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Acoustics & Audio Production
ABN: 42 797 265 577
Phone: 0466 660 629
acoustics.ap@gmail.com
www.acoustics-ap.com.au

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ACOUSTIC REPORT

PROPOSED PADEL TENNIS COURTS

7/9 BALLARAT ROAD, NORTH GEELONG VIC 3215

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INTRODUCTION

Acoustics & Audio Production has been engaged to undertake an assessment of the acoustical considerations of the proposed Padel ball court addition at the Northern end of The City of Geelong Bowls Club located at 7/9 Ballarat Road, NORTH GEELONG VIC 3215.

This assessment was requested to form part of, and in support of, a planning application from The City of Geelong Bowls to the City of Greater Geelong, and considers the following:

- Noise associated with:
  - Padel tennis sport activity;
  - Conversational noise; and
  - Patron/member access and egress to and from the facility.

- Existing ambient noise levels currently experienced at both the Geelong Bowls Club and the surrounding noise sensitive residential receivers.

- Environmental Protection Act (Vic) 2017; and

- Applicable guidance noise level.

The objectives of this acoustic report are:

- To protect the existing acoustic amenity of surrounding residential receivers;

- To ensure that the playing of Padel tennis within the proposed courts does not generate an unacceptable level of noise emission that adversely impacts the surrounding sensitive receivers;

- Identify the applicable noise objectives and criteria for the proposed Padel tennis courts; and

- To provide guidance on appropriate noise control and management that can be incorporated into the operations of the Padel tennis courts in order to ensure compliance to the applicable standards and regulations is achieved.

Results from the modelling conducted has then been evaluated and assessed against the appropriate criterion as stipulated within this report.

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SUMMARY

The objective of this assessment is to provide guidance to ensure the proposed site does not adversely affect the existing amenity currently experienced within area.

To conduct the assessment, we have conducted acoustic modelling of noise generated from the proposed Padel tennis courts under a noise emission 'worst case scenario' by which all potential noise source, occur simultaneously and with the proposed courts under maximum capacity (including spectators conversing outside of courts during play).

As the proposed Padel tennis courts is intending to operate between the hours of 7am to 9:30pm, both the day and evening guidance noise levels have been used for this assessment.

The results of our modelling have found that compliance the Guidance noise levels of L_{Aeq} 15min 50 dB (day) and 45 dB (evening) is achievable while under maximum capacity.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Geelong Bowls is proposing to install 6 Padel tennis courts used for both doubles and singles Padel tennis including and office and 'breakout area' with the development proposed to be installed on the Northern end of the City of Geelong Bowls located at t 7/9 Ballarat Road, NORTH GEELONG VIC 3215 (as shown in figure 1 below).

The breakout area is intended to be utilised by players as they rest or get ready for their next match, and consists of a picnic table, shade cloth and synthetic grass flooring. The proposed office/pro-shop is comprised of a 20-foot converted shipping container operated by 1 staff member and is intended to be utilised for reception check-ins, equipment hire and storage for patrons.

The proposed Padel tennis facilities are intended to be utilised by members of the local community for fun and exercise. The applicant is expecting to host one (1) Padel tennis tournament within the proposed site, each year, which caters for a maximum of 100 patrons allowed at the proposed site at any one time.

The intended operating hours of Padel tennis courts are provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Proposed Operating Hours of Padel Tennis Courts

Day	Time Period
All days – Monday to Sunday (including Public Holidays)	*7:00am to 9:30pm*

On special event days, Council approval will be sought prior to the event, consistent with other community activities.

Figure 1 below shows the location and layout of the proposed Padel tennis courts, which has been sourced from the client.

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Figure 1: Site Location and Layout of the Proposed Padel Tennis Courts, Office and Breakout Area.

Figure 2 below shows the 3D render layout of the proposed Project.



Figure 2: 3D Rendering of the Proposed 'Under-cover' Padel Tennis Courts, Office and Breakout Area

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RECEIVERS LOCATIONS

The nearest and potentially most affected areas have been identified in Table 2 below and illustrated in Figure 3 below. As sound attenuates over distance, and with the absence of any major reflecting surface, it is assumed that if the residences closest to the proposed site are compliant, then any residences located further away, will also be compliant.



