

# Monthly Noise Monitoring Assessment

Tomingley Gold Mine, July 2017

Prepared for : Tomingley Gold Operations Pty Limited  
August 2017



# Document Information

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Prepared for: Tomingley Gold Operations Pty Limited

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**CONTENTS**

1 INTRODUCTION .....5

2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LICENSE NOISE LIMITS.....7

3 METHODOLOGY .....9

    3.1 LOCALITY .....9

    3.2 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY .....9

4 RESULTS ..... 11

    4.1 ASSESSMENT RESULTS - LOCATION R2..... 11

    4.2 ASSESSMENT RESULTS - LOCATION R3/R29 ..... 12

    4.3 ASSESSMENT RESULTS - LOCATION R4..... 13

    4.4 ASSESSMENT RESULTS - LOCATION R5..... 14

    4.5 ASSESSMENT RESULTS - LOCATION R6..... 15

    4.6 ASSESSMENT RESULTS - LOCATION R23..... 16

5 DISCUSSION ..... 17

    5.1 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS - LOCATION R2 ..... 17

    5.2 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS - LOCATION R3/R29..... 17

    5.3 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS - LOCATION R4 ..... 17

    5.4 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS - LOCATION R5 ..... 17

    5.5 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS - LOCATION R6 ..... 17

    5.6 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS - LOCATION R23 ..... 18

6 COMPARISON OF ATTENDED AND UNATTENDED MONITORING RESULTS ..... 19

7 CONCLUSION ..... 21

APPENDIX A - GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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# 1 Introduction

Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd (MAC) has been commissioned by Tomingley Gold Operations Pty Ltd (TGO) to complete a Noise Monitoring Assessment (NMA) for Tomingley Gold Mine ('the mine').

The NMA involved quantifying the noise contribution of the mine by direct attended measurements to determine mining noise emissions so that effective management and controls can be implemented where required. The monitoring has been conducted in accordance with the TGO Noise Management Plan and in general accordance with Conditions L4.2 to L4.7 of the EPL at six representative receiver locations. It is noted that this assessment has not been completed as part of the annual noise monitoring program to address conditions of the Environmental Protection License (EPL).

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

- NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Industrial Noise Policy (INP), 2000;
- Environment Protection Licence EPL 20169 (EPL); and
- Standards Australia AS 1055.1:1997 - Acoustics - Description and measurement of environmental noise - General Procedures.

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

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## 2 Environmental Protection License Noise Limits

Historic assessments for the mine categorise receivers into Noise Assessment Groups (NAGs). The NAGs were derived based on ambient noise data that controlled receiver RBLs.

**Table 1** reproduces the operational and sleep disturbance noise limits for assessed receivers referenced from the EPL that have been adopted for this NMA and are consistent with historic EPL monitoring locations.

Table 1 Noise Limits, dBA					
Noise Assessment Group	Receivers	Day	Evening	Night	
		LAeq(15-min)	LAeq(15-min)	LAeq(15-min)	LA1(1-min)
NAG A	R1, R6	36	36	36	45
	R5	37	37	37	45
	R4	36	36	36	45
NAG B	R2	36	36	36	45
NAG C	R3	49	40	40	45
	R29	48	40	40	45
NAG D	R23	43	39	39	46

Note: Refer to figure in Appendix 4 of Project Approval 09-0155 for noise locations. However, these criteria do not apply if the Proponent has an agreement with the relevant owner(s) of these residences / land to generate higher noise levels, and the Proponent has advised the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and EPA in writing of the terms of this agreement.

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### 3 Methodology

#### 3.1 Locality

TGO is located to the south of the village of Tomingley, NSW. Receivers in the locality surrounding the mine are primarily rural/residential and for consistency the naming conventions for each receiver has been retained from historic noise assessments. The monitoring locations with respect to the mine are presented in the locality plan shown in **Figure 1**.

