Noise Assessment

Narrabri Solar Farm Narrabri, NSW



Prepared for: Providence Asset Group February 2021 MAC201186-04RP1

Document Information

Noise Assessment

Narrabri Solar Farm

Narrabri, NSW

Prepared for: Providence Asset Group

704/99 Bathurst Street

Sydney NSW 2000

Prepared by: Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd

PO Box 262, Newcastle NSW 2300

ABN: 36 602 225 132

P: +61 2 4920 1833

www.mulleracoustic.com

DOCUMENT ID	STATUS	DATE	PREPARED	SIGNED	REVIEWED	SIGNED
MAC201186-04RP1	Final	1 February 2021	Rod Linnett	RHLA	Oliver Muller	al

DISCLAIMER

All documents produced by Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd (MAC) are prepared for a particular client's requirements and are based on a specific scope, circumstances and limitations derived between MAC and the client. Information and/or report(s) prepared by MAC may not be suitable for uses other than the original intended objective. No parties other than the client should use or reproduce any information and/or report(s) without obtaining permission from MAC. Any information and/or documents prepared by MAC is not to be reproduced, presented or reviewed except in full.



CONTENTS

1	INTR	DDUCTION	5
	1.1	PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES	5
	1.2	SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT	5
2	PROJ	ECT DESCRIPTION	7
	2.1	BACKGROUND	7
	2.2	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION WORKS	7
	2.3	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED OPERATION	8
	2.4	RECEIVER REVIEW	8
3	NOIS	E POLICY AND GUIDELINES	11
	3.1	INTERIM CONSTRUCTION NOISE GUIDELINE	11
	3.1.1	STANDARD HOURS FOR CONSTRUCTION	13
	3.1.2	OUT OF HOURS CONSTRUCTION	13
	3.1.3	CONSTRUCTION NOISE MANAGEMENT LEVELS	14
	3.1.4	CONSTRUCTION SLEEP DISTURBANCE	15
	3.2	NOISE POLICY FOR INDUSTRY	15
	3.2.1	PROJECT NOISE TRIGGER LEVELS (PNTL)	16
	3.2.2	RATING BACKGROUND LEVEL (RBL)	16
	3.2.3	PROJECT INTRUSIVENESS NOISE LEVEL (PINL)	16
	3.2.4	PROJECT AMENITY NOISE LEVEL (PANL)	16
	3.2.5	MAXIMUM NOISE ASSESSMENT TRIGGER LEVELS	19
	3.3	ROAD NOISE POLICY	19
4	NOIS	E ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	21
	4.1	CONSTRUCTION NOISE CRITERIA	21
	4.2	CONSTRUCTION VIBRATION	22
	4.3	OPERATIONAL NOISE CRITERIA	22
	4.3.1	PROJECT INTRUSIVENESS NOISE LEVELS	22
	4.3.2	PROJECT AMENITY NOISE LEVELS	23
	4.3.3	PROJECT NOISE TRIGGER LEVELS	24
	4.4	MAXIMUM NOISE ASSESSMENT TRIGGER LEVELS	24



	4.5	ROAD TRAFFIC NOISE CRITERIA	
5	MOD	DELLING METHODOLOGY	
	5.1	CONSTRUCTION ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY	
	5.2	OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY	
	5.2.1	METEOROLOGICAL ANALYSIS	
	5.3	ROAD TRAFFIC NOISE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY	
6	NOIS	SE ASSESSMENT RESULTS	
	6.1	CONSTRUCTION NOISE ASSESSMENT	
	6.2	OPERATIONAL NOISE ASSESSMENT	
	6.3	MAXIMUM NOISE LEVEL ASSESSMENT	33
	6.4	ROAD TRAFFIC NOISE ASSESSMENT	
7	RECO	OMMENDATIONS	
	7.1	CONSTRUCTION NOISE RECOMMENDATIONS	
	7.2	OPERATIONAL NOISE RECOMMENDATIONS	
8	DISC	CUSSION AND CONCLUSION	
AF	PENDIX	A – GLOSSARY OF TERMS	

APPENDIX B – PROJECT LAYOUT



1 Introduction

Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd (MAC) has been commissioned by Providence Asset Group (PAG) to prepare a Noise Assessment (NA) for the proposed Narrabri Solar Farm near Narrabri, NSW (the 'project'). This report presents the methodology and findings of the NA for the construction and operation of the project.

1.1 Purpose and Objectives

A NA is required as part of the environmental assessment to be submitted to Narrabri Shire Council as part of the Development Application (DA). The purpose of the NA is to quantify potential environmental noise emissions associated with the construction and operation of the project. Where impacts are identified, the assessment includes recommendations for potential noise mitigation and management measures.

1.2 Scope of the Assessment

The NA includes the following key tasks:

- review construction and operating activities to identify key noise generating plant, equipment, machinery or activities proposed to be undertaken as part of the project;
- identify the closest and/or potentially most affected receivers situated within the area of influence to the project;
- determine project-specific construction Noise Management Levels (NMLs), and operational noise criteria;
- undertake 3D noise modelling to predict levels that may occur as a result of the construction and operation of the project at the closest and/or potentially most affected receivers;
- provide a comparison of predicted noise levels against relevant construction and operational criteria;
- assess the potential noise impacts associated with construction and operational aspects of the project;
- assess the potential noise impacts associated with road traffic noise during construction; and
- provide feasible and reasonable noise mitigation and management measures, and monitoring options, where criteria may be exceeded.



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

- NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECCW) NSW Interim Construction Noise Guideline (ICNG), July 2009;
- NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Noise Policy for Industry (NPI), 2017;
- NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) NSW Road Noise Policy (RNP), March 2011;
- Australian Standard AS 1055:2018 Acoustics Description and measurement of environmental noise - General Procedures; and
- International Standard ISO 9613:1996 Acoustics Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors.

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



2 Project Description

2.1 Background

PAG propose to construct and operate a 5 Megawatt (MW) solar farm using photovoltaic (PV) technology at 115 Airport Road, Narrabri NSW, NSW approximately 3km south east of Narrabri, NSW.

2.2 Description of Proposed Construction Works

The project includes installation of groups of north aligned PV modules on mounting structures of 1.5m to 1.8m in height. Approximately 11,600 PV panels will be installed using a single axis tracking system, tilting along the north-south axis. The PV mounting structure would comprise steel posts driven into the ground using a small pile driver. Additional support structures would be attached to the piles, which would then support the PV panels.

Where cabling of each PV array/module to inverters is required to be underground, earthworks will primarily involve trenching. Other minor earthworks would be completed for the preparation of the site and in most cases a concrete slab would be required to support the ancillary infrastructure. Most of the infrastructure would be pre-fabricated off-site, delivered and assembled on-site.

