

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST SCHEDULE

Please be aware that under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*, some of the information provided to you will be released to the public through the ACT Government's Open Access Scheme. The Open Access release status column of the table below indicates what documents are intended for release online through open access.

Personal information or business affairs information will not be made available under this policy. If you think the content of your request would contain such information, please inform the contact officer immediately.

Information about what is published on open access is available online at: <https://www.act.gov.au/majorprojectscanberra/home>

NAME	WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST
MPCFOI2024/24	<i>"Documents outlining the sound monitoring process and outcome, in relation to the helicopter moving to Palmer Street. I am seeking information on acceptable residential noise levels, as well as the results of noise from the helicopter test flights"</i>

Ref No	No of Folios	Description	Date	Status	Reason for non-release or deferral	Open Access release status
1.	1	Release Schedule	N/A	N/A	N/A	Yes
2.	2 – 4	Decision Letter	30/10/24	Partial	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
3.	5 – 17	Acoustic Logic Report	19/03/24	Partial	Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)	Yes
Total No of Docs: 3						



ACT
Government

Major Projects Canberra

Our Ref: MPCFOI2024/24

Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)

Via email: Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)

Dear Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act), received by Major Projects Canberra (MPC) on 25 August 2024, in which you sought access to:

“Documents outlining the sound monitoring process and outcome, in relation to the helicopter moving to Palmer Street. I am seeking information on acceptable residential noise levels, as well as the results of noise from the helicopter test flights”.

Authority

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General under section 18 of the Act to deal with information access applications made under Part 5 of the Act.

Decision on Access

MPC conducted searches for information in relation to your access application, and one report was identified as falling within the scope of your request.

I have included this report as **Attachment A** to this decision on the schedule of relevant documents attached to this decision letter. The schedule provides a short description of the report and the access decision associated.

My decision in relation to this report relevant to your request is summarised as follows:

- Partial access to one document

Statement of Reasons

In making my decision on disclosing government information, I must identify all relevant factors in Schedule 2 of the Act and determine, on balance, where the public interest lies.

In reaching my access decision, I have taken the following into account:

Factors Favouring Disclosure in the Public Interest (Schedule 2, Section 2.1)

- Section 2.1(a)(i) – promote open disclosure of public affairs and enhance the governments accountability;
- Section 2.1(a)(viii) – reveal the reason for a government decision and any background or contextual information that informed the decision.



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The release of this information will inform the public of the quality assurance activities undertaken by MPC regarding the Canberra Hospital helicopter move to Palmer Street. I am satisfied that these are relevant considerations favouring disclosure in this case, and in the interests of enhancing open discussion, I afford them significant weight.

Factors favouring non-disclosure in the public interest (Schedule 2, Section 2.2)

- Section 2.2(a)(ii) – prejudice the protection of an individual’s right to privacy or any other right under the [Human Rights Act 2004](#);

This document contains personal contact information for non-government employees, and I place significant weight on the right to privacy of individuals and their right to have personal contact and identifiable information protected.

Charges

Under Section 104(4) I have decided to waive any charges in relation to this Freedom of Information access application.

Online Publishing – Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the Act, MPC maintains an official online record of access applications called a Disclosure Log. Your original access application, my decision and documents released to you in response to your access application will be published on the MPC Disclosure Log three to ten working days after the date of the decision. Your personal details will not be published.

You may view the MPC Disclosure Log at: [Disclosure log - Major Projects Canberra \(act.gov.au\)](#).

Ombudsman Review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the Act. You have the right to seek ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published on the MPC Disclosure Log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman

GPO Box 442

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Via email: actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) Review

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under Section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision.



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Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal

Level 4, 1 Moore Street

GPO Box 370

CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6207 1740

<http://www.acat.act.gov.au>

Should you have any queries in relation to your request, please contact me by telephone on (02) 6205 5288, or via email MPCFOI@act.gov.au.

