

## APPENDIX F NOISE ASSESSMENT

## GRIFFITH SOLAR FARM

# Construction & Operational Noise & Vibration Assessment

24 February 2016

NGH Environmental

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We have derived data in this report from information sourced from the Client (if any) and/or available in the public domain at the time or times outlined in this report. The passage of time, manifestation of latent conditions or impacts of future events may require further examination and re-evaluation of the data, findings, observations and conclusions expressed in this report.

We have prepared this report in accordance with the usual care and thoroughness of the consulting profession, for the sole purpose described above and by reference to applicable standards, guidelines, procedures and practices at the date of issue of this report. For the reasons outlined above, however, no other warranty or guarantee, whether expressed or implied, is made as to the data, observations and findings expressed in this report, to the extent permitted by law.

The information contained herein is for the purpose of acoustics only. No claims are made and no liability is accepted in respect of design and construction issues falling outside of the specialist field of acoustics engineering including and not limited to structural integrity, fire rating, architectural buildability and fit-for-purpose, waterproofing and the like. Supplementary professional advice should be sought in respect of these issues.

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# 1 Introduction

Renzo Tonin & Associates was engaged to conduct an environmental noise and vibration assessment of the proposed Griffith Solar Farm located at Hamilton Road, Yoogali as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. Noise and vibration impacts from the construction and operation phases of the project will be addressed in this report in accordance with relevant Council and EPA requirements and guidelines.

The work documented in this report was carried out in accordance with the Renzo Tonin & Associates Quality Assurance System, which is based on Australian Standard / NZS ISO 9001. Appendix A contains a glossary of acoustic terms used in this report.

## 2 Project Description

### 2.1 Background Information

The Griffith Solar Farm project includes the construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) plant and associated infrastructure, producing up to 53 megavolt-ampere (MVA) or 60 Megawatts (MW) of electricity. The subject site is located in Yoogali on Lots 59, 60, 61, 62, 81 and 82 in DP 751728, approximately 7km south east of Griffith, within the Griffith City Council area. The Griffith Solar Farm will consist of up to 125 hectares of ground mounted solar panels.

### 2.2 Regulatory Requirements

The Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEAR) and Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Submission for the project nominate the following specific noise issues to be addressed in this assessment.

| Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEAR)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Section of Report Addressing SEAR Content           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>include a noise assessment of all phases and components of the development including, but not limited to construction noise (focusing on high noise-generating activities and any works proposed outside of standard construction hours, traffic noise, and vibration generating activities). The assessment must identify noise/vibration sensitive locations (including approved but not yet developed dwellings), baseline conditions based on monitoring results, the levels and character of noise (eg. tonality, impulsiveness etc.) generated by noise sources, noise/vibration criteria, modelling assumptions and worst case and representative noise/vibration impacts;</li> </ul> | Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7                              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>include monitoring to ensure that there is adequate background noise data that is representative for all sensitive receptors;</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Section 3                                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide justification for the nominated average background noise level used in the assessment process, considering any significant difference between daytime and night time background noise levels if there are noise generating activities at night; and</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Section 3                                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>clearly outline the noise mitigation, monitoring and management measures that would be applied to the development. This must include an assessment of the feasibility, effectiveness and reliability of proposed measures and any residual impacts after these measures have been incorporated.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Section 4, 5, 6 and 7                               |
| Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Submission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Section of Report Addressing EPA Submission Content |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction equipment has the potential to cause noise pollution, particularly where works are close to residential or noise sensitive areas. The goals of the project should include operation and maintenance of construction equipment in accordance with relevant EPA policy, guidelines and criteria, and in order to minimise potential impacts from noise.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Section 4                                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We expect that potential noise sources are assessed in accordance with the 'NSW Industrial Noise Policy' (EPA, 2000), and where required mitigation measures are proposed (e.g. appropriate equipment chosen to minimise noise levels). All residential or noise sensitive premises likely to be impacted by the development must be identified and included in the assessment.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Section 5                                           |

| Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEAR)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Section of Report Addressing SEAR Content           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>include a noise assessment of all phases and components of the development including, but not limited to construction noise (focusing on high noise-generating activities and any works proposed outside of standard construction hours, traffic noise, and vibration generating activities). The assessment must identify noise/vibration sensitive locations (including approved but not yet developed dwellings), baseline conditions based on monitoring results, the levels and character of noise (eg. tonality, impulsiveness etc.) generated by noise sources, noise/vibration criteria, modelling assumptions and worst case and representative noise/vibration impacts;</li> </ul> | Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7                              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>include monitoring to ensure that there is adequate background noise data that is representative for all sensitive receptors;</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Section 3                                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide justification for the nominated average background noise level used in the assessment process, considering any significant difference between daytime and night time background noise levels if there are noise generating activities at night; and</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Section 3                                           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>clearly outline the noise mitigation, monitoring and management measures that would be applied to the development. This must include an assessment of the feasibility, effectiveness and reliability of proposed measures and any residual impacts after these measures have been incorporated.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Section 4, 5, 6 and 7                               |
| Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Submission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Section of Report Addressing EPA Submission Content |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed development will result in increased traffic movements. The potential noise impacts associated with any traffic increases need to be assessed in accordance with the 'NSW Road Noise Policy' (EPA,2011)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Section 7                                           |

Noise and vibration impacts are assessed following a number of policies, guidelines and standards, including:

- NSW 'Interim Construction Noise Guideline' (ICNG – Department of the Environment and Climate Change, 2009);
- NSW 'Industrial Noise Policy' (INP – EPA, 2000);
- 'Assessing Vibration: A Technical Guideline' (Department of the Environment and Climate Change, 2006); and
- NSW 'Road Noise Policy' (RNP – Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, 2011)

## 2.3 Receiver Locations

The nearest affected receivers were identified during a site visit as follows:

- **Receiver R1 – 751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali**  
Residential property located approximately 115m directly west of the project area.
- **Receiver R2 – Lot 1 Poletta Road, Yoogali**  
Residential property located approximately 120m directly north of the project area.

- **Receiver R3 – 262 Hamilton Road, Yoogali**  
Residential property located approximately 390m directly north of the project area.
- **Receiver R4 – 228 Hamilton Road, Yoogali**  
Residential property located approximately 780m directly north of the project area.
- **Receiver R5 – 2562 Evans Road, Bilbul**  
Residential property located approximately 840m directly northeast of the project area.

Figure 1 provides details of the site, surrounds and receiver locations

## 2.4 Hours of Operation

### 2.4.1 Construction

Construction will occur during the following standard hours of construction:

- Monday to Friday: 7:00am to 6:00pm
- Saturday: 8:00am to 1:00pm
- No work on Sundays or public holidays

### 2.4.2 Operation

The solar farm will operate autonomously during times when there is sunlight. This will predominantly be during day and evening periods (7am-6pm and 6pm-10pm, respectively) throughout the year and potentially part of the night time (prior to 7am) during the summer months.

Figure 1 – Site, Surrounds and Receiver and Noise Monitoring Locations



## 3 Existing Noise Environment

Background noise varies over the course of any 24 hour period, typically from a minimum at 3am in the morning to a maximum during morning and afternoon traffic peak hours. Therefore, the NSW 'Industrial Noise Policy' (INP – Environment Protection Authority NSW 2000) requires that the level of background and ambient noise be assessed separately for the daytime, evening and night-time periods. The NSW INP defines these periods as follows:

- **Day** is defined as 7:00am to 6:00pm, Monday to Saturday and 8:00am to 6:00pm Sundays & Public Holidays.
- **Evening** is defined as 6:00pm to 10:00pm, Monday to Sunday & Public Holidays.
- **Night** is defined as 10:00pm to 7:00am, Monday to Saturday and 10:00pm to 8:00am Sundays & Public Holidays.

### 3.1 Noise Monitoring Locations

Noise monitoring is to be undertaken at the nearest or potentially most affected residential locations. In this case the nearest and potentially most affected location where noise monitoring was undertaken was as follows.

- **Location M1 – 751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali**  
Noise monitor located within the side yard and in the 'free field' (ie. away from building facades). Noise data represents the background and ambient noise environment for residences surrounding the project area.

To quantify the existing ambient noise environment, long-term (unattended) noise monitoring was conducted at Location M1, between Friday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Appendix A of this report presents a description of noise terms. Appendix B details the noise monitoring methodology and the graphical recorded outputs from long term noise monitoring are included in Appendix C. The graphs in Appendix C were analysed to determine an assessment background level (ABL) for each day, evening and night period in each 24 hour period of noise monitoring, and based on the median of individual ABLs an overall single Rating Background Level (RBL) for the day, evening and night period is determined over the entire monitoring period in accordance with the NSW INP.

### 3.2 Existing Background & Ambient Noise Levels

Existing background and ambient noise levels are presented in Table 3.1 below. The noise monitor was positioned outdoors in the 'free-field' (ie. away from building facades). Construction and operation noise from the site should be assessed away from the facade at the potentially most affected residential boundaries and therefore, the representative noise levels listed in Table 3.1 are directly applicable.

**Table 3.1 – Measured Existing Background ( $L_{90}$ ) & Ambient ( $L_{eq}$ ) Noise Levels, dB(A)**

| Location               | $L_{90}$ Background Noise Levels |         |       | $L_{eq}$ Ambient Noise Levels |         |       |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|-------|-------------------------------|---------|-------|
|                        | Day                              | Evening | Night | Day                           | Evening | Night |
| M1 - 751 Hamilton Road | 34                               | 38      | 30    | 49                            | 51      | 48    |

## 4 Construction Noise Assessment

### 4.1 Construction Noise Management Levels

The NSW 'Interim Construction Noise Guideline' (ICNG, 2009) provides guidelines for assessing noise generated during the construction phase of developments.

The key components of the guideline that are incorporated into this assessment include:

- *Use of  $L_{Aeq}$  as the descriptor for measuring and assessing construction noise*

NSW noise policies, including the INP, RNP and RING have moved to the primary use of  $L_{Aeq}$  over any other descriptor. As an energy average,  $L_{Aeq}$  provides ease of use when measuring or calculating noise levels since a full statistical analysis is not required as when using, for example, the  $L_{A10}$  descriptor.

- *Application of reasonable and feasible noise mitigation measures*

As stated in the ICNG, a noise mitigation measure is feasible if it is capable of being put into practice, and is practical to build given the project constraints.

Selecting reasonable mitigation measures from those that are feasible involves making a judgement to determine whether the overall noise benefit outweighs the overall social, economic and environmental effects.

The ICNG provides two methods for assessment of construction noise, being either a quantitative or a qualitative assessment. A quantitative assessment is recommended for major construction projects of significant duration, and involves the measurement and prediction of noise levels, and assessment against set criteria. A qualitative assessment is recommended for small projects with duration of less than three weeks and focuses on minimising noise disturbance through the implementation of reasonable and feasible work practices, and community notification.

Given the length of the construction works proposed, a quantitative assessment is carried out herein, consistent with the ICNG requirements.

Table 4.1 reproduced from the ICNG, sets out the noise management levels and how they are to be applied for residential receivers.

**Table 4.1 – Noise Management Levels at Residential Receivers**

| Time of Day                                                                                                                       | Management Level<br>$L_{Aeq}$ (15 min) | How to Apply                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Recommended standard hours:<br>Monday to Friday<br>7 am to 6 pm<br>Saturday 8 am to 1 pm<br>No work on Sundays or public holidays | Noise affected<br>RBL + 10dB(A)        | The noise affected level represents the point above which there may be some community reaction to noise.<br><br>Where the predicted or measured $L_{Aeq}$ (15 min) is greater than the noise affected level, the proponent should apply all feasible and reasonable work practices to meet the noise affected level.<br><br>The proponent should also inform all potentially impacted residents of the nature of works to be carried out, the expected noise levels and duration, as well as contact details.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                   | Highly noise affected<br>75dB(A)       | The highly noise affected level represents the point above which there may be strong community reaction to noise.<br><br>Where noise is above this level, the relevant authority (consent, determining or regulatory) may require respite periods by restricting the hours that the very noisy activities can occur, taking into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• times identified by the community when they are less sensitive to noise (such as before and after school for works near schools, or mid-morning or mid-afternoon for works near residences)</li> <li>• if the community is prepared to accept a longer period of construction in exchange for restrictions on construction times.</li> </ul> |
| Outside recommended standard hours                                                                                                | Noise affected<br>RBL + 5dB(A)         | A strong justification would typically be required for works outside the recommended standard hours.<br><br>The proponent should apply all feasible and reasonable work practices to meet the noise affected level.<br><br>Where all feasible and reasonable practices have been applied and noise is more than 5dB(A) above the noise affected level, the proponent should negotiate with the community.<br><br>For guidance on negotiating agreements see section 7.2.2 of the ICNG.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

Table 4.2 presents the construction noise management levels established for the nearest noise sensitive residential receivers based upon the noise monitoring outlined in Section 3.1, the proposed construction hours and the above ICNG requirements. The receiver locations are marked in Figure 1.

**Table 4.2 – Construction Noise Management Levels at Residential Receivers**

| Location Description      | Day $L_{A90}$ Background Noise Level (RBL) | Day Noise Management Level $L_{Aeq}(15min)$ |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| All residential receivers | 34 <sup>1</sup>                            | 44                                          |

Notes: 1. Construction works occur during the daytime period only, hence only the day period assessed

## 4.2 Construction Noise Sources

The following table lists plant and equipment likely to be used by the contractor to carry out the necessary construction work for the project.

**Table 4.3 – Typical Construction Equipment & Sound Power Levels**

| Plant Item | Plant Description   | L <sub>Aeq</sub> Sound Power Levels, dB(A) re. 1pW |
|------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1          | Piling Drilling Rig | 111                                                |
| 2          | Powered Hand Tools  | 110                                                |
| 3          | Mobile Crane        | 110                                                |
| 4          | Truck and Dog       | 108                                                |
| 5          | Delivery Van        | 88                                                 |

The sound power levels for the majority of activities presented in the above table are provided by the client, based on maximum levels given in Table A1 of Australian Standard 2436 - 2010 'Guide to Noise Control on Construction, Demolition and Maintenance Sites', the ICNG, information from past projects and/or information held in our library files.

