

Noise Monitoring Assessment

Dargues Gold Mine

Majors Creek, NSW.

9 June 2020 - 10 June 2020

Document Information

Noise Monitoring Assessment

Dargues Gold Mine, Majors Creek, NSW

9 June 2020 – 10 June 2020

Prepared for: Diversified Minerals Pty Ltd

Dargues Gold Mine

Majors Creek Road

Majors Creek NSW 2622



Prepared by: Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd

PO Box 262, Newcastle NSW 2300

ABN: 36 602 225 132

P: +61 2 4920 1833

www.mulleracoustic.com

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1 Introduction

Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd (MAC) has been commissioned by Diversified Minerals Pty Ltd to complete a quarterly Noise Monitoring Assessment (NMA) for Dargues Gold Mine, Majors Creek, NSW (the 'mine').

The monitoring has been conducted in accordance with Conditions L2 of the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) #20095, and in accordance with the site's Noise Management Plan (NMP) 20170123, at five representative monitoring locations. This assessment has been undertaken during Quarter 2 on 9 June 2020 and 10 June 2020 and forms part of the noise monitoring program to address relevant conditions.

The assessment has been conducted in accordance with the following documents:

- NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Noise Policy for Industry (NPI), 2017;
- Environment Protection Licence EPL #20095 (EPL);
- Dargues Gold Mine Noise Management Plan (NMP) 20170123;
- Dargues Gold Mine Project Approval, 10_0054; and
- Australian Standard AS 1055:2018 - Acoustics - Description and measurement of environmental noise - General Procedures.

A glossary of terms, definitions and abbreviations used in this report is provided in **Appendix A**.

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2 Noise Criteria

2.1 Operational Noise Criteria

Section L2 of the project's EPL (EPL #20095) outlines the applicable operational noise criteria for all privately owned residential receivers surrounding the mine. The criteria outlined in the EPL is reproduced below:

L2.1 Noise from the premises must not exceed the sound pressure level (noise) limits presented in the Table below. Note that the limits apply to the operation of the project and represent the sound pressure level (noise) contribution, at the nominated receiver locations in the table.

Table 1 summaries the applicable noise criteria at the three monitoring locations in accordance with the sites EPL and NMP.

Table 1 Noise Monitoring Program				
Monitoring Location	Noise Criteria, dBA LAeq(15min)			Noise Criteria, dB LA1(1min)
	Day	Evening	Night	Night
	(7am to 6pm)	(6pm to 10pm)	(10pm to 7am)	(10pm to 7am)
At any residence	35	35	35	45
Majors Creek State Conservation Area (when in use by any person)	35	35	35	45

L2.2 For the purpose of Noise Limit Conditions above:

'Day' is defined as the period from 7am to 6pm Monday to Saturday and 8am to 6pm Sunday and Public Holidays;

'Evening' is defined as the period from 6pm to 10pm on any day; and

'Night' is defined as the period from 10pm to 7am Monday to Saturday and 10pm to 8am Sunday and Public Holidays.

L2.3 The noise emission limits identified in the table above apply under meteorological conditions of:

- a) Wind speeds up to 3 m/s at 10m above ground level; or*
- b) temperature inversion conditions of up to 3 °C/100m and wind speeds up to 2 m/s at 10m above ground level*

L2.4 For the purpose of the Condition L4.3:

- a) The meteorological data to be used for determining meteorological conditions is the data recorded by the meteorological weather station established at the premises for the purposes of this Environment Protection Licence ("Point 59" as outlined in Weather Monitoring conditions below)*

b) Stability category temperature inversion conditions are to be determined by the sigma-theta method referred to in Part E4 of Appendix E to the New South Wales Industrial Noise Policy (EPA 2000).

L2.5 Determining Compliance

To determine compliance:

a) with the $Leq(15 \text{ minute})$ noise limits in the Noise Limits table, the noise measurement equipment must be located:

i) approximately on the property boundary, where any dwelling is situated 30 meters or less from the property boundary closest to the premises; or

ii) within 30 meters of a dwelling façade, but not closer than 3m, where any dwelling on the property is situated more than 30 meters from the property boundary closest to the premises; or, where applicable

iii) within approximately 50 meters of the boundary of a National Park, Nature Reserve or State Conservation Area.

b) with the $LA1(1 \text{ minute})$ noise limits in the Noise Limits table, the noise measurement equipment must be located within 1 meter of a dwelling façade.

c) with the noise limits in the Noise Limits table, the noise measurement equipment must be located:

i) at the most affected point at a location where there is no dwelling at the location; or

ii) at the most affected point within an area at a location prescribed by part (a) or part (b) of this condition.

