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Bloomfield Coal Project Noise Monitoring Program

Report Number 630.01573-R03

9 November 2017

Bloomfield Collieries Pty Ltd
Four Mile Creek Road
Ashtonfield NSW 2323

Version: v4.1

Bloomfield Coal Project

Noise Monitoring Program

PREPARED BY:

SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd
ABN 29 001 584 612
10 Kings Road
New Lambton NSW 2305 Australia
(PO Box 447 New Lambton NSW 2305 Australia)
+61 2 4037 3200 +61 2 4037 3201
newcastleau@slrconsulting.com www.slrconsulting.com

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the timescale and resources allocated to it by agreement with the Client. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected, which has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Reference	Date	Prepared	Checked	Authorised
630.01573-R3-v4.1	9 November 2017	Martin Davenport	Nathan Archer	Nathan Archer
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1 INTRODUCTION

SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) was engaged to prepare an operational Noise Monitoring Program (NMP) for the Bloomfield Colliery in accordance with project approval (Application No. 07_0087) granted by the Minister for Planning for the Bloomfield Coal Project (refer Heggies Report 30-1573R3NMP *Bloomfield Coal Project Noise Monitoring Program* dated 24 February 2010).

This update has been prepared as requested by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment letter dated 4 July 2017 requiring the NMP to be revised and submitted for approval by 30 September 2017.

The objectives of the NMP are to fulfil the requirement of Schedule 3 Condition 4 of the Bloomfield Coal Project Approval and Section 11 of the Statement of Commitments contained within the Bloomfield Colliery Part 3A Environmental Assessment (The Bloomfield Group 2008).

The objectives of the NMP are to:

- Demonstrate that compliance with the project approval conditions can be achieved.
- Identify potential noise sources and their relative contribution to noise impacts from the development.
- Outline the methodologies to be used, including justification for monitoring intervals, weather conditions, seasonal variations, monitoring locations, periods and times of measurements, the design of any noise modelling or other studies, including the means for determining the noise levels emitted by the development.
- Integrate the Bloomfield NMP with monitoring programs for the Tasman, Donaldson and Abel mines.

2 PROJECT APPROVAL

The relevant conditions relating to noise from the Bloomfield Coal Project approval as modified are reproduced below.

Schedule 3 NOISE

Noise Impact Assessment Criteria

1. The Proponent shall ensure that the noise generated by the project does not exceed the noise impact assessment criteria in **Table 1**:

Table 1 Operational noise impact assessment criteria

Morning Shoulder	Day	Evening	Night	Location and Locality	
<i>L_{Aeq}(15min)</i>	<i>L_{Aeq}(15min)</i>	<i>L_{Aeq}(15min)</i>	<i>L_{Aeq}(15min)</i>	<i>L_{A1}(1min)</i>	
40	35	35	35	45	E Browns Road, Black Hill
42	35	35	35	45	F Black Hill Road, Black Hill
43	39	42	37	45	G Buchanan Road, Buchanan
35	35	35	35	45	H Mt Vincent Road, Louth Park
35	35	35	35	45	L Kilshanny Avenue, Ashtonfield
48	39	39	37	46	M John Renshaw Drive, Buttai
43	42	42	35	46	N Lings Road, Buttai

Notes

- To interpret the locations in Table 1, see Appendix 2.
- The limits in Table 1 are to apply under meteorological conditions of up to 3 m/s at 10 m above ground level, excluding F and G class inversions as described in the NSW Industrial Noise Policy.

However, if the Proponent has a written negotiated noise agreement with the landowner of any land, and a copy of this agreement has been forwarded to the Department and DECC, then the Proponent may exceed the noise limits in Table 1 on that land in accordance with the negotiated noise agreement.

