

SSD

Project Echidna

Air Quality Technical Report

Reference: Appendix J

Revision 3 | 27 October 2023

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client. It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

Job number 288255-02

Arup Australia Pty Ltd | ABN 76 625 912 665

Arup Australia Pty Ltd Wurundjeri Woiwurrung Country Sky Park One Melbourne Quarter 699 Collins Street Docklands VIC 3008 Australia arup.com

Document Verification

Issue Document Verification with Document

Executive summary

Arup Australia Pty Ltd (Arup) was engaged by the Client to undertake an air quality impact assessment for a proposed data centre building (the 'Proposal') located at 10 Eastern Creek Drive, Eastern Creek in New South Wales (the 'site') ("the Proposal" or "the subject site"). The air quality impact assessment accompanies the Environment Impact Statement (EIS) for the Proposal.

Within the site that the Proposal is located, there are other data centre facilities, namely: Building 1 and Building 1A. This air quality assessment looked at the cumulative impact of the standby generators associated with the Proposal as well as the other data centre facilities (Building 1 and Building 1A) located within the same site.

Existing Environmental Conditions

The site exhibits an industrial character with mixed commercial land use and open grass land. Nearby commercial/industrial sensitive receivers are located directly adjacent to the Proposal site, with residential sensitive receivers are located approximately 2 km away from the site.

Site-representative meteorological conditions were derived from prognostic meteorological model AERMET. Analysis of site representative meteorological data for a five year period was undertaken to determine the most representative year for typical meteorological conditions as required by the Approved Methods. The wind roses for the subject site show similar distribution patterns across the five years with prevailing south-westerly winds. Wind speed distribution and temperature characteristics also show similar patterns across the five years. Given the similarity of wind conditions across the assessed years and a comparison of background air quality data across the five years, data for 2017 have been selected for inclusion in the dispersion modelling assessment, as this best represents the general trend across the past five years.

Pollutant Impact Assessment

Construction

There is the potential for dust generation associated with the construction of the proposal. The main dust-generating activities associated with earthworks and construction of buildings would be close to the subject site boundary. Given the considerable distance of sensitive receivers from potential dust generating activities at the subject site and the quantum of dust-generating activities that would be required, it is anticipated that the risk of amenity/nuisance issues and human health impacts would be low. Standard management measures to control the generation and spread of dust would need to be outlined in a construction environmental management plan (CEMP) for the Proposal.

Operation

A dispersion modelling assessment of the proposed 19 on-duty standby generators within the proposal's site, as well as the inclusion of cumulative impact from 20 other generators from the two adjoining data centres located within the same area has been undertaken to ascertain the air quality impacts at nearby receivers due to a justified worst case scenario where all generators would be operational (in the event of a power outage), as well as routine maintenance/testing (realistic operations). The assessment was conducted to comply with requirements of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).

The assessment was undertaken using AERMOD. Emissions to air from the standby generators associated with this Proposal and nearby data centres have been estimated using manufacturer's specification datasheets for indicative pieces of equipment. Predicted ground-level concentrations were assessed at identified nearby discrete sensitive receivers.

Hourly varying background concentration data were used to assess those pollutants likely to have the greatest risk of exceeding relevant impact assessment criteria such as nitrogen dioxide $(NO₂)$, and particulate matter, this helps to avoid over conservatism. Maximum background concentration data across the year were used to assess impacts for sulfur dioxide $(SO₂)$ and carbon monoxide (CO). In addition, incremental ground-level concentrations were also assessed for toxic pollutants such as benzene and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH).

A photochemical conversion for short-term concentrations (i.e. hourly average) from nitrogen oxides (NO_x) to $NO₂$ were determined in accordance with the US EPA's Ozone Limiting Method¹ (OLM), which is recognised in the NSW Approved Methods.

Justified Worst-Case Scenario

As a worst case scenario, the assessment has assumed all on-duty standby generators would be required to operate at the same time. As these generators are for standby purposes, it is assumed that they would be in operation for short periods of time only during a power outage and therefore impacts have only been assessed for short-term averaging periods.

The modelling results indicated that the predicted pollutants' ground level concentrations from the generators meet the impact assessment criteria outlined in the Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in New South Wales (EPA, 2022)(the 'Approved Methods') at identified residential sensitive receivers. Emissions of 1-hour average oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) , which convert to $NO₂$ in the atmosphere and 24-hour average sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) from the generators exceed the impact assessment criteria at the nearby commercial/industrial sensitive receivers. The predicted exceedances for the 24-hour averaging period criteria assumes that a power outage occurs continuously for 24 hours. This is highly unlikely to occur in an event of loss of mains power scenario. Therefore, this is expected to provide a conservative assessment.

Exceedances of the impact assessment criteria for $NO₂$, $SO₂$ and particulate matter are not uncommon for facilities including standby diesel generators, where all generators would be required to operate where a loss of mains power occurs. However, the likelihood of this scenario occurring is expected to be very rare at the subject site.

This is considered to result in a low risk of air quality impacts from the subject site.

Likelihood of Justified Worst-Case Scenario

Under typical conditions, power for the proposal is fed directly from the grid. A review of the Endeavour Energy Distribution Annual Planning Report (2021) (2021 DAPR)², it has been determined that the average unplanned actual system average interruption duration index $(SAIDI)³$ of power outage incident is 48 minutes (total cumulative events) of unplanned outages per year per customer – based on year 2020/21 of SAIDI data. The Endeavour Energy network covers areas including Sydney's Greater West, Blue Mountains, Southern Highlands, Illawarra, South Coast and NSW Government's priority land release areas in Sydney's North West and South West.

¹ Cole, H. S., & Summerhays, J. E. (1979). *A Review of Techniques Available for Estimating Short-Term NO₂ concentrations. J. Air Poll. Cont. Assoc., 29:8*, 812-817. doi:10:1080/00022470.1979.10470866.

² Endeavour Energy, 2021. *Distribution Annual Planning Report*, December 2021.

 3 The SAIDI is a measure in minutes the average duration of an incident weighted by the number of customers affected by each incident. That is, if 10 customers suffer a 10-minute interruption and there are 100 customers in the region, then this would equal a SAIDI of 1 minute. Multiple incidents are added together, so if a second incident of 15 minutes affected 10 customers, then that would be added to the first incident and equal a SAIDI of 2.5 minutes.

On this basis, despite predicted exceedances of $NO₂$, $SO₂$, and $PM_{2.5}$ against the impact assessment criteria during operation of all standby generators concurrently, it is unlikely that this justified worst-case scenario would occur in a typical year. If it did occur, the standby generators are likely to only operate for an average of about 48 minutes (total cumulative events) of the year due to power outages.

Realistic Operations during Routine Maintenance

The on-duty standby generators would undergo routine maintenance and testing to make sure they are operational if required during a power outage. Routine maintenance follows a prescribed testing regime that sets the frequency and duration of testing to minimise emissions to air while undertaking all required maintenance. For the Proposal, it is anticipated that a maximum of three generators would be tested at any one time on a fortnightly basis.

Dispersion modelling has been undertaken to determine potential air quality impacts at nearby identified sensitive receivers as a result of routine maintenance. Predicted pollutant concentrations at nearby identified sensitive receivers during all maintenance or testing periods are below the impact assessment criteria for all assessed pollutants, due to less generators being operational for shorter periods of time, compared with the justified worst-case scenario. Therefore, the air quality impact risk from the routine maintenance activity would be negligible.

Environment Management Measures

General air quality mitigation and management measures recommended for the proposal have been provided in Section 8 of this report. These include recommendations to control emissions to air and dust during construction, which can be incorporated in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). These also include measures for the operator to minimise operation of the generators as far as practicable. Residual air quality impacts with these management measures in place are negligible.

Contents

Tables

Figures

Drawings

No table of figures entries found.

Pictures

No table of figures entries found.

Photographs

No table of figures entries found.

Attachments

No table of figures entries found.

Appendices

1. Introduction

Arup Australia Pty Ltd (Arup) has been commissioned to undertake an air quality assessment of the project Echidna Data Centre at 10 Eastern Creek Drive, Eastern Creek NSW – State Significant Development (SSD) (hereafter referred to as 'the Proposal').

1.1 Proposal background

Arup is seeking development consent to construct a data centre (the 'Proposal') at 10 Eastern Creek Drive, Eastern Creek NSW, legally described as Lot 4001 DP 1243178 (the Site). The Proposal involves the construction of a two-storey data centre comprising of data halls, mechanical and electrical equipment rooms, offices, other ancillary support spaces, and external/rooftop mechanical and electrical equipment. The Site is situated within the Blacktown Local Government Area (LGA) on the corner of Eastern Creek Drive and Old Wallgrove Road.

