

# Noise Monitoring Assessment

Dunloe Quarry, Pottsville, NSW  
Quarter 1 Ending March 2021



# Document Information

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Quarter 1 Ending March 2021

Prepared for: Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd

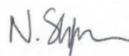

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# 1 Introduction

Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd (MAC) has been commissioned by Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd (Holcim) to complete a Noise Monitoring Assessment (NMA) for the quarterly period ending March 2021 for Dunloe Quarry (the 'quarry'), Pottsville, NSW.

The monitoring has been conducted in accordance with the Dunloe Project Approval 06\_0030, Modification (2018) and Noise Management Plan (2020) at three representative monitoring locations. This assessment represents the operations undertaken during Quarter 1, ending March 2021 and forms part of the annual noise monitoring program to address conditions of the project approval.

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

- NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Noise Policy for Industry (NPI), 2017;
- NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Environmental Protection License (EPL), 13077, 2018;
- NSW Department of Planning, Project Approval 06\_0030, Modification 2018;
- GHD, Dunloe Sand Quarry Noise Management Plan (NMP), 2020; and
- Australian Standard AS 1055:2018- Acoustics - Description and measurement of environmental noise - General Procedures.

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

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## 2 Noise Criteria

Table 4.1 of Dunloe Sand Quarry's NMP, (2020) outlines the updated applicable noise criteria for residential receivers surrounding the quarry site.

The noise criteria are applicable when the site undertakes quarrying operations within the permitted operating hours Monday to Friday 7am – 5pm, Saturday 7am – 12pm with no operations on Sunday.

**Table 1** presents the noise criteria for each of the receivers as outlined in Table 4.1 of the NMP (2020).

Table 1 Noise Criteria	
Location	Day Criteria dB LAeq(15min) <sup>2</sup>
R6 and R7	42
R8	48
All privately-owned receivers <sup>1</sup>	41

Note 1: Receiver locations are shown in Figure 1.

Note 2: Criteria applicable between Monday to Friday 7am – 5pm, Saturday 7am – 12pm with no operations on Sunday as the Table 4.1 of the NMP (2020)

### 2.1 Environmental Protection License (EPL 13077)

Compliance with the noise criteria in the NMP would also result in compliance with the EPL noise limits (EPL 13077) which requires noise contribution from the quarry not to exceed 48dB LAeq(15min) at any residential receiver.

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### 3 Methodology

#### 3.1 Locality

The quarry is approximately 2.5km south west of Pottsville, NSW. Receivers surrounding the quarry are primarily rural/residential situated in coastal bushland with elevated and undulating topography. The monitoring locations with respect to the quarry and assessed receivers are presented in the locality plan shown in **Figure 1**.

#### 3.2 Noise Monitoring Locations

Three monitoring locations have been selected as part of the NMA and are listed below:

- R6 is located at 157 Warwick Park Road;
- R7 is located at 129 Warwick Park Road; and
- R8 is located at 679 Pottsville Road.

It is noted that the Dunloe Quarry was not operational due to recent high rainfall and flooding, notwithstanding measurements were completed to satisfy EPL requirements.

#### 3.3 Assessment Methodology

Attended noise surveys were conducted in general accordance with the procedures described in Australian Standard AS 1055:2018, "Acoustics - Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise and Dunloe Quarry's Project Approval. Measurements were carried out using a Svantek Type 1, 971 noise analyser on Wednesday 24 March 2021. Acoustic instrumentation used carries current NATA calibration and complies with AS/NZS IEC 61672.1-2019-Electroacoustics - Sound level meters - Specifications. Calibration of all instrumentation was checked prior to and following measurements. Drift in calibration did not exceed  $\pm 0.5$  dBA.

One measurement was conducted at each monitoring location during the daytime period. Measurements were of 15 minutes in duration and where possible, throughout each survey the operator quantified the contribution of each significant noise source.

Extraneous noise sources were excluded from the analysis to determine the  $L_{Aeq}(15min)$  quarry noise contribution for comparison against the relevant criteria. Where the quarry was inaudible, the contribution is estimated to be at least 10dB below the ambient noise level.

