



MANAGEMENT APPROACH

Noise



COMMITMENT

We actively manage the noise created at our terminal to minimise the impact on the local community.

GOAL

To actively manage noise impacts from our operational activities and to comply with the requirements of our Project Approval and Environmental Protection Licence.

NCIG operates a facility within an established heavy industry precinct of the Port of Newcastle. The area is also close to several residential communities and therefore NCIG’s activities have the potential to impact local noise amenity. This can be from several activities, but most notably coal handling, maintenance, and other operational activities. Careful management of noise is therefore an important part of our daily activities.

NCIG operates in a precinct within the Port of Newcastle, which is heavily industrialised but that also has several nearby residential neighbouring communities. Our closest residential neighbours at Sandgate are approximately one kilometre to the west of our rail facilities, and our main terminal is two kilometres from the residential suburbs of Mayfield, Stockton and Fern Bay.

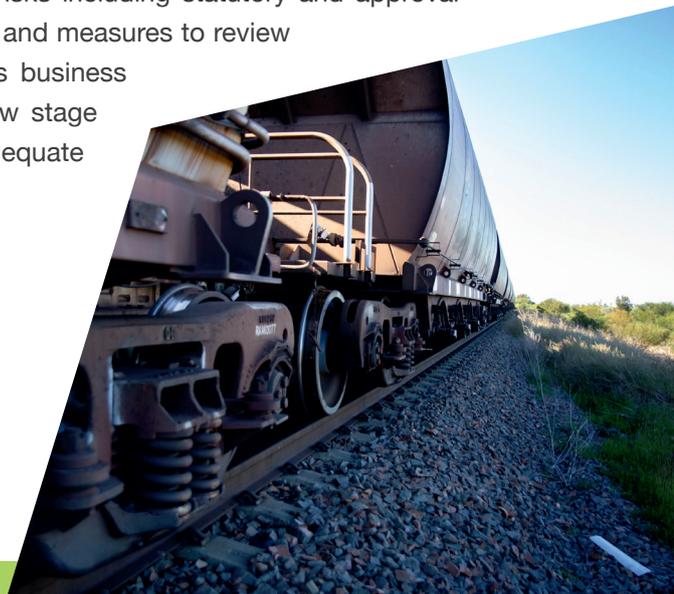
We regularly monitor the noise created onsite by our operational infrastructure and take noise readings in the surrounding communities. This helps ensure that any noise issues are identified early, and that our plant is maintained to keep noise levels below specified limits. Noise criteria for our site operations is defined by our Project Approval (PA 06_0009) and Environmental Protection Licence.

Management of noise generated at our terminal is an important aspect of our activities and we have operational management plans, noise controls and management measures that underpin our efforts.

SYSTEMS AND PROGRAMS

Operation Noise Management Plan

Our Operation Noise Management Plan (ONMP) sets out how activities and potential noise impacts will be managed on site. It outlines the system that identifies and assesses noise risks including statutory and approval requirements, the controls and procedures that manage these risks and measures to review the system including its effectiveness. Critical to this approach is business leadership and involvement, particularly at the planning and review stage to ensure that clear objectives and targets are established, and adequate resources are provided to achieve these.



The system outlined in the ONMP is consistent with other related NCIG governance frameworks, including our Sustainable Development Management Plan and our Operation Environmental Management Plan. The ONMP also identifies nearby properties that may be impacted as well as our mitigation measures and practical steps that we take to minimise noise wherever possible.

TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION

Noise management at NCIG is communicated through our site induction and general environmental awareness training for our employees and contractors.

MANAGEMENT

Day-to-day management of our Noise performance is overseen by NCIG's Health, Safety, Environment and Community (HSEC) team. Performance and progress against our goal is overseen by our Executive Leadership Team and by the NCIG Board.

MEASURING OUR PROGRESS

We monitor and measure our noise performance against our Project Approval and Environmental Protection Licence (EPL No. 12693). We measure our progress by reporting our performance statistics through our monthly business scorecard, which is overseen by the Executive Leadership Team.

MONITORING

We closely monitor the cumulative noise of our operations including the noise from rail transportation on the rail loop on our terminal. This involves regularly assessing the noise generated by individual plant items to ensure acoustic levels remain within acceptable limits. We also undertake off-site noise monitoring in accordance with our Project Approval, our Operation Noise Management Plan and Operation Environmental Management Plan. Noise level criteria is defined per suburb and monitoring is undertaken by specialist acoustic consultants on a six-monthly basis at defined locations. Attended noise surveys are conducted at each noise monitoring location, using specialist integrated sound meters, to assist in determining noise sources, the type of noise in the area and identify any areas that require remedial action.

COMPLIANCE

Each year we review the performance of our terminal against the requirements of our Project Approval. Independent environmental audits are also conducted every three years to ensure ongoing compliance with our Project Approval.

REPORTING

We report our performance and progress regarding noise in our Annual Environmental Management Report (AEMR), which is available on our website.