Cumulative Noise Criteria

2. The Proponent shall take all reasonable and feasible measures to ensure that the noise generated by the project combined with the noise generated by other mines does not exceed the following amenity criteria at any residence on, or on more than 25 percent of, any privately owned land:

- *L_{Aeq}(11 hour) 50 dB(A) – Day;*
- *L_{Aeq}(4 hour) 45 dB(A) – Evening; and*
- *L_{Aeq}(9 hour) 40 dB(A) – Night.*

Continuous Improvement

3. The Proponent shall:

- implement all reasonable and feasible noise mitigation measures;
- investigate ways to reduce the noise generated by the project; and

(c) report on these investigations and the implementation and effectiveness of these measures in the AEMR, to the satisfaction of the Director-General.

Monitoring

Table 2 Condition 4 Monitoring

Condition Requirement	NMP Reference
The proponent shall prepare and implement a noise and Monitoring Program for the project to the satisfaction of the Director-General. The Program must:	
(a) Be prepared in consultation with the OEH and be submitted to the Director-General for approval within 6 months of the date of this approval; and	Appendix C
(b) Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a combination of unattended and attended monitoring measures; and	Section 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none">a noise monitoring protocol for evaluating compliance with the noise impact assessment criteria in this approval.	Section 6, Section 7 and Section 8.

2.1 Statement of Commitments

11. Noise Management and Monitoring

A Noise Management Plan shall be prepared and implemented for the project. The Plan will include mitigation and monitoring requirements for the project.

3 POTENTIAL NOISE IMPACTS AND MAJOR NOISE SOURCES

3.1 Noise Sources

In order to minimise noise impacts from the various items of plant and equipment, particularly during night-time operations, the noise levels of the major items of plant and equipment will be monitored before they are installed. The sound power level of plant and equipment should not be greater than the modelled design sound power levels set out in the Bloomfield Colliery Modification Noise Impact Assessment Report (Heggies Report 30-1573R2) and presented in **Appendix B**.

If the sound power level of equipment is determined to be higher than assumed in the assessment prediction of the noise impact of this equipment may be required. Further mitigation of the equipment may be required before installation if the prediction results in an exceedance of the approval conditions.

All sound power measurement procedures of the plant and equipment shall be guided by the requirements of AS 2012-1977 “*Method for Measurement of Airborne Noise from Agricultural Tractors and Earthmoving Machinery*”, AS 2012.1-1990 “*Acoustics - Measurement of Airborne Noise Emitted by Earthmoving Machinery and Exterior Noise*”, and ISO 9614-2:1996 to determine stationary and dynamic (operating) sound power levels.

3.2 Key Noise Monitoring Locations

The nearest potentially affected residential areas beyond the boundaries of the mining operations are shown in **Appendix A**. The key monitoring locations representative of the surrounding receivers, and identified in the respective approvals for the operations, are to be used for evaluating and assessing noise emissions from mining operations. **Table 3** presents the receiver identifier and location together with the most significant mining operation affecting each location.

Table 3 Nearest Potentially Affected Receiver Locations to Surrounding Coal Mines

Receiver Identifier	Receiver Location	Respective Focus Operation
A	Weakleys Drive, Beresfield	Donaldson
B	Yarram Avenue, Beresfield	Donaldson
C	Ebenezer Park	Donaldson
D	Black Hill School	Donaldson, Abel
E	Browns Road, Black Hill	Donaldson, Abel, Bloomfield
F	John Renshaw Drive, Black Hill	Donaldson, Abel, Bloomfield
G	Buchanan	Bloomfield
H	Louth Park	Bloomfield
I	Ashtonfield	Bloomfield
J	Thornton	Bloomfield
K	Catholic Diocese of Maitland, formerly Barter Enterprises	Donaldson, Abel
L	Kilshanny Ave, Ashtonfield	Bloomfield
M	John Renshaw Drive, Buttai	Bloomfield
N	Lings Road, Buttai	Bloomfield
O	Boundary Rd, West Wallsend	Tasman
P	George Booth Drive, Seahampton	Tasman

4 NOISE MONITORING PROCEDURES

4.1 General Requirements

The noise measurement procedures employed throughout the monitoring program shall be guided by the requirements of AS 1055-1997 "Acoustics - Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise" and the NSW Industrial Noise Policy.

