

28/07/2025



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Version	Date	Description	Author
V1.0	17/11/2023	Final for DPE Submission	Mueller Acoustic Consulting and IEMA
V1.1	28/07/2025	Update for Modification 2	IEMA and Aurelia

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Hera Resources Pty Ltd (Hera Resources), a wholly owned subsidiary of Aurelia Metals Limited (Aurelia), owns and maintains Hera Mine, an underground metalliferous mine, approximately 100km southeast of Cobar and 4km south of Nymagee in the central west of New South Wales (NSW). Hera Resources operated Hera Mine from 2014 until it entered care and maintenance in early 2023.

Hera Mine is a State Significant Development (SSD) and commenced operations in 2012 under the former *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) Part 3A Major Project Approval development consent MP10 0191, which has been modified six times.

The Federation Project (the Project) is an underground metalliferous mine located in central-western NSW, approximately 15 kilometres (km) south of the Nymagee township and 10km south of Hera Mine. High grade mineral deposits were discovered at the Federation Mine site in 2019 with subsequent drilling operations identifying a substantial gold-lead-zinc-copper-silver mineral resource.

Following the mineral discovery, an Exploration Decline Program was approved for a bulk sample and supporting infrastructure at the Federation Site in August 2021 by the Resources Regulator under Part 5 of the EP&A Act and section 23A(4) of the *Mining Act 1992*.

Development consent ('the consent') for the Project (SSD 24319456) was granted on 2 March 2023 and has since been modified twice. Modification 1 was approved on 27 November 2023 regarding changes to biodiversity offset staging.

Modification 2 was approved on 27 March 2025 to allow options for:

- haulage between 7am and 10pm of up to 600ktpa of ore to Peak Gold Mine (PMG) for processing, throughout the life of mine;
- reclaim of tailings from the existing Hera Mine Tailings Storage Facility (TSF) for paste backfill at Federation Mine; and
- minor rearrangement of infrastructure at Federation Mine within the approved disturbance area, inclusive of new water tank.

The consent required that 'within 12 months of the date of physical commencement of development under this consent, or other timeframe agreed by the Planning Secretary, the Applicant must surrender development consent MP10_0191 for the Hera Gold Mine. The Hera Gold Mine consent was surrendered on 17 March 2025. The Project's consent includes the amalgamation of Hera Mine's development consent conditions with the consent conditions for the Project into a single consolidated consent for both Hera Mine and Federation Mine as well as connecting infrastructure, herein referred to as the Site. Within the Site, the consent authorises activities within the 'approved disturbance area'.

Key infrastructure approved via the consent for the Site is outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Key Site Infrastructure

Project Element	Description
Mining Method	Underground mining via longitudinal retreat long hole stopping method.
Management of Waste Rock	During operations, waste rock is stored on designated pads or utilised for backfilling underground stopes. Post mining, potentially acid forming waste rock will be returned underground, and non-acid forming waste rock will be returned underground, used for backfilling the box cut or used for other rehabilitation purposes.
	The existing processing plant includes a Run of Mine (RoM) pad, Waste Rock Emplacement (WRE), crushing, grinding and screening operations, gravity separation, and flotation circuits capable of processing up to 505ktpa of ore.
	The new processing plant is anticipated to be commissioned early to mid-2024 at Hera Mine capable of processing 750ktpa of ore once at full operational capacity. Key elements of the proposed processing plant include:
Processing Plant	 Three stages of crushing followed by ball milling with hydrocyclone classification;
,	 Gravity separation to recover gold from the milling circuit recirculating load, followed by cyanide leaching of the gravity concentrate;
	 Sequential flotation to produce separate copper, lead and zinc concentrates; and
	 Concentrate thickening and filtration.
	Tailings thickening and filtration, and disposal by both underground paste backfill at Federation Mine and surface storage in the approved Hera Mine TSF.
	Tailings will be either placed into the approved Tailings Storage Facility at Hera Mine or returned to Federation Mine for placement underground as paste backfill.
Management of Tailings	The preferred backfill method at Federation Mine is cemented paste fill using tailings. The tailings paste plant will be located adjacent to the stoping footprint to allow gravity reticulation of tailings paste fill down dedicated boreholes and laterally through an underground paste distribution system.
	The shotcrete batch plant will be co-located with the tailings paste fill plant. This plant will provide an ongoing supply of shotcrete for ground support requirements underground and concrete for miscellaneous construction works.
Power Generation	The preferred option for power generation at Federation Mine will be by a gas plant at Hera Mine with power transferred by overhead powerlines. A proposed solar farm to be constructed at Hera Mine will offset gas requirements. An option for a solar farm and gas generators at Federation Mine is also being considered if separate power generation is the preferred option in which case transmission lines will not be required.
	The Federation Mine will initially be powered by diesel generators while new power generation capacity is constructed.
General Infrastructure	Internal roads, ablutions block, administration buildings, workshop and stores, sewage treatment and treated effluent irrigation, diesel storage tanks, potable water treatment, waste rock storage, underground vents, sub station, paste plant, laydown area, topsoil stockpiles, ROM pad, box cut, magazines, haul roads, telecommunications tower, surface extraction areas, ventilation rises, access roads, heavy vehicle corridors, overhead transmission lines and concentrate stores.
Transport	Ore will be transported from Federation Mine to Hera Mine via Burthong Road and to Peak Mine via Priory Tank Road and Kidman Way. Tailings will be transported from Hera Mine to Federation Mine via Burthong Road. Concentrate will be transported via road from Hera Mine to Hermidale Siding with an average of approximately 12 vehicle trips per day at the peak of concentrate transport. At the peak of mining, concentrate, ore, and tailings transport is estimated to be an average of 61 vehicle trips (one-way movements) per day.
Water Management	The processing plants generate the majority of Site's water demand. Water will primarily be sourced from underground workings and pumped to the surface. A network of production bores will also be established which will supplement the existing production bores.

The maximum groundwater extraction forecast by the site water balance model is 530 megalitres per year (ML/year), which is within the existing licenced volume of 543 ML/year.

Hera Mine

The water management system at the Hera Site includes the diversion of clean water runoff around upslope areas of the site, the collection of water from disturbed areas and the discharge of water to Box Creek. The key elements of the Hera water management system include:

- Clean water runoff from undisturbed catchment areas within and upslope of the site. These flows may be diverted and discharged off site without treatment or licensing;
- The dirty water management system which consists of a series of dirty water drains. Sediment Basin 1 and Sediment Basin 2 were used as dirty water storages during construction and have since been combined into a larger contaminated water storage which collects runoff from the processing plant area; and
- Raw water system supplied from production bores around the site. The
 production bores transfer water to the Back Tank (located beside Back Dam).
 Water from the Back Tank is transferred to the Feed Water Tank. The House
 Dam receives surface water from the clean water catchment and the House
 Bore (production bore).

Federation Mine

A water management system will be implemented at the Federation Mine. Key elements include the diversion of clean water runoff around the mine, and the collection of water from disturbed areas and the underground. Dirty (sediment) water is captured in catch drains and collected in the sediment basin within the footprint of the Stormwater Retention Pond. Runoff from the PAF pads will drain to Lined Leach Ponds. Runoff from the box cut will report down the decline and be dewatered as part of the underground dewatering system to the Dewatering Pond. Water contained in the Lined Leach Ponds, Stormwater Retention Pond and Dewatering Pond will be recirculated for reuse within the Hera Mine water management system by the water pipeline between Federation Mine and Hera Mine.

Linear infrastructure in the 23m wide, 14.3km long services corridor (see **Figure 2**) includes:

- Electricity transmission lines (if required)
- Water pipeline

Services Corridor

- Access track
- Tailings pipeline and return water line (potentially)
- Communication infrastructure (potentially).

Ore from Federation Mine will be trucked to the Peak Mine during the first four years of operations. Federation Mine is expected to produce up to 6.95 million tonnes of ore over a 12 to 14 year period.

The regional locality of Site is shown in **Figure 1** and a general Site layout is in **Figure 2**. Detailed Site layouts of Hera Mine and Federation Mine are shown in **Figure 3** and **Figure 4** respectively.

1.2. Purpose and Scope

This Noise Management Plan (NMP) has been prepared in accordance with Condition B8 of SSD 24319456 to manage the noise impacts of the Site.

The scope of this NMP applies to all activities undertaken within the approved disturbance area of the Site by Hera Resources employees and contractors.