L2.6 For the purposes of determining the noise generated at the premises the modification factors in Section 4 of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy must be applied, as appropriate, to the noise levels measured by the noise monitoring equipment.

L2.7A breach of this license will still occur where noise generated from the premises in excess of the appropriate limit is measured: i) at a location other than an area prescribed in part (a) and part (b) of Condition L4.5; and/or ii) at a point other than the most affected point at a location.

MAC Technical Note: For sleep disturbance, the $LA1(1 \text{ minute})$ descriptor is meant to represent a maximum noise level measured under 'fast' time response. DEC will accept analysis based on either $LA1(1 \text{ minute})$ or $LA(max)$.

2.2 Road Noise Criteria

Environmental Performance Condition 2 of the Project Approval (AN10_0054) specifies noise criteria for off-site traffic from the mine. The condition is reproduced below:

Condition 2 The Proponent shall take all reasonable and feasible measures to ensure that the traffic noise generated by the project does not exceed the traffic noise impact assessment criteria in Table 2.

Table 2 Traffic Noise Impact Assessment Criteria dB(A)		
Road	Assessment Criteria - dBA	
	Day (7am to 10pm)	Night (10pm to 7am)
Majors Creek Road, Araluen Road, Captains	55dBA	50dBA
Flat Road, Coghill Street and Wallace Street	LAeq(1hour)	LAeq(1hour)

Note: The noise generated by the project is to be measured in accordance with the relevant procedures in the NSW Road Noise Policy.

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3 Methodology

All attended noise surveys for this assessment were conducted in general accordance with the procedures described in Australian Standard AS 1055:2018, “Acoustics - Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise” and the EPL.

The acoustic instrumentation used carries current NATA calibration and complies with AS IEC 61672.1-2019-Electroacoustics - Sound level meters - Specifications. Calibration of all instrumentation was checked prior to and following measurements. Drift in calibration did not exceed ± 0.5 dBA. All equipment carried appropriate and current NATA (or manufacturer) calibration certificates.

3.1 Operator Attended Noise Measurement Methodology

The locality surrounding the mine is primarily rural/residential. Operator attended noise monitoring was undertaken at five representative receivers outlined in the mine’s NMP and are presented in **Table 3**.

Table 3 Receiver Location			
Monitoring Location	Resident Identifier	Coordinates (GDA94-MGA56)	
		Easting	Northing
NM1	R29	203791	6060114
NM2	R108	203530	6061162
NM3	R20	204882	6059385
NM4	Unattended	205169	6060060
NM5	R27	205169	6060060
NM6	R34	207183	6063663

The receiver locations and unattended noise measurement location are presented in **Figure 1**.

Attended measurements were carried out using Svantek Type 1, 971 & 977 noise analysers on Tuesday 9 June 2020 and Wednesday 10 June 2020. Where possible throughout each survey the operator quantified the contribution of any significant noise sources.

3.2 Unattended Operational and Road Noise Assessment Methodology

Unattended road traffic noise monitoring was conducted on the boundary of 664 Majors Creek Road, Jembaicumbene, NSW (R34) using a Svantek Type 1, 977 and SV200 noise analyser from Tuesday 9 June 2020 to Wednesday 10 June 2020. Noise levels obtained at the monitoring location are considered representative of 664 Majors Creek Road, Jembaicumbene, NSW.

FIGURE 1
LOCALITY PLAN
REF: MAC201092



L1 ●
● R34

GREY GUNS ROAD

● R108

MAJORS CREEK ROAD

● R29

● R27

WALLACES GAP ROAD

● R20

● R88

KEY

● L1 UNATTENDED LOCATION

● R1 RECEIVER LOCATION

○ SITE LOCATION



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4 Results

4.1 Assessment Results – Location R20

The results of the attended noise measurements at location R20 for the June 2020 survey are summarised in **Table 4** with the relevant EPL limits, the calculated mining noise contribution and prevailing meteorological conditions at the time of each measurement.