It is anticipated that the solar farm would be constructed in stages, with construction of two to three stages occurring at any one time over a six month period during standard construction hours.

All vehicles would access the project site from the Newell Highway via Tibbereena Street, Fitzroy Street, Maitland Street, Old Gunnedah Road Kaputar Road and Airport Road during construction and operational phases.

During construction, traffic generated by the project would include employee and delivery vehicles. During the peak construction period, the daily traffic volume is expected to be up to four heavy vehicles (semi-trailers or B-doubles) per hour and 20 light commercial vehicles or equivalent for worker transport during the morning and afternoon peaks.



2.3 Description of Proposed Operation

PV infrastructure on site will comprise of groups of PV panels installed in rows running north to south. The PV modules will be on a single axis tracker system which will follow the sun and move in an east to west direction. Electrical cabling would be attached beneath the modules and would connect the individual PV modules to each other. Inverters will be located centrally and connected by underground cables. The project will be contained solely within the site as shown in **Figure 1**. Project layout drawings are presented in **Appendix B**.

The project would operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, with no permanent staff on site. During operation, the PV panels would generate electricity which would be fed into the power grid via the adjacent existing powerline. Key noise emissions from the operation of the project are associated with the inverter and transformer(s). It is noted that emissions from these sources are anticipated to be acoustically insignificant compared to ambient background noise levels at assessed receivers.

When required, maintenance activities will occur during standard working hours (except for emergencies) and are expected to include:

- panel cleaning;
- repairs or replacement of infrastructure, as required; and
- Iand management including mowing to control vegetation as required.

Typical noise sources associated with maintenance activities would include light vehicle movements on site and maintenance of equipment.

2.4 Receiver Review

Using aerial photography, geospatial information and other project design information, MAC has identified the following potentially sensitive receivers that may be affected by noise from operation or construction activities and project related road traffic. **Table 1** presents a summary of receiver identification, type, address and coordinates. These are reproduced visually in **Figure 1**.



Table 1 Receiver Locations					
Dession	Description		Coordinates (GDA94/MGA55)		
Receiver	Description	Receiver Type	Easting	Northing	
R01	163 Old Gunnedah Road	Residential	770033	6640330	
R02	175 Old Gunnedah Road	Residential	769742	6639942	
R03	225 Old Gunnedah Road	Residential	769913	6639612	
R04	237 Old Gunnedah Road	Residential	770006	6639564	
R05	7 Airport Road	Residential	771269	6639717	
R06	90 Airport Road	Residential	772061	6640314	
R07	59 Kaputar Road	Residential	770709	6639560	
R08	65 Kaputar Road	Residential	770768	6639558	
R09	67 Kaputar Road	Residential	770789	6639564	
R10	69 Kaputar Road	Residential	770809	6639576	
R11	71 Kaputar Road	Residential	770830	6639575	
R12	80 Kaputar Road	Residential	770917	6639491	
R13	79 Kaputar Road	Residential	770898	6639597	
R14	83 Kaputar Road	Residential	770925	6639598	
R15	85 Kaputar Road	Residential	770964	6639612	
R16	87 Kaputar Road	Residential	770988	6639620	
R17	91 Kaputar Road	Residential	771023	6639617	
R18	97 Kaputar Road	Residential	771059	6639624	
R19	117 Kaputar Road	Residential	771278	6639679	
R20	139 Kaputar Road	Residential	771504	6639782	
R21	225 Kaputar Road	Residential	772326	6639643	
R22	106 Whiting Drive	Residential	772112	6638925	
R23	305 Old Gunnedah Road	Residential	770620	6639008	
R24	369 Old Gunnedah Road	Residential	770717	6638924	
R25	363 Old Gunnedah Road	Residential	770929	6638785	
R26	264 Old Gunnedah Road	Residential	770038	6639246	
101	73 Kaputar Road	2 · · ·	770055	6620674	
	Palmer Steel Frame & Truss	Commercial	660011	0039074	
102	173 Old Gunnedah Rd	Commercial	769623	6639998	





Document Set ID: 1845823 Version: 1, Version Date: 09/03/2021

3 Noise Policy and Guidelines

3.1 Interim Construction Noise Guideline

The ICNG sets out procedures to identify and address the impacts of construction noise on residences and other sensitive land uses. This section provides a summary of noise objectives that are applicable to the assessment. The ICNG provides two methodologies for the assessment of construction noise emissions:

- Quantitative, which is suited to major construction projects with typical durations of more than three weeks; and
- Qualitative, which is suited to short term infrastructure maintenance (< three weeks).

The qualitative assessment methodology is a more simplified approach that relies on noise management strategies. This study has adopted a quantitative assessment approach which is summarised in **Figure 2**. The quantitative approach includes identification of potentially affected receivers, derivation of the construction noise management levels, quantification of potential noise impact at receivers via predictive modelling and, provides management and mitigation recommendations.

Figure 2 Quantitative Assessment Processes for Assessing and Managing Construction Noise

Source: Department of Environment and Climate Change, 2009.

3.1.1 Standard Hours for Construction

Table 2 summaries the ICNG recommended standard hours for construction works.

Table 2 Recommended Standard Hours for Construction					
Daytime	Construction Hours				
Monday to Friday	7am to 6pm				
Saturdays	8am to 1pm				
Sundays or Public Holidays	No construction				

These recommended hours do not apply in the event of direction from police, or other relevant authorities, for safety reasons or where required in an emergency to avoid the loss of lives, property and/or to prevent environmental harm.

Construction activities are anticipated to be undertaken during standard construction hours.

3.1.2 Out of Hours Construction

Works conducted outside of recommended standard hours are considered out of hours work (OOH). The ICNG suggests that any request to vary the hours of construction activities as identified above shall be:

- considered on a case by case basis or activity-specific basis;
- accompanied by details of the nature and need for activities to be undertaken during the varied construction hours; and
- accompanied by written evidence that activities undertaken during the varied construction hours are strongly justified; appropriate consultation with potentially affected receivers and notification of the relevant regulatory authorities has occurred; and all practicable and reasonable mitigation measures will be put in place.

3.1.3 Construction Noise Management Levels

Section 4 of the ICNG (DECC, 2009) details the quantitative assessment method involving predicting noise levels and comparing them with the Noise Management Level (NML) and are important indicators of the potential level of construction noise impact. **Table 3** reproduces the ICNG Noise Management Level (NML) for residential receivers. The NML is determined by adding 10dB (standard hours) or 5dB (OOH) to the Rating Background Level (RBL) for each specific assessment period.

