 1 is privately owned, the Applicant shall implement all practicable measures to ensure that the impacts of the development comply with the predictions in the SEE, and the relevant conditions in this consent, at any residence on this land, to the satisfaction of the Director-General.

#### <sup>1</sup>NOISE

#### Noise Impact Assessment Criteria

 The Applicant shall ensure that noise generated by the development, combined with noise generated by any development in the Wambo Mining Complex, does not exceed the noise criteria provided in Table 2, unless higher noise criteria are specified in the consent for the Wambo Coal Mine (DA 305-7-2003).

Table 2: Noise impact assessment criteria dB(A)

Day	Evening/Night	Night	Land Number
LAeg(15 minute)	L <sub>Aeg(15 minute)</sub>	LA1(1 minute)	
35	35	50	All private residential or sensitive receptors, excluding the receptors listed in Table 1

Notes:

- Noise generated by the project is to be measured in accordance with the relevant requirements, and exemptions (including certain meteorological conditions), of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy.
- For this condition to apply, the exceedance of the criteria must be systemic.

#### **Construction Hours**

4. The Applicant shall ensure that all construction work is carried out from 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Saturday (inclusive) and 8 am to 6 pm Sundays and Public Holidays.

#### **Operating Hours**

- 5. The Applicant shall:
  - take all practicable measures to minimise train movements at the development on Friday evening (6 pm-9 pm) and Sunday morning (9 am-12 am);
  - (b) report on the implementation and effectiveness of these measures,

to the satisfaction of the Director-General.

#### **Rail Noise**

6. The Applicant shall seek to ensure that its rail spur is only accessed by locomotives that are approved to operate on the NSW rail network in accordance with noise limits L6.1 to L6.4 in RailCorp's EPL (No. 12208) and ARTC's EPL (No. 3142) or a Pollution Control Approval issued under the former *Pollution Control Act 1970*.

#### **Noise Monitoring**

- 7. The Applicant shall monitor the noise generated by the development, and noise generated by the Wambo Mine, in general accordance with the Noise Management Plan for the Wambo Mining Complex and the *NSW Industrial Noise Policy*.
- 7A. By 31 May 2012, the Applicant shall review and update the Noise Management Plan for the Wambo Mining Complex, including a noise monitoring protocol for evaluating compliance with the criteria in condition 3 above.
- 7B. During the first 12 months of operation of the Rail Refuelling Facility, the Applicant must conduct attended noise monitoring at the nearest private receptor during refuelling events, no less often than every three months.

## A.3 WAMBO RAIL LINE DEVELOPMENT CONSENT

The relevant sections of the 1998 conditions for the rail line are reproduced below:

#### **Operational Noise**

8. The Applicant shall ensure noise emissions from the operations of the railway line when measured at any residence along the railway line corridor shall not exceed the following EPA criteria:

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- (a) planning level of  $L_{Aeq 24hr}$  55dBA; and
- (b) maximum passby level of L<sub>amax</sub> 85dBA
- The noise criteria levels shall be measured under prevailing weather conditions in accordance with EPA requirements and to be consistent with EPA's requirements as applied to the New South Wales coal industry, or otherwise agreed to by the EPA.
- 9. Prior to the commencement of operations, the Applicant shall prepare in consultation with the EPA and Singleton Shire Council an Operational Noise Management Plan. The Operation Noise Management Plan shall demonstrate that all practical design and noise mitigation methods have been undertaken to achieve the noise levels specified in Condition 8.

## A.4 WAMBO ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION LICENCE NUMBER 529

The relevant sections of the EPL are reproduced below:

#### L4 Noise limits

L4.1 Noise generated at the premises must not exceed the noise limits presented in the table below. The noise limits in the table below represent the noise contribution from the premises.

