



Australian Government

## INFORMATION SHEET – NOISE TREATMENT FOR BUILDINGS

Albury Wodonga Hume Freeway – Ettamogah to Murray River  
May 2006

The Albury Wodonga Hume Freeway will link the Hume Freeway at Wodonga with the present Hume Highway at Ettamogah, north of Albury.

Abigroup has been contracted to design and construct the freeway. Major construction commenced in June 2005 with the freeway scheduled to open to traffic in mid 2007.

The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is managing the project in NSW. This section is fully funded by the Australian Government.

Abigroup is committed to working with the RTA to minimise the impact of the freeway on the local community. Treatment of residential properties is one way to minimise freeway noise where effective.

### **What's noise design and mitigation all about?**

The approach taken to the design of the Albury Wodonga Hume Freeway from Ettamogah to Murray River has been to lessen the impact where possible to assist in meeting noise targets. This has been achieved through the use of roadside treatments such as noise walls and landscaped mounds. Where practical the road has also been lowered to improve traffic noise and limit the extent of noise walls.

A combination of noise walls plus the architectural treatment of noise affected buildings will occur in some areas, while low-noise pavements south of Corrys Hill will also be used.

### **What are the target noise levels?**

Target noise levels for day time and night time traffic are established through the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation's *Environmental Criteria for Road Traffic Noise* and the RTA's *Environmental Noise Management Manual*. Both documents provide guidance on implementing the criteria.

The 'target' noise levels for the project are:

Target	New road*	Existing road*
Daytime (7am - 10pm)	55 dB(A)	60 dB(A)
Nighttime (10pm - 7am)	50 dB(A)	55 dB(A)

\* New road - generally south of Davey Road

\* Existing road - generally north of Davey Road

Where existing traffic noise already exceeds the target levels, and where it is not reasonable or feasible to reduce traffic noise to the target level, there is an 'allowance' criterion. This criterion is based on the current noise levels with an allowance for additional noise from the new road.

<b>New road</b>	Existing noise plus 0.5 dB(A)
<b>Existing road</b>	Existing noise plus 2 dB(A)

### **How much of an increase in outdoor traffic noise is needed to qualify for noise treatment at my residence?**

The predicted outdoor traffic noise level for the expected traffic flows in 2017 with the freeway open has to be at least 0.5 dB(A) higher than the traffic noise levels in 2005 without the freeway.

The predicted noise levels at a residence for expected 2017 traffic flows must also exceed the targets listed in the tables above in order for your residence to qualify for treatment.

### **What type of ventilation system will be supplied if my residence qualifies for treatment?**

A ducted or wall mounted ventilation system will be supplied, depending on what is most practical for your home. In general, where a roof cavity exists above a habitable area then a ducted ventilation system will be installed. In the case of the ground floor of a two storey building, a wall mounted system is more practical as there is nowhere to run the ducts.

**How much noise reduction can I expect if my residence has been treated??**

By allowing windows to be closed, property treatment will effectively reduce indoor noise levels by 10 dB(A) cutting the loudness of traffic noise by as much as one half.

**Why am I being offered ventilation?**

The windows can then be closed to reduce noise levels inside your dwelling. The provision of air in accordance with Australian Standards is required by the RTA so that an acceptable quantity of outside air is delivered to rooms that would otherwise be ventilated by an open window.

**Will I still be able to open my windows after my house is treated?**

Yes. You will have the same options you do now – you will be able to leave your doors and windows open or you can keep them closed. Traffic noise will be substantially reduced when you close your windows and doors and you can operate the ventilation system to maintain comfort as required by weather conditions.

**What happens if I refuse to accept a ventilation system or any other modifications to our dwelling?**

The noise treatment measures are offered as part of the Albury Wodonga Hume Freeway project. Homeowners are under no obligation to accept the proposed measures.

**Can I arrange the work myself?**

No. A thorough and consistent assessment of all dwellings needs to be conducted in accordance with a planned procedure. At the conclusion of the assessment, you will be offered appropriate noise mitigation measures. If you choose to accept this offer, the work will be undertaken by approved contractors supervised by an Abigroup representative.

**What happens if the noise levels are higher than predicted when the freeway opens to traffic?**

The designs to reduce noise are based on predicted traffic flow figures for the year 2017, 10 years after the freeway opens to traffic.

Noise monitoring will be carried out after the freeway opens to check the noise levels. This is one of the conditions of approval for the project. The monitoring program will be reviewed by the NSW Department of Environment and Conservation with results reported to the Department of Planning.

If outdoor noise levels are measured to be higher than the levels predicted for 2017, it may be necessary to undertake additional measures to reduce noise in the freeway corridor or at individual properties. The nature and extent of these additional measures is subject to the guidelines of the RTA's *Environmental Noise Management Manual*.

Any further work will be negotiated with individual property owners.

**Who do I contact if I have a problem after the freeway has opened?**

You can contact the Community Information Line on 1800 674 934 if you have questions after the freeway has opened.

**Where can I get more information?**

For more information on the project:  
Phone toll free 1800 674 934  
Email [albury@abigroup.com.au](mailto:albury@abigroup.com.au)  
Log on to [www.rta.nsw.gov.au/albury](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au/albury) or  
[www.auslink.gov.au/projects/natnet/NSW/cnnh066.aspx](http://www.auslink.gov.au/projects/natnet/NSW/cnnh066.aspx)  
Visit the Community Display Centre on Dallinger Road, Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm (excluding public holidays).



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