

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Noise monitoring August 2021

Transport for NSW is required to monitor noise as part of the environmental assessment process for the proposed Moruya bypass project.

Properties have been selected to help us determine existing background and road traffic noise levels in the area. This work is important to help us identify possible impacts and mitigation measures required for the proposal.

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### What should I expect?

To help us understand possible noise impacts and mitigation measures, an unmanned noise monitoring device (noise logger) will be placed on or near your property for seven to fourteen days. The noise logger is a black plastic case with a microphone stand about 1.2 metres high, a microphone and windshield on top. The picture below shows a typical noise logger

The logger will be chained to a tree, or similar secure location, and may need to be in a specific location depending on your proximity to existing road noise sources. We will consult with you to ensure that the equipment is not placed in an inconvenient location.

### Noise levels at our property are higher during certain times or conditions. How is this captured?

Leaving the noise logger in place for about two weeks allows us to capture the variance of noise during different conditions, and at different times of the day. Data affected by noise from rain and high wind is excluded. The noise logger may need to remain in place for a longer period if poor weather occurs during the monitoring period.

The effect of COVID-19 on the number of vehicles travelling on our roads at present will be considered and checked against traffic data collected before COVID-19 restrictions prior to being used in developing a noise model.

### How is the noise source determined?

The noise logger captures different noise frequencies and also real sound within the environment. Highway traffic noise can be differentiated from other noise sources by analysing the audio recordings and noise frequencies. Background noise can then be separated from traffic noise.

## **Certain areas of our property are noisier than others. How are the logger locations selected?**

Our noise specialists will assess the area to determine the best location to place the noise logger to measure noise contributed by traffic. The location selected is based on its distance from the highway, local roads and other noise sources. The monitoring results are used to validate existing noise levels produced by a predicative noise model developed for the bypass study area.

### **Is this work COVIDSafe?**

For the safety of the community and workers, project teams have COVIDSafe plans in place. COVIDSafe plans consider field investigation work in the project area and travel to and from site and incorporate up to date NSW Health advice.

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As of August 2021, anyone travelling from the Newcastle/Hunter region and Greater Sydney region (including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Wollongong and Shellharbour) into the region for essential work requires a COVID-19 test on a weekly basis. Proof of a negative COVID-19 test is required at all times. Any team member travelling from these areas must comply with the stay at home order while in regional NSW. Additional rules and testing are applied to workers from some local areas in Greater Sydney.

All work will be undertaken outdoors and in remote areas where social distancing can be followed.

Team members will always follow NSW Health social distancing guidelines if interactions with the community are required. To protect everyone's health we are:

- Limiting face to face meetings with stakeholders by arranging phone meetings where possible
- Wearing a mask when a face to face interactions are required, and maintaining a 1.5 metre distance and not shaking hands
- Encouraging the community to phone or email the project team. We will also provide regular communication on our website, email and by notification letters for work occurring near you.

Our teams are monitoring the situation and Transport will keep the community updated with any changes.

## **Why isn't noise monitoring carried out at every property?**

Noise will be monitored at a number of locations to determine baseline background and operational noise levels across the bypass study area. Sufficient locations are monitored to validate or 'confirm' that the noise model is accurately determining noise levels for all properties between monitoring locations.

## Images of equipment



Noise logger chained to a tree



Noise logger chained to road signage

## How can I find more information?

For more information on the project or if you have any questions or complaints, please contact our project team.

### Contact us



1800 719 759



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If you require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call the project team on 1800 719 759.