

## Lessons Learnt – Unattended Environmental Monitors

### Observation:

The project operated under the requirements imposed via a Section 61 consent pursuant to the Control of Pollution Act 1974. One requirement of the consent was for the implementation of a noise monitoring program comprising continuous logging of unattended noise monitors located around the project.

To satisfy this requirement, five Class 1 noise monitors were installed at locations in 2012. At the time these were considered 'top-of-range' monitors and were mains powered, but they did not contain a battery back-up power source as this technology was not available at the time.

In June and July 2017 technical issues were experienced with the monitors which resulted in several environmental incidents in which the monitors were offline and not recording data.

### Issues arising:

- Technical issues were experienced with the noise monitors, which went undetected by our external equipment provider.
- The project was unable to monitor for compliance with the Section 61 consent for some periods of time.
- This resulted in a breach of Section 61 compliance.

### Recommended actions:

- Provide long-term budget for monitoring equipment to be upgraded after two to three years to guarantee reliability an up-to-date technology.
- Provide monitoring equipment with back-up power supply so data will still be collected and the team alerted if power is disrupted.