Table 3 Noise Manage	ment Levels			
Time of Day	Management Level			
Time of Day	LAeq(15min) ¹	How to Apply		
Recommended standard	Noise affected	The noise affected level represents the point above which there		
hours: Monday to Friday	RBL + 10dB	may be some community reaction to noise.		
7am to 6pm Saturday		Where the predicted or measured LAeq(15min) is greater than		
8am to 1pm No work on		the noise affected level, the proponent should apply all feasible		
Sundays or public		and reasonable work practices to meet the noise affected level.		
holidays.		The proponent should also inform all potentially impacted		
		residents of the nature of work to be carried out, the expected		
		noise levels and duration, as well as contact details.		
	Highly noise affected	The highly noise affected level represents the point above		
	75dBA	which there may be strong community reaction to noise.		
		Where noise is above this level, the relevant authority (consent,		
		determining or regulatory) may require respite periods by		
		restricting the hours that the very noisy activities can occur,		
		taking into account times identified by the community when		
		they are less sensitive to noise such as before and after school		
		for work near schools, or mid-morning or mid-afternoon for		
		work near residences; and if the community is prepared to		
		accept a longer period of construction in exchange for		
		restrictions on construction times.		
Outside recommended	Noise affected	A strong justification would typically be required for work		
standard hours.	RBL + 5dB	outside the recommended standard hours.		
		The proponent should apply all feasible and reasonable work		
		practices to meet the noise affected level.		
		Where all feasible and reasonable practices have been applied		
		and noise is more than 5dBA above the noise affected level,		
		the proponent should negotiate with the community.		
		For guidance on negotiating agreements see section 7.2.2.		

Note 1: 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 construction noise management levels for noise assessment purposes and is the median of the ABL's.

3.1.4 Construction Sleep Disturbance

Section 4.3 of the ICNG (DECC, 2009) states that a sleep disturbance assessment is required where construction activities are planned to occur for more than two consecutive nights. Given that construction activities are anticipated to occur during standard construction hours, sleep disturbance has not been considered in this assessment.

3.2 Noise Policy for Industry

The EPA released the Noise Policy for Industry (NPI) in October 2017 which provides a process for establishing noise criteria for consents and licenses enabling the EPA to regulate noise emissions from scheduled premises under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997.

The objectives of the NPI are to:

- provide noise criteria that is used to assess the change in both short term and long-term noise levels;
- provide a clear and consistent framework for assessing environmental noise impacts from industrial premises and industrial development proposals;
- promote the use of best-practice noise mitigation measures that are feasible and reasonable where potential impacts have been identified; and
- support a process to guide the determination of achievable noise limits for planning approvals and/or licences, considering the matters that must be considered under the relevant legislation (such as the economic and social benefits and impacts of industrial development).

The policy sets out a process for industrial noise management involving the following key steps:

- Determine the Project Noise Trigger Levels (PNTLs) (ie criteria) for a development. These are the levels (criteria), above which noise management measures are required to be considered. They are derived by considering two factors: shorter-term intrusiveness due to changes in the noise environment; and maintaining the noise amenity of an area.
- 2. Predict or measure the noise levels produced by the development with regard to the presence of annoying noise characteristics and meteorological effects such as temperature inversions and wind.
- 3. Compare the predicted or measured noise level with the PNTL, assessing impacts and the need for noise mitigation and management measures.

- 4. Consider residual noise impacts that is, where noise levels exceed the PNTLs after the application of feasible and reasonable noise mitigation measures. This may involve balancing economic, social and environmental costs and benefits from the proposed development against the noise impacts, including consultation with the affected community where impacts are expected to be significant.
- 5. Set statutory compliance levels that reflect the best achievable and agreed noise limits for the development.
- 6. Monitor and report environmental noise levels from the development.

3.2.1 Project Noise Trigger Levels (PNTL)

The policy sets out the procedure to determine the PNTLs relevant to an industrial development. The PNTL is the lower (ie, the more stringent) of the **Project Intrusiveness Noise Level** (PINL) and **Project Amenity Noise Level** (PANL) determined in accordance with Section 2.3 and Section 2.4 of the NPI.

3.2.2 Rating Background Level (RBL)

The Rating Background Level (RBL) is a determined parameter from noise monitoring and is used for assessment purposes. As per the NPI, the RBL is an overall single figure background level representing each assessment period (day, evening and night) over the noise monitoring period.

3.2.3 Project Intrusiveness Noise Level (PINL)

The PINL (LAeq(15min)) is the RBL + 5dB and seeks to limit the degree of change a new noise source introduces to an existing environment. Hence, when assessing intrusiveness, background noise levels need to be measured.

3.2.4 Project Amenity Noise Level (PANL)

The PANL is relevant to a specific land use or locality. To limit continuing increases in intrusiveness levels, the ambient noise level within an area from all combined industrial sources should remain below the recommended amenity noise levels specified in Table 2.2 (of the NPI). The NPI defines two categories of amenity noise levels:

- Amenity Noise Levels (ANL) are determined considering all current and future industrial noise within a receiver area; and
- Project Amenity Noise Level (PANL) is the recommended level for a receiver area, specifically focusing the project being assessed.

Additionally, Section 2.4 of the NPI states: "to ensure that industrial noise levels (existing plus new) remain within the recommended amenity noise levels for an area, a project amenity noise level applies for each new source of industrial noise as follows":

PANL for new industrial developments = recommended **ANL** minus 5dBA.

The following exceptions apply when deriving the PANL:

- areas with high traffic noise levels;
- proposed developments in major industrial clusters;
- existing industrial noise and cumulative industrial noise effects; and
- greenfield sites.

Where relevant this assessment has considered influences of traffic with respect to amenity noise levels (ie areas where existing traffic noise levels are 10dB greater than the recommended amenity noise level).

The recommended amenity noise levels as per Table 2.2 of the NPI are reproduced in Table 4.

Table 4 Amenity Criteria			
Pagaiyar Turpa	Noiso Amonity Aroa	Time of day	Recommended amenity noise level
	Noise Amenity Area	Time of day	dB LAeq(period)
		Day	50
	Rural	Evening	45
		Night	40
		Day	55
Residential	Suburban	Evening	45
		Night	40
		Day	60
	Urban	Evening	50
		Night	45
Hotels, motels, caretakers'			5dB above the recommended amenity
quarters, holiday	Cas column 4	Cas askumn 4	noise level for a residence for the
accommodation, permanent	See column 4	See column 4	relevant noise amenity area and time
resident caravan parks.			of day
	A 11	Noisiest 1-hour	35 (internal)
School Classroom	All	period when in use	45 (external)
Hospital ward			
- internal	All	Noisiest 1-hour	35
- external	All	Noisiest 1-hour	50
Place of worship - internal	All	When in use	40
Passive Recreation	All	When in use	50
Active Recreation	All	When in use	55
Commercial premises	All	When in use	65
Industrial	All	When in use	70

Notes: The recommended amenity noise levels refer only to noise from industrial noise sources. However, they refer to noise from all such sources at the receiver location, and not only noise due to a specific project under consideration. The levels represent outdoor levels except where otherwise stated.

