# Noise Assessment

21 Honeysuckle Drive Newcastle, NSW.

**EXAMPLE 1** Acoustic Consulting

Prepared for: KDC Pty Ltd March 2019 MAC190841RP1

## Document Information

## Noise Assessment

## 21 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle, NSW

Prepared for: KDC Pty Ltd

Suite 2B, 125 Bull Street

Newcastle West NSW 2302

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

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MAC190841RP1	Final	29 March 2019	Oliver Muller	Q	Rod Linnett	RH Lat

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#### CONTENTS

1	INTR	ODUCTION	5
2	EXIS	TING NOISE ENVIRONMENT	7
2	2.1	ATTENDED NOISE MONITORING	7
3	NOIS	SE POLICY AND CRITERIA	9
	3.1	NOISE POLICY FOR INDUSTRY	9
	3.1.1	PROJECT NOISE TRIGGER LEVELS	10
	3.1.2	PROJECT INTRUSIVENESS NOISE LEVEL	10
	UNA	TTENDED NOISE MONITORING	10
	3.1.3	PROJECT AMENITY NOISE LEVELS	11
	3.1.4	PROJECT NOISE TRIGGER LEVELS	15
	3.2	MAXIMUM NOISE LEVEL ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	15
4	NOIS	E ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY	17
2	4.1	OPERATIONAL NOISE MODELLING METHODOLOGY	17
5	NOIS	E MODELLING ASSUMPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	19
6	RESI	JLTS	21
(	6.1	OPERATIONAL NOISE PREDICTION RESULTS (NPI ASSESSMENT)	21
(	6.2	MAXIMUM NOISE LEVEL ASSESSMENT	22
7	CON	CLUSION	23
APF	PENDIX	A – GLOSSARY OF TERMS	

APPENDIX B - NOISE LOGGING DATA

APPENDIX C – SITE PLANS



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## 1 Introduction

Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd (MAC) has been commissioned by KDC Pty Ltd to conduct a Noise Assessment (NA) to quantify noise emissions from mechanical air conditioning plant associated with the proposed multi storey development to be established at 21 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle, NSW (the 'project').

This assessment has quantified noise emissions associated with mechanical plant (air conditioning condensers and ventilation fans) on the proposed multi-storey development. The mechanical plant consists of 148 rooftop air conditioning condensers and several ventilation fans.

Taking into consideration the acoustic elements considered in this assessment, the following policies and guidelines have been adopted:

- Environment Protection Authority (EPA) 2017, NSW Noise Policy for Industry (NPI);
- Standards Australia AS 1055:2018, Acoustics Description and measurement of environmental noise - General Procedures; and
- Standards Australia AS 2107:2016, Acoustics Recommended design sound levels and reverberation times for building interiors.

Figure 1 presents the project site and nearest surrounding receivers that have been considered in this assessment. A glossary of terms, definitions and abbreviations used in this report is provided in Appendix A.





FIGURE 1 LOCALITY PLAN REF: MAC190841

40m

 KEY

 R6
 RECEIVER LOCATION

 PROJECT SITE



## 2 Existing Noise Environment

#### 2.1 Attended Noise Monitoring

To gain a better understanding of the existing noise environment surrounding the project, MAC conducted attended noise monitoring in the vicinity of the project site during calm clear weather conditions. The purpose of the measurements was to ascertain dominant ambient noise sources to quantify any existing commercial or industrial noise contributions. The results of attended noise measurements and observations are summarised in **Table 1**. The monitoring positions were west of the project site at 50 Honeysuckle Drive, Honeysuckle, NSW.

	Date/	Primary Noise Descriptor (dB(A) re 20 μPa)				Description and SPL	
Location	Time	LAmax	LAeq	LA90	<ul> <li>Meteorology</li> </ul>	dBA	
NM1 Harbourside	31/01/18 15:44	68	53	50	Temp 27°C WD: W WS: 1.5m/s	Local traffic 48-62 Harbour noise <42 Intermittent Construction 50-53	
	31/01/18 20:27	65	51	48	Temp 20°C WD: SW WS: 1.5m/s	Local traffic 48-60 Birds 50-52 Urban hum 40-42	
	01/02/18 00:15	86	50	42	Temp 17°C WD: S WS: 1.5m/s	Local traffic 42-48 Pedestrians 43-48 Urban hum/harbour <4	
	31/01/18 16:02	68	60	56	Temp 27°C WD: W WS: 1.5m/s	Local traffic 55-72 Harbour noise <40	
NM2 Roadside	31/01/18 20:45	77	60	47	Temp 20°C WD: SW WS: 1.5m/s	Local traffic 43-77 Birds 52-59 Urban hum/harbour <4	
	01/02/18 00:38	86	50	42	Temp 17°C WD: S WS: 1.5m/s	Local traffic 40-69 Birds 39-44 Urban hum/harbour <4	



Ambient sources included traffic noise from Honeysuckle Drive, pedestrian noise, birds, urban hum and minor levels of harbour noise. Notwithstanding, it was noted that during the noise survey, winds were from the south directing harbour noise emissions away from this location. Detailed analysis of noise logging data identified that harbour noise contributions were generally at or below 40dBA at the project site.



## 3 Noise Policy and Criteria

#### 3.1 Noise Policy for Industry

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

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

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

- Determine the Project Noise Trigger Levels (PNTLs) (ie criteria) for a development. These are the levels (criteria), above which noise management measures are required to be considered. They are derived by considering two factors: shorter-term intrusiveness due to changes in the noise environment; and maintaining the noise amenity of an area.
- 2. Predict or measure the noise levels produced by the development with regard to the presence of annoying noise characteristics and meteorological effects such as temperature inversions and wind.
- 3. Compare the predicted or measured noise level with the PNTL, assessing impacts and the need for noise mitigation and management measures.
- 4. Consider residual noise impacts that is, where noise levels exceed the PNTLs after the application of feasible and reasonable noise mitigation measures. This may involve balancing economic, social and environmental costs and benefits from the proposed development against the noise impacts, including consultation with the affected community where impacts are expected to be significant.



