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## Austar Coal Mine

### Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Boardroom – Austar Main Administration Building, Middle Road, Paxton  
 Time: 9:31am – 10:13am  
 Date: 26 February 2020

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
Ashlee Baker	Community Representative
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
Carly McCormack (CM)	Austar Coal Mine
Julie McNaughton (JM)	Austar Coal Mine
John Rayner	Community Representative
Brian Wesley	Austar Coal Mine
Michael Gorman	NSW Police Service (Cessnock)
Justin Peterkin	Mining Engineering Manager
<b>Apologies</b>	
Peter Sturrock	Community Representative
Councillor Mark Lyons (ML)	Cessnock City Council Representative
<b>Copy of minutes</b>	
Councillor Bob Pynsent	Mayor of Cessnock City Council
Mr Joel Fitzgibbon MP	Federal Member for Hunter
Mr Clayton Barr	State Member for Cessnock
Mr Howard Reed	NSW Department of Planning & Environment
Ms Valerie Phillips	Librarian, Cessnock City Council

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
	MMH – Opened the meeting 9:31am and welcomed the CCC. Apologies noted Apology that the Agenda was distributed late.
<b>2</b>	<b>Declaration of Interests</b>
	MMH asked for any changes to previous declarations of interest Declarations of interests remain current for all members
<b>3</b>	<b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes</b>
	The minutes of the previous meeting were considered representative of that meeting. AS moved, JR seconded.
<b>4</b>	<b>Business Arising from Previous Minutes</b>
	MMH asked how Austar supports RFS workers while they volunteer, and if there is a policy on releasing workers to volunteer with RFS or SES? CM – Yancoal has a Community Service leave policy in accordance with Fair Work Australia. Yancoal also made a donation to RFS of \$200,000. MMH – JM to send AB ecological monitoring report – this was sent on 27/11/19
<b>5</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
	CM – Update on Austars operations, 24 January 2020 (to be discussed further below)
<b>6</b>	<b>Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints, Community Support</b>

	<p>BW – Update on operations and transition to Care and Maintenance</p> <p>AS – Asked if Austar will be doing further exploration in the Stage 3 area?</p> <p>BW – Responded not at this stage, further plans may require exploration in the future.</p> <p>AB – Do you have an estimate of how many people will be out of work?</p> <p>BW – Most employees will move to other sites such as MTW and ACOL, or take voluntary redundancies. There will be a few people (unclear how many) that will be made redundant.</p> <p>AS – how much of Aberdare Emplacement area has been rehabilitated?</p> <p>CM – around a third. The rest will be left uncapped during Care and Maintenance to be used for future operations.</p> <p>AS – Interesting that there is no change in Orange drainage line with the rain.</p> <p>CM – GW level is around 3m lower in this area since the incident. The rains occurred after the last monitoring round, so it will be interesting if there is any change going forward.</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>General Business</b>
	<p>MG – equipment moved to surface – is safety and security from vandals being considered?</p> <p>BW – manning will be 24/7. Security was a consideration in developing manning levels. Have made provision for additional security patrols. We are mindful of the risk. Will be doing a Broad Brush Risk Assessment which will include security.</p> <p>JP – Austar also needs to be mindful of people trying to access remote areas and cutting live cable, which is another reason security will be maintained.</p>
<b>9</b>	<b>Meeting Dates</b>
	<p>MMH – as the operation is moving to Care and Maintenance, propose moving to 6 monthly meetings. The committee agreed to move to six monthly meetings with the option that any member can request an extraordinary meeting in between, should the need arise. MMH will contact the other committee members to make sure that this is acceptable to all.</p> <p><b>2020 proposed meeting dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 26 August 2020</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	<b>Meeting Closed</b>
	<p>MMH – Thanked the CCC and declared the meeting closed at 10:13am.</p>

Recorded: Julie McNaughton 26 February 2020

# AUSTAR COAL MINE

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING

Q1 2020  
26 February 2020

Carly McCormack  
ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SUPERINTENDENT

# Agenda

1. Welcome / Apologies
2. Declaration of interests
3. Confirmation of previous minutes
4. Business arising from previous minutes
5. Correspondence
6. Current operations / Environmental monitoring update / Complaints
7. General business / Community Sponsorship
8. Next meeting / Meeting close

