

Monthly Noise Monitoring Assessment

Tomingley Gold Mine, May 2019



Document Information

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Tomingley Gold Mine, May 2019

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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'), Tomingley, NSW.

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 been completed as part of an internal noise management initiative and does not form 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), Noise Policy for Industry (NPI) 2017;
- Environment Protection Licence EPL 20169 (EPL); and
- Australian Standard AS 1055:2018 - Acoustics - Description and measurement of environmental noise - General Procedures.

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

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2 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(15min)	LAeq(15min)	LAeq(15min)	LA1(1min)
NAG A	R6, R4	36	36	36	45
	R5	37	37	37	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 have 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 1055:2018, "Acoustics - Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise" and the EPL. Measurements were carried out using Svantek Type 1, 971 noise analyser between Tuesday 7 May 2019 and Saturday 11 May 2019. The acoustic instrumentation used carries current NATA calibration and complies with AS/NZS IEC 61672.1-2019-Electroacoustics - Sound level meters - Specifications. Calibration of all instrumentation was checked prior to and following measurements. Drift in calibration did not exceed ± 0.5 dBA.

Both evening and night measurements were of 15 minutes duration. Where possible, throughout each survey the operator quantified the contribution of each significant noise source. Extraneous noise sources were excluded from the analysis to calculate the $L_{Aeq}(15min)$ 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 NPI 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 or 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 the May 2019 survey are summarised in **Table 2** with the relevant EPL limits, the calculated mining noise contribution and prevailing meteorological conditions at the time of each measurement.

Table 2 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R2							
Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			EPL Limit	Meteorology ¹	Description and SPL, dBA
		L _{Amax}	L _{Aeq}	L _{A90}			
07/05/19	21:14	54	27	23	36	WD: W/NW	Wind in trees 23-26
						WS: 2m/s	
						Stab Class: D	
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution						TGO Inaudible	
08/05/19	00:03	50	26	21	36	WD: N/NE	Ambient rural 23-26 Insects 30-39
						WS: 2m/s	
						Stab Class: D	
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution						TGO Inaudible	
Evening measurements on 10/05/19 were unable to be obtained due to unsuitable meteorology conditions as per AS1055:2018.							
Night measurements on 10/05/19 were unable to be obtained due to unsuitable meteorology conditions as per AS1055:2018.							
11/05/19	19:20	49	29	25	36	WD: SE	Ambient rural 22-25 Distant traffic 25 TGO hum <23
						WS: <1m/s	
						Stab Class: E	
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution						22	
11/05/19	22:00	53	31	26	36	WD: E/NE	Ambient rural 28-29 Traffic 25 TGO hum 23
						WS: 2m/s	
						Stab Class: D	
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution						<25	

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

The results of the attended noise measurements at location R3/R29 for the May 2019 survey are summarised in **Table 3** with the relevant EPL limits, the calculated mining noise contribution and prevailing meteorological conditions at the time of each measurement.

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

Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			EPL Limit	Meteorology ¹	Description and SPL, dBA
		L _{Amax}	L _{Aeq}	L _{A90}			
07/05/19	20:35	85	65	47	40	WD: W/NW	Local traffic 48-85
						WS: 1m/s	Distant traffic 42-48
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
07/05/19	23:24	87	69	43	40	WD: N/NE	Local traffic 45-87
						WS: 2m/s	Distant traffic 35-45
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
Evening measurements on 10/05/19 were unable to be obtained due to unsuitable meteorology conditions as per AS1055:2018.							
Night measurements on 10/05/19 were unable to be obtained due to unsuitable meteorology conditions as per AS1055:2018.							
11/05/19	20:04	84	65	38	40	WD: SW	Traffic 45-84
						WS: <1m/s	TGO dozer 33-39
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							37
11/05/19	22:40	81	63	43	40	WD: SW	Traffic 45-81
						WS: 2m/s	TGO plant 40-48
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							44 ²

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

Note 2: It is reiterated that inapplicable meteorological conditions such as rain, winds >3m/s, F Class Drainage and G Class inversions have not been included. F Class inversions in the absence of draining winds are considered applicable.

