Wambo Coal Mine and Rail Spur

Environmental Noise Monitoring September 2017

Prepared for Wambo Coal Pty Limited



Noise and Vibration Analysis and Solutions

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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 14/15 September. Attended noise monitoring was conducted at a total of four locations for WCM and the WCRS (see Figure 1).

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

Low Frequency Assessment

WCM complied with the relevant limits using the Broner, INP and dING methods of assessing low frequency noise at all monitoring locations.

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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, NSW (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 during the night of 14/15 September 2017.

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 attended locations for WCM and the WCRS. Table 1.1 outlines the monitor type and frequency for the noise monitoring locations shown in Figure 1.

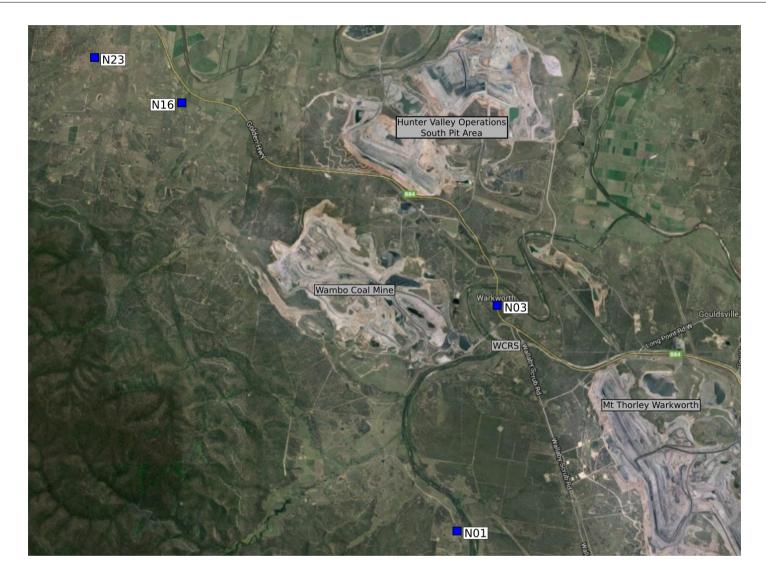
Table 1.1: WAMBO COAL MONITORING LOCATIONS AND FREQUENCY¹

Site Reference	Site Location ²	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 _A	The A-weighted root mean squared (RMS) noise level at any instant	
L _{Amax}	The maximum A-weighted noise level over a time period or for an event	
L _{A1}	The noise level which is exceeded for 1 per cent of the time	
L _{A10}	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	
LA90	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 _{Amin}	The minimum A-weighted noise level over a time period or for an event	
L _{Aeq}	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 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND CRITERIA

2.1 Project Approval

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.

2.2 Environment Protection Licence

Environment protection licence (EPL) number 529 applies to the site with the noise section of the current version reproduced in Appendix A.

2.3 Noise Monitoring Program

The *Wambo Coal Environmental Management System, Noise Management Plan* (EMP008, February 2014) was prepared in accordance with Schedule 4 of the consent. 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.

2.4 Project Approval Criteria and Weather Conditions

Criteria detailed in Table 2.1 have been selected as the most appropriate for each monitoring location and are based on the project approval associated with WCM.

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.

Location	Day LAeq,15minute dB	Evening and Night LAeq,15minute dB	Night L _{A1,1minute} dB
N01 ¹	NA	NA	NA
N03 ¹	NA	NA	NA
N16 ²	35	40	50
N23 ²	35	38	50

Table 2.1: WCM SPECIFIC CRITERIA

Notes:

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

2. Criteria from modified development consent DA 305-7-2003.

In accordance with the consent, 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.

It has been assumed that in accordance with this requirement, noise limits apply under all conditions except during:

- rain;
- wind speeds (at 10m above ground) greater than 3 m/s; and/or
- atmospheric stability class G.

2.5 EPL Criteria and Weather Conditions

Criteria detailed in Table 2.2 have been selected as the most appropriate for each monitoring location and are based on the EPL associated with WCM.