### 4.3 Construction Noise Assessment

Noise emissions were predicted by modelling the noise sources, receiver locations, topographical features of the intervening area, and possible noise control treatments using CadnaA (version 4.5) noise modelling computer program. The program calculates the contribution of each noise source at each specified receptor point and allows for the prediction of the total noise from a site.

The noise prediction models takes into account:

- Location of noise sources and receiver locations;
- Height of sources and receivers;
- Separation distances between sources and receivers;
- Ground type between sources and receivers (soft); and
- Attenuation from barriers (natural and purpose built).

Noise levels at any receptors resulting from construction would depend on the above and the type and duration of construction being undertaken. Furthermore, noise levels at receivers would vary substantially over the total construction program due to the transient nature and large range of plant and equipment that could be used.

Table 4.4 presents noise levels likely to be experienced at the nearby affected receiver locations during the construction works. The presented levels are a worst case maximum with all plant and equipment operating concurrently.

**Table 4.4 – Predicted  $L_{Aeq,15min}$  Construction Noise Levels at Receiver Locations, dB(A)**

| Receiver location                | Noise Management Level <sup>1</sup> | Predicted Construction Noise Levels, $L_{Aeq,15min}$ <sup>2</sup> | Comply? (Yes/No)     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| R1 - 751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali  | 44                                  | 21 – 50                                                           | No, exceed by 6dB(A) |
| R2 - Lot 1 Poletta Road, Yoogali |                                     | 23 – 50                                                           | No, exceed by 6dB(A) |
| R3 - 262 Hamilton Road, Yoogali  |                                     | 23 – 37                                                           | Yes                  |
| R4 - 228 Hamilton Road, Bilbul   |                                     | 19 – 31                                                           | Yes                  |
| R5 - 2562 Evans Road, Bilbul     |                                     | 19 – 31                                                           | Yes                  |

- Notes:
1. Noise Management Level for day
  2. Based on all construction plant and equipment operating concurrently. Higher level in range occurs when plant and equipment are at closest proximity to receiver and lower level in range occurs when plant and equipment are furthest.
  3. **Bold** font represents exceedances

Based on the predicted construction noise levels presented in the table above, the construction management level will be exceeded when works are conducted at the closest proximity to Receivers R1 and R2 by up to 6dB(A). Predicted construction noise levels at all other receivers will comply with the construction management level.

Furthermore, construction noise levels at all receivers are predicted to be within the highly noise affected level of 75dB(A).

It should be noted that the exceedances predicted are based on all plant and equipment operating concurrently and at a location closest to the corresponding receiver location. This scenario would not typically occur on site.

For Receivers R1 and R2, it is expected that exceedance of the noise management level would occur when the construction works are conducted within approximately 400m of the dwelling/building. Construction works conducted within approximately 400m of the dwelling/building would be completed over 1-2 days. Construction works conducted beyond 400m of the dwelling building of Receivers R1 and R2 would comply with the noise management level. In light of the short duration of predicted noise exceedances, it is recommended that a feasible and reasonable approach towards noise management measures be applied, in consultation with the potentially affected residents.

Further details on construction noise management measures are provided in Section 4.4 below.

## 4.4 Construction Noise Management Measures

The following recommendations provide in-principle feasible and reasonable noise management measures to reduce noise impacts to sensitive receivers. Where actual construction activities differ from those assessed in this report, more detailed design of noise control measures may be required once specific items of plant and construction methods have been chosen and assessed on site.

The advice provided here is in respect of acoustics only. Supplementary professional advice may need to be sought in respect of fire ratings, structural design, buildability, fitness for purpose and the like.

For construction works conducted within approximately 400m of the dwelling building of Receivers R1 and R2, potential noise impacts to these locations will be managed via discussions/agreements with the residents. Consideration may be given to implementing time restrictions and/or providing periods of repose for residents, where feasible and reasonable. That is, daily periods of respite from noisy activities may also be scheduled for building occupants during business hours. For example, between 10am and 3pm (with one-hour break for lunch between 12pm and 1pm), noisy activities could occur with no noise level restrictions over a limited time period. Residents would be consulted to determine appropriate respite periods and will be notified of the potential noise impact during this time period so that they can organise their day around the noisy period. Allowing the construction activities to proceed, despite the noise exceedance may be the preferred method in order to complete the works expeditiously, with noise exceedances occurring over only 1-2 days.

In addition, the following noise management measures should be considered.

- Plant and equipment should be properly maintained.
- Avoid any unnecessary noise when carrying out manual operations and when operating plant.
- Any equipment not in use for extended periods during construction work should be switched off.
- Good relations with people living and working in the vicinity of a construction site should be established at the beginning of a project and be maintained throughout the project, as this is of paramount importance. Keeping people informed of progress and taking complaints seriously and dealing with them expeditiously is critical. The person selected to liaise with the community should be adequately trained and experienced in such matters.

## 5 Operational Noise Assessment

### 5.1 Operational Noise Criteria

Noise impact from the general operation of the proposed solar farm is assessed against the NSW Industrial Noise Policy (INP). The assessment procedure in terms of the INP has two components:

- Controlling intrusive noise impacts in the short term for residences
- Maintaining noise level amenity for particular land uses for residences and other land uses.

In accordance with the INP, noise impact should be assessed in terms of both intrusiveness and amenity.

#### 5.1.1 Intrusiveness Criteria

According to the NSW INP, the intrusiveness of a mechanical noise source may generally be considered acceptable if the equivalent continuous (energy-average) A-weighted level of noise from the source (represented by the  $L_{Aeq}$  descriptor), measured over a 15-minute period, does not exceed the background noise level measured in the absence of the source by more than 5dB(A). It is noted that this is applicable to residential properties only.

Therefore, the intrusiveness criterion for residential noise receptors as summarised in the INP is as follows:

$$L_{Aeq, 15 \text{ minute}} \leq \text{Rating Background Level (L}_{A90}) + 5 \text{ dB(A)}$$

Based on the monitored background noise levels presented in Section 3.2 and the proposed operating hours of the solar farm, the intrusiveness criteria for the potentially most affected residential receiver locations are presented below.

**Table 5.1 – Intrusiveness Noise Criteria, dB(A)**

| Receiver                  | Intrusiveness Criteria – $L_{Aeq,15min}$ |                          |             |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
|                           | Day                                      | Evening                  | Night       |
| All residential receivers | 34 + 5 = 39                              | 34 <sup>1</sup> + 5 = 39 | 30 + 5 = 35 |

- Notes:
1. Evening RBL is greater than the Day RBL, so as per EPA requirements the Evening noise goal should not be higher than the Daytime noise goal
  2. Intrusiveness criteria only applicable for residential receivers

#### 5.1.2 Amenity Criteria

To limit continuing increases in noise levels, the maximum ambient noise level within an area from industrial noise sources should not normally exceed the acceptable noise levels specified in Table 2.1 of the NSW INP, the applicable parts of which are reproduced below.

Nearby critical receivers consists of residential properties situated in a rural area. Based on the nature of these receivers, the amenity criteria ( $L_{Aeq}$ ) for rural residential properties will be applied. The applicable amenity noise criteria are presented in the table below.

**Table 5.2 – Applicable Amenity Noise Criteria, dB(A)**

| Type of Receiver | Indicative Noise Amenity Area | Time of Day | Recommended $L_{Aeq}$ Amenity Noise Level |         |
|------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------|---------|
|                  |                               |             | Acceptable                                | Maximum |
| Residence        | Rural                         | Day         | 50                                        | 55      |
|                  |                               | Evening     | 45                                        | 50      |
|                  |                               | Night       | 40                                        | 45      |

- Notes:
1. Day is defined as 7:00am to 6:00pm, Monday to Saturday; 8:00am to 6:00pm Sundays & Public Holidays.
  2. Evening is defined as 6:00pm to 10:00pm, Monday to Sunday & Public Holidays.
  3. Night is defined as 10:00pm to 7:00am, Monday to Saturday; 10:00pm to 8:00am, Sundays & Public Holidays.

Comparing the amenity and the intrusiveness criteria shows that the intrusiveness criteria are more stringent for day, evening and night periods. Compliance with the intrusiveness criteria would result in compliance with the amenity criteria. Therefore, the intrusiveness criteria would be assessed for from herein.

### 5.1.3 Sleep Disturbance

Noise emanating from the project has been assessed for its potential to disturb sleep. The NSW EPA has made the following policy statement with respect to sleep disturbance:

*“Peak noise level events, such as reversing beepers, noise from heavy items being dropped or other high noise level events, have the potential to cause sleep disturbance. The potential for high noise level events at night and effects on sleep should be addressed in noise assessments for both the construction and operational phases of a development. The INP does not specifically address sleep disturbance from high noise level events.*

*Research on sleep disturbance is reviewed in the NSW Road Noise Policy. This review concluded that the range of results is sufficiently diverse that it was not reasonable to issue new noise criteria for sleep disturbance.*

*From the research, the EPA recognised that the current sleep disturbance criterion of an  $LA1$ , (1 minute) not exceeding the  $LA90$ , (15 minute) by more than 15 dB(A) is not ideal. Nevertheless, as there is insufficient evidence to determine what should replace it, the EPA will continue to use it as a guide to identify the likelihood of sleep disturbance. This means that where the criterion is met, sleep disturbance is not likely, but where it is not met, a more detailed analysis is required.*

*The detailed analysis should cover the maximum noise level or  $LA1$ , (1 minute), that is, the extent to which the maximum noise level exceeds the background level and the number of times this happens during the night-time period. Some guidance on possible impact is contained in the review of*

research results in the NSW Road Noise Policy. Other factors that may be important in assessing the extent of impacts on sleep include:

- how often high noise events will occur
- time of day (normally between 10pm and 7am)
- whether there are times of day when there is a clear change in the noise environment (such as during early morning shoulder periods).

The LA1, (1 minute) descriptor is meant to represent a maximum noise level measured under 'fast' time response. The EPA will accept analysis based on either LA1, (1 minute) or LA, (Max).

Source: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/noise/applicnotesindustnoise.htm> Downloaded: 04.12.2015"

The NSW EPA confirm that a sleep disturbance criterion of  $L_{A1(1min)} \leq L_{A90(15min)} + 15\text{dB(A)}$ , should only be used as a first step guide and where the criteria is not met, more detailed analysis is required as explained in the text above. The  $L_{Amax}$  may be used as an alternative to the  $L_{A1(1min)}$ .

It is noted that the subject site will potentially operate for part of the night time period (prior to 7am) when there is sunlight, during the summer months.

Therefore, the sleep disturbance criteria for the project are presented in Table 5.3.

**Table 5.3 – Sleep Disturbance Criteria, dB(A)**

| Receiver                  | Sleep Disturbance Criteria, $L_{Amax}$ |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| All residential receivers | $30 + 15 = 45$                         |

## 5.2 Operational Noise Sources

The proposed solar farm will operate 200,000 solar panels, which would be installed as one of three options; single-axis trackers (which will incorporate a tracking system), fixed-tilt or east-west facing fixed-tilt which will incorporate a tracking system. Of the three options the highest noise generating operation is the single-axis trackers as the tracking systems involve the panels being driven by motors to track the arc of the sun to maximise the solar effect. Therefore, the tracking motors are a potential source of mechanical noise and are included in this assessment. Up to a total of 2,650 NexTracker tracking motors will be employed to drive the 200,000 solar panels and are to be evenly distributed across the solar farm area. The tracking motors would turn no more than five (5) degrees every 15 minutes and would operate no more than one (1) minute out of every 15 minute period.

In addition to the tracking system, the site will require the operation of 26 inverters with integrated transformers (Sunny Central 2200), which will be installed in groups of two (2) and evenly distributed across the solar farm area.

During operations, one (1) staff member will attend site daily during the day time period to inspect the equipment. It was assumed that the staff member will travel around the subject site in a light vehicle.

Based on the above, the following table lists associated plant and equipment likely to be used for the operation of the proposed solar farm and their corresponding sound power levels.

**Table 5.4 – Typical Operational Plant and Equipment & Sound Power Levels**

| Plant Item | Plant Description                                                     | $L_{Aeq}$ Sound Power Levels, dB(A) re. 1pW |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1          | NexTracker Motor (2,650 in total)                                     | 78 (each)                                   |
| 2          | Sunny Central 2200 inverter with integrated transformer (24 in total) | 94 (each)                                   |
| 3          | Light vehicle                                                         | 88                                          |

The sound power levels for the plant and equipment presented in the above table are provided by the manufacturer, information from past projects and/or information held in our library files.

### 5.3 ‘Modifying Factor’ Adjustments

Further to the above and in accordance with the INP, where the character of the noise in question is assessed as particularly annoying (ie. if it has an inherently tonal, low frequency, impulsive or intermittent characteristic), then an adjustment of 5dB(A) for each annoyance aspect, up to a total of 10dB(A), is to be added to the predicted value to penalise the noise for its potential increase in annoyance.

Table 4.1 of Chapter 4 of the NSW INP provides definitive procedures for determining whether a penalty or adjustment should be applied from increased annoyance. For the assessment of the solar farm, the noise from the inverters with integrated transformers is considered to be tonal in nature. Therefore, a 5dB(A) penalty has been applied to the predicted noise contributions from the inverters with integrated transformers.

### 5.4 Operational Noise Assessment

Noise emissions were predicted by modelling the noise sources, receiver locations, topographical features of the intervening area, and possible noise control treatments using CadnaA (version 4.5) noise modelling computer program. The program calculates the contribution of each noise source at each specified receptor point and allows for the prediction of the total noise from a site.

The noise prediction models takes into account:

- Location of noise sources and receiver locations;
- Height of sources and receivers;
- Separation distances between sources and receivers;
- Ground type between sources and receivers (soft); and
- Attenuation from barriers (natural and purpose built).