#### 3.2 Assessment Methodology

The attended noise survey was conducted in general accordance with the procedures described in Australian Standard AS 1055-1997, "Acoustics - Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise" and the EPL. The measurements were carried out using Svantek Type 1, 971 noise analyser from Tuesday 18 July 2017 to Thursday 20 July 2017. The acoustic instrumentation used carries current NATA calibration and complies with AS IEC 61672.1-2004-Electroacoustics - Sound level meters - Specifications. Calibration of all instrumentation was checked prior to and following measurements. Drift in calibration did not exceed  $\pm 0.5$  dBA.

Both evening and night measurements were of 15 minutes in duration. Where possible, throughout each survey the operator quantified the contribution of each significant noise source. Extraneous noise sources were excluded from the analysis as to calculate the LAeq(15-min) mine noise contribution for comparison against the relevant EPL limit.

Prevailing meteorological conditions for the monitoring period were sourced from TGO's meteorological station and analysed in accordance with Appendix E4 of the INP to determine the stability category present at the time of each measured sample. This was undertaken to determine applicability of results in accordance with Condition L4.3 of the EPL. Results obtained during non-prevailing meteorological conditions (ie F Class Stability in conjunction with a 2m/s drainage wind or a G Class Stability) are considered not applicable against the EPL criteria.

KEY



MINE SITE BOUNDARY



ASSESSED RECEPTORS



BROOKLANDS UNATTENDED



FIGURE 1 - LOCALITY PLAN AND ASSESSMENT LOCATIONS  
TOMINGLEY GOLD MINE EPL NOISE MONITORING

REF: MAC160270

## 4 Results

The monitoring and assessment results are presented in individual tables for each assessment location.

### 4.1 Assessment Results - Location R2

The results of the attended noise measurements at location R2 for Tuesday 18 July 2017 to Thursday 20 July 2017 are summarised in **Table 2** along with prevailing meteorological conditions at the time of each survey, relevant EPL limits and the mining noise contribution.

Table 2 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R2							
Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			EPL Limit	Meteorology <sup>1</sup>	Description and SPL, dBA
		L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>A90</sub>			
18/07/17	21:45	54	39	33	36	Dir: W 0.1 m/s Stab Class: D	Dog bark 34-41 Highway traffic <34 Aircraft 35-48
		TGO Site LAeq(15-min) Contribution				TGO Inaudible	
		62	43	35		36	Dir: W 0.1 m/s Stab Class: E
TGO Site LAeq(15-min) Contribution			TGO Inaudible				
19/07/17	21:43	64	35	31	36	Dir: W 1 m/s Stab Class: D	Mine hum 31-33 Wind in trees 31-36 Highway traffic 31-34
		TGO Site LAeq(15-min) Contribution				32	
		53	32	31		36	Dir: W 0.5 m/s Stab Class: E
TGO Site LAeq(15-min) Contribution			<32				
20/07/17	21:36	56	37	36	36	Dir: NW 0.5 m/s Stab Class: E	Local residential noise <34 Mine hum 34-37 Highway traffic 34-37
		TGO Site LAeq(15-min) Contribution				36	
		54	38	36		36	Dir: NW 0.7 m/s Stab Class: D
TGO Site LAeq(15-min) Contribution			<36				

Note 1: Meteorological data obtained from TGO's on-site weather station or by direct measurement by the operator.



## 4.2 Assessment Results - Location R3/R29

The results of the attended noise measurements at location R3/R29 for Tuesday 18 July 2017 to Thursday 20 July 2017 are summarised in **Table 3** along with prevailing meteorological conditions at the time of each survey, relevant EPL limits and the mining noise contribution. It is noted that both locations R3 and R29 are within 10m of each other and therefore have been assessed simultaneously.

**Table 3 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R3/R29**

Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			EPL Limit	Meteorology <sup>1</sup>	Description and SPL, dBA
		L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>A90</sub>			
18/07/17	21:14	87	67	45	40	Dir: W	Highway traffic 36-82
						0.1 m/s	
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
18/07/17	22:50	85	65	43	40	Dir: W	Highway traffic 34-83 Mine hum <34
						0.1 m/s	
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							<34
19/07/17	20:58	88	67	44	40	Dir: W	Highway traffic 36-83
						0.2 m/s	
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
19/07/17	22:40	86	65	43	40	Dir: W	Highway traffic 30-83
						0.5 m/s	
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
20/07/17	20:09	92	70	47	40	Dir: NW	Highway traffic 37-90 Wind in trees <37
						1.5 m/s	
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
20/07/17	22:40	86	67	46	40	Dir: W	Highway traffic 39-84 Min hum 35-42
						0.5 m/s	
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							38

Note 1: Meteorological data obtained from TGO's on-site weather station or by direct measurement by the operator.