Location	Day L _{Aeq,15minute} dB	Evening and Night L _{Aeq,15minute} dB	Night L _{A1,1minute} dB
N01 ¹	NA	NA	NA
N03 ¹	NA	NA	NA
N16 ²	35	40	50
N23 ²	35	38	50

Notes:

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

2. Criteria from EPL 529.

In accordance with Condition L4.5 of the EPL, noise limits identified in Table 2.2 apply under all meteorological conditions except for:

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

2.6 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 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 targets 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.

2.7 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.

2.7.1 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 or 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.

There were no intermittent noise sources from WCM during the survey. In addition, there is no equipment on site that is likely to generate tonal or impulsive noise as defined in the INP.

2.7.2 Low Frequency Noise

INP Method

As defined in the Industrial Noise Policy:

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 against criteria specified in the paper "A Simple Method for Low Frequency Noise Emission Assessment" (Broner JLFNV vol29-1 pp1-14 2010). If the total predicted site only C-weighted noise level at a receptor exceeds the relevant criterion, a 5 dB penalty (modifying factor) is added to measured levels. This method is included to provide a comparison with the INP method.

dING Method

Whilst the INP is the current document for assessment of industrial noise impact in NSW, the EPA has recently published the Draft Industrial Noise Guideline (dING), which is currently under review after a period of public consultation. The dING contains an alternate method of assessing low frequency noise to the INP, which is:.

Measure/assess C-weighted and A-weighted L_{eq} , T levels over the same time period. The low frequency noise modifying factor correction is to be applied where the C-A level exceeds 15 dB and:

• where any of the 1/3 octave noise levels in Table C2 are exceeded by **up to** 5 dB and cannot be mitigated, a 2 dBA positive adjustment to measured A weighted levels applies for the evening/night period; and

• where any of the 1/3 octave noise levels in Table C2 are exceeded by **more than** 5 dB and cannot be mitigated, a 5 dBA positive adjustment to measured A weighted levels applies for the evening/night period and a 2 dBA positive adjustment applies for the daytime period.

Table C2 of the dING is reproduced below:

Hz/dB(Z)	One-third octave L _{Zeq,15minute} threshold level												
f,Hz	10	12.5	16	20	25	31.5	40	50	63	80	100	125	160
dB(Z)	92	89	86	77	69	61	54	50	50	48	48	46	44

Note: dB(z) = decibel (Z-weighted); f,Hz = frequency in Hertz; Hz/dB(Z) = hertz per decibel (Z-weighted). For the assessment of low frequency noise, care should be taken to select a wind screen that has wind-induced noise characteristics at least 10 dB below the threshold values in Table C2 for wind speeds up to 5 metres per second. It is likely that high performance larger diameter wind screens (nominally 175 mm) will be required to achieve this performance (Hessler et.al. 2008). In any case, the performance of the wind screen and wind speeds at which data will be excluded needs to be stated.

Low frequency noise shall be assessed under the meteorological conditions under which noise limits would apply.

Measurements should be made between 1.2 and 1.5 metres above ground level unless otherwise approved through a planning instrument (consent/approval) or Environment Protection Licence and at locations nominated in the development consent or license.

2.7.3 Low Frequency Assessment Methods

Low frequency assessment methods are summarised in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: LOW FREQUENCY ASSESSMENT METHODS AND MODIFYING FACTOR TRIGGERS

Assessment Method	Calculation Method			
Broner, 2010	Site only L _{Ceq}			
INP	Site only L _{Ceq} minus site only L _{Aeq}			
dING	1. Site only L _{Ceq} minus site only L _{Aeq}			
	2. One third octave low frequency noise threshold			

Triggers and penalties associated with each method are outlined in Section 2.7.2.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Overview

All noise monitoring was conducted at the nearest residences in accordance with the EPA INP guidelines, Australian Standard AS 1055 'Acoustics, Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise' and the WCM NMP.

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 noise loggers when determining compliance with prescribed limits as it allows the most 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.

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.

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).