4.3 Assessment Results - Location R4

The results of the attended noise measurements at location R4 for the May 2019 survey are summarised in **Table 4** with the relevant EPL limits, the calculated mining noise contribution and prevailing meteorological conditions at the time of each measurement.

Table 4 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R4

Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			EPL Limit	Meteorology ¹	Description and SPL, dBA
		L _{Amax}	L _{Aeq}	L _{A90}			
07/05/19	19:48	49	34	23	36	WD: W/NW	Distant traffic 40-49
						WS: <1m/s	Insects 30-32
							Ambient rural 22-26
							TGO hum 30
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							25
07/05/19	22:26	82	58	34	36	WD: N/NE	Distant traffic 35-41
						WS: 1m/s	Survey vehicle 82
							TGO hum 32-35
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							30
Evening measurements on 10/05/19 were unable to be obtained due to unsuitable meteorology conditions as per AS1055:2018.							
Night measurements on 10/05/19 were unable to be obtained due to unsuitable meteorology conditions as per AS1055:2018.							
11/05/19	20:32	65	33	23	36	WD: SW	Distant traffic <30
						WS: <1m/s	
							TGO Inaudible
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
11/05/19	23:29	57	31	17	36	WD: SW	Distant traffic 22-26
						WS: <1m/s	
							TGO Inaudible
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible

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 the May 2019 survey are summarised in **Table 5** with the relevant EPL limits, the calculated mining noise contribution and prevailing meteorological conditions at the time of each measurement.

Table 5 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R5

Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			EPL Limit	Meteorology ¹	Description and SPL, dBA
		L _{Amax}	L _{Aeq}	L _{A90}			
07/05/19	19:25	85	66	28	37	WD: W/NW	Agriculture 33-40
						WS: <1m/s	Insects 24-33
						Stab Class: D	Distant traffic 33-40 Local traffic 40-83
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
07/05/19	22:03	85	63	28	37	WD: N/NE	Local traffic 40-82
						WS: 1m/s	Distant traffic 33-40
						Stab Class: D	TGO hum 27-29
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							25
Evening measurements on 10/05/19 were unable to be obtained due to unsuitable meteorology conditions as per AS1055:2018.							
Night measurements on 10/05/19 were unable to be obtained due to unsuitable meteorology conditions as per AS1055:2018.							
11/05/19	20:55	82	65	19	37	WD: S/SW	Traffic 30-82
						WS: <1m/s	
						Stab Class: D	
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
11/05/19	23:51	84	64	24	37	WD: S/SW	Traffic 30-84
						WS: <1m/s	
						Stab Class: D	
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) 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 the May 2019 survey are summarised in **Table 6** with the relevant EPL limits, the calculated mining noise contribution and prevailing meteorological conditions at the time of each measurement.

Table 6 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R6

Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			EPL Limit	Meteorology ¹	Description and SPL, dBA
		L _{Amax}	L _{Aeq}	L _{A90}			
07/05/19	20:14	68	34	29	36	WD: W/NW	Insects 32
						WS: <1m/s	TGO hum 32-34
						Stab Class: D	
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							30
07/05/19	22:50	46	36	32	36	WD: N/NE	Wind in trees 32-34
						WS: 2m/s	TGO hum 31-33
						Stab Class: D	
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							30
Evening measurements on 10/05/19 were unable to be obtained due to unsuitable meteorology conditions as per AS1055:2018.							
Night measurements on 10/05/19 were unable to be obtained due to unsuitable meteorology conditions as per AS1055:2018.							
11/05/19	21:19	52	32	21	36	WD: SW	Insects 25-27
						WS: <1m/s	TGO crusher 27-30
						Stab Class:E	Distant traffic 32-40
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							28
11/05/19	23:03	67	36	21	36	WD: SW	Highway traffic 22-28
						WS: 1m/s	
						Stab Class: E	
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							<30

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 the May 2019 survey are summarised in **Table 7** with the relevant EPL limits, the calculated mining noise contribution and prevailing meteorological conditions at the time of each measurement.