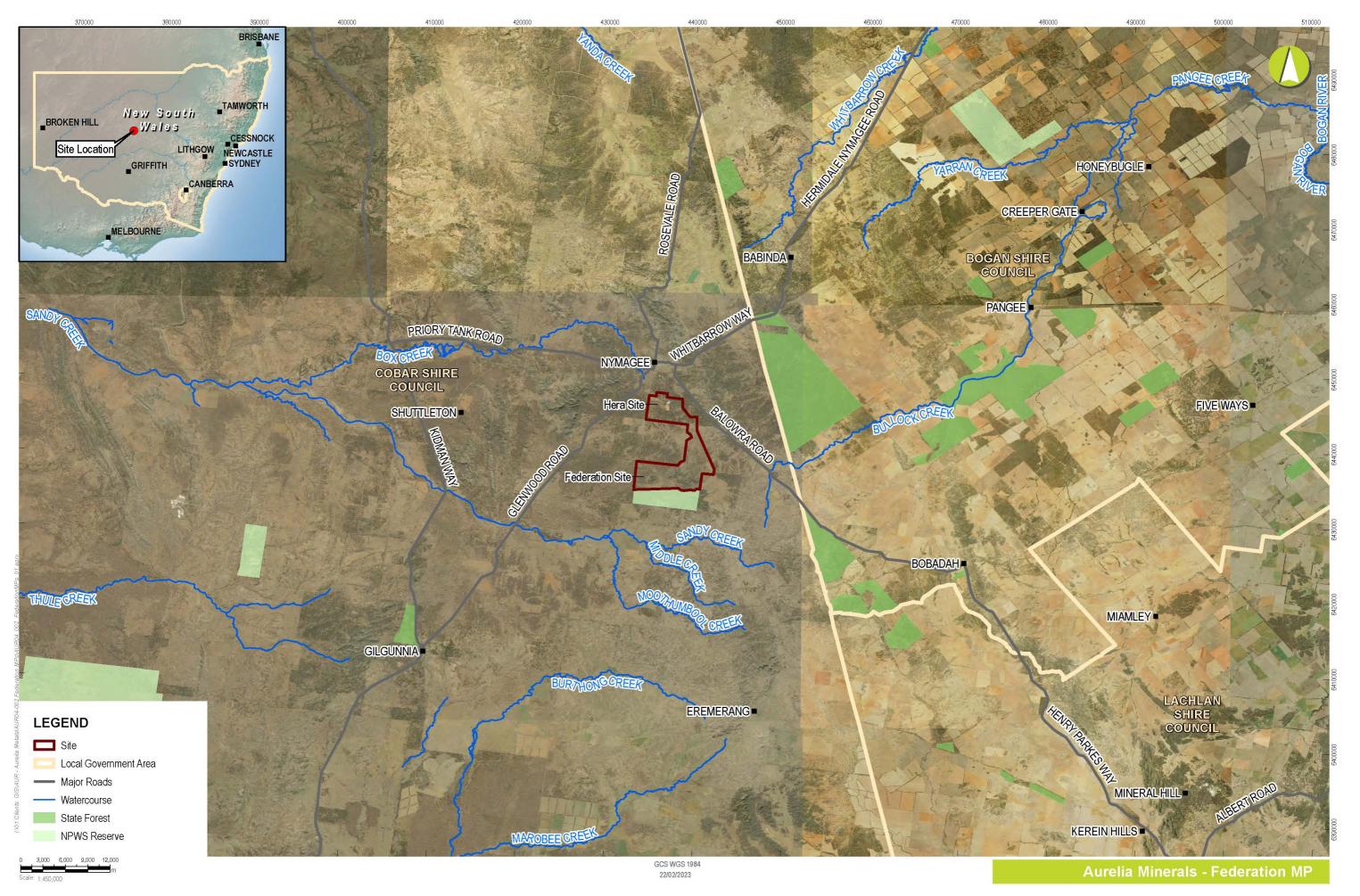
This NMP has been prepared to:

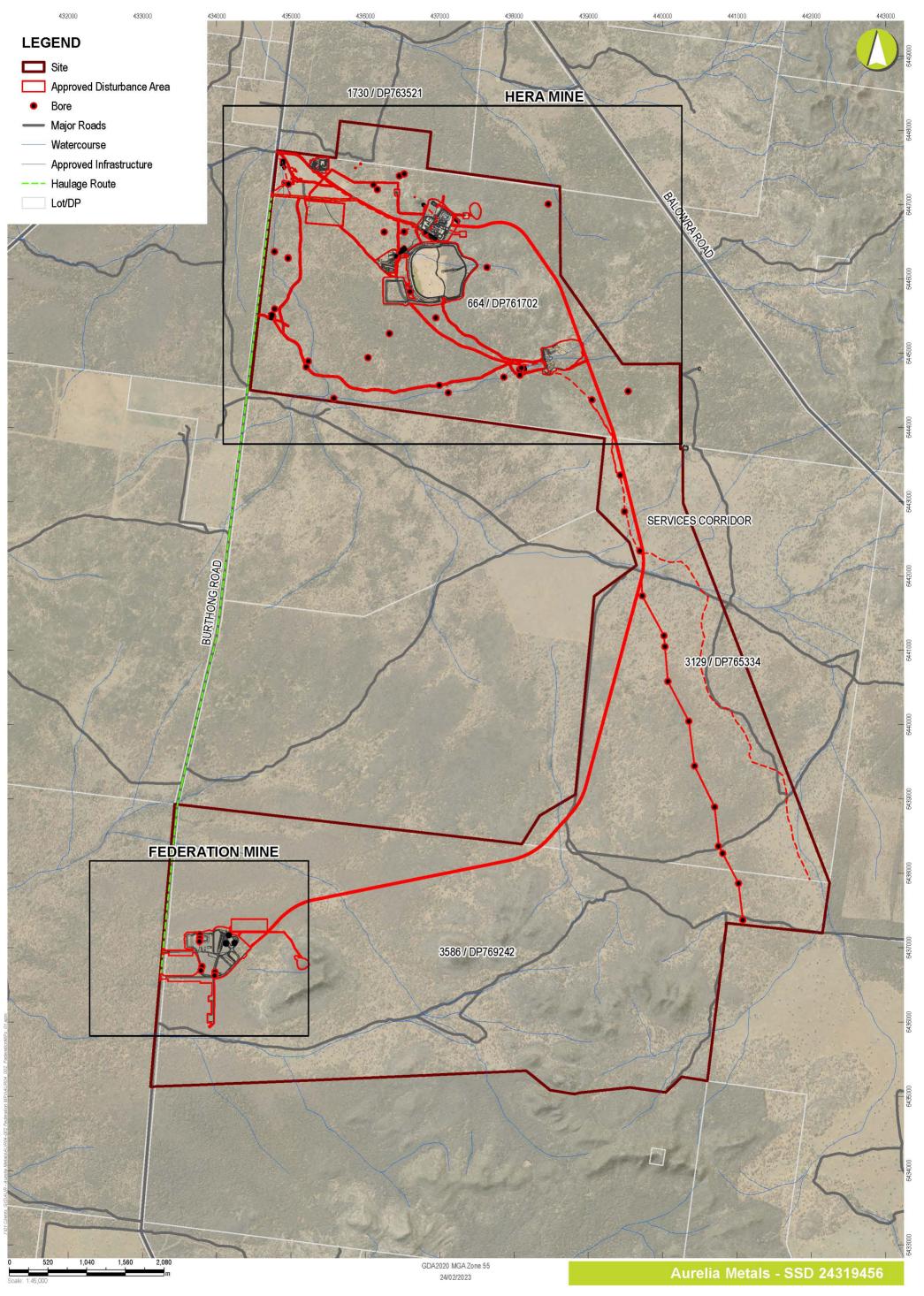
- Comply with the relevant conditions of SSD 24319456 regarding noise including management and monitoring of noise emissions from operations (including off-site road traffic as well as all operations occurring on Site) and construction activities
- Provide Hera Resources employees and contractors with a description of their responsibilities regarding noise management at the Site, and
- Comply with the relevant sections of the Hera Mine and Federation Mine Environment Projection Licence (EPL) 20179.

It is noted that EPL 20179 is currently applicable to Hera Mine only. A variation has been submitted to include the Federation Mine but has not yet been approved, this NMP will be updated should the EPL 20179 be approved.

