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WHC PLN VCM NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN



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1 INTRODUCTION

The Vickery Coal Mine (VCM) is located in the Gunnedah Coal Basin, approximately 25 kilometres (km) north of Gunnedah in New South Wales (NSW) (Figure 1-1). The VCM is operated by Vickery Coal Pty Limited (VCPL) (a wholly owned subsidiary of Whitehaven Coal Limited [WHC]).

Development Consent (SSD-7480) was granted to VCPL on 12 August 2020 by the NSW Independent Planning Commission as a delegate of the NSW Minister for Planning under Section 75J of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979 (EP&A Act). The Development Consent allows for the development of an open cut mine and associated infrastructure with a 25 year mine life, extracting run-of-mine (ROM) coal at up to 10 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa) and processing the coal, as well as coal from WHC's Tarrawonga Mine, at an on-site coal handling and processing plant (CHPP) for off-site transport by rail.

1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This Noise Management Plan (NMP) has been prepared by WHC (with input from experienced and qualified noise experts [Wilkinson Murray]), as per the NMP requirements of Condition B15, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 shown in Table 1.

Table 1 - Specific Noise Management Conditions

			VCM Development Consent (SSD-7480) Schedule 2	Relevant NMP Section
Noise	Manag	ement Pla	an	-
B15.	The Applicant must prepare a Noise Management Plan for the development to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This plan must:		This NMP	
	(a)	be prep	ared by a suitably qualified and experienced person/s;	Section 1.1
	(b)	be prep	ared in consultation with the EPA;	Section 1.2
	(c)		mitted to the Planning Secretary for approval prior to carrying out ction under this consent;	Section 1.2
	(d)	describe	e the measures to be implemented to ensure:	
		, ,	compliance with the noise criteria and operating conditions of this consent;	2 " 2
		(ii)	best practice management is being employed; and	Section 6
		١ /	noise impacts of the development are minimised during noise- enhancing meteorological conditions;	
	(e)	from the	e the measures that would be implemented to ensure the noise impacts e construction and operation of the Kamilaroi Highway overpass and Rail Spur are minimised as far as practicable;	Section 5
	(f)		e the measures to minimise road traffic noise generated by employee ter vehicles on public roads;	Section 6.1
	(g)	describe	e the noise management system in detail;	Section 6
	(h)	describe	e the fleet attenuation and testing program; and	Section 7.4
	(i)	include	a monitoring program that:	-
		1 /	uses a combination of real-time and supplementary attended monitoring to evaluate the performance of the development;	Section 7



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	VCM Development Consent (SSD-7480) Schedule 2	Relevant NMP Section
(ii)	includes a program to calibrate and validate the real-time noise monitoring results with the attended monitoring results over time;	Section 7.1 & 7.2
(iii)	adequately supports the noise management system; and	Section 7.1
(iv)	includes a procedure for undertaking attended noise compliance monitoring; and	Section 7.2.1
(v)	includes a protocol for identifying any noise-related exceedance, incident or non-compliance and for notifying the Department and relevant stakeholders of any such event.	Sections 7, 8 and 10
The Applicant Secretary.	t must implement the Noise Management Plan as approved by the Planning	Section 2

1.1.1 General Management Plan Requirements as Per SSD-7480

This NMP has been prepared in accordance with the standard requirement for management plans listed in Condition E4, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 (see Table 2). Table 2 presents these requirements and indicates where each is addressed within this NMP.

Table 2 - General Management Plan Requirements

		Condition E4, Schedule 2 VCM Development Consent (SSD-7480)	Relevant NMP Section
E4.	Man guid	Entire Document	
	(a)	summary of relevant background or baseline data;	Section 3
	(b)	details of:	-
		(i) the relevant statutory requirements (including any relevant approval, licence or lease conditions);	Section 2
		(ii) any relevant limits or performance measures and criteria; and	Section 4
		(iii) the specific performance indicators that are proposed to be used to judge the performance of, or guide the implementation of, the development or any management measures;	Section 5
	(c)	any relevant commitments or recommendations identified in the document/s listed in condition A2(c);	Sections 4, 5 and 6
	(d) a description of the measures to be implemented to comply with the relevant statutory requirements, limits, or performance measures and criteria;		Sections 4, 5 and 6
	(e)	(e) a program to monitor and report on the:	
		(i) impacts and environmental performance of the development; and	Section 7
		(ii) effectiveness of the management measures set out pursuant to paragraph (d);	
	(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 8
	(g)	a program to investigate and implement ways to improve the environmental performance of the development over time;	Section 9
	(h)	a protocol for managing and reporting any:	-
		 (i) incident, non-compliance or exceedance of any impact assessment criterion or performance measure; 	Sections 10.1 and 10.3
		(ii) complaint; or	Section 10.2
		(iii) failure to comply with other statutory requirements;	Section 10.3



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	Condition E4, Schedule 2 VCM Development Consent (SSD-7480)	Relevant NMP Section
(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 9.2



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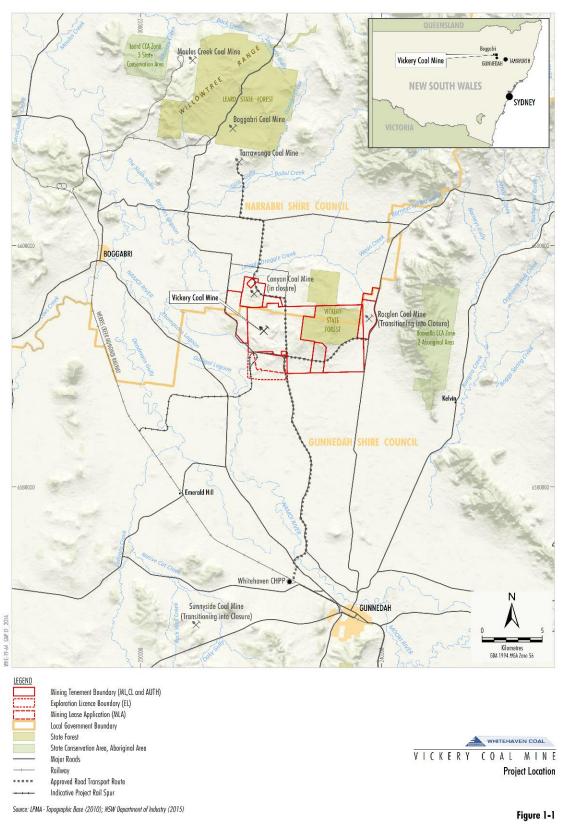


Figure 1-1 Regional Location



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On 11 December 2020, the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment (DPIE) approved the progressive submission of environmental management plans for the VCM in accordance with Condition A25(a), Schedule 2 of SSD-7480. The scope of this NMP is specifically related to the VCM construction and initial mining activities.

The construction and initial mining stage is anticipated to take approximately 30 months based on sequencing of the major construction activities, with the bulk of significant construction earthworks to occur within a 12 - 18 month period, and will include:

- construction of the CHPP;
- construction of the rail spur and loop and train load-out facility;
- construction of the mine industrial area (MIA);
- construction of ROM and product coal stockpile pads;
- initial development of the box cut;
- construction of temporary infrastructure facilities;
- construction of temporary ROM coal stockpiles;
- construction of workshops and offices;
- construction of water supply bores and Namoi River pump station and pipelines;
- construction of dams, sediment dams, up-catchment diversions, channels and other water management infrastructure;
- construction of soil stockpile areas;
- construction of access roads and internal roads;
- closure of a portion of Braymont Road;
- construction of connection to the existing 66 kV powerline and construction of substations and power supply;
- construction of ancillary infrastructure including consumable storage areas, laydown areas, explosives storage facilities;
- ongoing exploration activities; and
- other associated minor infrastructure construction, use of other plant and other activities.

The general arrangement of the VCM is shown on Figures 1-2 and 1-3. The VCM layout at the end of the construction and initial mining stage is shown on Figure 1-4.

Earthworks associated with the development of the above infrastructure will include the excavation of waste rock, gravel and coal material from within the VCM open cut footprint. The earthworks would include the initial development of the box cut, with a small volume of ROM coal extracted for stockpile pad treatment, commissioning activities and transport to the Gunnedah CHPP. Additionally, a small volume of coal from WHC's other mines may be delivered to the VCM for stockpile pad treatment and CHPP commissioning activities.



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1.2 **CONSULTATION**

In accordance with Condition B15(b), Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, this NMP has been prepared in consultation with the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

1.3 STRUCTURE OF THE NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The remainder of this NMP is structured as follows:

Section 2	Outlines the relevant statutory requirements and policies relevant to this NMP.
Section 3	Outlines the existing environment including baseline data, sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the VCM and meteorological conditions.
Section 4	Outlines the relevant noise criteria applicable to the VCM.
Section 5	Describes the noise management performance indicators.
Section 6	Describes the management and control measures to be implemented.
Section 7	Describes the noise monitoring program.
Section 8	Describes the contingency plans to manage unpredicted impacts.
Section 9	Describes the program to review and report on the effectiveness of management measures and improvement of environmental performance.
Section 10	Describes the protocol for the management and reporting of incidents, complaints and non-compliances with statutory requirements.
Section 11	Lists the references cited in this NMP.



