



**NEW HOPE**  
**GROUP**

# REQUEST TO CHANGE A CONDITION

*New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3  
Project*

4 December 2018



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New Acland Coal Pty Ltd (**NAC**) is the proponent of the New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 project (**the Project**). The Project involves the proposed extension of the operating life of the New Acland Coal Mine (**the Mine**). This includes the progressive development of three new resource areas within Mining Lease (**ML**) 50232 as three new pits, construction of a rail spur and balloon loop from Jondaryan, within ML 700002 and ML 50232, and associated infrastructure.

The economic benefits of the Project have been demonstrated. In the Coordinator-General's evaluation report on the environmental impact statement for the Project dated 19 December 2014 (**the Coordinator-General's Report**), it was concluded that the Project would deliver significant economic benefits to the local, regional and state economies. It also acknowledged the employment benefits that would be generated by the Project, in the form of direct and indirect jobs, local regional and Indigenous employment opportunities. Similarly, the Land Court found that there would be significant positive economic impacts for the local region, the State and the nation. Additional information on the importance of the Project is set out at section 1.5 of this document.

NAC requests that the Coordinator-General assess proposed changes to the stated conditions for the Project in order to respond to recommendations made by the Land Court in its decision of 7 November 2018. In particular, NAC seeks the following changes:

- incorporation of reduced noise limits for the evening (6pm-10pm) and night (10pm-7am) periods in Table D1b, which is referred to in stated conditions D1 and D3; and
- deletion of Table D1a and condition D2 (and any references to those conditions in other conditions) to apply the reduced noise limits when the amended environmental authority (**EA**) takes effect.

The requested changes will result in reduced noise limits for the evening and night periods, applying as soon as the amended EA takes effect, and therefore will not cause any adverse environmental effects. Rather, if there is to be an effect, it would be a benefit to the acoustic amenity experienced by persons living in the vicinity of the Mine.

Extensive public consultation has been undertaken in regards to the Project, including through multiple court hearings which addressed the reduced noise limits proposed by these changes. In NAC's view, given the nature of the changes and the fact that substantial consultation has already occurred, public notification of the proposed changes should not be necessary.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Proponent

NAC is the proponent for the Project and is a wholly owned subsidiary of New Hope Corporation Limited (**NHCL**), which is an Australian publicly listed company with a long history of coal mine development and operation in Queensland and overseas dating back to the early 1950s. NAC and the other subsidiaries of NHCL trade and operate as the New Hope Group (**NHG**).

### 1.2 Project overview

NAC has operated the Mine since 2002. The Mine is currently operated under ML 50170 and ML 50216 and EA EPML00335713, all of which are held by NAC. Currently, the Mine has approval to produce 5.2 million tonnes per annum (**Mtpa**) of product coal as an open cut coal mine. The Project proposes the expansion of the Mine to produce up to 7.5 Mtpa of thermal coal.

With respect to the Project, NAC has applied for the following:

- Mining Lease Application (**MLA**) 50232 and MLA 700002; and
- an amendment to the EA for the Mine to include the Project (**EA Amendment Application**).

The Project proposes the extension of the Mine's operating life, with the inclusion and progressive development of three new resource areas within ML 50232 as three new pits, construction of a rail spur and balloon loop from Jondaryan, within ML 700002 and ML 50232, and associated infrastructure. The mining activities for the new resource areas in the Project will not involve a substantial change to the mining method from that used for the existing operations. Novel or unproven resource extraction process technology or activity is not proposed as part of the application and the proposed EA amendment does not involve petroleum and gas activities.

The Project will allow NAC to expand its production capacity at the Mine to meet current and future market demands for its thermal coal products. The Project's thermal coal products are a highly valued energy resource that possesses lower sulphur content, provides higher energy output and produces less greenhouse emissions than many alternative thermal coal sources. The Project will boost economic activity within the Darling Downs region through direct and indirect employment, investment and business opportunities for the life of the Project and beyond.

The chief executive of the Department of Environment and Science (**DES**) has issued a draft EA (**Draft EA**) for the Project. NAC also holds an approval under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (**EPBC Act**) in relation to the Project. On 18 May 2007, the Coordinator-General declared the Project to be a 'coordinated project' (at that time a "significant project") under section 26(1)(a) of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (Qld) (**SDPWO Act**). A brief chronology of the Project is provided in Annexure B.

### 1.3 Land Court hearings and noise limits

#### Original Objections Hearing

The MLAs, Draft EA, and objections, were referred to the Land Court in October 2015 for an objections hearing (**Original Objections Hearing**). The Original Objections Hearing considered the noise limits that should be imposed on the EA for the Project. Member Smith

conducted the objections hearing and made recommendations on 31 May 2017. Member Smith found that the appropriate noise levels for both evening and night periods should be set at 35dBA.<sup>1</sup> In reaching this conclusion, Member Smith drew on the evidence of Mr Savery, an acoustic expert engaged by an objector (Oakey Coal Action Alliance). Mr Savery was of the view that lower limits during the evening and night periods (35dBA) would better protect the health, wellbeing, and amenity of the mine's neighbours, resulting in the following limits:

- 42 dBA for the daytime (7am to 7pm)
- 35 dBA for the evening (7pm to 10pm)
- 35 dBA for night (10pm to 7am).<sup>2</sup>

#### Remitted Land Court Hearing

Member Smith's decision was the subject of a judicial review applied for by NAC. The Supreme Court on 2 May 2018 set aside the recommendations of the Original Objections Hearing and remitted the matter back to the Land Court for a new hearing, on a limited basis. The Supreme Court ordered that no new evidence was to be heard and the hearing would be conducted based on the findings and conclusions of the recommendation from the Original Objections Hearing other than in respect of Member Smith's key findings on groundwater and, to the extent they are connected, inter-generational equity, because the depletion of groundwater is beyond the jurisdiction of the Court and other than Member Smith's conclusions as regards noise.

The remitted Land Court hearing was heard before President Kingham on 2-4 October 2018 (**Remitted Land Court Hearing**). The Court on the Remitted Land Court Hearing found that although the Coordinator-General's noise limits are acceptable in most circumstances,<sup>3</sup> in this case, a limit of 35 dBA in the evening and night was more conducive to the wellbeing of the community.<sup>4</sup> The Land Court recommended that the MLAs and EA Amendment Application be approved if the following occur by 31 May 2019:

- NAC applies to the Coordinator-General to amend the stated conditions to apply the reduced noise limits (35dBA for evening and night) to noise from mining activities on all tenures subject to the EA when the amended EA takes effect;
- the Coordinator-General amends those stated conditions; and
- DES incorporates the stated conditions (as amended by the Coordinator-General) in the Draft EA.<sup>5</sup>

This request addresses the changes to the stated conditions contemplated by the Land Court recommendation following the Remitted Land Court Hearing. If these changes are not made by 31 May 2019, the Land Court's recommendation will be that the MLAs and EA Amendment Application be refused.

## **1.4 Project location**

The Project is located approximately 160 kilometres (km) west of Brisbane, 35 km north-west of Toowoomba, and 14 km north-northwest of the town of Oakey. The Project is located entirely within the Toowoomba Regional Council area. The proposed access to the Project site for light vehicles is via the Oakey-Cooyar Road, which connects with the Warrego Highway through Oakey. Access to the Project site for heavy vehicles is via the proposed diverted

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<sup>1</sup> *New Acland Coal Pty Ltd v Ashman & Ors and Chief Executive, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (No 4)* [2017] QLC 24 at [773] and [775].

<sup>2</sup> Savery SoE (Document ID: OCA.0041, Exhibit 1886), paragraph 10, page 3.

<sup>3</sup> *New Acland Coal Pty Ltd v Ashman & Ors (No 7)* [2018] QLC 41 at [88].

<sup>4</sup> *New Acland Coal Pty Ltd v Ashman & Ors (No 7)* [2018] QLC 41 at [98].

<sup>5</sup> *New Acland Coal Pty Ltd v Ashman & Ors (No 7)* [2018] QLC 41 at Appendix A, orders 1, 2 & 3.

Jondaryan-Muldu Road, which connects with the Warrego Highway, west of Toowoomba near the town of Jondaryan. From the two connection points, the Warrego Highway heads east to Toowoomba and Brisbane, respectively.

## 1.5 Importance of the Project

NAC currently employs 265 FTE employees, as well as approximately 500 contractors. The Mine's accessible coal reserves on the existing MLs are forecast to be depleted by the second half of 2020. Accordingly, for the Mine to operate beyond 2020 it is essential that the Project proceed. By extending the life of mine, the Project will preserve the following jobs (approximate numbers):

- 265 current employees at the Mine (which will increase to approximately 435 for the peak operational phase of the Project);
- 500 contractors;
- 93 NHG head office jobs;
- 28 Queensland Bulk Handling jobs at the Port of Brisbane; and
- 135 Aurizon jobs.<sup>6</sup>

Additional jobs created by the Project will include a further 260 during the peak construction phase and indigenous employment associated with Aboriginal cultural heritage protection.

The Land Court determined that there would be significant positive economic impacts of the Project for the local region, State and the nation.<sup>7</sup> This finding, not having been overturned on judicial review, remains current. Similarly, the Coordinator-General's Report concluded that the Project would:

*"deliver significant economic benefits to both the local, regional and state economies. Employment benefits would be generated by the project over the 12-year project life—providing direct and indirect jobs, local, regional and Indigenous employment opportunities".<sup>8</sup>*

The economic modelling conducted by Acil Allen Consulting<sup>9</sup> for the Original Objections Hearing concluded that the Project is projected to increase:

- the real economic output of:
  - the local region by a cumulative total of \$4.647 billion (with a present value of \$3.818 billion);
  - Queensland as a whole (i.e. real gross state product) by a cumulative total of \$5.256 billion (with a net present value of \$4.308 billion); and
  - Australia as a whole (i.e. real gross domestic product) by a cumulative total of \$5.750 billion (with a net present value of \$4.707 billion); and
- the real income of:

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<sup>6</sup> *New Acland Coal Pty Ltd v Ashman & Ors and Chief Executive, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection* (No. 4) [2017] QLC 2 at [420].

<sup>7</sup> *New Acland Coal Pty Ltd v Ashman & Ors and Chief Executive, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection* (No. 4) [2017] QLC 2 at [1021].

<sup>8</sup> Coordinator-General's Report, chapter 9, page 156.

<sup>9</sup> Computable general equilibrium model.

- the local region by a cumulative total of \$1.264 billion (with a present value of \$1.038 billion);
- Queensland as a whole by a cumulative total of \$4.276 billion (with a net present value of \$3.525 billion); and
- Australia as a whole by a cumulative total of \$8.549 billion (with a net present value of \$6.986 billion).

Additionally, the Cost Benefit Analysis conducted by Acil Allen Consulting for the Original Objections Hearing found the net benefits of the Project (adopting very conservative cost estimates) are between \$4.624 billion and \$6.694 billion.

The Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy also commissioned Synergies Economic Consulting to undertake an economic analysis of the Project which similarly found that the Project will have significant economic benefits for the State.<sup>10</sup>

Significant capital will be invested in the Project to facilitate full production and further expenditure or replacement capital will occur over the life of the Project. The increased industrial activity in the region will generate wealth for many sectors of the local and regional economies. Oakey and the surrounding regional communities are expected to receive significant economic benefits over the life of the Project. Efficiencies will be provided by capitalising on existing infrastructure located at the Mine.

NAC has 34 current domestic coal customers including 12 abattoirs, farmers, a major hospital, food suppliers, nurseries and other industries that are reliant on NAC for energy supplies. In addition, the coal resource at the Mine has unique properties that make small boilers highly efficient – no other coals possess these specific characteristics.

NAC is Aurizon's largest customer on the West Moreton Rail System and the Project will ensure survival of this rail network with 57 train services per week which is the majority of haulage (there are only four agricultural trains per week currently and 17 other coal trains).

Coal traffic underpins the viability of the West Moreton Rail System, providing sufficient revenue to cover not only the variable costs of coal services, but also the total fixed costs of the system, plus a margin. In the absence of coal traffic (of which the NAC makes up around 60%), Queensland Rail (**QR**) would require substantial increases in subsidies under transport service contracts in order to avoid closure of the line. Dividend payments from QR to the Government would also reduce. Closure of the rail network (which would likely occur without the Project) would lead to losses to QR of approximately \$54 million revenue per annum (with \$40 million per annum attributable to NAC) as well as likely job losses at QR.<sup>11</sup>

Any future Inland Rail project will rely on coal for approximately 24% of its revenue.<sup>12</sup> Coal can underpin the investment in Inland Rail by providing significant, reliable freight volume that will run year round, and is not subject to the seasonality of containers and agriculture.

NAC is a leader in mining rehabilitation practices. NAC's industry leading rehabilitation credentials have been formally ratified through the progressive certification of 349 hectares of rehabilitation by DES. NAC understands this is the largest single area of certified rehabilitation for an open cut coal mine in Queensland. NAC has a very unique business model that combines mining and farming on the rehabilitated land by Acland Pastoral Company Pty Limited (**APC**). APC operates a grazing enterprise on various land parcels around the Mine, which complement NAC's rehabilitation. Innovative grazing trials have been undertaken on the rehabilitated pasture, which are being viewed by the industry, academics and regulators as industry leading. These trials have indicated that livestock grazing on rehabilitated mined land

<sup>10</sup> Rapid Social Benefit-Cost Analysis Report, March 2015.

<sup>11</sup> Ernst & Young Report, "New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project: Financial Impact Study," 27 September 2017, para 4.2.1.1.

<sup>12</sup> Table 10.1, page 201 ARTC 2015 Inland Rail Program Business Case.

at Acland is economically viable, environmentally sustainable and produces safe meat of a high eating quality standard for the consumer.

APC owns:

- all of the private land within MLA 50232 and land surrounding the Mine and Project area, which will act as a buffer to the Project; and
- all of the private land within MLA 700002 (Rail), with the exception of land owned by one other landholder with whom NAC has an agreement for the rail spur to be constructed immediately adjacent to the Jondaryan-Muldu Road.