- 5. Set statutory compliance levels that reflect the best achievable and agreed noise limits for the development.
- 6. Monitor and report environmental noise levels from the development.

#### 3.1.1 Project Noise Trigger Levels

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

#### 3.1.2 Project Intrusiveness Noise Level

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

- to provide a formal process to guide the determination of feasible and reasonable noise limits for consents or licences that reconcile noise impacts with the economic, social and environmental considerations of industrial development; and
- to carry out functions relating to the prevention, minimisation and control of noise from premises scheduled under the Act.

#### Unattended Noise Monitoring

Unattended noise monitoring was completed west if the project site, at 50 Honeysuckle Drive, between Friday 23 March 2018 to Thursday 29 March 2018 to quantify the noise environment and the influence of road noise.

Unattended noise monitoring was conducted using a Svantek 957 Type 1 octave sound analyser, programmed to collect samples at 15-minute intervals with 'Fast' time weighting and 'A' frequency weighting. The analyser was calibrated before and after the monitoring period with no drift in calibration noted. Monitoring was conducted in general accordance with the procedures described in Australian Standard AS1055:2018 Acoustics - Description and Measurement of Environmental Noise. Data affected by adverse meteorological conditions has been excluded from the results in accordance with methodologies provided in the NPI.



The results of the unattended monitoring are provided in **Table 2**. Appendix B presents the results graphically for the assessment period.

Table 2 Unattended Noise Monitoring Results									
Measurement Location	Measured Ba	ackground Noise L	Measured, dB LAeq(period)						
	Day	Evening	Night	Day	Evening	Night			
L1	53	49	43	62	59	56			

Note: Excludes periods of wind or rain affected data, meteorological data obtained from the Bureau of Meteorology at Nobbys Pilot Station AWS (32.9184°S 151.7985°E.).

Note: Monday to Saturday: Day 7am to 6pm; Evening 6pm to 10pm; Night the remaining periods. On Sundays and Public Holidays, Day 8am to 6pm; Evening 6pm to 10pm; Night the remaining periods.

The unattended monitoring confirms that the ambient noise environment surrounding the project is dominated by road traffic and urban noise.

A summary of the intrusive noise criteria is provided in Table 3.

### Table 3 Project Intrusiveness Noise Levels

Table 5 Hoject initiasiveness Noise Levels								
Location	Assessment Period <sup>1</sup>	RBL	Intrusiveness Noise Level					
	Assessment Fenou	dB LA90	dB LAeq(15min)					
	Day	53	58					
All Residential Receivers	Evening	49	54					
	Night	43	48					

Note 1: Monday to Saturday: Day 7am to 6pm; Evening 6pm to 10pm; Night the remaining periods. On Sundays and Public Holidays, Day 8am to 6pm; Evening 6pm to 10pm; Night the remaining periods.

#### 3.1.3 Project Amenity Noise Levels

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

- Amenity Noise Levels (ANL) are determined considering all current and future industrial noise within a receiver area.
- Project Amenity Noise Levels (PANL) is the recommended levels for a receiver area, specifically focusing the project under investigation.



As per Section 2.4 of the NPI, ANLs and PANLs consider:

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

The NPI states with respect to high traffic noise areas:

The level of transport noise, road traffic noise in particular, may be high enough to make noise from an industrial source effectively inaudible, even though the LAeq noise level from that industrial noise source may exceed the project amenity noise level. In such cases the project amenity noise level may be derived from the LAeq, period(traffic) minus 15 dB(A).

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

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



Table 4 Amenity Criteria				
Receiver Type	Noise Amenity Area	Time of day	Recommended amenity noise level LAeq, dBA	
		Day	50	
	Rural	Evening	45	
		Night	40	
		Day	55	
Residential	Suburban	Evening	45	
		Night	40	
		Day	60	
	Urban	Evening	50	
		Night	45	
Llatala matala aaratakara'			5dBA above the recommended	
Hotels, motels, caretakers'	See column 4		amenity noise level for a residence for	
quarters, holiday accommodation,		See column 4	the relevant noise amenity area and	
permanent resident caravan parks			time of day	
School classroom – internal	All	Noisiest 1 hour	35	
	All	period when in use	55	
Hospital ward				
- internal	All	Noisiest 1 hour	35	
- external		Noisiest 1 hour	50	
Place of worship – internal	All	When in use	40	
Area specifically reserved for				
passive recreation (e.g. national	All	When in use	50	
park)				
Active recreation area (e.g. school	All	When in use	55	
playground, golf course)	7 111		55	
Commercial premises	All	When in use	65	
Industrial premises	All	When in use	70	
Industrial interface (applicable only	All	All	Add 5dBA to recommended noise	
to residential noise amenity areas)			amenity area	

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

Types of receivers are defined as rural residential; suburban residential; industrial interface; commercial; industrial – see Table 2.3 and Section 2.7.

Time of day is defined as follows: (These periods may be varied where appropriate, for example, see A3 in Fact Sheet A.)

day – the period from 7 am to 6 pm Monday to Saturday or 8 am to 6 pm on Sundays and public holidays;

• evening – the period from 6 pm to 10 pm;

night – the remaining periods.

In the case where existing schools are affected by noise from existing industrial noise sources, the acceptable LAeq noise level may be increased to 40dB LAeq(1hr).



The PANLs for residential receivers and other sensitive receivers potentially affected by the project are presented in **Table 5**.

Table 5 Amenity Noise Levels and Project Amenity Noise Levels									
Receiver Type	Noise Amenity Area	Assessment Period <sup>1</sup>	Recommended ANL dB LAeq(period) <sup>2</sup>	PANL dB LAeq(period) <sup>3</sup>	PANL dB LAeq(15min) <sup>4</sup>				
		Day	60	55	58				
Residential	 Urban	Evening	50	50	53				
	_	Night	45	40	43				
Commercial	All	When in use	65	60	63				

Note 1: Monday to Saturday: Day 7am to 6pm; Evening 6pm to 10pm; Night the remaining periods. On Sundays and Public Holidays, Day 8am to 6pm; Evening 6pm to 10pm; Night the remaining periods.