Figure 3: Proposed Padel Tennis Court, surrounding receivers and noise monitoring locations.
(Source: Victoria – Department of Transport and Planning – VicPlan)

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Table 2 below identifies the location of the receivers used in this assessment

Table 2: Receiver Locations Surrounding the Project

Receiver Type	Reference	Address
Residential	R1	9 The Fairway, NORTH GEELONG
	R2	2/7 The Fairway, NORTH GEELONG
	R3	1/7 The Fairway, NORTH GEELONG
	R4	5 The Fairway, NORTH GEELONG
	R5	1/6 The Fairway, NORTH GEELONG
	R6	1/8 The Fairway, NORTH GEELONG
	R7	10 The Fairway, NORTH GEELONG
	R8	7 Birdie Court, NORTH GEELONG
	R9	1 Birdie Court, NORTH GEELONG
	R10	2 Birdie Court, NORTH GEELONG
Commercial	C1 – (Commercial)	7/9 Ballarat Road, NORTH GEELONG

PADEL RACQUETS

Padel Racquets are typically made from a combination of carbon fibre, fiberglass, and EVA foam with which the foam pad of the racquet providing some impact absorption aiding in minimising racquet – ball impact noise emissions. Padel racquets, like tennis racquets, hockey sticks, and golf clubs, are considered 'personal sporting equipment', which is commonly both chosen and purchased by individual players.

While the proposed club intends to provide a limited number of racquets for hire; it is expected that the majority of players use their own personal 'standardised' racquets, by which its material composition, and design can vary by brand.

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GUIDANCE NOISE LEVELS FOR ASSESSMENT

VICTORIAN LEGISLATION & GUIDELINES

The following publications are relevant to the assessment of operational noise from proposed Padel Tennis Courts in Victoria:

- Environment Protection Act 2017
- Environment Reference Standard
- Environment Protection Regulations 2021
- EPA Publication 1826.4 Noise limit and assessment protocol for the control of noise from commercial, industrial and trade premises and entertainment venues dated May 2021.

Details of the guidance and noise limits provided by these publications are provided below.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 2017

The Environment Protection Act 2017 (EP Act) provides the overarching legislative framework for the protection of the environment in Victoria.

The EP Act establishes a general environmental duty to minimise the risks of harm to human health or the environment from pollution or waste, including noise related amenity impacts, so far as reasonably practicable.

The EP Act also prohibits the emission of unreasonable noise from commercial and industrial trade premises. Specifically, the EP Act states that:

> A person must not, from a place or premises that are not residential premises—
> (a) emit an unreasonable noise; or
> (b) permit an unreasonable noise to be emitted

Under the EP Act, unreasonable noise means noise that:

> (a) is unreasonable having regard to the following—
> (i) its volume, intensity or duration;
> (ii) its character;
> (iii) the time, place and other circumstances in which it is emitted;
> (iv) how often it is emitted;
> (v) any prescribed factors; or
>
> (b) is prescribed to be unreasonable noise:

Further information about noises that are prescribed to be unreasonable are separately defined in regulations made under the EP Act (see next section).

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REGULATIONS 2021

The Environment Protection Regulations 2021 (EP Regulations) give effect to the EP Act by establishing prescriptive requirements for a range of environmental considerations including noise.

The noise requirements are defined according to the type of noise generating activity under consideration, and include definitions such as the types of noise sensitive areas where these requirements apply and assessment time periods.

In relation to noise from commercial, industrial and trade premises (related infrastructure), the EP Regulations specify that the prediction, measurement, assessment or analysis of noise within a noise sensitive area must be conducted in accordance with the Noise Protocol (see Section 3.5).

Noise from the related infrastructure is prescribed by the EP Regulations to be unreasonable for the purposes of the EP Act if it exceeds a noise limit or alternative assessment criterion determined in accordance with the Noise Protocol.

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OPERATIONAL NOISE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The following guidelines are referred to for this noise assessment:

EPA PUBLICATION 1826.5 – THE NOISE PROTOCOL

The Noise Protocol explains how to determine operational noise criteria for new and existing commercial, industrial and trade premises and entertainment venues as defined by the Environment Protection Regulations.