#### 4.3 Assessment Results - Location R4

The results of the attended noise measurements at location R4 for Tuesday 18 July 2017 to Thursday 20 July 2017 are summarised in **Table 4** along with prevailing meteorological conditions at the time of each survey, relevant EPL limits and the mining noise contribution.

Table 4 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R4							
Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			EPL Limit	Meteorology <sup>1</sup>	Description and SPL, dBA
		L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>A90</sub>			
18/07/17	20:23	53	43	40	36	Dir: W 0.1 m/s Stab Class: E	Mine hum 34-43 Highway traffic 38-47
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							38
18/07/17	23:38	52	41	38	36	Dir: W 0.1 m/s Stab Class: D	Highway traffic 34-41 Mine hum 30-34
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							32
19/07/17	20:10	72	43	39	36	Dir: W 2 m/s Stab Class: D	Mine hum 32-35 Highway traffic 36-40 Livestock <36 Wind in trees <36
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							34
19/07/17	23:27	52	42	39	36	Dir: W 2 m/s Stab Class: D	Wind in trees 36-44 Mine hum 31-35 Highway traffic 38-44
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							33
20/07/17	20:30	58	40	38	36	Dir: NW 1 m/s Stab Class: E	Mine hum 31-36 Highway traffic 34-42
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							34
20/07/17	23:23	58	40	38	36	Dir: W 0.2 m/s Stab Class: F	Mine hum 32-34 Highway traffic 34-40
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							33

Note 1: Meteorological data obtained from TGO's on-site weather station or by direct measurement by the operator.

#### 4.4 Assessment Results - Location R5

The results of the attended noise measurements at location R5 for Tuesday 18 July 2017 to Thursday 20 July 2017 are summarised in **Table 5** along with prevailing meteorological conditions at the time of each survey, relevant EPL limits and the mining noise contribution.

Table 5 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R5							
Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			EPL Limit	Meteorology <sup>1</sup>	Description and SPL, dBA
		L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>A90</sub>			
18/07/17	19:55	86	68	33	37	Dir: W 0.1 m/s Stab Class: E	Highway traffic 32-79
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
19/07/17	00:21	84	64	34	37	Dir: W 1.2 m/s Stab Class: F	Highway traffic 33-78
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
19/07/17	19:46	86	64	37	37	Dir: W 1.5 m/s Stab Class: D	Wind in trees 35-37 Highway traffic 34-79
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
19/07/17	23:49	84	62	43	37	Dir: W 2.3 m/s Stab Class: D	Highway traffic 36-80 Wind in trees 36-45
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
20/07/17	19:29	86	67	37	37	Dir: N 0.2 m/s Stab Class: E	Highway traffic 38-81
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
20/07/17	23:44	85	60	17	37	Dir: NW 0.1 m/s Stab Class: F	Highway traffic 32-80
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible

Note 1: Meteorological data obtained from TGO's on-site weather station or by direct measurement by the operator.

#### 4.5 Assessment Results - Location R6

The results of the attended noise measurements at location R6 for Tuesday 18 July 2017 to Thursday 20 July 2017 are summarised in **Table 6** along with prevailing meteorological conditions at the time of each survey, relevant EPL limits and the mining noise contribution.

Table 6 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R6							
Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			EPL Limit	Meteorology <sup>1</sup>	Description and SPL, dBA
		L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>A90</sub>			
18/07/17	20:50	55	33	32	36	Dir: W 0.1 m/s Stab Class: F	Livestock 32-33 Insects <32
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
18/07/17	23:12	46	34	33	36	Dir: W 0.1 m/s Stab Class: D	Livestock <29 Birds 29-35
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
19/07/17	20:36	47	37	36	36	Dir: W 0.2 m/s Stab Class: D	Livestock 37-38 Highway traffic 35-37
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
19/07/17	23:02	54	43	41	36	Dir: W 2 m/s Stab Class: D	Highway traffic 33-36 Wind in trees 36-42
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
20/07/17	20:53	59	38	36	36	Dir: NW 0.1 m/s Stab Class: D	Highway traffic 29-37 Livestock <29
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
20/07/17	23:00	65	38	34	36	Dir: NW 0.5 m/s Stab Class: D	Livestock 31-37 Highway traffic 28-34
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible

Note 1: Meteorological data obtained from TGO's on-site weather station or by direct measurement by the operator.