Note 2: Recommended amenity noise levels as per Table 2.2 of the NPI.

Note 3: Project Amenity Noise Level -5dB due to other adjoining industry.

Note 4: Includes a +3dB adjustment to the amenity period level to convert to a fifteen-minute assessment period as per Section 2.2 of the NPI.



#### 3.1.4 Project Noise Trigger Levels

The PNTLs is the lower of either the PINL or the PANL. **Table 6** presents the derivation of the PNTL's in accordance with the methodologies outlined in the NPI.

Table 6 Project Noise Trigger Levels								
Receiver	Period <sup>1</sup>	PINL		PNTL				
Receiver	Fenod	dB LAeq(15min)	dB LAeq(15min)	dB LAeq(15min)				
	Day	58	58	58				
Residential	Evening	54	53	53				
	Night	48	43	43				
Commercial	All	N/A	63	63				

Note 1: Monday to Saturday: Day 7am to 6pm; Evening 6pm to 10pm; Night the remaining periods. On Sundays and Public Holidays, Day 8am to 6pm; Evening 6pm to 10pm; Night the remaining periods.

#### 3.2 Maximum Noise Level Assessment Criteria

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

Where night-time noise levels from a development/premises at a residential location exceed:

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

a detailed maximum noise level event assessment should be undertaken.

A detailed assessment should cover the maximum noise level, the extent to which the maximum noise level exceeds the rating background noise level, and the number of times this happens during the night-time period.

Other factors that may be important in assessing the impacts on sleep disturbance include:

- how often the events would occur;
- the distribution of likely events across the night-time period and the existing ambient maximum events in the absence of the development;



- whether there are times of day when there is a clear change in the noise environment (such as during early morning shoulder periods); and
- current understanding of effects of maximum noise level events at night.

The maximum noise level screening criteria shown in **Table 7** is based on night time RBLs.

Table 7 Maximum Noise Level Assessment Screening Criteria								
	Residential Receivers R1-R6							
LAeq(15n	nin)	LAmax						
40dB LAeq(15min) c	or RBL + 5dB	52dB LAmax or RBL + 15dB						
Trigger	40	Trigger	52					
RBL 43+5dB	48	RBL 43+15dB	58					
Highest	48	Highest	58					

Note 1: As per Section 2.5 of the NPI, the highest of each metric are adopted as the screening criteria.



### 4 Noise Assessment Methodology

#### 4.1 Operational Noise Modelling Methodology

An assessment of potential operational noise emissions from the project has been completed. Mechanical plant including air conditioning condensers and ventilation exhaust has been assessed against relevant NPI criteria. **Table 8** presents the sound power levels for the source assessed in this report.

Table 8 Sound Power Levels <sup>1</sup>										
Item			Octav	ve Band S	Sound Po	wer Level	l, dBA			Total
Item	31.5	63	125	250	500	1000	2000	4000	8000	dBA
		(	Operation	al Assess	sment (LA	Aeq)				
Air Conditioning	40	48	51	57	66	62	64	64	49	71
Condensers (x148)	40	40	51	57	00	02	04	04	49	7.1
Ventilation Exhaust	20	25	4.4	70	70	00	01	<b>F</b> 4	01	70
(x4)	30	35	44	70	) 73	68	3 61	51	31	76
			Maxim	num Leve	l (LAmax)					
Air Conditioning										
Condensers (x148)	43	51	54	60	69	65	67	67	52	74
Ventilation Exhaust	00	0.0	47	70	70	74	0.4	54	0.4	70
(x4)	33	38	47	73	76	71	64	54	34	79

Note 1: Source - MAC database.

DGMR (iNoise, Version 2019) noise modelling software was used to assess potential noise impacts associated with the project. A three-dimensional digital terrain map providing all relevant topographic information of the surrounding built environment was used in the modelling process.

Additionally, the model uses relevant noise source data, ground type, attenuation from barrier or buildings and atmospheric information to predict noise levels at the nearest potentially affected receivers. Mechanical plant noise was modelled on the rooftop of the development (see Site Plans in **Appendix C**) (SJB Architects, 2019).

The calculation method used to predict noise levels was in accordance with ISO 9613-1 'Acoustics -Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors. Part 1: Calculation of the absorption of sound by the atmosphere' and ISO 9613-2 'Acoustics - Attenuation of sound during propagation outdoors. Part 2: General method of calculation'.



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## 5 Noise Modelling Assumptions and Recommendations

Noise emissions from the project have been quantified to surrounding receivers and include the following assumptions and noise controls:

- the acoustic screens surrounding the mechanical plant consist of impervious material (ie colourbond or equivalent) and will not be louvred; and
- the acoustic screens will be at the height as shown in the architectural drawings (see Site Plans in Appendix C) (SJB Architects, 2019).



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### 6 Results

#### 6.1 Operational Noise Prediction Results (NPI Assessment)

Operational noise levels from the rooftop terrace (mechanical plant) for the project have been predicted to the nearest proposed residential receivers adjacent to the project at 21 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle, NSW and adjacent commercial receivers (see Figure 1).

**Table 9** presents the single point calculation results and demonstrate that operational noise emissionsfrom the project remain below the relevant PNTLs for all assessed receivers.

ble 9 Predic	cted Operational No	se Levels	
ocation	Period <sup>1</sup>	Predicted Noise Level	PNTL
Location	Fenda	dB LAeq(15min)	dB LAeq(15min)
	Day	40	58
R1	Evening	40	53
	Night	40	43
_	Day	40	58
R2	Evening	40	53
	Night	40	43
	Day	40	58
R3	Evening	40	53
	Night	40	43
	Day	36	58
R4	Evening	36	53
	Night	36	43
	Day	38	58
R5	Evening	38	53
	Night	38	43
	Day	38	58
R6	Evening	38	53
	Night	38	43
C1	Day	41	63
C2	Day	43	63
C3	Day	41	63
C4	Day	37	63

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



#### 6.2 Maximum Noise Level Assessment

Predicted noise levels from constant operation of mechanical plant (LAeq(15min)), and maximum events of mechanical plant (LAmax) for assessed receivers are presented in **Table 10**. Results identify that the maximum noise events screening criterion will be satisfied for all assessed receivers.