# Current Operations



## Underground Mining Operations

- Longwall mining in panel LWB6 commenced on 27 September 2019 and was completed on 12 February 2020
- Operations have commenced to relocate the longwall mining equipment to the surface for storage and maintenance
- It was announced on 24 January 2020 that Austar Coal Mine will suspend production and transition to a Care and Maintenance Operation which is scheduled to take effect 30 March 2020
- Austar are committed to providing support and further career opportunities where possible for the 137 employees onsite
- Prior to the decision being made, Yancoal undertook extended consultation with the unions and employees regarding future workforce arrangements
- Approximately 44 employees will be retained at Austar to undertake the ongoing care and maintenance works at the site

# Current Operations

## Underground Mining Operations Continued

- Yancoal is also committed to providing redeployment opportunities where possible to our other operations
- In addition Yancoal has offered Voluntary Redundancies to all employees
- The Board have decided that due to the technical challenges within the Stage 3 area, more time is needed to evaluate mining opportunities to recommence production at Austar. This process is ongoing and does not have a fixed timeframe for completion



# Current Operations

## Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP)

- The CHPP will transition to a mid-week day shift only Monday to Friday operation from Monday 9th March
- Raw coal stocks remaining are approximately 1,000 tonnes with some coal still to be received from the mine following underground conveyor road cleaning
- The CHPP will wash out the remaining ROM coal in early March, which will occur on day shift only for a two day period
- Product coal stocks remaining are approximately 80,000 tonnes with a plan to be zero stocks before the end of March 2020
- Receiving up to 2-4 trains/day until completion

## Rehabilitation Reject Emplacement Areas

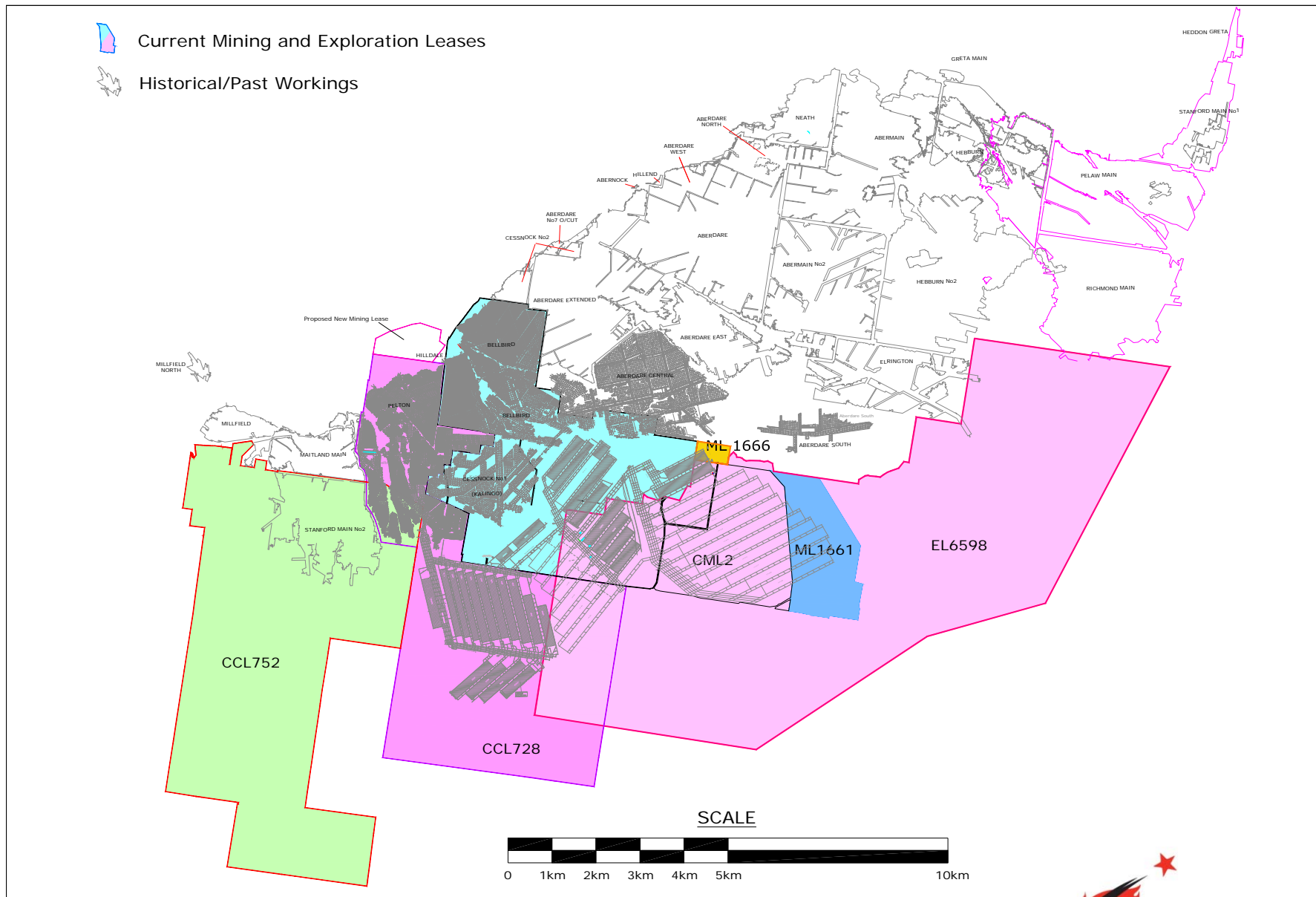
- Capping and topsoiling of 1ha of emplaced reject at Aberdare Coarse Reject Emplacement Area was completed in Q4 2019
- Soils samples of the capped area were collected on 21 February 2020 and will be used to guide application of ameliorants, compost and seed for vegetation establishment
- Seeding is to be completed in Q1 2020
- Reject Emplacement Areas will be maintained during the Care and Maintenance Operation