Table 4 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R20												
Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 μ Pa)			EPL Limit	Meteorology ¹	Description and SPL, dBA					
		L _{Amax}	L _{Aeq}	L _{A90}								
10/06/2020 (Day)	07:43	82	56	31	35	WD: NW	Birds 32-56					
						WS: 1m/s	Traffic 32-82					
						Stab Class: E	Dargues mobile plant <32					
						Dargues Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution						<32
						Dargues Site L _{Amax} Contribution						<32
09/06/2020 (Evening)	21:21	78	52	22	35	WD: NW	Dargues processing 24-30					
						WS: 0.1m/s	Birds 28-38					
						Stab Class: G	Traffic 26-78					
						Dargues Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution						<30
						Dargues Site L _{Amax} Contribution						30
10/06/2020 (Night)	05:55	85	59	27	35	WD: NW	Traffic 27-84					
						WS: 0.1m/s	Birds 36-42					
						Stab Class: G	Dargues Inaudible					
						Dargues Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution						<30
						Dargues Site L _{Amax} Contribution						<30

Note: Meteorology data obtained from the Dargues on-site weather station.

4.2 Assessment Results – Location R27

The results of the attended noise measurements at location R27 for the June 2020 survey are summarised in **Table 5** with the relevant EPL limits, the calculated mining noise contribution and prevailing meteorological conditions at the time of each measurement.

Table 5 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R27							
Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			EPL Limit	Meteorology ¹	Description and SPL, dBA
		L _{Amax}	L _{Aeq}	L _{A90}			
10/06/2020 (Day)	08:03	59	39	31	35	WD: NW WS: 0.1m/s Stab Class: E	Traffic 27-46
							Birds 27-59
							Dogs 27-32
							Dargues mobile plant <29
							Dargues Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution
							Dargues Site L _{Amax} Contribution
							<29
							29
09/06/2020 (Evening)	21:02	49	28	24	35	WD: NW WS: 0.1m/s Stab Class: G	Traffic 26-49
							Local residential noise 24-32
							Dargues processing 26-31
							Dargues Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution
							Dargues Site L _{Amax} Contribution
							<31
							31
10/06/2020 (Night)	05:36	58	38	25	35	WD: NW WS: 0.2m/s Stab Class: G	Birds 28-36
							Rooster 30-58
							Dargues mobile plant 26-31
							Dargues Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution
							Dargues Site L _{Amax} Contribution
							<31
							31

Note: Meteorology data obtained from the Dargues on-site weather station.

4.3 Assessment Results – Location R29

The results of the attended noise measurements at location R29 for the June 2020 survey are summarised in **Table 6** with the relevant EPL limits, the calculated mining noise contribution and prevailing meteorological conditions at the time of each measurement.

Table 6 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R29								
Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			EPL Limit	Meteorology ¹	Description and SPL, dBA	
		L _{Amax}	L _{Aeq}	L _{A90}				
10/06/2020 (Day)	07:22	58	38	28	35	WD: NW WS: 0.5m/s Stab Class: F	Dargues crushing 30-34	
							Birds 28-58	
							Traffic 32-48	
							Wind <32	
							Dargues Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution	32
Dargues Site L _{Amax} Contribution	34							
09/06/2020 (Evening)	21:42	47	28	23	35	WD: NW WS: 1m/s Stab Class: G	Dargues processing 26-28	
							Wind 26-47	
							Dogs 32-38	
							Dargues Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution	<30
							Dargues Site L _{Amax} Contribution	<30
10/06/2020 (Night)	06:17	54	29	24	35	WD: NW WS: 0.1m/s Stab Class: G	Dargues processing 29-31	
							Traffic 26-32	
							Wildlife 28-38	
							Birds 28-54	
							Livestock 26-30	
Dargues Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution	<31							
Dargues Site L _{Amax} Contribution	31							

Note: Meteorology data obtained from the Dargues on-site weather station.

4.4 Assessment Results – Location R34

The results of the attended noise measurements at location R34 for the June 2020 survey are summarised in **Table 7** with the relevant EPL limits, the calculated mining noise contribution and prevailing meteorological conditions at the time of each measurement.