Types of receivers are defined as rural residential; suburban residential; urban residential; industrial interface; commercial; industrial – see Table 2.3 and Section 2.7 of the NPI. Note: Day - the period from 7am to 6pm Monday to Saturday or 8am to 6pm on Sundays and public holidays; Evening - the period from 6pm to 10pm; Night - the remaining periods.

3.2.5 Maximum Noise Assessment Trigger Levels

The potential for sleep disturbance from maximum noise level events from a project during the nighttime period needs to be considered. The NPI considers sleep disturbance to be both awakenings and disturbance to sleep stages.

Where night-time noise levels from a development/premises at a residential location exceed the following criteria, a detailed maximum noise level event assessment should be undertaken:

- LAeq(15min) 40dB or the prevailing RBL plus 5dBA, whichever is the greater, and/or
- LAmax 52dB or the prevailing RBL plus 15dBA, whichever is the greater.

A detailed assessment should cover the maximum noise level, the extent to which the maximum noise level exceeds the rating background noise level, and the number of times this happens during the nighttime period. Other factors that may be important in assessing the impacts on sleep disturbance include:

- how often the events would occur;
- the distribution of likely events across the night-time period and the existing ambient maximum events in the absence of the development;
- whether there are times of day when there is a clear change in the noise environment (such as during early morning shoulder periods); and
- current understanding of effects of maximum noise level events at night.

3.3 Road Noise Policy

The road traffic noise criteria are provided in the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW (DECCW), Road Noise Policy (RNP), 2011. The policy sets out noise criteria applicable to different road classifications for the purpose of quantifying traffic noise impacts. Road noise criteria relevant to this assessment are presented in detail in **Section 4.5**.

This page has been intentionally left blank

4 Noise Assessment Criteria

Background noise monitoring has not been conducted for this project and hence, the minimum applicable Rating Background Levels (RBL) of 35dBA for the daytime period and 30dBA for the evening and night time periods have been adopted in accordance with NPI methodology.

4.1 Construction Noise Criteria

The relevant Noise Management Levels (NMLs) for standard construction hours are presented in Table 5.

Table 5 Construction Noise Management Levels					
Poosiver Tupo	Assessment Davied	Adopted RBL	NML		
Receiver Type	Assessment Pendu	dB LA90	dB LAeq(15min)		
Urban Residential Standard Hours		35	45 (RBL+10dBA)		
Suburban Residential	Standard Hours	35	45 (RBL+10dBA)		
Rural Residential	Standard Hours	35	45 (RBL+10dBA)		
Educational	When in use	N1/A	45 (internal)		
Educational	when in use	N/A	60 (external) ¹		
Hospital Wards	When in use	N/A	45 (internal)		
			60 (external) ¹		
Place of Worship	When in use	N1/A	45 (internal)		
	when in use	N/A	60 (external) ¹		
Active Recreation Areas	When in use	N/A	65 (external)		
Passive Recreation Areas	When in use	N/A	60 (external)		
Industrial Premises	When in use	N/A	75 (external)		
Community Centres	When in use	NI/A	Refer to AS2107 for maximum		
	when in use	IN/A	internal levels and specific use		
Commercial Premises When in use		N/A	70 (external)		

Note 1: External level based on 15dB loss through partially open window.

4.2 Construction Vibration

Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) 2006, *Assessing Vibration: A Technical Guideline* (the 'Guideline') provides guidance on determining effects of vibration on buildings occupants. The guideline does not address vibration induced damage to structures, blast induced vibration effects or structure borne noise effects.

The Construction Noise & Vibration Strategy (CNVS, V4.1 Transport for NSW, 2019) sets out safe working distances to achieve the human response criteria for vibration. The key vibration generating source proposed to be used is small pile driver used to drive the piles into the ground on which the PV mounting structures are mounted and vibratory roller for road construction. The CNVS sets a safe working distance of 50m for a hammer piling rig and 100m for a large vibratory roller to achieve the residential human response criteria for continuous vibration. Therefore, as the nearest non project related receivers to the project are greater than 100m from the project boundary, human exposure to vibration is anticipated to be minimal. Furthermore, where the human response criteria are satisfied, the structural or cosmetic criteria for sensitive receivers will be achieved. Therefore, vibration impacts are not considered to be a significant issue and have not been considered further in this assessment.

4.3 Operational Noise Criteria

4.3.1 Project Intrusiveness Noise Levels

The PINLs for the project are presented in **Table 6** and have been determined based on the RBLs +5dBA.

Table 6 Project Intrusiveness Noise Levels					
Dessiver	Deried ¹	Adopted RBL	PINL		
Receiver	Penod	dB LA90(period)	dB LAeq(15min)		
	Day	35	40		
All Residential Receivers	Evening	30	35		
	Night	30	35		

Note 1: Day - the period from 7am to 6pm Monday to Saturday or 8am to 6pm on Sundays and public holidays; Evening - the period from 6pm to 10pm; Night - the remaining periods.

4.3.2 Project Amenity Noise Levels

The PANL for residential receivers and other receiver types (ie non-residential) potentially affected by the project are presented in **Table 7**.

Table 7 Amenity Noise Levels and Project Amenity Noise Levels					
Receiver Type	Noise Amenity Area	Assessment Period ¹	Recommended ANL dB LAeq(period)	ANL dB LAeq(period) ²	PANL dB LAeq(15min) ³
		Day	50	45	48
Residential	Rural	Evening	45	40	43
		Night	40	35	38
		Day	55	50	53
Residential	Suburban	Evening	45	40	43
		Night	40	35	38
		Day	60	55	58
Residential	Urban	Evening	50	45	48
		Night	45	40	43
	Rural/Urban/ - Suburban -	Day	ANL +5dB	ANL +5dB	ANL +5dB
Hotels Motels		Evening	ANL +5dB	ANL +5dB	ANL +5dB
		Night	ANL +5dB	ANL +5dB	ANL +5dB
Educational		When in use	35 (internal 1 hr)	30 (internal 1 hr)	33 (internal 1 hr) 48 (external 1 hr) ⁴
Lloopito	L Mordo	M/han in use	35 (internal 1 hr)	30 (internal 1 hr)	33 (internal 1 hr)
Hospita	II Wards	when in use	50 (external 1 hr)	45 (external 1 hr)	48 (external 1 hr)
Place of	worship	When in use	40 (internal)	35 (internal 1 hr)	38 (internal 1 hr)
		When in use	40 (internal)	35 (internal Thi)	53 (external 1 hr) 4
Passive Recreation		When in use	50	45	48
Active Recreation		When in use	55	50	53
Comn	nercial	When in use	65	60	63
Indu	strial	When in use	70	65	68
Industrial	Interface	When in use	ANL +5dB	ANL +5dB	ANL +5dB

Note 1: Monday – Saturday, Day 7am to 6pm; Evening 6pm to 10pm; Night 10pm to 7am. On Sundays and Public Holidays, Day 8am to 6pm; Evening 6pm to 10pm; Night 10pm to 8am. Note 2: Project Amenity Noise Level equals the Amenity Noise Level as there is no other industry in the area.