#### Noise Limits dB(A)

Receiver Land	Day LAeq(15	Evening LAeq(15	Night LAeq(15	Night LA1(1
Number	minute)	minute)	minute)	minute)
94 - Curlewis	35	41	41	50
3 - Birrell 4B - Circosta 15 - McGowen/ Caslick 16 - Cooper 25 - Ferwick 28 - Garland 33 - Thelander/ O'Neill 39 - Northcote 40 - Muller 254 - Algie	35	40	40	50
5 - Strachan 6 - Merrick 7 - Maizey 37 - Lawry 48 - Ponder	35	39	39	50
1 - Brosi 17 - Carter 18 - Denney 30 - Williams 49 - Oliver 63 - Abrocuff 75 - Barnes 91 - Bailey	35	38	38	50
27 - Birralee 43 - Carmody 137 - Woodruff 163 - Rodger/ Williams 246 - Bailey	35	37	37	50
13B - Skinner 178 - Smith 188 - Fuller 262 - Moses	35	36	36	50
All other residential or sensitive receptors excluding the receptors listed above and also excluding those listed in Table 1 of Schedule 4 of the Wambo Coal Mine Development Consent (DA 305-7-2003).	35	35	35	50

Page 32

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

c) Night is defined as the period from 10pm to 7am Monday to Saturday and 10pm to 8am Sundays and Public Holidays

d) The Receiver Land Owner locations are as detailed in the Environmental Impact Statement titled "Wambo Development Project", Volumes 1-5 dated July 2003 and prepared by Resource Strategies Pty Ltd.

L4.3 Noise from the premises is to be measured at the most affected point or within the residential boundary or at the most affected point within 30m of the dwelling (rural situations) where the dwelling is more than 30m from the boundary to determine compliance with the LAeq(15 minute) noise limits in condition L4.1.

Where it can be demonstrated that direct measurement of noise from the premises is impractical, the EPA may accept alternative means of determining compliance. See Chapter 11 of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy.

The modification factors presented in Section 4 of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy shall also be applied to the measured noise levels where applicable.

- L4.4 Noise from the premises is to be measured at 1m from the dwelling façade to determine compliance with the LA1(1minute) noise limit in condition L4.1.
- L4.5 The noise emission limits identified in condition L4.1 apply under meteorological conditions of:

a) Wind speeds of up to 3m/s at 10 metres above the ground level; or
b) Temperature inversion conditions of up to 30C/100m and wind speeds of up to 2m/s at 10 metres above the ground.

# APPENDIX

# **B** CALIBRATION CERTIFICATES

Wambo Coal Mine and Rail Spur - Environmental Noise Monitoring May 2017 17190\_R01\_Draft01

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	Client Details	Global Acoustics Pty Ltd 12/16 Huntingdale Drive Thornton NSW 2322	
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# APPENDIX

# C METEOROLOGICAL DATA

End Date and Time	Wind Speed Average m/s	Wind Direction Average Degrees	Sigma Theta
15/05/2017 21:00	0.6	133	14.2
15/05/2017 21:05	0.6	103	0.1
15/05/2017 21:10	0.7	103	0.0
15/05/2017 21:15	0.4	108	6.0
15/05/2017 21:20	0.4	117	1.0
15/05/2017 21:25	1.2	272	11.5
15/05/2017 21:30	0.7	214	25.1
15/05/2017 21:35	0.6	175	0.2
15/05/2017 21:45	0.9	247	49.1
15/05/2017 21:50	1.0	231	22.7
15/05/2017 21:55	0.5	202	0.0
15/05/2017 22:00	0.3	203	1.0
15/05/2017 22:05	1.1	240	14.4
15/05/2017 22:10	0.3	224	0.3
15/05/2017 22:15	1.2	313	12.5
15/05/2017 22:20	0.1	314	0.0
15/05/2017 22:35	0.2	314	0.0
15/05/2017 22:40	0.0	314	0.0
15/05/2017 22:45	0.4	314	0.0
15/05/2017 22:50	0.1	314	0.0
15/05/2017 22:55	0.8	218	42.7
15/05/2017 23:00	1.1	210	0.6
15/05/2017 23:05	0.7	210	0.2
15/05/2017 23:10	0.6	209	0.1
15/05/2017 23:15	0.7	180	26.7
15/05/2017 23:20	0.9	131	4.6
15/05/2017 23:25	0.6	120	1.4
15/05/2017 23:30	0.4	111	8.8
15/05/2017 23:35	0.6	52	36.8
15/05/2017 23:40	1.1	326	10.5
15/05/2017 23:45	1.7	319	14.6

#### METEOROLOGICAL DATA FROM WAMBO WEATHER STATION

Notes - "NA" indicates data was not available.