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## 2. RELEVANT STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

### 2.1 Environmental Protection Act 1994

The decision in the Remitted Land Court decision was made under section 190 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994 (EP Act)*, being:

#### **190 Nature of objections decision**

- (1) *The objections decision for the application must be a recommendation to the administering authority that—*
  - (a) *if a draft environmental authority was given for the application—*
    - (i) *the application be approved on the basis of the draft environmental authority for the application; or*
    - (ii) *the application be approved, but on stated conditions that are different to the conditions in the draft environmental authority; or*
    - (iii) *the application be refused; or*
  - (b) *if a draft environmental authority was not given for the application—*
    - (i) *the application be approved subject to conditions; or*
    - (ii) *the application be refused.*
- (2) *However, if a relevant mining lease is, or is included in, a coordinated project, any stated conditions under subsection (1)(a)(ii) or (b)(i)—*
  - (a) *must include the Coordinator-General's conditions; and*
  - (b) *can not be inconsistent with a Coordinator-General's condition.*

The next step in the approval process is a decision on the EA Amendment Application. The considerations for the EA Amendment Application will, amongst other matters, be informed by the Coordinator-General's Report.

Under section 190(2) and 205, the Land Court cannot recommend conditions that are inconsistent with the Coordinator-General's conditions. Section 205 of the EP Act is as follows:

#### **205 Conditions that must be imposed if application relates to coordinated project**

- (1) *This section applies for an application if—*
  - (a) *the administering authority decides to approve the application subject to conditions; and*
  - (b) *the application relates to a coordinated project.*
- (2) *The administering authority must impose on the environmental authority or draft environmental authority any conditions for the authority stated in the Coordinator-General's report for the EIS or IAR for the project as conditions for the relevant activity (Coordinator-General's conditions).*

The stated conditions in the Coordinator-General's Report specified different noise limits to those recommended by the Remitted Land Court decision. Therefore, the Remitted Land Court decision recommended that the EA be granted subject to a condition that it only take effect upon the Coordinator-General approving specified changes to the stated conditions and particularly to include the recommended noise limits.

## **2.2 State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971**

The Environmental Impact Statement (**EIS**) was submitted to the Coordinator-General in January 2014 and released for public and advisory agency consultation from January to March 2014. Additional Information to the EIS (**AEIS**) was requested by the Coordinator-General during April 2014 and, following submission in August 2014, both the AEIS and EIS were released for additional public and advisory agency consultation during September 2014. The Coordinator-General's Report was issued on 19 December 2014 in accordance with section 34D of the SDPWO Act. The Coordinator-General's Report concluded that the Project should be approved, subject to conditions and recommendations.

Appendix 2, section 1 of the Coordinator-Generals Report includes the Coordinator-General's stated conditions for the draft environmental authority for the Project, pursuant to section 47C of the SDPWO Act.

This application to the Coordinator-General, pursuant to section 35C SDPWO Act, is to evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed changes to the Coordinator-General's stated conditions to give effect to the recommendations made by the Land Court in its decision of 7 November 2018 following the Remitted Land Court Hearing:

- amendment to Table D1b, which is referred to in stated conditions D1 and D3, to incorporate reduced noise limits for the evening (6pm-10pm) and night (10pm-7am) periods; and
- deletion of Table D1a, condition D2 and any references to those conditions.

This application for a change to a condition addresses each of the requirements set out in Section 35E of the SDPWO Act, being:

*35E Requirements for application*

*The application must be written and:*

- a) *describe the proposed change and its effects on the project; and*
- b) *state reasons for the proposed change; and*
- c) *include enough information about the proposed change and its effects on the project to allow the Coordinator-General to make the evaluation.*

### 3. TABLE D1b - REDUCED NOISE LIMITS

#### 3.1 Proposed change to condition

Existing Table D1b, which is referred to in stated condition D1 and D3 and contains the proposed noise limits for the Project, is as follows:

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Table D1b – Noise limits (operations\*) (includes construction activities)

Noise level dB(A) measured as	All days		
	7am - 6pm	6pm - 10pm	10pm - 7am
Noise measured at a 'Noise sensitive place'			
LAeq, adj, 15 min	42	42	37
L <sub>A</sub> max	-	-	50
L <sub>A</sub> max rail spur	-	-	56
LAeq(24hr) rail spur	-	-	50

[Nb. This table is included in the Draft EA as Table F1b]

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The proposed change to Table D1b is as follows (in mark-up):

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Table D1b – Noise limits (~~operations\*~~) (includes construction activities)

Noise level dB(A) measured as	All days		
	7am - 6pm	6pm - 10pm	10pm - 7am
Noise measured at a 'Noise sensitive place'			
LAeq, adj, 15 min	42	<del>42</del> 35	<del>37</del> 35
L <sub>A</sub> max	-	-	50
L <sub>A</sub> max rail spur	-	-	56
LAeq(24hr) rail spur	-	-	50

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#### 3.2 Reasons for the proposed change

The stated conditions were contained in the Coordinator-General's Report. Since that time, the Land Court, in its decision of 7 November 2018 on the Remitted Land Court Hearing, has recommended that the noise limits for both evening (6pm-10pm) and night (10pm-7am)

periods in Table D1b (Table F1b of the Draft EA) be reduced to 35dB(A), LAeq, adj, 15min. In particular, the Land Court found that Member Smith, in the Original Objections Hearing, was entitled to draw upon the evidence given by Mr Savery (acoustic expert for OCAA) in finding lower noise limits were appropriate in the particular circumstances of this mine. The Court found that there is nothing in the EPP Noise to prevent DES imposing lower noise limits than those consistent with the acoustic quality objectives (AQOs) in Schedule 1 of the EPP Noise.<sup>13</sup>

Under sections 190(2) and 205 of the EP Act, the conditions of the EA must not be inconsistent with the Coordinator-General's stated conditions. The reason for the change therefore is to align the stated condition with the recommendations of the Land Court, so that the reduced limits can be included in the EA for the Project.

If the Coordinator-General does not effect this change by 31 May 2019, then the Land Court's recommendation is that the MLAs and EA Amendment Application be refused.

### 3.3 Effects on the Project

Given that the proposed change would result in reduced noise limits, there will be no adverse environmental effects caused by the change. Rather, if there is to be an effect, it would be a benefit to the acoustic amenity experienced by persons living in the vicinity of the Mine.

NAC has engaged SLR consulting to determine a noise mitigation strategy directed at achieving compliance with the noise limits recommended by the Land Court. SLR's investigations have identified multiple actions that NAC can implement to manage noise (See SLR report at Annexure G). The most acoustically significant actions include:

- fully attenuating NAC's mobile fleet by retrospectively installing noise attenuation kits and / or purchasing new factory-attenuated models;
- constructing earth and / or other acoustic barriers between pits and sensitive receptors; and
- managing the fleet and mining operations to achieve noise limits using:
  - a weather forecasting system to provide daily predictions of meteorological conditions and the risk of noise and vibration impacts from the mine (in combination with noise modelling), to enable NAC to plan its daily activities to achieve compliance with EA noise limits; and
  - a refined Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) and real time performance monitoring, which will allow management actions to be taken where monitoring identifies that mining activities are causing noise levels to approach or exceed noise limits.

SLR concluded that compliance with the 35dBA (evening/night) noise limit can be achieved for the Project, based on the above measures.

In relation to SLR's recommendation that mobile fleet be fully attenuated, as noted in the SLR Report, NAC has already embarked on a program to silence its existing mobile plant.

In relation to SLR's recommendation that noise bunds or barriers be constructed between pits and sensitive receptors, this is not a new concept.<sup>14</sup> SLR notes that noise bunds are common on mine sites. This is consistent with Mr Elkin's evidence in the Original Objections Hearing that substantial noise attenuation could be achieved by the construction of noise bunds.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> *New Acland Coal Pty Ltd v Ashman & Ors (No 7)* [2018] QLC 41 at [98].

<sup>14</sup> See commitments 301, 686 and 794 in Annexure F.

<sup>15</sup> Transcript of Original Objections Hearing, T44-71, line 30 to 45.

Further, Mr Savery (OCAA's acoustic expert) identified the possibility of using bunds during the Original Objections Hearing.<sup>16</sup>

The proposal to use a combination of a weather forecasting system, refined TARP and real time performance monitoring to manage noise is consistent with, and complemented by, the additional noise conditions the Land Court recommended be included in the EA. These conditions are set out in Annexure D.

In particular:

- The additional conditions set out in Annexure D reflect NAC's commitment to implement a system of real time performance monitoring (to be included in a Noise Monitoring Program to be developed by a suitably qualified and experienced person and to the satisfaction of DES) and a Noise and Vibration Management Plan (also to be developed by a suitably qualified and experienced person and to the satisfaction of DES). NAC's proposed real-time noise monitoring system would allow NAC to turn off equipment when there is a risk of the noise limits in the EA being exceeded. This system and the noise management plan will be upgraded in line with the recommendations of the acoustic experts in the Original Objections Hearing and as identified in the SLR report.<sup>17</sup>
- Proposed condition F10 requires that the Noise and Vibration Management Plan include a comprehensive noise management system that uses a combination of predictive meteorological forecasting and real-time noise monitoring data to guide the day-to-day planning of mining operations and the implementation of both proactive and reactive mitigation measures (adaptive management) to ensure compliance.
- Proposed condition F8 requires four real time monitors around the mine, at Acland and to the North, West and East. A dashboard operator will be in attendance for the evening and night periods to respond to the data from the real time monitors to allow NAC to react quickly to any risks of exceedances.
- Proposed condition F9 requires noise monitoring data to be provided in real time and online. The data from the real time monitoring will therefore be available to the public in real time and online, which will ensure transparency and accountability around NAC's management of noise.<sup>18</sup> Under proposed condition F10, NAC must also appoint an independent acoustic consultant at its cost to review the monthly noise report format for a 12 month period following the commencement of reporting to ensure information presented from noise monitoring is clear, open and unambiguous for sensitive receptors. This review report must be given to each sensitive receptor.
- Monthly attended compliance noise monitoring is also proposed.

The Land Court has recommended these complementary conditions be included in the EA for the Project.<sup>19</sup> It is not necessary, nor is it proposed, that these additional conditions be incorporated into the Coordinator-General's stated conditions. They do not conflict with the Coordinator-General's stated conditions. Rather, the conditions complement the proposed change to reduce noise limits, as they will assist the management and mitigation of the effects of mine noise on sensitive receptors to meet the prescribed noise limits.

The measures outlined above and in the SLR report will be in addition to the various noise management measures proposed to be implemented. This includes attenuation of mining equipment, including modification of reversing beepers, installing electric horns and restricting

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<sup>16</sup> Transcript of Original Objections Hearing, T48-9, line 44 to T48-10, line 11.

<sup>17</sup> Noise JER (Document ID: NAC.0034, exhibit 406) paragraph 378 and Savery SoE (Document ID: OCA.0041, Exhibit 1886), paragraph 180, page 36.

<sup>18</sup> Monitoring results will also be reported online through the monthly Environmental Monitoring Reports required under the Coordinator-General's imposed condition 3.

<sup>19</sup> *New Acland Coal Pty Ltd v Ashman & Ors (No 7)* [2018] QLC 41at [131].

the use of air horns to emergency situations, modifying exhausts on mobile equipment, as well as confining operations at night to in-pit dumping only and conducting planned maintenance during night shifts to remove additional fleet from operations during night times. NAC already committed in the EIS to reduced night time operation (only two pits operating at night in adverse weather or atmospheric conditions) and using attenuated equipment (including excavators, track dozers, loaders and rear dump trucks),<sup>20</sup>

A list of measures NAC has implemented to date is contained in Annexure C.

Further, SLR notes that it has not taken into account any property-based noise control measures that could be implemented (e.g. upgrading glazing to windows and doors and installing air-conditioning to allow windows / doors to be shut). Advice from SLR is that such measures are regularly used across Australia to mitigate noise and that they would be very effective in reducing noise. To this end, NAC has proposed condition F11 (set out in Annexure D), , whereby NAC is obliged to provide such treatments at its cost on request of the owner of a noise sensitive place. The Land Court has recommended that DES include this condition in the EA.<sup>21</sup>

### Proponent commitments

Throughout the EIS process for the Project, NAC made 843 commitments. These commitments were initially documented in Appendix L of the EIS and later updated to incorporate submissions on the EIS in Appendix D of the AEIS.

Of the Project's 843 Commitments, 48 commitments directly relate to noise impacts and attenuation measures. As part of this change request process, an assessment was undertaken to determine whether any of the 48 commitments would be affected by the proposed changes to stated conditions. The assessment against the relevant commitments is presented in Annexure F. It demonstrates that the proposed changes do not affect NAC's ability to deliver on its commitments. In fact, some commitments will be augmented by the proposed changes and the noise mitigation measures required under the new conditions recommended by the Land Court in Annexure D.

## 4. CONDITION D2 AND TABLE D1a - COMMENCEMENT OF REDUCED NOISE LIMITS

### 4.1 Proposed change to condition

Existing stated condition D2 and Table D1a are as follows:

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*Table D1a – Noise limits (existing operations)*

<b>Noise level dB(A) measured as</b>	<b>All days</b>		
	<i>7am - 6pm</i>	<i>6pm - 10pm</i>	<i>10pm - 7am</i>
<i>Noise measured at a 'Noise sensitive place'</i>			
<i>L<sub>Ar</sub>, 1hour</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>L<sub>Amax</sub></i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>50</i>

<sup>20</sup> Commitment 300

<sup>21</sup> *New Acland Coal Pty Ltd v Ashman & Ors (No 7)* [2018] QLC 41at [131].

D2 Noise limits in **Table D1a – Noise limits (existing operations)** only apply until the commencement of mining activities (removal of overburden) for the Manning Vale East Pit, the Manning Vale West Pit or the Willeroo Pit as shown on Figure 1.

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It is proposed that stated condition D2 and Table D1a be deleted. This would also require the following consequential amendments to conditions D1 and D3:

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D1 The holder of this environmental authority must ensure that noise generated by the mining activities does not cause the criteria in ~~Table D1 – Noise limits (existing operations)~~ and Table D1b – Noise limits ~~(operations)~~ to be exceeded at a sensitive place or commercial place.