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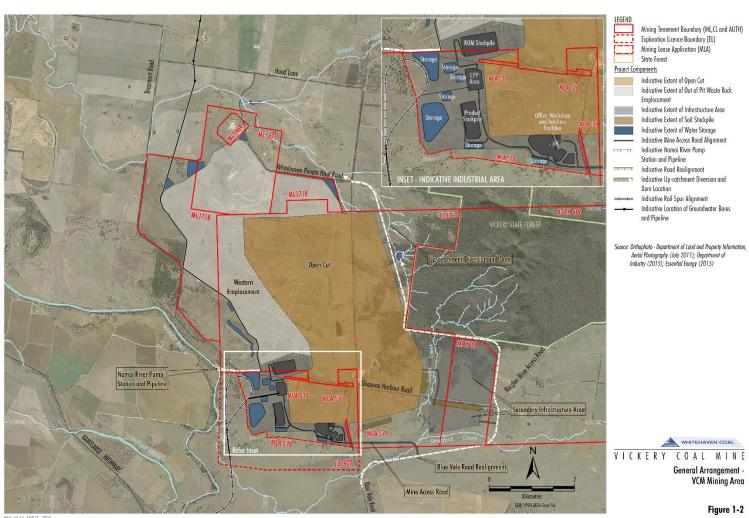


Figure 1-2 Vickery Coal Mine General Arrangement



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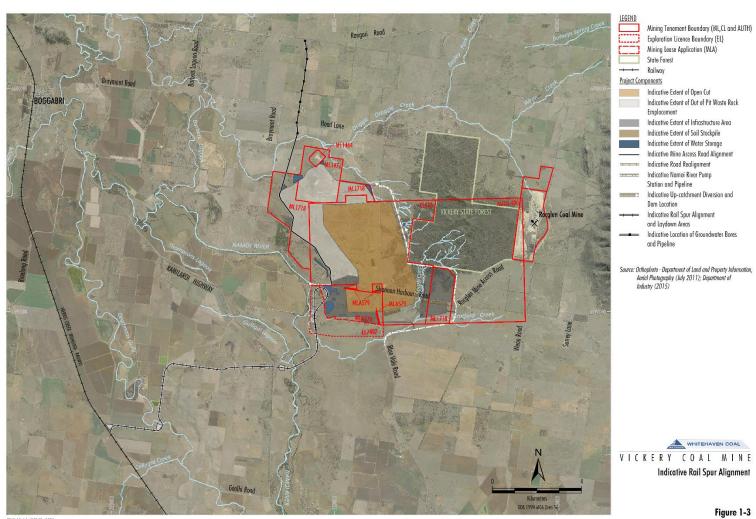


Figure 1-3 Indicative Rail Spur Alignment



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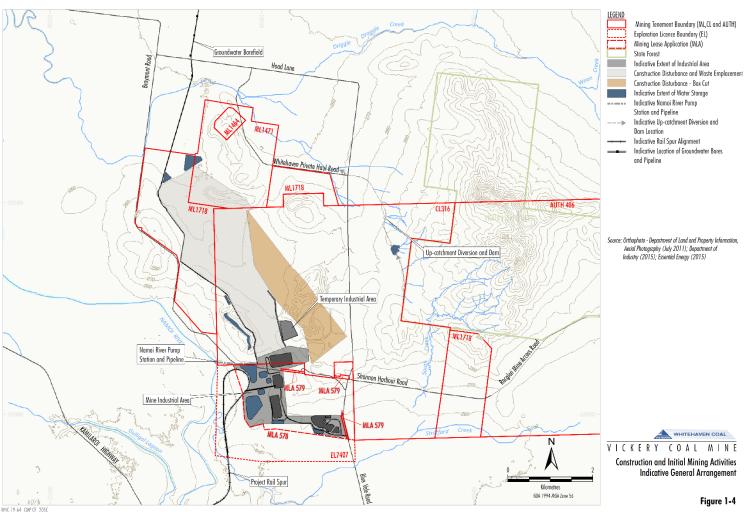


Figure 1-4 Construction and initial mining Activities General Arrangement



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2 RELEVANT STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

WHC's statutory obligations relevant to noise management are contained in:

- the conditions of Development Consent SSD-7480;
- relevant licences and permits; and
- other relevant legislation.

Obligations relevant to this NMP are described below.

2.1 <u>DEVELOPMENT CONSENT SSD-7480</u>

The conditions of SSD-7480 relevant to the content and structure of this NMP are described below. A comprehensive list of all conditions in SSD-7480 relevant to noise is provided in Appendix A.

2.1.1 Noise Management Plan Requirements as Per SSD-7480

Condition B15, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 requires the preparation of a NMP (refer to Table 1).

2.1.2 General Management Plan Requirements as Per SSD-7480

This NMP has been prepared in accordance with the standard requirement for management plans listed in Condition E4, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 (see Table 2).

2.2 <u>LICENSES, PERMITS AND LEASES</u>

In addition to the requirements of SSD-7480, activities associated with the VCM will be undertaken in accordance with the following licences, permits and leases:

- Coal Lease (CL) 316, Mining Leases (ML) 1718, 1471, 1464 and MLA 578.
- Environment Protection Licence (EPL) No. 21283.

2.3 OTHER LEGISLATION

In addition to the statutory obligations described above, the following NSW Acts (and their regulations) may be applicable to the conduct of the VCM:

- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979;
- Mining Act, 1992;
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act, 1997 (PoEO Act);

Other guidelines and standards that were considered during the preparation of this NMP include, but are not limited to:

Rail Infrastructure Noise Guideline (EPA, 2013);



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- Interim Construction Noise Guideline (ICNG) (Department of Environment and Climate Change [DECC], 2009);
- Noise Policy for Industry (NPfI) (EPA, 2017);
- NSW Road Noise Policy (RNP) (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, 2011);
- Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy (VLAMP) (Department of Planning and Environment, 2014).
- Australian Standard (AS) 2659.1-1998 Guide to the use of sound measuring equipment –
 Portable sound level meters;
- AS 1259.2-1990 Acoustics Sound level meters Integrating Averaging;
- AS 2012.1-1990 Acoustics Measurement of airborne noise emitted by earth-moving machinery and agricultural tractors – Stationary test condition Determination of compliance with limits for exterior noise; and
- AS 1055.1-1997 Acoustics Description and measurement of environmental noise General procedures.



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3 EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

3.1 BASELINE DATA

3.1.1 Vickery Coal Project Environmental Impact Statement Rating Background Levels (2011)

A background noise survey was conducted by Wilkinson Murray over a 4-week period between 21 Nov 2011 and 20 Dec 2011 in preparation of the Noise & Blasting Impact Assessment for the Vickery Coal Project EIS (Wilkinson Murray, 2013). The survey was carried out at three locations representative of the residences potentially most impacted by noise from the mine.

The noise monitoring equipment used for these measurements consisted of environmental noise loggers set to A-weighted, fast response, continuously monitoring over 15-minute sampling periods.

To describe background noise levels, the measure currently recommended in the Noise Policy for Industry (NpfI) is the Rating Background Level (RBL). This is based on the L_{A90} as defined in the NPfI.

The logger survey results are presented in Table 3. Monitoring Locations are presented in Figure 3-1.

Table 3 - Summary of Logger Survey Results

Receiver Duralling Name		Manitaring Davied	Measured L _{A90, 15min} (dBA)		
ID	Dwelling Name	Monitoring Period	Day	Evening	Night
127b	Mirrabinda	2 Dec – 19 Dec 2011	26	28	33
1u	BroadWater	21 Nov – 20 Dec 2011	24	30	32
1x	Will-Gai	21 Nov – 19 Dec 2011	31	38	35

Notes:

 $Day: the \ period \ from \ 7.00 \ am \ to \ 6.00 \ pm \ Monday \ to \ Saturday; or \ 8:00 \ am \ to \ 6.00 \ pm \ on \ Sundays \ and \ public \ holidays.$

Evening: the period from $6.00\ pm$ to $10.00\ pm$.

Night: the remaining periods.

3.1.2 Attended Noise Surveys

The EIS included attended background noise survey data at the same location representative of relevant residences.

One 15-minute measurement was conducted at each site for each assessment period on the day the loggers were installed. The attended background noise survey results are presented in Table 4.



