

Hunter Valley Operations – North Hunter Valley Operations – South

Noise and Vibration – Review

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Principal

Background Noise Assessment Uncertainty

Amendment Noise Impact Assessment – July 2025

- NSW EPA – 8 March 2024
- Relevance of background noise assessment

2 Additional Matters identified in the EPAs review of the Noise Impact Assessment

The following information and/or clarification is required from the proponent.

- a) **Justification that the background noise levels are undertaken at locations that are representative of the 'Noise Assessment Group' (receiver catchment)**

The EPA has concerns that the background noise levels presented in the Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) may not be representative, and this may lead to underestimating noise impacts including potentially fewer residents that may be eligible for consideration under the VLAMP.

- Proponent response – Memo 11 April 2024

NAGs included in the NIA are exposed to multiple existing open cut mining operations in the area. Mining noise is considered a feature of their acoustic environments and is likely received at various times from multiple directions. Monitoring undertaken at residences that are not potentially most affected by HVO noise could result in measuring a higher contribution for a neighbouring mining operation.

Furthermore, the NPfl states that noise from an existing site in operation for 10+ years with demonstrated compliance is not required to be excluded from background monitoring.

Operational Noise levels exceed the policy limits

Amendment Noise Impact Assessment – July 2025

- Environment Protection License

Table 3.3 Current consent and EPL operational noise criteria – LAeq,15minute dB

NAG	Locality	Lowest criterion			Highest criterion		
		Day	Evening	Night	Day	Evening	Night
1A	Shearers Lane and Northern receptors in Maison Dieu area	41	41	41	41	41	41
1B	Knodlers Lane and Southern receptors in Maison Dieu area	40	40	40	40	40	40
1C	North western receptors in Maison Dieu area	39	39	39	39	39	39
2	Long Point	35	35	35	37	37	37
3	Jerrys Plains South / Moses Crossing	35	35	35	40	40	40
4	Redmanvale Road	35	35	35	35	35	35
5A	Jerrys Plains Village	40	40	40	40	40	40
5B	Jerrys Plains West	35	35	35	40	40	40

Project Trigger Noise Levels

Table 4.6 HVO North – Night Period PNTL and worst-case result for all stages

NAG	PNTL	Base scenario ¹		Mitigation scenario result before shutdowns ²	
		LAeq,15 minute dB	% of time above PNTL	LAeq,15 minute dB	% of time above PNTL
1A	36	30	0%	30	0%
1B	36	29	0%	29	0%
1C	36	30	0%	30	0%
2	35	26	0%	26	0%
3	38	44	55%	43	50%
4	35	38	49%	37	40%
5A	37	44	63%	42	59%
5B	35	43	73%	41	71%
Other	35	34	0%	33	0%

Notes: 1. This operational scenario includes plant sound power mitigation, but does not include operational modifications, e.g. utilising alternative haulage routes and operating in more shielded locations.
2. This operational scenario includes plant sound power mitigation and operational modifications.

Operational shutdowns for at least 71% of the time to meet the Project Noise Trigger Level.

Noise, Ground Vibration & Blast Over pressure

- Blasting assessment refers to 2022 .
The blasting report has not been updated to support the Amendment for Hunter Valley Operations – North and South.
- The significance of blasting impacts to the sensitive equine industry.
- Blasting remains a significant risk
- Best Practice Methodology, acknowledging the “Agent of Change”
- Protection of Tranquility
- Summary
 - Noise assessment uncertainty
 - Operational noise levels exceed the project noise limits resulting in shut down periods.
 - Invalid blasting assessment