~~Table D1a – Noise limits (existing operations)~~

Noise level dB(A) measured as	All days		
	<del>7am – 6pm</del>	<del>6pm – 10pm</del>	<del>10pm – 7am</del>
<del>Noise measured at a 'Noise sensitive place'</del>			
<del>L<sub>Af</sub>, 1 hour</del>	<del>50</del>	<del>45</del>	<del>40</del>
<del>L<sub>Amax</sub></del>	<del>-</del>	<del>-</del>	<del>50</del>

~~D2 – Noise limits in **Table D1a – Noise limits (existing operations)** only apply until the commencement of mining activities (removal of overburden) for the Manning Vale East Pit, the Manning Vale West Pit or the Willeroo Pit as shown on Figure 1.~~

D3 If monitoring indicates the potential for exceedance of the relevant limits in ~~Table D1a~~ and **Table D1b – Noise Limits** then the environmental authority holder must immediately implement noise abatement measures to avoid exceeding the relevant limits.

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## 4.2 Reasons for the proposed change

In its decision of 7 November 2018 on the Remitted Land Court Hearing, the Land Court recommended that the reduced noise limits (as per the proposed amended Table D1b, addressed in section 3 of this document) apply to noise from mining activities on all tenures when the amended EA takes effect.

Stated condition D2 and Table D1a would have the effect of deferring application of the reduced noise limits until the removal of overburden from the Manning Vale East Pit, the Manning Vale West Pit or the Willeroo Pit as shown on Figure 1 of the Draft EA.

Under sections 190(2) and 205 of the EP Act, the conditions of the EA must include, and not be inconsistent with, the Coordinator-General's stated conditions. The reason for the proposed deletion of stated condition D2 and Table D1a therefore is to align the stated conditions with

the recommendations of the Land Court, so that the reduced limits apply as soon as the amended EA takes effect.

### 4.3 Effects on the Project

Given that the proposed change would result in the earlier commencement of reduced noise limits, there will be no adverse environmental effects caused by the change. Rather, if there is to be an effect, there will be a benefit to the acoustic amenity experienced by persons living in the vicinity of the Mine. See section 3.3 of this document.

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## 5. COMMUNITY

The Project has undergone, and continues to undergo, significant public consultation. A full description of the public consultation and community engagement undertaken in regards to the Project is included in Annexure E. In addition, a statistical summary of NAC's consultation effort from 1 January 2014 to 16 November 2018 is provided in Annexure I.

The Project has been assessed through a lengthy Land Court process in the Original Objections Hearing and the Remitted Land Court Hearing. Although some of the objectors in the Land Court proceedings are landowners in the immediate vicinity of the Project, there is also a broad cross section of the local community (including those living in very close proximity to the Mine and families who have been in the area since the 1800s), and people who are heavily involved with various community groups who are supportive of the Mine and the Project. Some of these community members gave evidence in Court in support of the Project. NAC's community sponsorship and donations program is very important to the functioning of a range of community groups, is transparently managed through the diverse membership of the NAC's community reference group and is generally warmly received within the community.

The Project offers a significant degree of security of employment and additional employment, particularly for those employees and contractors whose current employment is with the existing Mine. The Project also provides significant benefits for local businesses in Oakey and the Toowoomba region. The noise limits were recommended by the Land Court after extensive expert evidence and expert reports (four) produced during both court hearings. Expert noise evidence in the Original Objections Hearing was given over a period of approximately eight days. The Remitted Land Court Hearing was a three day hearing and reconsidered the appropriate noise limits and the commencement of the noise limits. All of the objectors, who were participants in the original hearing, participated in the Remitted Land Court Hearing. The Department of Environment and Science was represented at both hearings.

These court processes have resulted in a high level of community awareness of the Project. Both the Original Land Court decision and the Remitted Land Court decision has been published online.<sup>22</sup> The reduction in noise limits recommended by the Land Court will benefit the community, particularly those living in close proximity of the mine. As recognised by the President in the recent Land Court hearing, the noise conditions proposed by NAC, as revised in Her Honour's reasons, provide for a much more rigorous regime for the monitoring, reporting and enforcement of noise conditions than apply to the Mine now.<sup>23</sup>

It is submitted that, given the nature of the changes (to reduce noise limits), the public consideration of noise limits through the Original Land Court and Remitted Land Court hearings and decisions and the fact that substantial consultation has already occurred about the Project, public notification of the proposed changes should not be necessary.

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www.courts.qld.gov.au/decisions>

<sup>23</sup> *New Acland Coal Pty Ltd v Ashman & Ors (No 7)* [2018] QLC 41 at [250].



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## **6. CONCLUSION**

NAC requests that the Coordinator-General assesses the environmental effects of the above proposed changes.

The proposed change to Table D1b will result in reduced noise limits for the evening and night periods, and therefore, will not cause any adverse environmental effects, but rather will provide a benefit by reducing the impact of the Mine on persons living in the vicinity of the Mine. The proposed changes to D1, D2, D3 and Table D1a will maintain or reduce the noise impacts, as recommended by the Land Court.

In addition, NAC has proposed, and the Land Court has adopted in its recommendations, conditions requiring additional mitigation measures which will support the management of noise impacts of the Project, so as to comply with EA limits.

There is a multitude of evidence supporting the importance of the Project and the significant positive economic impact it will have on the local region, State and the nation. This is supported by the Coordinator-General's Report, the Land Court findings, economic modelling undertaken on behalf of NAC and modelling undertaken on behalf of DNRME. The conditional recommendation of the Remitted Land Court Hearing shows that the economic benefits of the Project outweigh any environmental impact, which will be further reduced by the proposed changes in this report.

## Annexure A - Glossary

Term	Meaning
AEIS	Additional information to Environmental Impact Statement
APC	Acland Pastoral Company Pty Limited
DES	Department of Environment and Science
Draft EA	The draft EA approved on 28 August 2015
EA	Environmental Authority
EA Amendment Application	Application to amend the EA dated 28 August 2015
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994 (Qld)</i>
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)</i>
FTE	Full-time equivalent
JER	Joint Expert Report
ML	Mining Lease
MLA	Mining Lease Application
Mtpa	Million tonnes per annum
NAC	New Acland Coal Pty Ltd
NHCL	New Hope Corporation Limited
NHG	New Hope Group
NVMP	Noise and Vibration Management Plan
QR	Queensland Rail
SDPWO Act	<i>State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 (Qld)</i>
SoE	Statement of Evidence
The Coordinator-General's Report	Coordinator-General's Evaluation Report on the Environmental Impact Statement for the Project dated December 2014
The Mine	New Acland Coal Mine since 2002
The Project	New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 project

## Annexure B - Chronology of Project

Event	Date
Gazettal of coordinated project declaration	18 May 2007
MLA 50232 lodged	25 May 2007
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted	January 2014
EIS released for public consultation	18 January 2014 - 3 March 2014
Additional information to EIS (AEIS) submitted	August 2014
AEIS released for public consultation	1 - 29 September 2014
Coordinator-General's evaluation report, recommending that the Project be approved, subject to conditions	19 December 2014
MLA 700002 lodged	16 January 2015
EA Amendment Application lodged	13 April 2015
Public notification of MLAs 50232 and 700002 and the EA Amendment Application	13 May 2015 - 2 July 2015
Draft EA issued by the then Department of Environment and Heritage Protection	28 August 2015
Referral of MLA 50232 and 700002 to the Land Court for Objections Hearing	14 October 2015
Referral of EA Amendment Application to the Land Court for Objections Hearing	19 October 2015
Original Objections Hearing dates	7 March 2016 - 12 August 2016 5 - 7 October 2016 3 - 20 April 2017
EPBC Act approval issued. The approval has effect until 31 January 2042.	18 January 2017
Land Court decision (Member Smith) on EA Amendment Application, MLA 50232 and MLA 700002 (since overturned)	31 May 2017
Associated Water License application lodged	3 October 2017
Supreme Court decision (Bowskill J) overturned Land Court decision and the EA decision of 14 February 2018 and remitted the matter to the Land Court for reconsideration	2 May 2018 (final orders 28 May 2018)
Appeal lodged in the Court of Appeal against Supreme Court decision by Oakey Coal Action Alliance Inc.	30 May 2018
Remitted Land Court Hearing dates	2 - 4 October 2018
Remitted Land Court decision	7 November 2018
Upcoming Court of Appeal hearing dates	27 - 28 February 2019

## **Annexure C - NAC's implemented noise attenuation measures**

1. Installation of the SentineX continuous noise monitoring monitor in Acland.
2. Introduction of the live noise dashboard system that relays noise data in real time to NAC dashboard operators facilitating the shutdown, relocation or modification of the operation of mining equipment if it appears that noise levels are approaching noise criteria.
3. NAC has developed a training package and work instruction to assist noise dashboard operators to interpret the monitor's results to reduce the likelihood of activities causing nuisance to sensitive receptors in Acland.
4. NAC has made significant changes to its roster arrangements specifically to reduce noise levels at night. A 3 shift roster was created so that the majority of mine fleet does not operate between 0100 and 0600AM.
5. NAC has introduced a 24-hour community "hotline" to allow community members to communicate any environmental concerns to the mine operational staff for immediate response.
6. NAC distributed flyers to landholders late last year and again this month, outlining five different methods of communication available to community members so that any concerns or queries can be addressed by NAC as expeditiously as possible. These methods include:
  - a. a contact number for the New Hope Community Information Centre for non-urgent matters;
  - b. the aforementioned community hotline;
  - c. NAC's physical address for residents to visit;
  - d. NAC's community email address contact by email; and
  - e. NAC's web address containing relevant information for residents.
7. Significant noise attenuation to the majority of the mining trucks and excavators, and to some of the wheel loaders and dozers in use at the mine. To date, over 60% of the mobile equipment fleet has been modified to reduce noise.

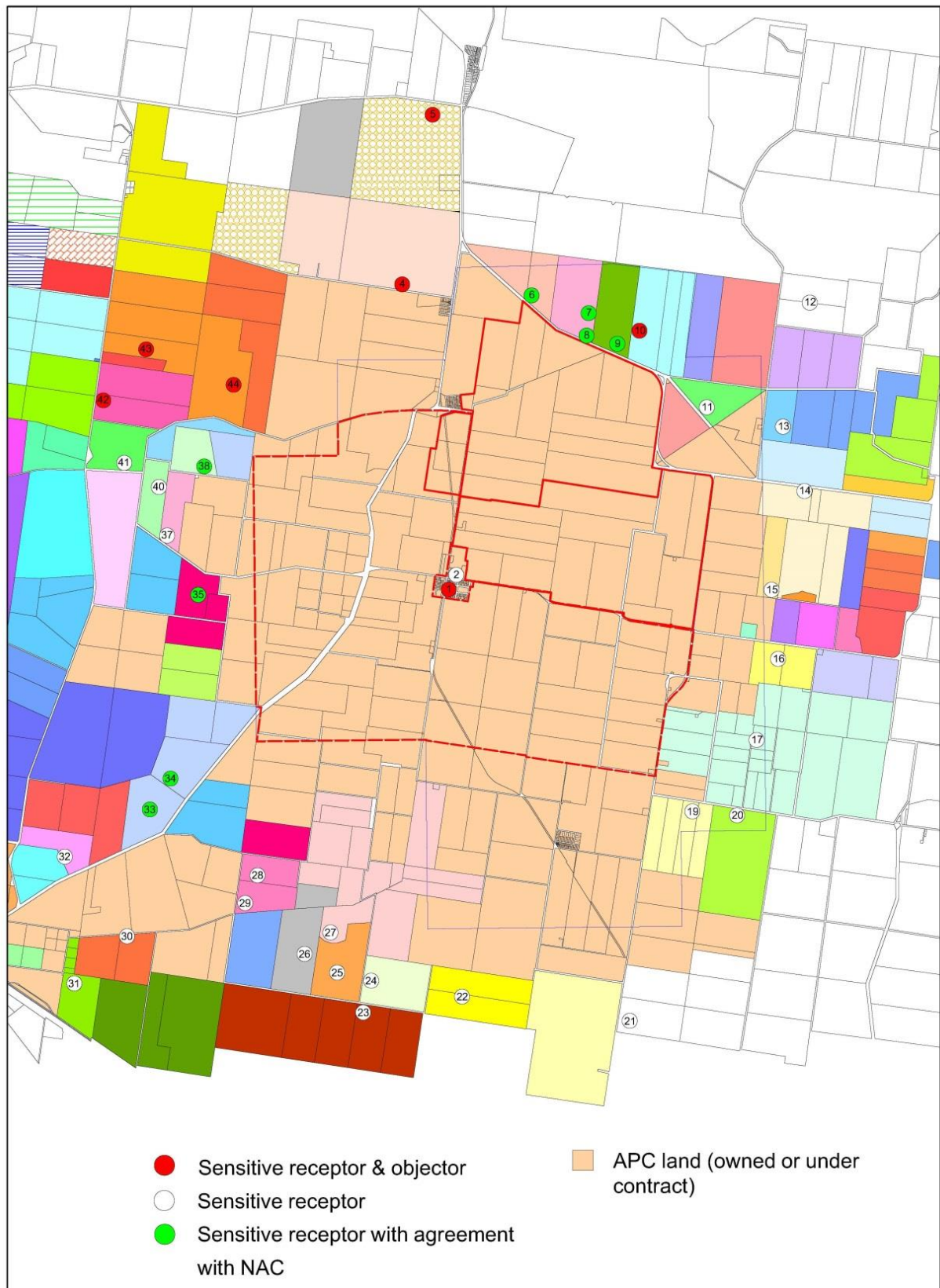
## Annexure D - NAC's additional recommended EA noise conditions