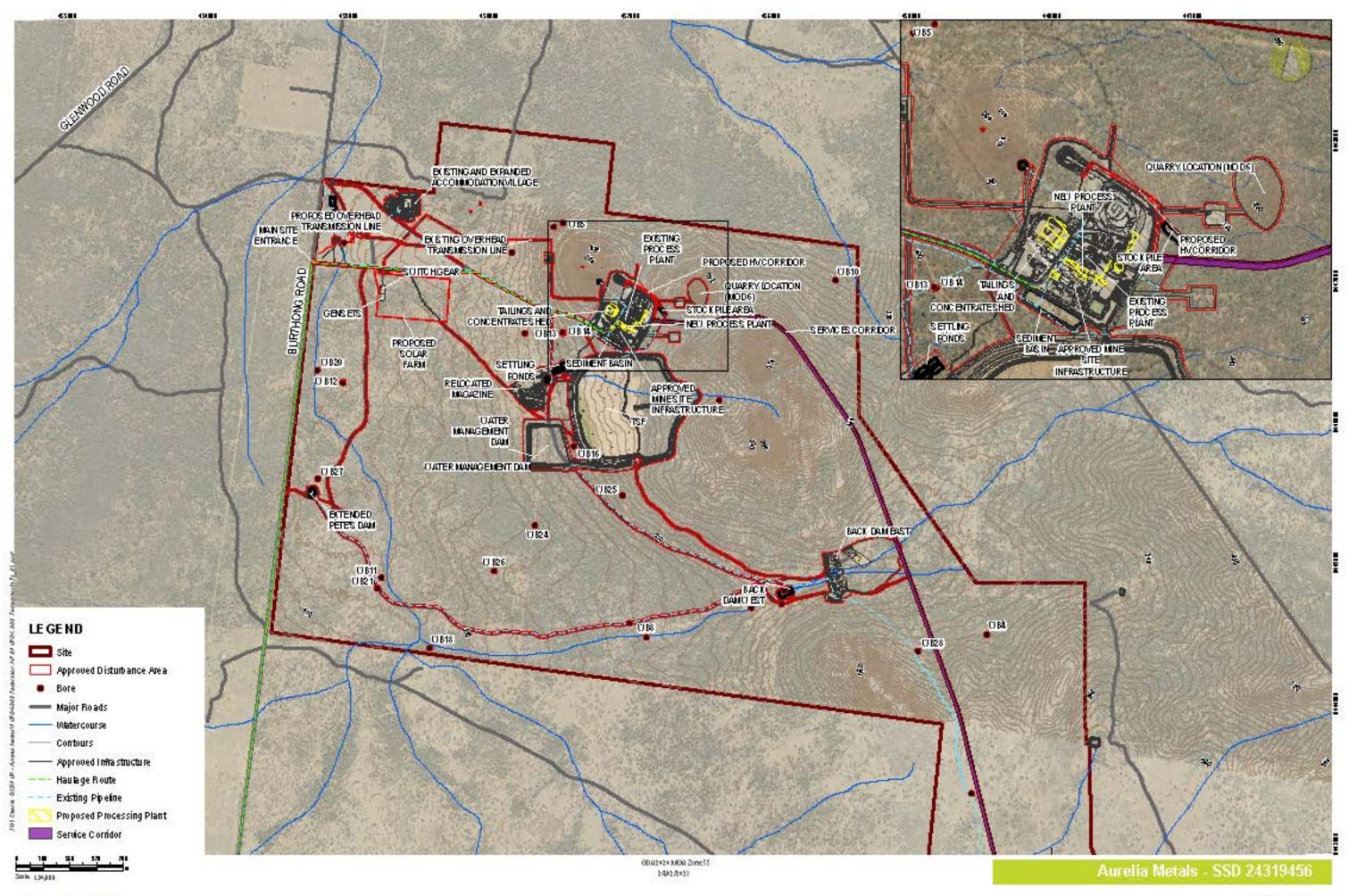
As required by Condition B9 of SSD 24319456, Hera Resources will not commence construction until a copy of the NMP has been provided to the Planning Secretary. Hera Resources will implement the NMP as per the requirements of Condition B10 of SSD 24319456.

This NMP has been reviewed to ensure it satisfies the relevant conditions from the consent following the changes resulting from Modification 2. The Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (Muller Acoustic Consulting, 2024) prepared for the modification report found the Site is compliant with all relevant noise criteria for operations approved under Modification 2 with the current management measures described in this NMP. No additional mitigation measures were recommended for the management of construction, operational, or road traffic noise.

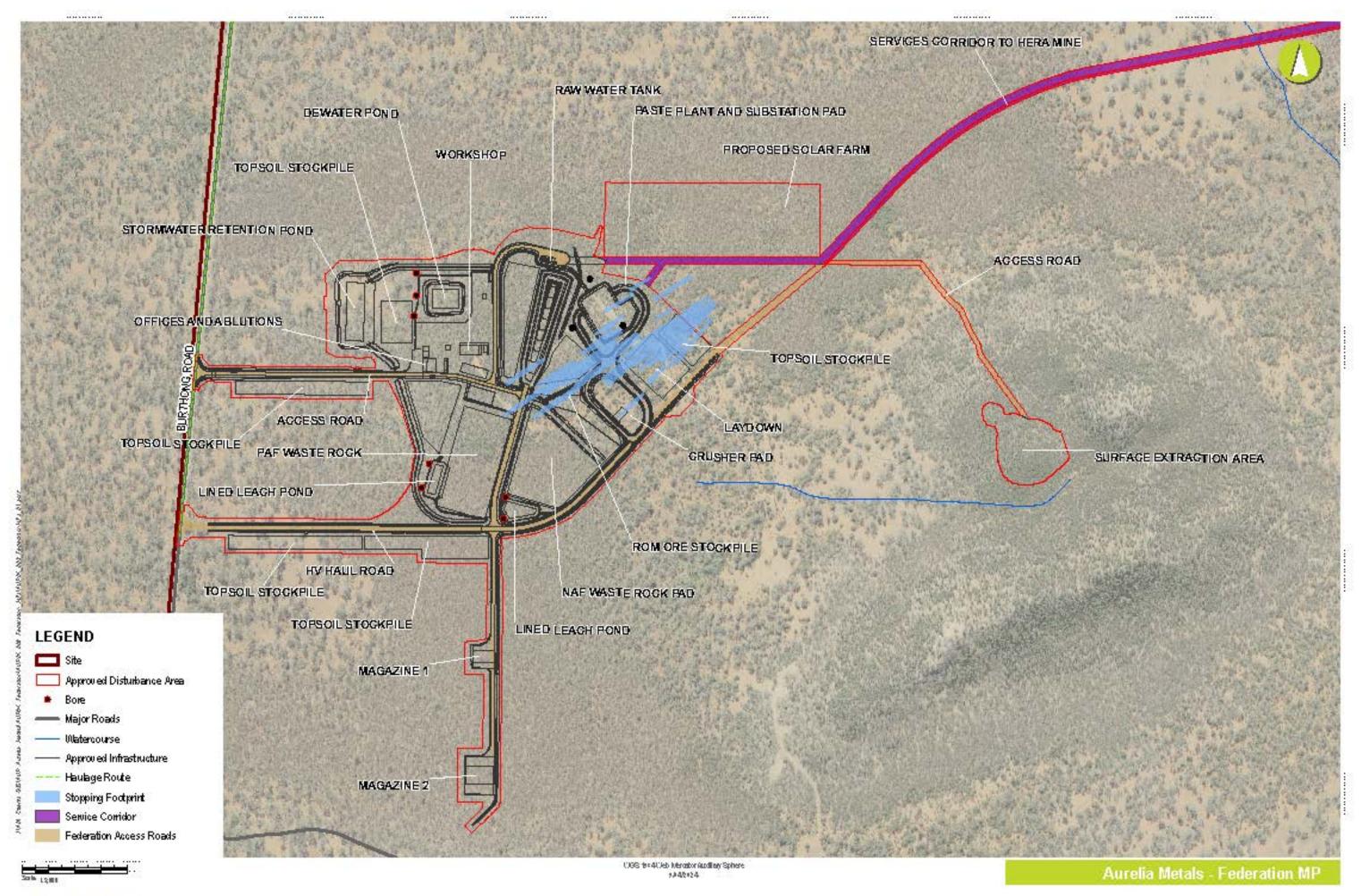








Hera Mine



Federation Mine

2. LEGAL AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

2.1. SSD 24319456

SSD 24319456 stipulates the required criteria that the construction and operational activities of Site must comply with and sets out the core requirements of this NMP. Relevant conditions associated with this approval and where they have been addressed in this document are reproduced in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Relevant SSD 24319456 Conditions