Furthermore, in accordance with the INP noise predictions were prepared for each of the following meteorological conditions:

1. Calm & isothermal conditions (acoustically neutral) – no wind and no temperature inversion
2. Slight to gentle breeze – 3m/s wind velocity at 10m from ground level between each noise source and each noise receiver (as per INP default wind conditions). Wind direction was based on wind travelling from the source to the receiver.
3. Moderate temperature inversion – applicable for noise predictions during night time periods only

Table 5.5 below presents the predicted noise levels for the worst case scenario based on concurrent operation of all the plant and equipment shown in Table 5.4. The NexTracker motors were time corrected based on their operation of one (1) minute out of a 15 minute period.

**Table 5.5 – Predicted  $L_{Aeq,15min}$  Operational Noise Levels at Receiver Locations, dB(A)**

| Receiver Location                | Intrusiveness Criteria           | Predicted Operational Noise Levels,<br>$L_{Aeq, 15min}$ |                         |                                             | Comply?<br>(Yes/No) |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|
|                                  |                                  | Calm & isothermal conditions                            | Slight to gentle breeze | Moderate temperature inversion <sup>1</sup> |                     |
| R1 - 751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali  | Day 39<br>Evening 39<br>Night 35 | 31                                                      | 35                      | 35                                          | Yes                 |
| R2 - Lot 1 Poletta Road, Yoogali |                                  | 31                                                      | 35                      | 35                                          | Yes                 |
| R3 - 262 Hamilton Road, Yoogali  |                                  | 29                                                      | 34                      | 34                                          | Yes                 |
| R4 - 228 Hamilton Road, Bilbul   |                                  | 24                                                      | 29                      | 29                                          | Yes                 |
| R5 - 2562 Evans Road, Bilbul     |                                  | 23                                                      | 29                      | 29                                          | Yes                 |

Notes: 1. Applicable for the Night time period only

Based on the predicted operational noise levels presented in the table above, predicted noise levels at all nearby receivers comply with the nominated criteria under all scenarios and meteorological conditions.

Therefore, no further reasonable and feasible noise mitigation measures are required to reduce operational noise impacts.

## 5.5 Sleep Disturbance Assessment

During the night time period, only mechanical plant will be operating, including the tracking motors and inverters with integrated transformers. Noise emissions from these plant items are considered to be continuous with no potential for high peak noise level events. Therefore the  $L_{Amax}$  noise levels experienced at the identified receivers will be similar to the predicted  $L_{Aeq,15min}$  noise levels shown in Table 5.5. It is expected that the  $L_{Amax}$  noise levels experienced at the identified receivers will be well below the nominated sleep disturbance criteria of 45 dB(A).

## 6 Vibration Assessment

Vibration generating activities would occur only during the construction phase of the project. There are no vibration generating activities expected during the operational phase. As the nearest identified receiver is in excess of 100m from the subject site and there are no high vibration producing plant items to be used, structural damage due to vibration is not expected. Assessment for vibration impact on human comfort is assessed in accordance with the SEARs.

### 6.1 Vibration Criteria

Assessment of potential disturbance from vibration on human occupants of buildings is made in accordance with the EPA's 'Assessing Vibration; a technical guideline' (DECC, 2006). The guideline provides criteria which are based on the British Standard BS 6472-1992 'Evaluation of human exposure to vibration in buildings (1-80Hz)'. Sources of vibration are defined as either 'Continuous', 'Impulsive' or 'Intermittent'. Table 6.1 provides definitions and examples of each type of vibration.

**Table 6.1 – Types of Vibration**

| Type of vibration      | Definition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Examples                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Continuous vibration   | Continues uninterrupted for a defined period (usually throughout the day-time and/or night-time)                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Machinery, steady road traffic, continuous construction activity (such as tunnel boring machinery).                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Impulsive vibration    | A rapid build-up to a peak followed by a damped decay that may or may not involve several cycles of vibration (depending on frequency and damping). It can also consist of a sudden application of several cycles at approximately the same amplitude, providing that the duration is short, typically less than 2 seconds | Infrequent: Activities that create up to 3 distinct vibration events in an assessment period, e.g. occasional dropping of heavy equipment, occasional loading and unloading.                                                                                                        |
| Intermittent vibration | Can be defined as interrupted periods of continuous or repeated periods of impulsive vibration that varies significantly in magnitude                                                                                                                                                                                      | Trains, nearby intermittent construction activity, passing heavy vehicles, forging machines, impact pile driving, jack hammers.<br><br>Where the number of vibration events in an assessment period is three or fewer, this would be assessed against impulsive vibration criteria. |

Source: Assessing Vibration; a technical guideline, Department of Environment & Climate Change, 2006

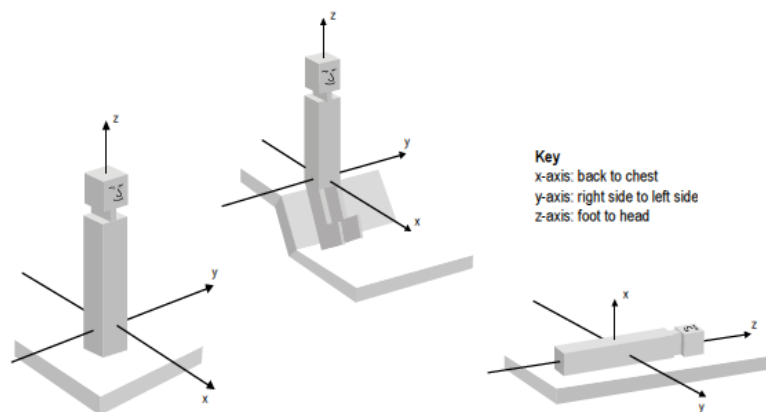
The vibration criteria are defined as a single weighted root mean square (rms) acceleration source level in each orthogonal axis. Section 2.3 of the guideline states:

*"Evidence from research suggests that there are summation effects for vibrations at different frequencies. Therefore, for evaluation of vibration in relation to annoyance and comfort, overall weighted rms acceleration values of the vibration in each orthogonal axis are preferred (BS 6472)."*

When applying the criteria, it is important to note that the three directional axes are referenced to the human body, i.e. x-axis (back to chest), y-axis (right side to left side) or z-axis (foot to head). Vibration may enter the body along different orthogonal axes and affect it in different ways. Therefore,

application of the criteria requires consideration of the position of the people being assessed, as illustrated in Figure 2. For example, vibration measured in the horizontal plane is compared with x- and y-axis criteria if the concern is for people in an upright position, or with the y- and z- axis criteria if the concern is for people in the lateral position.

**Figure 2 – Orthogonal Axes for Human Exposure to Vibration**



The preferred and maximum values for continuous and impulsive vibration are defined in Table 2.2 of the guideline and are reproduced in Table 6.2 for the applicable receivers.

**Table 6.2 – Preferred and Maximum Levels for Human Comfort**

| Location                                                                    | Assessment period <sup>[1]</sup> | Preferred values |               | Maximum values |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
|                                                                             |                                  | z-axis           | x- and y-axis | z-axis         | x- and y-axis |
| Continuous vibration (weighted RMS acceleration, m/s <sup>2</sup> , 1-80Hz) |                                  |                  |               |                |               |
| Residences                                                                  | Daytime                          | 0.010            | 0.0071        | 0.020          | 0.014         |
|                                                                             | Night-time                       | 0.007            | 0.005         | 0.014          | 0.010         |
| Impulsive vibration (weighted RMS acceleration, m/s <sup>2</sup> , 1-80Hz)  |                                  |                  |               |                |               |
| Residences                                                                  | Daytime                          | 0.30             | 0.21          | 0.60           | 0.42          |
|                                                                             | Night-time                       | 0.10             | 0.071         | 0.20           | 0.14          |

Notes: 1. Daytime is 7:00am to 10:00pm and Night-time is 10:00pm to 7:00am

The acceptable vibration dose values (VDV) for intermittent vibration are defined in Table 2.4 of the guideline and are reproduced in Table 6.3 for the applicable receivers.

**Table 6.3 – Acceptable Vibration Dose Values for Intermittent Vibration (m/s<sup>1.75</sup>)**

| Location   | Daytime <sup>1</sup> |               | Night-time <sup>1</sup> |               |
|------------|----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|            | Preferred value      | Maximum value | Preferred value         | Maximum value |
| Residences | 0.20                 | 0.40          | 0.13                    | 0.26          |

Notes: 1. Daytime is 7:00am to 10:00pm and Night-time is 10:00pm to 7:00am

## 6.2 Potential Vibration Impacts

Based on the proposed plant items presented in Table 4.3, vibration generated by construction plant was estimated and potential vibration impacts are summarised in Table 6.4 below. The assessment is relevant to the identified receiver locations.

**Table 6.4 – Potential Vibration Impacts for Identified Receivers**

| Receiver Location | Approx. distance to nearest buildings from works | Type of nearest sensitive buildings | Assessment on potential vibration impacts | Vibration monitoring |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| R1                | 115m                                             | Residential                         | Very low risk of adverse comment.         | Not required.        |
| R2                | 120m                                             | Residential                         | Very low risk of adverse comment.         | Not required.        |
| R3                | 390m                                             | Residential                         | Very low risk of adverse comment.         | Not required.        |
| R4                | 780m                                             | Residential                         | Very low risk of adverse comment.         | Not required.        |
| R5                | 840m                                             | Residential                         | Very low risk of adverse comment.         | Not required.        |

The potential for adverse comment to vibration impacts was determined to be very low. Additional vibration mitigation measures and vibration monitoring are not required at the identified receiver locations.

## 7 Road Traffic Noise Assessment

Noise impact from the potential increase in traffic on the surrounding road network due to construction and operational activities is assessed against the NSW 'Road Noise Policy' (RNP). The RNP sets out criteria to be applied to particular types of road and land uses. These noise criteria are to be applied when assessing noise impact and determining mitigation measures for sensitive receivers that are potentially affected by road traffic noise associated with the construction and operation of the subject site, with the aim of preserving the amenity appropriate to the land use.

Vehicle access to the subject site will be via Griffith Road then Hamilton Road. The client has advised that during the construction stage an average of 20 trucks per day will access the site, which translates to 40 truck movements (20 in, 20 out) per day. During the operational stage, vehicle access to the site will be maintenance vans and delivery trucks (for large faulty items) which would occur on an irregular basis.

### 7.1 Road Traffic Noise Criteria

Based on functionality, Griffith Road is categorised as an arterial road and Hamilton Road is categorised as a local roads. For existing residences affected by additional traffic on existing arterial and local roads generated by land use developments, the following road traffic noise criteria apply.

**Table 7.1 – RNP Road Traffic Noise Criteria, dB(A)**

| Road Category                       | Type of project/land use                                                                                                                  | Assessment Criteria, dB(A)                  |                                            |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
|                                     |                                                                                                                                           | Day<br>7am – 10pm                           | Night<br>10pm – 7am                        |
| Freeway/arterial/sub-arterial roads | 3. Existing residences affected by additional traffic on existing freeways/arterial/sub-arterial roads generated by land use developments | L <sub>Aeq,(15 hour)</sub> 60<br>(external) | L <sub>Aeq,(9 hour)</sub> 55<br>(external) |
| Local Roads                         | 6. Existing residences affected by additional traffic on existing local roads generated by land use developments                          | L <sub>Aeq,(1 hour)</sub> 55<br>(external)  | L <sub>Aeq,(1 hour)</sub> 50<br>(external) |

### 7.2 Predicted Road Traffic Noise

As the proposed vehicle access to the subject site is much greater during the construction stage than the operational stage, road traffic noise assessment is only considered for the construction stage. Compliance during the construction stage would result in compliance during the operational stage. Therefore, operational traffic will not be considered further from herein.

As discussed previously, 40 truck movements per day will occur along the surrounding road network during the construction stage. It is assumed that 20% of the daily truck movement will occur during the worst one hour period – ie. eight (8) truck movements in the worst one (1) hour period. Truck movements will only occur during the day time period when construction works occur.

Results of the road traffic noise predictions are presented in the table below. It is noted that the predicted noise levels represent the traffic noise contribution from the truck movements associated with the construction works and does not take into account existing traffic noise levels due to existing general traffic flows.

**Table 7.2 – Predicted Road Traffic Noise Contribution Levels Along Public Roads, dB(A)**

| Receiver                  | Criteria                        | Truck Traffic Movements                | Speed (km/h) <sup>1</sup> | Distance to Road <sup>2</sup> | Predicted Noise Level | Exceed? |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Residences on Griffith Rd | L <sub>Aeq</sub> , (15 hour) 60 | 40 per day                             | 100                       | 30m                           | 47                    | No      |
| Residences on Hamilton Rd | L <sub>Aeq</sub> , (1 hour) 55  | Eight (8) in worst one (1) hour period | 50                        | 47m                           | 46                    | No      |

Notes: 1. Based on posted speed limit  
2. Based on closest distance from facade of dwelling to road

From the above table it can be seen that road traffic noise level contributions from the truck movements associated with the construction works are at least 9dB(A) below the applicable noise criteria.

Therefore, traffic noise levels as a result of the construction works for the solar farm would not adversely contribute to the existing traffic noise levels at the most affected residences along the surrounding roads.

## 8 Conclusion

Renzo Tonin and Associates has completed an environmental noise and vibration assessment of the proposed Griffith Solar Farm.

Noise emissions from the construction phase of the project were predicted to exceed the nominated criteria at the two (2) nearest identified receiver locations when all construction plant and equipment are operating concurrently and at the closest proximity to the receivers. In-principle recommendations are provided in Section 4.4 to limit the potential impact of noise generated by construction activities to acceptable levels.

Noise emissions from the operational phase of the project were predicted to comply with the nominated criteria at the nearest affected receivers.

Given the large separation distance between the nearest affected receivers and subject site, vibration impacts resulting in structural damage to buildings at the nearest affected receivers are determined to be negligible and there is low risk of adverse comments relating to vibration impacts.

Road traffic noise impacts on residential properties along the access route were found to comply with the relevant RNP criteria.

## APPENDIX A Glossary of Terminology

The following is a brief description of the technical terms used to describe noise to assist in understanding the technical issues presented.