The parcel of land is currently vacant, and the site gross floor area (GFA) is of approximately 9,000 square metres.

The design of the Proposal is based on the end-client's reference design as well as applicable Australian Standards and will deliver capacity for approximately 35.2MW of IT equipment. Utility power will be delivered via a dedicated on-site electricity substation (subject to a separate development application), with emergency backup power provided by a combination of lithium-ion battery systems and standby generators. Cooling will be delivered by highly efficient fresh air freecooling systems to ensure energy consumption is minimised as far as practical.

The two (2) level facility will reach a building height of approximately 20m, with additional 5m if including lift shaft and all significant plant and rooftop equipment. The facility will include two (2) levels of data hall space and supporting plantrooms, and supporting administrative spaces incorporating secure entry facilities, loading dock, storage, staff offices and the like. The standby generators will occupy an external equipment yard to the east of the main building, and some mechanical equipment will be located at roof level. The site will be served from a private on-site substation, shown on Figure 1 located to the east of the proposed data centre building and subject to a separate development application.

Landscaped areas are also proposed, where mature local trees will be used to improve aesthetics and amenity for local businesses.

On-site car parking spaces will be provided for staff and visitors, including disabled and electric vehicle parking.

The location of the Proposal within the site on 10 Eastern Creek Drive is shown in Figure 1 below, shown as 'Project Echidna'.

Previous development applications for the site have gained approval for the development of data centre capacity on the site. Building 1 and Building 1A, shown in Figure 1 also have onsite stand-by generators for the purposes of continuous operation of data centres. Hence, the operational air quality assessment in this report assessed the potential cumulative impact from both the Proposal as well as existing onsite stand-by generators.

Figure 1 – Site layout

1.2 Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to examine and identify the potential impact from the construction and operation of the Proposal, on local air quality at nearby sensitive receivers. The air quality impact assessment in this report has been conducted in accordance with the following legislation, policy and guidelines:

- NSW *Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2022* (POEO)
- NSW EPA *Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in New South Wales* (August 2022)
- NSW *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* Section 128

This assessment characterises the local meteorological and air quality conditions at the Proposal and its surroundings, qualitatively assesses impact associated with the construction phase and provides a detailed dispersion modelling assessment of the proposed standby generators to be installed at the Proposal (inclusive of potential cumulative impact from Building 1 and Building 1A standby generators), as a worst-case scenario as well as considering a regular testing scenario.

Recommendations for mitigation measures required to allow the Proposal to meet NSW air quality standards have also been included, where necessary.

1.3 SEARs relevant to this report

Table 1 identifies the SEARs and DCP requirements which are relevant to this technical assessment.

Table 1 – SEARs requirements for Air Quality

2. Policy and planning context

This Chapter presents relevant regulation, legislation and policy governing management of Air Quality it relates to the Proposal.

2.1 State Legislation

2.1.1 Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

The NSW Protection of the Environment Operations (POEO) Act 1997 is administered by the New South Wales (NSW) Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), under the Environment and Heritage group. The Act is formed to protect, restore and enhance the environment in NSW and to promote public access to information and involvement in environment protection. The Act designates the NSW EPA (Environment Protection Authority) as the regulatory authority.

The following sections from Part 5.4 of the Act provide general protection conditions for air quality are relevant to the Proposal:

- Section 124: The occupier of any premises who operated any plant in or on those premises shall operate as well as maintain the plant in a proper and efficient manner, such that it minimises the potential for air pollution.
- *Section 125*: The occupier of any premises who carries out maintenance work on any plant in or on those premises shall conduct the work in a proper and efficient manner, such that it minimises the potential for air pollution.
- *Section 128*: The occupier of any premises must not carry on any activity, or operate any plant, in or on the premises in such a manner as to cause or permit the emission at any point specified in or determined in accordance with the regulations of air impurities in excess of the standard of concentration and/or the rate prescribed by the regulations in respect of any such activity or any such plant.
- The occupier of any premises must carry on any activity, or operate any plant, in or on the premises by such practicable means as may be necessary to prevent or minimise air pollution.
- Schedule 1, Clause 17 of the Act⁴ applies scheduled premises status to electricity generation by means of internal combustion engine in a metropolitan area with capacity to produce more than 30 MW of electrical power and burn rate of more than 3 MJ of fuel per second. However, Clause 17 (1A) of the Act notes that scheduled premises status does not apply if the electricity generation is utilised for emergency standby plant operating for less than 200 hours per year.

⁴ Part 9.7, Section 327, Schedule 1, Part 1 (Premises-based activities), Clause 17 (1A) of the POEO Act 1997.

2.1.2 Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation 2022

The NSW Protection of the Environment Operations POEO (Clean Air) Regulation 2022 is specifically regulated to manage air quality issues associated with various sources, such as burning activities, motor vehicles fuels, fuel usage and transfer, air impurities from activities and plant, storage of volatile organic liquids and many others.

Part 5 of the POEO (Clean Air) Regulation specifically addresses air impurities from activities and plant, and refers to Schedule 2 Part 2 Division 3 to set the *Standard of concentrations* for *scheduled premises of general activities and plant* and Schedule 2 Part 3 to set the *Standard of concentrations for non-scheduled premises*. However, Part 5, Division 6, Clause 73 of the POEO (Clean Air) Regulation exempts emergency electricity generation comprising a stationary reciprocal internal combustion engine from the air impurities Standard of nitrogen dioxide and nitric oxide concentrations specified in Schedule 2 in relation to that plant, if the plant is used for a total of not more than 200 hours per year.

Table 2 and Table 3 below set out the standard of concentrations under the Schedule 4 and Schedule 6 of the POEO (Clean Air) Regulation.

Note: Concentration level based on reference condition of dry, 273 K, 101.3 kPa and 7% O₂ content

Table 3 – Schedule 2 Part 3 – Standards of concentration for (Group C) non-scheduled premises

Note: Concentration level based on reference condition of dry, 273 K, $101.3kPa$ and 7% O₂ content

2.1.3 The EPA Approved Methods 2022

As the Regulatory Authority designated by the POEO Act 1997, EPA NSW has published the *Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in New South Wales* (August 2022), hereafter referred to as the Approved Methods, to provide detailed statutory methods in modelling and assessing air pollutants in the state of NSW. The Approved Methods provides methods and impact assessment criteria for assessing emissions of air pollutants from stationary sources in NSW.

2.1.4 Impact Assessment Criteria

Section 7.1 of the Approved Methods outlines the air pollutant impact assessment criteria. Predicted pollutant concentrations (including background air quality concentrations) for a proposal should where possible comply with these criteria. If they do not, further mitigation may be required.

Table 4 presents the relevant air quality impact assessment criteria applicable for the Proposal's standby generators.

The Approved Methods set standards for various averaging periods, including annual averages. As the generators are to be used for standby purposes only and would only run for a short period or intermittently, the assessment has focussed on short-term averaging periods only. Pollutant criteria with averaging periods of longer than 24 hours have therefore been excluded from this assessment.

Pollutant	Averaging Period	Maximum Concentration, μ g/m ³
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	15 minutes	100,000
	1 hour	30,000
	8-hour	10,000
Sulfur dioxide $(SO2)$	1 hour	286
	24-hour	57
Nitrogen dioxide $(NO2)$	1 hour	164
Benzene (representative of VOCs)	1 hour	29
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH)	1 hour	0.4
PM_{10}	24 hours	50
PM _{2.5}	24 hours	25

Table 4 – Applicable Air Quality Impact Assessment Criteria

The impact assessment criteria in Table 4 must be applied at the nearest existing or likely future offsite sensitive receiver, compared against both the incremental impact from modelled sources as well as the cumulative impact, including background pollutant concentrations.

3. Identification of potential emissions sources

3.1 Construction phase

There is the potential for dust generation associated with the construction of the Proposal, including the following activities:

- Earthworks
- Construction of new access roads
- Construction of pavements, services and hardstand

Typical construction equipment used for the Proposal are likely to be:

- **Scrapers**
- **Graders**
- **Loaders**
- Excavators
- Pile driver
- Heavy vehicles/trucks

The above-mentioned construction equipment will emit combustion emissions (particularly NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) and are likely to generate dust as they move around the site, which may impact the surrounding air quality.

3.2 Operational phase

3.2.1 Standby generators

Justification for the proposed back-up power system and any alternatives considered

The data centre is a mission critical facility and therefore requires back up generation. The site is designed for a total of 18 low voltage 2.8MW standby generators to supply the data centre critical loads. The administrative area will also require a dedicated generator for critical and life safety loads; this will be a low voltage 600kW emergency backup generator.