The Noise Protocol is a subordinate legislation document. It is required to be adhered to by law.

The Noise Protocol specifies the methodology to determine and assess against the regulatory noise limits applicable to operational noise. The regulatory noise limits apply at all nearby sensitive receptors during the operation of the project.

Meeting the regulatory noise limits does not mean the GED has been met. In addition to setting noise limits for industry, the Environment Protection Act requires that industry should take all reasonably practicable steps to eliminate or reduce the risk from noise.

The Noise Protocol also provides guidance for the assessment and management of cumulative noise from multiple industrial premises (existing and planned).

Table 3: Applicable Time Periods for the Project

Period	Time
Day	*7am to 6pm Monday to Saturday*
Evening	*6pm to 10pm on Weekdays and Saturdays and 7am to 10pm Sundays and Public Holidays*

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ENVIRONMENT REFERENCE STANDARD

The Environment Reference Standard (ERS) is a legislative instrument made under the EP Act which sets out environmental values for ambient sound that are sought to be achieved and maintained in Victoria and standards to support those values. The indicators and objectives within the standard provide a benchmark for comparing desired outcomes to the actual state of the environment, and a basis for assessing actual and potential risks to the environmental values.

The ERS is an environmental benchmark. It brings together a collection of environmental values, indicators and objectives that describe environmental and human health outcomes to be achieved or maintained in the whole or in parts of Victoria. These values, indicators and objectives are used to assess and report on changing environmental conditions by providing a reference point for decision makers to consider whether a proposal or activity is consistent with the environmental values identified in the ERS. The ERS also allows decision makers to evaluate potential impacts on human health and the environment that may result from a proposal or activity. The ERS does not specify requirements that must be met by environmental managers or other duty holders.

The ERS is primarily relevant for aspects of the environment that are not the subject of prescriptive regulation. These aspects include the noise from commercial premises and construction activities in natural areas, or the additional noise from public roads as a result of traffic associated with commercial activities.

Further, in the situations where the ERS is a relevant consideration, it is important to note that the ERS is not a compliance standard. Specifically, the values listed within the ERS are not prescribed noise limits, nor are they design criteria for proposed development.

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Indicators and objectives within the ERS are generally not relevant considerations where they relate to an aspect of the environment that is the subject of prescriptive regulation. For example, the ambient sound indicators and objectives will not be relevant when considering noise from wind turbines and commercial, industrial and trade premises at noise sensitive areas, as defined in the EP Regulations. This is because noise in these circumstances is regulated by specific provisions and noise limits in the EP Regulations and the associated Noise Protocol and NZS 6808.

The environmental values presented in the ERS and a description of each is provided in Table 4.

Table 4: Environmental values of the Ambient Sound Environment

Environmental Value	*Description of Environmental Value*
Sleep during the night	*An ambient sound level that supports sleep at night*
Domestic and recreational activities	*An ambient sound level that supports domestic and recreational activities in a residential setting*
Normal Conversations	*An ambient sound level that allows for normal conversation indoors, without a raised voice*
Child learning and development	*An ambient environment that allows for cognitive learning in children*
Human tranquillity and enjoyment outdoors in natural areas	*An ambient noise level that allows for the appreciation of the environment for its natural conditions and the restorative benefits of tranquil soundscapes and natural areas*
Musical Entertainment	*An ambient sound environment that recognises the community's demand for a wide range of musical instruments*

The ERS land use categories and their descriptions are outlined in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Land Use Categories and their Ambient Sound Environment