Please ensure you quote your reference number: **MPCFOI2024/24**

Yours sincerely,

Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)

Nikki Pulford

Information Officer

Major Projects Canberra

30 October 2024

20201159.9/1903A/R0/GW

19/03/2024

Multiplex Constructions Pty Ltd
Level 23
135 King Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Attn: Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)

Canberra Hospital Expansion, Canberra - Helicopter Noise Testing

1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents out noise testing results for the Canberra Hospital Expansion Project. Noise measurements were carried out between 7pm and 9pm on 12th March 2024 with helicopter Leonardo AW139 flying in and out a few times.

2 NOISE MEASUREMENT LOCATION

The noise measurements were carried out at the following locations:

- Location 1- roof level adjacent to helipad with monitor located on stairs. Equipment used consisted of an Acoustic Research Laboratories Pty Ltd NGRA noise logger. The logger was programmed to store 1-minute statistical noise levels throughout the monitoring period. The equipment was calibrated at the beginning and the end of the measurement using a Norsonics Sound Calibrator type 1251,; no significant drift was detected. All measurements were taken on A-weighted slow response mode. There were no significant periods of adverse weather conditions during the measurement period. The photo of noise monitor is presented below.



- Location 2- at the middle of Level 7 terrace. Equipment used consisted of an Acoustic Research Laboratories Pty Ltd NGRA noise logger. The logger was programmed to store 1-minute statistical noise levels throughout the monitoring period. The equipment was calibrated at the beginning and the end of the measurement using a Norsonics Sound Calibrator type 1251; no significant drift was detected. All measurements were taken on A-weighted slow response mode. There were no significant periods of adverse weather conditions during the measurement period. The photo of noise monitor is presented below.



- Location 3- at the centre of Level 5 Terrace. Equipment used consisted of an Acoustic Research Laboratories Pty Ltd NGRA noise logger. The logger was programmed to store 1-minute statistical noise levels throughout the monitoring period. The equipment was calibrated at the beginning and the end of the measurement using a Norsonics Sound Calibrator type 1251,; no significant drift was detected. All measurements were taken on A-weighted slow response mode. There were no significant periods of adverse weather conditions during the measurement period. The photo of noise monitor is presented below.



- Location 4- within wards on Level 7: Room 12/13/28. Noise measurements were obtained using a Norsonic type SA140 Sound Analyser. The analyser was set to slow response and calibrated before and after the measurements using a Norsonics Sound Calibrator type 1251. No significant drift was noted.
- Level 5- Ground Floor along Palmer St (in front of #9 Palmer St). Equipment used consisted of an Acoustic Research Laboratories Pty Ltd NGRA noise logger. The logger was programmed to store 1-minute statistical noise levels throughout the monitoring period. The equipment was calibrated at the beginning and the end of the measurement using a Norsonics Sound Calibrator type 1251,; no significant drift was detected. All measurements were taken on A-weighted slow response mode. There were no significant periods of adverse weather conditions during the measurement period. The photo of noise monitor is presented below.