Condition No.	Condition	Where Addressed
NOISE		
Construction no	ise	
B1	The Applicant must minimise the noise generated by any construction, upgrading or decommissioning activities in accordance with the best practice requirements outlined in the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009), or its latest version.	Section 4
Exceptions to C	onstruction Hours	
B2	The following activities may be carried out outside the construction hours in condition A13: (a) Construction that causes LAeq(15minute) noise levels that are: (i) No more than 5 dB above Rating Background Level at any residence in accordance with the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009); and (ii) No more than the Noise Management Levels specified in Table 3 of the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009) at other sensitive land uses; or	Section 5.1
	(b) For the delivery of materials required by the police or other authorities for safety reasons; or	Section 5.1
	(c) Emergency work to avoid loss of life, damage to property and/or environmental harm; or	Section 5.1
	(d) Out of hours works approved under condition B3 of this approval.	Section 5.1
Variation of Cor	struction Hours	
	The hours of construction activities specified in condition A13 of this approval may be varied with the prior written approval of the Planning Secretary. Any request to alter the hours of construction must be: (a) Considered on a case-by-case or activity-specific basis;	Section 5.1.1
	(b) Accompanied by details of the nature and justification for activities to be conducted during the varied construction hours;	Section 5.1.1
В3	(c) Accompanied by written evidence that appropriate consultation with potentially affected sensitive receivers and notification of CSC (and other relevant agencies) has been and will be undertaken;	Section 5.1.1
	(d) Accompanied by evidence that all feasible and reasonable noise mitigation measures have been put in place; and	Section 5.1.1
	(e) Accompanied by a noise impact assessment consistent with the requirements of the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECCW, 2009), or latest version.	Section 5.1.1
Noise Criteria		
B4	The Applicant must ensure that the noise generated by the development does not exceed the criteria in Table 1 at any residence on privatelyowned land. Table 1: Noise criteria	Section 5.2

Condition No.	Condition						Where Addressed
	Location All privately-	dB(A) 40	dB(A) 35	dB(A) 35	dB(A) 52		
B5	Noise generated by the development must be monitored and measured in accordance with the relevant procedures and exemptions (including certain meteorological conditions) of the NSW Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017).						Section 6
В6	agreement w the noise cri	The noise criteria in Table 1 do not apply if the Applicant has an agreement with the owner/s of the relevant residence or land to exceed the noise criteria, and the Applicant has advised the Department in writing of the terms of this agreement.					
Noise Operating	Conditions						
	operational a	easonable ste activities, incl	uding low frec	e noise from co quency noise ar sociated with tl	nd other audib	le	Section 4
B7	developmen	t during noise	-enhancing m	e the noise impeteorological c g data and mo	onditions; and		Section 4.2
				ne relevant con			Section 4.2 Section 6.5
Noise Managem	ent Plan						
	developmen	t. This plan m	ust:	nagement Plan nd experienced			Document Control
	(c) Describe (i) C	the measures		col; and ented to ensur iteria and oper		ns in	Section 5.1.1
B8	(ii) E	Best practice Include a mon Is capable o developmer	itoring progra f evaluating th t against the ise at the nea	ne performance	e of the		Section 4 Section 6 Section 8 Section 9 Section 13
	•	Includes a pexceedance the Departmevent.	rotocol for ide , incident or n nent and relev	entifying any no on-compliance ant stakeholde	and for notify rs of any such		
В9		Plan has bee		truction until t d a copy has b		o the	Section 1.2
B10		<u> </u>	ment the Nois	e Management	Plan.		Section 1.2
Management Pla							
	accordance	with relevant of relevant b	guidelines, an	consent must b d include where baseline data;			Section 3.1
C5	(i) The appi (ii) Any (iii) The to ju	relevant state oval, licence relevant limit specific perfo dge the perfo	or lease condi s or performa rmance indica	nce measures a tors that are p guide the impl	and criteria; ar roposed to be	nd used	Section2 Section 5 Section 5, EPL and Table 3
	(c) Any relev		ents or recom	mendations ide	entified in the		Section 4

Condition No.	Condition	Where Addressed
	(d) A description of the measures to be implemented to comply with the relevant statutory requirements, limits, or performance measures and criteria;	Section 4
	 (e) A program to monitor and report on the: (i) Impacts and environmental performance of the development; and (ii) Effectiveness of the management measures set out pursuant to paragraph (d); 	Section 6
	(f) A contingency plan to manage any unpredicted impacts and their consequences and to ensure that ongoing impacts reduce to levels below relevant impact assessment criteria as quickly as possible;	Section 7
	(g) A program to investigate and implement ways to improve the environmental performance of the development over time;	Section 13
	 (h) A protocol for managing and reporting any: (i) Incident, non-compliance or exceedance of any impact assessment criterion or performance measure; (ii) Complaint; or (iii) Failure to comply with other statutory requirements; 	Section 8 Section 9
	(i) Public sources of information and data to assist stakeholders in understanding environmental impacts of the development; and	Section 9
	(j) A protocol for periodic review of the plan.	Section 13
	Note: The Planning Secretary may waive some of these requirements if they are unnecessary or unwarranted for particular management plans.	

2.2. Environment Protection Licence

Relevant conditions of EPL 20179 to this NMP and where they are addressed in this plan are provided in **Table 3.** These conditions are subject to change pending the approval of EPL 20179 variation.

Table 3: Relevant EPL Conditions

Condition No.	Condition					Where Addressed
NOISE						
L4 Noise Limits						
	presented i below are t	rated at the prein the table below hose described in ared by Muller A Nymagee.	w. Locations R1 in the Noise and	to R4, R18, R19 Vibration Asses	in the table ssment, August	
L4.1	Location	Day LAeq(15minute)	Evening LAeq(15minute)	Night LAeq(15minute)	Night Lmax (1 minute)	Section 5.2 Section 6

Condition No.	Condition	Where Addressed
L4.2	 For the purpose of Condition 4.1 Day is defined as the period from 7am to 6pm Monday to Saturday and 8am to 6pm Sundays and Public Holidays. Evening is defined as the period from 6pm to 10pm. Night is defined as the period from 10pm to 7am Monday to Saturday and 10pm to 8am Sundays and Public Holidays. LAeq(15 minute) is defined as the continuous 'A' weighted sound pressure level-the energy average of the noise measured over a 15-minute period; and LA1(1 minute) is defined as the sound pressure level exceeded for one percent of a 1-minute measurement period. 	Noted
L4.3	The noise limits set out in condition L4.1 apply under all meteorological conditions except for any one of the following: (a) Wind speeds greater than 3 metres/second at 10 metres above ground level; or	Section 5.2
	(b) Stability category G conditions and wind speeds greater than 2 metres/second at 10 metres above ground level.	Section 5.2
L4.4	For the purposes of condition L4.3: (a) The meteorological data to be used for determining meteorological conditions is the data recorded by the on-site meteorological weather station at the Hera project site at Nymagee; and	Section 6.1
	(b)Temperature inversion will be assessed by use of the sigma-theta process as outlined in Appendix E4 of the NSW Industrial Noise Policy (INP).	Section 6.1
L4.5	For the purposes of determining the noise generated at the premises Class 1 or 2 noise monitoring equipment as defined by AS IEC61672.1-2004 and AS IEC61672.2-2004, or other noise monitoring equipment accepted by the EPA in writing, must be used.	Section 6.3
L4.6	To determine compliance: (a) With the LAeq(15 minute) noise limits in condition L4.1, the noise monitoring equipment must be located: • Within 30 metres of a dwelling façade but not closer than 3 metres where any dwelling on the property is situated more than 30 metres from the property boundary that is closest to the premises; • Approximately on the boundary where any dwelling is situated 30 metres or less from the property boundary that is closest to the premises; and • Within approximately 50 metres of the boundary of a National Park or a Nature Reserve. b) With the LA1(1minute) noise limit in ConditionL4.1; the noise monitoring equipment must be located within 1 metre of the dwelling façade; and c) The noise monitoring equipment must be located in a position that is: • At the most affected point at a location where there is no dwelling at the location; or • At the most affected point within an area at a location prescribed	Section 6.3
L4.7	by conditions L4.6(a) or L4.6(b). A breach of this Environment Protection Licence will still occur where noise generated from the premises in excess of the appropriate limit specified in the condition L4.1 is detected: • At a location other than an area prescribed by Conditions L4.6(a) or L4.6(b); and/or • At a point other than the most affected point at a location.	Noted
L4.8	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.	Noted

2.3. Consultation

This management plan does not require consultation. A copy will be provided to DPHI prior to the commencement following review in accordance with Condition C6.

