

Managing noise impact at Rutherglen Battery

Noise is an understandable concern for rural neighbours when a new project is proposed. Noise from the Rutherglen Battery has been assessed against clear and rigorous requirements designed to limit amenity impacts. This details what AMPYR is doing to keep things quiet — during construction and for the life of the project.



THE BOTTOM LINE

The battery is designed to meet day and night noise limits from all receivers.

01 How noise is measured

Sound is measured in decibels (dB). A battery makes sound mainly from inverters, cooling systems and transformers — a steady, hum rather than sudden loud noises. The rules focus on the level of noise that neighbours actually hear at home, and set clear noise limits for specific times of the day.

DAYTIME

7:00 am – 6:00 pm

50 dB(A)

All construction is confined to these hours.

EVENING

6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

50 dB(A)

Outdoor areas like verandahs are considered.

NIGHT-TIME

10:00 pm – 7:00 am

37 dB(A)

The strictest test — about 30 dB indoors.

Governed by:

EPP Noise 2019

GRC Planning Scheme — PO13

State Code 27 — PO20 & PO21

02 What the assessment found

An independent study by Matrix Acoustics placed two monitors at the nearest homes, recording levels every 15 minutes — day, evening and night — for 12 days. The night-time model assumed a worst case: 132 inverters and 396 battery units running at full capacity at once.

Location	Time Period	Limit	Predicted	Result
Nearest home (on the property) — no barrier	10pm - 7am	37	39	Exceedance
Nearest home (on the property) — with berm	10pm - 7am	37	37	Complies
All 14 neighbouring residences	10pm - 7am	37	20–35	Complies
Construction (all residences)	7am - 5pm	50	<43	Complies

YOUR CONTACT

Darren Chesterfield
Community Partnership & Impact Director

EMAIL
community@ampyrenergy.com

PHONE
0492 052 405



Final assessments for the Project will be published on the AMPYR website before Development Application submission.

Scan the QR code or visit the Rutherglen page at ampyr.com.au

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03 How this translates

- **120 dB** is the level a sulphur-crested cockatoo can reach at close range, comparable to a rock concert or a chainsaw, and loud enough to be uncomfortable and cause hearing damage with prolonged exposure.
- **50 dB** is comparable to the steady low hum of a modern fridge and is soft enough that you can easily talk over it, sleep near it, or focus on work without being distracted
- **37 dB** is very quiet, comparable to a soft whisper, a library reading room, or a peaceful bedroom at night.

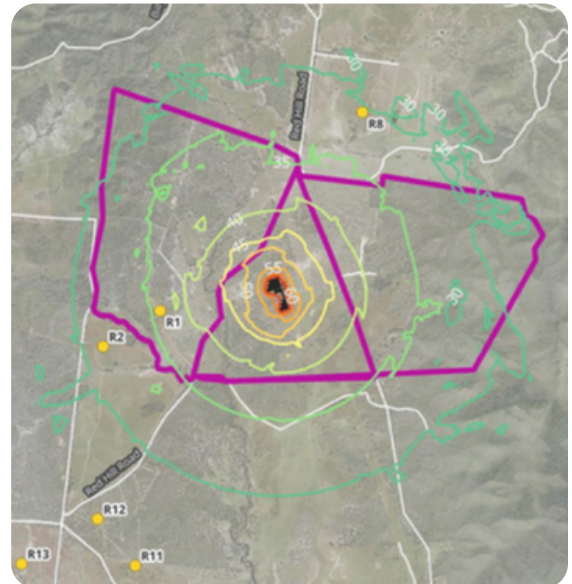
With the planned 2.7 m earth berm on the western boundary, every one of the 15 assessed homes meets the noise limits. All figures are dB(A).



- At night the battery is modelled at **37 dB** — within the quiet rural range already present at Rutherglen.

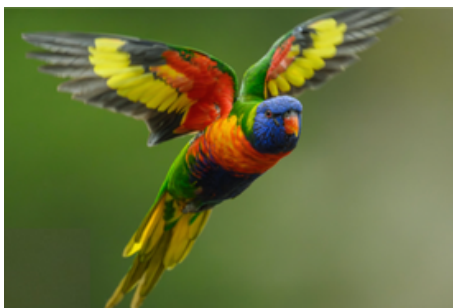
04 Management measures

- 1 Earth berm**
A 2.7 m grassed mound along the western and northern edges brings every location within limits.
- 2 Daytime construction only**
All works run 7 am–6 pm. No night-time construction is planned.
- 3 Equipment setbacks**
Inverters and batteries sit at least 60 m from the site boundary.
- 4 Post-install monitoring**
Night-time monitoring confirms performance once running — if adjustments are needed, we make them.



Modelled noise contours. Coloured rings show how quickly sound falls away toward the assessed homes (R1–R14).

05 Noise & local wildlife



Operational noise is expected to have **no significant impact on local wildlife**. The site sits on cleared pasture, buffered from native habitat by open farmland, and noise levels are low and steady, well below common rural sources like farm machinery, road traffic, or passing trains. Because the sound is continuous rather than sudden, it is less likely to disturb wildlife, which is already accustomed to the existing rail line and farming activity nearby.

Birds & calling animals

A steady low hum near the quiet rural background is far less disruptive than sudden or high-pitched noise.

Microbats

Bats echolocate at ultrasonic frequencies and are not sensitive to the low hum of the equipment.