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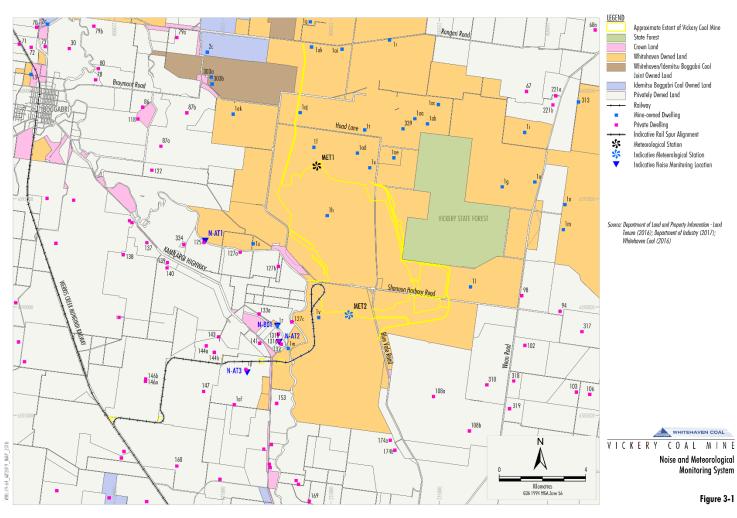


Figure 3-1 Noise and Meteorological Monitoring System



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Table 4 – Summary of Attended Monitoring Results

Receiver ID	Dwelling Name	Measured L _{A90, 15min} (dBA)		
Receiver in	Dwelling Name	Day	Evening	Night
127b	Mirrabinda	26	28	33
1u	BroadWater	24	30	32
1x	Will-Gai	31	38	35

Notes:

Day: the period from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm Monday to Saturday; or 8:00 am to 6.00 pm on Sundays and public holidays.

Evening: the period from 6.00 pm to 10.00 pm.

Night: the remaining periods.

Based on the attended measurements, L_{A90} levels generated by existing industrial noise and traffic noise were observed to be well below 30 dBA. For this reason, it is believed that the measured background levels above 30 dBA are dominated by insects, birds and rustling foliage.

In accordance with the NPfI, RBLs of 35 dBA, 30 dBA, and 30 dBA (i.e. the most conservatively low RBLs possible in accordance with the NPfI) were adopted for the day, evening and night periods, for all monitoring locations.

3.2 METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

WHC operates an on-site meteorological monitoring station at the VCM (Figure 3-1) that records 15 minute averages of wind speed and direction, temperature, rainfall and relative humidity.

Annual wind roses generated for the on-site meteorological monitoring station present wind speed and direction as a percentage of time for 2014 to 2019 (Figure 3-2).

The prevailing wind direction is from the south-east quadrant with annual average wind speeds of approximately 3 metres per second (m/s). Winds from the west north-west are prevalent in spring. Lighter winds from the north-east quadrant are prevalent in winter.

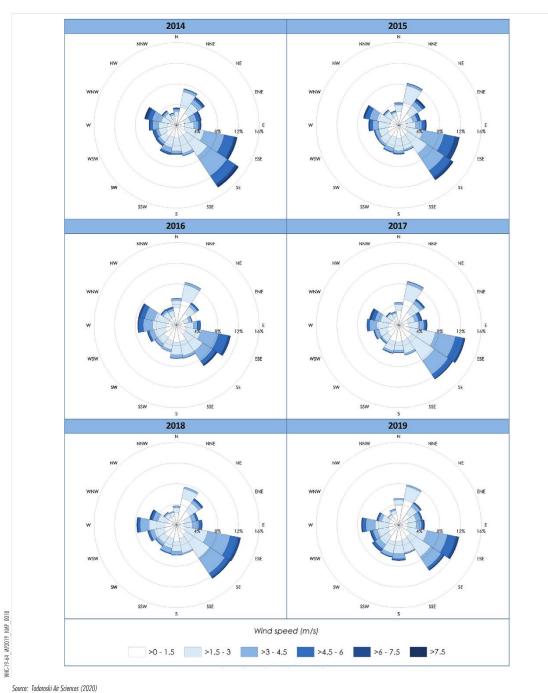
3.3 RELEVANT RECEPTORS

Residences in the vicinity of the VCM are shown on Figure 3-1. These include residences on privately-owned land and tenants on mine-owned land.



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Jource: Touchaski Ali Sciences (2020)

VICKERY COAL MINE
Wind Roses
2014 to 2019
(Canyon Weather Station)

Figure 3-2 Annual Wind Rose Data

Figure 3-2



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4 NOISE CRITERIA

4.1 CONSTRUCTION HOURS

Construction/development activities will generally be undertaken between 7.00 am to 6.00 pm, Monday to Sunday (inclusive) in accordance with Condition C1, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480. Activities undertaken outside of these hours would include:

- activities that cause L_{Aeq(15 minute)} (equivalent continuous noise level over a sample period
 of 15 minutes) noise levels that are no greater than the operational noise impact criteria
 and no more than the 'Noise Affected' noise management level in accordance with the
 ICNG:
- the delivery of plant, equipment and materials of which delivery is required by NSW Police or other authorities, to be undertaken for safety reasons; and
- emergency work to avoid the loss of life, damage to property or to prevent environmental harm; and
- works approved under an Out of Hours Work Protocol.

Where possible, WHC will schedule low intensity construction activities outside standard hours (i.e. Saturday afternoon and Sunday).

An Out of Hours Work Protocol will be prepared in consultation with the EPA, residents who would be affected by the noise generated by these works, and consistent with relevant requirements within the *Interim Construction Noise Guideline*. This will include a summary of activities and relevant management measures. Approval of the Out of Hours Work Protocol will be sought from the Planning Secretary.

4.2 <u>DEVELOPMENT CONSENT</u>

4.2.1 Construction Noise Criteria

Condition C3, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 requires that WHC must maintain construction noise levels such that they would comply with the operational noise impact criteria (Table 5), except where an alternative temporary limit has been approved by the Secretary for specific works or where a negotiated agreement is entered into with the owners of the relevant properties and the Secretary is advised in writing of the terms of this agreement, excluding the noise affected land referred to in Condition D1, Schedule 2.



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Table 5 - Operational Noise Criteria

	Day	Evening	Niç	ght
Residence	L _{Aeq(15 min)}	L _{Aeq(15 min)}	L _{Aeq(15 min)}	L _{AF max}
131a	40	37	37	52
131b, 132	40	36	36	52
All other privately-owned residences	40	35	35	52

Condition B5, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 also requires that WHC must ensure that the activities associated with the construction of the Project Rail Spur and road realignments does not exceed the criteria in Table 6 at any residence on privately-owned land.

Table 6 - Construction Noise Criteria

	Construction Noise Criteria	
Land 	L _{Aeq(15 min)}	
223	49	
224	56	
All privately-owned residences	45	

4.2.2 Other Criteria

Other noise criteria in SSD-7480 applicable to the VCM construction and initial mining period are summarised in Table 7.

Table 7 - Other Noise Criteria

VCM Development Consent (SSD-7480), Schedule 2 Construction Noise Criteria If the Applicant proposes to undertake any construction works outside the hours specified in conditions C1 and C2. then the Applicant must prepare and implement an Out of Hours Work Protocol for these works to the satisfaction of the Planning Secretary. This protocol must be prepared in consultation with the EPA and the residents who would be affected by the noise generated by these works, and be consistent with the requirements of the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (Department of Environment and Climate Change, 2009). The Applicant shall not carry out any out of hours construction works before this protocol has been approved by the Planning Secretary. For areas where construction noise from the Project Rail Spur is predicted to be at or below 40 dB(A) and/ or below the operational noise criteria in Table 1 at sensitive receptors, this is likely to provide sufficient justification to operate outside of recommended standard hours as specified in the ICNG. **Noise Operating Conditions** The Applicant must: take all reasonable steps to minimise all noise from construction, operational and transport activities (including by not dumping on exposed areas of the Western Emplacement Areas at night), including low frequency noise and other audible characteristics, as well as road and rail noise associated with the development, particularly during noise-enhancing meteorological conditions; implement reasonable and feasible noise attenuation measures on all plant and equipment that will operate (b) in noise sensitive areas, including but not limited to the following: (i) partial cladding of the CHPP using acoustic lining; (ii) partial cladding of the ROM bin using acoustic lining; and (iii) covers and/or cladding of conveyors; monitor and record all major equipment use and make this data readily available at the request of the Department or the EPA;



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- (d) operate a comprehensive noise management system that uses a combination of meteorological forecasts, predictive noise modelling and real-time monitoring to guide the day to day planning of mining operations and the implementation of adaptive management both proactive and reactive noise mitigation measures to ensure compliance with the relevant conditions of this consent;
- (e) record the daily adaptive management measures implemented on the site, including how operations were modified or stopped to comply with the noise criteria in Table 1, and make these records readily available at the request of the Department or the EPA;
- ensure that the Project Rail Spur is only accessed by locomotives that are approved to operate on the NSW rail network in accordance with the noise limits in ARTC's EPL (No. 3142);
- (g) use its best endeavours to ensure that the rolling stock supplied by service providers on the Project Rail Spur line is designed, constructed and maintained to minimise noise;
- (h) ensure any new rail rolling stock manufactured specifically for the development is designed, constructed and maintained to minimise noise: and
- carry out regular attended noise monitoring (at least once a month, unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Secretary) to determine whether the development is complying with the relevant conditions of this consent.