3. BASELINE ENVIRONMENT

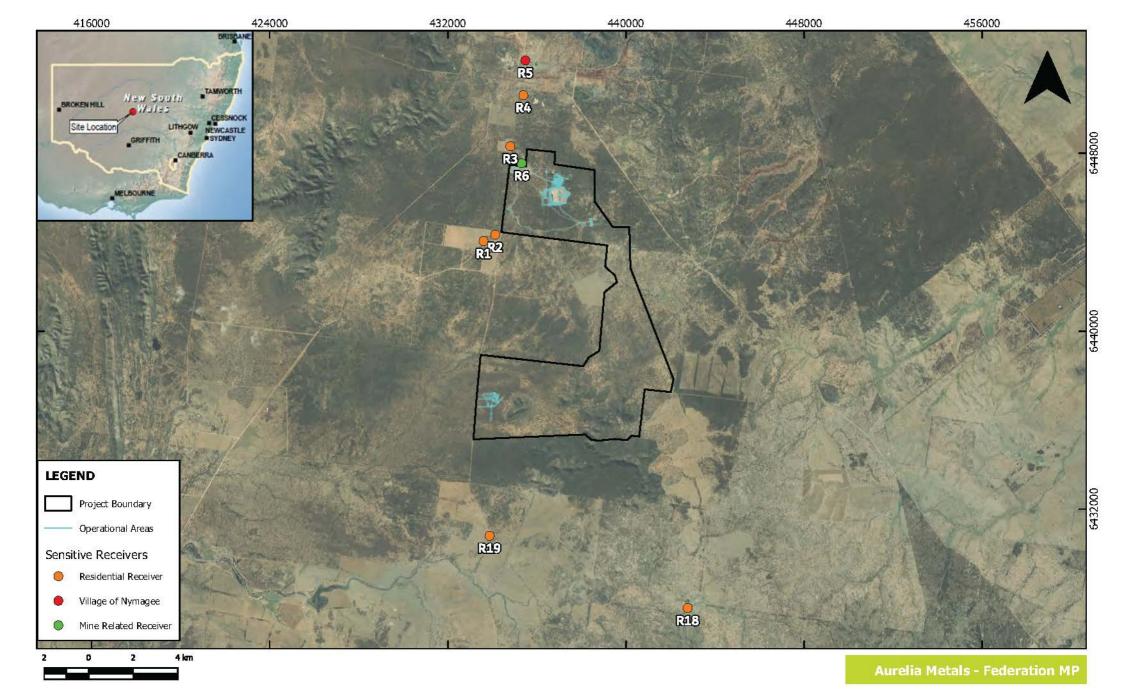
3.1. Background Noise Environment

The Site is located in a sparsely populated rural environment with an absence of significant non-Site related noise sources such as major arterial roads or other industrial developments.

A review of compliance monitoring results for the Hera Mine identified that background noise levels are typically less than 30dBA at the nearest residential receivers, and there have been no recorded non-compliances attributable to mining operations.

3.2. Surrounding Residences

The land ownership and the closest residences surrounding the site are shown in Figure 5.





Surrounding Residences

Figure 5

4. MANAGEMENT MEASURES

4.1. Existing Management Measures

A summary of noise management measures existing at Hera Mine which are to be continued at the Site are outlined in **Table 4.**

Table 4: Existing Noise Measures

Source	Control Procedure	Person Responsible
General Noise Mitigation Measures	 Strictly complying with the approved hours of operation identified in Condition A13 of the consent, except as permitted by A13A. Minimising the noise impacts of the operation during noise enhancing meteorological conditions. Regularly servicing all equipment on Site to ensure sound power levels of each item remains at or below the default / or factory-set values and at, or below, sound power levels adopted in the Noise Impact Assessment or similar. Installing frequency modulated reversing alarms to all mobile equipment. Ensuring that all truck drivers are required to comply with the Driver's Code of Conduct outlining procedures for reducing road traffic noise impacts. Preparing a Noise Management Plan prior to the commencement of mining activities which incorporates the specific details of all noise controls and provide measures to address noise criteria noncompliances and / or complains should they occur. Maintaining a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) to ensure any concerns over noise are addressed. All plant and equipment used for the development, or to monitor the performance of the development, must be maintained in a proper and efficient condition and operated in a proper and efficient manner. Where considered necessary, siting noisy equipment behind structures that act as barriers, or at the greatest distance from the noise-sensitive area. Staff-education programs and regular toolbox talks on the effects of noise and the use of quiet work practices. Maintain roads to ensure a smooth surface to reduce the incidence of impact noise including body rattles. 	General Manager / Environment Team / Maintenance Team
Engineering Controls	 Should repeat complaints suggest that a noise issue may have been caused by a particular piece of equipment, such as truck or loader, an equipment screening check may be completed to determine if the item of plant has noise emissions that exceed the modelled sound power levels as per the EIS. Where noisy items of plant are identified to generate elevated offsite noise levels, alternatives to their use may be considered. Alternatives may include substitution, elimination, management, or mitigation. If necessary, engineering controls will be implemented e.g. installing enclosures or barriers around noise equipment to minimise the output of noise created by equipment. Contractors will be required to provide suitable and well-maintained equipment for use at the Site that complies with original equipment manufacturers (OEM) specifications. Hera Resources will control the type of equipment supplied and will review any relevant documentation relating to the equipment. 	Production Manager
Monitoring of meteorological conditions	 Predicted noise-enhancing weather conditions – should local weather 	Environment Team

Source	Control Procedure	Person Responsible
	minimise the potential for noise impacts and to ensure compliance during these periods.	

4.2. Additional Noise Management Measures

Additional management measures have been introduced to mitigate noise impacts at the Site, these are described in **Table 5**.

Table 5: Introduced Noise Measures

Source	Control Procedure	Person Responsible
Administrative	 Hera Resources will implement feasible and reasonable best management practices to minimise noise impacts. 	Environment Team
General Noise Mitigation Measures	 Vehicles transporting construction materials, ore, concentrate and waste rock to or from the Site will be restricted to the hours of 7am to 7pm in accordance with Condition A13 of the consent, unless otherwise authorised. Ensure the haulage of ore between Federation Mine and Peak Mine is conducted between 7am and 10pm. 	Processing Manager / Environment Team
Reactive Management	 Non-compliances to noise criteria – any monitoring record of noise levels exceeding the criteria provided in Section 6.1 will trigger the response and corrective actions described in Section 7.1. Noise complaint – any complaint received directly or indirectly will trigger the implementation of the response and corrective action measures described in Section 8.2. 	Environment Team
Noise monitoring	 Unattended real-time noise monitoring is used to assist in the identification of noise impacts, in the event of a complaint Attended noise monitoring would be arranged. Attended noise monitoring will be done annually to independently assess Site noise impacts. 	Environment Team
Construction Noise	 Construction activities will generally be undertaken between the hours of 7am and 7pm unless otherwise approved. 	General Manager / Environment Team
Out of Hours Construction Work	 Prior to the commencement of construction works outside of the approved construction hours, assessment of potential construction noise impacts will be undertaken in accordance with the Out of Hours Work Protocol described in Section 5.1.1. Where out of hours construction noise levels are predicted to exceed the Noise Management Levels (NMLs), written approval must be obtained from the Planning Secretary. 	Environment Team

5. NOISE CRITERIA

5.1. Construction Noise Management Levels

In accordance with Condition B2 of SSD 24319456, construction activities undertaken outside of the approved construction hours of 7am to 7pm, as per Condition A13 of SSD 24319456, must meet the following management levels:

- LAeq(15 minute) noise levels no more than 5dB above the Rating Background Level (RBL) at any residence in accordance with the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (ICNG) (DECC, 2009).
- No more than the NMLs specified in Table 3 of the ICNG (DECC, 2009) at other sensitive land uses.

The applicable NMLs for construction activities undertaken outside of the approved construction hours are provided in **Table 6**.

Table 6: Construction NMLs (dB)

Noise Assessment Location	Out of Hours RBL LA90, dB(A)	NML LAeq(15 min) dB(A)
All privately owned residences	30	35

The NMLs do not apply under the following circumstances:

- For the delivery of materials required by the police or other authorities for safety reasons
- Emergency work to avoid the loss of life, damage to property and/or environmental harm, or
- Out of hours works approved under Condition B3 of SSD 24319456.

5.1.1. Out of Hours Work Protocol

In accordance with Condition B3 of SSD 24319456, the hours of construction activities specified in Condition A13 of SSD 24319456 may be varied with the prior written approval of the Planning Secretary. Any request to alter the hours of construction must be:

- Considered on a case-by-case basis or activity-specific basis
- Accompanied by details of the nature and justification for activities to be conducted during the varied construction hours
- Accompanied by written evidence that appropriate consultation with potentially affected sensitive receivers and notification of relevant agencies has been and will be undertaken
- Accompanied by evidence that all feasible and reasonable noise mitigation measures have been put in place
- Accompanied by a noise impact assessment consistent with the requirements of Interim Construction Noise Policy (ICNG) (DECC, 2009), or latest version.