Noise monitoring will be conducted on a quarterly basis and consist of continuous unattended and operator attended noise monitoring. Any review of the frequency of monitoring will be undertaken in consultation with the Department of Planning and the EPA as appropriate.

4.2 Operator Attended Noise Surveys

Significant noise modelling and monitoring has been conducted for the seven (7) locations identified within **Table 1** of the Bloomfield Coal Project approval and locations A to P identified in **Table 3** above. With this experience, five (5) noise monitoring locations have been identified that represent the potentially most affected areas from noise emissions from Bloomfield Colliery operations. The details of the monitoring locations are given in **Table 4**.

Table 4 Noise Monitoring Locations

Noise Monitoring Location	Description
F	Lot 684 Black Hill Road, Black Hill
G	156 Buchanan Road, Buchanan
L	Kilshanny Avenue, Ashtonfield
M	John Renshaw Drive, Buttai
N	Lings Road, Buttai

Operator-attended noise measurements shall be conducted at the locations given in **Table 4** to quantify and characterise the maximum (L_{Amax}), the energy equivalent (L_{Aeq}), average maximum (L_{A10}) and background (L_{A90}) noise levels from ambient noise sources and Bloomfield mining operations over a 15 minute measurement period.

During attended monitoring, digital recordings will be conducted to allow for additional post analysis of the mine contributed $L_{Aeq}(15\text{minute})$, $L_{A10}(15\text{minute})$ and $L_{A1}(1\text{minute})$ noise levels and to assist in source identification.

4.3 Unattended Continuous Noise Logging

In order to supplement the operator-attended measurements, unattended continuous noise monitoring shall be conducted at Locations F, G, L, M and N, for a minimum period of seven (7) days per quarter, to quantify overall ambient noise amenity levels resulting from mining and other environmental noise sources. Data from unattended continuous noise logging will allow trends to be identified in ambient noise levels surrounding the mine and the assessment of cumulative noise impacts from all mining related noise sources in the area.

The monitoring locations chosen should be representative of noise emissions from Bloomfield mining operations in order to determine compliance with the approval conditions and/ or allow the contributed noise level to be calculated at the nominated assessment locations.

As location N is predominately dominated by road traffic along John Renshaw Drive, the unattended noise monitoring will instead be conducted at 699 John Renshaw Drive due to the proximity of the Bloomfield operations. This will allow a Bloomfield noise contribution to be measured at this location and the Bloomfield contribution to be calculated at Location N.

4.4 Site Noise Level Audits

The noise monitoring program will include regular noise surveillance measurements of acoustically significant plant and equipment, to ensure that they remain within the specified compliance levels.

4.5 Integrated Noise Monitoring Protocol

Noise Monitoring Programs have also been prepared for the Donaldson, Abel and Tasman mines. The NMPs of these operations are integrated with the Bloomfield NMP, where applicable, in order to determine compliance of each of the operations with their consent conditions and to determine compliance with the cumulative noise criteria as per Schedule 3 Condition 2 of the Bloomfield Project Approval.

Noise monitoring for the Donaldson and Abel coal mines is conducted on a quarterly basis in conjunction with the Bloomfield quarterly noise monitoring to increase the efficiency of the monitoring programs and to allow determination of cumulative noise levels. Furthermore, in addition to the noise monitoring locations provided in **Table 4**, attended and unattended noise monitoring is undertaken on a quarterly basis at Locations A and D for the Donaldson and Abel Coal mines and on an annual basis at Locations O and P for the Tasman Coal Mine.

Noise compliance is reported to the individual operations with comment made to overall cumulative noise levels.

5 INSTRUMENTATION AND MEASUREMENT PARAMETERS

5.1 Operator-Attended Surveys and Unattended Logging

All acoustic instrumentation employed throughout the monitoring program shall meet with the requirements of AS 1259.2-1990, "*Sound Level Meters*".

Portable sound level meters used for operator attended noise monitoring should be capable of conducting real time third octave analysis.