#### 4.6 Assessment Results - Location R23

The results of the attended noise measurements at location R23 for Tuesday 18 July 2017 to Thursday 20 July 2017 are summarised in **Table 7** along with prevailing meteorological conditions at the time of each survey, relevant EPL limits and the mining noise contribution.

Table 7 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R23							
Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			EPL Limit	Meteorology <sup>1</sup>	Description and SPL, dBA
		L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>A90</sub>			
18/07/17	21:32	56	46	40	39	Dir: W 0.1 m/s Stab Class: D	Mine hum 32-38 Highway traffic 36-50
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							36
18/07/17	22:33	58	46	39	39	Dir: W 0.1 m/s Stab Class: E	Mine hum 32-37 Highway traffic 36-50
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							35
19/07/17	21:19	56	43	39	39	Dir: W 0.5 m/s Stab Class: E	Highway traffic 36-50 Idle trucks 41-50 Mine hum <36
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							<36
19/07/17	22:22	58	42	38	39	Dir: W 0.5 m/s Stab Class: E	Mine hum <38 Highway traffic 38-50
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							<38
20/07/17	21:15	59	47	43	39	Dir: W 0.5 m/s Stab Class: E	Highway traffic 36-53 Mine hum 32-36
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							34
20/07/17	22:23	70	47	42	39	Dir: NW 0.2 m/s Stab Class: E	Mine hum <37 Highway traffic 41-52
TGO Site L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15-min) Contribution							<37

Note 1: Meteorological data obtained from TGO's on-site weather station or by direct measurement by the operator.



## 5 Discussion

### 5.1 Discussion of Results - Location R2

Monitoring between Tuesday 18 July 2017 to Thursday 20 July 2017 identified that TGO noise was audible on four of six occasions. The noise contribution from TGO when audible was measured between 32dBA and 36dBA, and satisfied the relevant noise limits of 36dBA. Extraneous sources such as highway traffic, dog bark, aircraft, wind in trees, local residential noise and livestock were also audible during the survey.

### 5.2 Discussion of Results - Location R3/R29

Monitoring results for R3/R29 were dominated by highway traffic that was constant during July 2017 measurements. TGO emissions were audible on two of six occasions, with the contribution ranging between <34dBA and 38dBA, hence satisfying the relevant noise limit of 40dBA. Highway traffic, wind in trees and mine hum were the dominant sources.

### 5.3 Discussion of Results - Location R4

Mine noise was audible on all six occasions during the July 2017 survey period. Mine hum was measured up to 38dBA on 18 July 2017, and is deemed to satisfy relevant criteria as it is within 2dB taking into accounts relevant INP infield tolerances. Other mining contributions ranged between 32dBA and 34dBA and satisfied the EPL criteria of 36dBA. Non-mining noise sources included highway traffic, livestock and wind in trees.

### 5.4 Discussion of Results - Location R5

Mining noise emissions were inaudible during all six attended noise monitoring surveys at this location for the July 2017 assessment and satisfied the relevant noise limit of 37dBA. Highway traffic was the dominant source at this receiver with the only other non-mining sources including wind in trees.

### 5.5 Discussion of Results - Location R6

TGO mine hum was inaudible on all six occasions throughout the July 2017 monitoring period at R6 and therefore satisfied the relevant EPL noise limit of 36dBA LAeq(15- min). Non-mining sources included livestock, highway traffic, birds, insects and wind in trees.

## 5.6 Discussion of Results - Location R23

Mining noise was audible on all six occasions at this location. TGO emissions ranged between 34dBA and <38dBA, and remained in compliance with the relevant EPL criteria of 39dBA. Non-mining sources included highway traffic and idling trucks.