Generators will operate as a standby power supply in the event of mains failure. The site power connection is from two redundant supplies fully rated to carry the entire site load.

The generators are proposed to be located outside the main building. Belly tanks will be provided locally at each packaged generator enclosure, providing minimum 24 hours of fuel storage. Fuel systems will be designed to comply with AS 1940:2017 – *Storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids*.

Alternative energy sources to diesel fuel such as solar power and battery storage options were also investigated. Due to the high load density and relatively steady load profile of the data centre, the amount of power that could be generated from solar panels covering entire roof space would only be approximately 3.5% of the power consumed on site. Moreover, the roof is occupied by mechanical equipment which discharges air vertically and horizontally. Therefore, the available

space for solar panels will only enable a very low total power output which would not offer tangible benefits to the site.

Battery storage has also been investigated and deemed ineffective to the site as there would be no excess energy to store. Whilst batteries are currently being used for short-term backup, the quantity of fuel nominated is required to provide 24 hours of autonomy time to keep the critical services provided by the data centre online in the unlikely event of an extended power outage. Providing a similar autonomy time using batteries would be prohibitive from a cost and space perspective. Batteries also create similar concerns to diesel fuel such as chemical spills and fire hazards.

As such, diesel fuel has been considered the most appropriate solution to meet the data centre demands.

Arrangement

The masterplan drawing in Figure 2 shows the proposed data centre buildings and the standby generator locations. There are three data centre facilities within the site, namely: Building 1, Building 1A and the Proposal (Project Echidna). The number of standby generators associated with each of the data centre facility is as below:

- Building $1 A$ total of 19 standby generators (including one admin standby generator).
- Building $1A A$ total of one standby generator.
- Project Echidna (the Proposal) A total of 19 standby generators (including one admin standby generator).

All generators have been included in the dispersion modelling exercise to provide a cumulative assessment of all sources. The purpose of these generators is to support the buildings' power requirement for critical IT systems and other site infrastructure in the event of mains power loss or damage of electrical infrastructure on site. The admin generator at the Proposal would typically be much smaller in capacity than the main generators. In the absence of specific generator data, the admin generator is assumed to be the same as the main generator used for Building 1A.

Figure 2 shows the location of the standby generators. All generators are located outside, adjacent to the data centre buildings. At this stage, the locations of the generators are indicative, however the locations assessed are expected to be largely consistent with the final developed design.

Each of the generators for the data centre buildings has the following capacity:

- Building 1: Generator capacity of 2.4 MWe, with a fuel consumption rate of 665 L/hr at 100% load.
- Building 1A: Generator capacity of 1.6 Mwe, with fuel consumption rate of 359 L/hr at 100% load.
- The Proposal (Project Echidna): Generator capacity of 2.8 MWe, with fuel consumption rate of 730 L/hr at100% load.

The diesel generator specification sheets are presented in Appendix B.

Figure 2 – Standby generators locations

Usage

Given the unlikely event of an interruption of mains power, the standby generators would switch on to provide power to each of the buildings. It is likely any loss of mains power would be resolved quickly, within a few hours and therefore even when required the generators would only operate for a short duration.

Although it is not possible to determine exactly the duration of power outage/damage over a year which would require the standby generators to be in operation, based on the Endeavour Energy Distribution Annual Planning Report (2021) (2021 DAPR)⁵, it has been determined that the average unplanned actual system average interruption duration index $(SAIDI)^6$ of power outage incident is 48 minutes (total cumulative events) of unplanned outages per year per customer – based on year 2020/21 of SAIDI data (Table 5). The Endeavour Energy network covers areas including Sydney's Greater West, Blue Mountains, Southern Highlands, Illawarra, South Coast and NSW Government's priority land release areas in Sydney's North West and South West.

⁵ Endeavour Energy, 2021. *Distribution Annual Planning Report*, December 2021.

⁶ The SAIDI is a measure in minutes the average duration of an incident weighted by the number of customers affected by each incident. That is, if 10 customers suffer a 10-minute interruption and there are 100 customers in the region, then this would equal a SAIDI of 1 minute. Multiple incidents are added together, so if a second incident of 15 minutes affected 10 customers, then that would be added to the first incident and equal a SAIDI of 2.5 minutes.

Table 5 - SAIDI Targets vs 2020/21 Actuals

Maintenance routine

For standby generators to be ready to operate should an unexpected interruption to mains power occur, a regular maintenance schedule is required. A likely standby generator testing schedule is provided in Table 6. Maintenance testing of standby generators is anticipated to occur during the daytime period (the period from 7 am to 6 pm (Monday to Saturday) and 8 am to 6 pm (Sundays and public holidays⁷). The suitability of night time testing will be further confirmed during the detailed design phase of the proposal.

Table 6 - Likely standby generator testing regime

It is proposed that up to three generators at a time would be tested under the fortnightly testing scenario with no load. There would be up to one generator tested at a time during the quarterly and yearly testing scenarios with 70% load and 100% load respectively. It is noted that Building 1 and 1A generators will not be tested at the same time as Proposal's generators.

The above testing schedule gives a cumulative total of 162 hours operation for all generators combined. The cumulative operation is not more than the 200-hour exemption limit in Schedule 1 Clause 17 of the NSW POEO Act 2022 (refer to Section 2.1.1), as well as Part 5, Division 6, Clause 73 of the POEO (Clean Air) Regulation 2022 (refer to Section 2.1.2), and therefore generator emissions are exempt from Schedule 2 of the Standard of Concentrations in the POEO (Clean Air) Regulation 2022. It is proposed up to three generators would be tested concurrently under the fortnightly testing scenario, however only one generator at a time would be tested under the quarterly and yearly testing scenarios.

3.2.2 Potential impacts

While in use, standby generators produce a range of pollutants including total unburned hydrocarbons (HC), nitrogen oxide (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter (PM), sulfur dioxide $(SO₂)$ and volatile organic compounds (VOC). The release of these emissions has the potential to impact local air quality in the surrounding area. Due to the fuel type proposed e.g. diesel, the pollutant of greatest concern in relation to the use of generators is typically NO_x , as NO_x emissions are orders of magnitude greater than for other pollutants.

⁷ NSW EPA, 2017. Noise Policy for Industry.

Emission data for this Proposal has been assessed based on indicative equipment selection for each of data centre facility as below:

- Building 1: CAT3516E generator (refer to Appendix B).
- Building 1A: MTU 12V4000G74F generator (refer to Appendix B).
- The Proposal: MTU 20V4000G94F generator (refer to Appendix B).

All other emission data for the assessed pollutants not provided in the generator specification has been based on emission information provided in Table 43 of the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI $2008)^8$.

⁸ National Pollution Inventory (NPI) – *Emission estimation technique manual for Combustion engines*, Version 3.0, June 2008.

4. Existing environment

4.1 Local meteorology

Local meteorology conditions which can affect the dispersal of pollutants in the local area were determined. Meteorological conditions are not monitored at the subject site with the nearest Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) meteorological station at Horsley Park, approximately 4.7 km south-southeast of the subject site.

AERMET is the meteorological processor within the AERMOD model. AERMET was used in this assessment to construct AERMOD-ready meteorological input data representative of the local conditions within the subject site.

To provide site representative meteorological data and all parameters required by the dispersion model, meteorological data was purchased from Lakes Environment based on the MM5 prognostic model for the period 2016 to 2020. This data was interpolated from nearby forecasted and monitored data. Analysis of site representative meteorological data for a five year period (2016- 2020) was undertaken (see Appendix C) to determine the most representative year for typical meteorological conditions as required by the Approved Methods.

The wind roses presented in Appendix C indicate that winds at the subject site show similar distribution patterns across the five years with prevailing south-westerly winds. Wind speed distribution characteristics also show similar patterns across the five years.

Given the similarity of wind conditions across the assessed years, data for 2017 have been selected for inclusion in the dispersion modelling assessment, as it best represents the general trend across recent years. 2017 was selected over a more recent year due to the correlation with background air quality data discussed in Section 4.2.

4.1.1 **Windrose**

Annual Average

The annual average wind rose between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2017 is shown in Figure 3 with wind class frequency distribution in Figure 4. Based on Figure 3 and Figure 4, the following features can be observed:

- Winds are most prevalent from the south-west.
- The average wind speed is 3.4 m/s.
- Winds are least prevalent from the north-west sector with annual winds of less than 1%.
- Light winds $(< 0.5$ m/s) are more prevalent from the south-west sectors.
- Due to the infrequent occurrence of calm winds (5.2%), meteorological conditions are favourable for dispersion.