Noise loggers shall be programmed to continuously record statistical noise level indices in 15 minute intervals which may include the L_{Amax}, LA₁, LA₅, LA₁₀, LA₉₀, LA₉₉, L_{Amin} and the LA_{eq}.

Instrument calibration shall be checked before and after each measurement survey, with the variation in calibrated levels not to exceed ± 0.5 dBA.

5.2 Meteorological Parameters

All noise measurements shall be accompanied by both qualitative description (including cloud cover) and quantitative measurements of prevailing local weather conditions throughout the survey period.

Meteorological measurements shall be guided by the requirements of AS 2923-1987 "*Ambient Air-Guide for Measurements of Horizontal Wind for Air Quality Applications*" and the EPA. The automatic weather station situated on the Donaldson mine site is programmed to continuously record the meteorological parameters as shown in **Table 5**.

Table 5 Meteorological Measurement Parameters

Measured Parameter	Unit	Sample Interval
Mean wind speed	m/s	15 minute
Mean wind direction	Degrees	15 minute
Aggregate rainfall	mm	15 minute
Mean air temperature	C°	15 minute

5.3 Plant and Equipment Observations and Log

During the attended noise measurements, the operator shall record any significant mine generated noise sources (ie haul trucks, dozers, etc). In addition, the operator shall obtain copies of the relevant fixed plant and mobile equipment mining operating shift logs to be included in the noise monitoring report.

6 COMPLIANCE MODELLING METHODOLOGY

A computer noise model was developed as part of the noise impact assessment for the Bloomfield Project. The computer model incorporated the significant noise sources and their design sound power levels associated with the proposed development and the surrounding terrain, aspects of the built environment and nearby receiver areas.

The computer model was prepared using SoundPLAN v7.2 software, developed by Braunstein and Berndt GmbH in Germany. As part of the noise monitoring program, a compliance noise model will be maintained containing all significant noise sources on the site. The compliance noise model will be used to assist in defining compliance issues, if they arise.

This will assist in developing a calibrated noise model for site which will allow an accurate forecast of any future development or significant events that may occur on the site.

7 DATA ANALYSIS

7.1 Determining Compliance

7.1.1 Operator Attended Noise Survey Results

The LAeq(15minute) noise level contributions from all mining operations as well as the overall ambient noise levels together with the weather and mine operating conditions shall be reported on a quarterly basis.

The contributed noise emissions from mining operations shall be evaluated and assessed against the noise level criteria given in Project Approval. Compliance may be determined by:

- direct measurement of the consent criteria - LAeq(15minute).
- operator estimated LAeq(15minute) contribution;
- operator estimated LA1(1minute) contribution;
- by calculation from near field measurements;
- from post analysis of audio recordings;
- by measurement at a representative location;
- predictions from the compliance noise model; or
- a combination of any or all the above methods.

7.1.2 Unattended Continuous Noise Logging

The unattended ambient noise logger data from each monitoring location, together with the weather and mine operating conditions shall be presented graphically on a daily basis and presented in the noise monitoring report.

It should be noted that the ambient noise levels do not necessarily reflect the contributed level of noise emissions from mining operations. The ambient noise level data quantifies the overall noise level at a given location independent of its source or character. The ambient noise monitoring data will provide indications of the cumulative noise emissions from all industrial noise sources and amenity levels.

Prior to further analysis, the ambient noise level data from each monitoring location which correlate with periods of unstable weather (i.e. rainfall greater than 0.5 mm or wind speed greater than 5 m/s) shall be discarded.

7.1.3 Noise Compliance Model

The noise compliance model output will provide predicted noise levels from the current operational scenario at all relevant assessment locations, which can then be compared to the measured noise levels and estimated mine contribution levels.

Additionally, the model output can be integrated into similar models for the other operations for the production of cumulative noise contours.

8 REPORTING

8.1 Noise Monitoring Report

All routine monitoring results will be documented and reported initially on a quarterly basis. This information is also included in the Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR) which is sent to the relevant authorities as listed in Schedule 5 Condition 3 of the Project Approval.

