

REGIONAL RAIL LINK, SECTION 1

PEER REVIEW OF ACOUSTIC ASSESSMENT

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PREPARED FOR

REGIONAL RAIL LINK AUTHORITY
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1 INTRODUCTION

This report provides updated comments on the report "Regional Rail Link: Technical Assessment Report Section 1", report RRL-1000-EAC-REP-0003 Revision A, dated 7 July 2011, by KBR Arup Joint Venture ("the Arup report").

2 GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

I believe the report provides a satisfactory assessment of likely noise impacts arising from the proposal. Although there are no Victorian criteria against which the impacts can be assessed, the discussion of criteria applying in other jurisdictions allows a realistic assessment to be made.

In addition the report provides sufficient information to allow an informed decision on the costs and benefits of various mitigation measures, including a number of options.

I believe the modelling has been performed to an acceptable standard, and the validation measurements provide a measure of modelling accuracy.

Two minor points that I believe could have been better explained are noted below. However, notwithstanding these points I believe the report provides an adequate basis for assessment of noise impacts from the project.

2.1 NSW Rail Noise Policy

The NSW policy setting criteria for operational rail noise is the Interim Guideline for the Assessment of Noise from Rail Infrastructure Projects (IGANRIP). Under this Policy an "increase" in the L_{Aeq} noise level means an increase of more than 2dB **in any hour**. The Arup report presents the policy but proceeds to describe an "increase" in noise as representing a 2dB increase in the noise level over the entire daytime or night-time period.

There is, of course, no obligation to adopt all details of the NSW policy for this assessment, but I believe it would be clearer if it were stated that the procedure adopted here is not strictly in accordance with IGANRIP.

2.2 Rounding

When determining whether an increase in noise level is greater than 2dB, and whether a calculated noise level exceeds a criterion, it is important to state how the decibel values were rounded. Normal practice in NSW is not to round when determining an increase (that is, an increase of 2.1 dB is considered greater than 2) but to round to the nearest decibel when comparing with a fixed value (i.e. 60.4 dBA is NOT considered to exceed a criterion of 60 dB). I suspect that this is the approach that has been taken in the Arup report, but it would be preferable if this were clearly stated.

Quality Assurance

We are committed to and have implemented AS/NZS ISO 9001:2008 "Quality Management Systems – Requirements". This management system has been externally certified and Licence No. QEC 13457 has been issued.

AAAC

This firm is a member firm of the Association of Australian Acoustical Consultants and the work here reported has been carried out in accordance with the terms of that membership.

Version	Status	Date	Prepared by	Checked by
A	Final	22 July 2011	R Bullen	