Note 3: Includes a +3dB adjustment to the amenity period level to convert to a 15-minute assessment period as per Section 2.2 of the NPI.

Note 4: External level based on 15dB loss through partially open window.

4.3.3 Project Noise Trigger Levels

The PNTLs are the lower of either the PINLs or the PANLs. **Table 8** presents the derivation of the PNTLs in accordance with the methodologies outlined in the NPI. For this assessment the night time PNTL of 35dB LAeq(15min) is the limiting criteria for residential receivers.

Table 8 Project Noise Trigger Levels						
Catabraant	Assessment	PINL	PANL	PNTL		
Catchment	Period ¹	dB LAeq(15min)	dB LAeq(15min)	dB LAeq(15min)		
Residential	Day	40	53	40		
Receivers	Evening	35	48	35		
(Rural)	Night	35	43	35		
Industrial	When in use		68	68		

Note 1: Day - the period from 7am to 6pm Monday to Saturday or 8am to 6pm on Sundays and public holidays; Evening - the period from 6pm to 10pm; Night - the remaining periods.

4.4 Maximum Noise Assessment Trigger Levels

The maximum noise trigger levels shown in **Table 9** are based on night time RBLs and trigger levels as per Section 2.5 of the NPI. The trigger levels will be applied to transient noise events that have the potential to cause sleep disturbance.

Table 9 Maximum Noise Trigger Level				
	Rural Residential Receivers			
	52dB LAmax or RBL + 15dB			
Trigger	52			
RBL 30+15dB	45			
Highest	52			

Note: Monday to Saturday; Night 10pm to 7am. On Sundays and Public Holidays Night 10pm to 8am. Note: NPI identifies that maximum of the two values is to be adopted which is shown in bold font.

4.5 Road Traffic Noise Criteria

It is acknowledged that the functional classification of roads connecting to arterial roads such as major highways are 'Collector Roads' in accordance with the Roads and Maritime Noise Criteria Guideline (April 2015). However, the Road Noise Policy does not provide separate noise criteria for Collector Roads but applies the sub-arterial category to all roads that are not classified as local roads and hence, the 'sub arterial road' category has been adopted for collector roads. The relevant road traffic noise criteria are provided in the RNP and are presented in **Table 10** for residential receivers.

Table 10 Road Traffic Noise Assessment Criteria				
Dood optogon/	Type of project/development	Assessment Criteria – dBA		
Road Calegory	Type of project/development	Day (7am to 10pm)	Night (10pm to 7am)	
	Existing residences affected by			
Freeways/arterial/	additional traffic on freeways/arterial/sub-			
sub-arterial Roads	arterial roads generated by land use	600B LAeq(15nr)	550B LAed(9nr)	
	developments			
	Existing residences affected by			
Local roads	additional traffic on local roads	55dB LAeq(1hr)	50dB LAeq(1hr)	
	generated by land use developments			
Cabaal Classrooma		40dB LAeq(1hr)		
SCHOOL CLASSI OUTIS		(internal) when in use	N/A	
Hoopital Words	-	35dB LAeq(1hr)	35dB LAeq(1hr)	
nospital wards		(internal)	(internal)	
Diagon of Wombin	-	40dB LAeq(1hr)	40dB LAeq(1hr)	
Flaces of Worship		(internal)	(internal)	
Open Space	-	60dD L Asg(1br)	NI/A	
(active use)		OUGB LAEQ(IIII)	N/A	
Open Space	Proposed road projects and traffic	55dP Acq(1br)	N/A	
(passive use)	generating developments	55dB LAed(IIII)	N/A	
Isolated residences	-			
in commercial or		Refer to AS2107 for internal levels		
industrial zones				
Mixed Use		Each component to be	considered soparatoly	
development	_			
	-	Sleeping rooms 35dl	B LAeq(1hr) (internal)	
Childcare Facilities		Indoor play areas 40c	B LAeq(1hr) (internal)	
		Outdoor play areas 55	dB LAeq(1hr) (external)	

Additionally, the RNP states where existing road traffic noise criteria are already exceeded, any additional increase in total traffic noise level should be limited to 2dBA, which is generally accepted as the threshold of perceptibility to a change in noise level.

This page has been intentionally left blank

5 Modelling Methodology

A computer model using DGMR (iNoise, Version 2020.0) noise modelling software was used to quantify noise emissions from the project. iNoise is a new intuitive and quality assured software for industrial noise calculations in the environment. 3D noise modelling is considered industry best practice for assessing noise emissions from projects.

The model incorporated a three-dimensional digital terrain map giving all relevant topographic information used in the modelling process. Additionally, the model uses relevant noise source data, ground type, attenuation from barrier or buildings and atmospheric information to predict noise levels at the nearest potentially affected receivers. Where relevant, modifying factors in accordance with Fact Sheet C of the NPI have been applied to calculations.

The model calculation method used to predict noise levels was in accordance with ISO 9613-1 'Acoustics - Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors. Part 1: Calculation of the absorption of sound by the atmosphere' and ISO 9613-2 'Acoustics - Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors. Part 2: General method of calculation' including corrections for meteorological conditions using CONCAWE¹. The ISO 9613 standard from 1996 is the most used noise prediction method worldwide. Many countries refer to ISO 9613 in their noise legislation. However, the ISO 9613 standard does not contain guidelines for quality assured software implementation, which leads to differences between applications in calculated results. In 2015 this changed with the release of ISO/TR 17534-3. This quality standard gives clear recommendations for interpreting the ISO 9613 method. iNoise fully supports these recommendations. The models and results for the 19 test cases are included in the software.