Quarterly reports should consist of the following information.

- Summary of all attended and unattended noise monitoring results.
- Predicted noise levels at each assessment location from the compliance noise model (if necessary).
- Measured/ calculated and/or operator estimated Bloomfield mine LAeq(15minute) contributed noise levels for each monitoring location.
- Measured/ calculated and/or operator estimated Bloomfield mine LA1(1minute) contributed noise levels for each monitoring location.
- Statement of compliance/ non-compliance.
- Details of any complaints relating to noise and their state of resolution.

8.2 Reporting Non-Compliances

In the event of a potential exceedance of the relevant noise emission criteria an investigation will be undertaken. Consideration will be given to the margin of exceedance and the source of emission, if it has been identified. The noise, weather and plant operating data shall be so that the matter can be investigated and appropriate actions undertaken accordingly.

Additional noise measurement methods such as near field monitoring or unattended directional noise monitoring may be utilised to investigate noise emissions in relation to noise complaints, or to determine compliance with the approval conditions where potential non-compliances have been measured or are difficult to quantify from operator-attended or unattended noise measurements.

The results of noise monitoring will be included in the AEMR and posted on Bloomfield's website. Details of any exceedances and results of related investigations will be reported to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure as soon as possible in accordance with Condition 5 of Schedule 5 of the Bloomfield Coal Project Approval.

9 COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND COMPLAINTS

Information about the project is provided on Bloomfield's website. This includes details about blasting and general project information.

Bloomfield's Environmental Management Strategy details the procedures for addressing any complaints including noise issues that may be raised by the community. All complaints that are raised by the community and/or government agencies are recorded. Details for each are kept including:

- Date and time of complaint.
- Method by which the complaint was made.
- Personal details of the complainant which were provided by the complainant or, if no such details were provided, a note to that effect.
- Nature of the complaint.
- The action(s) taken in relation to the complaint, including any follow up contact with the complainant; and
- If no action was taken, the reason why no action was taken.

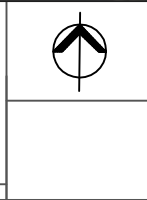
The complainant will be followed up to explain the outcome of the investigations.

Bloomfield Coal Mine will also ensure that the Annual Environmental Monitoring Report (AEMR), minutes from Community Consultative Committee meetings and results and interpretation of monitoring and/or modelling required by the Project Approval are made available on the mine's website.



50 mm ON ORIGINAL
150
140
130
120
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0

0	6/5/07	v01r0	DW	JC
REV	DATE	AMENDMENT / ISSUE DESCRIPTION	PREPARED	CHECKED



- Assessed Receiver Location
- Modified Project Application Area
- CCL 761

SLR SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd
 Level 1, 14 Watt Street
 PO Box 1768
 Newcastle NSW 2300
 newcastleau@slrconsulting.com
 Telephone 02 4908 4500 Facsimile 02 4908 4501