Condition number	NAC suggested conditions
F5	<p>Monitoring and reporting</p> <p><u>A Noise Monitoring Program must be developed by a suitably qualified and experienced person and to the satisfaction of the administering authority to monitor compliance with Table F1b - Noise limits (operations). The Noise Monitoring Program must be submitted to the administering authority within 3 months of the environmental authority taking effect and implemented within 3 months of the administering authority approving the program. The Noise Monitoring Program must incorporate a program for noise monitoring and recording in accordance with Table F3 - Compliance noise monitoring location and frequency which must include the following descriptor characteristics and matters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <del>L<sub>A</sub>N,T (where N equals the statistical levels of 1, 10 and 90 and T = 15-15 to 60 mins); L<sub>A</sub>eq, adj, 15 min - day, evening night;</del></li> <li>b) <u>maximum (L<sub>A</sub>max) noise levels - night (for a minimum of 30 minutes);</u></li> <li>c) background noise L<sub>A</sub>90;</li> <li>d) the level and frequency of occurrence of impulsive or tonal noise and any adjustment and penalties to statistical levels;</li> <li>e) <u>1/3 octave band spectrums;</u></li> <li>f) atmospheric conditions including temperature, relative humidity and wind speed and directions;</li> <li>g) effects due to any extraneous factors such as traffic noise <u>and natural sources (e.g. insects, birds, wind);</u></li> <li>h) location, date and time of monitoring; and</li> <li>i) if a complaint concerns low frequency noise, <del>Max L<sub>p</sub>L<sub>I</sub>N,T</del> <u>L<sub>L</sub>L<sub>I</sub>N<sub>eq</sub> 10 mins (internal), L<sub>A</sub>eq 10 mins (internal)</u> and one third octave band measurements in <u>L<sub>L</sub>L<sub>I</sub>N<sub>eq</sub> 10 mins (internal)</u> <del>dB(L<sub>I</sub>N)</del> for centre frequencies in the 10 - 200 Hz range.</li> </ul> <p>Note this condition augments condition D5 of the Coordinator-General's stated conditions.</p>
F8	<p><u>The Noise Monitoring Program must also include a system of real time performance monitoring against the criteria in Table F1b - Noise limits (operations) at:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <u>location in Acland to be identified in the Noise Monitoring Program;</u></li> <li>ii. <u>location to the east of the Stage 3 New Acland mine to be identified in the Noise Monitoring Program;</u></li> <li>iii. <u>location to the north of the Stage 3 New Acland mine to be identified in the Noise Monitoring Program; and</u></li> <li>iv. <u>location to the west of the Stage 3 New Acland mine to be identified in the Noise Monitoring Program.</u></li> </ul> <p><b>NOTE:</b> <u>The performance monitoring required under this condition is to be used for performance management rather than monitoring for compliance with Table F1b - Noise limits</u></p>

	<u>(operations).</u>						
<b><u>F9</u></b>	<u>Noise monitoring data be provided in real-time on-line.</u>						
<b><u>F10</u></b>	<p><b><u>Noise management</u></b></p> <p><u>A Noise and Vibration Management Plan must be developed by a suitably qualified and experienced person and to the satisfaction of the administering authority and must be implemented. The Noise and Vibration Management Plan must incorporate a program for continuous improvements for the management of noise emissions caused by mining operations and must include, but is not limited to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>a) a detailed description of the noise management system;</u></li> <li><u>b) a description of the noise mitigation measures that would be implemented to ensure best practice noise management is being employed, is regularly benchmarked against contemporary industry standards and is regularly reviewed to ensure continual improvement;</u></li> <li><u>c) the Noise Monitoring Program described in condition F5 and Table F3 - Compliance noise monitoring location and frequency;</u></li> <li><u>d) a comprehensive noise management system that uses a combination of predictive meteorological forecasting and real-time noise monitoring data to guide the day to day planning of mining operations and the implementation of both proactive and reactive mitigation measures to ensure compliance with these conditions, improved understanding of noise data at the monitoring locations in Table F3 - Compliance noise monitoring location and frequency and its correlation with the noise data collected from the locations specified in condition F8;</u></li> <li><u>e) a protocol for determining exceedances of the conditions;</u></li> <li><u>f) a protocol for recording and responding to complaints;</u></li> <li><u>g) the content of the monthly compliance report required under Condition 3 of the imposed conditions of the Coordinator-General, including for the provision of data in that report, and a peer review of that content.</u></li> </ul> <p><u>The holder must appoint an independent acoustic consultant at the holder's cost to review the monthly noise report format for a 12 month period following the commencement of reporting to ensure information presented from noise monitoring is clear, open and unambiguous for sensitive receptors. The holder must give any report arising from such review to each sensitive receptor.</u></p>						
<b>Table F3</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Table F3</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Compliance noise monitoring location and frequency</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Monitoring location*</u></th><th><u>Frequency</u></th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><u>1 (Acland)</u></td><td><u>Monthly</u></td></tr> <tr> <td><u>34 (rail spur), 35 and 38 (or alternative noise sensitive places identified in the Noise Monitoring Program developed pursuant to condition F5)</u></td><td><u>Monthly</u></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Monitoring location*</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>1 (Acland)</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>34 (rail spur), 35 and 38 (or alternative noise sensitive places identified in the Noise Monitoring Program developed pursuant to condition F5)</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
<u>Monitoring location*</u>	<u>Frequency</u>						
<u>1 (Acland)</u>	<u>Monthly</u>						
<u>34 (rail spur), 35 and 38 (or alternative noise sensitive places identified in the Noise Monitoring Program developed pursuant to condition F5)</u>	<u>Monthly</u>						

	<u>4, 8 and 10 (or alternative noise sensitive places identified in the Noise Monitoring Program developed pursuant to condition F5)</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
	<u>11, 15 and 19 (or alternative noise sensitive places identified in the Noise Monitoring Program developed pursuant to condition F5)</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
<u>*See Figure 5 (Figure 5.1 Coordinator-General's Report, Figure 3-1 Revised Environmental Management Plan (New Acland AEIS))</u>		
<u>F11</u>	<p><u><b>Mitigation</b></u></p> <p><u>Upon receiving a written request from the owner of a noise sensitive place shown in <b>Figure X - Noise Sensitive Places (Mitigation)</b>, the environmental authority holder shall implement additional reasonable and feasible noise mitigation measures, at the noise sensitive place in consultation with the owner.</u></p> <p><u>If within 3 months of receiving this request from the owner of the noise sensitive place, the environmental authority holder and the owner cannot agree on the measures to be implemented, or there is a dispute about the implementation of these measures, then either party may refer the matter to a suitably qualified and experienced person appointed by the Chief Executive or the President for the time being of the Institute of Engineers for resolution. The suitably qualified and experienced person's decision as to the mitigation measures to be implemented shall be final.</u></p> <p><u>The environmental authority holder is responsible for payment of costs of the suitably qualified and experienced person.</u></p>	

**Figure X - Noise Sensitive Places (Mitigation)**





## **Annexure E NAC Community Engagement Measures**

1. EIS released for public comment 20 January 2014 - 3 March 2014 (6 weeks) and 1397 responses were received during this time. The EIS included:
  - (a) Appendix K.1 - Stakeholder Engagement Plan;
  - (b) Appendix J.18 - Local Stakeholder Management Plan;
  - (c) Appendix J.14- Social Impact Management Plan Engagement, EIS; and
  - (d) Appendix A.11 - Landholder Engagement Protocol
2. The AEIS was submitted and released for consultation in September 2014 for 29 days. Landholder engagement strategies proposed in the AEIS include:
  - (a) regular community information sessions;
  - (b) distributing newsletters to provide updates on project developments and current operations;
  - (c) maintain a locally based Community Liaison Officer;
  - (d) development of Landholder Agreements with all affected land holders;
  - (e) 24hr phone number;
  - (f) notification of blast events; and
  - (g) direct involvement of technical study teams in the stakeholder engagement activities and conversations.
3. NAC held community information sessions in February 2014 to answer questions from local residents and other stakeholders about the revised Project and the EIS.
4. An analysis of the Post-EIS engagement requirements was undertaken by Elliot Whiteing Social Planning Solutions. This body of work provided NAC with:
  - (a) an 'Integrated Engagement Plan', which captured all engagement actions and commitments from the EIS and AEIS period in a forward plan for implementation; and
  - (b) a 'Social Commitments Delivery Plan', which captured all Social Impact Management Plan actions, social commitments from the EIS/AEIS commitments register, and all related actions from the Social Impact Assessment completed during the EIS and AEIS period.
5. Public notification of MLAs 50232 and 700002 and the EA Amendment Application occurred during 13 May 2015 - 2 July 2015 (approximately 7 weeks).
6. Since mid-2013, NAC has released a quarterly New Acland Community Newsletter (an example is included in Annexure H), distributed to approximately 3,000 local residents including updates and promotion of:
  - (a) NAC03 Project activities and planning updates (locally awarded contracts, publication of research, planning and compliance reports);
  - (b) updates on the abovementioned Court processes;

- (c) key facts about project impact management processes (e.g. water resources, bore baseline assessment process, Acland Management Plan);
  - (d) Community investment project and partnership outcomes;
  - (e) New Hope Group team updates;
  - (f) Acland Mine Tour Dates;
  - (g) enquiries, concerns and complaints information; and
  - (h) Information Centre opening hours.
7. Since 30 October 2012, NAC has held monthly meetings with a Community Reference Group consisting of a cross-section of the community. The meetings cover:
- (a) New Hope Group Company updates;
  - (b) review of Community Investment Fund applications and recommendations;
  - (c) involvement in Community Needs and Resources Assessment and subsequent local projects;
  - (d) community updates including information sharing from local events, interests and concerns;
  - (e) updates on the abovementioned Court processes;
  - (f) updates on modelling undertaken by NAC; and
  - (g) general business updates (Community Reference Group structure, membership, meeting times).
8. NAC provides Social Impact Management Reports to the Coordinator-General every six months and has done since mid-2015. These reports are available on NAC's website and cover the following issues:
- (a) outcomes of community and stakeholder engagement undertaken by NAC;
  - (b) updates on the abovementioned Court processes
  - (c) NAC's engagement processes with Landholders, the Community and Key stakeholders;
  - (d) consultation issues reporting and complaints management
  - (e) progress of the Project's community health, safety and social infrastructure management strategies
  - (f) NAC community investment and partnership outcomes
9. NAC operates a shopfront Community Information Centre in Oakey and has done since September 2012, which provides an opportunity for the public to obtain information on the Project.
10. NAC will continue to employ the use of its Community Reference Group for targeted consultation and community investment.
11. NAC will continue its proactive six-monthly consultation sessions with individual neighbours, which may include special proactive and/or reactive visits to specific nearby neighbours who

may be or have been influenced by the Mine's operation. NAC's General Manager will also continue to participate in specialist consultation events with near neighbours (i.e. for important matters involving the Mine's operation) and will periodically host special events at the Mine for surrounding landowners.

12. NAC/NHG will maintain its Project and Company websites, and as required, will undertake specialist consultation for extensive community coverage via the media (e.g. advertising) and/or social media.
13. In addition, NAC has been using Consultation Manager (database software) to capture its consultation effort for the Project since 2012. Annexure I provides a summary of the key consultation facts for the Project for the period 1 January 2014 to 16 November 2018.

## Annexure F - Proponent Commitment Assessment

Item	No.	CHAPTER	TITLE	Commitment	Effect of Proposed Change
1.	173	5.1.5.4	<b>Water Resources</b>	Community consultation and engagement activities addressing environmental concerns, including air quality, noise and vibration and groundwater are provided in Table 5.1.5 D of the AEIS	No effect.
2.	273	5.1.3.4	<b>Air Quality, Noise and Vibration</b>	NAC propose to publicly issue an environmental monitoring report on a monthly basis. The environmental monitoring report will present a summary of air quality, noise and vibration monitoring data. The environmental monitoring report will be made available to the public through the Proponent's website.	<p>This is reflected in the Coordinator-General's imposed condition 3. Compliance with the changed noise limits will need to be reported in accordance with this imposed condition.</p> <p>In addition, the Land Court recommended that NAC appoint an independent acoustic consultant at NAC's cost to review the monthly noise report format for a 12 month period following the commencement of reporting, to ensure information presented from noise monitoring is clear, open and unambiguous for sensitive receptors. NAC must give any report arising from such review to each sensitive receptor.<sup>24</sup></p>
3.	275	5.1.3.5	<b>Air Quality, Noise and Vibration</b>	All concerns about air quality, noise and vibration will be investigated promptly and appropriate action will be taken to reduce legitimate nuisance impacts. A register of dust, noise and vibration concerns will be maintained. The processes for recording and investigating dust concerns are provided in the Air Quality Management Plan (Appendix J.10 of the draft EIS). The processes for recording and investigating noise and vibration concerns are provided in the Noise and Vibration Management Plan (Appendix J.11 of the draft EIS).	No effect, but proposed condition F10 of the EA (see 7) requires the Noise and Vibration Management Plan to include a protocol for recording and responding to complaints. NAC has advanced the development of a 'Social Performance Management System', which includes complaints management, stakeholder engagement and other social related

<sup>24</sup> Proposed EA condition F10.