Table 10 N	Table 10 Maximum Noise Levels Assessment (Night) <sup>1</sup>									
Receiver –	Predicted	Noise Level	Screeni	Screening Criteria						
Neceivei -	dB LAeq(15min)	dB LAmax	dB LAeq(15min)	dB LAmax	— Compliant					
R1	40	42	48	58	$\checkmark$					
R2	40	42	48	58	$\checkmark$					
R3	40	42	48	58	$\checkmark$					
R4	36	38	48	58	$\checkmark$					
R5	38	41	48	58	$\checkmark$					
R6	38	39	48	58	$\checkmark$					

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



## 7 Conclusion

Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd (MAC) has completed an assessment of potential noise impacts from mechanical air conditioning plant associated with the proposed multi storey development to be established at 21 Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle, NSW.

Noise emission from the project are demonstrated to remain below relevant operational and sleep disturbance criteria for all assessed receivers with the implementation of the noise controls described in **Section 5**.

Following the findings of the Noise Assessment, it is recommended that the development is approved based on noise control assumptions/recommendations and referenced architectural plans provided in this report.



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## Appendix A – Glossary of Terms



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

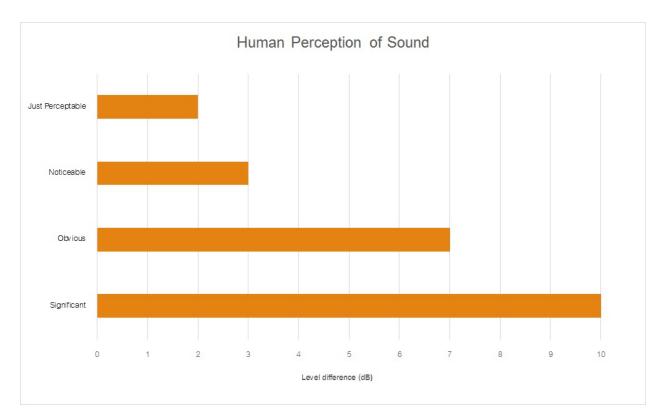
Term	Description					
1/3 Octave	Single octave bands divided into three parts					
Octave	A division of the frequency range into bands, the upper frequency limit of each band being twice					
	the lower frequency limit.					
ABL	Assessment Background Level (ABL) is defined in the NPI as a single figure background level for					
	each assessment period (day, evening and night). It is the tenth percentile of the measured LA90					
	statistical noise levels.					
Adverse Weather	Weather effects that enhance noise (that is, wind and temperature inversions) that occur at a site					
	for a significant period of time (that is, wind occurring more than 30% of the time in any					
	assessment period in any season and/or temperature inversions occurring more than 30% of the					
	nights in winter).					
Ambient Noise	The noise associated with a given environment. Typically a composite of sounds from many					
	sources located both near and far where no particular sound is dominant.					
A Weighting	A standard weighting of the audible frequencies designed to reflect the response of the human					
	ear to noise.					
dBA	Noise is measured in units called decibels (dB). There are several scales for describing noise, the					
	most common being the 'A-weighted' scale. This attempts to closely approximate the frequency					
	response of the human ear. In some cases the overall change in noise level is described in dB $$					
	rather than dBA, or dBZ which relates to the weighted scale.					
dB(Z)	Linear Z-weighted decibels.					
Hertz (Hz)	The measure of frequency of sound wave oscillations per second - 1 oscillation per second					
	equals 1 hertz.					
LA10	A noise level which is exceeded 10 % of the time. It is approximately equivalent to the average of					
	maximum noise levels.					
LA90	Commonly referred to as the background noise, this is the level exceeded 90 % of the time.					
LAeq	The summation of noise over a selected period of time. It is the energy average noise from a					
	source, and is the equivalent continuous sound pressure level over a given period.					
LAmax	The maximum root mean squared (rms) sound pressure level received at the microphone during a					
	measuring interval.					
RBL	The Rating Background Level (RBL) is an overall single figure background level representing					
	each assessment period over the whole monitoring period. The RBL is used to determine the					
	intrusiveness criteria for noise assessment purposes and is the median of the ABL's.					
Sound power level (LW)	This is a measure of the total power radiated by a source. The sound power of a source is a					
	fundamental location of the source and is independent of the surrounding environment. Or a					
	measure of the energy emitted from a source as sound and is given by :					
	= 10.log10 (W/Wo)					



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

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







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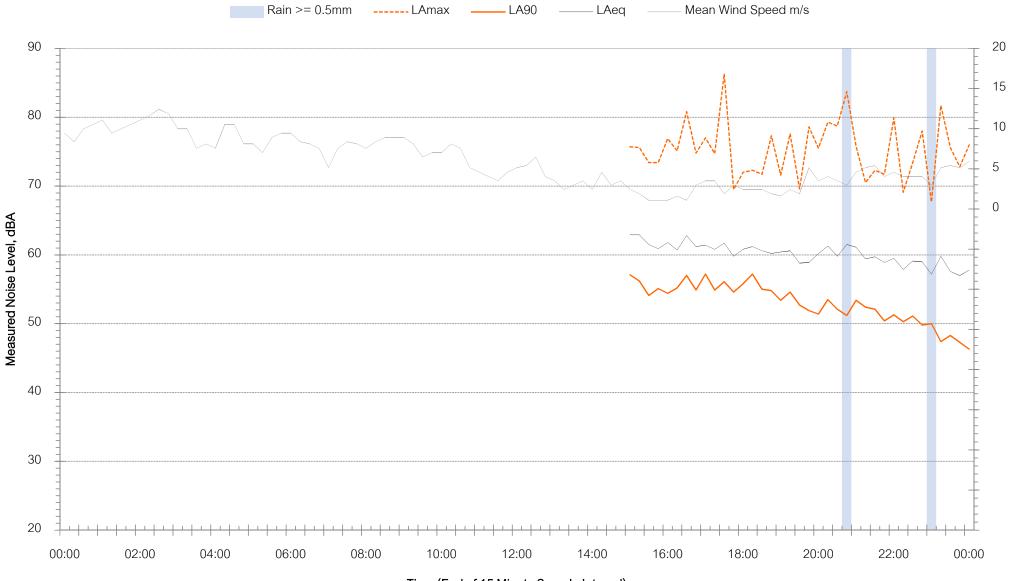