## 6 Comparison of Attended and Unattended Monitoring Results

To address Condition 6 of Schedule 3 of the Project Approval, a program to calibrate and validate the real-time noise monitoring results with the attended monitoring results has been completed.

The validation compares monthly attended monitoring results against the closest assessed unattended monitoring location. Currently, TGO has one unattended real-time monitoring terminal installed at the Brooklands property (nearest to R23). The **Figure 1** locality plan identifies the location of the monitor with respect to the attended monitoring locations. It is noted that the Brooklands unattended monitor is situated 600m west of the attended noise monitoring location R23, therefore, background (LA90) noise levels are significantly lower due to offset distance to highway traffic.

A comparison of mine noise contributions between attended and unattended noise monitoring demonstrates a general consistency between attended and unattended results. It was noted that highway traffic noise influenced measured noise levels for this assessment. Furthermore, for July 2017, results remained below the relevant criteria for both attended and unattended locations.

**Table 8** provides a summary comparison of results between the attended and unattended noise surveys for R23.

**Table 8 Comparison of Attended and Unattended Results – R23**

Assessment Type	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			Criteria	Mine Noise Contribution	Meteorology <sup>1</sup>	Description and SPL, dBA
		L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>A90</sub>				
		Tuesday 18 July 2017						
Attended	21:32	56	46	40	39	36	Dir: W 0.1 m/s Mine hum 32-38 Highway traffic 36-50	
Unattended	21:30	49	36	33	39	30	Stab Class: D Mine hum Highway traffic Insects	
Attended	22:33	58	46	39	39	35	Dir: W 0.1 m/s Mine hum 32-37 Highway traffic 36-50	
Unattended	22:30	53	38	33	39	32	Stab Class: E Mine hum Highway traffic	
Wednesday 19 July 2017								
Attended	21:19	56	43	39	39	<36	Dir: W 0.5 m/s Highway traffic 36-50 Idle trucks 41-50 Mine hum <36	
Unattended	21:15	52	41	35	39	34	Stab Class: E Wind Highway traffic	
Attended	22:22	58	42	38	39	<38	Dir: W 0.5 m/s Mine hum <38 Highway traffic 38-50	
Unattended	22:15	52	36	36	39	32	Stab Class: E Wind Highway traffic	
Thursday 20 July 2017								
Attended	21:15	59	47	43	39	34	Dir: W 0.5 m/s Highway traffic 36-53 Mine hum 32-36	
Unattended	21:15	57	43	38	39	37	Stab Class: E Highway traffic Mine hum Dog bark	
Attended	22:23	70	47	42	39	<37	Dir: NW 0.2 m/s Mine hum <37 Highway traffic 41-52	
Unattended	22:15	53	42	40	39	37	Stab Class: E Highway traffic Mine hum Dog bark	

Note 1: Meteorological data obtained from TGO's on-site weather station.

## 7 Conclusion

Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd (MAC) has completed a Noise Monitoring Assessment on behalf of Tomingley Gold Operations (TGO). The assessment was completed to provide monthly monitoring data so that TGO can actively quantify and manage site noise emissions.

Attended monitoring for three consecutive dates, from 18 July 2017 to 20 July 2017, has identified that TGO was audible on several occasions although remained below relevant limits during the July 2017 assessment period taking into account relevant INP infield tolerances.

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# Appendix A - Glossary of Terms

Several technical terms have been used in this report and are explained in **Table A1**.