Land Use Category	*General Description*	*Planning Zones*
Category I	An urban form with distinctive features or characteristics of taller buildings, high commercial and residential intensity and high site coverage.	Industrial Zone 1 (IN1Z) Industrial Zone 2 (IN2Z) Port Zone (PZ) Road 1 Zone (RDZ1) Capital City Zone (CCZ) Docklands Zone (DZ)
Category II	Medium rise building form with a strong urban or commercial character. Typically contains mixed land uses including activity centres and larger consolidated sites, and an active public realm.	Industrial Zone 3 (IN3Z) Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z) Commercial 2 Zone (C2Z) Commercial 3 Zone (C3Z) Activity Centre Zone (ACZ) Mixed Use Zone (MUZ) Road 2 Zone (RDZ2)
Category III	Lower rise building form including lower density residential development and detached housing typical of suburban residential settings or in towns of district or regional significance.	Residential Growth Zone (RGZ) General Residential Zone (GRZ) Neighbourhood Residential Zone (NRZ) Urban Floodway Zone (UFZ) Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ) Urban Growth Zone (UGZ) [1]
Category IV	Lower density or sparse populations with settlements that include smaller hamlets, villages and small towns that are generally unsuited for further expansion. Land uses include primary industry and farming.	Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ) Township Zone (TZ) Rural Living Zone (RLZ) Green Wedge A Zone (GWAZ) Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ) Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) Green Wedge Zone (GWZ) Farming Zone (FZ) Rural Activity Zone (RAZ)
Category V	Unique combinations of landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity. These natural areas typically provide undisturbed species habitat and enable people to see and interact with native vegetation and wildlife.	Natural areas are classified as land within Category V irrespective of the planning zones that apply to that land.
Category I, II, III or IV – depending on surrounding land uses and the intent of the specific planning zone (which may have a diversity of uses) as specified in a schedule to the planning zone		Comprehensive Development Zone (CDZ) Priority Development Zone (PDZ) Special Use Zone (SUZ) Public Use Zone (PUZ)

[1] Urban Growth Zone (UGZ) is a Category III land use until the relevant precinct structure plan is adopted, at which time the approved land uses will determine the land use category.

The ERS indicators and objectives relevant to each land use category are described in Table 6 below.

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Table 6: Indicators and Objectives for the Ambient Sound Environment

Land Use Category	*General Description*	*Planning Zones*
Category I	Outdoor LAeq,8h from 2200 hrs to 0600 hrs Outdoor LAeq,16hr from 0600 hrs to 2200 hrs	55 dB L_{Aeq} *60* dB L_{Aeq}
Category II	Outdoor LAeq,8h from 2200 hrs to 0600 hrs Outdoor LAeq,16hr from 0600 hrs to 2200 hrs	50 dB L_{Aeq} 55 dB L_{Aeq}
Category III	Outdoor LAeq,8h from 2200 hrs to 0600 hrs Outdoor LAeq,16hr from 0600 hrs to 2200 hrs	40 dB L_{Aeq} 50 dB L_{Aeq}
Category IV	Outdoor LAeq,8h from 2200 hrs to 0600 hrs Outdoor LAeq,16hr from 0600 hrs to 2200 hrs	35 dB L_{Aeq} 40 dB L_{Aeq}
Category V	Qualitative	A sound quality that is conducive to human tranquility and enjoyment, having regard to the ambient natural soundscape.

Natural areas are a land-use category for which the ERS details desired outcomes in terms of noise level to be achieved or maintained in Victoria. The ERS defines natural areas as national parks, state parks, state forests, nature conservation reserves and wildlife reserves.

NOISE PROTOCOL – NOISE LIMITS

The Environmental Protection Authority Victoria Publication 1826.5 – *'Noise Limit and Assessment Protocol for the control of commercial, industrial and trade premises and entertainment venues'* is incorporated into the Environmental Protection Regulations 2021.

The publication provides a noise protocol that outlines the methodology for assessing the effective noise limits for new and existing commercial, industrial and trade premises as defined by the regulations. Under regulation 113, a person who conducts a prediction, measurement, assessment or analysis of noise within a noise sensitive area for the purposes of the *Environment Protection Act 2021* (the Act) or the Regulations (other than Part 5.3, Division 5 of the Regulations), must conduct the prediction, measurement, assessment or analysis in accordance with the Noise Protocol.

Predicted noise levels above those guidance noise levels would not necessarily mean that such activities should not be permitted, but it would suggest that the noise impacts should be considered by Council with regard to the impact on the existing residential amenity.