Table 7 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R34							
Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			EPL Limit	Meteorology ¹	Description and SPL, dBA
		L _{Amax}	L _{Aeq}	L _{A90}			
10/06/2020 (Day)	08:26	87	65	34	35	WD: NW	Traffic 30-87
						WS: 0.2m/s	Birds 30-38
						Stab Class: E	Dargues Inaudible
						Dargues Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution	
Dargues Site L _{Amax} Contribution		<30					
09/06/2020 (Evening)	20:39	81	55	18	35	WD: NW	Traffic 28-81
						WS: 0.1m/s	Birds 26-32
						Stab Class: G	Livestock 18-28
						Dargues Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution	
Dargues Site L _{Amax} Contribution		<30					
10/06/2020 (Night)	05:11	78	50	19	35	WD: NW	Rooster 24-31
						WS: 0.1m/s	Traffic 24-78
						Stab Class: G	Dargues Inaudible
						Dargues Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution	
Dargues Site L _{Amax} Contribution		<30					

Note: Meteorology data obtained from the Dargues on-site weather station.

4.5 Assessment Results – Location R108

The results of the attended noise measurements at location R108 for the June 2020 survey are summarised in **Table 8** with the relevant EPL limits, the calculated mining noise contribution and prevailing meteorological conditions at the time of each measurement.

Table 8 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R108							
Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			EPL Limit	Meteorology ¹	Description and SPL, dBA
		L _{Amax}	L _{Aeq}	L _{A90}			
10/06/2020 (Day)	07:00	59	33	25	35	WD: NW	Birds 26-59
						WS: 0.1m/s	Livestock 26-34
						Stab Class: G	Dargues processing 26-31
						Dargues Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution	
Dargues Site L _{Amax} Contribution		31					
09/06/2020 (Evening)	19:58	57	28	23	35	WD: NW	Dargues mobile plant 23-28
						WS: 0.2m/s	Insects 23-26
						Stab Class: G	Birds 26-57
						Dargues Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution	
Dargues Site L _{Amax} Contribution		<30					
10/06/2020 (Night)	06:40	54	33	26	35	WD: NW	Birds 26-54
						WS: 0.5m/s	Livestock 30-36
						Stab Class: F	Dargues mobile plant 29-34
						Dargues Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution	
Dargues Site L _{Amax} Contribution		34					

Note: Meteorology data obtained from the Dargues on-site weather station.

4.6 Unattended Road Traffic Noise Results – Location R34

To assess road traffic noise levels associated with mine vehicles, an unattended noise monitor was located on the boundary of 664 Majors Creek Road, Jembaicumbene (R34).

The results of the road traffic noise measurements on Tuesday 9 June 2020 and Wednesday 10 June 2020 are summarised in **Table 9**.

As per Section 3(2) of Dargues Gold Mine's Noise Management Plan, results of the road traffic noise measurements identify that noise levels were influenced by extraneous noise sources such as birds and local road traffic not associated with the mine. The noise contribution of mine related traffic at this location remained below the relevant criteria.

Table 9 Road Noise Survey Results		
Operational Period	Overall Measured dB LAeq (dBA re 20 µPa)	Compliance Limit dB LAeq(1hr)
Assessment Period – Day (7am to 10pm), dB LAeq(1hr)		
7:00am to 6:00pm	63	55
Assessment Period – Night (10pm to 7am), dB LAeq(1hr)		
6:00am to 7:00am	60	50

5 Discussion

5.1 Operator Attended Noise Discussion

5.1.1 Discussion of Results – Location R20

Operator attended measurement results at R20, on Tuesday 9 June 2020 and Wednesday 10 June 2020 identified that mine noise was audible during the day and evening periods, although satisfied criteria. Generally, birds, dogs barking, and offsite road traffic were audible sources throughout all three monitoring periods.

Therefore, noise contribution from the mine satisfied the relevant noise criteria for the attended measurements on Tuesday 9 June 2020 and Wednesday 10 June 2020.

5.1.2 Discussion of Results – Location R27

Operator attended measurement results at R27, on Tuesday 9 June 2020 and Wednesday 10 June 2020 identified that mine noise was audible during the day, evening, and night periods, although satisfied criteria. Generally, birds, local residential noise, dogs barking, and offsite road traffic were audible sources throughout all three monitoring periods.