5.1 Construction Assessment Methodology

Construction activities are proposed to be progressive (trenching, piling and assembly) and will occur at several locations simultaneously. Noise emissions were modelled for the following four scenarios:

- earthworks for internal roads and compound construction including the stripping of topsoil and unsuitable soil and the placement and compaction of road base for internal roads;
- earthworks involving trenching for cabling;
- piling of panel supports; and
- assembly of the panels.

¹ Report no. 4/18, "the propagation of noise from petroleum and petrochemical complexes to neighbouring communities", Prepared by C.J. Manning, M.Sc., M.I.O.A. Acoustic Technology Limited (Ref.AT 931), CONCAWE, Den Haag May 1981

It is envisaged that all four construction scenarios have the potential to occur simultaneously at up to two key locations across the site. Noise emission data and assumptions used in this assessment are summarised in **Table 11**. All significant noise generating construction activities will be limited to standard construction hours. Where low intensity construction activities are required to be undertaken outside standard construction hours, such as cabling, minor assembly, use of hand tools etc, they will be managed such that they are not audible at any residential receivers.

Table 11 Construction Equipment Sound Power Levels, Lw dBA (re 10 ⁻¹² Watts)				
Noise Source/Item	Utilisation %	Quantity	Lw/Item	Total Lw
	Trenching 8	Earthworks		
Backhoe	80	1	104	103
Light vehicle	25	2	76	73
Total – Trenching & Earthworks				105
	Pil	ing		
Piling Rig (hydraulic)	80	1	113	112
Tele-handler	75	1	106	105
Light vehicle	25	2	76	73
Total – Piling				113
	Asse	mbly		
Mobile Crane/HIAB	75	1	104	103
Tele-handler	75	1	106	105
Light vehicle	25	2	76	73
Hand tools/Power tools	50	1	102	99
Welder	50	1	105	102
Total – Assembly				109
Transport (on site)				
Heavy vehicle	40	1	104	101
Tele-handler	50	1	106	103
Total – Transport				105

5.2 Operational Assessment Methodology

For this assessment, noise predictions were modelled for a typical worst-case operational scenario over a 15-minute assessment period based on the assumptions and sound power levels in **Table 12**. Plant noise emission data used in modelling for this assessment were obtained from manufacturers data or the MAC database. Where relevant, modifying factors in accordance with Section 3.3 and Fact Sheet D of the NPI have been applied to calculations.

Table 12 Operational Equipment Sound Power Levels, Lw dBA (re 10 ⁻¹² Watts)				
Noise Source/Item	Activity	Quantity	Lw/Item	Total Lw
PV Panel Tracking Motor ^{1, 2}	All tracking motors in operation		78	83
	1 minute per 15-minute period	142	10	00
2.5MW Inverter ²	Constant	2	81	84
5MVA Transformer ²	Constant	1	77	77

Note 1: Tracking motor is situated underneath the PV panel, -5dB attenuation applied to account for shielding provided by the panel.

Note 2: Modifying factor penalty of +5dB added for low frequency and +5dB added for tonality.

5.2.1 Meteorological Analysis

Noise emissions can be influenced by prevailing weather conditions. Light stable winds (<3m/s) and temperature inversions have the potential to increase noise at a receiver.

Fact Sheet D of the NPI provides two options when considering meteorological effects:

- adopt the noise enhancing conditions for all assessment periods without an assessment of how often the conditions occur – a conservative approach that considers a source to receiver winds for all receivers and F class temperature inversions with wind speeds up to 2m/s at night; or
- determine the significance of noise enhancing conditions. This requires assessing the significance of temperature inversions (F and G Class stability categories) for the night time period and the significance of light winds up to 3m/s for all assessment periods during stability categories other than E, F or G.

Standard meteorological conditions and noise-enhancing meteorological conditions as defined in Table D1of the NPI are reproduced in Table 13.

Table 13 Standard and Noise-Enhancing Meteorological Conditions				
Meteorological Conditions	Meteorological Parameters			
Standard Matagralagical Conditions	Day/evening/night: stability categories A-D with wind speed up to 0.5m/s			
	at 10m AGL.			
	Daytime/evening: stability categories A–D with light winds (up to 3 m/s at 10m			
Noise Enhancing Meteorological	AGL).			
Conditions	Night-time: stability categories A–D with light winds (up to 3m/s at 10m			
	AGL) and/or stability category F with winds up to 2m/s at 10 m AGL.			

A detailed analysis of the significance of noise enhancing conditions has not been undertaken and hence, the (worst case) NPI noise enhancing meteorological conditions have been applied to the noise modelling assessment are presented in **Table 14**.

Table 14 Modelled N	Aeteorological Parar	neters		
Assessment	Tomporatura	Wind Speed ² /	Dolotivo Humidity	Stability Class ²
Condition ¹	remperature	Direction	Relative Humidity	Stability Class
Day	20°C	3m/s all directions	50%	D
Evening	10°C	3m/s all directions	50%	D
Night	10°C	2m/s all directions	50%	F

Note 1: Day 7am to 6pm Monday to Saturday or 8am to 6pm on Sundays and public holidays; Evening 6pm to 10pm; Night - the remaining periods. Note 2: Implemented using CONCAWE meteorological corrections.

5.3 Road Traffic Noise Assessment Methodology

Due to the low traffic volume generated by the project over a typical day during the construction phase, road traffic noise calculation methods such as Calculation of Road Traffic Noise (CRTN - ISBN 0 11 550847 3) by Department of Transport (UK) 1988 or Traffic Noise Model (TNM) by the United States Department of Transport, Federal Highway Administration are not considered appropriate as they are primarily intended to calculate noise emissions from motorways and highways. Whilst each method has a low volume correction, the project traffic volume is out of the scope of these methods. Therefore, road traffic noise has been modelled using iNoise modelling software using ISO 9613-1 and ISO 9613-2 calculation methods, representing the road traffic as "moving sources" along the transport route using the parameters presented in **Table 15**.

Table 15 Road Traffic Noise Modelling Parameters				
Noise Source/Item	Lw dBA re 10 ⁻¹² W	Movements/hr	Speed, km/h	Source Height, m ¹
Heavy vehicle	104	8	50	15
(rigid, semi trailer or b-double)	10-1	0	00	1.0
Light Vehicle	96	20	50	0.75

Note 1: Height above ground level.

6 Noise Assessment Results

6.1 Construction Noise Assessment

Noise levels were predicted all identified receivers at 1.5m above ground level for typical construction activities for standard construction hours. **Table 16** summarises the predicted noise level range and maximum predicted noise level for each of the construction scenarios (trenching, piling and assembly) at identified receivers.