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 all-encompassing noise associated within a given environment at a given time, usually composed of sound from all sources near and far.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Assessment period  | The period in a day over which assessments are made.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Assessment point   | A point at which noise measurements are taken or estimated. A point at which noise measurements are taken or estimated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Background noise   | Background noise is the term used to describe the underlying level of noise present in the ambient noise, measured in the absence of the noise under investigation, when extraneous noise is removed. It is described as the average of the minimum noise levels measured on a sound level meter and is measured statistically as the A-weighted noise level exceeded for ninety percent of a sample period. This is represented as the L90 noise level (see below).                                                                                                                            |
| Decibel [dB]       | The units that sound is measured in. The following are examples of the decibel readings of every day sounds:<br>0dB The faintest sound we can hear<br>30dB A quiet library or in a quiet location in the country<br>45dB Typical office space. Ambience in the city at night<br>60dB CBD mall at lunch time<br>70dB The sound of a car passing on the street<br>80dB Loud music played at home<br>90dB The sound of a truck passing on the street<br>100dB The sound of a rock band<br>115dB Limit of sound permitted in industry<br>120dB Deafening                                            |
| dB(A)              | A-weighted decibels. The A-weighting noise filter simulates the response of the human ear at relatively low levels, where the ear is not as effective in hearing low frequency sounds as it is in hearing high frequency sounds. That is, low frequency sounds of the same dB level are not heard as loud as high frequency sounds. The sound level meter replicates the human response of the ear by using an electronic filter which is called the "A" filter. A sound level measured with this filter switched on is denoted as dB(A). Practically all noise is measured using the A filter. |
| dB(C)              | C-weighted decibels. The C-weighting noise filter simulates the response of the human ear at relatively high levels, where the human ear is nearly equally effective at hearing from mid-low frequency (63Hz) to mid-high frequency (4kHz), but is less effective outside these frequencies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Frequency          | Frequency is synonymous to pitch. Sounds have a pitch which is peculiar to the nature of the sound generator. For example, the sound of a tiny bell has a high pitch and the sound of a bass drum has a low pitch. Frequency or pitch can be measured on a scale in units of Hertz or Hz.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Impulsive noise    | Having a high peak of short duration or a sequence of such peaks. A sequence of impulses in rapid succession is termed repetitive impulsive noise.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Intermittent noise | The level suddenly drops to that of the background noise several times during the period of observation. The time during which the noise remains at levels different from that of the ambient is one second or more.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| L <sub>Max</sub>   | The maximum sound pressure level measured over a given period.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| L <sub>Min</sub>   | The minimum sound pressure level measured over a given period.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| L <sub>1</sub>       | The sound pressure level that is exceeded for 1% of the time for which the given sound is measured.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| L <sub>10</sub>      | The sound pressure level that is exceeded for 10% of the time for which the given sound is measured.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| L <sub>90</sub>      | The level of noise exceeded for 90% of the time. The bottom 10% of the sample is the L90 noise level expressed in units of dB(A).                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| L <sub>eq</sub>      | The "equivalent noise level" is the summation of noise events and integrated over a selected period of time.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Reflection           | Sound wave changed in direction of propagation due to a solid object obscuring its path.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| SEL                  | Sound Exposure Level (SEL) is the constant sound level which, if maintained for a period of 1 second would have the same acoustic energy as the measured noise event. SEL noise measurements are useful as they can be converted to obtain Leq sound levels over any period of time and can be used for predicting noise at various locations. |
| Sound                | A fluctuation of air pressure which is propagated as a wave through air.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Sound absorption     | The ability of a material to absorb sound energy through its conversion into thermal energy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Sound level meter    | An instrument consisting of a microphone, amplifier and indicating device, having a declared performance and designed to measure sound pressure levels.                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Sound pressure level | The level of noise, usually expressed in decibels, as measured by a standard sound level meter with a microphone.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Sound power level    | Ten times the logarithm to the base 10 of the ratio of the sound power of the source to the reference sound power.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Tonal noise          | Containing a prominent frequency and characterised by a definite pitch.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## APPENDIX B Long-Term Noise Monitoring Methodology

### B.1 Noise Monitoring Equipment

A long-term unattended noise monitor consists of a sound level meter housed inside a weather resistant enclosure. Noise levels are monitored continuously with statistical data stored in memory for every 15-minute period.

Long term noise monitoring was conducted using the following instrumentation:

| Description         | Type   | Octave band data | Logger location(s) |
|---------------------|--------|------------------|--------------------|
| RTA04 (CESVA SC310) | Type 1 | 1/1              | M1                 |

Notes: All meters comply with AS IEC 61672.1 2004 "Electroacoustics - Sound Level Meters" and designated either Type 1 or Type 2 as per table, and are suitable for field use.

The equipment was calibrated prior and subsequent to the measurement period using a Bruel & Kjaer Type 4231 calibrator. No significant drift in calibration was observed.

### B.2 Meteorology During Monitoring

Measurements affected by extraneous noise, wind (greater than 5m/s) or rain were excluded from the recorded data in accordance with the NSW INP. Determination of extraneous meteorological conditions was based on data provided by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), for a location considered representative of the noise monitoring location(s). However, the data was adjusted to account for the height difference between the BOM weather station, where wind speed and direction is recorded at a height of 10m above ground level, and the microphone location, which is typically 1.5m above ground level (and less than 3m). The correction factor applied to the data is based on Table C.1 of ISO 4354:2009 '*Wind actions on structures*'.

### B.3 Noise vs Time Graphs

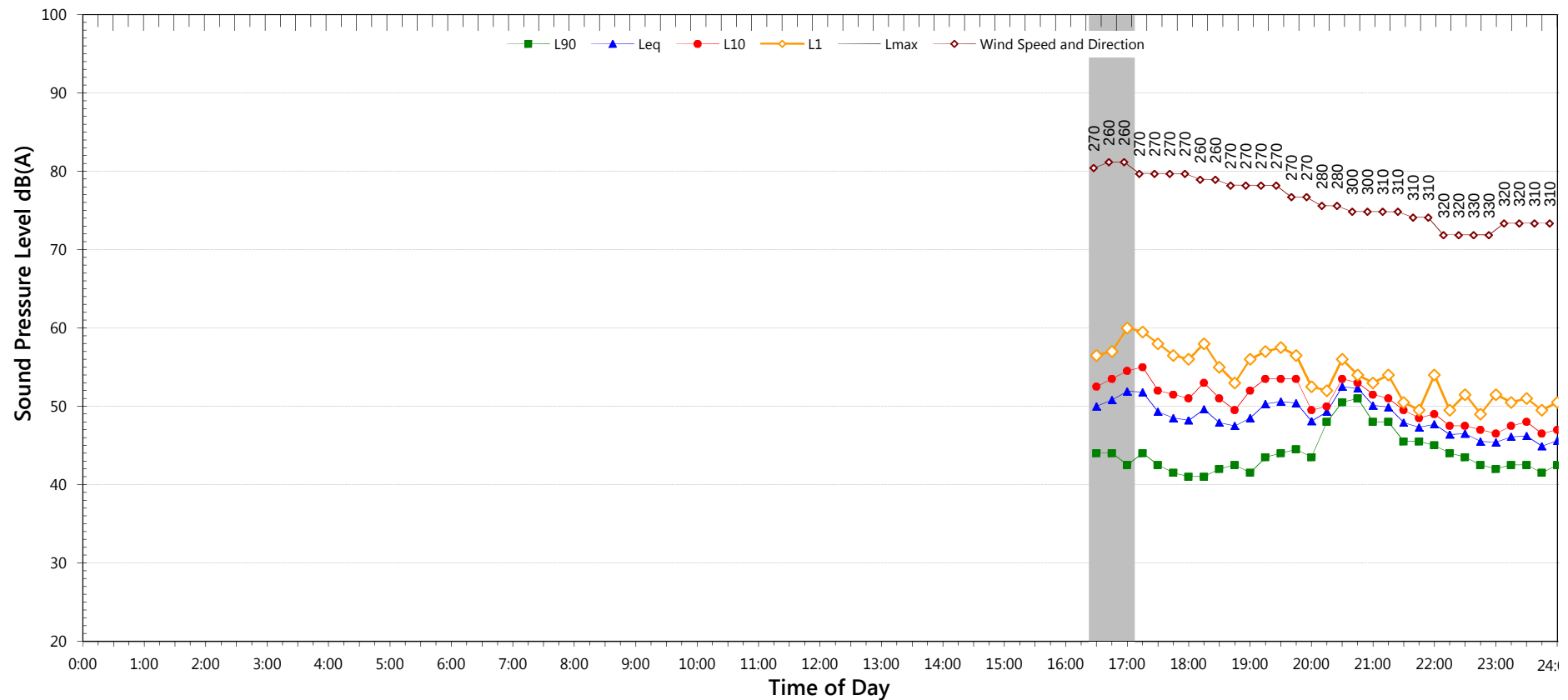
Noise almost always varies with time. Noise environments can be described using various descriptors to show how a noise ranges about a level. In this report, noise values measured or referred to include the  $L_{10}$ ,  $L_{90}$ , and  $L_{eq}$  levels. The statistical descriptors  $L_{10}$  and  $L_{90}$  measure the noise level exceeded for 10% and 90% of the sample measurement time. The  $L_{eq}$  level is the equivalent continuous noise level or the level averaged on an equal energy basis. Measurement sample periods are usually ten to fifteen minutes. The Noise -vs- Time graphs representing measured noise levels, as presented in this report, illustrate these concepts for the broadband dB(A) results.

## **APPENDIX C**      **Long Term Noise Monitoring Results**

# Unattended Noise Monitoring Results

751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali

Friday, 6 November 2015



| NSW Industrial Noise Policy (Free Field) |                  |                      |                      |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Descriptor                               | Day <sup>2</sup> | Evening <sup>3</sup> | Night <sup>4 5</sup> |
| L <sub>90</sub>                          | -                | 41.5                 | 30.0                 |
| LA <sub>eq</sub>                         | -                | 49.7                 | 47.8                 |

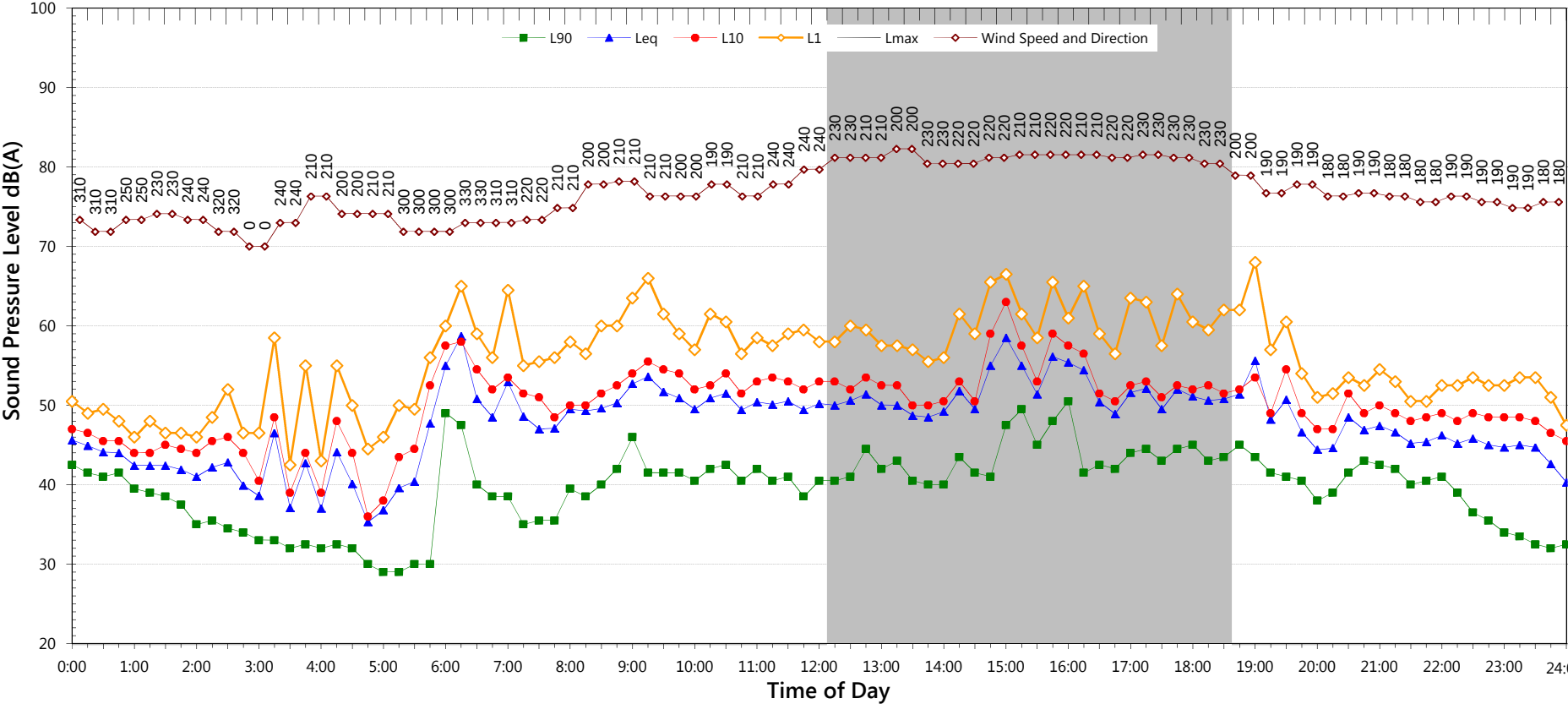
## Notes:

- Shaded periods denote measurements adversely affected by rain, wind or extraneous noise - data in these periods are excluded from calculations.
- "Day" is the period from 8am till 6pm on Sundays and 7am till 6pm on other days
- "Evening" is the period from 6pm till 10pm
- "Night" relates to the remaining periods
- "Night" relates to period from 10pm on this graph to morning on the following graph.
- Graphed data measured in free-field; tabulated results facade corrected
- Night time L<sub>Max</sub> values are shown only where L<sub>Max</sub> > 65dB(A) and where L<sub>Max</sub> - Leq ≥ 15dB(A)

Unattended Noise Monitoring Results

751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali

Saturday, 7 November 2015



| NSW Industrial Noise Policy (Free Field) |                  |                      |                      |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Descriptor                               | Day <sup>2</sup> | Evening <sup>3</sup> | Night <sup>4 5</sup> |
| L <sub>90</sub>                          | -                | 39.0                 | 21.3                 |
| LA <sub>eq</sub>                         | -                | 49.0                 | 44.9                 |

- Notes:
1. Shaded periods denote measurements adversely affected by rain, wind or extraneous noise - data in these periods are excluded from calculations.