Community reaction to the noise from recreation is typically lower than that for other noise source types such as commercial or industrial activity, particularly in the vicinity of established recreation land uses. Noise from recreational activities are an existing feature of the site and residences close to recreational spaces typically accept recreational noise as part of their noise environment.

Additionally, it should be noted that developed guidance noise levels are independent from background noise levels or other acoustic features of the subject site. This may be considered a conservative approach in the event that the proposed site is subject to elevated background noise levels or regular high ambient noise levels.

For the proposed Padel Tennis Court Project, the noise criteria are derived using Noise Protocol Section 2.1, Noise Limits in urban areas for commercial, industrial and trade premises other than utilities and earth resources, which applies to mines and quarries.

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The Noise Limits are dependent on the following factors:

- Zoning, based on the planning scheme zoning (see figure 3 below);
- Time, based on time of day i.e. different limits apply at different times of the day;
- Background noise level (L_{A90}) in the noise sensitive area, in the absence of noise from commercial, industrial or trade operations; and
- Consideration must be given to cumulative noise from multiple current or future industries operation in the same area that can impact noise sensitive receptors.

As stated above, the calculation of noise limits requires the calculation of a zoning level which is based on land use in the surrounding area. The zoning level is then adjusted appropriately, depending on the background noise level. A zoning map is shown in Figure 3 below.