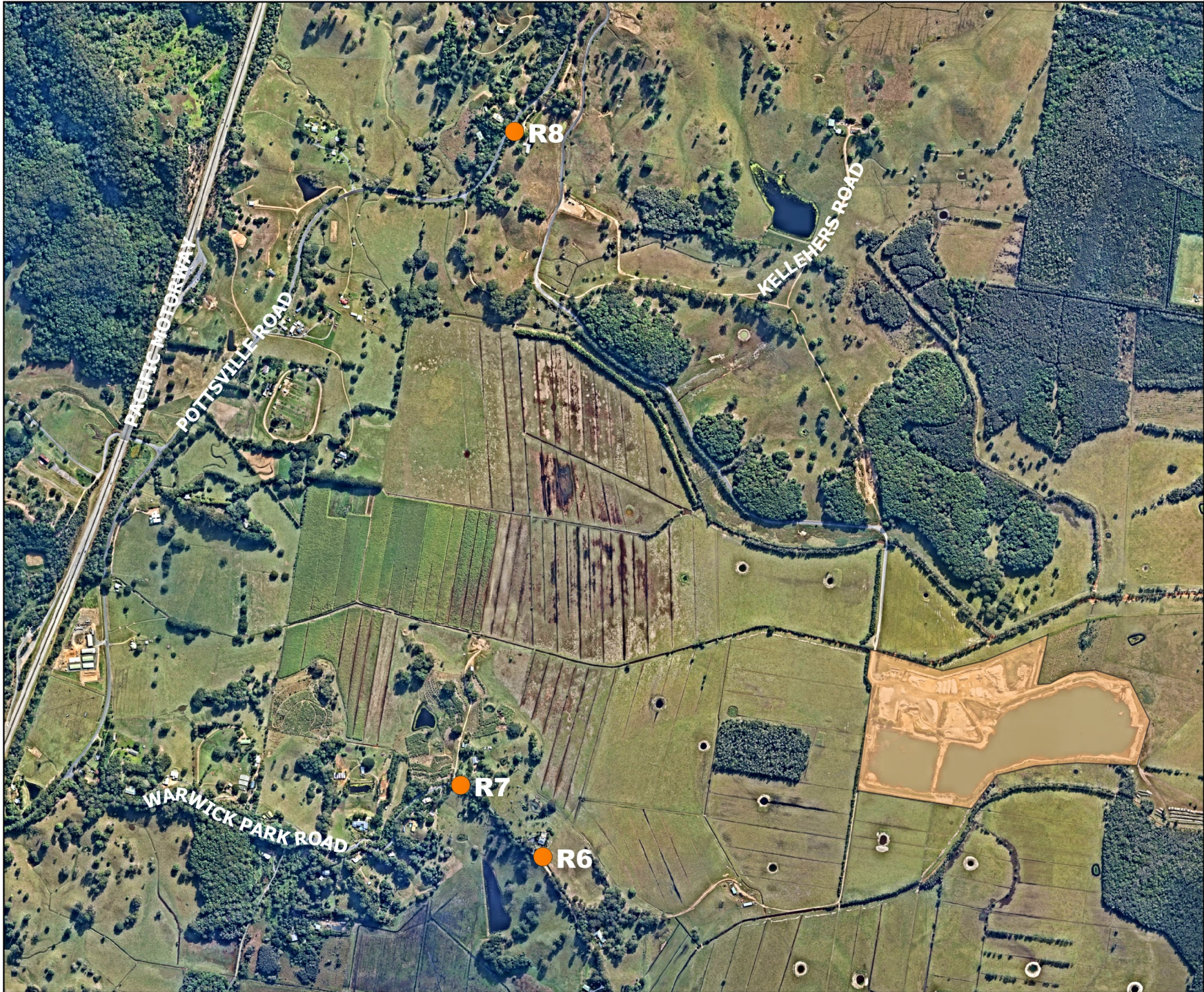


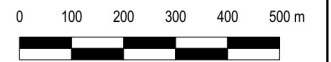


FIGURE 1  
Site Locality  
MAC180611-07  
Holcim Dunloe Quarry

**KEY**

-  Receivers
-  Dunloe Quarry



## 4 Results

### 4.1 Assessment Results - Location R6

The monitored noise level contributions and observed meteorological conditions for R6 are presented in **Table 2**.

Table 2 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R6						
Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 $\mu$ Pa)			Meteorology	Description and SPL, dBA
		L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>A90</sub>		
24/03/2021	12:05	69	44	35	WD: W	Insects 34-51
					WS: 0.1m/s	Birds 38-45
					Rain: Nil	Traffic 33-69
						Quarry inaudible
Dunloe Quarry L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15min) Contribution					Quarry Not Operating	

### 4.2 Assessment Results - Location R7

The monitored noise level contributions and observed meteorological conditions for R7 are presented in **Table 3**.

Table 3 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R7						
Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 $\mu$ Pa)			Meteorology	Description and SPL, dBA
		L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>A90</sub>		
24/03/2021	11:48	62	47	38	WD: W	Insects 37-49
					WS: 0.1m/s	Birds 38-50
					Rain: Nil	Traffic 37-62
						Local residential noise 41-46
Dunloe Quarry L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15min) Contribution					Quarry inaudible	
					Quarry Not Operating	

### 4.3 Assessment Results - Location R8

The monitored noise level contributions and observed meteorological conditions for R8 are presented in **Table 4**.