2. "Day" is the period from 8am till 6pm on Sundays and 7am til 6pm on other days

3. "Evening" is the period from 6pm till 10pm

4. "Night" relates to the remaining periods

5. "Night" relates to period from 10pm on this graph to morning on the following graph.

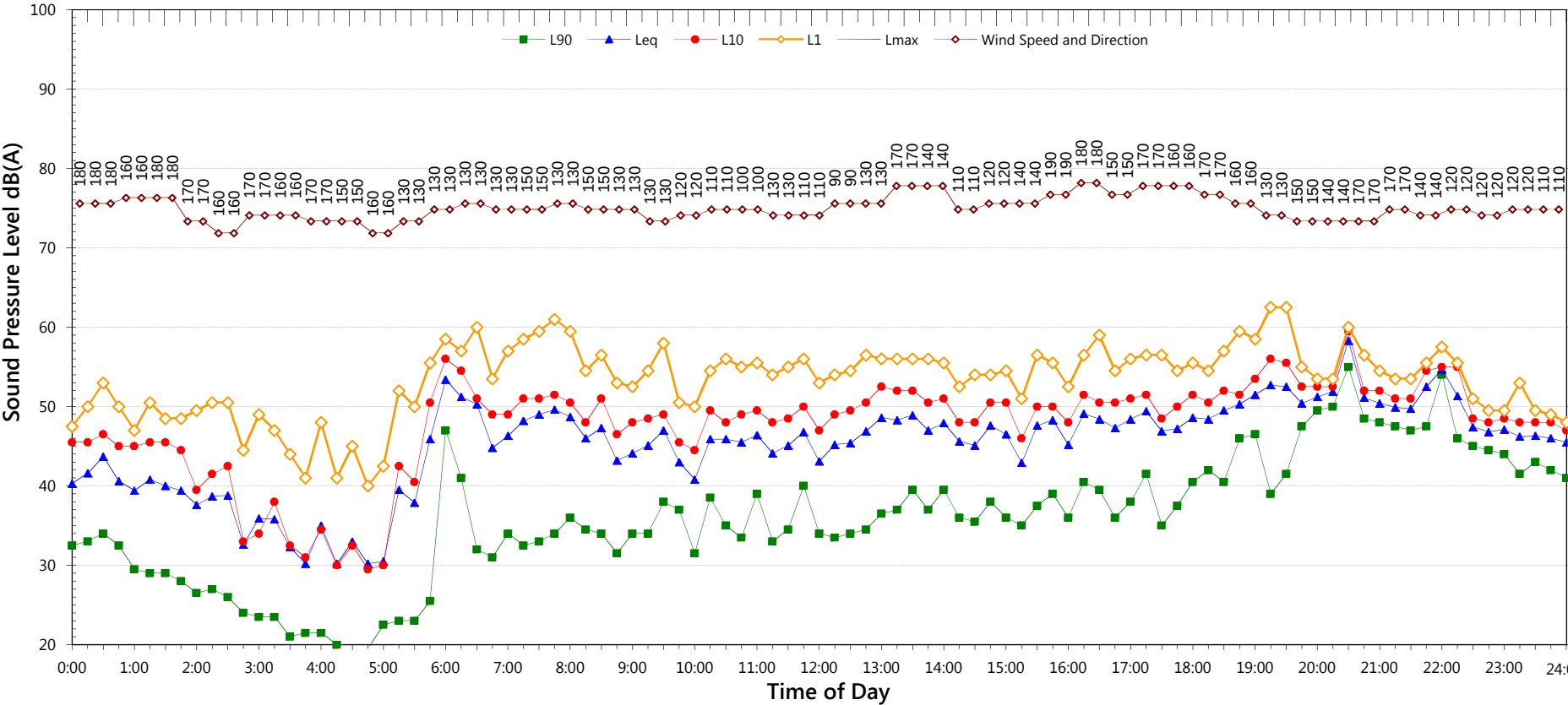
6. Graphed data measured in free-field; tabulated results facade corrected

7. Night time L<sub>Max</sub> values are shown only where L<sub>Max</sub> >65dB(A) and where L<sub>Max</sub> - Leq ≥15dB(A)

Unattended Noise Monitoring Results

751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali

Sunday, 8 November 2015



| NSW Industrial Noise Policy (Free Field) |                  |                      |                      |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Descriptor                               | Day <sup>2</sup> | Evening <sup>3</sup> | Night <sup>4 5</sup> |
| L <sub>90</sub>                          | 33.5             | 40.5                 | 29.5                 |
| LA <sub>eq</sub>                         | 46.7             | 52.3                 | 47.1                 |

- Notes:
1. Shaded periods denote measurements adversely affected by rain, wind or extraneous noise - data in these periods are excluded from calculations.

2. "Day" is the period from 8am till 6pm on Sundays and 7am til 6pm on other days

3. "Evening" is the period from 6pm till 10pm

4. "Night" relates to the remaining periods

5. "Night" relates to period from 10pm on this graph to morning on the following graph.

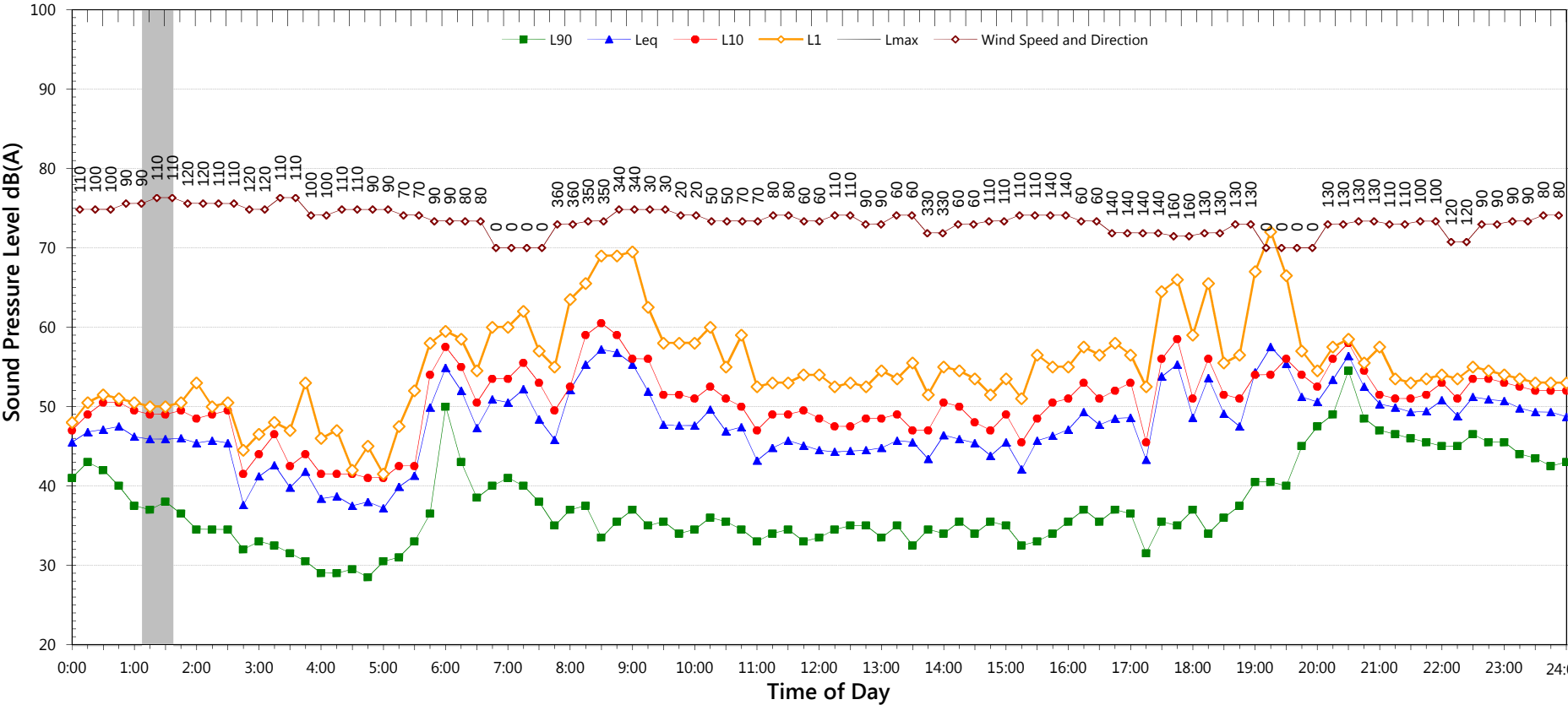
6. Graphed data measured in free-field; tabulated results facade corrected

7. Night time L<sub>Max</sub> values are shown only where L<sub>Max</sub> >65dB(A) and where L<sub>Max</sub> - Leq ≥15dB(A)

Unattended Noise Monitoring Results

751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali

Monday, 9 November 2015



| NSW Industrial Noise Policy (Free Field) |                  |                      |                      |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Descriptor                               | Day <sup>2</sup> | Evening <sup>3</sup> | Night <sup>4 5</sup> |
| L <sub>90</sub>                          | 33.0             | 36.0                 | 35.5                 |
| LA <sub>eq</sub>                         | 49.9             | 52.9                 | 49.4                 |

- Notes:
1. Shaded periods denote measurements adversely affected by rain, wind or extraneous noise - data in these periods are excluded from calculations.

2. "Day" is the period from 8am till 6pm on Sundays and 7am til 6pm on other days

3. "Evening" is the period from 6pm till 10pm

4. "Night" relates to the remaining periods

5. "Night" relates to period from 10pm on this graph to morning on the following graph.

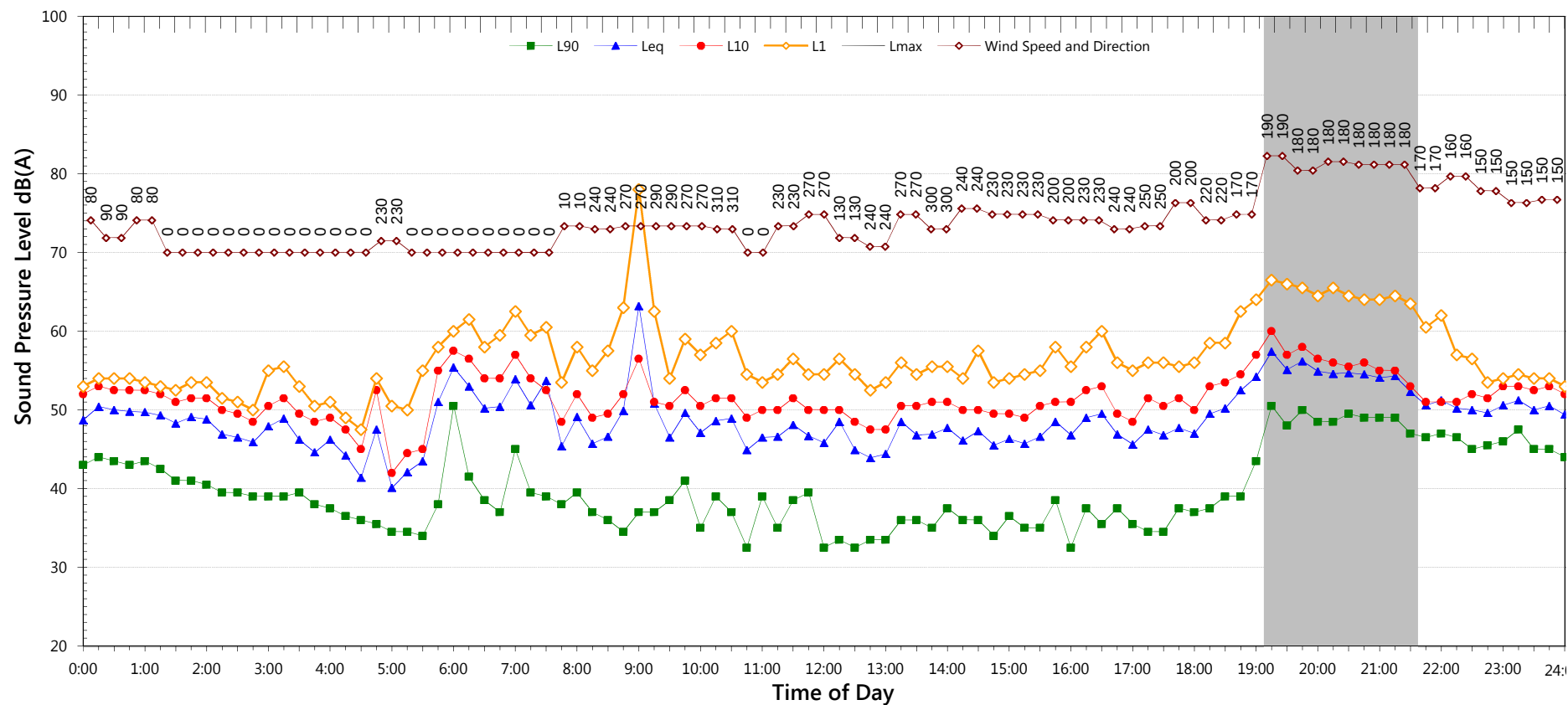
6. Graphed data measured in free-field; tabulated results facade corrected

7. Night time L<sub>Max</sub> values are shown only where L<sub>Max</sub> >65dB(A) and where L<sub>Max</sub> - Leq ≥15dB(A)