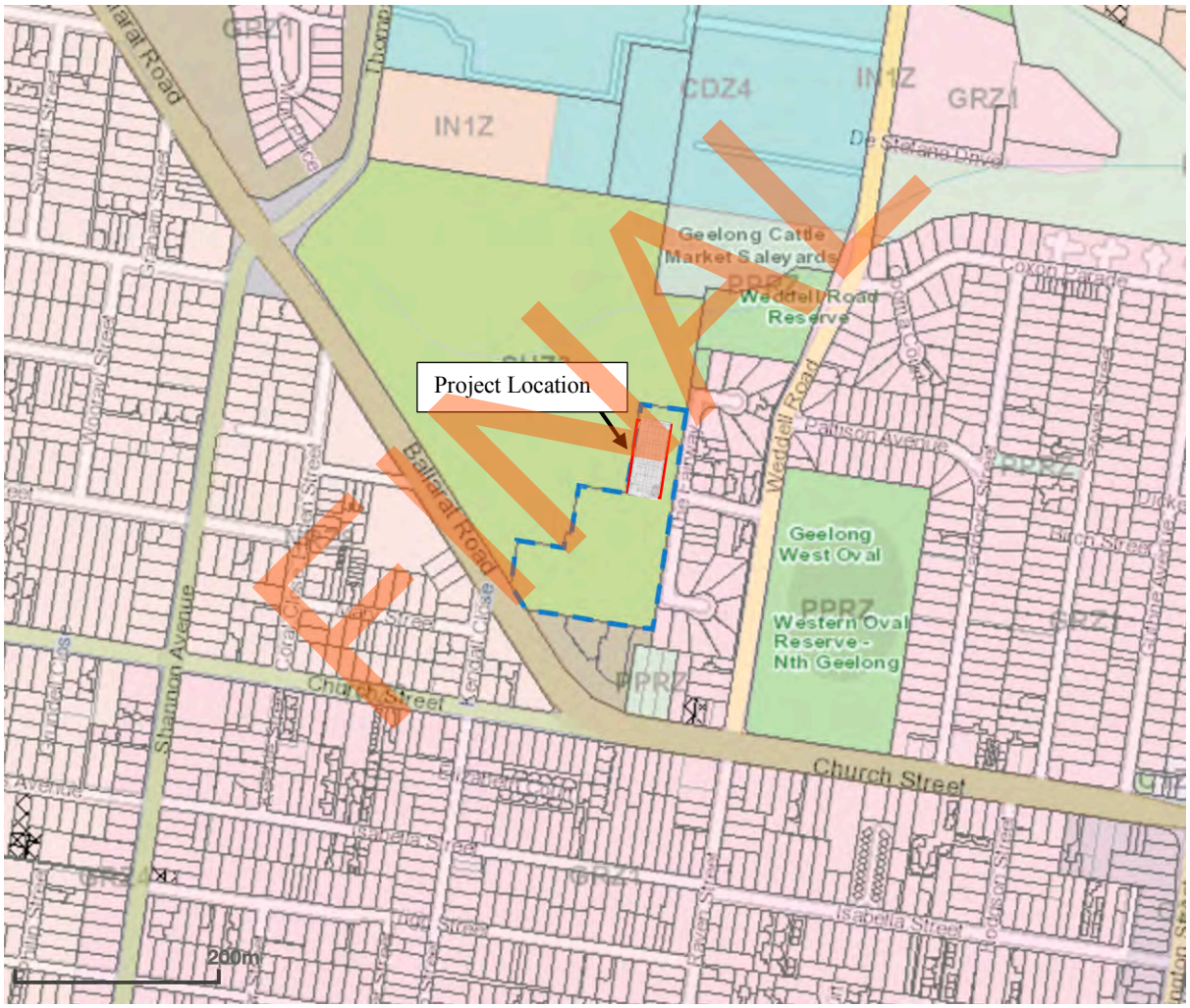


Figure 3: Zoning Diagram
(Source: Victoria Department of Transport and Planning – VicPlan)

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Table 7 below shows the Noise Limits applicable for the proposed Project.

Table 7: Noise Protocol Noise Limits for the Proposed Site

Assessment Period	Recommended Amenity Noise Level, dB $L_{Aeq\ 15min}$
Residential Receivers	
Day (0800 to 1800hrs)	$L_{Aeq,\ 15min}$ 50 dB(A)
Evening (1800-2200hrs)	$L_{Aeq,\ 15min}$ 45 dB(A)
Commercial Receiver	
When in use	$L_{Aeq,\ 15min}$ 55 dB(A)

NOISE ASSESSMENT

SOURCE NOISE LEVELS

In addition to limiting the reliability of background noise measurements where not practicable due to the distance from our office to the proposed site. However, in order to develop the appropriate source noise levels Acoustics & Audio Production (A&AP) has relied on the data compiled from previous noise assessments of Padel Tennis Courts compiled by A&AP.

The noise data sourced from previous noise assessments conducted by A&AP provides useful measurement data from Padel Tennis activities, both from individual Padel tennis racquet impacts as well as overall averaged sound level of Padel Tennis matches over longer time periods.

Consideration of the various datasets presented in the reference reports, aw well as library data for Padel Tennis match measurements previously conducted by A&AP indicates broad alignment to noise levels in the order of 58 dB $L_{Aeq\ 15min}$ for typical Padel Tennis matches. This is taken to represent one (1) doubles match at 2m from the source.

Table 8 below shows the measured noise levels derived from previous studies conducted by A&AP, which has been used for this assessment.

Table 8: Padel Tennis match activity source sound pressure levels used for assessment

Location	*Measured Level (dB)*				
	L_{Aeq}	L_{A90}	L_{A10}	L_{A1}	L_{Amax}
2 meters from court boundary	*57.7*	*46.1*	*60.1*	*68.8*	*81.9*

In addition to noise from Padel Tennis matches, vocal sources have been included in the model representing the vocal output of Padel Tennis users. It should be noted that the various Padel Tennis match measurements considered in developing the noise levels detailed in Table 6 above included some vocal components. However, in order to provide a more conservative assessment, specific separate vocal sources have also been included in the model.

Octave band data for vocal sources used in this assessment are detailed in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Vocal source sound pressure levels used for assessment

Source	Octave band centre frequency, Hz, dB $L_{aeq\ 15min}$							Overall
	63	*125*	*250*	*500*	*1000*	*2000*	*4000*	
Vocal output at 1m (1 person talking)	--	*51*	*59*	*64*	*63*	*56*	*49*	*66*

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The vocal source levels have been derived considering the average between the Raised and Loud male vocal output detailed in Table B2 of the Association of Australian Acoustical Consultants *'Licensed Premises Noise Assessment Technical Guide'*. While the Technical Guideline provides technical guidance for the assessment of licensed premises, useful reference data for vocal output is also provided.

The spectra and overall level have been adjusted assuming vocal emissions occur for approximately 30% of a representative 15 min period and is assumed to be distributed directionally i.e. all talkers are not facing the same direction.