## Appendix B – Noise Logging Data





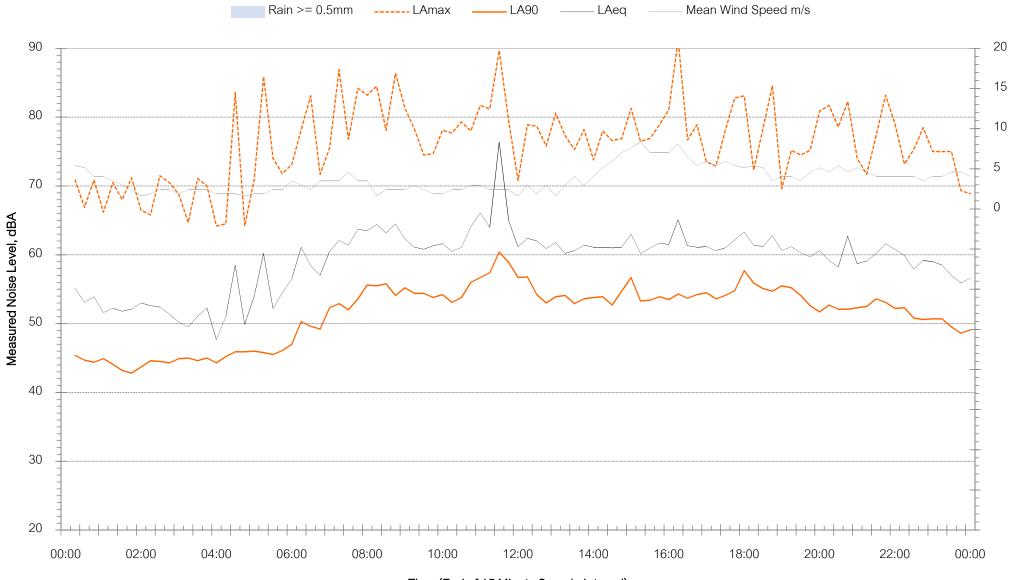
Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle - Friday 23 March 2018



Wind Speed (m/s)



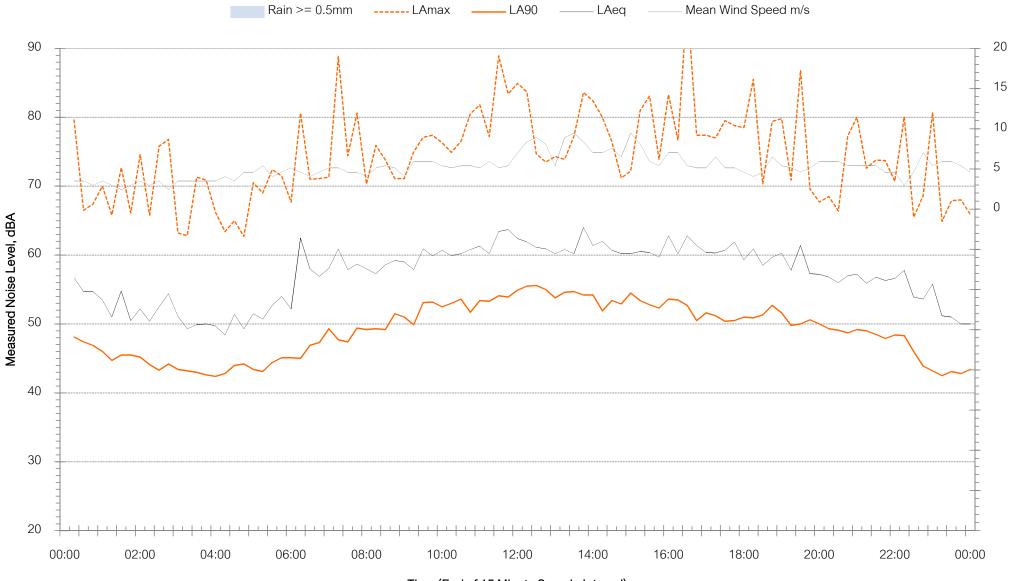
Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle - Saturday 24 March 2018



Wind Speed (m/s)