Item	No.	CHAPTER	TITLE	Commitment	Effect of Proposed Change
					management tasks.
4.	276	5.1.3.7	<b><i>Air Quality, Noise and Vibration</i></b>	Community consultation and engagement activities addressing environmental concerns, including air quality, noise and vibration are provided in Table 5.1.3 – A of the AEIS.	No effect.
5.	278	5.1.8.2	<b><i>Health Impacts</i></b>	NAC has instituted veneering of coal trains, has committed to the relocation of the JRLF, consultation with residents living closest to the mine, and has committed to an adaptive management approach for air quality and noise. For additional information on these matters, please refer to Section 5.1.3 of the AEIS.	This commitment will still apply but with additional noise attenuation and management measures so that the changed lower limits can be met.
6.	299	11	<b><i>Noise and Vibrations</i></b>	Mining activities will typically be conducted either on a six day, 24 hour basis or a seven day, 24 hour basis depending on the mining schedule and the type of mining equipment used. The CHPP activities will be conducted on a seven day, 24 hour basis. Certain mining related activities such as blasting will only be undertaken during daylight hours and will not generally be carried out on Sundays or public holidays. Conducting mining operations on a 24 hour basis is standard practice in Queensland, with various measures in place to ensure a safe operation. The TLF will operate on a seven day, 24 hr basis. Train operations will also occur on a seven day, 24 hr basis.	No effect to these standard operational practices. However, where real time noise monitoring identifies the risk for mine noise to exceed limits, NAC will adjust its mine planning or turn off equipment to keep within limits.
7.	300	11	<b><i>Noise and Vibrations</i></b>	By implementing noise management and mitigation measures including reduced night time operation (only two pits operating at night in adverse weather or atmospheric conditions) and using attenuated equipment (including excavators, track dozers, loaders and rear dump trucks), the predicted noise levels from the mining operation will achieve noise level consistent with the EPP (Noise) LAeq,adj,1 hr criteria of 42 dB(A) in daytime and evening hours, and 37 dB(A) in night time hours at all noise sensitive receptors.	This commitment will be adjusted to manage mining activities to address the lower limits. NAC has already commenced attenuation of equipment.
8.	301	11	<b><i>Noise and Vibrations</i></b>	<p>The following mitigation measures are proposed by NAC as commitments to reduce the revised Project's potential noise impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NAC will establish a real-time noise monitoring network, which will be used in conjunction with a weather forecasting system and an adaptive management process, to proactively relocate, reduce or stop noisier mining operations.</li> <li>NAC has developed a Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NVMP) for the revised Project. The NVMP will be administered as an accompanying document to the revised Project's Plan of Operations. A copy of the NVMP is provided in Appendix J.11.</li> <li>Based on ambient conditions (climate and the current mine plan)and feedback</li> </ul>	<p>This commitment will still apply and has been augmented by the additional conditions proposed by NAC and recommended by the Land Court in 7 above. These measures to mitigate noise would be implemented to manage compliance with the reduced noise limits. NAC will amend its existing NVMP to reflect the relevant change recommended by Land Court.</p> <p>It is proposed that the outer facing</p>

Item	No.	CHAPTER	TITLE	Commitment	Effect of Proposed Change
				<p>from the real-time noise monitoring (warning and alarm protocols), NAC may be required to limit or stop mining operations in the Manning Vale East pit during the night time period. This requirement is based on the noise assessment work completed for the revised Project's EIS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAC will ensure noisier mining equipment, including excavators, track dozers, loaders and rear dump trucks, is fully attenuated. This requirement is based on the noise assessment work completed for the revised Project's EIS.</li> <li>• Where possible, NAC will schedule noisier operations in-pit at night or during daylight hours only. For example, dumping of overburden and dozer activity on overburden dumps at or above ground surface may be restricted during night periods (10pm to 7am).</li> <li>• If no suitable or acceptable noise amelioration solutions are available for a particular noise issue, NAC will negotiate in good faith with all affected property owners for property purchase or by agreement implement some other form of amicable arrangement (e.g. acoustic treatment of the dwelling, relocation or replacement of the dwelling at another suitable location, relocation of the landowner to another living arrangement for the period of the issue or any other suitable innovative solution). NAC would be responsible for all reasonable costs associated with any agreed solution to a noise issue. In the event agreement cannot be reached, NAC will enter into mediation with the affected party and employ the services of a third party to facilitate this process</li> <li>• NAC will ensure proper maintenance and operational procedures will be undertaken to minimise noise emissions from equipment, including proper servicing and maintenance of exhaust systems on mine equipment.</li> <li>• NAC will implement its Noise and Vibration Management Plan as presented in Appendix J.11 to minimise the risk of noise complaints from nearby sensitive receptors to the revised Project. All complaints received in relation to the revised Project's operation will be managed as outlined in NAC's Local Stakeholder Engagement Plan as presented in Appendix J.18. NAC's approach to complaints management is based on the key principles of timeliness, sensitivity, fairness and impartiality, and confidentiality. NAC is committed to open communication with its local stakeholders and active complaint resolution when issues or concerns are raised about its mining operations. - If a complaint is</li> </ul>	<p>slopes of any noise bunds proposed with this commitment would be vegetated to manage stability, risk of erosion and visual impact.</p> <p>As noted at section 3.3 of this document, in relation to SLR's recommendation that noise bunds or barriers be constructed between pits and sensitive receptors, this is not a new concept (see NAC's commitment to use top soil and other dumps as noise barriers). SLR notes that noise bunds are common on mine sites. This is consistent with Mr Elkin's evidence in the Original Objections Hearing that substantial noise attenuation could be achieved by the construction of noise bunds.<sup>25</sup> Further, Mr Savery (OCAA's acoustic expert) identified the possibility of using bunds during the Original Objections Hearing.<sup>26</sup></p>

<sup>25</sup> Transcript of Original Objections Hearing, T44-71, line 30 to 45.

<sup>26</sup> Transcript of Original Objections Hearing, T48-9, line 44 to T48-10, line 11.

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				<p>received and/or a noise issue is identified by investigation, NAC will modify mining operations until a satisfactory solution for the noise issue is developed and implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NAC will ensure all complaints will be investigated to determine the source of the nuisance noise. Where appropriate, noise monitoring will be conducted at the affected residence, and as required, noise amelioration solutions will be investigated and implemented by agreement. NAC has purchased a specialist noise logger that can be placed at a complainant's residence for a length of time to record the problem periods. This equipment will be maintained and the results will be interpreted by a qualified professional.</li> <li>Where practicable, NAC using the mine planning process will utilise topsoil and other dumps as noise barriers between active mine operations and nearby noise receptor locations.</li> <li>NAC will continue to utilise broad band alarms instead of reverse beepers on all mobile equipment.</li> <li>NAC will continue to limit the speed of heavy vehicle traffic on haul roads.</li> <li>NAC will continue its current proactive monthly noise monitoring program and will expand its coverage around the revised Project site.</li> <li>NAC will continue its proactive assessment of possible noise attenuation options for both mobile or stationery noise emitting equipment. Noise emissions with tonal, impulsive and/or intermittent characteristics will be targeted for noise attenuation.</li> </ul>	
9.	302	11	Noise and Vibrations	<p>For the management of airblast overpressure and vibration, the following measures will be adopted for the revised Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field data will be used to best determine blast conditions and the type of stemming required for the area.</li> <li>In the event of a blast issue, the maximum instantaneous charge of subsequent blasts will be reduced using delays, reduction of hole diameter, etc. (i.e. until the blast issue is resolved).</li> <li>In the event of a blast issue, the burden and spacing of subsequent blasts will be changed by altering the drilling pattern and/or delay layout, or altering the hole inclination (i.e. until the blast issue is resolved).;</li> </ul>	No effect.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The stemming depth and type will be adequate for each blast event.</li> <li>Blast events will only be conducted during favourable weather conditions.</li> <li>The monitoring of blasts will continue at the nearest sensitive receptors based on the interpretation of pre-blast weather data.</li> <li>The practice of advising near neighbours will continue in advance of each blast. All new near neighbours surrounding the Project site will be proactively invited to join the blast notification contact list.</li> <li>A qualified professional with suitable experience will be responsible for the Project's blast management.</li> <li>All blast complaints will be investigated in a timely manner to determine the extent of the issue. Where appropriate, blast monitoring will be conducted at the affected residence, and as required, blast mitigation solutions will be investigated and implemented by agreement.</li> </ul>	
10.	303	5.1.3.4	Air Quality, Noise and Vibration	NAC propose to publicly issue an environmental monitoring report on a monthly basis. The environmental monitoring report will present a summary of air quality, noise and vibration monitoring data. The environmental monitoring report will be made available to the public through the Proponent's website.	<p>This is reflected in the Coordinator-General's imposed condition 3. Compliance with the changed noise limits will need to be reported in accordance with this imposed condition.</p> <p>This public reporting of monitoring will be augmented by the additional condition proposed by NAC and recommended by the Land Court for noise monitoring data to be provided in real-time on-line.</p> <p>In addition, the Land Court recommended that NAC appoint an independent acoustic consultant at NAC's cost to review the monthly noise report format for a 12 month period following the commencement of reporting, to ensure information presented from noise monitoring is clear, open and unambiguous for sensitive receptors. NAC must give</p>



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					any report arising from such review to each sensitive receptor. <sup>27</sup>
11.	304	5.1.3.5	Air Quality, Noise and Vibration	All concerns about air quality, noise and vibration will be investigated promptly and appropriate action will be taken to reduce legitimate nuisance impacts. A register of dust, noise and vibration concerns will be maintained. The processes for recording and investigating dust concerns are provided in the Air Quality Management Plan (Appendix J.10 of the draft EIS). The processes for recording and investigating noise and vibration concerns are provided in the Noise and Vibration Management Plan (Appendix J.11 of the draft EIS).	No effect on the processes for investigating noise concerns. With reduced limits required, the potential risk of noise concerns should be less. NAC has advanced the development of a 'Social Performance Management System', which includes complaints management, stakeholder engagement and other social related management tasks.
12.	305	5.2.4.8	Advisory Agency Responses	NAC commits to provide interpreted data within a week, or earlier if possible, from DES requesting the data.	No effect.
13.	306	5.2.4.14	Advisory Agency Responses	NAC will comply with the operational mining noise (all noise sources).	This commitment will still apply but with more stringent noise limits. NAC has committed to a range of noise management strategies to achieve this commitment.
14.	307	5.3.1.3	Responses to Submissions	NAC will establish a real-time noise monitoring network, which will be used in conjunction with a weather forecasting system and an adaptive management process, to proactively relocate, reduce or stop noisier mining operations and other noise sources.	This commitment will still apply but consistent with the proposed condition F8, four real time monitors will be implemented to ensure an improved spatial coverage to detect, and assist in the management of, mine noise.
15.	308	5.3.1.3	Responses to Submissions	If a legitimate complaint is received and/or a noise issue is identified by investigation, where possible NAC will modify mining operations until a satisfactory solution for the noise issue is developed and implemented.	No effect, but see row 3 above.
16.	309	5.3.1.5	Responses to Submissions	NAC will undertake a specific consultation approach for local landholders/neighbours that may be potentially affected by air quality, noise or groundwater impacts from the	No effect. Proposed condition F11 will require NAC to provide at its cost

<sup>27</sup> Proposed EA condition F10.

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				revised Project. Depending on individual circumstances, NAC will seek to negotiate a landholder agreement with potentially affected local landholders/neighbours for either property acquisition, relocation of their living arrangements or physical treatment of their residence.	noise mitigation options agreed with sensitive receptors.
17.	311	5.3.23.1	Responses to Submissions	Noise issues in relation to the Western Railway line are under Aurizon's jurisdiction and management. Therefore, it is suggested that all noise concerns about rail transport be raised directly with Aurizon. Longer term, NAC will use its monitoring results to continuously review its compliance status and to develop new and modify existing mitigation strategies to minimise potential adverse noise impacts from the JRLF's operations affecting Jondaryan. NAC is committed to operating the JRLF in compliance with the noise conditions of its environmental authority up until closure of the facility.	No effect.
18.	432	Chapter 16	Social Environment	<p>Dust, noise and visual impacts from mining operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NAC will continue to implement the environmental impact control strategies and measures described in Appendix J.19.</li> <li>Use of enclosed hoppers, veneering and dust suppression measures at the rail loading facility.</li> <li>NAC will implement visual screening measures, such as tree planting, along roads and neighbouring properties.</li> </ul>	No effect. The control strategies in Appendix J.19 align with the measures in the Noise and Vibration Management Plan. These measures will be augmented by the requirements of the Noise Management Plan in proposed condition F10.
19.	471	5.1.10	Consultation	<p>There are a range of key commitments NAC has made regarding interactions with neighbours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NAC is committed to regular ongoing engagement and communication with neighbours;</li> <li>Ongoing dust, noise and vibration, and ground water monitoring to ensure impacts are managed and mitigated;</li> <li>Preference will be given to at least two positions on the New Acland Community Reference Group for landholders or landholder representative groups;</li> <li>For urgent issues relating to the operating mine, near neighbours have access to senior site personnel via a 24hr phone number; and</li> <li>Neighbours will be kept informed of revised Project construction activities that may impact them e.g. road closures.</li> </ul>	No effect. The additional proposed conditions will ensure better spatial coverage of real time noise monitoring for sensitive receptors and monthly compliance monitoring at sensitive receptors.

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20.	686	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	<p>The following mitigation measures are proposed by NAC as management commitments to reduce the revised Project's potential noise impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NAC will establish a real-time noise monitoring network, which will be used in conjunction with a weather forecasting system and an adaptive management process, to proactively relocate, reduce or stop noisier mining operations and other noise sources.</li> <li>Based on ambient conditions (climate and the current mine plan) and feedback from the real-time noise monitoring (warning and alarm protocols), NAC may be required to modify (limit) or stop mining operations in the Manning Vale East pit during the night time period. This requirement is based on the noise assessment work completed for the revised Project's EIS.</li> <li>NAC will ensure noisier mining equipment such as excavators, track dozers, loaders and rear dump trucks are fully attenuated. This requirement is based on the noise assessment work completed for the revised Project's EIS.</li> <li>If a legitimate complaint is received and/or a noise issue is identified by investigation, where possible NAC will modify mining operations until a satisfactory solution for the noise issue is developed and implemented.</li> <li>Where possible, NAC will schedule noisier operations in-pit at night or during daylight hours only. For example, dumping of overburden and dozer activity on overburden dumps at or above ground surface may be restricted during night periods (10pm to 7am).</li> <li>If no suitable or acceptable noise amelioration solutions are available for a particular noise issue, NAC will negotiate in good faith with all affected property owners for property purchase or by agreement implement some other form of amicable arrangement (e.g. acoustic treatment of the dwelling, relocation or replacement of the dwelling at another suitable location, relocation of the landowner to another living arrangement for the period of the issue or any other suitable innovative solution). NAC would be responsible for all reasonable costs associated with any agreed solution to a noise issue.</li> <li>NAC will ensure proper maintenance and operational procedures will be undertaken to minimise noise emissions from equipment, including appropriate</li> </ul>	<p>This commitment will still apply but will be augmented by the requirements of the Noise Management Plan in proposed condition F10.</p> <p>It is proposed that the outer facing slopes of any noise bunds proposed with this commitment would be vegetated to manage stability, risk of erosion and visual impact.</p> <p>As noted at section 3.3 of this document, in relation to SLR's recommendation that noise bunds or barriers be constructed between pits and sensitive receptors, this is not a new concept (see NAC's commitment to use top soil and other dumps as noise barriers). SLR notes that noise bunds are common on mine sites. This is consistent with Mr Elkin's evidence in the Original Objections Hearing that substantial noise attenuation could be achieved by the construction of noise bunds.<sup>28</sup> Further, Mr Savery (OCAA's acoustic expert) identified the possibility of using bunds during the Original Objections Hearing.<sup>29</sup></p>

<sup>28</sup> Transcript of Original Objections Hearing, T44-71, line 30 to 45.

<sup>29</sup> Transcript of Original Objections Hearing, T48-9, line 44 to T48-10, line 11.