It is noted that the AAAC guidelines noise levels do not provide spectral content at the 63 Hz octave band, as a typical voice does not have significant content at such low frequencies. On this basis the omission of 63 Hz data for vocal output is not considered a technical risk.

MODELLING SCENARIO

The modelling conducted for this assessment is based on a noise emission 'worst-case' scenario by which all 6 of the proposed Padel Tennis courts are being utilised in 'doubles' matches, breakout area at full capacity, and 6 patrons within the office area, with half of all the patrons conversing, simultaneously.

Due to the layout of the proposed site Padel tennis ball impacts have been distributed in the model based on the likely locations of these sources within each court. Similarly, vocal output has been distributed in the model based on the likely occurrence, with the breakout area, office and within each court.

The above scenarios will give an effective and representative full range of noise levels that may be associated with the intended use of the proposed site. In practice, it is expected that noise emissions from the site will be lower than that represented in this report as we have modelled the noise levels under a noise emission 'worst-case' scenario with the maximum number of potential noise sources occurring simultaneously within the proposed site.

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PREDICTION METHOD & MODELLING PARAMETERS

A 3D digital model of the site and the existing building environment surrounding the proposed site has been created using SoundPLAN propriety modelling software (version 8.2). This noise model has been used to calculate the expected noise levels at the surround nearest noise sensitive receivers, in accordance with ISO 9613-2:1996 Acoustics – Attenuation of Sound During Propagation Outdoors – Part 2: General Method of calculation (ISO 9613-2).

Modelling assumptions used for noise predictions are presented in Table 10 below, and are based on information and datasets referenced in this report as we as observations with respect to ground conditions such as ground type.

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Table 10: Noise Modelling Assumptions

Variable	Parameters used in noise modelling
3D design of the proposed Padel Tennis courts, breakout and office areas	7/9 Ballarat Road, NORTH GEELONG Project site plan
Ground Topography	Topography of areas surrounding the project are based on data compiled from VicPlan – Victoria Department of Planning and Transport, retrieved 2nd October 2025
Source Height	1 m above ground elevation of the proposed Padel Tennis courts
Receiver Height	Assessment height of 1.5 m above ground terrain.
Receiver Location	Positioned according to publicly available information (aerial imagery) and at the boundary of the surrounding noise sensitive receivers identified in this report.
Ground Factor	Ground Factor is G = 0.2 (hard ground)

ASSESSMENT AND DISCUSSION

Predicted noise levels at the noise sensitive receivers for the scenario identified in this report are summarised in Table 11 below

Table 11: Predicted noise levels associated with the proposed site

Location	Predicted Noise Level, dB $L_{Aeq\ 15min}$	Guidance Noise Level, dB $L_{Aeq\ 15min}$	
		Day	*Evening*
9 The Fairway	*25*	*50*	*45*
2/7 The Fairway	*29*	*50*	*45*
1/7 The Fairway	*29*	*50*	*45*
5 The Fairway	*35*	*50*	*45*
1/6 The Fairway	*40*	*50*	*45*
1/8 The Fairway	*39*	*50*	*45*
10 The Fairway	*38*	*50*	*45*
7 Birdie Court	*37*	*50*	*45*
1 Birdie Court	*34*	*50*	*45*
2 Birdie Court	*34*	*50*	*45*
7/9 Ballarat Road	*45*	*55*	*50*

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The 3D noise contour modelling for the Project is shown in Figure 4 below.