Wind Class Frequency Distribution

Figure 4 – Wind Class Frequency Distribution for 2017 data

Seasonal Variation

The seasonal variation wind roses for 2017 are shown in Figure 5. Based on Figure 5, the following features can be observed:

- Prevailing wind direction varies seasonally. Autumn, winter and spring seasons are dominated by south-west prevailing wind, whereas summer season is dominated by north-north-east prevailing wind.
- The incident of light wind is greatest in winter with a south-west direction.

Figure 5 – Seasonal Wind Rose for 2017

4.2 Background air quality

Existing background air quality refers to the concentration of relevant substances that are already present in the environment from various sources that may include industrial processes, commercial and domestic activities, traffic and natural sources.

The Approved Methods requires at least one year of continuous background air quality data to be used, contemporaneous with meteorological data. Upon review of recent background air quality data, 2017 was selected over a more recent year due to the absence of extreme events that would have influenced monitored pollutant concentrations, such as major bush fires in late 2019 and early 2020, as well as lockdowns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, reducing transport and some industrial emissions, in early to mid-2020 and late 2021. Background air quality data from these years is considered to be atypical. 2018 background air quality data was also affected by a considerable amount of missing data between mid-June to mid-July for the closest monitoring station. On this basis, background air quality data for 2017 is considered to be most representative of typical conditions and has been adopted for this assessment.

The assessment of air quality impacts can be undertaken using two options of background air quality data:

- Background Option 1: Using the maximum background concentration of the pollutant being assessed for each relevant averaging period, or
- Background Option 2: Using the addition of the corresponding measured background concentration to each individual dispersion model prediction (e.g. add the first hourly average dispersion model prediction to the first hourly average background concentration).

For air emissions from diesel combustion engines, typically NO2 and particulate matter are considered to be the major pollutants of concern, over and above other pollutants such as CO , SO_2 , PAH and VOC that are also generated by standby generators in smaller quantities. To avoid over conservatism, Background method Option 2 has been used to predict ground level concentrations of NO2 and particulate matter and Background method Option 1 has been used for predicting ground level concentrations of CO and SO2.

Background monitoring of VOCs and PAHs is not undertaken in NSW, however, these are expected to be minimal (refer to Section 4.2.5).

4.2.1 Air quality monitoring station

The nearest air quality monitoring station (AQMS) is located at St Marys, approximately 6.7 km to the west of the subject site. The St Marys AQMS only records NO2, O3 and particulate matter, and is located in a mixture of predominantly residential premises and significant grassland, which is somewhat different to that of the subject site as well as the surrounding assessed receivers, located in the proximity of commercial/industrial uses and grassland. Based on this, the background air quality at St Marys would not be considered representative of the subject site and another monitoring station was investigated.

The second nearest AQMS is located at Prospect, approximately 7.1 km to the east of the subject site. The AQMS at Prospect is situated in close proximity to dense residential premises, with relatively close commercial/industrial areas. The AQMS at Prospect records all relevant pollutants, such as $NO₂$, $SO₂$, CO , $O₃$, $PM₁₀$ and $PM_{2.5}$. Based on the above, background air quality monitoring at Prospect is considered more representative, than that at St Marys, to the surrounding nearby sensitive receivers subject to this assessment.

Table 7 shows the AQMS used for each pollutant and the relevant data capture for 2017.

Pollutant	Data Capture
$_{\rm CO}$	94.6%
SO ₂	94.5%
NO ₂	94.2%
O ₃	94.6%
PM_{10}	98.9%
PM _{2.5}	94.7%

Table 7 – 2017 background air quality data capture (Prospect)

4.2.2 Hourly missing data interpolation

The assessment of particulate matter as well as the OLM method (conversion of NO_x to $NO₂$) requires hourly background data for O_3 , NO_2 , PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$. Although data capture was above 94% for each of these pollutants, any missing data periods were interpolated using the following methodology:

- Where less than six consecutive hours of missing data occurred, the nearest valid data point was used (i.e. the first three missing hours would be replaced with the nearest preceding value, and the last three missing values would be replaced with the following value).
- Where there was more than six consecutive hours of missing data, an average hourly value was used for the corresponding hour of missing data (i.e. the average value for a given hour of day was calculated, using the entire existing dataset, and subsequently used to fill the respective missing hour of day).

4.2.3 Exclusion of exceptional air quality affecting events

While 2017 was chosen as representative of typical conditions, exceptional events still occurred which led to short-term peaks in particulate matter concentrations. An exceptional event is defined as a fire or dust occurrence that adversely affects air quality at a particular location and causes an exceedance of 24-hour average standards in excess of normal historical fluctuations and background levels and is generally directly related to: bushfire, jurisdiction authorised hazard reduction burning or continental scale windblown dust⁹.

In 2017, there were 22 distinct calendar days where the daily PM₁₀ standard was exceeded in NSW¹⁰. These exceedances were due to non-exceptional events such as local dust and particle sources, or exceptional events such as dust storms, bushfires and hazard reduction burning. Table 20 and Table A.6 of the NSW Annual Compliance Report 2017¹⁰ details the dates with recorded exceedances. This information, along with the reported hazardous air quality levels in NSW Annual

⁹ OEH, 2018. *NSW Annual Air Quality Statement 2017*, The State of NSW and Office of Environment and Heritage. (https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Air/nsw-air-quality-statement-2017-180044.pdf)

¹⁰ DPIE, 2019. New South Wales Annual Compliance Report 2017, National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. (https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Air/national-environmentprotection-measure-ambient-air-quality-nsw-compliance-report-2017-180635.pdf)

Air Quality Statement 2017¹¹, have been used to filter typical 2017 PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} background air quality data by removing anomalies due to the above-mentioned extraneous events, such as local dust, dust storm and hazard reduction burnings. Refer to Section 4.2.4 for more detailed charts of the filtered background air quality data used in the assessment.

4.2.4 Adopted background air quality

The maximum monitored air quality concentrations for 2017 are summarised in Table 8. The maximum monitored concentrations for CO and $SO₂$ in Table 8 have been adopted as background concentrations for these pollutants and have been used to determine cumulative concentrations (e.g. incremental plus background) in the assessment, whereas for $NO₂$, $PM₁₀$ and $PM_{2.5}$ the hourly data presented in Figure 6 and Figure 9 have been used to provide a contemporaneous cumulative assessment.

The background air quality charts for all pollutants are shown in Appendix D.

Pollutant	Averaging Period	Maximum Monitored Concentrations, µg/m ³
CO	1-hour	1840.0
	8-hour	1297.9
NO ₂	1-hour	112.8
SO ₂	1-hour	60.3
	24-hour	26.5
O ₃	1-hour	241.1
PM_{10}	24-hour	61.13
PM _{2.5}	24-hour	29.5

Table 8 – Maximum monitored air quality concentrations

¹¹ OEH, 2018. *NSW Annual Air Quality Statement 2017*, The State of NSW and Office of Environment and Heritage. (https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Air/nsw-air-quality-statement-2017-180044.pdf)

Project EchidnaProject Echidna Air Quality Technical Report

Page 18

Figure 8 – Adopted hourly PM10 background air quality chart

Figure 9 – Adopted hourly PM2.5 background air quality chart

Note that in the absence of publicly available 15-minute local background concentration for the assessed CO pollutant, 1-hour background concentrations have been used. Whilst it is noted that 15 minute background concentration may be higher than the 1-hour concentration, given the predicted cumulative assessment for CO is generally well below the impact assessment criteria (refer to Section 7.1.3), it is unlikely that adopting the 15-minute background concentrations would result in a significant increase to cause exceedances for the 15-minute impact assessment criteria for this pollutant.

4.2.5 Air quality contribution from nearby industries

A review of the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) database was undertaken to identify any industrial sites with potentially significant emissions to air within the proximity of the subject site. There are several NPI registered industries surrounding the subject site (Erskine Park), as well as in the wider Eastern Creek and Prospect regions, located to the east of the subject site (refer to Figure 10). The contribution of these sources to local air quality in the area is expected to be captured in the air quality monitoring data from the AQMS at Prospect discussed above.

Figure 10 – Map locations of surrounding NPI listed industries

4.3 Sensitive receivers

Nearby sensitive receivers were identified through a review of aerial mapping.

Air quality sensitive receivers are defined under the Approved Methods as:

"A location where people are likely to work or reside; this may include a dwelling, school, hospital, office or public recreational area. An air quality impact assessment should also consider the location of known or likely future sensitive receptors."