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				<p>servicing and maintenance of exhaust systems on mine equipment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NAC will ensure all complaints are investigated in a timely manner to determine the source of the nuisance noise. Where appropriate, noise monitoring will be conducted at the affected residence, and as required, noise amelioration solutions will be investigated and implemented by agreement. NAC has purchased a specialist noise logger that can be placed at a complainant's residence for a length of time to record the problem periods. This equipment will be maintained and the results will be interpreted by a qualified professional.</li> <li>Where practicable, NAC using the mine planning process will utilise topsoil and other dumps as noise barriers between active mine operations and nearby noise receptor locations.</li> <li>NAC will continue to utilise broadband alarms instead of reverse beepers on all mobile equipment.</li> <li>NAC will continue to limit the speed of heavy vehicle traffic on haul roads.</li> <li>NAC will continue its current proactive monthly noise monitoring program and will expand its coverage around the revised Project area.</li> <li>NAC will continue its proactive assessment of possible noise attenuation options for both mobile or stationery noise emitting equipment. Noise emissions with tonal, impulsive and/or intermittent characteristics will be targeted for noise attenuation.</li> </ul>	
21.	687	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	<p>For the management of airblast overpressure and vibration, the following measures will be adopted for the revised Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field data will be used to best determine blast conditions and the type of stemming required for the area.</li> <li>In the event of a blast issue, the maximum instantaneous charge of subsequent blasts will be reduced using delays, reduction of hole diameter, etc. (i.e. until the blast issue is resolved).</li> <li>In the event of a blast issue, the burden and spacing of subsequent blasts will be changed by altering the drilling pattern and/or delay layout, or altering the hole inclination (i.e. until the blast issue is resolved).;</li> <li>The stemming depth and type will be adequate for each blast event.</li> </ul>	No effect.

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blast events will only be conducted during favourable weather conditions.</li> <li>The monitoring of blasts will continue at the nearest sensitive receivers based on the interpretation of pre-blast weather data.</li> <li>The practice of advising near neighbours will continue in advance of each blast. All new near neighbours surrounding the Project area will be proactively invited to join the blast notification contact list.</li> <li>A qualified professional with suitable experience will be responsible for the Project's blast management.</li> <li>All blast complaints will be investigated in a timely manner to determine the extent of the issue. Where appropriate, blast monitoring will be conducted at the affected residence, and as required, blast mitigation solutions will be investigated and implemented by agreement.</li> </ul>	
22.	688	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	NAC proposes to implement a weather forecasting system to provide daily predictions of upcoming meteorological conditions and potential risk of noise and vibration impacts from mining operations from the revised Project.	This commitment will still apply but will be augmented by the requirements of the Noise Management Plan in proposed condition F10.
23.	689	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	The weather forecasting system predicts potential risk of noise and vibration impacts using dispersion modelling tools for up to two days in advance. The weather forecasts will be updated on a daily basis, generating a daily automated email of forecast meteorological conditions.	This commitment will still apply but will be augmented by the requirements of the Noise Management Plan in proposed condition F10.
24.	690	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	Predictions from the weather forecasting system will allow Mine management to identify locations and times of potentially increased risk, and to facilitate appropriate planning to minimise or avoid potential impacts.	This commitment will still apply but will be augmented by the requirements of the Noise Management Plan in proposed condition F10.
25.	691	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	Significant noise and vibration issues will be highlighted at shift changes between the Production Supervisors or are and will be conveyed to the general workforce on a regular basis through 'Tool Box Talks'. This approach ensures that the day-to-day business focuses on good work practices to help reduce the potential for noise and vibration impacts from the revised Project.	This commitment will still apply but will be augmented by the requirements of the Noise Management Plan in proposed condition F10.

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26.	692	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	NAC will establish a permanent real-time noise monitor in Acland and a mobile real-time noise monitor to be placed depending on ambient conditions (climate and the current mine plan). This monitoring system will be used in conjunction with the weather forecasting system and will operate on a risk based approach. Warning and exceedance alarms will be used to inform the Mine of the status of the noise limits at the monitoring locations. In the event of an alarm, the Mine will attend the monitoring location as soon as possible to establish if the Mine is the source of the high noise levels. This unattended monitoring system will not always be practical during the warmer months due to other intrusive noise sources (e.g. insect noise). However, it will be ideal during the cooler months when background noise levels are lower and temperature inversions are common. NAC will ensure use of the real-time monitoring equipment is appropriate and practical for the circumstances.	This commitment will be augmented by the proposed condition F8 requiring 4 real time monitors to be located at Acland and to the North West and East of the mine. The real time monitoring system will also be adjusted in line with the requirements of the Noise Management Plan proposed in condition F10.
27.	693	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	In the event monitoring positively identifies that noise from the Mine is approaching or exceeding the specified noise limits, immediate management actions will be applied at the site that may involve modification or cessation of mining activities at one or more of the revised Project's mine pits.	See row 26 above.
28.	694	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	Based on noise assessment work completed for the revised Project's EIS, the Manning Vale East Pit will most likely require specific management actions under these circumstances. Modification of mining activities may mean reducing the intensity of noisier operations or moving particular noisier equipment to other areas or mine pits within the revised Project site. The actions taken will depend on the mine noise sources identified by the appropriate Mine staff following alert by the real-time monitoring system and the level of exceedance at the time (e.g. warning or alarm). NAC will ensure that the scheduling of the Mine's activities at night proactively considers potential noise issues from the various areas of operational activities. The weather forecasting system will help guide these mine planning decisions (e.g. wind conditions and temperature inversion conditions).	This commitment will still apply. See row 26 above.
29.	695	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	NAC will continue its proactive assessment of possible noise attenuation options for both mobile or stationery noise emitting equipment. Noise emissions with tonal, impulsive and/or intermittent characteristics will be targeted for noise attenuation.	No effect. See also condition F11.
30.	696	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	The current proactive monthly noise monitoring program will continue in an expanded form to cover the broader revised Project area. As explained, a permanent noise monitor will be located in Acland to continuously monitor the noise levels.	This commitment will be augmented by the proposed condition F8 requiring 4 real time monitors to be located at Acland and to the North West and East of the mine. The real time monitoring system will also be

Item	No.	CHAPTER	TITLE	Commitment	Effect of Proposed Change
					adjusted in line with the requirements of the Noise Management Plan proposed in condition F10.
31.	697	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	All complaints will be investigated to determine the source of the nuisance noise. Where appropriate, noise monitoring will be conducted at the affected residence, and as required, noise amelioration solutions will be investigated and implemented. NAC has purchased a specialist noise logger that can be placed at a complainant's residence for a length of time to record the problem periods. This equipment will be maintained and the results will be interpreted by a qualified professional.	No effect. The Noise Management Plan in condition F10 requires a complaints protocol. NAC has advanced the development of a 'Social Performance Management System', which includes complaints management, stakeholder engagement and other social related management tasks.
32.	698	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	Monitoring of blasts will continue at the nearest sensitive receivers around the revised Project based on climatic conditions (e.g. wind conditions).	No effect.
33.	699	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	Concerns and other issues raised will be managed in accordance with the revised Project's Local Stakeholder Management Plan, which is provided in Appendix J.18. A register will record details of the concern, the complainant(s), a summary of the investigations completed, any management actions taken, and the status of the concern.	No effect.
34.	700	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	A twenty four hour telephone number is made available to near neighbours for receiving concerns. This 'fast response' approach is designed to ensure access to the NAC employee on site at the time with the necessary responsibility to take immediate actions if required. NAC's Environmental Team will be available for contact during business hours by email (with the email address available through a web-site), and by telephone through the Mine's reception.	No effect. The Noise Management Plan in condition F10 requires a complaints protocol. NAC has advanced the development of a 'Social Performance Management System', which includes complaints management, stakeholder engagement and other social related management tasks.
35.	701	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	A legible record of all concerns will be kept by NAC's Environmental Team, who are responsible for the revised Project's environmental concerns management. Each concern received in relation to the revised Project will be formally documented and record of the following information is maintained for legal and compliance purposes. 1) The date and time of concern. 2) The nature of concern (e.g. noise).	No effect. The Noise Management Plan in condition F10 requires a complaints protocol. NAC has advanced the development of a 'Social Performance Management System', which includes complaints management, stakeholder engagement and other social related

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				3) The method by which the concern was received (e.g. telephone). 4) The name and title of the person who receives the concern. 5) The personal details of the complainant, if made available, or if no details were provided, a note to that effect. 6) The action taken in relation to the concern, including any follow-up contact, the outcome of investigations and any required on-going actions. 7) If no action was taken, then the reason why no action was taken. 8) The final status of the concern (e.g. resolved, continuing or unresolved).	management tasks.
36.	702	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	Standard actions taken by NAC's Environmental Team in relation to noise concerns will include reviewing the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meteorological data;</li> <li>• relevant available noise monitoring data; and</li> <li>• mine operations.</li> </ul>	No effect. The Noise Management Plan in proposed condition F10 will require a comprehensive noise management system that uses a combination of predictive meteorological forecasting and real-time noise monitoring data to guide the day to day planning of mining operations and the implementation of both proactive and reactive mitigation measures (adaptive management) to ensure compliance with these conditions, improved understanding of noise data at the monitoring locations in Table F3 - Compliance noise monitoring location and frequency and its correlation with the noise data collected from the locations specified in proposed condition F8.
37.	703	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	Follow up actions taken by NAC's Environmental Team in relation to noise concerns may include depending on circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a site inspection of the complainant's residence;</li> <li>• targeted sampling at the complainant's residence;</li> <li>• an investigation of other potential noise generating sources in the vicinity of the</li> </ul>	No effect. The Noise Management Plan in proposed condition F10 requires a complaints protocol. NAC has advanced the development of a 'Social Performance Management System', which includes complaints management, stakeholder engagement and other social related



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				<p>complainant's residence; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>engagement of a noise and vibration specialist to assist the concerns investigation process.</li> </ul>	management tasks.
38.	704	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	NAC is committed to rectifying all noise issues that are legitimately attributed to the revised Project's operations through proper scientific evaluation, in an appropriate timeframe, using accepted and practical mitigation measures, and if reasonably possible, to the satisfaction of the affected party.	No effect. The Noise Management Plan in proposed condition F10 requires a complaints protocol. Proposed condition F11 requires NAC to implement noise mitigation measures at its costs as agreed with the sensitive receptors.
39.	705	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	<p><u>Non-compliant Monitoring Results</u></p> <p>NAC will advise the DES in a timely manner of all non compliances identified in relation to the revised Project's future EA (e.g. 'exception reporting').</p>	No effect.
40.	706	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	<p><u>Environmental Incidents</u></p> <p>NAC will be bound to report all environmental incidents as a requirement of its future EA for the revised Project (i.e. based on the same requirement for the current Mine).</p>	No effect. Condition M3 in the Draft EA requires notification of any incident relating to a release of contaminants which is not in accordance with the Draft EA
41.	707	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	<p><u>General</u></p> <p>As required, NAC will prepare and submit to the DES any requested information about environmental management and other related matters in relation to the revised Project's operations, including applicable noise monitoring data.</p>	No effect. Noise monitoring data will be made available in real time and online under proposed condition F9 and the Coordinator-General's imposed condition 3 will require a monthly report of monitoring data to be made available online.
42.	708	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	<p><u>Auditing</u></p> <p>Over the life of the Project, NAC will regularly audit the performance of its noise management using both internal and third party auditing processes. Internal and third party audits will be conducted on annual and three yearly timeframes, respectively, and will be incorporated into NAC's EMS. The audit process will generally be designed to review noise complaints management and evaluate the overall performance of NAC's noise management for the Project. The strategy for NAC's audit processes is to ensure compliance and promote continuous improvement as</p>	No effect. Proposed condition F10 requires the Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NVMP) must incorporate a program for continuous improvements for the management of noise emissions caused by mining operations. NAC will amend its existing NVMP to reflect the relevant change recommended by Land Court.

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				<p>part of the revised Project's noise management regime.</p> <p>In addition, NAC's noise management regime will be subject to potential audit by the DES during Compliance Inspections and other site inspections, and as a possible component of a formal noise complaint investigation process.</p>	
43.	709	Appendix J.11	Noise and Vibration Management Plan	<p>Review</p> <p>The NVMP will be formally reviewed on an annual basis and updated as required. The NVMP may also be updated based on the findings of internal and third party audit processes, based on the outcomes of a complaint investigation or following a regulatory inspection (i.e. as corrective actions). The DES will be advised of all significant revisions of the NVMP.</p>	No effect. Proposed condition F10 requires the Noise and Vibration Management Plan must incorporate a program for continuous improvements for the management of noise emissions caused by mining operations. NAC will amend its existing NVMP to reflect the relevant change recommended by Land Court.
44.	758	Appendix E AEIS	Revised SIMP	<p>This Action Plan has been developed following consultation with the Oakey Hospital and local health services. Key strategies to be implemented under this Action Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAC will continue their relationship with the Oakey Hospital and meet regularly with key management staff to understand potential concerns or opportunities;</li> <li>• health facilities and services will be provided on-site at the Mine in line with the requirements of the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulations 1996;</li> <li>• NAC will provide first aid services and fire fighting services at the revised Project site;</li> <li>• implement a program of noise and dust management, including coal veneering, enclosed hoppers and noise management;</li> <li>• ongoing support for agricultural activities in the region through the Acland Pastoral Company and community investment; and</li> <li>• NAC will support community groups and social services with donations through the Community Donations and Sponsorship Program and larger grants through the Community Investment Fund.</li> </ul>	No effect.
45.	794	Appendix J.18	Local Stakeholder Management Plan	<p>The following mitigation measures are proposed by NAC as commitments to reduce the revised Project's potential noise impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAC will establish a real-time noise monitoring network, which will be used in</li> </ul>	This commitment will still apply but is augmented by the proposed EA conditions, namely F8 providing for an expanded real time monitoring