Table 16	Table 16 Predicted Construction Noise Levels				
		Predicted Noise	Highest Predicted	NML Standard	Compliance
Receiver	Description/Address	Level Range	Noise Level	Hours	Achieved
		dB LAeq(15min) ¹	dB LAeq(15min)	dB LAeq(15min)	Achieved
R01	163 Old Gunnedah Road	<30-42	42	45	\checkmark
R02	175 Old Gunnedah Road	30-38	38	45	\checkmark
R03	225 Old Gunnedah Road	31-42	42	45	\checkmark
R04	237 Old Gunnedah Road	32-40	40	45	\checkmark
R05	7 Airport Road	44-54	54	45	×
R06	90 Airport Road	<30-43	43	45	\checkmark
R07	59 Kaputar Road	39-47	47	45	×
R08	65 Kaputar Road	39-48	48	45	×
R09	67 Kaputar Road	40-48	48	45	×
R10	69 Kaputar Road	40-49	49	45	×
R11	71 Kaputar Road	40-49	49	45	×
R12	80 Kaputar Road	39-48	48	45	×
R13	79 Kaputar Road	41-50	50	45	×
R14	83 Kaputar Road	41-50	50	45	×
R15	85 Kaputar Road	42-51	51	45	×
R16	87 Kaputar Road	42-51	51	45	×
R17	91 Kaputar Road	42-51	51	45	×
R18	97 Kaputar Road	43-51	51	45	×
R19	117 Kaputar Road	44-53	53	45	×
R20	139 Kaputar Road	37-51	51	45	×
R21	225 Kaputar Road	<30-39	39	45	\checkmark
R22	106 Whiting Drive	<30-36	36	45	\checkmark
R23	305 Old Gunnedah Road	30-40	40	45	\checkmark
R24	369 Old Gunnedah Road	<30-39	39	45	\checkmark
R25	363 Old Gunnedah Road	<30-38	38	45	\checkmark
R26	264 Old Gunnedah Road	30-38	38	45	\checkmark

Table 16	Table 16 Predicted Construction Noise Levels				
D .		Predicted Noise	Highest Predicted	NML Standard	Compliance
Receiver	Description/Address	Level Range	Noise Levei	Hours	Achieved
		dB LAeq(15min) ¹	dB LAeq(15min)	dB LAeq(15min)	7 torne ved
101	73 Kaputar Road	30-51	51	75	1
101	Palmer Steel Frame & Truss	39-31	51	15	•
	173 Old Gunnedah Rd				
102	Johnstone Concrete &	<30-37	37	75	\checkmark
	Landscaping				

Note 1: Noise levels from construction activities vary due to their position across the project site with respect to surrounding receivers.

Noise levels are expected to exceed the NMLs by up to 10dB at 15 receivers when works are at their nearest proximity during standard construction hours. Exceedances at this receiver are expected from all construction activities (piling, trenching & assembly), however, would be of a temporary nature and of short duration.

6.2 Operational Noise Assessment

Noise levels were predicted all identified receivers at 1.5m above ground level for all operational sources and are presented in **Table 17**. Noise levels are expected to satisfy the PNTLs at all receivers.

Table 17 P	Table 17 Predicted Operational Noise Levels				
Deceiver	Departmention/Address	Predicted Noise Level	PNTL dB LAeq(15min)	Compliance	
	Description/Address	dB LAeq(15min)	Day/Eve/Night ¹	Achieved	
R01	163 Old Gunnedah Road	<30	40/35/35	√	
R02	175 Old Gunnedah Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark	
R03	225 Old Gunnedah Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark	
R04	237 Old Gunnedah Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark	
R05	7 Airport Road	<30	40/35/35	√	
R06	90 Airport Road	<30	40/35/35	√	
R07	59 Kaputar Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark	
R08	65 Kaputar Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark	
R09	67 Kaputar Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark	
R10	69 Kaputar Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark	
R11	71 Kaputar Road	<30	40/35/35	√	
R12	80 Kaputar Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark	
R13	79 Kaputar Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark	
R14	83 Kaputar Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark	
R15	85 Kaputar Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark	
R16	87 Kaputar Road	<30	40/35/35	✓	

Table 17 P	redicted Operational Noise Le	Table 17 Predicted Operational Noise Levels					
Dessiver	Description/Address	Predicted Noise Level	PNTL dB LAeq(15min)	Compliance			
Receiver	Description/Address	dB LAeq(15min)	Day/Eve/Night ¹	Achieved			
R17	91 Kaputar Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark			
R18	97 Kaputar Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark			
R19	117 Kaputar Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark			
R20	139 Kaputar Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark			
R21	225 Kaputar Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark			
R22	106 Whiting Drive	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark			
R23	305 Old Gunnedah Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark			
R24	369 Old Gunnedah Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark			
R25	363 Old Gunnedah Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark			
R26	264 Old Gunnedah Road	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark			
101	73 Kaputar Road	<20	40/25/25				
101	Palmer Steel Frame & Truss	~30	40/35/35	v			
	173 Old Gunnedah Road						
102	Johnstone Concrete &	<30	40/35/35	\checkmark			
	Landscaping						

Note 1: Day - the period from 7am to 6pm Monday to Saturday or 8am to 6pm on Sundays and public holidays; Evening - the period from 6pm to 10pm; Night - the remaining periods.

6.3 Maximum Noise Level Assessment

A detailed maximum noise level assessment is not required as predicted noise levels for night time operations do not exceed the maximum noise level screening criterion of 40dB LAeq(15min) and there are no operational noise sources that generate significant maximum noise events.

6.4 Road Traffic Noise Assessment

During construction, traffic generated by the project include employee/subcontractor and delivery vehicles. The traffic volume over a typical day for standard construction hours is expected to be up to four heavy vehicles (semi-trailers or B-doubles) per hour and 20 light commercial vehicles or equivalent mini buses for worker transport during the morning and afternoon peak hour periods.

The transport route for all vehicles to the access the project site from the Newell Highway is yet to be determined. Therefore, it has been assumed that the closest residential receivers along the transport route are 15m from the road to represent a potential worst case assessment scenario.

Predicted noise levels from project related construction traffic has been calculated using the methodology described in **Section 5.3** and the parameters presented in **Table 15**. The results presented in **Table 18** show the calculated noise levels as LA_{eq(1hr)} for local roads and LA_{eq(15hr)} for arterial/sub arterial roads to align with RNP categories and assessment periods.