5.2. Operational Noise Criteria

Condition B4 of SSD 24319456 provides the operational noise limits for the Site, reproduced in Table 7.

Table 7: Noise Criteria (dB) from Table 1 of SSD 24319456

Noise Assessment Location	Day LAeq(15 min) dB(A)	Evening LAeq(15 min) dB(A)	Night LAeq(15 min) dB(A)	Night LAmax dB(A)
All privately owned residences	40	35	35	52

Noise generated by the development must be monitored and measured in accordance with the relevant procedures and exemptions (including certain meteorological conditions) of the NPfI (EPA, 2017).

The noise limits provided in **Table 7** apply under standard and noise enhancing meteorological conditions (as defined in the NPfI) determined by monitoring at the relevant weather station. In accordance with Condition L4.3 of EPL 20179 and consistent with SSD 24319456 the noise limits provided in **Table 7** apply under all meteorological conditions except for the following:

- Wind speeds greater than 3m/s at 10m above ground level, or
- stability category G conditions and wind speeds greater than 2m/s at 10m above ground level.

In accordance with Fact Sheet D of the Noise Policy for Industry (NPfl) (EPA, 2017), for 'very noise enhancing meteorological conditions' the applicable noise limit is set at 5dB above those provided in **Table 7**.

In accordance with Condition B6 of SSD 24319456 the noise limits in **Table 7** do not apply if an agreement is in place with the owner/s of the relevant residence of land to exceed the noise criteria, and the Department has been notified in writing of the terms of the agreement. Hera Resources has a current agreement in place with the current landowner of R3, dated 2 September 2020.

6. NOISE MONITORING PROGRAM

Condition B8(c)(iii) of SSD 24319456 requires this NMP to describe the noise monitoring program to evaluate the performance of the development against the criteria.

The noise monitoring program includes a combination of attended (Section 6.3) and unattended real-time (Section 6.5) monitoring for evaluating compliance with the relevant noise criteria detailed within Section 5 of this NMP.

In consideration of the development consent for the Site, amendments to the existing established noise monitoring network have been incorporated into this NMP. To complement the existing established noise monitoring network additional attended and real-time monitoring locations have been incorporated into the ongoing noise monitoring program for the Site.

6.1. Meteorological Monitoring

An Automatic Weather Station (AWS) is required at Site in accordance with Condition B29 which states:

Prior to the commencement of construction and for the life of the development, the Applicant must ensure that there is a suitable meteorological station operating in the vicinity of the site that:

- (a) Complies with the requirements in the Approved Methods for Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in NSW
- (b) Is capable of measuring meteorological conditions in accordance with the NSW Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017), unless a suitable alternative is approved by the Planning Secretary following consultation with the EPA.

Meteorological conditions will be recorded using the AWS located at the Site (refer **Figure 6**). The Site AWS complies with the requirements in the *Approved Methods for Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in New South Wales* (EPA, 2022) and is capable of measuring meteorological conditions as required by the NPfl (EPA, 2017). Temperature inversion will be assessed in accordance with the sigma-theta method in Fact Sheet D of the NPfl (EPA, 2017).

The meteorological data recorded by the Site AWS relevant to the management of noise includes:

- Wind speed, wind direction and sigma-theta at 10m above ground level
- Temperature at 2m and 10m above ground levels
- · Humidity, and
- Rainfall.

Meteorological data will be used to identify conditions that may be noise enhancing and allow the Site to undertake adaptive management as required (see **Section 7.1**).

6.2. Noise Monitoring Standards

Noise monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with the following standards and guidelines:

- Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017);
- Approved methods for measurement and analysis of environmental noise (EPA, 2022);
- Standards Australia AS 1055:2018 (AS 1055) Acoustics Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise: and
- Standards Australia AS/NZS IEC 61672:2019 (AS 61672) Electro Acoustics Sound Level Meters Specifications Monitoring.
- Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009)

6.3. Attended Monitoring

Attended Noise monitoring will be undertaken to determine compliance with the SSD 24319456 and EPL 20179 criteria.

Attended noise monitoring will be undertaken on an annual basis. Attended surveys will be undertaken at each monitoring location during the "day", "evening" and "night" periods, during mining operations.

The location of the attended noise monitoring will be approximately within 30m of the dwelling façade, or at the nearest possible location if access is not granted by the landowner. Noise monitoring locations are presented in **Figure 6** and summarised in **Table 8**.

A current agreement is in place with the landowner of R3, dated 23 December 2023, under which the noise criteria does not apply. Notwithstanding, monitoring will continue to be undertaken at R3 as per the agreement.

Table 8	ς.	Summary	of Noise	Monitoring	Locations
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Noise Monitoring Location	Property ID	Monitoring Type	Address	MGA55 Co Easting, m	oordinates Northing, m
NM1	R1 / R2	Attended	688 Burthong Road	434382	6444403
NM2	R3	Attended / Unattended	224 Burthong Road	434809	6448336
NM3	R4	Attended	39 Burthong Road	435200	6450737
NM4	R18	Attended	2781 Balowra Road	442772	6427557
NM5	R19	Attended	2120 Burthong Road	433736	6430509

The attended noise monitoring will be undertaken by an independent, suitably qualified and experienced noise specialist in accordance with 'Approved methods for measurement and analysis of environmental noise' (EPA, 2022).

All acoustic instrumentation used as part of the attended monitoring program must been designed to comply with the requirements of AS IEC 61672.1-2019, *Electroacoustics - Sound level meters -Specifications*. Operator attended monitoring will be conducted using a Type 1 or Type 2 'integrating-averaging' Sound Level Meter (SLM). Records of routine equipment calibration and testing, in accordance with manufacturer specifications will be maintained by the noise specialist undertaking the monitoring.

All instrumentation shall be programmed to record statistical noise level indices in 15-minute intervals including LAmax, LA1, LA10, LA90, LAmin and LAeq parameters. Noise levels must be measured in one-third octave bands to enable analysis of annoying noise characteristics (i.e. tonal noise and low frequency noise) in accordance with the NPFI. Where annoying noise characteristics are identified an adjustment ("modifying factor") is applied to the measured or predicted noise levels at the receiver before comparison with the noise limits.

The SLM microphone must be placed between 1.2 and 1.5m above the ground level and be at least 3.5m from any reflecting structure other than the ground.

Instrument calibration (all devices) will be checked before and after each measurement survey, with the variation in calibrated levels not exceeding ± 0.5 dB(A). A handheld acoustic calibrator will be used to do these field checks and will comply with the requirements of AS IEC 60942-2004, *Electroacoustics - Sound Calibrators*.

The operator will quantify site noise emissions and determine the LAeq(15min) noise contribution from the operation as well as the overall level of ambient noise. Information to be recorded for all operator attended monitoring will include:

- The operator's name
- Monitoring locations
- Recording intervals (date and time)
- Meteorological conditions (i.e. temperature, humidity, cloud cover and wind speed and direction)
- Statistical noise level descriptors together with notes identifying the dominant noise sources
- Instrument make, model, serial number and calibration details, and
- A brief description of activities at the mine wherever possible.

Any significant mine generated noise sources (i.e. haul trucks, front-end loaders, etc) will be recorded, together with any extraneous noise sources. In addition, the Site will maintain copies of the relevant fixed plant and mobile equipment mining operating shift logs and operating locations for inclusion in the noise monitoring report if required.

If a non-compliance to the noise criteria is recorded, the operator will contact the relevant Site personnel and notify them of the non-compliances, the location, the magnitude of the non-compliances and the source of the emission. The relevant supervisor will then be responsible for ensuring that immediate corrective actions are taken to mitigate the noise non-compliance and prepare a report (in consultation with the Environment Team) as described in **Section 9.3**.

6.4. Supplementary Monitoring

In the event of a noise-related complaint, the Site will investigate the potential source of the noise and may undertake supplementary noise surveys in accordance with the procedures identified in **Section 6.4**. A report will be prepared by a noise specialist following each noise monitoring event.