3.3 Meteorological Data

Meteorological data was obtained from the Wambo meteorological station. Atmospheric parameters include 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 Attended Noise Monitoring Equipment

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

Model	Serial Number	Calibration Due Date
Rion NA-28 sound level analyser	30131882	14/03/2019
Rion NA-28 sound level analyser	00701424	05/06/2019
Pulsar 106 acoustic calibrator	74813	05/06/2019
Pulsar 105 acoustic calibrator	78226	14/03/2019

Table 3.1: ATTENDED NOISE MONITORING EQUIPMENT

4 RESULTS

4.1 Plant Locations

During monitoring undertaken on 14/15 September 2017 between 22:00 and 00:00, equipment in operation was as follows:

- EX218 ME-03-WMAO double benching Wambo waste, 3 x 793 to the RL135;
- EX217 MP-22-WTAO deckloading from south working back to uncover coal, 3 x 930 trucks to the RL70;
- EX214 MP-26-WMAO conventional bench Whybrow waste all, 5 x 930 trucks to the RL60. Walked to new location;
- EX213 MP-23-WMAO topside loading Wambo waste expose coal waste to the RL50/RL60, went on to Wambo low ash coal feeding the washery, 3 x 930, 2 x 789, 2 x 793; and
- EX211 RP-01-WWAO topside double benching out Whybrow alluvial waste, 4 x 793 trucks to the FLR dump.

4.2 Attended Noise Monitoring

Noise levels measured at each location during attended 15 minute surveys are provided in Table 4.1; discussion as to the noise sources responsible for these measured levels is provided in Chapter 5 of this report.

Location	Start Date and Time	L _{Amax} dB	L _{A1} dB	L _{A10} dB	L _{A50} dB	L _{Aeq} dB	L _{A90} dB	L _{Amin} dB	L _{Ceq} dB
N01	14/09/2017 22:15	40	38	34	30	31	26	22	52
N03	14/09/2017 23:30	71	48	45	42	44	41	39	66
N16	14/09/2017 22:56	63	57	46	30	44	24	22	52
N23	14/09/2017 22:03	48	41	37	29	33	25	22	47

Table 4.1: MEASURED NOISE LEVELS – SEPTEMBER 2017

Notes:

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

4.3 Project Approval and Weather Conditions

Noise levels generated by activity at WCM are shown in Table 4.2 and Table 4.3, where comparison of measured $L_{Aeq,15minute}$ and $L_{A1,1minute}$ levels for WCM is made with relevant noise criteria. Criteria are then applied if weather conditions are in accordance with the mines approval. Modifying factors are considered in Section 4.5.

Table 4.2: LAea.15minute GENERATED BY WCM AGAINST PROJECT APPROVAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA – SEPTEMBER 2017

Location	Start Date and Time	Wind Speed m/s	VTG °C/100m ¹	Stability Class	Criterion LAeq,15min dB	Criterion Applies? 3,4,5	WCM LAeq,15min dB _{67,8}	Exceedance _{7,9}
N01 ³	14/09/2017 22:15	3.3	-1.0	D	NA	NA	NM	NA
N03 ³	14/09/2017 23:30	4.0	-1.0	D	NA	NA	NM	NA
N16	14/09/2017 22:56	3.3	-1.0	D	40	No	<25	NA
N23	14/09/2017 22:03	2.8	0.5	E	38	Yes	<20	Nil

Notes:

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

2. Project approval criterion;

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

4. The noise emission limits identified in the above table do not apply during rain and/or wind speeds (at 10m above ground) greater than 3 m/s and/or atmospheric stability class G;

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

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

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

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

9. NA in exceedance column means atmospheric conditions outside conditions specified in project approval and so criterion is not applicable, or, there is no applicable criterion.

Location	Start Date and Time	Wind Speed m/s	VTG °C/100m ¹	Stability Class	Criterion LA1,1min dB ²	Criterion Applies? ^{3,4}	WCM ^L A1,1min dB ^{5,6,7}	Exceedance ⁸
N01 ⁹	14/09/2017 22:15	3.3	-1.0	D	NA	NA	NM	NA
N03 ⁹	14/09/2017 23:30	4.0	-1.0	D	NA	NA	NM	NA
N16	14/09/2017 22:56	3.3	-1.0	D	50	No	<25	NA
N23	14/09/2017 22:03	2.8	0.5	Е	50	Yes	<20	Nil

Table 4.3: LA1.1minute GENERATED BY WCM AGAINST PROJECT APPROVAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA – SEPTEMBER 2017

Notes:

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

2. Project approval criterion;

3. The noise emission limits identified in the above table do not apply during rain and/or wind speeds (at 10m above ground) greater than 3 m/s and/or atmospheric stability class G;

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

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

6. Estimated or measured LA1,1minute attributed to WCM;

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

8. NA in exceedance column means atmospheric conditions outside conditions specified in project approval and so criterion is not applicable, or, there is no applicable criterion; and

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

4.4 EPL and Weather Conditions

Noise levels generated by activity at WCM are shown in Table 4.4 and Table 4.5, where comparison of measured $L_{Aeq,15minute}$ and $L_{A1,1minute}$ levels for WCM is made with relevant noise criteria. Criteria are then applied if weather conditions are in accordance with the mines EPL. Modifying factors are considered in Section 4.5.

Table 4.4: LAea,15minute GENERATED BY WCM AGAINST EPL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA – SEPTEMBER 2017

Location	Start Date and Time	Wind Speed m/s	VTG °C/100m ¹	Criterion L _{Aeq,15} min dB ²	Criterion Applies? ^{3,4}	WCM LAeq,15min dB ^{5,6,7}	Exceedance ^{7,8}
N01 ⁹	14/09/2017 22:15	3.3	-1.0	NA	NA	NM	NA
N03 ⁹	14/09/2017 23:30	4.0	-1.0	NA	NA	NM	NA
N16	14/09/2017 22:56	3.3	-1.0	40	No	<25	NA
N23	14/09/2017 22:03	2.8	0.5	38	Yes	<20	Nil

Notes:

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

2. EPL criterion;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Location	Start Date and Time	Wind Speed m/s	VTG °C/100m ¹	Criterion ^L A1,1min dB ²	Criterion Applies? ^{3,4}	WCM LA1,1min dB ^{5,6,7}	Exceedance ^{7,8}
N01 ⁹	14/09/2017 22:15	3.3	-1.0	NA	NA	NM	NA
N03 ⁹	14/09/2017 23:30	4.0	-1.0	NA	NA	NM	NA
N16	14/09/2017 22:56	3.3	-1.0	50	No	<25	NA
N23	14/09/2017 22:03	2.8	0.5	50	Yes	<20	Nil

Table 4.5: LA1.1minute GENERATED BY WCM AGAINST EPL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA – SEPTEMBER 2017

Notes:

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

2. EPL criterion;

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

5. Estimated or measured LA1,1minute attributed to WCM;

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

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

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

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

4.5 Low Frequency Assessment

Low frequency results for each monitoring location are presented in Table 4.6. Where the results in Table 4.6 are greater than the Broner, INP or dING low frequency modifying factor trigger due to activities at WCM, a modifying factor correction is applied to the measured noise level (if applicable).

Applicability of the low frequency penalty is determined by a number of factors including whether or not WCM was the only low frequency source, was measurable (not "inaudible", "not measurable" or less than a maximum cut-off value of 30 dB), was within 5 dB of the relevant criterion and where meteorological conditions resulted in criteria applying (in accordance with the project approval).

Results presented in Table 4.6 show that low frequency modification factors were not required to be applied to measured WCM levels during the survey.

Table 4.6: LOW FREQUENCY NOISE MODIFYING FACTOR ASSESSMENT – SEPTEMBER 2017

Location	Start Date and	INP		Br	Broner		G	Comments
	Time	Result ¹ L _{Ceq} – L _{Aeq} dB	Penalty dB	Result ² L _{Ceq} dB	Penalty dB	Result ³ Max exceedance of ref spectrum dB	Penalty dB	_
N01	14/09/2017 22:15	NA	Nil	NA	Nil	NA	Nil	Very low-level WCM continuum.
N03	14/09/2017 23:30	NA	Nil	NA	Nil	NA	Nil	WCM continuum not measurable.
N16	14/09/2017 22:56	NM	Nil	NM	Nil	NM	Nil	Low-level WCM continuum, very low level continuum from other mine, road traffic and aircraft.
N23	14/09/2017 22:03	NM	Nil	NM	Nil	NM	Nil	Very low-level WCM continuum, road traffic and aircraft.