# Current Operations

## Exploration (Exploration Licence 6598)

- Progressing sign-off of rehabilitated boreholes through DPIE DRG
  - Approximately 22 holes ready for sign-off
- Planning has commenced for drilling of 5 exploration boreholes during 2020
  - Review of Land Access and Compensation Agreement after feedback from stakeholders
  - Community Consultation Strategy ready for implementation
  - Groundwater Modelling and Monitoring Plan review underway

# Current Operations



# Environmental Incidents

## Environmental Incidents (27 November 2019 – 25 February 2020)

### Sediment Basins Discharging to Black Creek – Kitchener SIS (9 February 2020)

- Eastern sediment basin and lower water storage dam discharged to Black Creek
- Greater than design rainfall received – 113.8mm over ~3 ½ days
- Regulators notified (NSW EPA, DPIE and Resources Regulator)
- Water samples collected
- Incident report submitted

### On-going Clean Water Drainage Line Investigation – CHPP (6 June 2017)

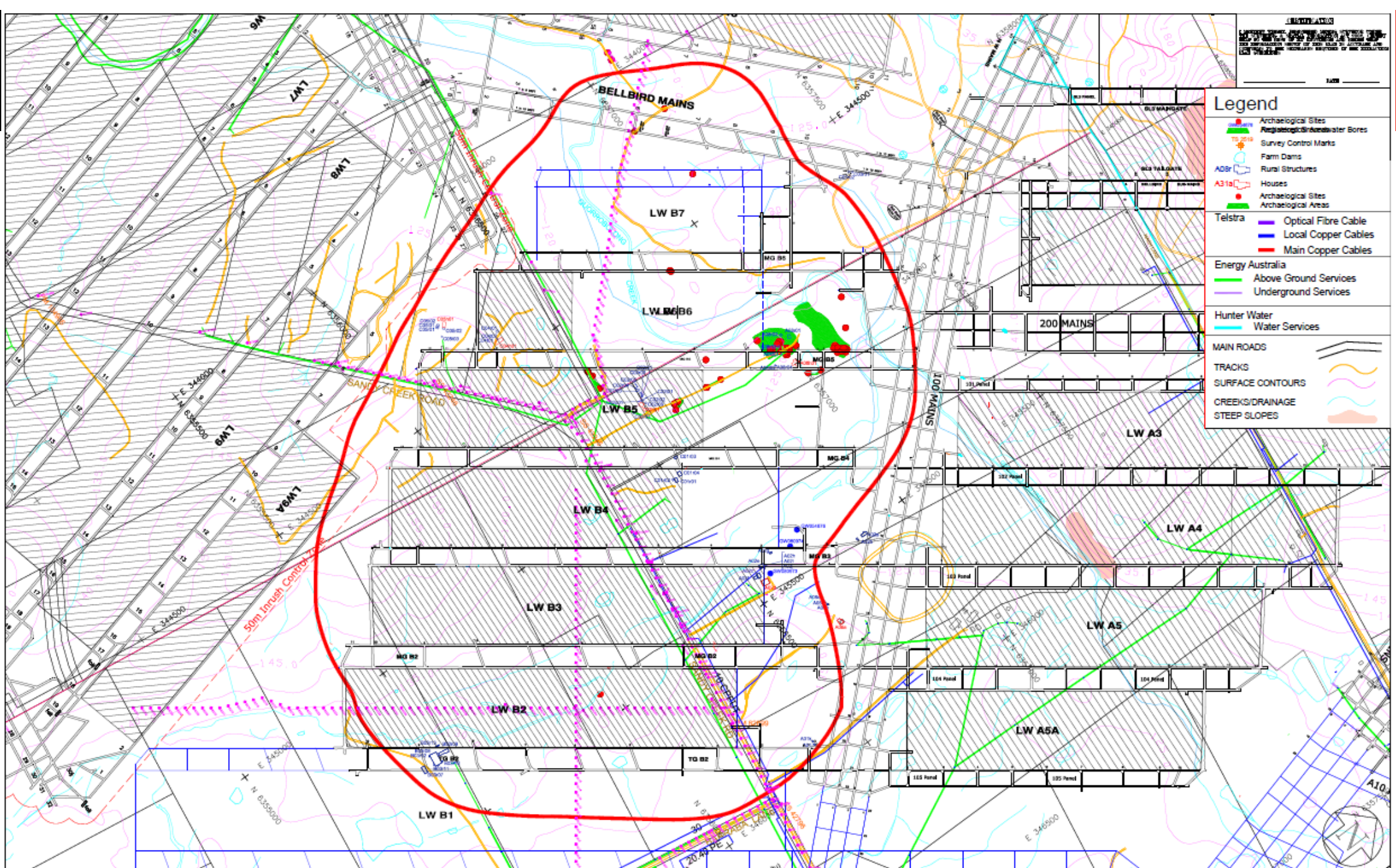
- No change since previous update
- Ongoing monitoring

# Environmental Monitoring Update

# Subsidence

## Bellbird South Mining Area

- Subsidence surveys are ongoing along the Sandy Creek Road monitoring line
- Surveys required on commencement and completion of each longwall and fortnightly when the longwall is within 100m of the road
- Maximum recorded surface level movement on Sandy Creek Road is approximately 565mm with the last survey conducted on 23 October 2019
- LWB6 completion survey due to be undertaken



### Legend

- Archaeological Sites
- Registered Drains
- Water Bores
- Survey Control Marks
- Farm Dams
- Rural Structures
- Houses
- Archaeological Sites
- Archaeological Areas
- Telstra
  - Optical Fibre Cable
  - Local Copper Cables
  - Main Copper Cables
- Energy Australia
  - Above Ground Services
  - Underground Services
- Hunter Water
  - Water Services
- MAIN ROADS
- TRACKS
- SURFACE CONTOURS
- CREEKS/DRAINAGE
- STEEP SLOPES