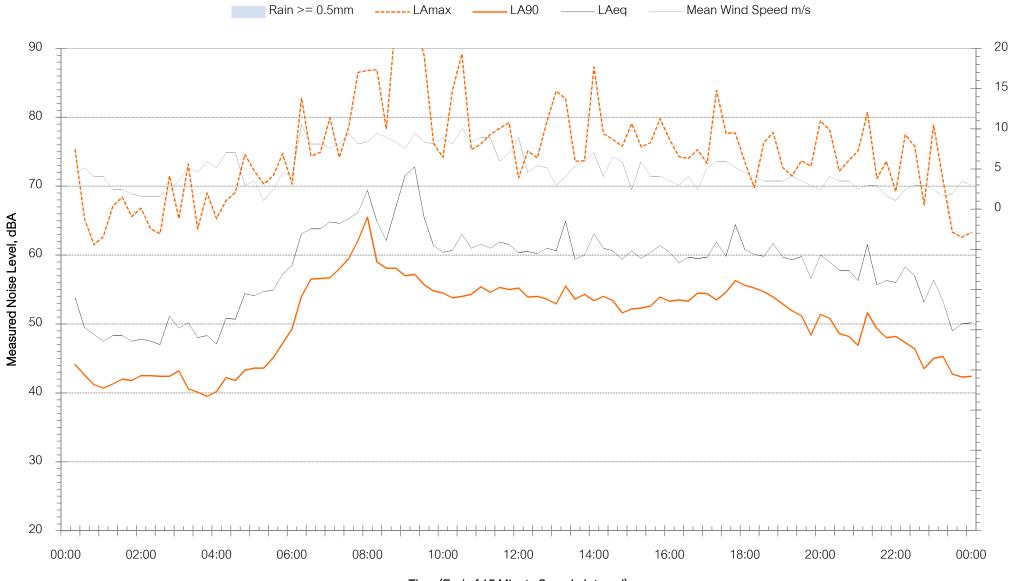
Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle - Sunday 25 March 2018



Wind Speed (m/s)



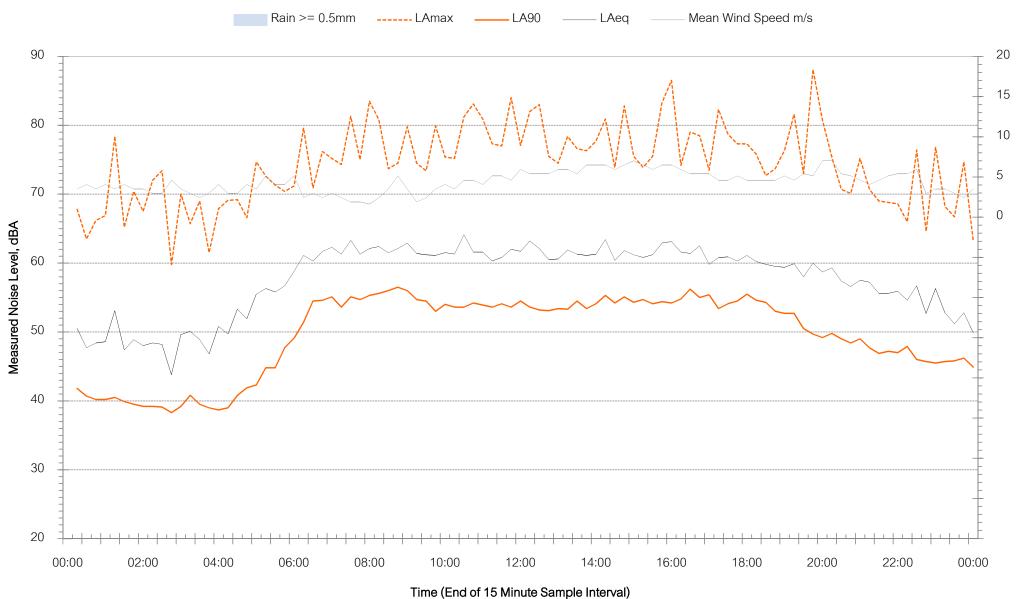
Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle - Monday 26 March 2018



Wind Speed (m/s)



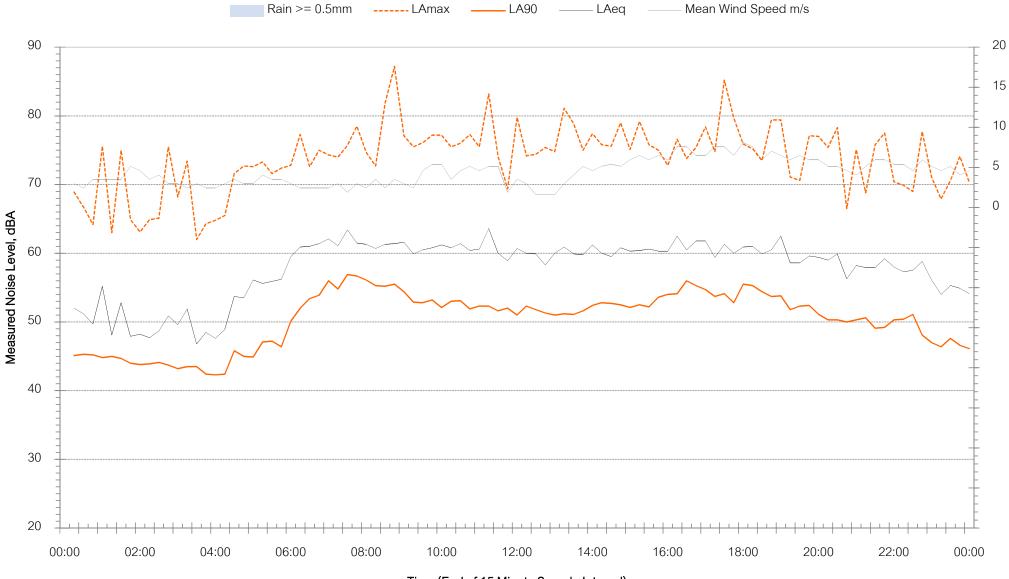
Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle - Tuesday 27 March 2018



Wind Speed (m/s)