ACQUISITION UPON REQUEST

D1. Upon receiving a written request for acquisition from the owner of the privately-owned land listed in Table 13, the Applicant must acquire the land in accordance with the procedures in conditions D11 to D18, inclusive.

Table 13: Land subject to acquisition upon request

Acquisition Basis	Property ID
Noise	127

^a The locations of the land referred to in Table 13 is shown in Appendix 1.

ADDITIONAL MITIGATION UPON REQUEST

- D2. Upon receiving a written request from:
 - (a) the owner of any residence on privately-owned land^a listed in Table 13 (unless the landowner has requested acquisition); or
 - (b) a landowner of the land listed in Table 2; or
 - (c) the owner of any residence where subsequent noise monitoring shows the noise generated by the development is equal to or greater than the relevant voluntary mitigation criteria (except where a negotiated noise agreement is in place);

the Applicant must implement additional mitigation measures at or in the vicinity of the residence in consultation with the landowner. These measures must be consistent with the measures outlined in the Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy for State Significant Mining, Petroleum and Extractive Industry Developments (NSW Government, 2018). They must also be reasonable and feasible, proportionate to the level of predicted impact and directed towards reducing the relevant noise impacts of the development. The Applicant must also be responsible for the reasonable costs of ongoing maintenance of these additional mitigation measures until the cessation of mining operations.

D3. If within three months of receiving this request from the owner, the Applicant and the owner cannot agree on the measures to be implemented, or there is a dispute about the implementation of these measures, then either party may refer the matter to the Planning Secretary for resolution.

NOTIFICATION OF EXCEEDANCES

- D6. As soon as practicable and no longer than 7 days after obtaining monitoring results showing an exceedance of any noise, blasting or air quality criterion in PART B of this consent, the Applicant must provide the details of the exceedance to any affected landowners tenants and the CCC
- D7. For any exceedance of any air quality criterion in PART B, the Applicant must also provide to any affected land owners and/or tenants a copy of the NSW Health fact sheet entitled "Mine Dust and You" (NSW Health, 2017).



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4.3 NSW NOISE POLICY FOR INDUSTRY

Based on the NPfI, a sleep disturbance criterion of L_{AFmax} 52 dBA has been adopted as a guideline level to minimise the potential for sleep disturbance during night-time operations. The sleep disturbance criterion is only applicable to night-time operations (i.e. 10.00 pm to 7.00 am). Please refer to section 7.2.1 regarding attended monitoring in accordance with the relevant procedures and exemptions of the NPfI.



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4.4 ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION LICENCE

The $L_{Aeq(15minute)}$ construction noise limits for day, evening and night-time specified in EPL 21283 are consistent with the construction noise criteria of SSD-7480 (Table 6). The L_{AFmax} construction noise limit for night-time specified in EPL 21283 is consistent with the sleep disturbance criterion guideline level adopted based on the NPfI of 52 dBA (Section 4.3). To determine compliance with the noise limits, EPL 21283 also requires that noise monitoring be conducted in accordance with this NMP.



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5 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The following noise related performance indicators will be used to assess the performance of the VCM.

- effective implementation of the Real-time Response Protocol for noise (Section 6.5);
- results of monitoring indicate construction noise levels associated with the construction of the Project rail spur and road realignments comply with the SSD-7480 construction noise criteria within approved construction hours (Section 4.1), and with the SSD-7480 operational noise criteria outside approved construction hours (i.e. evening and night) at all privately-owned residences without noise agreements;
- results of monitoring indicate construction noise levels associated with the construction and initial mining within the VCM mining area (e.g. construction of the CHPP and rail loop, initial development of the box cut, etc.) comply with the SSD-7480 operational noise criteria;
- results of monitoring indicate construction noise levels comply with the adopted maximum noise level above the operational LAFmax noise criteria (Section 4.2) at night (i.e. LAFmax noise levels at or below 52 dBA) at all privately-owned residences without noise agreements; and
- noise related complaints are minimised and appropriate management actions are implemented following receipt of a complaint (Section 10.2).

The effectiveness of noise management and control measures at the VCM will be continually assessed, and where relevant improved, through real-time and attended noise monitoring.



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6 NOISE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL MEASURES

WHC will implement best management practice to minimise the construction, initial mining and road noise of the VCM to the extent required by the Development Consent (SSD-7480) and EPL 21283.

6.1 PLANNING CONTROLS

The following planning controls will be implemented at the VCM:

- Promoting carpooling to reduce road traffic noise and volumes along the designated employee access routes, and safety education promoting adherence to NSW road rules and sign posted limits during relevant site induction processes.
- Sound power level testing of new operational mobile fleet, and, on an annual basis, a sample of mobile equipment and fixed plant operating under dynamic conditions to check on noise performance.
- An operational noise mitigation measure shall include enclosure/acoustic shrouding of selected ROM coal and screening infrastructure in the Project CHPP that will be implemented after construction is completed as committed in the EIS. Further details will be inserted in the revision of the NMP applicable to mining.
- Procurement of new and/or best available technology plant and consideration of noise controls on a selection of new mobile plant where it is reasonable and feasible to do so. Future iterations of the NMP during the mining phase that addresses ROM coal extraction exceeding 3.5Mt in a financial year will include relevant commitments as per B12 of the Project Approval related to the commissioning of mining trucks and water carts as noise suppressed (or attenuated) units.
- Periodically refining the noise model by using noise monitoring data to assist with model calibration over the life of the mine.
- Predicted meteorological conditions and potential implications for noise levels will be made available to the shift managers at the start of each shift.
- Negotiating with select nearby landowners regarding possible land acquisition or entering into a written negotiated agreement, where it is mutually agreeable to do so. If the applicable terms under D11 are triggered whereby within three months of receiving a written request for acquisition from a landowner with acquisition rights, the relevant conditions in D11 to D18 will be implemented as appropriate.
- Where applicable, condition D5 will be implemented whereby prior to entering into any tenancy agreement for any land owned by the Applicant that is predicted to experience exceedances of the recommended dust and/or noise criteria, the VCM will advise the prospective tenants of the rights they have under the SSD-7480. Developing an awareness and understanding of potential noise issues through site inductions for staff, contractors and visitors.



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- Confirming with ARTC that locomotives and rolling stock are approved to operate on the NSW rail network in accordance with the noise limits in ARTC's EPLs (EPL No. 3142).
- ROM coal from the Tarrawonga Coal Mine is currently hauled along the Approved Road Transport Route to the Whitehaven CHPP for processing and train load-out. Once the VCM CHPP is constructed, this will enable coal to be received from Tarrawonga, thereby reducing the haul distance from the CHPP past existing private landholders.

6.2 CONSTRUCTION CONTROLS

The following noise management measures and controls will be implemented for construction activities at the VCM where it is reasonable and feasible to do so (in accordance with Condition B14[a], Schedule 2 of SSD-7480):

- Optimisation of shielding or temporary cessation of work within an area, or from a particularly noisy piece of equipment, will be considered when adverse conditions are present. Minimisation of construction noise in relation to not dumping on exposed areas of the Western Emplacement Areas at night will be implemented, unless a variance is approved by the Department.
- All plant and machinery used on-site will be maintained regularly to minimise noise generation. Recording all major equipment will occur and data will be made readily available at the request of the Department or the EPA.
- "Broadband reverse alarms" will be used in place of reverse beepers.
- All plant and machinery used on-site, extending to the construction of the rail spur and highway overpass, will be operated in a proper and efficient manner (e.g. at correct speed) to minimise noise generation.
- Lesser noise generating construction activities (e.g. welding and electrical works) will be conducted during the evening/night-time period, where practicable.
- Communication will be provided to local residents on the status and nature of site construction activities via communication methods that may include phone calls, written medium such as newsletters or electronic medium, or visitation to the property as appropriate. Communication will also occur via CCC meetings who represent the community as per condition A23.
- In the event of a complaint from a local resident, WHC will implement the complaints response process (Section 10.2).
- Construction of the Kamilaroi Highway overpass will require scheduled work to occur in defined periods to minimise road closures where practical. This will assist in defining known noise generating sources and monitoring and measuring accordingly (refer Table 10).

Additional controls or management measures may be identified during construction activities (e.g. as an outcome of attended noise monitoring and associated review mechanisms), and



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Strategies 1 to 7 described in the ICNG would be considered when selecting appropriate management measures or controls, including:

- Universal work practices (Strategy 1).
- Consultation and notification (Strategy 2).
- Plant and equipment (Strategy 3).
- On site (Strategy 4).
- Work Scheduling (Strategy 5).
- Transmission path (Strategy 6).
- At residences or other sensitive land uses (Strategy 7).

6.3 AT-RECEIVER NOISE CONTROLS

Proposed management procedures for private receivers where noise emissions are predicted to exceed the Project-specific criteria (in addition to the mitigation and management measures described above) for receivers in these zones will include:

- prompt response to any landowner issues of concern or complaints;
- discussions with relevant landowners to assess concerns;
- refinement of on-site noise mitigation measures and mine operating procedures;
- implementation of feasible and reasonable acoustical mitigation at receivers; and
- entering into negotiated agreements with landowners (including acquisition for receivers identified to be in the Noise Affectation Zone). A list of negotiated agreements will be noted in attended monitoring reports, where applicable.