In summary the noise contribution from the mine satisfied the relevant noise criteria for the attended measurements on Tuesday 9 June 2020 and Wednesday 10 June 2020.

5.1.3 Discussion of Results – Location R29

Operator attended measurement results at R29, on Tuesday 9 June 2020 and Wednesday 10 June 2020 identified that mine noise was audible during the day, evening, and night periods, although satisfied criteria. Generally, birds, wind, livestock, dogs barking, and offsite road traffic were audible sources throughout all three monitoring periods.

The noise contribution from the mine satisfied the relevant noise criteria for the attended measurements on Tuesday 9 June 2020 and Wednesday 10 June 2020.

5.1.4 Discussion of Results – Location R34

Operator attended measurement results at R34, on Tuesday 9 June 2020 and Wednesday 10 June 2020 identified that mine noise was inaudible during the day, evening, and night period, therefore satisfying criteria. Generally, birds, insects, roosters, and offsite road traffic were audible sources throughout all three monitoring periods.

Therefore, noise contribution from the mine satisfied the relevant noise criteria for the attended measurements on Tuesday 9 June 2020 and Wednesday 10 June 2020.

5.1.5 Discussion of Results – Location R108

Operator attended measurement results at R108, on Tuesday 9 June 2020 and Wednesday 10 June 2020 identified that mine noise was audible during the day, evening, and night periods, although remained below relevant criteria. Generally, birds, insects, and livestock were audible sources throughout all three monitoring periods.

In summary, the noise contribution from the mine satisfied the relevant noise criteria for the attended measurements on Tuesday 9 June 2020 and Wednesday 10 June 2020.

6 Conclusion

Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd (MAC) has completed a Noise Monitoring Assessment (NMA) on behalf of Diversified Minerals Pty Ltd at Dargues Gold Mine, Majors Creek, NSW. The assessment was completed to quantify site noise emissions against relevant noise criteria pertaining to mine operations and offsite traffic noise emissions during Quarter 2, 2020.

Attended monitoring on Tuesday 9 June 2020 and Wednesday 10 June 2020 has identified that operational noise emissions generated by the mine comply with relevant $L_{Aeq(15min)}$ and L_{Amax} noise limits at all assessed receivers.

Road traffic noise levels were influenced by extraneous noise sources such as birds and local road traffic not associated with the mine. Notwithstanding, mine road traffic noise levels remained below relevant road noise criteria.

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Appendix A – Glossary of Terms

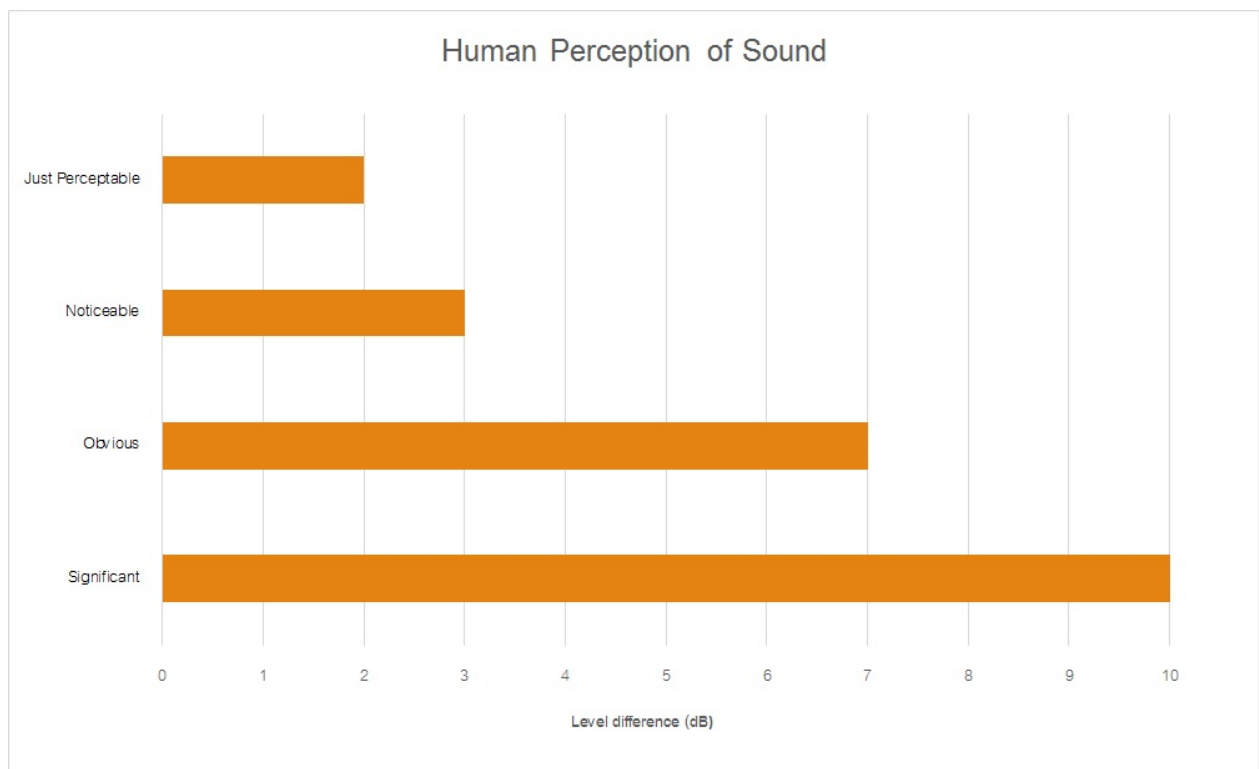
Table A1 provides a number of technical terms have been used in this report.