The subject site is located within an industrial land use. Industrial/commercial sensitive receivers are located within close proximity to the subject site, with the closest at immediately adjacent to the east. The nearest residential sensitive receivers are located approximately 1.6 km to the south of the subject site. There are residential premises located to the north and west of the subject site, at approximately 1.7 km and 2.4 km respectively. Discrete sensitive receivers have been selected to represent the nearest receivers in all directions to assist in assessing air quality impacts from the Proposal, and are summarised in Table 9 and Figure 11.

In addition, the assessment has considered a 10 km x 10 km grid to assess the location of predicted maximum ground level concentration that may not coincide with a sensitive receiver (refer to Section 5.3.2).

Table 9 – Identified nearby discrete sensitive receivers

Figure 11 – Modelled nearby sensitive receiver locations

5. Methodology

This Chapter outlines the methodology used to define the existing environment and undertake the assessment of potential impacts of the Proposal on air quality, including definition of the study area used as the basis of the assessment.

The overall approach to the air quality impact assessment comprises:

- A review of the existing air quality conditions at, and in the vicinity of, the subject site;
- A review of the potential changes in air quality arising from the construction and operation of the Proposal; and
- Formulation of mitigation measures, where appropriate, to ensure any adverse effects from air pollutants are minimised.

5.1 Study area

The study area for the air quality assessment extends up to 5 km from the subject site in all directions. The assessment in accordance with the Approved Methods has focussed on those sensitive receivers closest to the subject site, however a modelling domain of 10 km x 10 km has been included to ensure that the area of maximum impact is understood and the impact for the surrounding area can be shown.

5.2 Construction phase

Potential local air quality impacts for the construction phase of the Proposal have been identified based on experience from similar construction projects. The Approved Methods (refer to Section 2.1.3) were developed to assess emissions from stationary sources. They are therefore not appropriate to assess uncontrolled dust emission impacts such as that from construction activity.

Given the scale and duration of construction, the main potential impact would be amenity-related due to the risk of dust generation and emissions to air from equipment and machinery generated by fuel combustion. Therefore, a qualitative risk-based approach has been carried out and is addressed in Section 6.

The key factors in determining the risk of impact are the activities taking place, location of these activities onsite and the distance from sensitive receivers. In addition, it is important to consider the types of impact including amenity/nuisance concerns from the release of fugitive dust as well as health impacts associated with the release of $NO₂$, $PM₁₀$ and $PM_{2.5}$.

5.3 Operational phase

The impact assessment for the operation of standby generators has been carried out using dispersion modelling to predict pollutant concentrations at nearby sensitive receivers, as well as over a larger grid domain.

5.3.1 Assessment scenarios

The following assessment scenarios were undertaken to determine the potential impact under the anticipated operational conditions of the standby generators.

- **Scenario 1**: A justified worst-case scenario of all generators in operation (100% load) under a loss of mains power situation (refer to Section 3.2).
- **Scenario 2**: Realistic operations e.g. regular generator testing where generators are tested during maintenance hours (refer to Section 3.2).

5.3.2 Dispersion modelling

This section describes the dispersion modelling methodology for this assessment.

Model overview

While not listed in the Approved Methods, AERMOD has been accepted in Australia for use in a variety of regulatory applications¹², and is estimated to be the most widely used dispersion model internationally¹³. AERMOD is a steady-state plume model that incorporates air dispersion based on planetary boundary layer turbulence structure and scaling concepts, including treatment of both surface and elevated sources, and both simple and complex terrain, such as the case of the Proposal.

The NSW Approved Methods Section 4 requires one-year of site-specific meteorological data or site-representative meteorological data, in the absence of site-specific data, to be used for AERMOD dispersion modelling. The AERMOD system includes AERMET, used for the preparation of meteorological input files and AERMAP, used for the preparation of terrain data. AERMET requires surface and upper air meteorological data input. The meteorological data used in this assessment is for the period of 1st January $2017 - 31$ st December 2017 (refer to Section 4.1).

AERMOD was configured as per Table 10 to assess the impact of generator emissions from the Proposal.

Parameter	Input
Meteorological Data	2017 – refer to meteorological data section below
Terrain Topography	Obtained using Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM3/SRTM1) data from AERMAP at a range of 100 metres.
Grid Domain Size	$10,000$ metres x $10,000$ metres
Grid Spacing	50 metres

Table 10 – General inputs for AERMOD dispersion modelling

The $100th$ percentile¹⁴ was modelled to determine the average concentration impact for comparison against the impact assessment criteria.

¹² Pacific Environment, 2016. Western Sydney Airport EIS - Local Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment: Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, ID. 9417F. Doc no. AQU-NSW-001-9417E. Rev. R2. Sydney, NSW.

¹³ Pacific Environment, 2016. *Energy from Waste Facility – Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment*: The Next Generation, ID. 21292C. Doc no. AQU-NS-001-21292C. Rev. 5. Eastern Creek, NSW.

¹⁴ The maximum possible concentrations over the relevant averaging period taking into account emission source and meteorological data.

Prediction of less than 1-hour average concentrations

In the absence of NSW specific guidelines to convert modelled hourly concentrations to a less than 1-hour averaging period, reference was made to the EPA Victoria Draft Publication 1551 – *Guidance notes for using the regulatory air pollution model AERMOD in Victoria* (October 2013), which provides conversion from hourly average concentrations to 3-minute average concentration. This has been used in this case to convert hourly average concentrations to 10-minute or 15-minute average concentrations.

 $c(t) = c(t_0) (t_0/t)^{0.2}$

Where:

 (t) is the averaging time (minutes) of interest, and

 $(t₀)$ is the averaging time consistent with the dispersion rates (60 minutes in this case).

Model extent

The model was run for a large grid (10 km x 10 km) at ground level, inclusive of the assessed closest sensitive receivers (refer to Section 4.3). This covers all potentially impacted nearby sensitive land uses. The extent of the model is shown in Figure 12.

Figure 12: AERMOD model extent

Terrain effects

The subject site is located in slight sloped terrain. The gradient is steepest along the eastern border with a difference in elevation of approximately 7.5 m, reducing from 70.0 m to 62.5 m AHD. Along the western boundary the subject site grades from 69.5 m to 66.5 m AHD with a total elevation difference of approximately 3.0 m. Similarly, the subject site appears to grade from a height of approximately 68.5 m to 64.0 m AHD from west to east across the centre.

A raised plateau bordering the southern boundary of the subject site lies at 71.5 m AHD and is approximately 3.5 m above the surrounding area. A stockpile, approximately 82 m in diameter, lies close to the eastern boundary of the subject site. The top of this stockpile lies an elevation of 71.5 m AHD.

Smaller stockpiles lie to the centre and to the north of the subject site. The stock pile in the centre of the subject site is close to 51 m in breadth and 24 m in width. It stands at 4.5 m in height above ground elevation. A smaller stockpile, 80 m in length and 10 m in width lies to the north of the subject site at a height of 1 m above ground elevation (Figure 13).

Figure 13 – Site topography (Crux Surveying Australia, 2019) superposed on satellite image (Google Maps, 2019)

Terrain data was sourced from NASA's Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) Data (3 arc second $(\sim 30\text{m})$ resolution) and processed within AERMAP to create the necessary input files for the model. The topography of the local area used in the model is shown in Figure 14.

Figure 14: Modelled AERMOD topography
Building wake effects

Buildings can have a significant effect on dispersion. If buildings are close to a stack, the plume can be entrained in the cavity zone downwind of the building. The ratio of the stack height vs. the building height can affect the magnitude of building downwash, such that if the stack extends well above the roof of the building, the downwash effect is expected to be insignificant. The Approved Methods notes that "*A point source is wake-affected if stack height is less than or equal to 2.5 times the height of buildings located within a distance of 5L (where L is the lesser of the height or width of the building) from each release point."*

The generators are located within close proximity to the main building. The stack discharge height for Building 1 is at 30 m above ground for the 19 main generators. Building 1 has a height of 21.8 m above ground, including any roof-top parapet screens height. For Building 1A, the generator has a stack discharge height of 13.2 m next to a 13.5 m high building. The Proposal's stack discharge height is 25 m above ground level for the 19 generators. The height of the main building is 20 m above ground level, with some small areas, including the lift and stair shafts reaching a maximum height of 25 m above ground level. A building height of 20 m was modelled as this is representative of most of the building and the smaller shaft areas are unlikely to have a significant effect on air movement. On this basis, the standby generator stacks are considered wake-affected sources. As a result, the building downwash effect can lead to higher ground concentrations than would be expected in the absence of buildings, therefore buildings that may contribute to a downwash effect have been included in the dispersion model.

The surrounding buildings were also modelled as deemed relevant in potentially creating wake effect on the dispersion.