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6.4 PREDICTIVE MODELLING

WHC will operate two predictive models which will be used in conjunction with the real-time response protocols as part of the comprehensive noise management system at the VCM:

- Predictive meteorological forecasting which will predict the presence of favourable or unfavourable noise conditions based on meteorological data; and
- Predictive noise level forecasting which will predict construction and operational noise levels at nearby receivers based on meteorological conditions, operating locations and equipment information.

Predictive forecasting information will be reviewed at the start of every operational shift to inform the need for any specific management of operations (i.e. to maintain compliance with SSD-7480 noise criteria).

6.5 REAL-TIME RESPONSE PROTOCOLS

A real-time monitoring and forecasting system will be implemented to assist with managing noise levels during upcoming periods of noise-enhancing meteorological conditions. This system will be used for all stages of the mine life to assist with the management of noise. Noise-enhancing meteorological conditions will be identified by a combination of noise and meteorological monitoring and meteorological forecasting, where noise monitoring indicates the trend in actual noise levels at a location and meteorological monitoring and forecasting indicates the likelihood that the current trend would continue or intensify over the ensuing period.

In the event that the real-time monitoring and meteorological forecasting system predicts that noise levels above TARP criteria at some receivers may occur, mine operators will adjust operations to minimise noise impacts in the event that predicted adverse weather conditions are experienced.

The real-time response trigger levels are shown in Table 8. In the event that real-time response trigger level is exceeded, SMS alarms will be directed to key staff/operational personnel. The adequacy of these alarms will be reviewed as needed with any changes reported in the Annual Review and subsequent revisions of this NMP.

Table 8 – Real-time Response Trigger Levels

Monitor	Day	Evening	Night
Monitor A	Low pass noise L _{Aeq,15min} >40 dBA	Low pass noise L _{Aeq,15min} >33 dBA	Low pass noise L _{Aeq,15min} >33 dBA

Note: Low pass noise refers to noise that has been filtered to remove higher frequencies that are generally not attributable to mining related noise sources (e.g. insect noise). This includes monitoring of LAeq(15 minute) noise levels in the 20 to 630 Hz range (LAeq,LF)

In the event that a real-time response trigger is exceeded, WHC will implement the real-time response management actions listed in Table 9 (dependent upon the assessment period of the day and the number of triggers determined). During operations, if noise from the Project



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exceeds specified trigger levels, mine personnel would be alerted and additional mitigation measures will be implemented until noise levels reduce below the trigger levels.

Table 9 – Real-time Response Management Measures

Day or Night	Evening	Management and Control Action	Person Responsible
		SMS alert set to the OCE and Project Manager.	
		 Confirm that the prevailing weather conditions are relevant in accordance with the noise criteria in the Project Approval and EPL. 	
		 Review the audio to determine noise source. Record observations. 	
Between 1 and 3 triggers determined in	First trigger determined in	 If VCM noise is audible and a significant contributor to total noise levels: 	
the current assessment period of the day	the current assessment period of the	 Review predicted weather conditions¹ to identify if noise enhancing conditions are forecast for the rest of the shift. 	Control Room Operator
	day	 Review predicted noise impacts for the shift¹ against observations. 	
		 Monitor changes in noise levels. 	
		 Recording and notification of the environmental department. This includes details of investigation, type of response (if any required), real time monitoring results and actions taken. 	
		SMS alert sent to the OCE and Project Manager.	
		 Review the audio to determine noise source. Record observations. 	
		If VCM noise is audible:	
		 Implement control measures. 	
Fourth trigger determined in	Second trigger	 Monitor changes in noise levels against operational changes. 	
the current assessment period of the	determined in the current	 Review predicted weather conditions¹ to identify if noise enhancing conditions are forecast or likely to occur for the rest of the shift. 	Control Room Operator
day		 Review predicted noise impacts for the shift against actual observations. 	
		 Monitor changes in noise levels. 	
		 Recording and notification of the Environmental Department. This includes details of investigation, type of response (if any required), real time monitoring results and actions taken. 	

Note: 1 Predictive meteorological/noise level forecasting as described in Section 6.4.



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7 NOISE MONITORING PROGRAM

7.1 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

As per the requirements in SSD-7480, the VCM noise monitoring program will comprise both attended (Section 7.2.1) and real-time (Section 7.2.2) noise monitoring. Noise monitoring locations are appropriate for the construction and initial mining phase. Consideration of the locations has been made in relation to prominent wind direction, vectors of nearby receivers and activities proposed. Monitoring locations will be reviewed upon the phasing out of construction activities and will be described in future revisions of the NMP.

The results of attended monitoring will be used to calibrate and validate the real-time noise monitoring system and assess compliance with the relevant criteria set in SSD-7480. Calibration and validation will be an ongoing process that is reported annually.

Meteorological monitoring will also be conducted as part of the real-time proactive noise monitoring system.

7.2 NOISE MONITORING METHODS

7.2.1 Attended Monitoring

Attended noise monitoring will be undertaken to determine compliance with the relevant noise criteria in SSD-7480.

During the construction and initial mining phase, attended noise monitoring will be undertaken at the nominated locations described in Table 10 and shown on Figure 3-1. Locations detailed in the table are representative of the nearest receivers to the VCM construction and initial mining period. Monitoring locations are representative of relevant residences in the vicinity of construction and initial mining activities at the VCM.

Table 10 – Attended Monitoring Locations

Location				_
Site ID General Description		Easting	Northing	Frequency
N-AT1 Monitoring of VCM construction noise (excluding spur construction noise) at assessment location representative of receiver 125*.		Monthly		
N-AT2	N-AT2 Monitoring of VCM construction noise (excluding spur construction noise) at assessment location representative of receiver 131a*.		Monthly	
N-AT3	Monitoring of rail spur construction noise at assessment location representative of receiver 144b (1y). Monitoring will be conducted within Whitehaven owned land with same distance separating assessment location and rail spur as that separating receiver 144b and rail spur (i.e. 500 m).	067	7121	Once within 2 weeks of rail spur construction activities commencing. ¹ and then Monthly.

Note: $^{\rm 1}$ Monitoring should coincide with time when works are closest to N-AT3 location.

^{*} Subject to landholder agreement.



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In addition to monitoring at the three nominated sites in Table 10, a representative number of attended monitoring measurements will be undertaken in proximity to landholder ID 146b during the construction period. Attended monitoring in proximity to landholder 146b will coincide with a time works are closest to the respective residence and subject to landholder agreement. The monitoring time period for the representative number of measurements will be undertaken for a minimum of 90 minutes during the day (i.e. 7.00 am to 6.00 pm).

An independent acoustic consultant shall advise if the monitoring location is inaccessible, and a suitable alternative location if land access is not permitted.

Attended noise monitoring at N-AT1 and N-AT2 will be undertaken for a minimum of:

- 90 minutes during the day (i.e. 7.00 am to 6.00 pm);
- 30 minutes during the evening (i.e. 6.00 pm to 10.00 pm); and
- 60 minutes during the night (i.e. 10.00 pm to 7.00 am).

Attended noise monitoring at N-AT3 will be undertaken for a minimum of 90 minutes during the day (i.e. 7.00 am to 6.00 pm).

The intrusive noise level contribution from VCM activities will be quantified over a 15-minute measurement period ($L_{Aeq,15min}$). For every 15-minute period during night time measurements (N-AT1 and N-AT2), the maximum noise level (L_{Fmax}) generated by VCM activities will also be recorded.

Modifying factors (Fact Sheet C of the NPfI) will be used where applicable. Tonality and low frequency will be assessed by analysis of the measured L_{Aeq} spectrum. Analysis should be conducted on spectra representative of VCM noise impact. The use of smaller sampling periods may be necessary to assess the applicability of modifying factors.

Noise generated by the VCM is to be measured in accordance with the relevant procedures and exemptions (including applicable meteorological conditions) of the NPfI. Monitoring results will be assessed against the NPfI with respect to modifying factors (including for low frequency noise). If monitoring results are found to contain dominant low-frequency content appropriate modifying factors will be applied to measured noise levels.

A summary of all monitoring results will be reported in the Annual Review (Section 9.1). Parameters relevant to noise criteria will be reported.

Measurements will be undertaken by a suitably experienced and capable person.

Acoustic instrumentation used in attended monitoring will comply with AS 1259.2-1990 Acoustics - Sound Level Meters Integrating-Averaging and carry current National Association of Testing Authorities or manufacturer calibration certificates. Instrument calibration will be conducted before and after each survey, with the variation in calibrated levels not to exceed ±0.5 dBA.

Wind direction, wind speed, air temperature and relative humidity will be recorded from the onsite weather station and changes in wind speed/direction (or other changes) will be reported as required.