Notes:

1. Low frequency modifying factor trigger is $L_{Ceq} - L_{Aeq} \ge 15 \text{ dB}$ as per the INP;

2. Night L_{Ceq} modifying factor trigger is L_{Ceq} 60 dB as per Broner (2010);

3. Low frequency modifying factor trigger is comparison of measured spectrum against a reference spectrum as per the dING;

4. Bold results and penalties in red are where the relevant modifying factor trigger was exceeded; and

5. Where it is not possible to determine the site only result due to the presence of other low frequency noise sources occurring during the measurement, this is noted as NM (not measurable) and no further assessment has been undertaken. Where there is no L_{Aea} criterion for a monitoring location, low frequency results are noted as NA (not applicable).

4.6 Atmospheric Conditions

Atmospheric condition data measured at each location are shown in Table 4.7. 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 4.7: MEASURED ATMOSPHERIC CONDITIONS – SEPTEMBER 2017

Location	Start Date and Time	Temperature degrees	Wind Speed m/s	Wind Direction MN	Cloud Cover eighths
N01	14/09/2017 22:15	7	0.0	-	0
N03	14/09/2017 23:30	11	0.4	10	0
N16	14/09/2017 22:56	8	0.1	330	0
N23	14/09/2017 22:03	10	0.1	350	0

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.

DISCUSSION 5

5.1 Noted Noise Sources

Table 4.1 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 LAeq,15minute and LA1,1minute (nighttime 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 4.2 and Table 4.3. 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 LA1, LA10, L_{A90}, and L_{Aeq}. 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} .

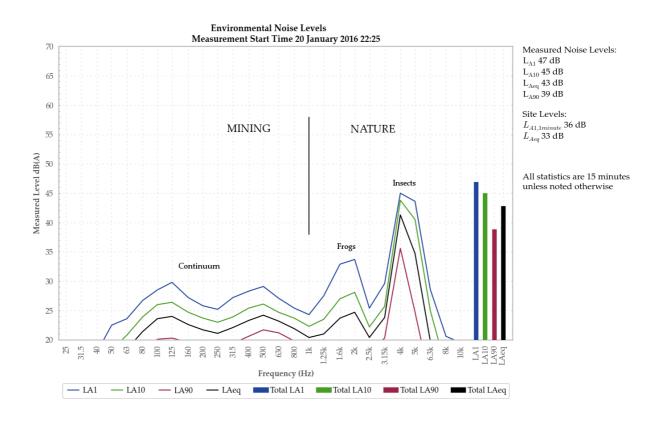


Figure 2: Sample graph (see Section 5.1 for explanatory note)

5.1.1 N01 – 14 September 2017

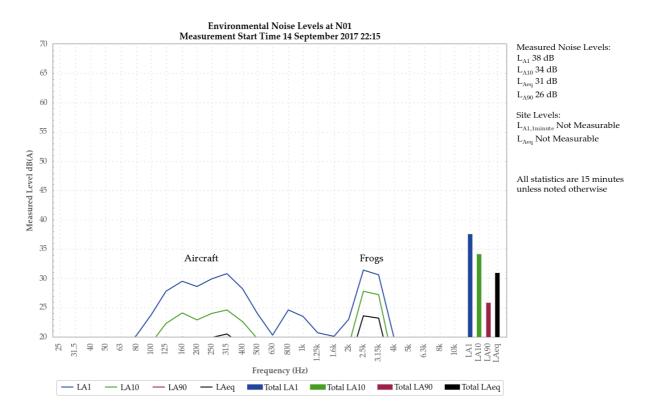


Figure 3: Environmental Noise Levels, N01 - Lambkin

A very low-level continuum from WCM was audible during the measurement, however, site only levels were not measurable.

Aircraft and frogs generated the measured L_{A1} , L_{A10} and L_{Aeq} . Frogs generated the measured L_{A90} .