Item	No.	CHAPTER	TITLE	Commitment	Effect of Proposed Change
				<p>conjunction with a weather forecasting system and an adaptive management process, to proactively relocate, reduce or stop noisier mining operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NAC has developed a NVMP for the revised Project, and is presented in Appendix J.11. The NVMP will be administered as an accompanying document to the revised Project's Plan of Operations.</li> <li>Based on ambient conditions (climate and the current mine plan) and feedback from the real-time noise monitoring (warning and alarm protocols), NAC may be required to limit or stop mining operations in the Manning Vale East pit during the night time period. This requirement is based on the noise assessment work completed for the revised Project's EIS.</li> <li>NAC will ensure noisier mining equipment, including excavators, track dozers, loaders and rear dump trucks, is fully attenuated. This requirement is based on the noise assessment work completed for the revised Project's EIS.</li> <li>Where possible, NAC will schedule noisier operations in-pit at night or during daylight hours only. For example, dumping of overburden and dozer activity on overburden dumps at or above ground surface may be restricted during night periods (10pm to 7am).</li> <li>If no suitable or acceptable noise amelioration solutions are available for a particular noise issue, NAC will negotiate in good faith with all affected property owners for property purchase or by agreement implement some other form of amicable arrangement (e.g. acoustic treatment of the dwelling, relocation or replacement of the dwelling at another suitable location, relocation of the landowner to another living arrangement for the period of the issue or any other suitable innovative solution). NAC would be responsible for all reasonable costs associated with any agreed solution to a noise issue. In the event agreement cannot be reached, NAC will enter into mediation with the affected party and employ the services of a third party to facilitate this process</li> <li>NAC will ensure proper maintenance and operational procedures will be undertaken to minimise noise emissions from equipment, including proper servicing and maintenance of exhaust systems on mine equipment.</li> <li>NAC will implement its Noise and Vibration Management Plan, as presented in</li> </ul>	<p>network, F10 requiring the Noise Management Plan and F11 requiring NAC to implement mitigation for sensitive receptors at its cost with the sensitive receptors agreement.</p> <p>It is proposed that the outer facing slopes of any noise bunds proposed with this commitment would be vegetated to manage stability, risk of erosion and visual impact.</p> <p>As noted at section 3.3 of this document, in relation to SLR's recommendation that noise bunds or barriers be constructed between pits and sensitive receptors, this is not a new concept (see NAC's commitment to use top soil and other dumps as noise barriers). SLR notes that noise bunds are common on mine sites. This is consistent with Mr Elkin's evidence in the Original Objections Hearing that substantial noise attenuation could be achieved by the construction of noise bunds.<sup>30</sup> Further, Mr Savery (OCAA's acoustic expert) identified the possibility of using bunds during the Original Objections Hearing.<sup>31</sup></p>

<sup>30</sup> Transcript of Original Objections Hearing, T44-71, line 30 to 45.

<sup>31</sup> Transcript of Original Objections Hearing, T48-9, line 44 to T48-10, line 11.

Item	No.	CHAPTER	TITLE	Commitment	Effect of Proposed Change
				<p>Appendix J.11 to minimise the risk of noise complaints from nearby sensitive receptors to the revised Project. All complaints received in relation to the revised Project's operation will be managed as outlined in NAC's Local Stakeholder Engagement Plan as presented in Appendix J.18. NAC's approach to complaints management is based on the key principles of timeliness, sensitivity, fairness and impartiality, and confidentiality. NAC is committed to open communication with its local stakeholders and active complaint resolution when issues or concerns are raised about its mining operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where practicable, NAC using the mine planning process will utilise topsoil and other dumps as noise barriers between active mine operations and nearby noise receptor locations.</li> <li>• NAC will continue to utilise broad band alarms instead of reverse beepers on all mobile equipment.</li> <li>• NAC will continue to limit the speed of heavy vehicle traffic on haul roads.</li> <li>• NAC will continue its current proactive monthly noise monitoring program and will expand its coverage around the revised Project site.</li> <li>• NAC will continue its proactive assessment of possible noise attenuation options for both mobile or stationery noise emitting equipment. Noise emissions with tonal, impulsive and/or intermittent characteristics will be targeted for noise attenuation.</li> </ul>	
46.	795	Appendix E AEIS	Local Stakeholder Management Plan	<p>For the management of airblast overpressure and vibration, the following measures will be adopted for the revised Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field data will be used to best design blasts with an adequate buffer in place to meet noise/ vibration limits and the type of stemming required for the area.</li> <li>• In the event of a blast issue, the maximum instantaneous charge of subsequent blasts will be reduced using delays, reduction of hole diameter, etc. (i.e. until the blast issue is resolved).</li> <li>• In the event of a blast issue, the burden and spacing of subsequent blasts will be changed by altering the drilling pattern and/or delay layout, or altering the hole inclination (i.e. until the blast issue is resolved).</li> <li>• The stemming depth and type will be adequate for each blast event.</li> <li>• Blast events will only be conducted during favourable weather conditions.</li> </ul>	No effect.

Item	No.	CHAPTER	TITLE	Commitment	Effect of Proposed Change
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The monitoring of blasts will continue at the nearest sensitive receptors based on the interpretation of pre-blast weather data.</li> <li>The practice of advising near neighbours will continue in advance of each blast. All new near neighbours surrounding the revised Project site will be proactively invited to join the blast notification contact list.</li> <li>A qualified professional with suitable experience will be responsible for the revised Project's blast management.</li> </ul>	
47.	796	Appendix E AEIS	Local Stakeholder Management Plan	<p>A monitoring program will be implemented as per a NVMP and will include the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NAC will continue its current proactive monthly noise monitoring program and will expand its coverage around the revised Project site.</li> <li>NAC will ensure all complaints will be investigated in a timely manner to determine the source of the nuisance noise. Where appropriate, noise monitoring will be conducted at the affected residence, and as required, noise amelioration solutions will be investigated and implemented by agreement.</li> <li>The monitoring of blasts will continue at the nearest sensitive receptors based on the interpretation of pre-blast weather data.</li> <li>All blast complaints will be investigated in a timely manner to determine the extent of the issue. Where appropriate, blast monitoring will be conducted at the affected residence, and as required, blast mitigation solutions will be investigated and implemented by agreement.</li> </ul>	This commitment will still apply but is augmented by the proposed conditions F8 providing for an expanded real time monitoring network and F10 requiring the Noise Management Plan and F11 requiring NAC to implement mitigation for sensitive receptors at its cost with the sensitive receptors agreement.
48.	797	Appendix E AEIS	Local Stakeholder Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise and vibration monitoring will be undertaken as per the EA.</li> <li>The Proponent will implement the NVMP.</li> <li>All substantiated noise and vibration complaints will be investigated and corrective action will be implemented as required.</li> </ul>	This commitment will still apply but is augmented by the proposed conditions F8 providing for an expanded real time monitoring network and F10 requiring the Noise Management Plan.

**Annexure G - SLR Noise Report**

3 December 2018

620.10963 New Acland Stage 3 - 35 dBA Investigation Overview 20181203.docx

New Acland Coal Pty Ltd  
PO Box 47  
IPSWICH QLD 4305

**Attention: Andre Du Preez**

Dear Andre

## New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 - 35 dBA Investigation Overview

### 1 Effectiveness of Noise Mitigation Options Investigated

SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd (SLR) was engaged by New Acland Coal Pty Ltd (NAC) to determine if a noise mitigation strategy could be designed for New Acland Coal Mine (Mine), located in Acland, Queensland to achieve compliance with the noise limits recommended by the Land Court in its decision of 7 November 2018, being:

- 42 dBA LAeq(15minute) for the day (7am - 6pm)
- 35dBA LAeq(15minute) for the evening (6pm - 10pm)
- 35 dBA LAeq(15minute) for the night (10pm - 7am)

A list of potential noise mitigation options were identified in consultation with NAC staff, some based on SLR's experience with other mining/industrial facilities where the applicable noise limits were 35 dBA LAeq or lower at night. Each of these options were initially considered separately and those showing potentially significant reduction in noise emissions were then also assessed in combination to determine an optimal strategy for the Mine.

Each of the noise attenuation strategies was investigated (based on preliminary modelling) to determine if it was acoustically "insignificant" or "significant" on the basis of the investigation results. These outcomes are summarised in the **Table 1**.

**Table 1 Summary of Investigation Outcomes**

Option	Strategy	Effectiveness
1	Removing a production fleet from operations (undertaken in conjunction with TARP – see Option 2)	Significant
2	Fast response mitigation – TARP/Dashboard (undertaken in conjunction with removing mobile plant – see Option 1)	Significant
3	Earth bunds and/or other barriers between pits and sensitive receptors	Significant
4	Replace 793 fleet with quieter 789 class trucks (which would involve an increase in the number of 789 truck to keep an equivalent capacity)	Insignificant

Option	Strategy	Effectiveness
5	Consider changing the direction of mining within the pit areas to shield noise sources from sensitive receptors	Insignificant
6	Mine plan that provides more distance (additional 500m) between pit and sensitive receptors early in life of mine	Insignificant
7	ROM conveyor from pit to reduce rom trucking	Insignificant
8	Fixed plant attenuation	Not Required
9	Diggers replaced with Front-end-loaders	Insignificant
10	Conveyor for product coal transport from Process Plant to Train Loading Facility	Insignificant

In addition to the above list, there is the option to fully attenuate the mobile fleet by retrospectively installing noise attenuation kits to existing plant and/or purchasing new factory-attenuated models to replace existing plant. NAC have already embarked on a program to silence their existing mobile plant at the Mine.

SLR undertook modelling utilising (1) the existing (partly silenced) fleet and (2) a fully attenuated fleet. This investigation showed that a fully attenuated fleet was likely required to achieve compliance with the night-time 35 dBA noise limit.

Based on the results of all investigations, the following mitigation measures are recommended:

- All mobile fleet is fully attenuated to appropriate 'sound power levels'.
- Noise bunds (common on mine sites), noise barriers (common within road/rail corridors) or a combination of both are constructed and strategically located. Bunds/barriers are expected to be most effective during the evening and night periods in the following locations:
  - western edge of the Manning Vale West pit (bund/barrier);
  - eastern side of internal haul road (barrier); and
  - south-east corner and north-western edge (partial) of the Willeroo pit (bund/barrier).

Further modelling is being undertaken to refine the location (within the approved disturbance footprint) and height of bunding/barriers.

- The mobile mining fleets are managed to achieve the required noise goals under adverse weather conditions [see Options 1 and 2].

NAC will be required to implement a Noise and Vibration Management Plan (NVMP) under Condition F10 of the Draft Environmental Authority. Under the NVMP, NAC will implement a weather forecasting system to provide daily prediction of meteorological conditions and the risk of noise/vibration impacts from the Mine (in combination with noise modelling). This process will enable NAC to plan its daily activities to achieve compliance with the EA noise limits.

In addition, the NVMP will also include the operation of NAC's Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP). This management strategy involves the use of real-time noise monitoring (with 1/3 octave-band analysis capabilities) to the north, east and west of the Mine, as well as in the township of Acland. Dashboard attendants will monitor the TARP during the day, evening and night periods, and will monitor the dominant observed noise sources, wind speed, rain rate and hourly noise levels. Where monitoring positively identifies that mining activities are causing noise levels to approach or exceed the noise limits, immediate management actions will be applied including to proactively relocate, reduce or stop noisier mining operations when necessary. NAC personnel will be required to highlight any noise and vibration management issues at shift changes.



**Based on the modelling described above, compliance with the 35 dBA (evening/night) noise limit is predicted to be achieved for the Stage 3 operations.**

In relation to the daytime, this investigation was conservatively based on 40 dBA Leq, which is less than the Court recommended 42 dBA Leq. Compliance during the day is predicted to be achieved through the use of the mitigation measures recommended above. As a result, additional daytime mining activities/fleet (to that which formed the basis of this investigation) could be employed by NAC during the daytime and still achieve the Court recommended daytime noise limit. In theory, a 2 dB increase in noise would equate to a 60% increase in the amount of plant (assuming the increase involved the same mix of attenuated mobile plant, with equivalent noise emissions, working in the same areas of the Mine). Further investigations would be required to optimise mining operations for the daytime period.

## 2 At-Property Noise Treatments

This investigation did not consider property-based noise control measures at neighbouring homes. However, it should be noted that very good (and, typically, cost effective) noise attenuation for internal noise levels can be achieved through measures such as:

- upgraded glazing to windows and doors (including acoustic seals), and
- air-conditioning (including fresh air ventilation) to allow windows/doors to be closed.

Such measures are regularly utilised across Australia to mitigate noise (from a variety of industries) subject to agreements being reached with affected landowners. In broad terms, building façade noise reductions of 20 dBA or greater are typically achieved with closed windows/doors (up from 7 dBA or more façade noise reductions with open windows/doors).

## 3 Precedence of 35 dBA Leq as a Noise Limit

There have been many instances where a night-time noise limit (for mining and other industries) has been set at 35 dBA LAeq(15minute) or lower. Some examples are:

- In *Xstrata Coal Queensland Pty Ltd & Ors v Friends of the Earth – Brisbane Co-Op Ltd & Ors and Department of Environment and Resource Management* [2012] QLC 013 recommended approval of the draft EA for the Wandoan coal mine, which incorporated limits of 35dB(A), as imposed by the Coordinator-General.
- At New South Wales mines:
  - Mach Energy Australia Pty Ltd's coal mine under EP Licence 20850;
  - Ivanhoe Coal Pty Limited's coal mine under EP Licence 13063;
  - Maules Creek Coal's coal mine under EP Licence 20221; and
  - Moolarben Coal Operations Pty Ltd's coal mine under EP Licence 12932.
- At coal seam gas operations in Queensland:
  - Australia Pacific LNG Pty Limited's Walloons Development Area under EA EPPG00968013;
  - Arrow Energy's petroleum activities under EA EA0001399;
  - Australia Pacific LNG Pty Limited's Australia Pacific LNG Facility under EA EPPG00715613;
  - Australia Pacific LNG Pty Limited's Combabula Development Area under EA EPPG00853213;
  - Australia Pacific LNG Pty Limited's Condabri Development Area under EA EPPG00853013; and
  - Australia Pacific LNG Pty Limited & Australia Pacific LNG CSG Marketing Pty Limited's Spring Gully under EA EPPG00885313.

These examples show that it is not unusual for industry (inclusive of the mining industry) to have a night-time limit of 35 dBA  $L_{Aeq}(15\text{minute})$  imposed on their operations.