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Comprehensive field notes will be taken to indicate construction sources (dozer tracks, etc.) and other sources (birds, insects, dogs, passing cars, etc.) and when they occurred during the 15-minute measurement.

7.2.2 Real-time Noise Monitoring

Real-time monitoring and forecasting system will be implemented at mine-owned residence 1z (Monitor A).

Real-time noise monitoring is used as an assessment tool for ongoing performance to assist in the proactive management of noise. This will involve the use of the real-time response protocol (Section 6.5) for ongoing performance assessment and will assist in the implementation of pre-emptive management actions to avoid potential non-compliances.

The approximate real-time monitoring location is shown in Table 11 and Figure 3-1.



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Table 11 – Indicative Real-time Monitoring Location (Monitor A)

Location			_	
Site ID	General Description	Easting	Northing	Frequency
N-B01	Monitoring of VCM construction noise (excluding spur construction noise) to the south-west (1z).	227521	6589134	Continuous

The monitoring location has been selected as being representative of relevant residences in the vicinity of construction and initial mining activities at the VCM. An alternative monitoring location that is representative of 146 will be negotiated for the construction monitoring period dependent on land access. The alternative monitoring location that will be selected will be in consideration to changes in the mine plan and accessibility.

A summary of all monitoring results will be reported in the Annual Review (Section 9.1). In addition, once a baseline has been established, real-time monitoring will be compared to attend monitoring results over time. This will assist in calibrating and validating the data set including determining whether any correction or modification factors need to be incorporated.

The monitor will be set up to record noise levels 24 hours per day, seven days per week. A summary of the previous 24 hours of noise levels will be emailed to mine staff on a daily basis. The recorded audio information can be downloaded so the listener can determine whether the noise source is mine-related. There are numerous other potential noise sources apart from mine noise, such as wind, traffic, machinery, animals and general non-mining anthropogenic activities which may influence noise monitoring results.

The real-time noise monitor will include the following general specifications:

- recording of 15-minute statistical noise data (including L_{A1}, L_{A10}, and L_{A90});
- L_{Aeq(15 minute)} noise levels;
- L_{Aeq(1 minute)} data in 1/3 octave bands;
- L_{Aeq(15 minute)} noise levels in the 20 to 630 Hz range (L_{Aeq.LF}); and
- 15-minute audio files 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Section 4 of the EIS notes that Wilkinson Murray (2018) assessed the predicted Project rail spur construction noise against the recommended noise management levels defined in the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009). Activities associated with the construction of the rail spur will, by nature, progressively move along the proposed rail spur corridor and involve a number of work-fronts operating simultaneously.

Wilkinson Murray (2018) concluded no privately-owned residences are considered 'highly noise affected' or 'noise affected' by construction activities undertaken during recommended standard hours in accordance with the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009).

If significant construction activities for the Project rail spur are conducted outside recommended standard hours (e.g. Saturday afternoon or Sunday during the day), receivers 132 and 144b will be considered 'noise affected' in accordance with the Interim Construction Noise Guideline (DECC, 2009). Work on Saturdays and Sundays between 7.00 am and 6.00



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pm is justified as it would allow continuity of work for the construction crew which will assist in reducing the length of the construction period and therefore the period of impact at receivers.

7.3 METEOROLOGICAL MONITORING

Meteorological data will continue to be collected at the on-site meteorological monitoring station (Figure 3-1). Meteorological monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with the applicable standards specified in EPL 21283 and the Australian Standard AS 3580: 2011 Methods for sampling and analysis of ambient air, Part 14: Meteorological monitoring for ambient air quality monitoring applications.

7.4 ATTENUATED PLANT MONITORING

Noise testing will be undertaken of the attenuated plant on site, with each item of plant tested at no greater than 3 yearly intervals, to ensure that the attenuation remains effective and maintained within in-service tolerances.

Sound power screening methodology will be utilised as per standard industry practice for mobile equipment. The aim of the monitoring is to restore the effectiveness of any attenuation if it is found to be defective. The results of any testing and/or attenuation work will be reported as per procedures in section 9.1.



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8 CONTINGENCY PLAN

As described in Section 4.3, Condition C3, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 requires that WHC must maintain construction and initial mining noise levels such that they would comply with the operational noise impact criteria (Table 5).

Notwithstanding, in the event that a relevant residence is considered to be highly noise affected, as per Table 7, WHC will implement the following Contingency Plan for the VCM:

- The Environmental Superintendent or authorised delegate will report the event as an incident, in accordance with Section 10.3.
- WHC will apply adaptive management (Section 8.1).
- WHC will identify the appropriate course of action with respect to the identified impact(s), in consultation with technical specialists, the Secretary and any other relevant agencies, as necessary. For example, contingency measures, such as, but not limited to, those described in Section 8.2.
- WHC will, in the event there is a dispute over the proposed remedial course of action or if
 the actions conflict with current approvals, submit the appropriate course of action to the
 Secretary for approval.
- WHC will implement the appropriate course of action to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

8.1 ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

In accordance with Condition E3, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, WHC will assess and manage risks to comply with the criteria and/or performance measures outlined in Schedule 2 of SSD-7480.

Where any exceedance of the criteria and/or performance measures occurs, at the earliest opportunity WHC will:

- take all reasonable and feasible steps to ensure that the non-compliance does not recur;
- consider all reasonable and feasible options for remediation (where relevant) and submit a report to the Secretary describing those options and any preferred remediation measures or other courses of action; and
- implement remediation measures as directed by the Secretary, to the satisfaction of the Secretary.



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8.2 POTENTIAL CONTINGENCY MEASURES

Potential contingency measures will be reviewed during revisions of this NMP. Key potential contingency measures to be implemented include the following:

- WHC will notify (in writing) landowners and tenants considered to be 'highly noise affected'
 at the earliest opportunity and provide them with options for modifying construction and
 initial mining activities (e.g. ceasing activities at certain times of the day).
- WHC will investigate and implement further noise management measures and controls, if monitoring results indicate this is required.



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9 REVIEW AND IMPROVEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

9.1 ANNUAL REVIEW

In accordance with Condition E9, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, WHC will review the environmental performance of the VCM for the previous calendar year and report results within the Annual Review to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

In relation to noise management, the Annual Review will (where relevant):

- describe the development that was carried out in the relevant calendar year, and the development that is proposed to be carried out during the following calendar year including items applicable to B12 (a);
- include a comprehensive review of the monitoring results and complaints records of the development over the past year, which includes a comparison of these results against the:
 - relevant statutory requirements, limits or performance measures/criteria;
 - monitoring results of previous years; and
 - relevant predictions in the EIS.
- identify any non-compliance over the last year, and describe what actions were (or are being) taken to ensure compliance;
- identify any trends in the monitoring data over the life of the development;
- identify any discrepancies between the predicted and actual impacts of the development, and analyse the potential cause of any significant discrepancies; and
- describe what measures will be implemented over the next reporting year to improve the environmental performance of the development.

The Annual Review will be made publicly available on the WHC website in accordance with Condition E14. Schedule 2 of SSD-7480.

9.2 NOISE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVISION

In accordance with Condition E5, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, this NMP will be reviewed, and if necessary revised (to the satisfaction of the Secretary), within three months of the submission of:

- an Annual Review (Condition E9, Schedule 2);
- an Independent Environmental Audit (Condition E10, Schedule 2);
- an incident report (Condition E7, Schedule 2); or
- any modification to the conditions of SSD-7480 (unless the conditions require otherwise).



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The reviews will be undertaken to ensure the NMP is updated on a regular basis and to incorporate potential measures to improve the environmental performance of the VCM.

The revision status of this NMP is indicated on the final page of each copy. The approved NMP will be made publicly available on the WHC website, in accordance with Condition E14, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 and implemented as per approval by the Planning Secretary.

9.3 INDEPENDENT ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

In accordance with the relevant terms and sub-conditions within Condition E10, Schedule 2 of the SSD-7480, an Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) of the VCM will be conducted by a suitably qualified, experienced and independent auditor whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary.

The IEA will assess the environmental performance of the VCM and review the adequacy of this NMP. If necessary, appropriate measures or actions to improve the environmental performance of the VCM in regards to management of noise will be recommended. A copy of the IEA report will be submitted to the Planning Secretary, and any other NSW agency that requests it, together with the response to any recommendations contained in the IEA report, and a timetable proposed for the implementation of the recommendations.

Within 1 year of the commencement of development and every 3 years thereafter, WHC shall commission an IEA of the VCM. The IEA and WHC's response to recommendations in the Audit, will be made publicly available on WHC's website as per Condition E14, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480.



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10 REPORTING PROCEDURES

In accordance with Condition E4(h), Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, WHC has developed a protocol for managing and reporting the following:

- incidents;
- complaints;
- non-compliances with statutory requirements; and
- exceedances of the impact assessment criteria and/or performance criteria.

These protocols are described in the VCM's Environmental Management Strategy (EMS).