Table 7 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R23

Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			EPL Limit	Meteorology ¹	Description and SPL, dBA
		L _{Amax}	L _{Aeq}	L _{A90}			
07/05/19	20:53	75	42	28	39	WD: W/NW	Distant traffic 40-47
						WS: 2m/s	Wind in trees 29-31
						Stab Class: D	
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
07/05/19	23:42	64	37	30	39	WD: N/NE	Distant traffic 37-40
						WS: 2m/s	Wind in trees 27-29
						Stab Class: D	Agricultural 29-33
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							TGO Inaudible
Evening measurements on 10/05/19 were unable to be obtained due to unsuitable meteorology conditions as per AS1055:2018.							
Night measurements on 10/05/19 were unable to be obtained due to unsuitable meteorology conditions as per AS1055:2018.							
11/05/19	19:47	66	46	38	39	WD: SW	Traffic 38-55
						WS: <1m/s	TGO processing & trucks
						Stab Class: E	37-42
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							39
11/05/19	22:22	61	47	41	39	WD: SW	Traffic 36-60
						WS: 2m/s	TGO crusher 38-42
						Stab Class: F	
TGO Site L _{Aeq} (15min) Contribution							41

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

Note 2: It is reiterated that inapplicable meteorological conditions such as rain, winds >3m/s, F Class Drainage and G Class inversions have not been included. F Class inversions in the absence of draining winds are considered applicable.

5 Discussion

5.1 Discussion of Results - Location R2

Monitoring between Tuesday 7 May 2019 to Saturday 11 May 2019 identified that TGO was audible at location R2 during three measurements, with mining contributions remaining below <35dBA. Therefore, the relevant noise limit of 36dB LAeq(15min) was satisfied during this monitoring period. Extraneous sources such as agriculture, insects, livestock and wind in trees were audible during the survey periods.

5.2 Discussion of Results - Location R3/R29

Monitoring from Tuesday 7 May 2019 to Saturday 11 May 2019 identified that TGO was audible at location R3/R29 on two occasions. In addition to highway traffic, processing from TGO was audible, and contributed to noise levels above the relevant noise criteria for this location although were obtained during non-prevailing meteorological conditions (ie F Class Stability in conjunction with a 2m/s drainage or G Class Stability) hence are considered not applicable against the EPL criteria.

5.3 Discussion of Results - Location R4

Monitoring from Tuesday 7 May 2019 to Saturday 11 May 2019 identified that TGO was audible on two occasions at location R4 with mining contributions remaining up to 30dBA, therefore the relevant noise limit of 36dB LAeq(15min) was satisfied. Insects and traffic were audible during the measurements at R4.

5.4 Discussion of Results - Location R5

TGO mine noise was inaudible during noise measurements at R5 for the May 2019 period. Therefore, relevant noise limits of 37dB LAeq(15min) were satisfied. Highway traffic was the dominant source at this receiver with other non-mining sources including insects and wind in trees.

5.5 Discussion of Results - Location R6

TGO mine noise was audible during all measurements during the May 2019 monitoring period at R6. The mining contribution was up to 30dBA, therefore satisfying the relevant EPL noise limit of 36dB LAeq(15min). Non-mining sources included insects, wind in trees and traffic.

5.6 Discussion of Results - Location R23

Monitoring from Tuesday 7 May 2019 to Saturday 11 May 2019 identified that TGO was audible at location R23 during two measurements, with mining contributions measured at up to 41dBA. In addition to highway traffic, processing from TGO was audible, and contributed to noise levels above the relevant noise criteria for this location although were obtained during non-prevailing meteorological conditions (ie F Class Stability in conjunction with a 2m/s drainage or G Class Stability) hence are considered not applicable against the EPL criteria.