# Unattended Noise Monitoring Results

751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali

Tuesday, 10 November 2015



| NSW Industrial Noise Policy (Free Field) |                  |                      |                      |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Descriptor                               | Day <sup>2</sup> | Evening <sup>3</sup> | Night <sup>4 5</sup> |
| L <sub>90</sub>                          | 33.5             | -                    | 42.0                 |
| LA <sub>eq</sub>                         | 50.3             | -                    | 50.0                 |

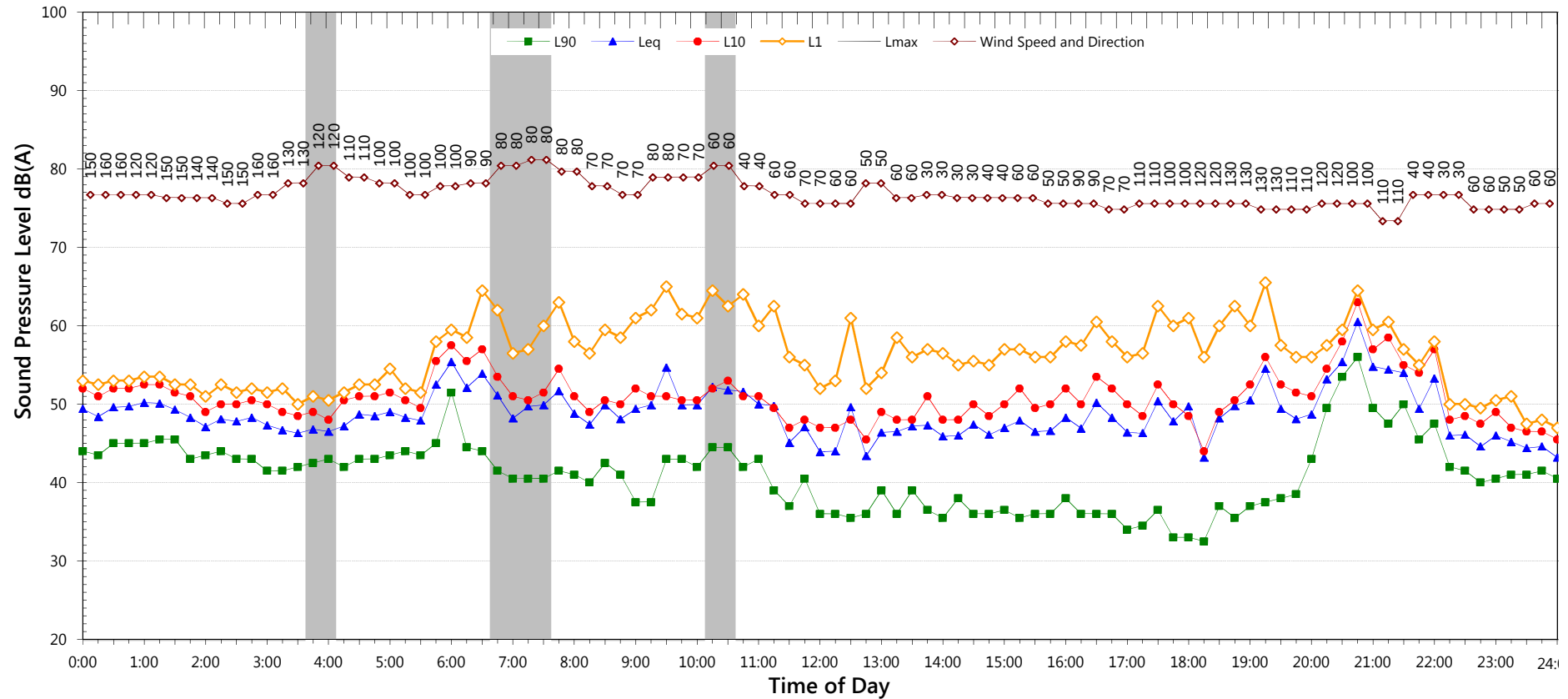
## Notes:

- Shaded periods denote measurements adversely affected by rain, wind or extraneous noise - data in these periods are excluded from calculations.
- "Day" is the period from 8am till 6pm on Sundays and 7am till 6pm on other days
- "Evening" is the period from 6pm till 10pm
- "Night" relates to the remaining periods
- "Night" relates to period from 10pm on this graph to morning on the following graph.
- Graphed data measured in free-field; tabulated results facade corrected
- Night time L<sub>Max</sub> values are shown only where L<sub>Max</sub> > 65dB(A) and where L<sub>Max</sub> - Leq ≥ 15dB(A)

# Unattended Noise Monitoring Results

751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali

Wednesday, 11 November 2015



## NSW Industrial Noise Policy (Free Field)

| Descriptor       | Day <sup>2</sup> | Evening <sup>3</sup> | Night <sup>4 5</sup> |
|------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| L <sub>90</sub>  | 35.0             | 35.5                 | 39.0                 |
| LA <sub>eq</sub> | 48.6             | 53.5                 | 47.4                 |

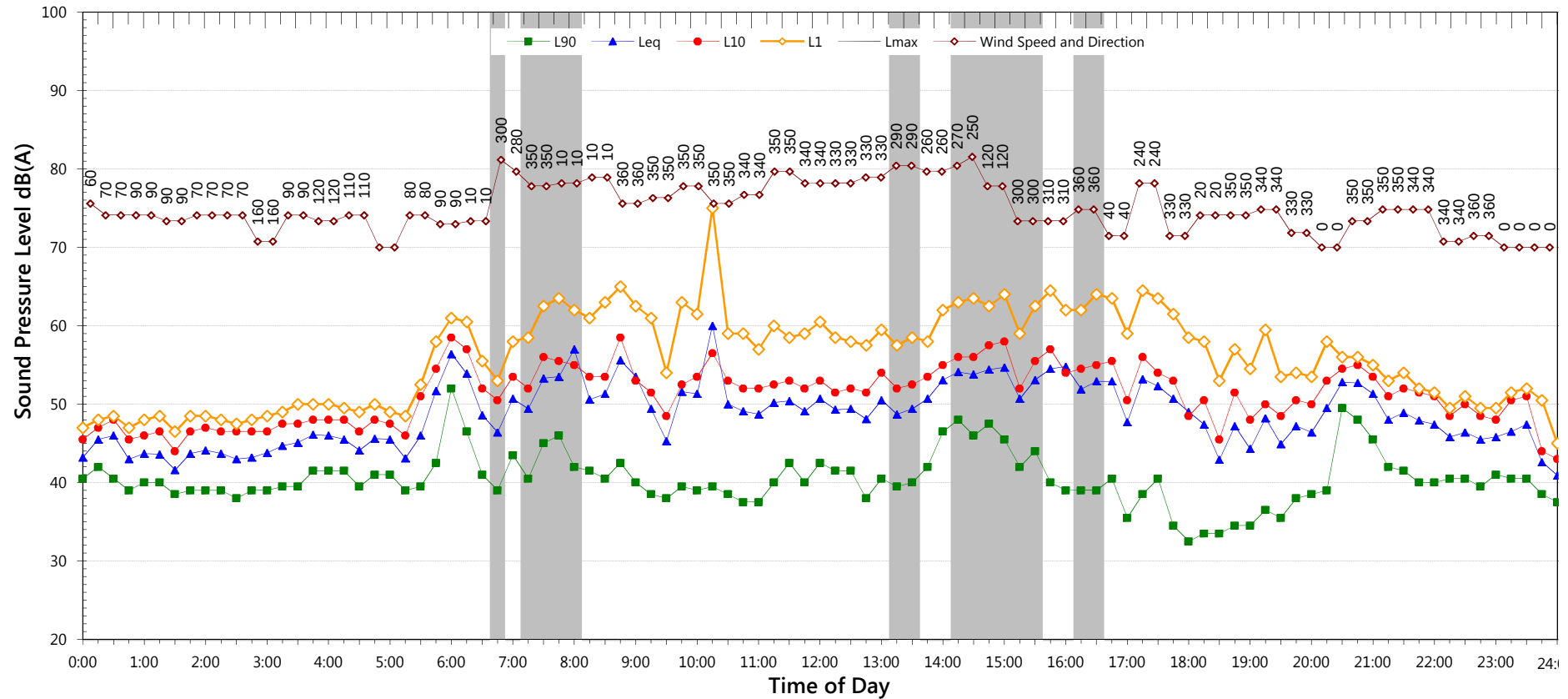
### Notes:

- Shaded periods denote measurements adversely affected by rain, wind or extraneous noise - data in these periods are excluded from calculations.
- "Day" is the period from 8am till 6pm on Sundays and 7am till 6pm on other days
- "Evening" is the period from 6pm till 10pm
- "Night" relates to the remaining periods
- "Night" relates to period from 10pm on this graph to morning on the following graph.
- Graphed data measured in free-field; tabulated results facade corrected
- Night time L<sub>Max</sub> values are shown only where L<sub>Max</sub> > 65dB(A) and where L<sub>Max</sub> - Leq ≥ 15dB(A)

# Unattended Noise Monitoring Results

751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali

Thursday, 12 November 2015



| NSW Industrial Noise Policy (Free Field) |                  |                      |                      |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Descriptor                               | Day <sup>2</sup> | Evening <sup>3</sup> | Night <sup>4 5</sup> |
| L <sub>90</sub>                          | -                | 33.5                 | 32.0                 |
| LA <sub>eq</sub>                         | -                | 48.8                 | 46.6                 |

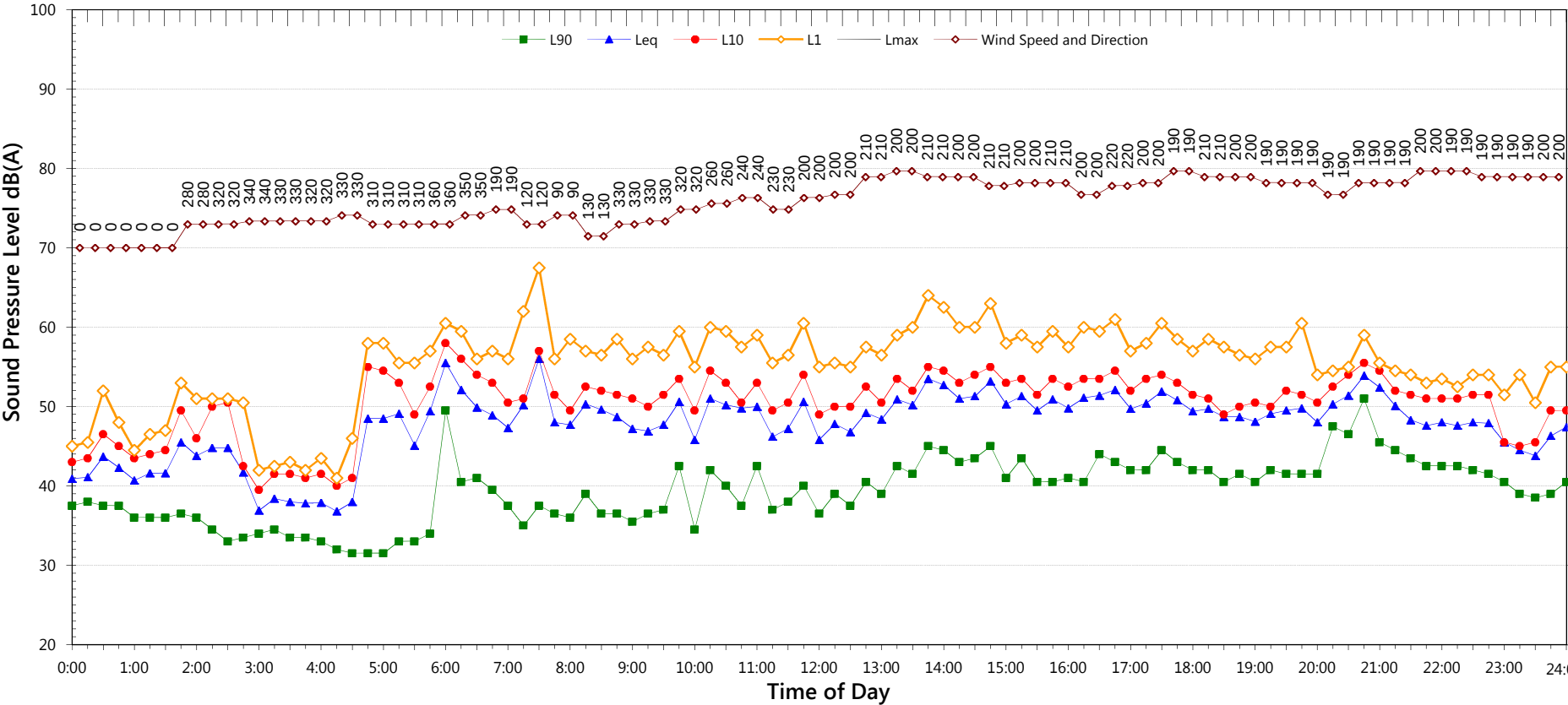
## Notes:

- Shaded periods denote measurements adversely affected by rain, wind or extraneous noise - data in these periods are excluded from calculations.
- "Day" is the period from 8am till 6pm on Sundays and 7am till 6pm on other days
- "Evening" is the period from 6pm till 10pm
- "Night" relates to the remaining periods
- "Night" relates to period from 10pm on this graph to morning on the following graph.
- Graphed data measured in free-field; tabulated results facade corrected
- Night time L<sub>Max</sub> values are shown only where L<sub>Max</sub> > 65dB(A) and where L<sub>Max</sub> - Leq ≥ 15dB(A)

Unattended Noise Monitoring Results

751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali

Friday, 13 November 2015



| NSW Industrial Noise Policy (Free Field) |                  |                      |                      |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Descriptor                               | Day <sup>2</sup> | Evening <sup>3</sup> | Night <sup>4 5</sup> |
| L <sub>90</sub>                          | 36.5             | 40.5                 | 27.0                 |
| LA <sub>eq</sub>                         | 50.4             | 50.0                 | 45.5                 |

- Notes:
1. Shaded periods denote measurements adversely affected by rain, wind or extraneous noise - data in these periods are excluded from calculations.