Table A1 Glossary of Terms	
Term	Description
1/3 Octave	Single octave bands divided into three parts
Octave	A division of the frequency range into bands, the upper frequency limit of each band being twice the lower frequency limit.
ABL	Assessment Background Level (ABL) is defined in the NPI as a single figure background level for each assessment period (day, evening and night). It is the tenth percentile of the measured LA90 statistical noise levels.
Adverse Weather	Weather effects that enhance noise (that is, wind and temperature inversions) that occur at a site for a significant period of time (that is, wind occurring more than 30% of the time in any assessment period in any season and/or temperature inversions occurring more than 30% of the nights in winter).
Ambient Noise	The noise associated with a given environment. Typically a composite of sounds from many sources located both near and far where no particular sound is dominant.
A Weighting	A standard weighting of the audible frequencies designed to reflect the response of the human ear to noise.
dBA	Noise is measured in units called decibels (dB). There are several scales for describing noise, the most common being the 'A-weighted' scale. This attempts to closely approximate the frequency response of the human ear.
dB(Z), dB(L)	Decibels Linear or decibels Z-weighted.
Hertz (Hz)	The measure of frequency of sound wave oscillations per second - 1 oscillation per second equals 1 hertz.
LA10	A noise level which is exceeded 10 % of the time. It is approximately equivalent to the average of maximum noise levels.
LA90	Commonly referred to as the background noise, this is the level exceeded 90 % of the time.
LAeq	The summation of noise over a selected period of time. It is the energy average noise from a source, and is the equivalent continuous sound pressure level over a given period.
LAm _{ax}	The maximum root mean squared (rms) sound pressure level received at the microphone during a measuring interval.
RBL	The Rating Background Level (RBL) is an overall single figure background level representing each assessment period over the whole monitoring period. The RBL is used to determine the intrusiveness criteria for noise assessment purposes and is the median of the ABL's.
Sound power level (LW)	This is a measure of the total power radiated by a source. The sound power of a source is a fundamental location of the source and is independent of the surrounding environment. Or a measure of the energy emitted from a source as sound and is given by : $= 10 \cdot \log_{10} (W/W_0)$ Where : W is the sound power in watts and W ₀ is the sound reference power at 10-12 watts.

Table A2 provides a list of common noise sources and their typical sound level.

Table A2 Common Noise Sources and Their Typical Sound Pressure Levels (SPL), dBA	
Source	Typical Sound Level
Threshold of pain	140
Jet engine	130
Hydraulic hammer	120
Chainsaw	110
Industrial workshop	100
Lawn-mower (operator position)	90
Heavy traffic (footpath)	80
Elevated speech	70
Typical conversation	60
Ambient suburban environment	40
Ambient rural environment	30
Bedroom (night with windows closed)	20
Threshold of hearing	0

Figure A1 – Human Perception of Sound



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Appendix B – Unattended Noise Monitoring Charts

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