5.1.2 N03 – 14 September 2017

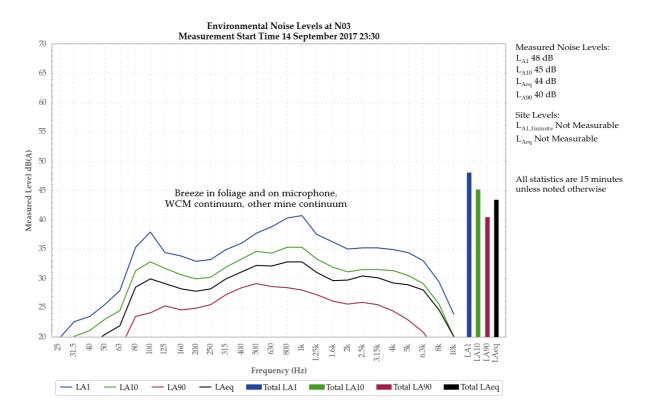


Figure 4: Environmental Noise Levels, N03 - Kelly

A continuum from WCM was audible throughout the measurement, however, the site only L_{Aeq} and $L_{A1,1minute}$ were not measurable.

Breeze in foliage and breeze on the microphone were primarily responsible for all measured levels.

A continuum from another mine and road traffic noise were also noted.

5.1.3 N16 – 14 September 2017

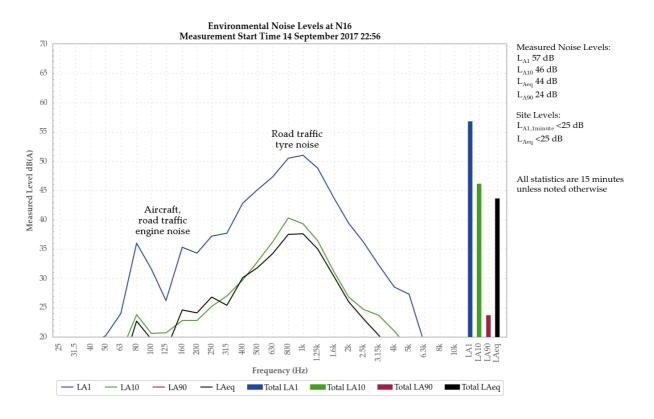


Figure 5: Environmental Noise Levels, N16 - Muller

A low-level continuum from WCM was audible during the measurement, generating a site only L_{Aeq} and $L_{A1,1minute}$ of less than 25 dB.

Road traffic noise and aircraft generated the measured L_{A1} , L_{A10} and L_{Aeq} . The continuum from WCM and another mine continuum generated the measured L_{A90} .

Birds were also noted.

5.1.4 N23 – 14 September 2017

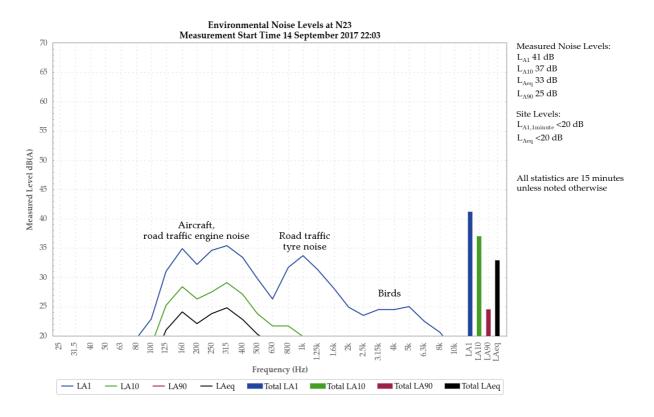


Figure 6: Environmental Noise Levels, N23 - Carter

A very low-level continuum from WCM was audible during the measurement, generating a site only L_{Aeq} and $L_{A1,1minute}$ of less than 20 dB.

Aircraft and road traffic noise generated the measured L_{A1} , L_{A10} and L_{Aeq} . Distant road traffic noise, birds and the continuum from WCM contributed to the measured L_{A90} .

Dogs and breeze in foliage were also noted.

6 SUMMARY

Environmental noise monitoring described in this report was undertaken during the night of 14/15 September 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 September 2017 survey.

6.2 Low Frequency Assessment

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.

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.

¹NOISE

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 impact assessment criteria dB(A))						
Day	Evening/Night	Night	Land Number			
LAeq(15 minute)	LAeq(15 minute)	LA1(1 minute)				
35	41	50	94 – Curlewis			
			3 – Birrell			

¹ Incorporates EPA GTAs

Day	Evening/Night	Night	Land Number
LAeq(15 minute)	LAeq(15 minute)	LA1(1 minute)	
			4B – Circosta
			15B - McGowen/Caslick
			16 – Cooper
			23C – Kannar
35	40	50	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.