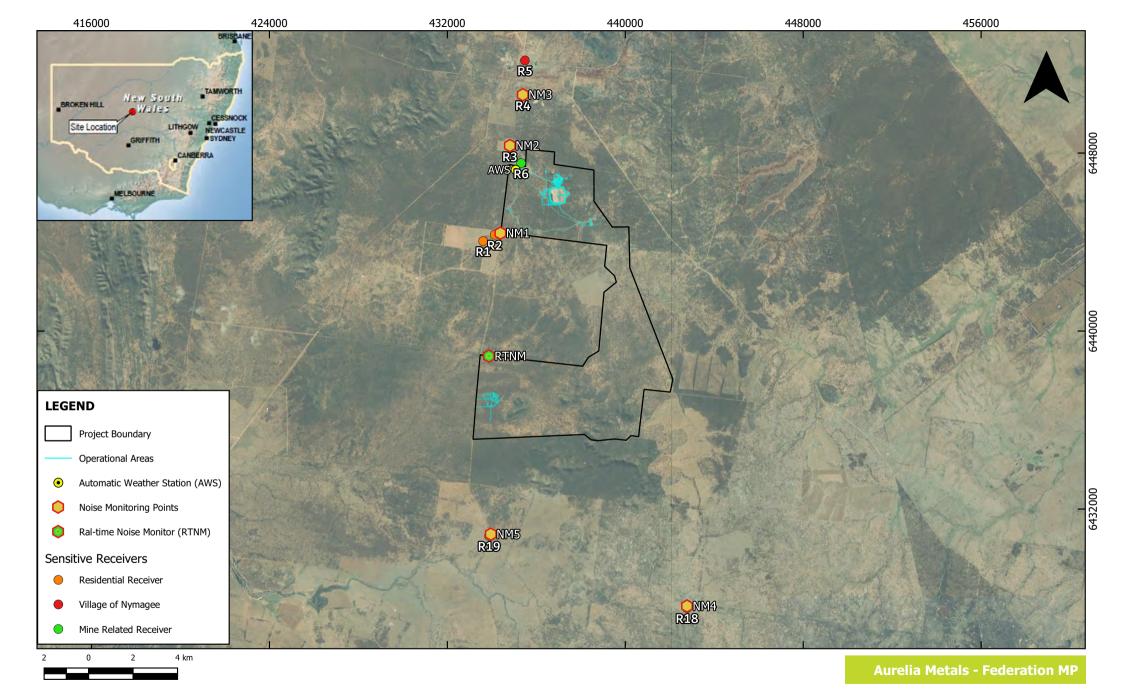
6.5. Unattended Real-Time Noise Monitoring

To supplement the operator attended noise monitoring program, continuous unattended noise monitoring is undertaken via real-time noise monitors (RTNM) to quantify overall ambient noise levels from mining operations and other noise sources in the area.

The location of the RTNM (refer **Figure 6**) has been selected considering the location of the nearest neighbours, local topography and results of mine noise predictions.

The RTNM provides continuous information on the ambient noise environment local to the monitoring site and generates quantitative data and audio recordings that can be used to determine the likely primary source of the noise, and for comparison against the noise criteria.

An analysis of unattended noise monitoring data is undertaken at the end of each calendar month to identify the occurrence of mine-related noise levels exceeding the noise criteria. The analysis considers the measured noise levels, directionality of the noise, contribution of the Site, extraneous sources (e.g. wind and insects) and the meteorological conditions at the time of the measurement. Where verified mine-related noise levels are registered above the noise criteria, a review will be undertaken into noise management measures, including the frequency of analysis of unattended noise monitoring data.





Monitoring Locations

7. CONTINGENCY PLAN

Unpredicted noise impacts may include:

- Very noisy activities occurring during sensitive periods (i.e. night)
- Operation of plant and equipment in poor conditions or generating annoying characteristics (i.e. tonal or low frequency noise), and
- Noise enhancement due to adverse meteorological conditions.

Potential non-compliances are identified from results of either unattended monitoring (i.e. RTNM – refer **Section 6.5**) or attended monitoring and verified to be as a result of the mine operation activity.

Where unpredicted impacts are identified, mitigation measures may be implemented including:

- Modify operations with consideration to noise-enhancing meteorological conditions
- Maintain equipment in good working order
- Move equipment or relocate operations temporarily
- Reduce intensity of operation, for example, reducing number of items of plant or equipment, using quieter equipment etc, and
- Temporarily switch off items of plant or equipment.

Further detail regarding the corrective actions to be undertaken by Hera Resources in the event of unpredicted noise impacts are described in **Section 8.1**.

7.1. Trigger Action Response Plans

The Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) defines the minimum set of corrective actions that Site must implement in response to unpredicted impacts or abnormal conditions (triggers). The trigger levels are determined based on regulatory requirements, previous monitoring and best practice management. The TARP is displayed in **Table 9**.

Table 9: Trigger Action Response Plan

Key Element	Trigger/Response	Condition Green	Condition Orange	Condition Red
	Trigger	Attended and real-time monitoring results within criteria	Attended monitoring or real-time monitoring indicates noise levels approaching noise criteria level (within 2 dB(A))	Attended or real-time monitoring indicates a non-compliance to the noise criteria
Noise monitoring	Response	 Control noise at the source: Plan for activities and choose best for fit plant and equipment. Operate equipment to manufacturers specifications. Check meteorological conditions, including whether noise enhancing conditions are evident. Toolbox talks prior to activities commencing. Adhere to approved hours of operation. Regular consultation with the community about operations and expectations if required. Undertake attended monitoring as required under this NMP. 	 Alert site Environment Team. Control/modify Site activities. Seek to mitigate noise using reasonable and feasible measures. Determine whether meteorological conditions are a contributing factor. Check real-time monitoring outputs. Continue to monitor activity. 	 Assess noise levels and sources: Determine whether meteorological conditions are a factor. Determine reasonable and feasible mitigation measures from available controls based on the outcome of the inspection, including: suspending the activity; or modifying the activity. Report the non-compliance to Site Environment Team. Report the non-compliance in accordance with the procedures identified in Section 9.3 Consider use of real-time noise monitor in vicinity of nearest sensitive receiver if required.

8. INCIDENT AND COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT

8.1. Incident and Non-compliance Protocol

Hera Resources will manage any noise-related incident or non-compliance at Site in accordance with the incident and non-compliance protocols described in the Environmental Management Strategy (EMS). In summary Hera Resources will, at the earliest opportunity:

- Take all reasonable and feasible measures to ensure that the non-compliance ceases and does not recur
- Consider all reasonable and feasible options for remediation (where relevant)
- Implement remediation measures as required, and
- Submit a report within seven days of becoming aware of the non-compliance in accordance with Condition C9 of the development consent.

8.2. Complaints Management

The EMS includes a detailed complaints management procedure. This sub-section records the procedures that would be implemented following the receipt of a noise related complaint.

Complaints can be directed to Hera Resources via phone or email. These details are presented in Table 10.

Table 10: Contact Details for Complaints

Communication Method	Details
Email	complaints@aureliametals.com.au
Telephone	1300 016 240

Following receipt of any noise related complaint, Hera Resources would implement the following procedure:

- 1. The complaint will be reviewed to determine the nature, date and time of the complaint source.
- 2. Any relevant monitoring data for the period will be examined. The complainant will be contacted to discuss and attempt to resolve the complaint.
- 3. In the event that the complaint is resolved via Step 2, no further action would be taken. If not resolved, then supplementary monitoring may be undertaken within one month of the conclusion of Step 2 in accordance with the procedures identified in **Section 6**.
- **4.** Should the review of the monitoring data indicate that no non-compliance of the relevant criteria was identified, this may be communicated to the complainant.
- Should the review of monitoring data indicate that a non-compliance of the relevant criteria, Hera Resources will notify the relevant government agencies. In addition, the complainant may be notified if required.

If multiple complaints are received from the same individual(s) and Hera Resources can demonstrate compliance to the relevant criteria and previous efforts have been made to resolve their issues, then Hera Resources may limit their response to Step 1 and 2.

9. REPORTING

9.1. Annual Reporting

Hera Resources is required to prepare an Annual Review each year in accordance with Condition C10, which states:

By the end of September each year after the date of physical commencement of development under this consent, or other timeframe agreed by the Planning Secretary, a report must be submitted to the Department reviewing the environmental performance of the development, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This review must:

- (a) Describe the development (including any rehabilitation) that was carried out in the previous financial year, and the development that is proposed to be carried out over the current financial year;
- (b) Include a comprehensive review of the monitoring results and complaints records of the development over the previous financial year, including a comparison of these results against the:
 - (i) Relevant statutory requirements, limits or performance measures/criteria;
 - (ii) Requirements of any plan or program required under this consent;
 - (iii) Monitoring results of previous years; and
 - (iv) Relevant predictions in the document/s listed in condition A2(c);
- (c) Identify any non-compliance or incident which occurred in the previous financial year, and describe what actions were (or are being) taken to rectify the non-compliance and avoid reoccurrence;
- (d) Evaluate and report on compliance with the performance measures, criteria and operating conditions of this consent:
- (e) Identify any trends in the monitoring data over the life of the development;
- (f) Identify any discrepancies between the predicted and actual impacts of the development, and analyse the potential cause of any significant discrepancies; and
- (g) Describe what measures will be implemented over the next financial year to improve the environmental performance of the development.