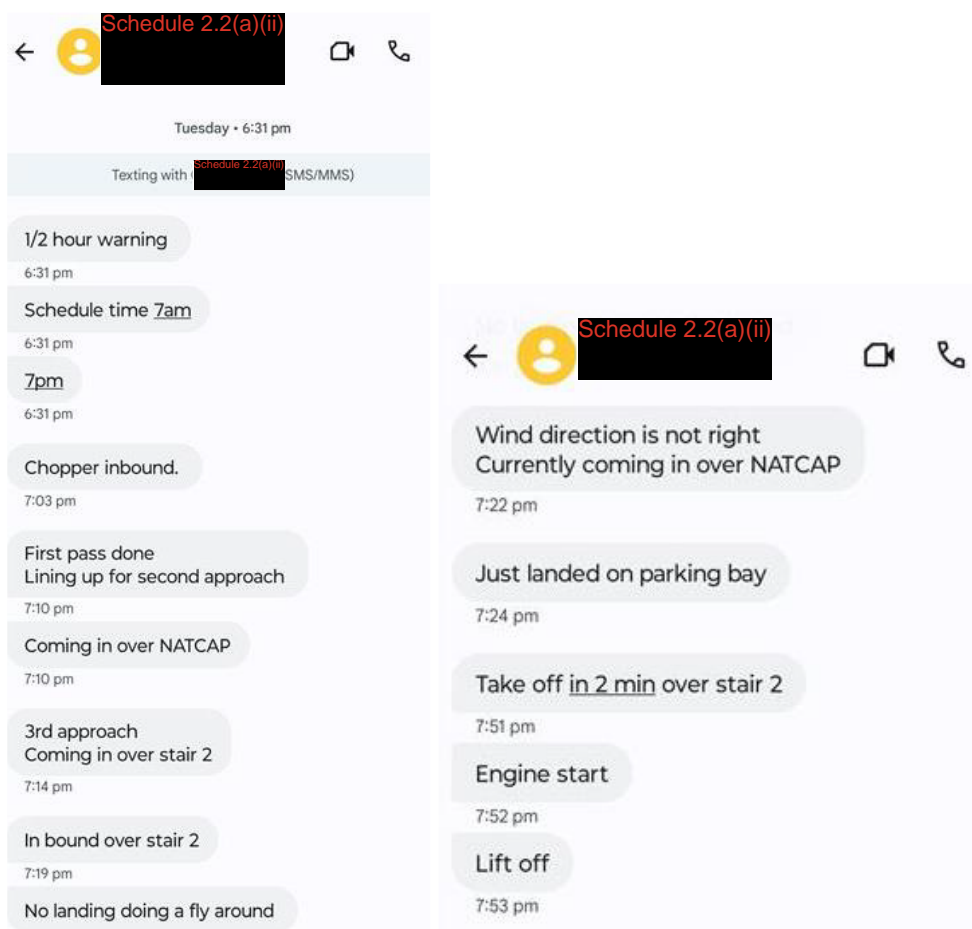
3 FLIGHT PATH AND INFORMATION

Flight radar indicates that VH-TJF- Leonardo AW139 was used for this testing. The helicopter photo by Flight Radar is below:

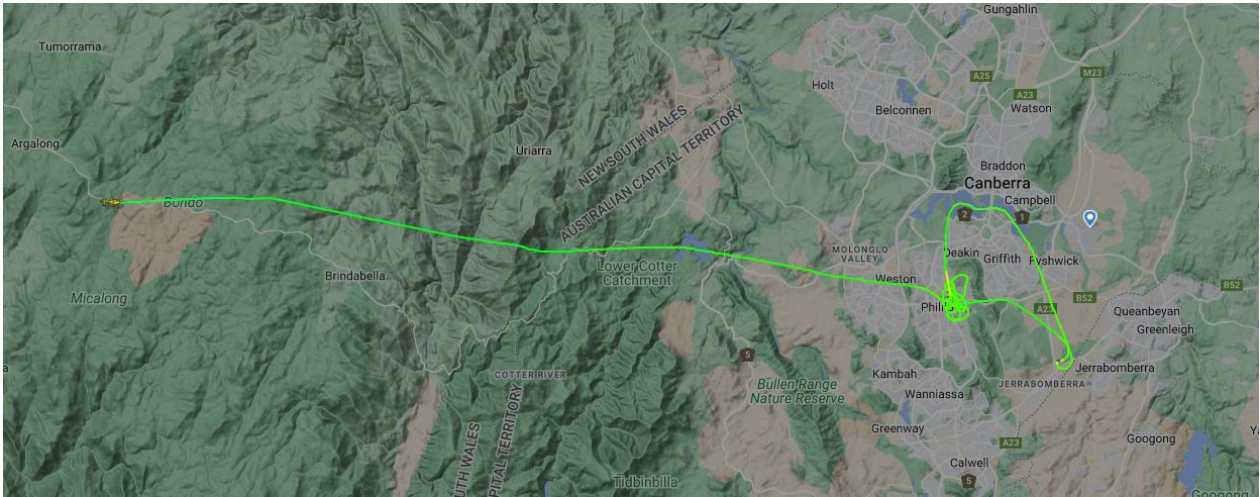


3.1 1ST TEST- 7PM

The following flight information was provided by observer from Multiplex:



The flight radar recorded the flying path between 7pm and 8pm as below:

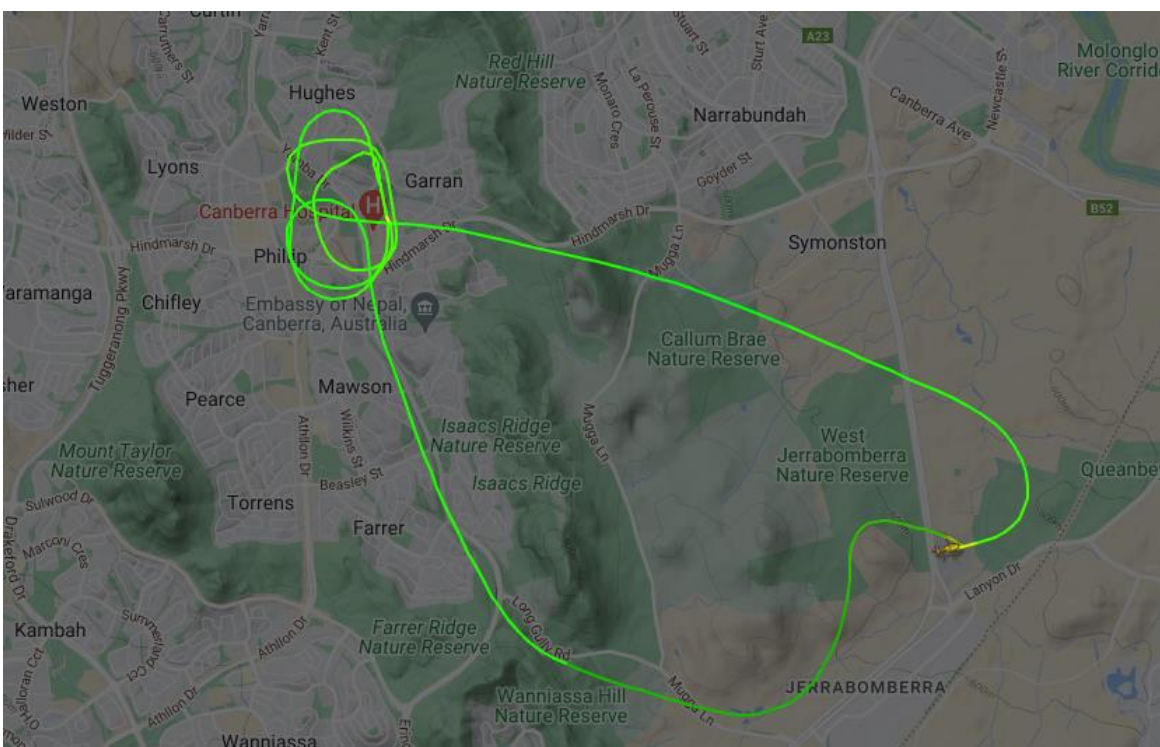


3.2 2ND TEST -8PM

The following flight information was provided by observer from Multiplex:

- Night landing is confirmed
ETA 10 minutes
8:09 pm
- Flight inbound
8:30 pm
- One more landing to go
8:40 pm
- In bound over NATCAP now
8:41 pm
- Leaving now over stair 2
8:43 pm

The flight radar recorded the flying path between 8pm and 9pm as below:



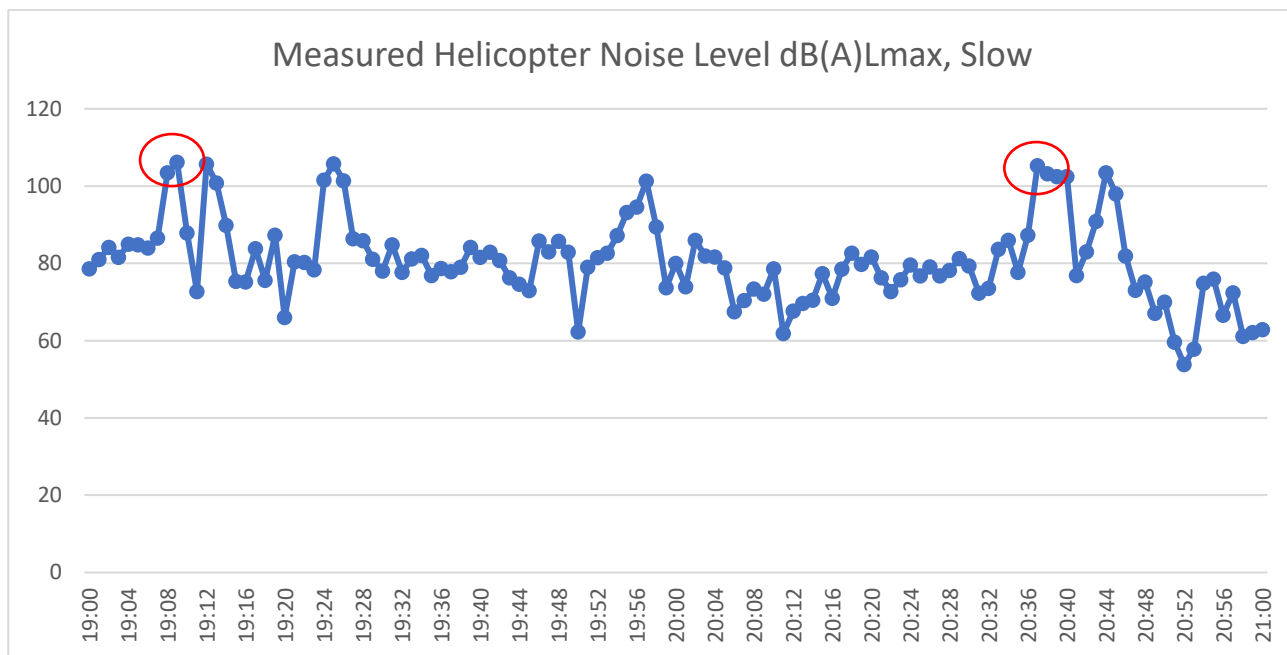
4 MEASURED NOISE LEVELS

5 MEASURED NOISE LEVELS

The measurement results are recorded and summarised below:

5.1 LOCATION 1- ROOF LEVEL ADJACENT TO HELIPAD

The measured dB(A) $L_{max,S}$ has been graphed below:

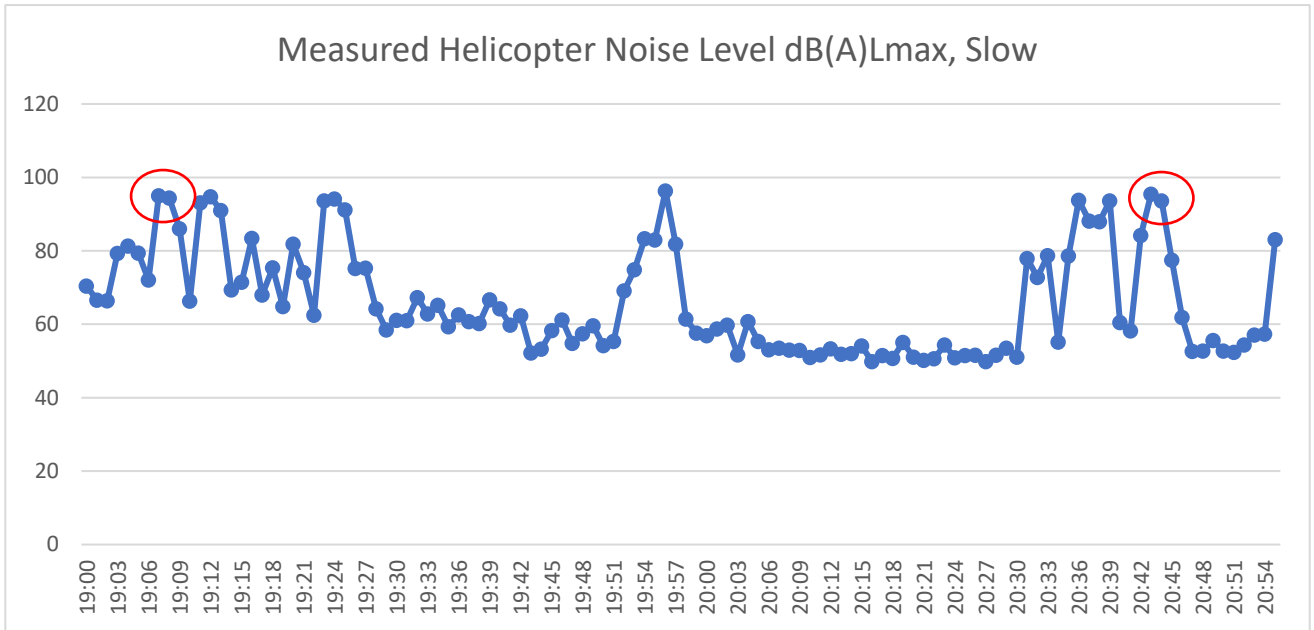


The highest noise levels during each measurement period are below:

- 1st Measurement Result (7pm to 8pm): 106 dB(A) $L_{max,S}$ at 7:08pm.
- 2nd Measurement Result (8:30pm to 8:50pm): 105 dB(A) $L_{max,S}$ at 8:37pm.

5.2 LOCATION 2- TERRACE ON LEVEL 7

The measured dB(A) $L_{max,S}$ has been graphed below:

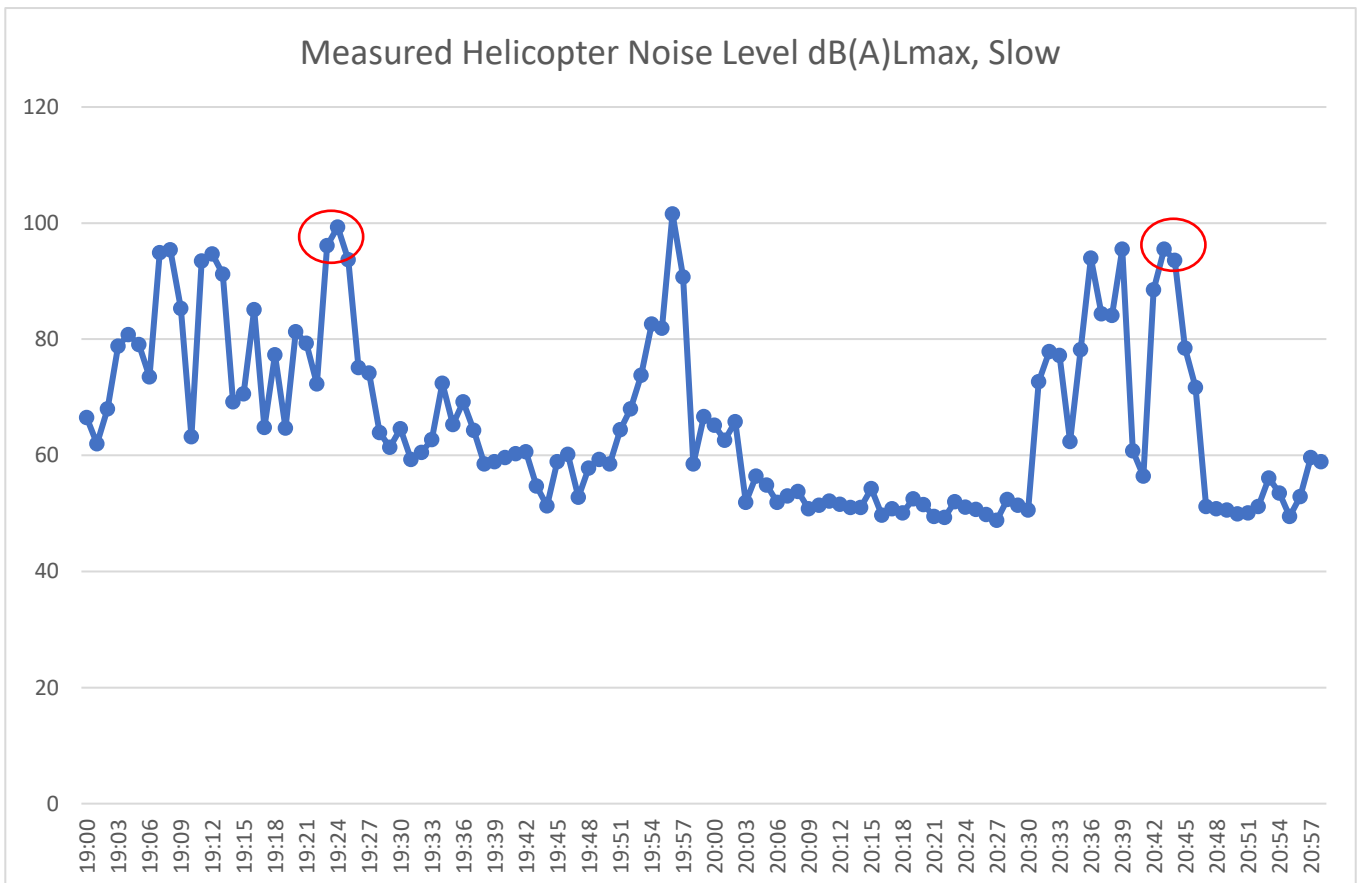


The highest noise levels during each measurement period are below:

- 1st Measurement Result (7pm to 8pm): 95 dB(A) L_{max,s} at 7:08pm.
- 2nd Measurement Result (8:30pm to 8:50pm): 94 dB(A) L_{max,s} at 8:44pm.

5.3 LOCATION 3- TERRACE ON LEVEL 5

The measured dB(A) L_{max,s} has been graphed below:



The highest noise levels during each measurement period are below:

- 1st Measurement Result (7pm to 8pm): 99 dB(A) $L_{max,S}$ at 7:24pm.
- 2nd Measurement Result (8:30pm to 8:50pm): 96 dB(A) $L_{max,S}$ at 8:44pm.

5.4 LOCATION 4 – WITHIN WARDS ON LEVEL 7

Noise measurements were carried out within wards nearest to the fly path during the testing. The measured noise levels are detailed below:

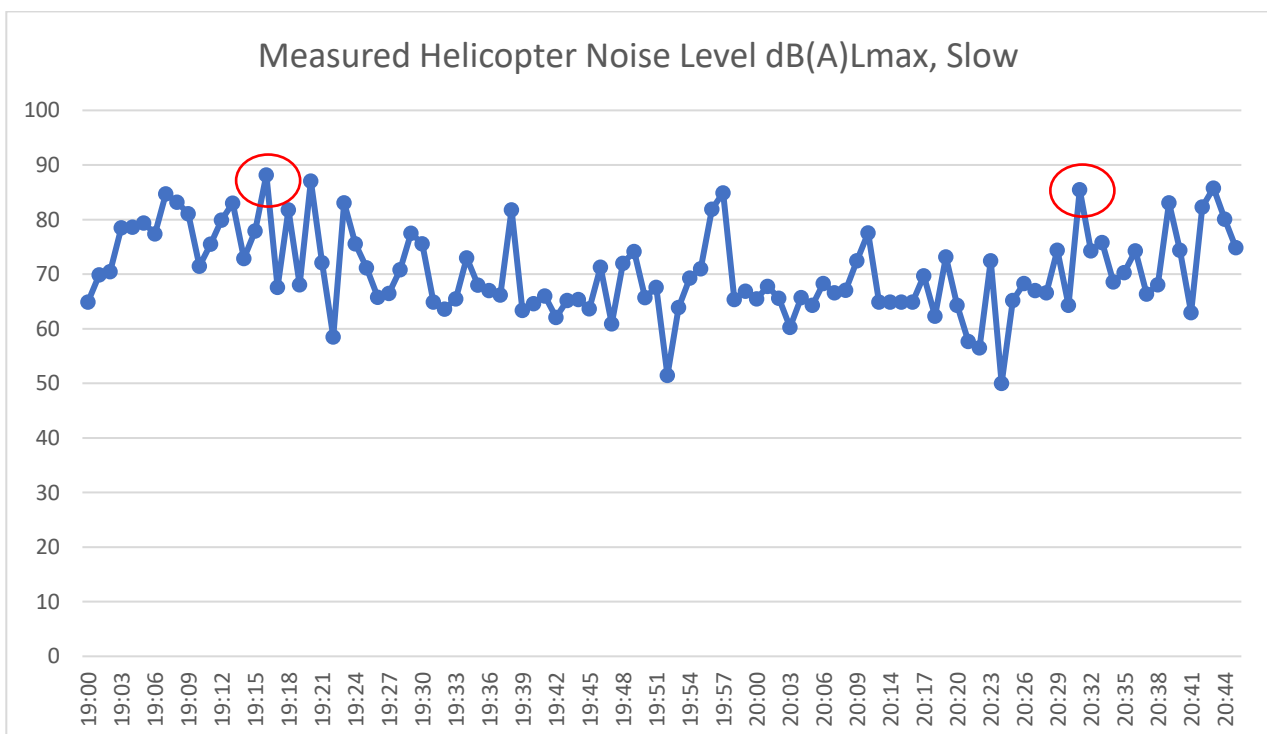
Table 1 – Measured Helicopter Noise Level