Table 4 Operator-Attended Noise Survey Results – Location R8						
Date	Time (hrs)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)			Meteorology	Description and SPL, dBA
		L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq</sub>	L <sub>A90</sub>		
24/03/2021	11:26	93	65	40	WD: W WS: 0.1m/s Rain: Nil	Insects 36-42
						Birds 38-45
						Traffic 36-93
						Aircraft 36-44
						Quarry inaudible
Dunloe Quarry L <sub>Aeq</sub> (15min) Contribution					Quarry Not Operating	

## 5 Discussion

### 5.1 Comparison of Ambient Background and Operational Results

It is noted the quarry was not operational. Notwithstanding, measurements were completed to satisfy the requirements of the EPL. Ambient noise levels (LAeq), background noise levels (LA90) and quarry contribution noise levels for each quarter in 2020 compared with the measured noise levels for this current quarter are presented in **Table 5**.

**Table 5 Comparison of Ambient Background and Operational Results**

Quarter (Year)	Receiver	Quarry Contribution dB LAeq(15min)	Descriptor (dBA re 20 µPa)	
			LAeq	LA90
Quarter 1 (2020)		<30	44	37
Quarter 2 (2020)		<30	37	32
Quarter 3 (2020)	R6	<30	52	35
Quarter 4 (2020)		<35	50	39
<b>Average<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>49</b>	<b>33</b>
Ambient Q1 2021		N/A	44	35
Quarter 1 (2020)		<40	56	47
Quarter 2 (2020)		<30	44	33
Quarter 3 (2020)	R7	<30	41	36
Quarter 4 (2020)		<35	57	44
<b>Average<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>54</b>	<b>34</b>
Ambient Q1 2021		N/A	47	38
Quarter 1 (2020)		<30	51	35
Quarter 2 (2020)		<30	41	37
Quarter 3 (2020)	R8	<30	65	36
Quarter 4 (2020)		<40	64	50
<b>Average<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>62</b>	<b>35</b>
Ambient Q1 2021		N/A	65	40

Note 1: Logarithmic average for LAeq values, the lowest 10<sup>th</sup> percentile for L90 values.

The 2020 ambient (LAeq) noise levels are generally higher than that measured for Q1 2021, with the exception of R8 which is slightly lower. Background (LA90) noise levels during 2020 are lower than those measured during Q1 2021.

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## 6 Conclusion

Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd (MAC) has completed a Noise Monitoring Assessment (NMA) on behalf of Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd at Dunloe Quarry, Pottsville, NSW. The assessment was completed to determine the quarry's compliance with the relevant criteria outlined in the Dunloe Project Approval 06\_0030, Modification (2018) at relevant surrounding residential receivers for Quarter 1, ending March 2021.

Attended noise monitoring was undertaken on Wednesday 24 March 2021 at representative monitoring locations to measure ambient background levels whilst the quarry was not operating due to recent high rainfall and flooding. A comparison of the measured ambient and background noise levels with those from the previous year (2020) when the quarry was operational has been completed. In general, 2020 ambient (LAeq) noise levels are higher than that measured for Q1 2021, and background (LA90) noise levels during 2020 are lower than those measured during Q1 2021. This comparison indicates that fluctuations in ambient noise levels at the measurement locations are not generally influenced by the Dunloe Quarry operations.

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# Appendix A - Glossary of Terms