Hera Resources must also submit an Annual Return in accordance with Condition R1.1 of EPL 20179 which states:

- R1.1 The licensee must complete and supply to the EPA an Annual Return in the approved form comprising:
 - 1. A Statement of Compliance;
 - 2. A Monitoring and Complaints Summary;
 - 3. A statement of Compliance Licence Conditions;
 - 4. A Statement of Compliance -Load based Fee;
 - 5. A Statement of Compliance -Requirement to Prepare Pollution Incident Response Management Plan;
 - 6. A Statement of Compliance Requirements to Publish Pollution Monitoring Data; and
 - 7. A Statement of Compliance Environmental Management Systems and Practices.

At the end of each reporting period, the EPA will provide to the licensee a copy of the form that must be completed and returned to the EPA.

The Annual Review will be made available on the Aurelia Metals website.

9.2. Incident Reporting

An incident is defined in the development consent as:

An occurrence or set of circumstances that causes or threatens to cause material harm and which may or may not be or cause a non-compliance.

Hera Resources will report any incidents in accordance with the protocol described in the EMS and Condition C8 and Appendix 6 of SSD 24319456. Condition C8 states:

The Planning Secretary must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website immediately after the Applicant becomes aware of an incident. The notification must identify the development (including the development application number and the name of the development if it has one) and set out the location and nature of the incident. Subsequent notification requirements must be given, and reports submitted in accordance with the requirements set out in Appendix 6.

9.3. Non – Compliance Reporting

A non-compliance is defined in the development consent as:

An occurrence, set of circumstances or development that is a breach of this consent.

Hera Resources will report any incidents in accordance with the protocol described in the EMS and Condition C9 of SSD 24319456. Condition C9 states:

The Planning Secretary must be notified in writing via the Major Projects website within seven days after the Applicant becomes aware of any non-compliance. A non-compliance notification must identify the development and the application number for it, set out the condition of consent that the development is non-compliant with, the way in which it does not comply and the reasons for the non-compliance (if known) and what actions have been, or will be, undertaken to address the non-compliance.

Note: A non-compliance which has been notified as an incident does not need to also be notified as a non-compliance.

9.4. Independent Environmental Audit

Hera Resources will commission and provision for an Independent Environmental Audit in accordance with Conditions C12 and C13 which state:

- C12 Within one year of the date of physical commencement of development under this consent, and every three years after, unless the Planning Secretary directs otherwise, the Applicant must commission and pay the full cost of an Independent Environmental Audit of the development. The audit must:
 - (a) Be prepared in accordance with the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (NSW Government 2020); and
 - (b) Be submitted, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary, within two months of undertaking the independent audit site inspection, unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Secretary.

and;

- C13 In accordance with the specific requirements of the Independent Audit Post Approval Requirements (NSW Government 2020), the Applicant must:
 - (a) Review and respond to each Independent Audit Report prepared under Condition C12 of this consent;
 - (b) Submit a response to the Planning Secretary and any other NSW agency that requests it, together with a timetable for the implementation of the recommendations of the Independent Audit Report;
 - (c) Implement the recommendations to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary; and
 - (d) Make each Independent Audit Report and response to it publicly available no later than 60 days after submission to the Planning Secretary.

10. ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Hera Resources will keep the community and relevant authorities informed of the Site's environmental performance through the implementation of communication measures as required by Condition C15 (and C5(i), see **Table 2**) as stated below.

C15 Within three months of the date of physical commencement of development under this consent, until the completion of all rehabilitation required under this consent, the Applicant must:

- (a) make the following information and documents (as they are obtained, approved or as otherwise stipulated within the conditions of this consent) publicly available on its website:
 - (i) the document/s listed in condition A2(c);
 - (ii) all current statutory approvals for the development;
 - (iii) all approved strategies, plans and programs required under the conditions of this consent;
 - (iv) minutes of CCC meetings;
 - (v) regular reporting on the environmental performance of the development in accordance with the reporting requirements in any plans or programs approved under the conditions of this consent;
 - (vi) a comprehensive summary of the monitoring results of the development, reported in accordance with the specifications in any conditions of this consent, or any approved plans and programs;
 - (vii) a summary of the current phase and progress of the development;
 - (viii) contact details to enquire about the development or to make a complaint;
 - (ix) a complaints register, updated monthly;
 - (x) the Annual Reviews of the development;
 - (xi) audit reports prepared as part of any Independent Environmental Audit of the development and the Applicant's response to the recommendations in any audit report; and
 - (xii) any other matter required by the Planning Secretary; and

keep such information up to date, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary.

Hera Resources will ensure the above information is available to the public through the Aurelia website (www.aureliametals.com.au.

Other methods Hera Resources will use to communicate with the public (providing and receiving information) include, where appropriate:

- Maintenance of a community hotline (phone number 1800 437 264) or email (hera.community@aureliametals.com.au) where community stakeholders can seek information.
- A Site specific page maintained on Aurelia's website providing regular updates.
- Mass email notifications will be dispatched using Hera Resource's contact database where necessary.
- Media releases will be prepared and distributed by Aurelia or Hera Resources for Site announcements.
- Surveys will be used where appropriate to gather feedback and inform Site planning and operations.
- Presentation of information at community/stakeholder forums including the Community Consultative Committee (CCC).

11. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The roles and responsibilities for Hera Resources personnel in relation to this NMP are listed in Table 11.

Table 11: Roles and Responsibilities

Position	Accountable Task		
General Manager	 Ensure the resources are available for the implementation of this NMP. Be accountable for the overall environmental performance of the Mine, including the outcomes of this NMP. Ensure operational hours are adhered to. Ensure appropriate noise mitigation measures are implemented. 		
Environment Team	 Ensure that the requirements of this NMP are effectively implemented. Coordinate all noise monitoring. Ensure the results of all monitoring are recorded. Ensure all internal and external reporting requirements are met. Investigate and respond to complaints associated with noise emissions. Ensure all personnel undertaking works in relation to this management plan are trained and competent. Update the Management Plan as required. 		
Processing Manager Maintenance and Mining	 Undertake/organise, review and analyse all monitoring data. Implement this NMP. Adjusting mine operations as appropriate to minimise noise impacts on Site and neighbouring properties. Modifying operations to ensure compliance with the consent criteria. 		
Contractor All Personnel	 Maintain and repair all mining equipment and plant. Report and/or manage any unnecessary noise emissions. 		

12. TRAINING AND AWARENESS

All personnel shall undergo noise awareness training through the induction and re-induction process. Noise management shall be a component of the competency-based site induction program. The following areas shall be covered in the induction.

- · Awareness of prevailing wind directions and their potential to increase noise emissions downwind.
- Awareness of noise enhancing meteorological conditions.
- Awareness of the nearest noise sensitive receivers.
- Awareness of monitoring of noise emissions at sensitive residential receiver.
- Awareness of the Site's noise mitigation measures.
- Awareness of making timely reports of any excessively noise equipment to allow for prompt and appropriate action to be undertaken for the management of the identified noise source.

The Environment Team shall be responsible for ensuring the appropriate noise management training is included in the induction.

13. REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENT

This NMP will be reviewed and revised as necessary in accordance with the requirements of Condition C6 of SSD 24319456 which states that reviews must be conducted:

Within three months of:

- (a) The submission of an incident report under condition C8;
- (b) The submission of an Annual Review under condition C10;
- (c) The submission of an Independent Environmental Audit under condition C12; or
- (d) The approval of any modification of the conditions of this consent (unless the conditions require otherwise);
- (e) Notification of a change in development phase under condition A5; or
- (f) A direction of the Secretary under condition A3 of Schedule 2.

The suitability of existing strategies, plans and programs required under this consent must be reviewed by the Applicant.

This NMP will also be reviewed, and if necessary revised, in accordance with the requirements of Condition C7 of SSD 24319456 which states:

If necessary, to either improve the environmental performance of the development or cater for a modification or comply with a direction, the strategies, plans and programs required under this consent must be revised, to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. Where revisions are required, the revised document must be submitted to the Planning Secretary for approval within six weeks of the review.

14. REFERENCES

- Approved methods for measurement and analysis of environmental noise (EPA, 2022);
- Muller Acoustic Consulting (MAC), 2022, Amended Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Federation Project;
- Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017);
- Standards Australia AS 1055:2018 (AS 1055) Acoustics Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise; and
- Standards Australia AS/NZS IEC 61672:2019 (AS 61672) Electro Acoustics Sound Level Meters Specifications Monitoring.