In accordance with Condition E14, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, WHC will provide regular reporting on the environmental performance of the VCM on the WHC website, and address the relevant requirements in Condition E14 (a).

10.1 INCIDENT REPORTING

An incident is defined 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. A non-compliance is defined as an occurrence, set of circumstances or development that is a breach of the condition of SSD-7480 (refer Section 10.3).

In the event that review of noise monitoring data indicates an incident has occurred, the incident will be reported in accordance with Condition E7, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 and relevant conditions of EPL 21283 and MLA 578. WHC will immediately notify the Department and any other relevant agencies. Noise exceedances will be communicated in accordance with Condition D6 including advising as soon as practicable after obtaining monitoring results showing an exceedance of any noise criterion and the relevant details of the exceedance to any affected landowners tenants and the CCC.

The notification will be provided to the Secretary in writing via compliance@planning.nsw.gov.au and will identify the VCM (including the development application number and name) and set out the location and nature of the incident.

Within seven days of the date of the incident, WHC will provide the Secretary and any other relevant agencies with a report on the incident. The report will include details required within the approval, including:

- describe the date, time and nature of the exceedance/incident;
- identify the cause (or likely cause) of the exceedance/incident;
- describe what action has been taken to date; and
- describe reasonable and feasible options to address the incident and identify the preferred option to address the incident (Section 8.1).



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10.2 COMPLAINTS

WHC will maintain a Community Complaints Line and online contact via the WHC website (www.whitehavencoal.com.au) for the sole purpose of receiving community complaints, or enquiries. The Community Complaints Line number will be available on the website. The community Complaints Line will be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week during construction and operations. WHC will respond to callers on the next business day.

Detailed records of each complaint are kept in WHC's record management systems.

In accordance with Condition E14(ix), Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, a complaints register will be made available on the WHC website during the construction and operational stages of the VCM. The complaints register will include:

- the date and time of the complaint;
- the method by which engagement was made;
- any personal details provided or, if no such details were provided, a note to the effect;
- the nature of the complaint; and
- any actions (if any required) taken by WHC in relation to the complaint.

Investigations into complaints will generally commence within 24 hours of receipt, or as soon as practical. The cause of the complaint will be analysed and actions to attempt to address the complaint taken as soon as reasonably possible. In complex cases where resolution will take more than 48 hours, WHC will commit to updating the community member.

10.3 NON-COMPLIANCE WITH STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

A protocol for managing and reporting non-compliances with statutory requirements has been developed as a component of the VCM's EMS and is described below.

Compliance with all approvals, plans and procedures is the responsibility of all personnel (staff and contractors) employed on or in association with WHC and the VCM.

A VCM representative will undertake required inspections during the construction and initial mining period and initiate directions to address any actions identified, if required, and areas of actual or potential non-compliance.

As described in Section 10.1, WHC will report incidents in accordance with Condition E7, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 and dependent on the incident and potential environmental harm, in accordance with the protocol for industry notification of pollution incidents under Part 5.7 of the PoEO Act.

WHC will notify the Secretary and any other relevant agencies within seven days of becoming aware of a non-compliance in accordance with Condition E8, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480. The notification will set out the condition/s of SSD-7480 which the VCM is non-compliant with, why it is non-compliant and what actions have or will be taken to address.



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A review of compliance with all conditions in SSD-7480 and all other applicable approvals and licences will be included within each Annual Review (Section 9.1). Additionally, in accordance with Condition E10, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480, an IEA (Section 9.3) will be conducted by a suitably qualified, experienced and independent auditor whose appointment has been endorsed by the Secretary to assess whether WHC is complying with the requirements SSD-7480, and any other relevant approval and tenement conditions.

10.4 INDEPENDENT REVIEW

In accordance with Condition D8, Schedule 8 of SSD 7480, if a privately-owned landholder considered the VCM to be exceeding any relevant noise criteria, they may ask the Secretary in writing for an independent review of the impacts of the VCM on their residence and/or land.

The landholder will be notified in writing within 21 days of the request for a review if the Secretary is not satisfied that an independent review is warranted, including reasons for that decision.

Condition D10, Schedule 2 of SSD-7480 requires that, if the Secretary is satisfied that an independent review is warranted, within three months of the decision, or other timeframe as agreed by the Secretary, WHC must:

- commission a suitably qualified, experiences and independent person, whose appointment has been approved by the Secretary, to;
 - consult with the landowner to determine their concerns;
 - conduct monitoring to determine whether the development is complying with the relevant criterion in Schedule 2 of SSD-7480; and
 - if the development is not complying with the relevant criterion, identify measures that could be implemented to ensure compliance with the relevant criterion;
- give the Secretary and landowner a copy of the independent review; and
- comply with any written requests made by the Secretary to implement any findings of the review.



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11 REFERENCES

Department of Environment and Climate Change (2009) New South Wales Interim Construction Noise Guideline.

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (2011) NSW Road Noise Policy.

Department of Planning and Environment (2018) *Voluntary Land Acquisition and Mitigation Policy.*

NSW Environment Protection Authority (2017) Noise Policy for Industry.

Whitehaven Coal Limited (2013) Vickery Coal Project Environmental Impact Statement.

Whitehaven Coal Limited (2018) Vickery Extension Project Environmental Impact Statement.

Wilkinson Murray (2013) Vickery Coal Project.



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Appendix A Noise Related Conditions Development Consent SSD-7480

	VCM Developme	ent Consent	(SSD-7480)				NMP Section
PART B SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS					-		
NOISE					-		
Opera	ational Noise Criteria						-
B1.	The Applicant must ensure that the noise generated by the development does not exceed the criteria in Table 1 at any residence ^a on privately-owned land, excluding the noise-affected land referred to in Table 13. Table 1: Operational noise criteria dB(A)						
		Day	Evening	Nigl	ht		
	Land	L _{Aeq (15 min)}			L _{AF max}		Section 5, 6 and 7
	131a	40	37	37	52		
	131b, 132	40	36	36	52		
	All other privately-owned residences	40	35	35	52		
	^a The land referred to in Table 1 is shown in a	Appendix 1.					
	able 2: Kamilaroi Highway overpass noise crit		Day Aeq(15 min)	Evening & Night	Nigh L _{A1 (1 i}		
	223		44	44	65		
	224		46	46	64		Not applicable to
	284		40	36	55		the construction period of the VCM.
	292		40	36	57		
	Any other residence within 2.5 km of the centreline of the private haul road or Kamilaroi Highway overpass		40	35	55		
	All other privately-owned residences		40	35	45		
	^a The locations referred to in Table 2 are shown in Appendix 1						
ВЗ.	Noise generated by the development must be measured in accordance with the relevant requirements and exemptions (including certain meteorological conditions) of the Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017). The noise enhancing meteorological conditions determined by monitoring at the meteorological station required under condition B38 and as defined in Part D of the Noise Policy for Industry (EPA, 2017) apply to the noise criteria in Table 1 and Table 2.			Section 4.3			
B4.	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 construction						

period of the VCM.

the Department in writing of the terms of this agreement.



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	VCM Develop	ment Consent (SSI)-7480 <u>)</u>		NMP Section
Cons	truction Noise Criteria				-
B5. Between the hours of:					Section 4
	(a) 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday;				
	(b) 8 am to 1 pm Saturday; and				
	(c) At no time on Sundays or Public	Holidays,			
	the Applicant must ensure that the no Project Rail Spur, Kamilaroi Highwa criteria in Table 3 at any residence of Planning Secretary.	y Overpass and roa	d realignments do	es not exceed the	
	Table 3: Project construction nois	se criteria dB(A)			
	Land ^a		Construction Nois	se Criteria	
			L _{Aeq(15min)}		
	223		49		
	224		56		
	All other privately-owned resid	All other privately-owned residences 45			
	^a The locations referred to in Table 3 are	e shown in Appendix 1			
	Protocol for these works to the satis prepared in consultation with the EF generated by these works, and be convoise Guideline (Department of Environt carry out any out of hours constitute Planning Secretary.				
	Note: For areas where construction noise is predicted to be at or below 40 dB(A) and/ or below operational noise criteria at sensitive receptors, this is likely to provide sufficient justification to operate outside of recommended standard hours as specified in the ICNG.				
Proje	ject Rail Spur Operational Noise Criteria				-
B7.					Not applicable to the construction
	Table 4: Project Rail Spur constru	period of the VCM.			
		Day	Evening	Night	
	Land ^a	L _{Aeq(11 hr)}	L _{Aeq(4 hr)}	L _{Aeq(9 hr)}	
	144 ^b	50	45	42	
	All other privately-owned residence	s 50	45	40	
	^a The locations referred to in Table 4 are shown in Appendix 1				
	b Applicable only to the DA approved dwelling on this property once it has been constructed				
B8.	The noise criteria in Table 4 do not apply if the Applicant has an agreement with the owner/s of the relevant residence or land to generate higher noise levels, and the Applicant has advised the Department in writing of the terms of this agreement. Not applicable to the construction period of the VCM.				