Table 18 Predicted Construction Road Traffic Noise Levels				
Road Type/Name	Offset Distance to	Dradiated Naisa Laval	DTN Critorio	Compliance
Road Type/Name	Receiver	Pledicted Noise Level	KIN Chtena	Achieved
Arterial, Sub Arterial	15m	45dP Apg(15br)	60dP L Agg(15br)	1
and Collector Roads	1311	450B LAeq(15hr)	OUD LACTION)	v
Local Roads	15m	48dB LAeq(1hr)	55dB LAeq(1hr)	\checkmark

Results demonstrate that project construction traffic noise levels would comply with the relevant RNP criteria.

Existing road traffic flows on the Newell Highway are not available. The project proposes to add an additional 20 light vehicles per day and 100 heavy vehicles over a six month construction period, which would be considered a negligible increase to existing traffic flows resulting in a negligible increase in road traffic noise.

Therefore, it is concluded that project related road traffic noise levels would satisfy the relevant RNP criteria at any residential receiver along the proposed transport routes and not increase existing noise levels by more than 2dB.

7 Recommendations

7.1 Construction Noise Recommendations

It is noted that construction noise emissions are anticipated to exceed the relevant NMLs depending on the type of construction and proximity of activities to receivers. The following noise mitigation measures should be considered during the construction phase to reduce emissions to the surrounding community:

- a construction noise management protocol to minimise noise emissions, manage out of hours (minor) works to be inaudible, and to respond to potential concerns from the community;
- where possible use localised mobile screens or construction hoarding around piling rig/plant to act as barriers between construction works and receivers, particularly where equipment is near the site boundary and/or a residential receiver including areas in constant or regular use (eg unloading and laydown areas);
- operating plant in a conservative manner (no over-revving), shutdown when not in use, and be parked/started at farthest point from relevant assessment locations;
- selection of the quietest suitable machinery available for each activity;
- minimise noisy plant/machinery working simultaneously where practicable;
- minimise impact noise wherever possible;
- utilise a broadband reverse alarm in lieu of the traditional high frequency type reverse alarm;
- provide toolbox meetings, training and education to drivers and contractors visiting the site during construction so they are aware of the location of noise sensitive receivers and to be cognisant of any noise generating activities;
- signage is to be placed at the front entrance advising truck drivers of their requirement to minimise noise both on and off-site; and
- utilise project related community consultation forums to notify residences within proximity of the site with project progress, proposed/upcoming potentially noise generating works, its duration and nature and complaint procedure.

The reduction achieved from the mitigation measures will depend on the specific measures implemented. Monitoring with and without the measures in place will provide an indication of the reduction achieved.

7.2 Operational Noise Recommendations

Operational noise predictions identify that relevant noise criteria would be satisfied at all receivers. Notwithstanding, it is recommended that the proponent actively minimise potential noise emissions from the project. To assist in noise management for the project it is recommended that a one-off noise validation monitoring assessment be completed to quantify operational noise emissions from site and to confirm emissions meet relevant criteria. The monitoring assessment would consist of operator attended noise measurements during normal operation to determine the noise contribution from the project.

8 Discussion and Conclusion

Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd (MAC) has completed a Noise Assessment for a proposed Solar Farm near Narrabri , NSW.

The results of the Noise Assessment demonstrate that construction noise levels have potential to exceed relevant construction NMLs at several receiver locations. Recommendations have been provided to minimise the potential noise impacts from construction, albeit of a temporary nature during the daytime over a six month construction period.

The results of the Noise Assessment demonstrate that emissions from the project would satisfy the operational PNTLs at all identified receivers.

Furthermore, sleep disturbance is not anticipated, as there are no operational noise sources that generate significant maximum noise events and noise emissions from the project are predicted to satisfy the EPA maximum noise level criteria.

Road noise emissions associated with the project are anticipated to satisfy the relevant RNP criteria at all receivers along the proposed transportation route.

A qualitative assessment of potential vibration impacts has been completed. Due to the nature of the works proposed and distances to potential vibration sensitive receivers, vibration impacts from the project would be negligible.

Based on the Noise Assessment results, there are no noise related issues which would prevent approval of the proposed project.

This page has been intentionally left blank

Appendix A – Glossary of Terms

A number of technical terms have been used in this report and are explained in Table A1.

Table A1 Glossary o	of Acoustical 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 total noise associated with a given environment. Typically, a composite of sounds from all
	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 sound.
Background Noise	The underlying level of noise present in the ambient noise, excluding the noise source under
	investigation, when extraneous noise is removed. This is usually represented by the LA90
	descriptor
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), dB(L)	Decibels Z-weighted or decibels Linear (unweighted).
Extraneous Noise	Sound resulting from activities that are not typical of the area.
Hertz (Hz)	The measure of frequency of sound wave oscillations per second - 1 oscillation per second
	equals 1 hertz.
LA10	A sound level which is exceeded 10% of the time.
LA90	Commonly referred to as the background noise, this is the level exceeded 90% of the time.
LAeq	Represents the average noise energy or equivalent sound pressure level over a given period.
LAmax	The maximum sound pressure level received at the microphone during a measuring interval.
Masking	The phenomenon of one sound interfering with the perception of another sound.
	For example, the interference of traffic noise with use of a public telephone on a busy street.
RBL	The Rating Background Level (RBL) as defined in the NPI, is an overall single figure
	representing the background level for each assessment period over the whole monitoring
	period. The RBL, as defined is the median of ABL values over the whole monitoring period.
Sound power level	This is a measure of the total power radiated by a source in the form of sound and is given by
(Lw or SWL)	10.log10 (W/Wo). Where W is the sound power in watts to the reference level of 10 ⁻¹² watts.
Sound pressure level	the level of sound pressure; as measured at a distance by a standard sound level meter.
(Lp or SPL)	This differs from Lw in that it is the sound level at a receiver position as opposed to the sound
	'intensity' of the source.

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

Source	Typical Sound Pressure 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

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

Figure A1 – Human Perception of Sound

This page has been intentionally left blank

Appendix B – Project Layout

2

Version: 1. Version Date: 09/03/2021

3

4

SCALE PROVIDENCE ASSET GROUP 1:2.500 NARRABRI SOLAR FARM REVISION GENERAL ARRANGEMENT А SYSTEM DETAIL PAPER SIZE DWG No. 10100-G-GAD-02-2 A3 5

5

TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION FACILITIES

HARDSTAND TURNAROUND SUITABLE FOR

B-DOUBLE ACCESS POWER CONVERSION STATION

EMERGENCY ACCESS GATE (2x2m)

EXISTING WIRE FENCING

ADDITIONAL FARM GATE 2x4m

IMPROVED ACCESS FROM AIRPORT RD

0&M SHED

WATERCOURSE

40m OFFSET

FROM WATERCOURSE

Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd PO Box 262, Newcastle NSW 2300 ABN: 36 602 225 132 P: +61 2 4920 1833 www.mulleracoustic.com

