Silver City Energy Storage Project

Managing construction noise

Factsheet

May 2025

Purpose

The Silver City Energy Storage Project recognises that construction noise can be a source of disruption and is committed to mitigating and minimising construction noise impacts, wherever possible. We will work closely with you during construction.

What is noise?

Noise is defined as ‘unwanted sound’. Everyone’s perception of noise and vibration is different and it is strongly influence by their environment. Noise is measured on a scale of units called decibels. Experts measure and assess noise within a representative period of time in a manner that the human ear perceives it.

What is construction noise?

Construction noise is unwanted sound caused by construction works or activities. It is temporary and often varies as construction activities change and work progresses.

Construction activities that have the potential to generate unwanted noise include, but are not limited to, the following:

* Earthwork activities
* Project vehicle movements
* Reversing alarms or beepers
* Asphalting and concreting
* Loading, unloading or moving equipment and construction materials

What will our construction noise sound like?

Construction activities will impact you differently depending on what work we are completing and what equipment is being used.

How do we manage construction noise?

We prepare a noise and vibration management plan for the project which documents how we will work to reduce construction noise and vibration. This document provides a consistent strategy for the assessment, mitigation and monitoring of noise and vibration generated by construction activities. It defines a minimum standard for managing noise and vibration impacts that considers current best practice guidelines and other regulatory requirements.

How do we reduce construction noise impacts?

As construction noise is temporary and varies over time, a feasible and reasonable approach is taken to mitigation, based upon the requirements of the EPA’s Interim Construction Noise Guideline. Construction works will be undertaken within the conditions of approval granted by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and specific measures to manage noise, vibration, dust and traffic have been identified through the planning process.

Mitigation measures adopted to reduce and manage noise during construction may include:

* Maximising the distance between noisy equipment and residential areas
* Scheduling noisy work at less sensitive time periods
* Regular maintenance of equipment
* Installing noise control equipment on machinery and tools
* Noise compliance monitoring
* Locating compounds, stockpiles away from residential areas
* Use of temporary noise barriers
* Scheduling respite periods for high noise activities
* Providing advance notice of planned noisy work to neighbouring communities to assist them to plan.

Unfortunately, in some instances we have limited options available to reduce noise impacts give the type and range of machinery and equipment required to carry out the tasks.

Work hours

Work is carried out during standard construction hours (from 7am to 6pm Monday to Saturday) for the SCES facility and (7am to 6pm Monday to Friday and between 8am and 1pm Saturday) for the transmission line.

Some activities can be carried out outside standard hours, but are limited to:

* No more than 5dB above Rating Background Level at any residence in accordance with the *Interim Construction Noise Guideline* (DECC, 2009); and
* No more than the Noise Management levels specified in Table 3 of the *Interim* *Construction Noise Guideline* (DECC, 2009) at other sensitive land uses, or
* Delivery of large or oversize machinery, prefabricated elements and construction material;
* Emergency work
* Utility work
* With written approval from the Planning Secretary.

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