2. "Day" is the period from 8am till 6pm on Sundays and 7am til 6pm on other days

3. "Evening" is the period from 6pm till 10pm

4. "Night" relates to the remaining periods

5. "Night" relates to period from 10pm on this graph to morning on the following graph.

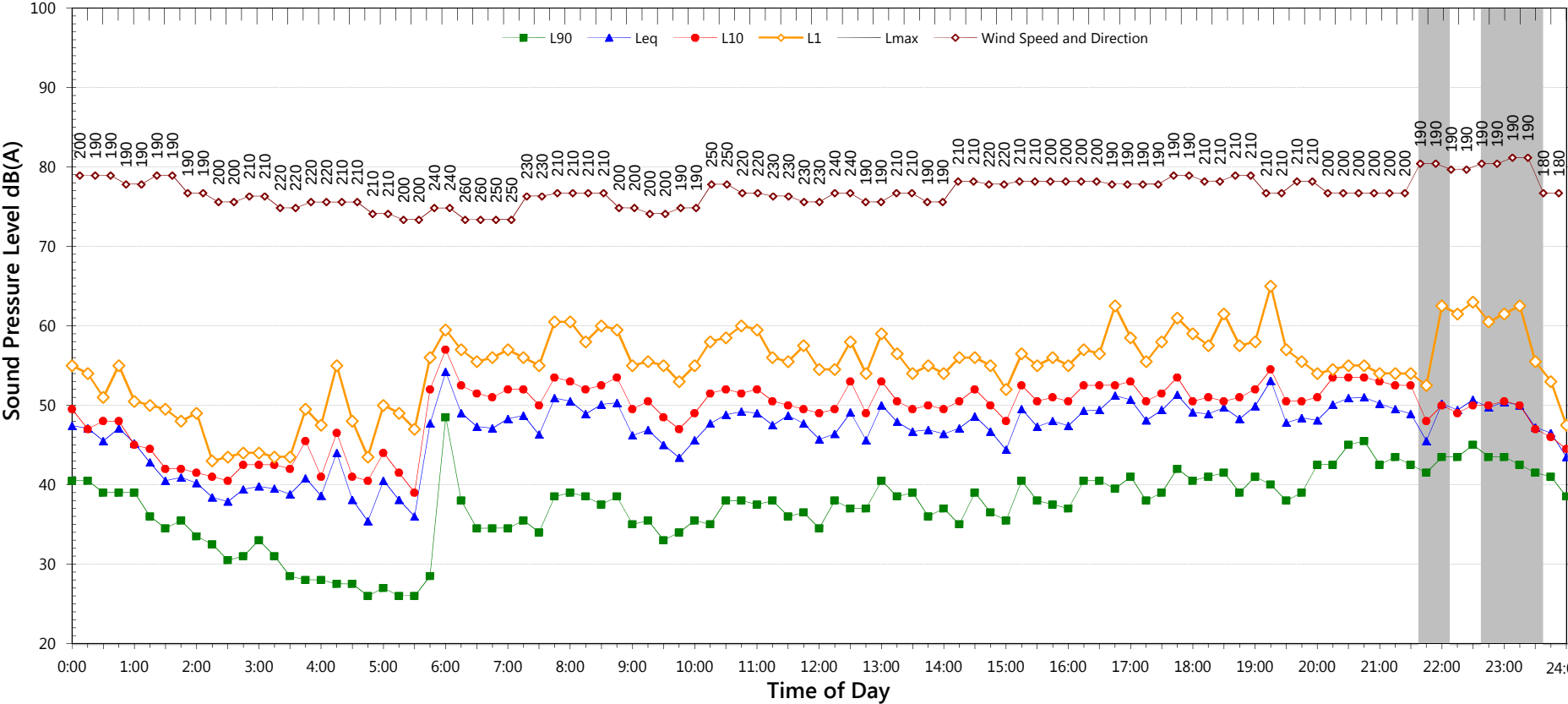
6. Graphed data measured in free-field; tabulated results facade corrected

7. Night time L<sub>Max</sub> values are shown only where L<sub>Max</sub> >65dB(A) and where L<sub>Max</sub> - Leq ≥15dB(A)

Unattended Noise Monitoring Results

751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali

Saturday, 14 November 2015



| NSW Industrial Noise Policy (Free Field) |                  |                      |                      |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Descriptor                               | Day <sup>2</sup> | Evening <sup>3</sup> | Night <sup>4 5</sup> |
| L <sub>90</sub>                          | 35.0             | 39.0                 | 25.5                 |
| LA <sub>eq</sub>                         | 48.4             | 49.9                 | 47.5                 |

- Notes:
1. Shaded periods denote measurements adversely affected by rain, wind or extraneous noise - data in these periods are excluded from calculations.

2. "Day" is the period from 8am till 6pm on Sundays and 7am til 6pm on other days

3. "Evening" is the period from 6pm till 10pm

4. "Night" relates to the remaining periods

5. "Night" relates to period from 10pm on this graph to morning on the following graph.

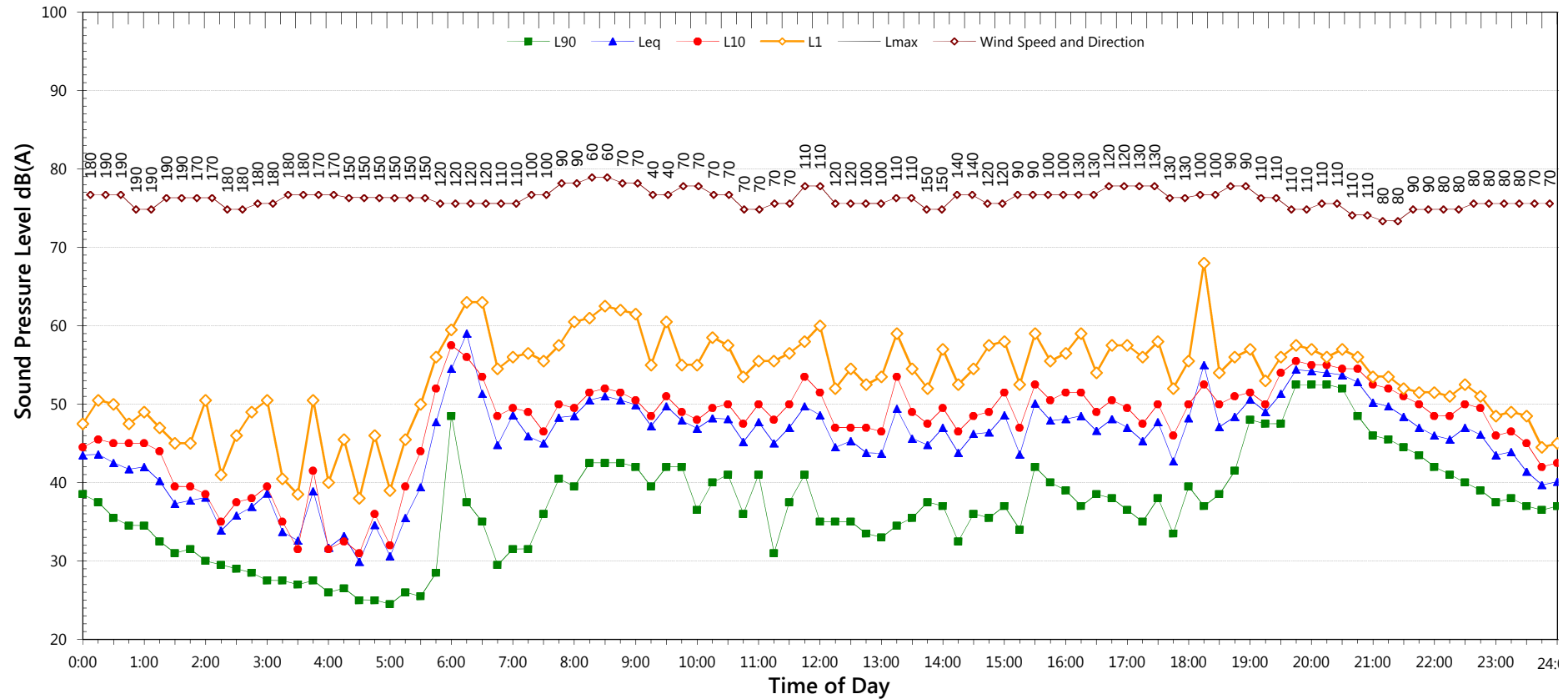
6. Graphed data measured in free-field; tabulated results facade corrected

7. Night time L<sub>Max</sub> values are shown only where L<sub>Max</sub> >65dB(A) and where L<sub>Max</sub> - Leq ≥15dB(A)

# Unattended Noise Monitoring Results

751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali

Sunday, 15 November 2015



## NSW Industrial Noise Policy (Free Field)

| Descriptor       | Day <sup>2</sup> | Evening <sup>3</sup> | Night <sup>4 5</sup> |
|------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| L <sub>90</sub>  | 33.5             | 38.5                 | 29.0                 |
| LA <sub>eq</sub> | 47.7             | 51.6                 | 48.3                 |

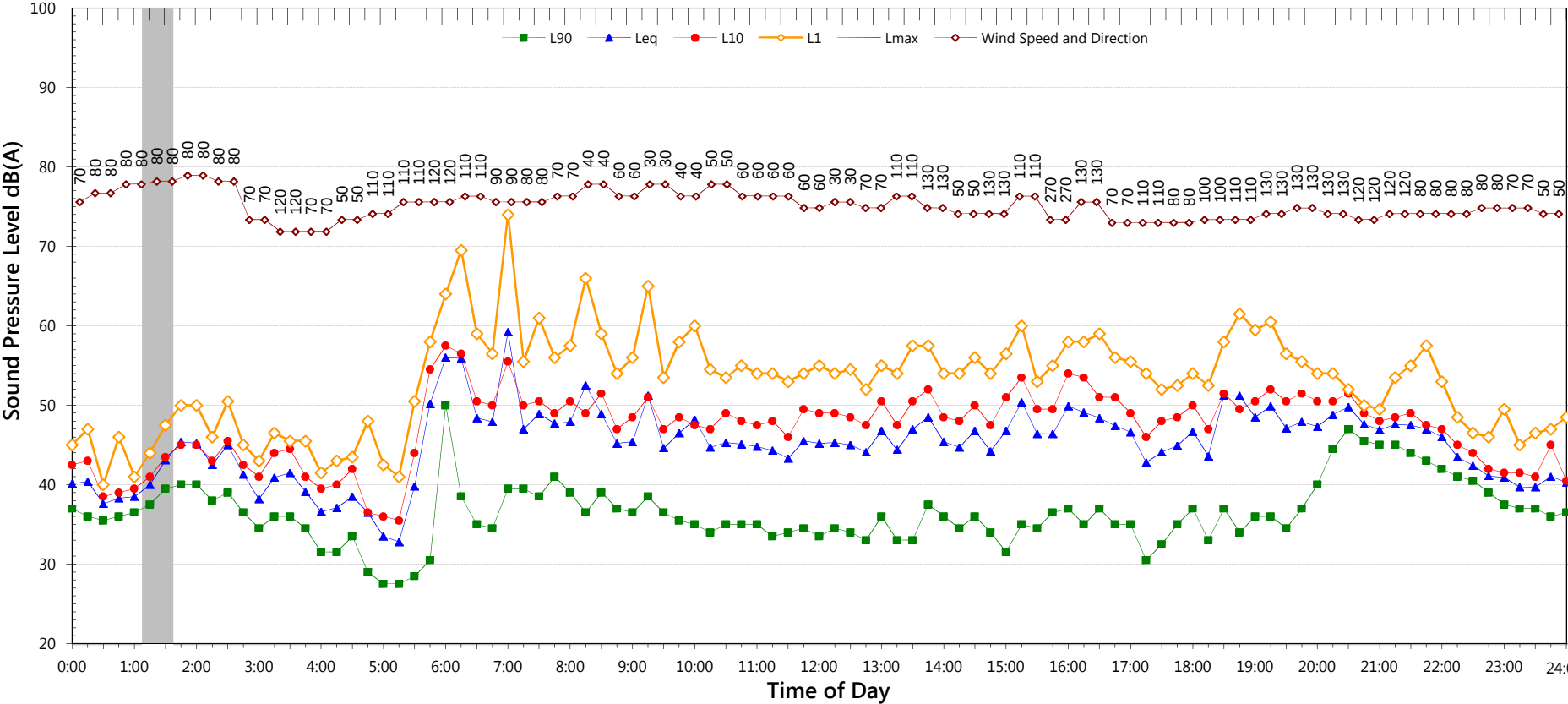
### Notes:

- Shaded periods denote measurements adversely affected by rain, wind or extraneous noise - data in these periods are excluded from calculations.
- "Day" is the period from 8am till 6pm on Sundays and 7am till 6pm on other days
- "Evening" is the period from 6pm till 10pm
- "Night" relates to the remaining periods
- "Night" relates to period from 10pm on this graph to morning on the following graph.
- Graphed data measured in free-field; tabulated results facade corrected
- Night time L<sub>Max</sub> values are shown only where L<sub>Max</sub> > 65dB(A) and where L<sub>Max</sub> - Leq ≥ 15dB(A)

Unattended Noise Monitoring Results

751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali

Monday, 16 November 2015



| NSW Industrial Noise Policy (Free Field) |                  |                      |                      |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Descriptor                               | Day <sup>2</sup> | Evening <sup>3</sup> | Night <sup>4 5</sup> |
| L <sub>90</sub>                          | 33.0             | 34.0                 | 28.5                 |
| LA <sub>eq</sub>                         | 47.0             | 48.4                 | 49.5                 |

- Notes:
1. Shaded periods denote measurements adversely affected by rain, wind or extraneous noise - data in these periods are excluded from calculations.

2. "Day" is the period from 8am till 6pm on Sundays and 7am til 6pm on other days

3. "Evening" is the period from 6pm till 10pm

4. "Night" relates to the remaining periods

5. "Night" relates to period from 10pm on this graph to morning on the following graph.