¹NOISE

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 _{Aeg(15 minute)}	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.

Page 33

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:

į

- (a) planning level of $L_{Aeq 24hr}$ 55dBA; and
- (b) maximum passby level of L_{amax} 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 Number	Day LAeq(15 minute)	Evening LAeq(15 minute)	Night LAeq(15 minute)	Night LA1(1 minute)
94 - Curlewis	35	41	41	50
3 - Birrell 4B - Circosta 15 - McGowen/ Caslick 16 - Cooper 25 - Fenwick 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

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

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Acoustic Tests 31.5 Hz to 8kHz 12.5kHz 16kHz Electrical Tests 31.5 Hz to 20 kHz	±0.16dB ±0.2dB ±0.29dB ±0.12dB All uncertainties are derived an		ronmental Conditions Temperature Relative Humidity Barometric Pressure	±0.05°C ±0.46% ±0.017kPa	
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	±0.5%		fidence level with a covera	ge factor of 2.	
Short Term Fluct. Frequency	±0.5%	derived at the 95% conf.	achee level winn a covera.		
Short Term Fluct. Frequency	±0.5%	terived at the 95% conf			
Short Term Fluct. Frequency	±0.5% All uncertainties are o		njunction with the calibrati	on test report.	
Short Term Fluct. Frequency	±0.5% All uncertainties are of This calibration certif Acoustic Research La	icate is to be read in cor	njunction with the calibrati	States States	
Short Term Fluct. Frequency Distortion	±0.5% All uncertainties are of This calibration certif Acoustic Research La Accredited for comple	icate is to be read in cor bs Pty Ltd is NATA Ac ance with ISO/IEC 170 s, calibrations and/or mo	njunction with the calibrati	per 14172.	le to
Short Term Fluct. Frequency	±0.5% All uncertainties are of This calibration certif Acoustic Research La Accredited for compl The results of the test	icate is to be read in cor bs Pty Ltd is NATA Ac ance with ISO/IEC 170 s, calibrations and/or mo	njunction with the calibrati credited Laboratory Numb 125.	per 14172.	le to

APPENDIX

C METEOROLOGICAL DATA

End Date and Time	Wind Speed Average m/s	Wind Direction Average Degrees	Sigma Theta
14/09/2017 21:45	2.5	304	18.8
14/09/2017 21:50	1.8	302	18.6
14/09/2017 21:55	1.9	306	20.6
14/09/2017 22:00	1.8	304	18.0
14/09/2017 22:05	2.3	311	18.2
14/09/2017 22:10	2.5	306	19.7
14/09/2017 22:15	3.0	303	14.7
14/09/2017 22:20	2.9	298	22.5
14/09/2017 22:25	3.3	301	17.2
14/09/2017 22:30	3.6	293	16.9
14/09/2017 22:35	3.5	292	15.3
14/09/2017 22:40	3.6	294	19.0
14/09/2017 22:45	3.5	297	18.2
14/09/2017 22:50	3.0	295	21.2
14/09/2017 22:55	3.2	295	18.2
14/09/2017 23:00	3.4	300	18.0
14/09/2017 23:05	3.1	297	14.9
14/09/2017 23:10	3.4	294	15.4
14/09/2017 23:15	3.5	296	18.7
14/09/2017 23:20	4.2	300	18.5
14/09/2017 23:25	3.7	295	16.7
14/09/2017 23:30	3.5	294	16.9
14/09/2017 23:35	4.2	297	19.4
14/09/2017 23:40	4.0	299	17.2
14/09/2017 23:45	3.9	296	18.2
14/09/2017 23:50	3.7	294	15.9
14/09/2017 23:55	4.2	296	16.5
15/09/2017 00:00	NA	NA	NA
15/09/2017 00:05	3.0	294	21.0
15/09/2017 00:10	4.3	291	14.9
15/09/2017 00:15	4.2	292	16.2

METEOROLOGICAL DATA FROM WCM WEATHER STATION

Notes - "NA" indicates data was not available.