Building Profile Input Program – Plume Rise Model Enhancements (BPIP-PRIME) uses heights and corner locations of buildings in the vicinity of the stack release to simulate the effective height and width of the structures. The downwash algorithm calculates effective building dimensions relative to the plume, resolved down to ten-degree intervals. AERMOD then calculates the impact of these buildings on plume dispersion and consequently on ground level concentrations. Although a simplified building geometry is used, it should provide a reasonable indication of how the building may disrupt wind flow in the immediate vicinity.

Surface roughness

AERMET also requires land characteristics data for the area surrounding the subject site. The subject site is situated on a predominantly developed suburban area with a combination of grass land with trees. The surrounding land uses to the subject site were divided into 12 sectors to determine the atmospheric turbulences values in the dispersion modelling due to the effect of surface roughness. The land use configuration was generated with the aid of AERSURFACE, via U.S. Geological Survey Enhanced National Land Cover Data (USGS NLCD).

The non-default option of "*Adjust Surface Friction Velocity (ADJ_U*)*" was applied for consistency with the use of LOWWIND3 option in AERMOD to better resolve dispersion associated with light wind conditions, in line with the US EPA AERMOD guide.

5.3.3 Emission sources

Generator stack parameters

Modelled stack parameters were developed for this assessment using information provided by the Client and manufacturer specifications for the indicative generator equipment selection. Stack design parameters per generator are summarised in Table 11.

The manufacturer's specification datasheet is provided in Appendix B, which provides the emissions for particulate matter, NO_x , CO and hydrocarbon.

Particulate matter

The emission data taken from the manufacturer's specification datasheet refers only to "particulate matter", with no reference to the size of the particulate matter. Table 43 of the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI 2008)¹⁵ shows that emission factors of PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ from large stationary diesel engines are the same. On this basis, it has been assumed that the particulate matter emission rate applies to both PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ size components.

Volatile Organic Compounds

Hydrocarbons are organic compounds composed primarily of carbon and hydrogen atoms. Many of these compounds are volatile, which can easily vaporise into the atmosphere at normal atmospheric conditions (room temperature and atmospheric pressure) and are typically referred to as volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The proportion of VOCs within the hydrocarbon emission has not been provided in the generator's specification datasheet in Appendix B. Therefore, it is assumed that 100% of the hydrocarbon emission from the generator would be VOCs, which is expected to provide a level of conservatism.

For internal combustion engines, VOCs are often associated with primary toxic air pollutants such as benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and xylene (BTEX). Among these pollutants, benzene is one of the major components within VOCs discharged from a diesel combustion engine. In this case, compliance with Benzene would typically result in compliance with all other VOC pollutants. The proportion of benzene or all other pollutants has not been provided in the manufacturer's specification datasheet. Reference to the NPI 2008 has therefore been made to approximate Benzene emission concentration from the Proposal's diesel generator, as a proportion relative to the total VOCs.

Stack Characteristics and Emission Inventory

The generator exhaust stack characteristics and the associated emission inventory are summarised in Table 11.

¹⁵ National Pollution Inventory (NPI) – *Emission estimation technique manual for Combustion engines*, Version 3.0, June 2008.

Table 11 – Standby generator stack design parameters and emission inventory

5.3.4 NOx to NO2 conversion

The air quality model predicts concentrations of nitrogen oxides which is a mixture of $NO₂$ and nitric oxide (NO). Both gases react in the atmosphere, particularly with ozone. In general, the nitrogen oxides are mainly emitted as nitric oxide and this converts to $NO₂$ in the atmosphere. The Approved Methods impact assessment criteria have been set for $NO₂$, as this is the pollutant most impactful to human health, and therefore it is important that an appropriate conversion rate is used to calculate $NO₂$ from modelled NO_x concentrations.

For this assessment, a photochemical conversion for short-term concentrations (i.e. hourly average) from NO_x to $NO₂$ were determined in accordance with the US EPA's Ozone Limiting Method¹⁶ (OLM), as per Section 8.1.2 of the Approved Methods.

OLM assumes NO conversion to NO2 by reaction with ambient ozone. The reaction is assumed to be instantaneous and irreversible and can be applied on an hourly basis. Several studies have been undertaken to evaluate the accuracy of the OLM method, and show that OLM has a tendency to overpredict the NO_2/NO_x ratios¹⁷,¹⁸, which adds a level of conservatism to the assessment.

The OLM equation for calculating $NO₂$ is provided below:

 $NO_{2\ (total)} = [ISR \times NO_{x\ (predict)}] + Minimum [\{(1-ISR) \times NO_{x(predict)}\} \ or \{({46}/_{48}) \times O_{3\ (bckgnd)}\}] + NO_{2\ (bckgnd)}$

Where,

 $ISR =$ In-stack NO₂/NO_x ratio

The OLM assumes a default 10% of the NO_x was initially NO₂ upon release, equating to an in-stack $NO₂/NO_x$ ratio of 0.1. This ISR is generally appropriate for combustion sources¹⁹. On this basis, the simplified OLM equation is:

 $NO_{2\ (total)} = [0.1 \times NO_{x\ (predict)}] + Minimum[\{0.9 \times NO_{x(predict)}\} \ or \ \{(46/(48) \times O_{3\ (bckgnd)}\}] + NO_{2\ (bckgnd)}$

The adopted NO₂ and ozone background concentrations for the OLM method are detailed in Sections 4.2.4.

¹⁶ Cole, H. S., & Summerhays, J. E. (1979). *A Review of Techniques Available for Estimating Short-Term NO2 concentrations*. *J. Air Poll. Cont. Assoc., 29:8*, 812-817. doi:10:1080/00022470.1979.10470866.

¹⁷ Hendrick, E., Tino, V., Hanna, S., & Egan, B. (2013). *Evaluation of NO2 predictions by the plume volume molar ratio method (PVMRM) and ozone limiting method (OLM) in AERMOD using new field observations*. J. Air & Waste Mgt. Assoc., 844-854. doi:10.1080/10962247.2013.798599

¹⁸ Podrez, M. (2015). *An update to the ambient ratio method for 1-h NO2 air quality standards dispersion modelling. Atm. Env., 163-170.*

¹⁹ AGL (2019). *Newcastle Power Station – Air Quality Impact Assessment*. Project No.: 0468623/AQIA/R4. Version 7.0. Revision R4. 30 October 2019.

6. Assessment of potential construction impacts

There is the potential for dust generation associated with the construction of the Proposal. In addition, exhaust emissions from construction plant, machinery and vehicles may also generate impacts on local air quality. Such emissions are associated with the combustion of fossil fuels during vehicle movement and the operation of on-site plant and construction machinery. No diesel fuelled generators are proposed for use onsite during construction.

All dust-generating activities associated with construction would occur within the subject site. These include construction of an access road, pavements, culvert and other ancillary works and earthworks and construction of buildings associated with the Proposal. The closest sensitive receivers are located at 1.6 km south of the subject site boundary. Given the distance of sensitive receivers from potential dust generating activities at the subject site and the quantum of dustgenerating activities that would be required, it is anticipated that the risk of amenity/nuisance issues and human health impacts would be very low.

While the activities described above are typical for any construction site, with a low risk identified, management measures to control the generation and spread of dust would need to be outlined in a construction environmental management plan (CEMP) for the Proposal, that is then implemented onsite as part of the best practice.

7. Assessment of potential operational impacts

7.1 Scenario 1 – Justified worst-case scenario (all generators operating in a loss of mains power situation)

This section addresses the potential air quality impact from the operation of all standby generators under worst case conditions, due to a loss of mains power, where all generators would run simultaneously to provide the full back up power required.

7.1.1 Nitrogen dioxide

The highest 1-hour average ground level concentrations (GLCs) for NO₂ have been predicted at each of the assessed sensitive receivers. The results are shown in Table 12, which indicate that the cumulative $NO₂ GLCs$ (i.e. inclusive of background concentrations) are predicted to exceed the impact assessment criterion at the nearby commercial/industrial and residential receivers, with the highest concentration predicted at receiver ID C5 (potential future commercial area) by up to threeand-a-half fold.

The concentrations shown in Table 12 represent the highest possible concentrations during a loss of mains power, with all generators operating and coinciding with worst-case meteorological conditions. However, the likelihood of this scenario occurring is expected to be very rare at the subject site (refer to Section 3.2.1).

Table 12 – Predicted 100th percentile 1-hour NO2 concentrations (Scenario 1)

The predicted cumulative GLCs across the modelled domain are shown as contour plots in Appendix F.

7.1.2 Particulate matter

The 100th percentile 24-hour averaged GLCs for PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ have been predicted at each of the assessed sensitive receivers, which are shown in Table 13.

