

# Noise Monitoring FAQs.

## Macarthur Wind Farm.

January 2014.

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The Macarthur Wind Farm has now been operating for 12 months. During this time, the wind farm has produced enough clean electricity to power the equivalent of approximately 220,000 average Victorian households and has saved approximately 1.5 million tonnes of greenhouse gases.

To confirm that the wind farm continues to be compliant with its noise requirements under the planning permit, AGL is required to do two rounds of noise monitoring across several locations surrounding the wind farm.

The first round of noise monitoring was conducted in early 2013. The results showed that the wind farm was compliant. AGL will use external consultants to conduct the final round of noise monitoring in February 2014.

### Why is noise monitoring being carried out?

Noise monitoring plays an important role in confirming that the wind farm is within the required noise limits as prescribed in the planning permit. The planning permit specifies the standards, noise limits, the required locations of the monitors and the timing for the noise

monitoring. Two rounds of post construction noise monitoring is required.

The first round of noise monitoring was in early 2013 and the results showed that the wind farm was compliant. AGL is now preparing to do its second round of noise monitoring.

### Does the noise monitoring need to be done now?

The planning permit requires the second round of noise monitoring take place no later than 12 months after the first round of monitoring.

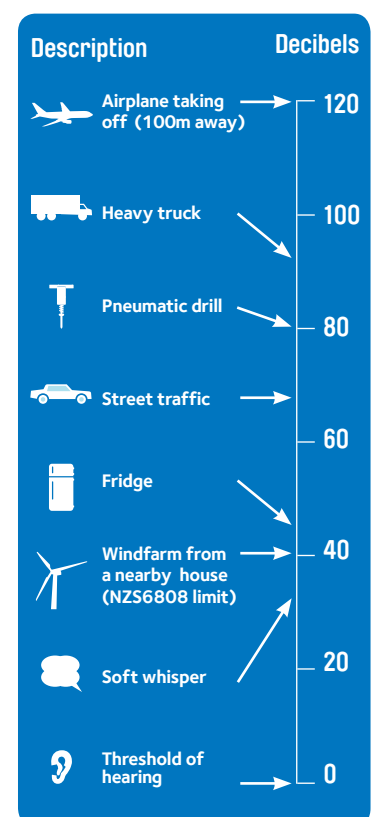
### How is it decided which property has a noise monitor?

The planning permit identifies the houses which are to have noise monitors installed.

### Can monitoring be conducted at another house or property?

This round of noise monitoring is designed to assist Moynes Shire Council to determine if the wind farm is remaining compliant with the permit requirements. Using other locations reduces the comparison accuracy, so it is

important that we use the same locations as used in the first round.



## What are the noise limits the wind farm must meet?

The planning permit states the wind farm must operate in accordance with the New Zealand Standard 6808: 1998 Acoustics – The Assessment and Measurement of Sound from Wind Turbine Generators, and not exceed 40 dBA or background noise + 5 dBA (whichever is greater) when measured in accordance with the Standard.

## Who carries out the noise monitoring?

AECOM has been engaged to do the noise monitoring. AECOM provide fully qualified acoustic consultants to monitor and analyse noise levels. AECOM is a member of the Association of Australian Acoustical Consultants.

## What gets measured?

Noise monitors are designed to measure the level of audible noise – they do not record speech or conversations.

From the noise monitoring, local noise (such as the sound of a car, a tractor, insects or the rustling of trees) can be identified and separated from any noise produced by the wind farm.

## How do we know the monitors measure accurately?

All monitors are laboratory calibrated to Australian Standards by a National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited laboratory. Additionally, a field calibration

check is performed on the monitors at the beginning and end of each measurement period, in accordance with NATA guidelines.

## What does the monitor look like?

A typical noise monitor looks like a microphone on a 1.2 metres high stand supported by a small black or grey box. It does not make any noise and is battery operated.

## What do we do with the data obtained by the monitor?

The data is collected and analysed by AECOM and a report is prepared as required by the planning permit. The report is given to Moyne Shire Council for review, comment and assessment.

## Can I get access to the data?

Landowners who have a noise monitor installed on their property can request the data and report from the monitor on their property. The data and report will be made available once the Noise Compliance Assessment Report has been processed by Moyne Shire Council.

## Once installed, how often will AGL need to access the monitor?

After the initial installation, the monitors will need to be checked on a weekly basis by AECOM representatives. Landowners will be

advised in advance of proposed visits.

At the completion of the monitoring period, the monitors will be removed.

## Who is the responsible authority?

Moyne Shire Council is the responsible authority. The Council enforces the conditions of the planning permit which have been set by the Minister for Planning.

## Who do I contact if I need more information, or if there is a problem with the monitor?

For more information, call the AGL Community Engagement Team on 1800 039 600. You can also email us at [macarthurwindfarm@agl.com.au](mailto:macarthurwindfarm@agl.com.au).



### About AGL

AGL is an ASX 50 listed company with more than 3.5 million customer accounts and 2,757 employees. AGL operates Retail, Merchant Energy and Upstream Gas businesses in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland. We have implemented a sustainability strategy to identify, manage, monitor and report on the material risks that affect our ability to protect and enhance AGL's long-term value.

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