Table A1 Glossary of Terms	
Term	Description
1/3 Octave	Single octave bands divided into three parts
Octave	A division of the frequency range into bands, the upper frequency limit of each band being twice the lower frequency limit.
ABL	Assessment Background Level (ABL) is defined in the INP as a single figure background level for each assessment period (day, evening and night). It is the tenth percentile of the measured L90 statistical noise levels.
Ambient Noise	The noise associated with a given environment. Typically a composite of sounds from many sources located both near and far where no particular sound is dominant.
A Weighting	A standard weighting of the audible frequencies designed to reflect the response of the human ear to noise.
dBA	Noise is measured in units called decibels (dB). There are several scales for describing noise, the most common being the 'A-weighted' scale. This attempts to closely approximate the frequency response of the human ear.
dB(Z)	Decibels Linear or decibels Z-weighted.
Hertz (Hz)	The measure of frequency of sound wave oscillations per second - 1 oscillation per second equals 1 hertz.
LA10	A noise level which is exceeded 10 % of the time. It is approximately equivalent to the average of maximum noise levels.
LA90	Commonly referred to as the background noise, this is the level exceeded 90 % of the time.
LAeq	The summation of noise over a selected period of time. It is the energy average noise from a source, and is the equivalent continuous sound pressure level over a given period.
LAmx	The maximum root mean squared (rms) sound pressure level received at the microphone during a measuring interval.
RBL	The Rating Background Level (RBL) is an overall single figure background level representing each assessment period over the whole monitoring period. The RBL is used to determine the intrusiveness criteria for noise assessment purposes and is the median of the ABL's.
Sound power level (SWL)	This is a measure of the total power radiated by a source. The sound power of a source is a fundamental location of the source and is independent of the surrounding environment. Or a measure of the energy emitted from a source as sound and is given by : $= 10 \cdot \log_{10} (W/W_0)$ Where : W is the sound power in watts and W <sub>0</sub> is the sound reference power at 10-12 watts.

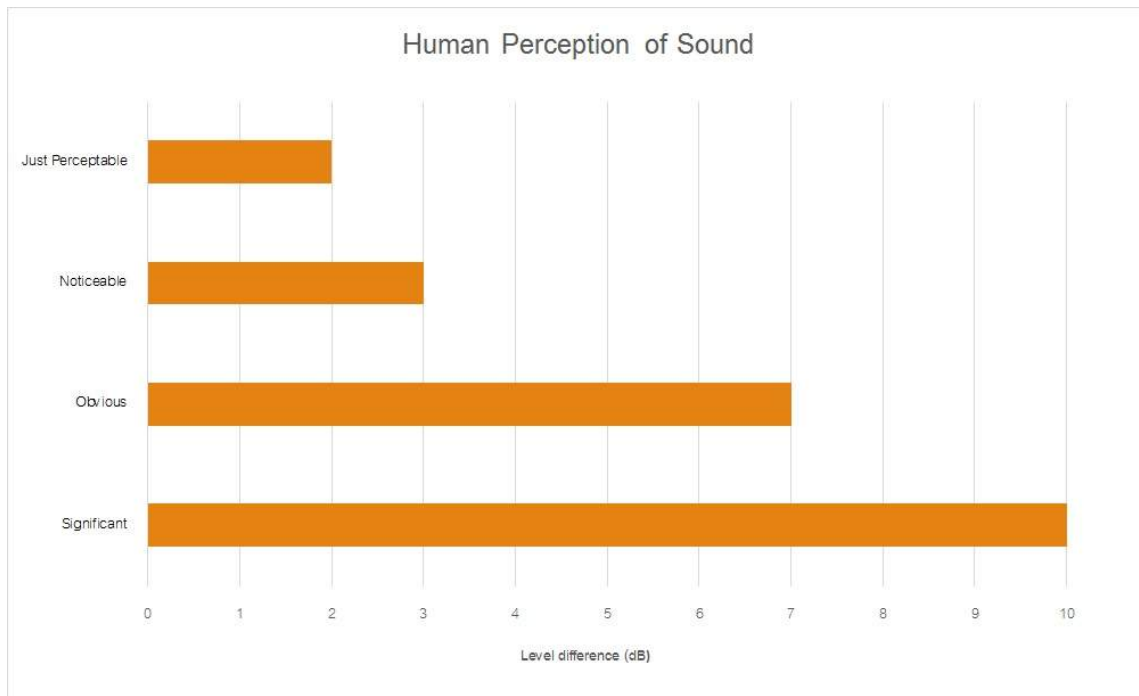


Table A2 provides a list of common noise sources and their typical sound level.

**Table A2 Common Noise Sources and Their Typical Sound Pressure Levels (SPL), dBA**

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

Figure A1 – Human Perception of Sound



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