Yours sincerely



SHANE ELKIN  
Operations Manager

Checked/ Authorised by: Jennifer Walker
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## Annexure H - New Acland Community Newsletter (November 2018)



NEW ACLAND  
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER  
November 2018

# BEAKERS.BOTS.BUILD AT OAKLEY HIGH SCHOOL

SCIENCE HAS COME TO LIFE FOR OAKLEY STATE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THROUGH PROGRAMS ORGANISED BY QUEENSLAND MINERALS AND ENERGY ACADEMY (QMEA). YEAR NINE STUDENTS WERE THE FIRST TO BENEFIT, FIRING UP THEIR BEAKERS FOR A CHEMICAL PROCESSING AND ROBOTICS WORKSHOP.

The Beakers.Bots.Build workshop guided students through three key challenges exploring chemical processing, robotics and construction activities.

The workshop was supported by two New Acland Mine staff who shared their personal career pathways into the resource industry.

New Acland's Site Senior Executive Dave O'Dwyer began his resource career as a mining engineer and said sparking student's interest in science could equip them well for future careers in Queensland's resource industry.

"Bringing the QMEA to Oakley State High School opens students up to all the different possibilities the resource industry can offer them," Dave said.

"Our industry has a really diverse workforce with roles like engineers and environmental scientists, through to core trades such as diesel-fitters and electricians.

"A lot of these professional and vocational career pathways are underpinned by high school study in science, technology, engineering and maths so it's really rewarding to bring QMEA back to Oakley State High School again this year."

As well as facilitating local students to access QMEA, New Hope also has a number of local trainees and apprentices working across its operations.

"Right now across our operations New Hope has four apprentices, nine trainees and one work experience student," Dave said

New Acland Community and Landholder Coordinator Grant Higgs also shared his resource industry journey, using his experience in rural banking and agriculture to work with landholders living near resource projects.

Next in line were the Year 10 students who got up close and personal with representatives from New Acland Mine who shared their passion for science,

technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Dave O'Dwyer joined Community Liaison Bec Meacham to share their career stories with students to inspire them to continue studying STEM subjects.

Students experienced hands-on science, undertaking a copper extraction experiment, learning about process engineering techniques and mine resource management. The visit coincided with the Year 10 students considering their subjects for senior study and future career pathways.

Oakley State High School's Jelena Edhouse Head of Department HPE, Mathematics and Science was appreciative of New Acland's support and welcomed the hands-on and engaging nature of the workshop.

"It really helped the students to see science in action and understand the practical application of their studies," Jelena said. "It's exciting to see all those light bulb moments occur while they are preparing for their future careers."

### THIS ISSUE:

Pg1 Beakers.Bots.Build at Oakley High School  
Pg2 Community Investment Fund Update  
Pg2 Lion's Den Becomes User Friendly  
Pg2 Oakley Men's Shed Expands

Pg2 Century Old Hall Gets A Facelift  
Pg3 Trainee Counting His Lucky Stars  
Pg4 Local Farmers To Benefit  
From Drought Relief Funds

Pg4 Major Community Project For Oakley Area  
Pg4 Key Facts  
Pg4 Acland Stage 3 Update



## COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND UPDATE

The *New Acland Community Investment Fund (CIF)* is part of New Hope Group's ongoing commitment to community investment and development. It supports not-for-profit community groups and organisations with grants for projects over \$10,000 to support community-based initiatives.

### LION'S DEN BECOMES USER FRIENDLY

Lion's Dens don't usually come with climate control but don't tell the Oakey Lion's Club that!

The club has been successful in obtaining a *Community Investment Fund* grant for \$17,500 to refurbish its current home, including the addition of reverse cycle air-conditioning.

For club president, Gail Jones it's all about making the venue more user friendly.

"Currently the shed we are in is very unpleasant in extreme weather conditions so it's difficult to encourage members and guests to come to functions," Gail said.

"It simply isn't an inviting environment and, with no reliable electrical appliances, it's also not that safe.

"What we want to establish is an attractive and safe environment so that we can increase our membership and, as a consequence, do more work to support the local community.

"With our refurbished den we will be able to maintain an active roster of volunteers to help with regular working bees.

"The support of New Hope and the fund is vital to us being able to provide a professional and positive service in the local area – in comfort."



Oakey Men's Shed members try out the new tools

## Oakey Men's Shed EXPANDS

**THE POPULAR Oakey Men's SHED HAS BEEN GIVEN ROOM TO GROW THANKS TO AN \$11,000 GRANT WHICH WENT TOWARD THE PURCHASE OF A 40-FOOT SHIPPING CONTAINER.**

The group has a proud record of supporting the mental wellbeing of local men while also providing a valuable service to the broader community.

In fact the group is so successful they were running out of room according to treasurer John Phillips.

"Things were getting a bit cluttered around the shed, so we put in for a grant through New Hope to purchase a 40-foot shipping container," John said.

"Not only do we have more room for storage, we were also able to purchase some new tools and machinery to help us expand the range of projects we do.

"We have a large number of older men in the area who rely on the Men's Shed for companionship and a creative outlet.

"It's fantastic that New Hope are so supportive of what we do and can help us out financially through the *Community Investment Fund*."



## CENTURY OLD HALL GETS A FACELIFT

**BUILT IN 1893, THE GOOMBUNGEE PUBLIC HALL HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, HOSTING BALLS, WEDDINGS, WAKES, INDOOR SPORTING EVENTS AND PARTIES OF ALL TYPES.**

In 1989 the Goombungee Public Hall committee became an incorporated body and have been making improvements to the hall, specifically around health and safety issues.

Recently the committee secured a grant from the *New Acland Community Investment Fund* to upgrade the kitchen area, replacing storage area

under the servery countertop with vermin proof draws and cupboards.

Committee secretary, Bernadette McPhail said the group is focused on providing a safe venue that everyone in the community can access and enjoy.

"The kitchen area required updating to ensure it was compliant with health and safety regulations," Bernadette said.

Bernadette said the committee has a proven record of maintaining and improving this important community asset.

"However, without the support of New Hope and this particular fund, many of these improvements simply wouldn't happen."



New trainee Jason Baker on site at Acland

## TRAINEE COUNTING HIS LUCKY STARS

EVERY TIME 45-YEAR-OLD JASON BAKER CLIMBS THE LADDER TO THE CABIN OF HIS COAL DUMP TRUCK HE COUNTS HIS LUCKY STARS.

A Kingsthorpe local, Jason is one of seven locals selected by New Hope Group (NHG) to take on a traineeship program at the New Acland Mine.

Jason said he had all but given up hope of securing a position at the mine after having applied in the past.

"I got a taste of life on a mine site when I was in Mt Isa and I really enjoyed it," Jason said.

"I also worked as a FIFO worker for four years in the oil and gas fields of South Australia, but I didn't want to go back to that type of work."

Jason said it was his mum who alerted him to the traineeship.

"I'd come back to live in Kingsthorpe as my family are all in the area so when the opportunity arose I decided to give it a shot," Jason said.

"I just can't believe I've finally got my foot in the door. While some might think I'm a little old to be starting a traineeship I see it as a second chance.

"Once I finish my Certificate II in Surface Extraction it's only a small step to a Certificate III which is the same as a trade qualification.

"Admittedly it can be a little slow at times but there are so many options on a mine site to build a career once I finish my traineeship."

NHG General Manager of Queensland Coal Operations, David Vink said there are a number of reasons why New Acland Mine is a great place to start a mining career.

"New Acland Mine is an important economic contributor to the local area and is recognised as an innovative and forward looking mine," David said.

"We encourage our experienced team of miners to think creatively about issues they face daily and we are proud to have implemented a number of the innovations that have come from that.

"We also value training and offer our team the opportunity to continually learn new skills.

"This is only the second time we have run traineeships at New Acland and we think this group will replicate the success of the first.

"Obviously we'd like all the trainees to remain at NAC but where ever the trainees decide to go after the program ends, they will have the advantage of having worked on a mine site that is respected across the industry."



## KEY FACTS

New Hope Group recently commissioned an independent analysis of the economic and social benefits of the continuation of its New Acland mine known as Stage 3. A snapshot of the Ernst Young findings show the benefits over the projected 12 year life of the mine would:

- Provide \$7 billion in revenue to the Queensland economy;
- Create more than 550 jobs by the year 2020;
- Contribute an annual economic benefit to the state of \$575 million;
- Benefit NAC suppliers with more than \$2,500 million in potential earnings;
- Generate \$563.5m in potential revenue for construction contractors – many of whom will be locals during the construction phase;
- Earn QLD Rail and Road Transport companies more than \$1,600 million;
- Benefit local community groups (including schools) with more than \$6 million in direct funding; and
- Provide local private landholders (excluding New Hope related entities) with \$54.2 million in royalty payments.

[www.aclandproject.com.au](http://www.aclandproject.com.au)

EY New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project: Financial Impact Study

## ACLAND STAGE 3 UPDATE

A three day Land Court remittal hearing for the New Acland Stage 3 Project concluded in the first week of October after hearing oral submissions from lay objectors, New Acland Coal, the Department of Environment and Science and the Oakey Coal Action Alliance (OCAA).

Further written submissions from all parties were accepted until 19 October.

The Land Court will now deliver its recommendation in respect to the Project in its own time. It is hoped this will occur before the Court's Christmas closure however this is not guaranteed.

Updates will be available on the New Hope Group website at [newhopegroup.com.au/news](http://newhopegroup.com.au/news) and [newhopegroup.com.au/content/investors/asx-announcements](http://newhopegroup.com.au/content/investors/asx-announcements)

## LOCAL FARMERS TO BENEFIT FROM DROUGHT RELIEF FUNDS

Local farmers suffering through the worst drought in 100 years now have access to support from a \$50,000 donation to a local charity.

New Hope Group made the \$50,000 donation to drought relief organisation Aussie Helpers to assist with much needed relief to drought-affected farmers on the Darling Downs.

*Aussie Helpers* Chief Financial Officer Sam Price was thrilled to receive the funds and said the money would be used to provide support in whatever form most needed by those in need in the area surrounding the New Acland mine.

"We've had quite a number of calls coming in from farmers in the Oakey region and the broader Darling Downs who are really doing it tough at the moment," Ms Price said.

"We've found farmers are in need of different things depending on their circumstances, whether it be hay, water or financial and emotional support or simply just putting food on the table."

New Hope Managing Director Shane Stephan said the company had watched with concern as drought conditions worsened across the state and in particular in farming communities around the New Acland Mine and Acland Pastoral Company.

"New Hope has been moved by the strength and resilience of farmers battling through this tough time, many of whom are employees at our New Acland Mine as well as members of our local communities," Mr Stephan said.

"As a major cattle and cropping operator and large local employer in the Oakey region, we knew there were families doing it tough and wanted to do our bit.

"This donation will provide relief to the farmers in our area who need it most, and our hope is that it will ease their burden a little."

If you'd like support from the drought relief effort, you can visit the Aussie Helpers website at [aussiehelpers.org.au](http://aussiehelpers.org.au) or call them on 1300 665 232.

## MAJOR COMMUNITY PROJECT FOR OAKEY AREA

Local collaboration on the delivery of a major *Community Development Project* has been the impetus of a series of workshops conducted across the local area.

Designed to develop ideas from local communities themselves on how and what project can best serve their local area, the workshops were facilitated by USQ Professor Jim Cavaye, an expert in community engagement and regional development, along with the *New Acland Community Reference Group*, and the University of Southern Queensland's Institute

for Resilient Regions. The workshops were held in Kulpi, MacLagan, Goombungee and Oakey.

Input from the four workshops is now being collated to inform the broader *Community Development Project* which is set to be revealed by Christmas.

Community members are encouraged to continue to contribute their thoughts with the *New Acland Community Reference Group* and the *Institute for Resilient Regions* on the Project by contacting Community Liaison Bec Meacham on 0418 534 575.

### CONTACT



- Call 07 4691 3445
- New Hope Community Information Centre, Campbell St, Oakey
- [community@newhopegroup.com.au](mailto:community@newhopegroup.com.au)
- [www.aclandproject.com.au](http://www.aclandproject.com.au)
- PO Box 47, Ipswich, Qld 4305

*New Hope has prepared this newsletter to keep the community informed about the New Acland mine operations and initiatives.*

## Annexure I - Project Consultation Summary 2014 to 2018

Year	Main Consultation Facts	Top Five Discussion Topics
2014	<u>Total Number of Consultation Events:</u> 293  <u>No. 1 Form of Consultation:</u> Community Info Centre Visit (174 events)  <u>No. 1 Stakeholder Involvement:</u> Regional Enquires (183 events)	1. Employment
		2. EIS / AEIS / Supplementary EIS
		3. Approvals Process
		4. Acquisition Process
		5. Consultation - Public
2015	<u>Total Number of Consultation Events:</u> 1374  <u>No. 1 Form of Consultation:</u> Community Info Centre Visit (268 events)  <u>No. 1 Stakeholder Consulted:</u> Regional Enquires (361 events)	1. Employment
		2. Sponsorship
		3. Technical Reports / (Baseline) Studies
		4. Groundwater
		5. Acquisition Process
2016	<u>Total Number of Consultation Events:</u> 2132  <u>No. 1 Form of Consultation:</u> Phone Call Out (357 events)  <u>No. 1 Stakeholder Consulted:</u> Tier 2 Landholder (459 events)	1. Employment
		2. Technical Reports / (Baseline) Studies
		3. Sponsorship
		4. Groundwater
		5. Employment
2017	<u>Total Number of Consultation Events:</u> 1378  <u>No. 1 Form of Consultation:</u> Phone Call Out (280 events)  <u>No. 1 Stakeholder Consulted:</u> Tier 2 Landholder (458 events)	1. Technical Reports / (Baseline) Studies
		2. Groundwater
		3. Community Partnerships / Community Investment Fund
		4. General Enquiry
		5. Business Opportunity
2018 (YTD: 16/11/18)	<u>Total Number of Consultation Events:</u> 370  <u>No. 1 Form of Consultation:</u> Community Info Centre Visit (82 events)  <u>No. 1 Stakeholder Consulted:</u> Tier 2 Landholder (109 events)	1. Approvals Process
		2. Groundwater
		3. Community Partnerships / Community Investment Fund
		4. Sponsorship
		5. Community Health and Wellbeing