**LEGEND**

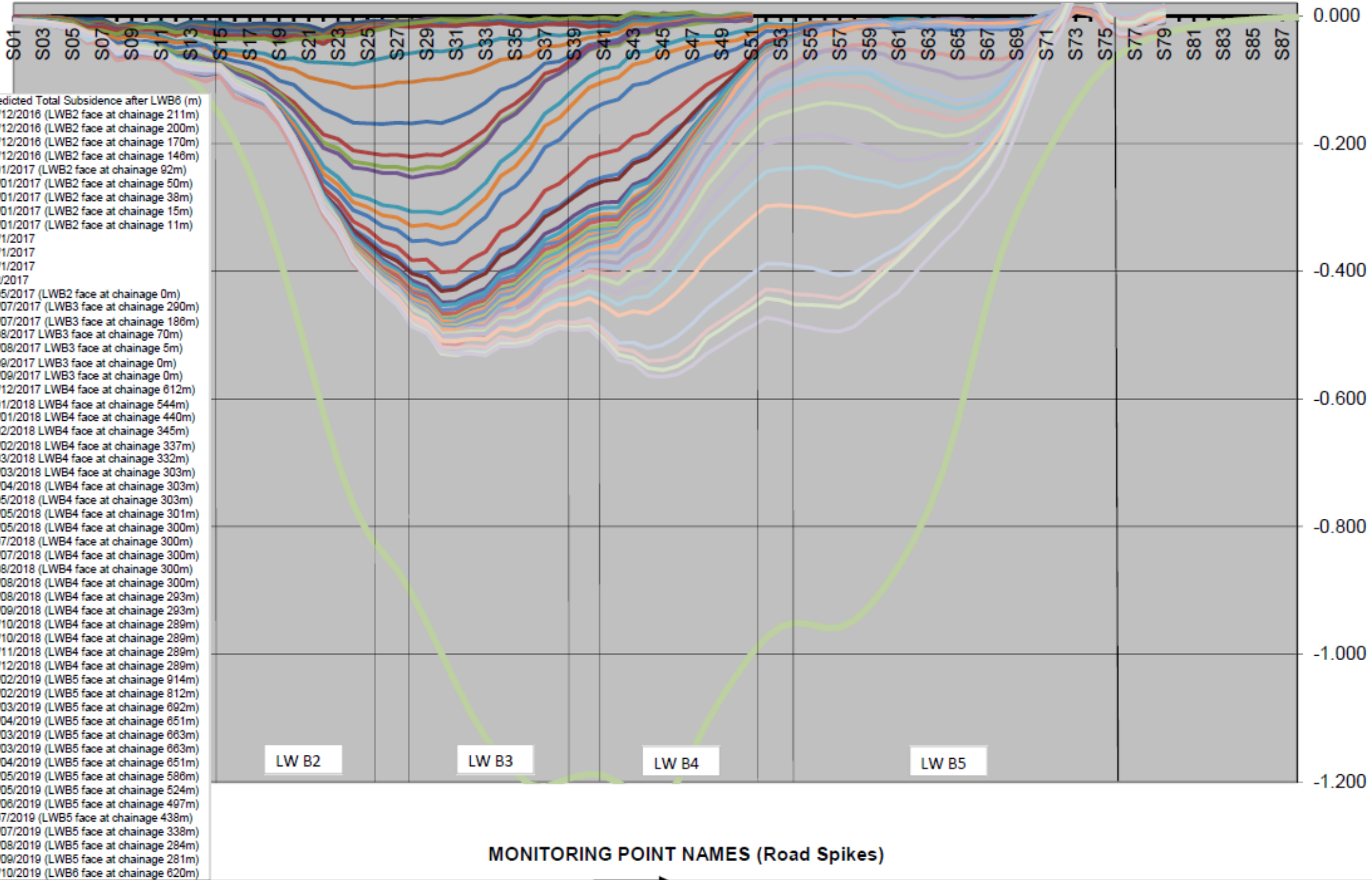
- PROPOSED WORKINGS SHOWING ROADWAY CENTRE DIMENSIONS
- EXISTING WORKINGS
- EXISTING SUBSIDENCE MARK

- LWB4 - B7 EXTRACTION PLAN AREA
- LONGWALL EXTRACTED AREA
- SURFACE CONTOURS

Drawn: M. WRIGHT	<b>AUSTAR COAL MINE</b>		YANCOAL MINING SERVICES PTY LTD
REVISION DATE: 5/11/2019	TITLE: LONGWALL B4-B7 EXTRACTION PLAN UPDATE		
UNITED MINING SERVICES	SCALE: 1:5000	DRAWING No: GEN1995	REV: 0