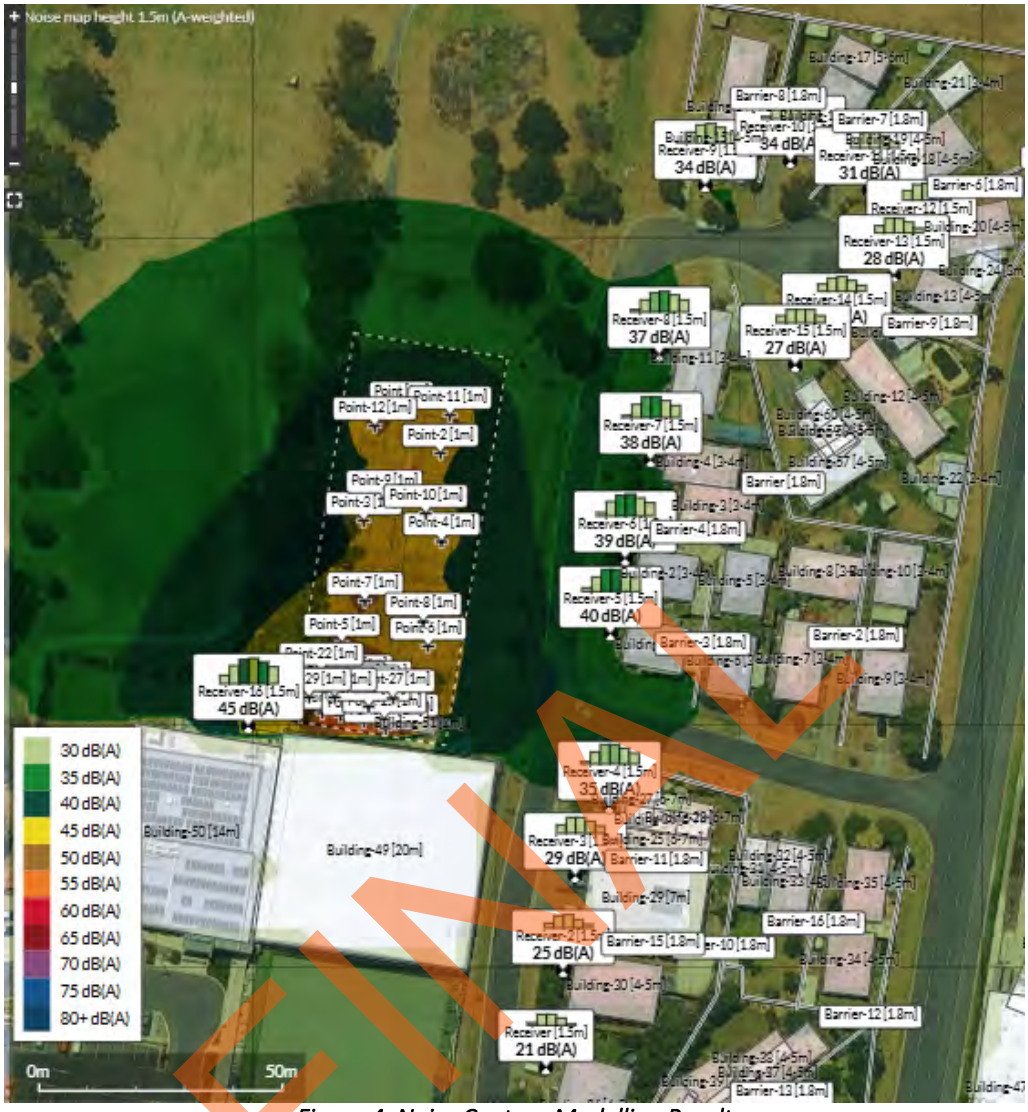


Figure 4: Noise Contour Modelling Results

Results from Table 11 above indicate that the noise generated from the proposed site is expected to be below the guidance noise levels developed for the Project, at all of the receiver locations. It is noted that noise from existing recreational activities area a predominant feature of the proposed Padel Tennis court site, as such, residents close to recreational spaces would be exposed to the noise from existing recreational activities, as part of their noise environment.

Based on the assessment and predicted noise levels detailed in this report, the proposed Project is indicated to be acoustically compatible with the surrounding area.

As with all community developments, in considering the appropriateness of this proposal, Council will need to consider the impact of noise against the community benefit of the facilities.

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CONCLUSION

Based on the information assessed, the proposed Padel Tennis courts are considered suitable for the intended purpose. Our assessment indicates that compliance to the guidance noise levels is achievable throughout the entirety of the sites intended operating hours.

I trust the above meets your requirements on the matter. Should you have any queries do not hesitate to contact our office.

Regards,



Ian Burman
(A.A.A.S)
Noise Officer: 14009
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