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	VCM Development Consent (SSD-7480)							
Public	Road	Traffic Noise	Criteria			-		
B9.	the n	The Applicant, together with the proponent of the Tarrawonga Coal Project, must ensure that the noise generated on public roads by the development and the Tarrawonga Coal Project does not exceed the criteria in Table 5 at any existing residence on privately-owned land. Table 5: Road traffic noise criteria dB(A)						
	Land			Day and Evening L _{Aea (15 hour)}	Night L _{Aeq (9 hour)}			
	ΔII r	orivately-owned	l residences	60	55			
		•						
	No			by the development is to be in the NSW Road Noise Pol	e measured in accordance with licy.			
B10.	relev		to exceed the	criteria, and the Applicant I	s a written agreement with the has advised the Department in	Section 4		
Projec	ct Rail	Spur Noise im	pacts			-		
B11.	The A	Applicant must.						
	(a)	prior to com	mencing the co	onstruction of the Project Ra	il Spur:			
		 (i) commission suitably qualified and experienced person/s to review the design of the Project Rail Spur, and determine whether it incorporates all reasonable and feasible noise mitigation measures, including suitable measures to minimise low frequency noise; and 						
		nois	e mitigation me		ummarising the recommended neasures to be incorporated in	Not applicable to the construction		
	(b)	b) implement the recommendations of this acoustic review in condition (a);						
	(c)	undertake commissioning trials of the Project Rail Spur to determine the optimal train speed to minimise noise impacts; and						
	(d)	(d) following commissioning of the spur line, undertake targeted noise monitoring to determine the accuracy of predicted acoustic impacts and effectiveness of any noise reduction measures, including monitoring during adverse inversion conditions, to be described in the Noise Management Plan required by condition B15,						
	to the							
Atten	uation	ation of Plant				-		
B12.	The A							
	(a)							
		(i) whe and atter	Not applicable to the construction period of the VCM.					
		(ii) whe supp						
	(b)	monitor and website.	d report on th	e implementation of these	requirements annually on its			
B13.	The A	-						
	(a)	a) conduct a testing program of the attenuated plant on site, with each item of plant tested at no greater than 3 yearly intervals, to ensure that the attenuation remains effective and maintained within in-service tolerances;						
	(b)) restore the effectiveness of any attenuation if it is found to be defective; and						
	(c)			ny testing and/or attenuation y implications for meeting co	n work annually on its website, ampliance objectives.	Section 9 & 10		



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	NMP Section						
Noise	Opera	ting Conditions	-				
B14.	4. The Applicant must:						
	(a)	take all reasonable steps to minimise all noise from construction, operational and transport activities (including by not dumping on exposed areas of the Western Emplacement Areas at night), including low frequency noise and other audible characteristics, as well as road and rail noise associated with the development, particularly during noise-enhancing meteorological conditions;	Section 6				
	(b)	implement reasonable and feasible noise attenuation measures on all plant and equipment that will operate in noise sensitive areas, including but not limited to the following:	Section 6				
		(iii) partial cladding of the CHPP using acoustic lining;	Not relevant to the				
		(iv) partial cladding of the ROM bin using acoustic lining; and	construction period of the VCM.				
		(v) covers and/or cladding of conveyors;	01 ti 10 V 01VII				
	(c)	monitor and record all major equipment use and make this data readily available at the request of the Department or the EPA;	Section 7				
	(d)	operate a comprehensive noise management system that uses a combination of meteorological forecasts, predictive noise modelling and real-time monitoring to guide the day to day planning of mining operations and the implementation of adaptive management both proactive and reactive noise mitigation measures to ensure compliance with the relevant conditions of this consent;	Sections 6 and 7.3				
	(e)	record the daily adaptive management measures implemented on the site, including how operations were modified or stopped to comply with the noise criteria in Table 1, and make these records readily available at the request of the Department or the EPA;	Section 8.1				
	(f)	ensure that the Project Rail Spur is only accessed by locomotives that are approved to operate on the NSW rail network in accordance with the noise limits in ARTC's EPL (No. 3142);	Not applicable to the construction period of the VCM				
	(g)	use its best endeavours to ensure that the rolling stock supplied by service providers on the Project Rail Spur line is designed, constructed and maintained to minimise noise;	Section 6.1				
	(h)	ensure any new rail rolling stock manufactured specifically for the development is designed, constructed and maintained to minimise noise; and	Section 6.1				
	(j)	carry out regular attended noise monitoring (at least once a month, unless otherwise agreed by the Planning Secretary) to determine whether the development is complying with the relevant conditions of this consent.	Section 7.2.1				
Noise	Manag	gement Plan	-				
B15.	The A	This NMP					
	(a)	be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced person/s;	Section 1.1				
	(b)	be prepared in consultation with the EPA;	Section 1.2				
	(c)	be submitted to the Planning Secretary for approval prior to carrying out construction under this consent;	Section 1.2				
	(d)	describe the measures to be implemented to ensure:					
		(i) compliance with the noise criteria and operating conditions of this consent;					
		(ii) best practice management is being employed; and	Section 6				
		(iii) noise impacts of the development are minimised during noise-enhancing meteorological conditions;					
	(e)	describe the measures that would be implemented to ensure the noise impacts from the construction and operation of the Kamilaroi Highway overpass and Project Rail Spur are minimised as far as practicable;	Section 5				
	(f)	describe the measures to minimise road traffic noise generated by employee commuter vehicles on public roads;	Section 6				
	(g)	describe the noise management system in detail;	Section 6				



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	(g)	(g) the fleet attenuation and testing program; and						
	(h)	(h) include a monitoring program that:						
		 uses a combination of real-time and supplementary attended monitoring to evaluate the performance of the development; 						
		(ii)		calibrate and validate the real-time noise monitoring I monitoring results over time;	Section 7.1 & 7.2			
		(iii) adequately supports the noise management system;						
		(iv)	includes a procedure for and	r undertaking attended noise compliance monitoring;	Section 7.2.1			
		(v)	includes a protocol for i non-compliance and for any such event.	dentifying any noise-related exceedance, incident or notifying the Department and relevant stakeholders of	Sections 7, 8 and 10			
B16.	The . Secre		t must implement the Noi	se Management Plan as approved by the Planning	Section 2			
PART	D AD	DITION	AL PROCEDURES					
Acqu	isition	Jpon Re	equest		<u>-</u>			
D1.	listea cond	Upon receiving a written request for acquisition from the owner of the privately-owned land listed in Table 13, the Applicant must acquire the land in accordance with the procedures in conditions D11 to D18, inclusive. Table 13: Land subject to acquisition upon request						
		Acquisition Basis Property ID						
		Noise 127						
	a Th	^a The locations of the land referred to in Table 13 is shown in Appendix 1						
Addit			Upon Request		=			
D2.	Upon listed vicini with Signi 2018, impa Appli addit	Section 4.2.3						
D3.	cann imple	additional mitigation measures until the cessation of mining operations. If within three months of receiving this request from the owner, the Applicant and the owner cannot agree on the measures to be implemented, or there is a dispute about the implementation of these measures, then either party may refer the matter to the Planning Secretary for resolution.						
PART				REPORTING AND AUDITING	-			
Mana	gemen	Plan Re	equirements		-			
E4.	Management plans required under this consent must be prepared in accordance with requidelines, and include where relevant:				Entire Document			
	(a)							
	(b)	-						
	. ,	details (i)		quirements (including any relevant approval, licence or	Section 2			
		(ii)	,,	formance measures and criteria; and	Section 4			
		(iii) the specific performance indicators that are proposed to be used to judge the performance of, or guide the implementation of, the development or any management measures;						



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(c)	any relevant commitments or recommendations identified in the document/s listed in condition A2(c);	Section 6
(d)	a description of the measures to be implemented to comply with the relevant statutory requirements, limits, or performance measures and criteria;	Sections 5, 6 and 7
(e)	a program to monitor and report on the:	-
	(i) impacts and environmental performance of the development; and	Section 7
	(ii) effectiveness of the management measures set out pursuant to paragraph (d);	Section 7
(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;	
(g)	a program to investigate and implement ways to improve the environmental performance of the development over time;	Section 8.1
(h)	a protocol for managing and reporting any:	Section 10
	(i) incident, non-compliance or exceedance of any impact assessment criterion or performance measure;	Section 10.1
	(ii) complaint; or	Section 10.2
	(iii) failure to comply with other statutory requirements;	Section 10.3
(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 9.2
Note:	The Planning Secretary may waive some of these requirements if they are unnecessary or unwarranted for particular management plans.	-



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Appendix B Consultation Log

Date	Consultee	Comment
29/10/20	EPA	Include detail on monitoring locations and administrative items.
June-July 2021	DPIE	Include additional detail following feedback from DPIE
August 2021	DPIE	Include additional detail following feedback from DPIE



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Edition	Rev.	Comments	Date
1	0	Initial draft following consultation as first submitted	18/12/20
1	1	Feedback received from DPIE	June & August 2021
1	2	Feedback received from DPIE	October 2021