Time	Measurement Location	Measured Noise Level dB(A) $L_{max, Slow}$	Criteria* dB(A) $L_{max, Slow}$	Comply ?
7pm-8pm	Room 28	67 dB(A) $L_{max, Slow}$	68	Yes
	Room 12	64 dB(A) $L_{max, Slow}$	68	Yes
	Room 13	64 dB(A) $L_{max, Slow}$	68	Yes
8pm-9pm	Room 28	64 dB(A) $L_{max, Slow}$	68	Yes
	Room 12	67 dB(A) $L_{max, Slow}$	68	Yes
	Room 13	67 dB(A) $L_{max, Slow}$	68	Yes

*Note: noise criteria are based on requirements by NSW Health Infrastructure Design Guidance Note No.33 "Updated Engineering Service Guidelines Performance Requirements for Acoustics (Section 13)" dated 19 July 2017

5.5 LOCATION 5- IN FRONT OF #9 PALMER ST

The measured dB(A) $L_{max,S}$ has been graphed below:



The highest noise levels during each measurement period are below:

- 1st Measurement Result (7pm to 8pm): 88 dB(A) $L_{max,s}$ at 7:16pm.
- 2nd Measurement Result (8:30pm to 8:50pm): 86 dB(A) $L_{max,s}$ at 8:31pm.

6 FINDINGS

Our measurement results indicates that:

- Internal helicopter noise levels fully comply with the requirements of NSW Health Infrastructure Design Guidance Note No.33 "Updated Engineering Service Guidelines Performance Requirements for Acoustics (Section 13)" dated 19 July 2017.
- Helicopter noise to Palmer St is generally matches the noise modelling results detailed in previous report "Acoustic Review of Public Submission" dated 6/07/2021 with the predicted noise levels detailed below:

Noise issues related helipad relocations.

Response: Helicopter is for emergency use only therefore noise limit is not applicable. However, the noise generated by the worst scenario has been compared against the commercial used aircraft noise levels. The highest noise level at noise sensitive (residential) buildings is 86-88 dB(A) L_{max} which is acceptable based on Australia Standard AS2021-2015 for commercial flight < 15 per day.

7 CONCLUSION

Helicopter noise testing for Canberra Hospital Expansion Project has been carried out between 7pm and 9pm on 12th March 2024 with helicopter Leonardo AW139 flying in and out a few times. The measured internal noise levels fully comply with the requirements of NSW Health Infrastructure Design Guidance Note No.33 "Updated Engineering Service Guidelines Performance Requirements for Acoustics (Section 13)" dated 19 July 2017. The measured noise levels along Palmer St matches noise modelling results detailed in previous report "Acoustic Review of Public Submission" dated 6/07/2021.

We trust this information is satisfactory. Please contact us should you have any further queries.

Yours faithfully,

Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)

Acoustic Logic Pty Ltd

Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)

Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) MAAS, NSW Fair Trading Approved Building and Development Certifier – Acoustic (Schedule 2.2(a)(ii)

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