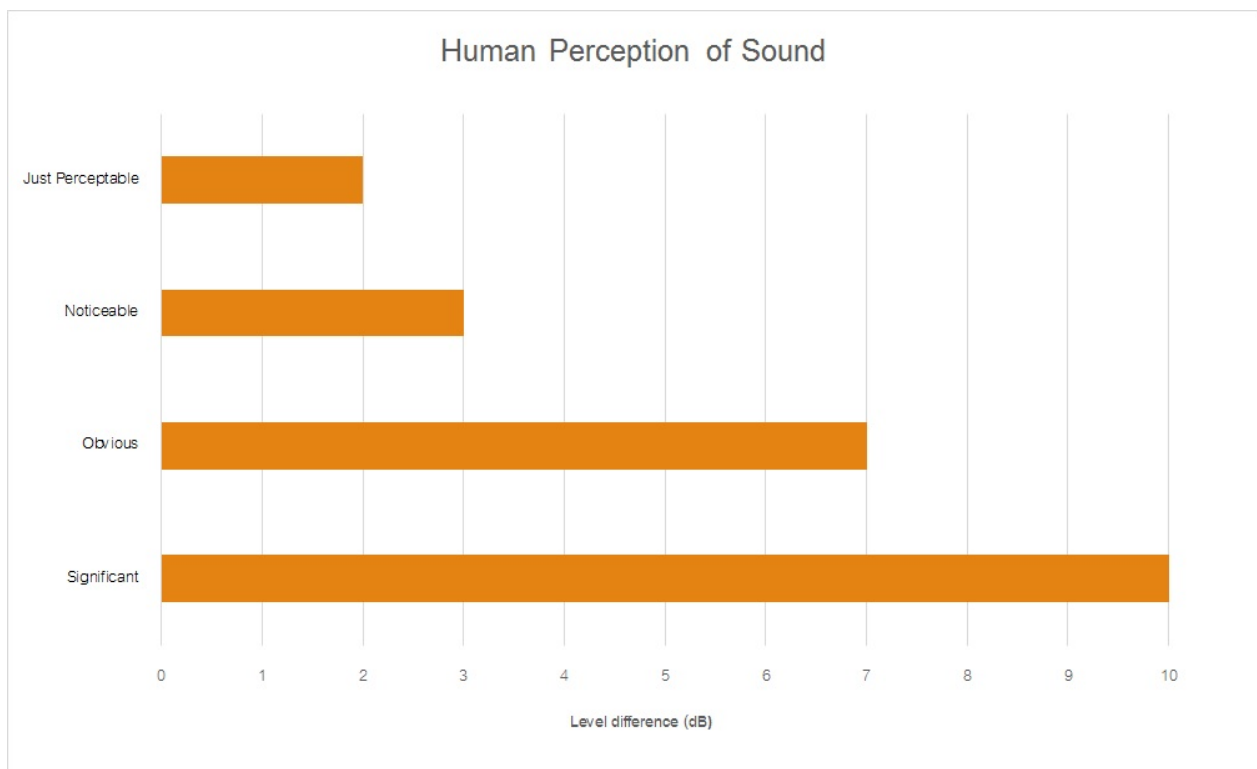
Table A1 provides a number of technical terms have been used in this report.

Table A1 Glossary of Terms	
Term	Description
1/3 Octave	Single octave bands divided into three parts
Octave	A division of the frequency range into bands, the upper frequency limit of each band being twice the lower frequency limit.
ABL	Assessment Background Level (ABL) is defined in the NPI as a single figure background level for each assessment period (day, evening and night). It is the tenth percentile of the measured LA90 statistical noise levels.
Adverse Weather	Weather effects that enhance noise (that is, wind and temperature inversions) that occur at a site for a significant period of time (that is, wind occurring more than 30% of the time in any assessment period in any season and/or temperature inversions occurring more than 30% of the nights in winter).
Ambient Noise	The noise associated with a given environment. Typically a composite of sounds from many sources located both near and far where no particular sound is dominant.
A Weighting	A standard weighting of the audible frequencies designed to reflect the response of the human ear to noise.
dBA	Noise is measured in units called decibels (dB). There are several scales for describing noise, the most common being the 'A-weighted' scale. This attempts to closely approximate the frequency response of the human ear.
dB(Z), dB(L)	Decibels Linear or decibels Z-weighted.
Hertz (Hz)	The measure of frequency of sound wave oscillations per second - 1 oscillation per second equals 1 hertz.
LA10	A noise level which is exceeded 10 % of the time. It is approximately equivalent to the average of maximum noise levels.
LA90	Commonly referred to as the background noise, this is the level exceeded 90 % of the time.
LAeq	The summation of noise over a selected period of time. It is the energy average noise from a source, and is the equivalent continuous sound pressure level over a given period.
LAm <sub>ax</sub>	The maximum root mean squared (rms) sound pressure level received at the microphone during a measuring interval.
RBL	The Rating Background Level (RBL) is an overall single figure background level representing each assessment period over the whole monitoring period. The RBL is used to determine the intrusiveness criteria for noise assessment purposes and is the median of the ABL's.
Sound power level (LW)	This is a measure of the total power radiated by a source. The sound power of a source is a fundamental location of the source and is independent of the surrounding environment. Or a measure of the energy emitted from a source as sound and is given by : $= 10 \cdot \log_{10} (W/W_0)$ Where : W is the sound power in watts and W <sub>0</sub> is the sound reference power at 10-12 watts.

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

Table A2 Common Noise Sources and Their Typical Sound Pressure Levels (SPL), dBA	
Source	Typical Sound Level
Threshold of pain	140
Jet engine	130
Hydraulic hammer	120
Chainsaw	110
Industrial workshop	100
Lawn-mower (operator position)	90
Heavy traffic (footpath)	80
Elevated speech	70
Typical conversation	60
Ambient suburban environment	40
Ambient rural environment	30
Bedroom (night with windows closed)	20
Threshold of hearing	0

Figure A1 – Human Perception of Sound



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