The results show that the cumulative PM_{10} GLCs (i.e. inclusive of background concentrations) are predicted to meet the impact assessment criterion of 50 μ g/m³ at all assessed sensitive receivers. The predicted PM_{2.5} GLCs are predicted to meet the impact assessment criterion of 25 μ g/m³ at all assessed sensitive receivers, except at commercial receivers ID C4 (JAYCAR Electronics) and C5 (potential future commercial area) by almost one-and-a-half folds. However, it is unlikely that standby generators would need to operate for a continuous 24-hour period in an event of loss of mains power scenario. Therefore, this is expected to provide a conservative assessment. Further, as previously discussed, the likelihood of this scenario occurring is expected to be very rare at the subject site (refer to Section 3.2.1).

7.1.3 All other pollutants

The predicted $100th$ percentile highest GLCs for all other assessed pollutants (CO, SO₂, Benzene and PAH) are summarised in Table 14 and Table 16. The results show that CO, SO₂, Benzene and PAH are predicted to be below the relevant impact assessment criteria at the assessed sensitive receivers, except for predicted 24-hour average SO₂ concentrations at some of the assessed commercial sensitive receivers (ID C2, C3 and C5). As previously mentioned, it is unlikely that standby generators would need to operate for a continuous 24-hour period in a loss of mains power scenario, therefore the approach taken provides a conservative assessment.

Table 14 – Predicted 100th percentile GLCs for 8-hour CO and 24-hour SO2 (Scenario 1)

Table 15 – Predicted 100th percentile 1-hour concentrations for all other assessed pollutants (Scenario 1)

Table 16 – Predicted 100th percentile 15-minute GLCs for CO (Scenario 1)

7.2 Scenario 2 – Realistic operations (routine maintenance)

The on-duty standby generators would undergo routine maintenance and testing to make sure they are operational if required during a power outage. Routine maintenance follows a prescribed testing regime as shown in Section 3.2.1. For the Proposal, it is anticipated that a maximum of three generators would be tested at any one time on a fortnightly basis, under no-load. Up to one generator to be tested during the quarterly and yearly period, with 70% and 100% load respectively. The Building 1 and 1A generators will not be tested at the same time as the Proposal's generators.

The emission rates for relevant pollutants under different loads are presented in Section 5.3.3, Table 11. The air quality assessment during maintenance scenario considered the following events:

- Three generators under no-load (based on 10% load emission data) being tested concurrently. This assumes generators tested are located next to each other. It is noted that during this testing scenario, there would be up to five minutes run time per three generators tested. The approach taken in the modelling assumes that a group of three generators is tested continuously during the daytime period, this provides a level of conservatism and in reality predicted concentrations would be much lower.
- One generator under 100% or 70% load (whichever has the greatest emission under different pollutant) being tested.

7.2.1 Nitrogen dioxide

The $100th$ percentile NO₂ GLCs under routine maintenance at each of the assessed sensitive receivers have been predicted in Table 17, taking into consideration the worst impact from both three-tested generators (no-load) and single generator-tested (70% or 100% load).

The results show the cumulative $NO₂$ concentrations (i.e. inclusive of background concentrations) are all predicted to be below the impact assessment criterion, with the highest predicted concentration of 144.8 μ g/m³ at receiver ID C3 (Commercial receiver: FX Factory), which is 88 % of the NO2 impact assessment criterion. This indicates that predicted 1-hour NO2 concentrations at nearby sensitive receivers meet the impact assessment criteria under all routine maintenance conditions.

Table 17 – Predicted 100th percentile 1-hour NO2 concentrations (Scenario 2)

Note:

As the model is run for each hour of the year with contemporaneous background data for NO_2 and O_3 , the worst case cumulative concentrations are dominated by an elevated background concentrations which occurred 8pm on 22 September 2017. The worst-case incremental concentrations are based on the hours where modelled emissions coincide with worst case meteorological conditions for each receiver. The same understanding applies to all other assessed pollutants.

7.2.2 All other pollutants

All other pollutants have been predicted to meet the relevant impact assessment criteria under the realistic operations scenario. The predicted results are summarised in Table 18 to Table 24.

- The highest predicted PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ cumulative GLCs at the assessed sensitive receivers are 39.6 μ g/m³ and 23.1 μ g/m³, respectively.
- The highest predicted cumulative 8-hour, 1-hour and 15-minute CO GLCs at the assessed sensitive receivers are 1340.7 μ g/m³, 1904.5 μ g/m³, 2513.0 μ g/m³, respectively.
- The highest predicted cumulative 24-hour and 1-hour $SO₂ GLCs$ at the assessed sensitive receivers are 32.8 μ g/m³ and 76.0 μ g/m³, respectively.
- The highest predicted incremental 1-hour benzene GLC at the assessed sensitive receivers is $0.2450 \mu g/m^3$.
- The highest predicted incremental 1-hour PAH GLC at the assessed sensitive receivers is $0.00000736 \,\mathrm{\mu g/m^3}$.

Overall, predicted concentrations at nearby identified sensitive receivers during maintenance and testing periods will meet all relevant impact assessment criteria for all assessed pollutants. On this basis, it is concluded that the operation of the standby generators during maintenance and testing activity would not significantly impact air quality at nearby sensitive receivers

Table 18 – Predicted 100th percentile 24-hour PM10 concentrations (Scenario 2)

Table 19 – Predicted 100th percentile 24-hour PM2.5 concentrations (Scenario 2)

Table 20 – Predicted 100th percentile GLCs for 8-hour CO (Scenario 2)

SSD

Receiver ID 24-Hour Ground Level Concentrations (µg/m³) – 3 Generators tested24-Hour Ground Level Concentrations (µg/m³) – 1 Generator testedCriteria Comply Incremental Cumulative Cumulative Incremental Cumulative Cumulative Incremental Cumulative C1 1 2.6 1 29.1 0.9 27.4 57 Yes **C2** 2.3 28.8 0.8 27.3 Yes **C3** 1.8 28.3 0.6 27.1 Yes **C4** 1 2.1 28.6 0.7 27.2 1 Yes **C5** 6.3 32.8 2.1 28.6 Yes **I1** 1.0 27.5 0.4 26.9 Yes **I2** 0.9 27.4 0.3 26.8 Yes **I3** 1.1 27.6 0.4 26.9 Yes **R1** 1 0.0 1 26.5 0.0 26.5 26.5 Yes **R2** 1 0.0 1 26.5 0.0 1 26.5 Yes **R3** 1 0.0 1 26.5 0.0 1 26.5 R3 26.5 Xes **R4** 1 0.0 1 26.5 0.0 1 26.5 Xes **R5** 1 0.0 1 26.5 0.0 1 26.5 R5 26.5 1 Yes **R6** 0.1 26.6 0.0 26.5 Yes **R7** 1 0.0 1 26.5 0.0 26.5 26.5 Yes **R8** 1 0.1 1 26.6 0.0 0.0 26.5 1 Yes

Table 21 – Predicted 100th percentile GLCs for 24-hour SO2 (Scenario 2)

Table 22 – Predicted 100th percentile 1-hour concentrations for CO and SO2 (Scenario 2)

Table 23 – Predicted 100th percentile 15-minute and 10-minute GLCs for CO and SO2 (Scenario 2)

Table 24 – Predicted 100th percentile 1-hour concentrations for Benzene and PAH (Scenario 2)

SSD

7.3 POEO (Clean Air) Regulation – Standard of Concentrations

Clause 73 of the POEO (Clean Air) Regulation 2022 exempts emergency electricity generation comprising a stationary reciprocal internal combustion engine from the air impurities Standard of nitrogen dioxide and nitric oxide concentrations specified in Schedule 2 in relation to that plant, if the plant is used for a total of not more than 200 hours per year.

Based on the likely maintenance schedule outlined in Table 6, the Proposal is considered as nonscheduled premises, the Proposal shall comply with the Schedule 2 Part 3 of the Standard of Concentrations for non-scheduled premises.

Table 3 below shows that the generator emissions for particles associated with the Proposal are below the Standard of Concentration of 100 mg/m^3 .

Table 25 – POEO (Clean Air) Regulation Schedule 2 Part 3 – Standards of concentrations assessment

8.Environmental management measures

This section describes the measures to mitigate against, monitor and manage any potential adverse air quality impacts described in Sections 6 and 7.

The dust emitting activities assessed above can be greatly reduced or eliminated by applying mitigation and management measures. It is anticipated that with the implementation of effective management measures, the environmental effect would not be significant in most cases. Table 26 outlines the air quality mitigation and management measures recommended for the subject site. These measures should be included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) as a specific air quality management sub-plan.