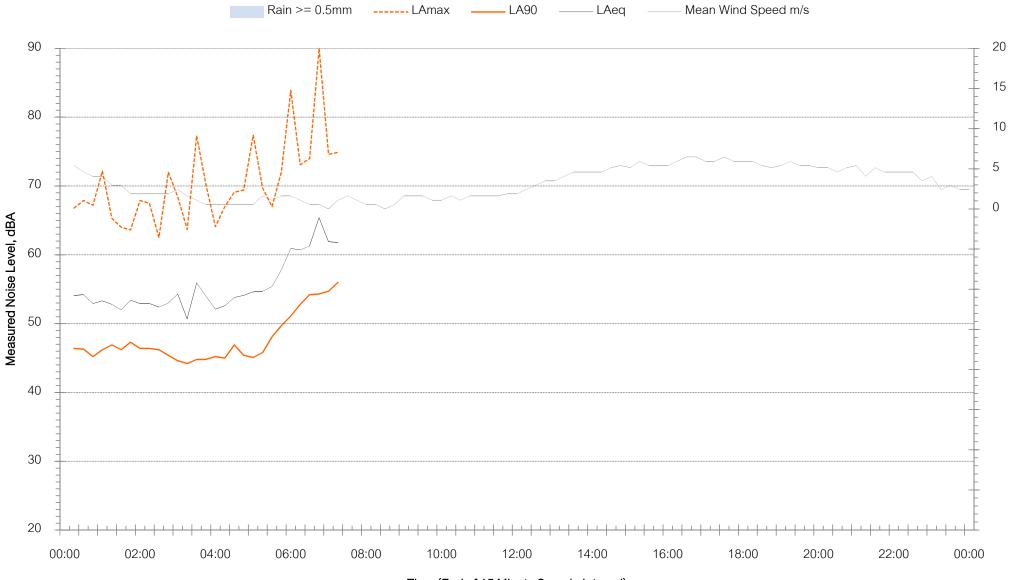
Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle - Wednesday 28 March 2018



Wind Speed (m/s)



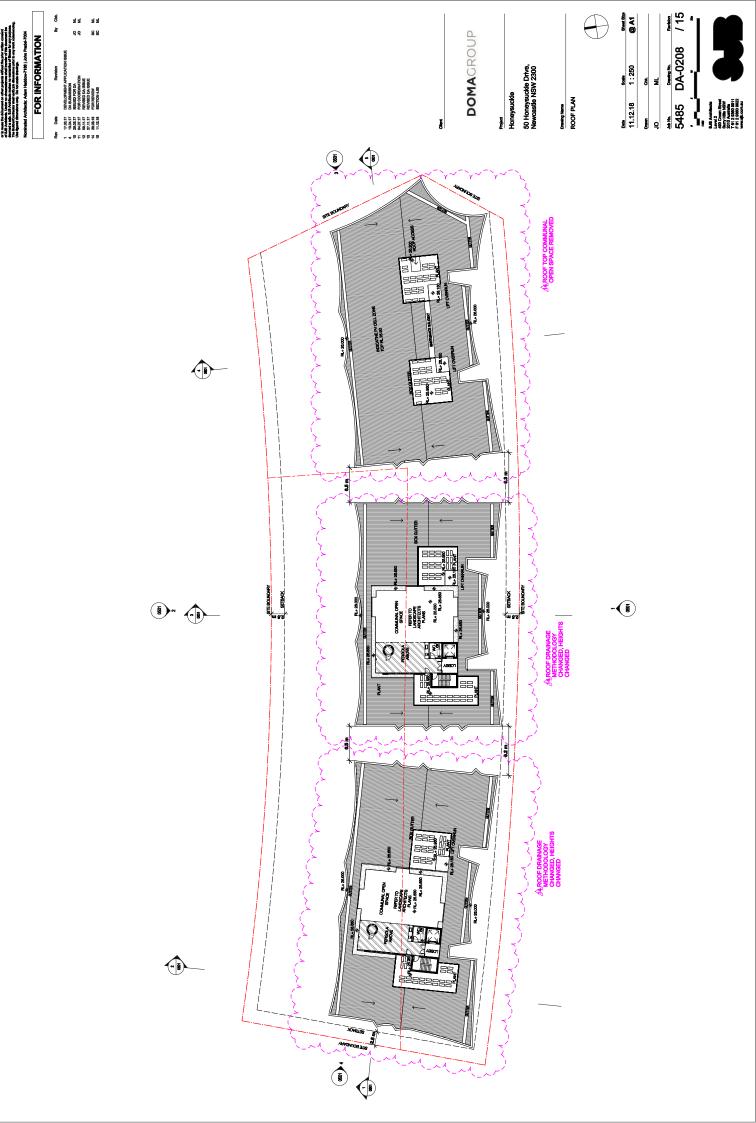
## Honeysuckle Drive, Newcastle - Thursday 29 March 2018