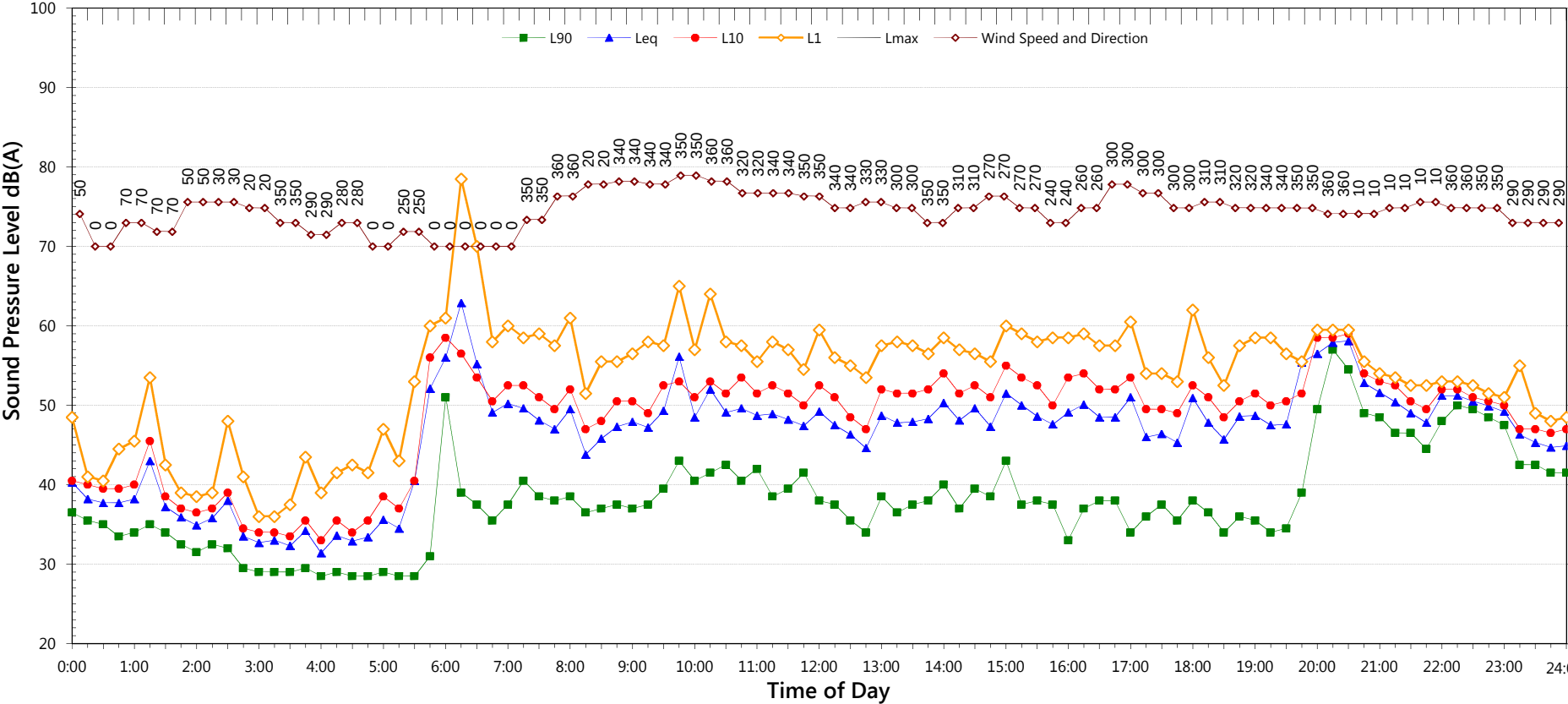
6. Graphed data measured in free-field; tabulated results facade corrected

7. Night time L<sub>Max</sub> values are shown only where L<sub>Max</sub> >65dB(A) and where L<sub>Max</sub> - Leq ≥15dB(A)

Unattended Noise Monitoring Results

751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali

Tuesday, 17 November 2015



| NSW Industrial Noise Policy (Free Field) |                  |                      |                      |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Descriptor                               | Day <sup>2</sup> | Evening <sup>3</sup> | Night <sup>4 5</sup> |
| L <sub>90</sub>                          | 35.5             | 34.0                 | 38.0                 |
| LA <sub>eq</sub>                         | 49.1             | 52.9                 | 48.1                 |

- Notes:
1. Shaded periods denote measurements adversely affected by rain, wind or extraneous noise - data in these periods are excluded from calculations.

2. "Day" is the period from 8am till 6pm on Sundays and 7am til 6pm on other days

3. "Evening" is the period from 6pm till 10pm

4. "Night" relates to the remaining periods

5. "Night" relates to period from 10pm on this graph to morning on the following graph.

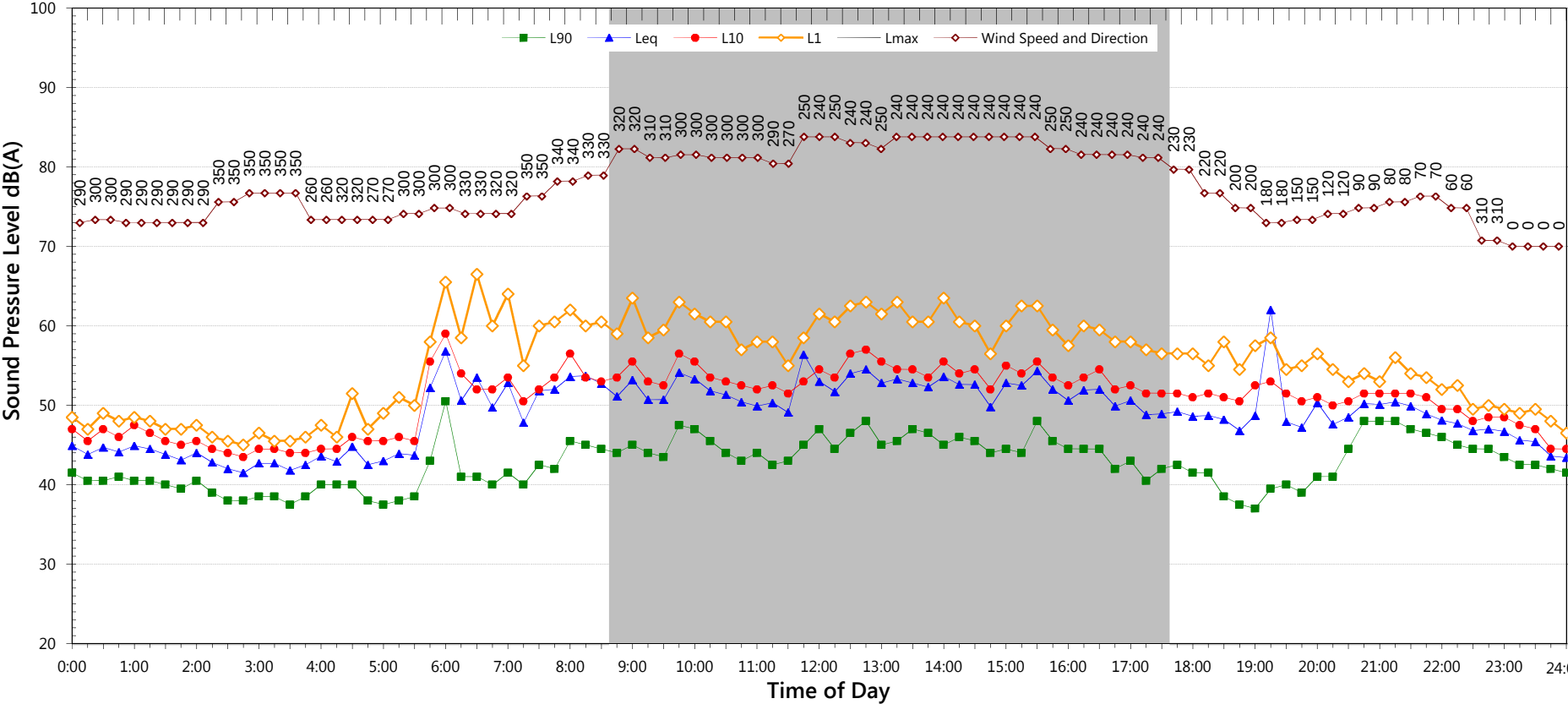
6. Graphed data measured in free-field; tabulated results facade corrected

7. Night time L<sub>Max</sub> values are shown only where L<sub>Max</sub> >65dB(A) and where L<sub>Max</sub> - Leq ≥15dB(A)

Unattended Noise Monitoring Results

751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali

Wednesday, 18 November 2015



| NSW Industrial Noise Policy (Free Field) |                  |                      |                      |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Descriptor                               | Day <sup>2</sup> | Evening <sup>3</sup> | Night <sup>4 5</sup> |
| L <sub>90</sub>                          | -                | 37.5                 | 39.5                 |
| LA <sub>eq</sub>                         | -                | 52.4                 | 49.2                 |

- Notes:
1. Shaded periods denote measurements adversely affected by rain, wind or extraneous noise - data in these periods are excluded from calculations.

2. "Day" is the period from 8am till 6pm on Sundays and 7am til 6pm on other days

3. "Evening" is the period from 6pm till 10pm

4. "Night" relates to the remaining periods

5. "Night" relates to period from 10pm on this graph to morning on the following graph.

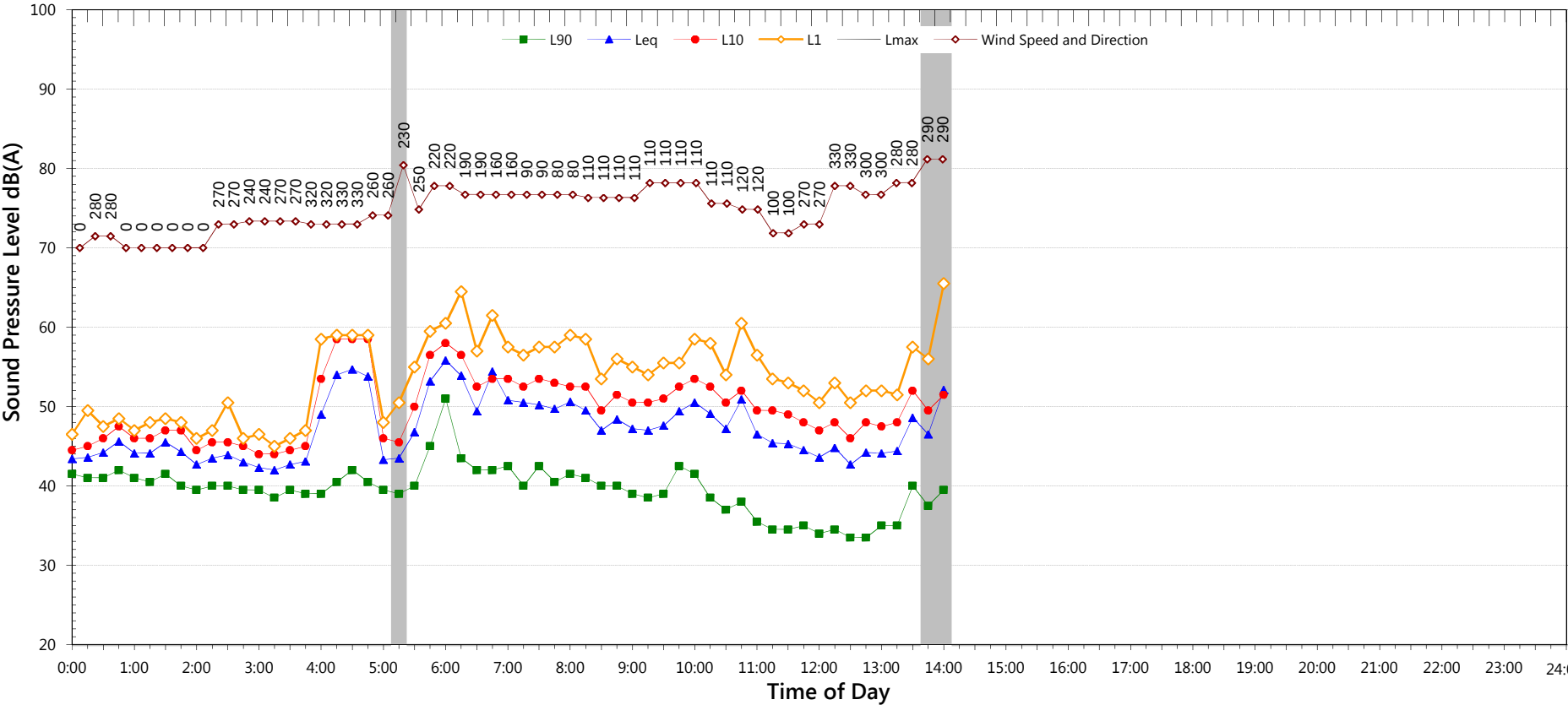
6. Graphed data measured in free-field; tabulated results facade corrected

7. Night time L<sub>Max</sub> values are shown only where L<sub>Max</sub> >65dB(A) and where L<sub>Max</sub> - Leq ≥15dB(A)

Unattended Noise Monitoring Results

751 Hamilton Road, Yoogali

Thursday, 19 November 2015



| NSW Industrial Noise Policy (Free Field) |                  |                      |                      |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Descriptor                               | Day <sup>2</sup> | Evening <sup>3</sup> | Night <sup>4 5</sup> |
| L <sub>90</sub>                          | -                | -                    | -                    |
| LA <sub>eq</sub>                         | -                | -                    | -                    |

- Notes:
1. Shaded periods denote measurements adversely affected by rain, wind or extraneous noise - data in these periods are excluded from calculations.

2. "Day" is the period from 8am till 6pm on Sundays and 7am til 6pm on other days

3. "Evening" is the period from 6pm till 10pm

4. "Night" relates to the remaining periods

5. "Night" relates to period from 10pm on this graph to morning on the following graph.

6. Graphed data measured in free-field; tabulated results facade corrected

7. Night time L<sub>Max</sub> values are shown only where L<sub>Max</sub> >65dB(A) and where L<sub>Max</sub> - Leq ≥15dB(A)