Operation of the Proposal is not anticipated to significantly impact local air quality, however specific mitigation or management measures are proposed for the operational phase to minimise the air quality impact during maintenance.

Table 26 – Environmental management measures for Air Quality impacts

9.Summary of residual impacts

This section provides a summary of the construction and operational risks both pre-mitigation and any residual impacts remaining after the implementationof the management measures describe in Section 8. Pre-mitigation and residual impacts are summarised in Table 27.

Table 27 – Summary of pre-mitigation and residual impacts

10. References

AGL, 2019. *Newcastle Power Station – Air Quality Impact Assessment*. Project No.: 0468623/AQIA/R4. Version 7.0. Revision R4. 30 October 2019.

Australian Government, Department of Agriculture Water and Environment, 2021. *The National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure*.

Cole, H. S., & Summerhays, J. E., 1979. *A Review of Techniques Available for Estimating Short-Term NO2 concentrations*. J. Air Poll. Cont. Assoc., 29:8, 812-817. doi:10:1080/00022470.1979.10470866.

DPIE, 2019. *New South Wales Annual Compliance Report 2017*, National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

Endeavour Energy, 2021. *Distribution Annual Planning Report,* December 2021

Hendrick, E., Tino, V., Hanna, S., & Egan, B., 2013. *Evaluation of NO2 predictions by the plume volume molar ratio method (PVMRM) and ozone limiting method (OLM) in AERMOD using new field observations*. J. Air & Waste Mgt. Assoc., 844-854. doi:10.1080/10962247.2013.798599

National Pollution Inventory, June 2008. *Emission estimation technique manual for combustion engines*, Version 3.0.

NSW, 1997. *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* – Section 128

NSW, 2022. *Protection of the Environment Operations (Clean Air) Regulation*.

NSW EPA, 2022. *Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in New South Wales*.

OEH, 2018. *NSW Annual Air Quality Statement 2017*, The State of NSW and Office of Environment and Heritage.

Pacific Environment, 2016. *Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, Western Sydney Airport EIS – Local Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment,* ID. 9417F. Doc no. AQU-NSW-001-9417E. Rev. R2. Sydney, NSW.

Pacific Environment, 2016. *Energy from Waste Facility – Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessment:* The Next Generation, ID. 21292C. Doc no. AQU-NS-001-21292C. Rev. 5. Eastern Creek, NSW.

Podrez, M., 2015. *An update to the ambient ratio method for 1-h NO2 air quality standards dispersion modelling*. Atm. Env., 163-170.

US EPA, 1995. *User's Guide for the Industrial Source Complex (ISC3) Dispersion Models*, Volume 1 and Volume 2, US EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards Emissions, Monitoring, and Analysis Division Research Triangle Park, North Caroline.

Appendix A **Masterplan drawing**

GENTON

SITE AREA SCHEDULE

TITLE.

0 5 10 15 20 25 m 1 : 500 **JOB NO. DATE DISCLAIMER:** Drawing for information purposes only **SCALE : PROJECT. DRAWING** SSDA-052 $1:500 @ A1$ ECHIDNA PROPOSED SITE MASTERPLAN 2207 07/18/22

Melbourne Level 3, 125 Flinders Lane VIC 3000 +61 3 9078 3686 **Sydney** Level G, 71 York Street NSW 2000 +61 2 9696 5002 **Web** genton.com.au

Appendix B

Standby generator specification

Building 1

3516E Diesel Generator Sets **Electric Power**

Package Performance

 $\overline{}$ rng/Nm² levels are corrected to 5% O₂. Contact your local Cat dealer for further information

Building 1A

Application data¹⁾

 \mathbf{r} and \mathbf{r} and \mathbf{r} are a subset of the state of \mathbf{r}

Standard and optional features

System ratings (kW/kVA)

 $*$ cos phí = 0.8

Proposal

A Rolls-Rayce
solution

Appendix C **Local meteorological conditions for year 2016-2020**

Appendix D **Background air quality for year 2016-2020**

Sulfur Dioxide Sulfur Dioxide

0.0

- -

Ξ

E

≣

E

Ē

E

Е ⊑

÷

Ε

ᄐ $-$

1/01/2020 9/01/2020 18/01/2020 26/01/2020 4/02/2020 12/02/2020 21/02/2020 29/02/2020 9/03/2020 17/03/2020 26/03/2020 3/04/2020 12/04/2020 20/04/2020 29/04/2020 7/05/2020 16/05/202024/05/2020 2/06/2020 10/06/2020 $\frac{19}{6}$ 19/06/2020 27/06/2020 6/07/2020 14/07/2020 23/07/2020 31/07/2020 9/08/2020 17/08/2020 26/08/20203/09/2020 12/09/2020 20/09/2020 29/09/2020 7/10/2020 16/10/2020 24/10/20202/11/2020 10/11/2020 19/11/2020 27/11/2020 6/12/2020 14/12/2020 23/12/202031/12/2020

Nitrogen Dioxide Nitrogen Dioxide

1/01/2020 9/01/2020 18/01/2020 26/01/2020 4/02/2020 12/02/2020 21/02/2020 29/02/2020 9/03/2020 17/03/2020 26/03/2020 3/04/2020 12/04/2020 20/04/2020 29/04/2020 7/05/2020 16/05/202024/05/2020 2/06/2020 10/06/2020 19/06/2020 27/06/2020 6/07/2020 14/07/2020 23/07/202031/07/2020 9/08/2020 17/08/2020 26/08/2020 $3/09/202$ 12/09/2020 20/09/2020 29/09/2020 7/10/2020 16/10/2020 24/10/20202/11/2020 10/11/2020 19/11/2020 27/11/2020 6/12/2020 14/12/2020 23/12/202031/12/2020

E

÷

۰.

Ė

₿

È

ككر

Ξ

Date

Carbon Monoxide Carbon Monoxide

Date

0.0 1.0 2.0

ਵਰ

ε Ł

ŧ E Ę

E

Ξ

Malaysia

= Ē

▅ 5

 $1/01/2020$ 9/01/2020 18/01/2020 26/01/2020 4/02/2020 12/02/2020 21/02/2020 29/02/2020 9/03/2020 17/03/2020 26/03/2020 3/04/2020 12/04/2020 20/04/2020 29/04/2020 7/05/2020 16/05/202024/05/2020 2/06/2020 10/06/2020 $\frac{19}{6}$ 19/06/2020 27/06/2020 6/07/2020 14/07/2020 23/07/202031/07/2020 9/08/2020 17/08/2020 26/08/20203/09/2020 12/09/2020 20/09/2020 29/09/2020 7/10/2020 16/10/2020 24/10/20202/11/202010/11/2020 19/11/2020 27/11/2020 6/12/2020 14/12/2020 23/12/202031/12/2020

Date

0.0 2.0

÷

<u>i an</u>

1/01/2020 9/01/2020 18/01/2020 26/01/2020 4/02/2020 12/02/2020 21/02/2020 29/02/2020 9/03/2020 17/03/2020 26/03/2020 3/04/2020 12/04/2020 20/04/2020 29/04/2020 7/05/2020 16/05/202024/05/2020 2/06/2020 10/06/2020 $\frac{19}{6}$ 19/06/2020 27/06/2020 6/07/202014/07/202023/07/202031/07/2020 9/08/2020 17/08/2020 26/08/20203/09/2020 12/09/2020 20/09/2020 29/09/2020 7/10/2020 16/10/2020 24/10/20202/11/2020 10/11/2020 19/11/2020 27/11/2020 6/12/2020 14/12/2020 23/12/202031/12/2020

Particulate **Particulate Matter PM10Matter** PM₁₀

Date

Particulate **Particulate Matter PM2.5Matter** PM_{2.5}

 $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty}$

Appendix E **Modelled generator stacks coordinates**

Appendix F

Predicted generator emissions – Dispersion modelling contours (Scenario 1)

F.1 NO2 (1-hour average) - Incremental

F.2 NO2 (1-hour average) - Cumulative

F.3 CO (1-hour average) - Incremental

F.4 CO (1-hour average) - Cumulative

F.5 CO (8-hour average) - Incremental

F.6 CO (8-hour average) - Cumulative

F.7 SO2 (1-hour average) - Incremental

F.8 SO2 (1-hour average) - Cumulative

F.9 SO2 (24-hour average) - Incremental

F.10 SO2 (24-hour average) - Cumulative

F.11 Benzene (1-hour average) - Incremental

F.12 PAH (1-hour average) - Incremental

F.13 PM10 /PM2.5 (24-hour average) – Incremental

F.14 PM10 (24-hour average) – Cumulative

F.15 PM2.5 (24-hour average) – Cumulative