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 an unattended real-time monitoring terminal installed at the Brooklands property (nearest to R23). **Figure 1** 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, rainfall and winds influenced measured noise levels for this assessment. Furthermore, for May 2019, 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 ¹	Description and SPL, dBA
		L _{Amax}	L _{Aeq}	L _{A90}				
		Tuesday 7 May 2019						
Attended	20:53	75	42	28	39	TGO Inaudible	WD: W/NW WS: 2m/s Distant traffic 40-47 Wind in trees 29-31	
Unattended	20:58	66	65	65	39	TGO Inaudible	Stab Class: D Rain/Wind effected	
Attended	23:42	64	37	30	39	TGO Inaudible	WD: W/NW WS: 2m/s Distant traffic 37-40 Wind in trees 27-29 Agricultural 29-33	
Unattended	23:28	66	65	65	39	TGO Inaudible	Stab Class: D Rain/Wind effected	
Friday 10 May 2019								
Evening measurements on 10/05/19 were unable to be obtained due to unsuitable meteorology conditions as per AS1055:2018.								
Night measurements on 10/05/19 were unable to be obtained due to unsuitable meteorology conditions as per AS1055:2018.								
Saturday 11 May 2019								
Attended	19:47	66	46	38	39	39	WD: SW WS: <1m/s Traffic 38-55 TGO processing & trucks 37-42	
Unattended	19:43	60	58	47	39	N/A	Stab Class: E Rain/Wind effected	
Attended	22:22	61	47	41	39	41	WD: SW WS: 2m/s Traffic 36-60 TGO crusher 38-42	
Unattended	22:13	56	51	47	39	N/A	Stab Class: F Rain/Wind effected	

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

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 conducted from Tuesday 7 May 2019 to Saturday 11 May 2019, identified that TGO mine noise was audible at times at varying locations, although did not exceed relevant limits during applicable meteorological conditions during the May 2019 assessment period.

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Appendix A - Glossary of Terms

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

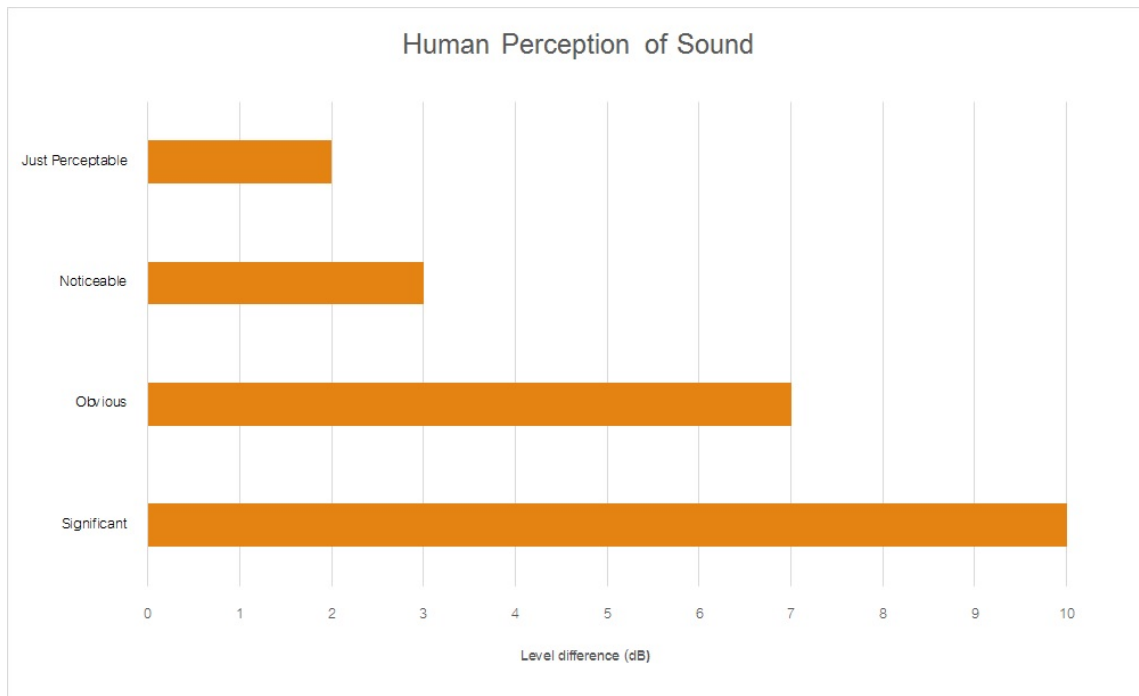
Table A1 Glossary of Terms	
Term	Description
1/3 Octave	Single octave bands divided into three parts
Octave	A division of the frequency range into bands, the upper frequency limit of each band being twice the lower frequency limit.
ABL	Assessment Background Level (ABL) is defined in the NPI as a single 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 ₀ is the sound reference power at 10-12 watts.

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

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

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

Figure A1 – Human Perception of Sound



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