FILE NAME:
630.01573-R3R1 Appendix A

Appendix A
 Bloomfields Noise & Blasting
 Impact Assessment
 Location Map

DRAWING No.
001

REVISION
0

Appendix B

Report 630.01573R3v4.1

Equipment Sound Power Levels Page 1 of 1

Equipment Description	Sound Power Level (SWL) Octave Band Centre Frequency (Hz) - dBA re 1pW										dBA Overall SWL
	31.5	63	125	250	500	1k	2k	4k	8k	16k	
Hitachi Excavator 5500	54	78	96	103	103	109	110	108	102	90	115
P&H 9020 Face Shovel	62	84	93	103	103	111	114	110	104	90	117
Caterpillar Rear Dump Trucks 789	67	82	93	103	106	106	105	104	96	81	112
Caterpillar Rear Dump Trucks 777	67	82	93	103	106	106	105	104	96	81	112
Caterpillar Rear Dump Trucks 793	66	82	101	100	108	108	106	100	92	78	113
Caterpillar Front End Loader 992	77	90	99	103	103	106	107	110	104	91	114
Caterpillar Dozer D11	84	97	104	113	113	109	110	103	98	83	118
Caterpillar Dozer D10 ¹	84	97	104	113	113	109	110	103	98	83	84
Caterpillar Grader 16G	53	70	81	98	103	104	105	105	99	90	111
Coal Truck (road-going)	41	56	74	80	88	90	92	93	89	84	98
Reedriill D40K	71	84	94	101	104	104	105	97	87	81	110
Drill	58	75	89	100	107	107	107	103	98	86	113
Caterpillar Watercart 777	39	54	67	76	80	84	85	84	78	72	90
Pump	57	73	96	106	104	110	113	111	105	96	117
Pump and alternator	57	74	82	86	96	98	94	91	83	69	102
CAT 365 Backhoe ²	60	84	98	94	97	98	100	99	98	94	107

Notes: 1 - SWL of a Caterpillar Dozer D11 has been used to represent a worst case scenario.

2- A CAT 365 Backhoe has been assumed for the construction of the Wattle Tree Drive haul road.

CONSULTATION



**Environment,
Climate Change
& Water**

S3 C4
OEU Consultation,

Your reference: DECCW/001KH
Our reference: DOC10/15469, LIC09/250
Contact: Mitchell Bennett, 02 4908 6806

The Bloomfield Group
PO Box 4
EAST MAITLAND NSW 2323

23 APR 2010

Attention: Ms Keren Halliday

Dear Ms Halliday

**Bloomfield Colliery
Noise Monitoring Program, Air Quality Monitoring Plan and Blast Monitoring Program**

Thankyou for forwarding the above programs for our records. The Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) encourages the development of such programs to ensure that proponents have determined how they will meet their statutory obligations. However, DECCW does not review these documents as all DECCW monitoring requirements are specified in your Environment Protection Licence.

Should you have any questions please phone me on 02 4908 6806.

Yours sincerely

MITCHELL BENNETT
Head Regional Operations Unit – Hunter Region
Environment Protection and Regulation



Greg Lamb
Environmental Officer
Bloomfield Colliery
PO Box 4
EAST MAITLAND NSW 2323

Dear Mr Lamb

**Bloomfield Coal Project (MP 07_0087)
Review of Management Plans**

I refer to your email dated 14 December 2017 providing the Department with several updated management plans addressing the Department's comments of 5 October 2017.

The Department has reviewed the below management plans and strategy for the Bloomfield Coal Project, which have been prepared in accordance with the mine's project approval:

- Noise Monitoring Program dated August 2017 (condition 4 of Schedule 3);
- Blast Monitoring Program dated July 2017 (condition 14 of Schedule 3);
- Landscape Management Plan dated August 2017 (condition 26 of Schedule 3);
- Rehabilitation Management Plan dated August 2017 (condition 27 of Schedule 3);
- Final Void Management Plan dated August 2017 (condition 28 of Schedule 3);
- Mine Closure Plan dated August 2017 (condition 29 of Schedule 3);
- Biodiversity Offset Management Plan dated July 2017 (condition 29B of Schedule 3); and
- Environmental Management Strategy dated July 2017 (condition 1 of Schedule 5).

I advise that the Secretary approves the above management plans and strategy. Please provide final copies of these plans to the Department at your earliest convenience and place copies on your website.

The Department considers that the revised Air Quality Monitoring Program (condition 16 of Schedule 3) has not adequately addressed the Department's previous comments. The Department's comments on this document are enclosed in **Attachment A**. The Department requests that this document be re-submitted by **8 January 2017**.

The Department notes that a revised Water Management Plan (condition 19 of Schedule 3) was not submitted and that an extension to submit by 31 December has been granted. It is also noted that the draft Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan has not been reviewed as it is understood that it is currently with the Mindaribba Land Council for consultation. The Department will review this plan once a final version is submitted.

Should you have any enquiries in relation to this matter, please contact Jessie Evans on the details above.

Yours sincerely,

Howard Reed
Director

Resource Assessments
as nominee of the Secretary

19-12-17