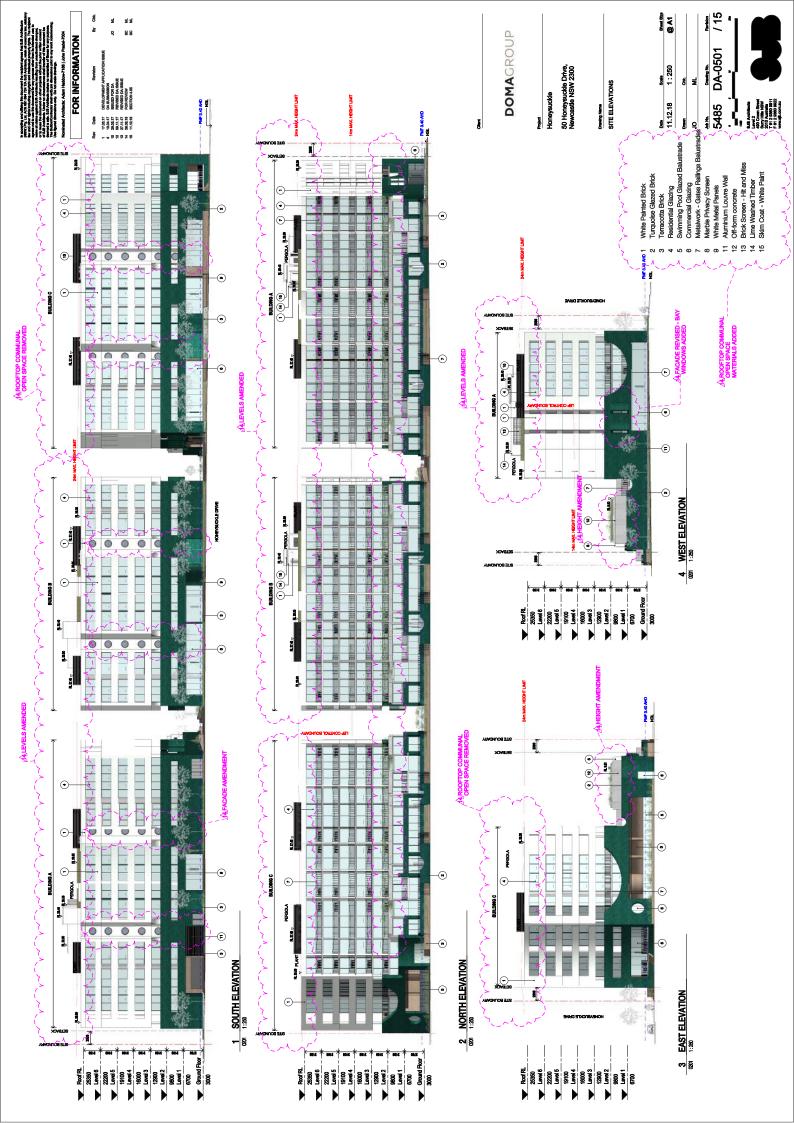


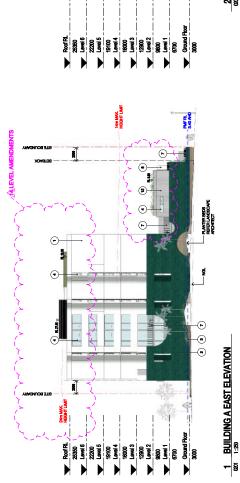
Wind Speed (m/s)

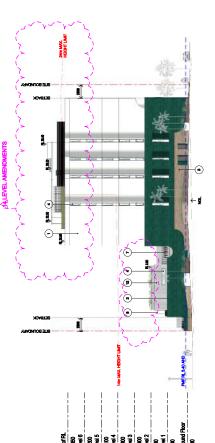
# Appendix C – Site Plans











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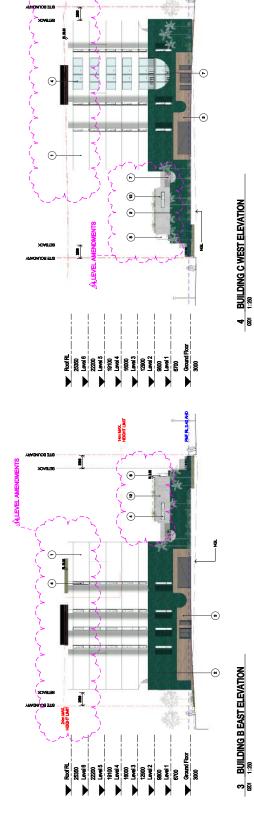
FOR INFORMATION PRODUCTION

Revision

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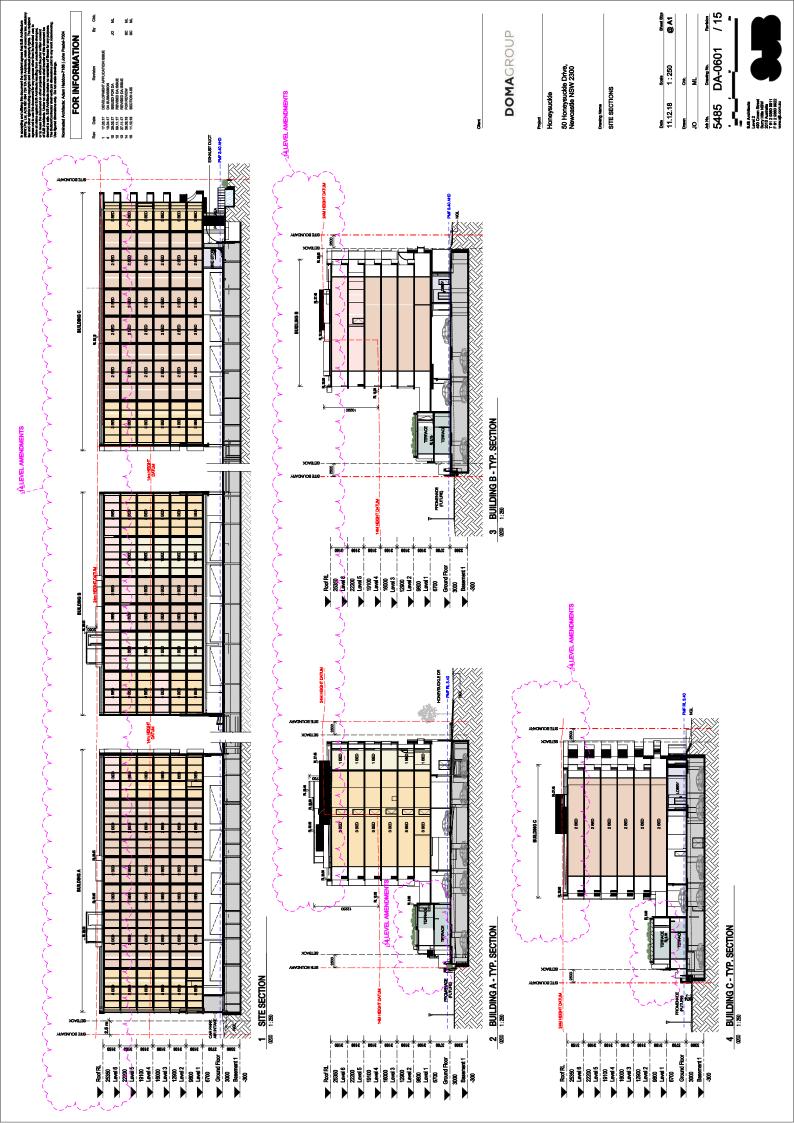
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Muller Acoustic Consulting Pty Ltd PO Box 262, Newcastle NSW 2300 ABN: 36 602 225 132 P: +61 2 4920 1833 www.mulleracoustic.com