### Subsidence- LINE "SCR1"

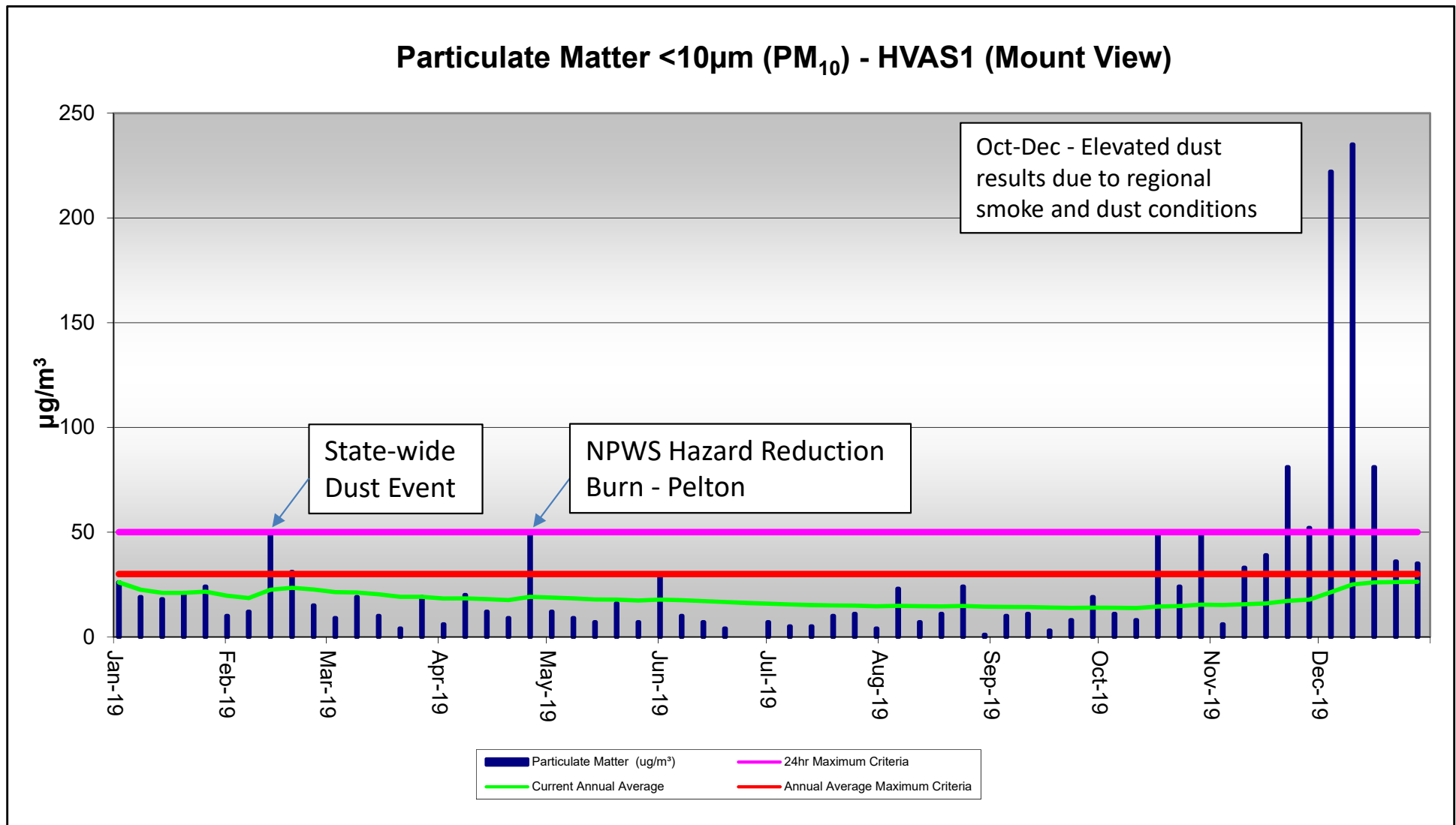


**MONITORING POINT NAMES (Road Spikes)**

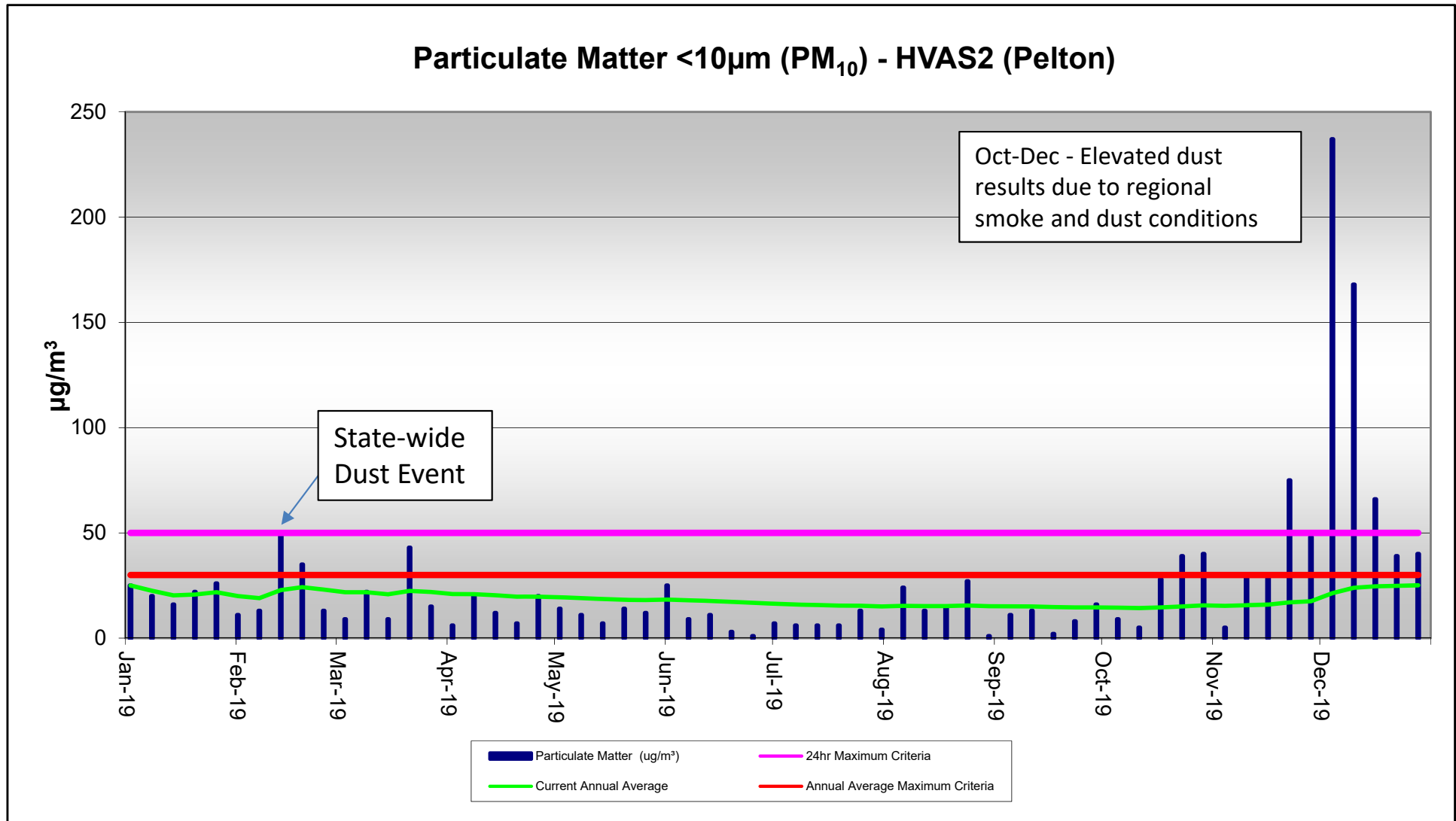
## Elevated Dust Results

- TEOM monitors PM<sub>10</sub> on 24hr averaging period midnight to midnight
- Located to the north east of CHPP on Bimbadeen Rd, Bellbird
- 20 occasions between 27 Nov 2019 – 25 Feb 2020 TEOM recorded elevated dust results
- HVASs also recorded elevated dust results during the same period. HVASs run 24hr period every 6 days
- Following investigation it was determined exceedances due to regional smoke and dust conditions and not the result of Austar operations
- Reported to DPIE who have responded they are satisfied with our operational response and should report the results in our Annual Review
- Dust control measures include use of water cart to wet down roads, reduced operating speeds and stopping work in dusty conditions

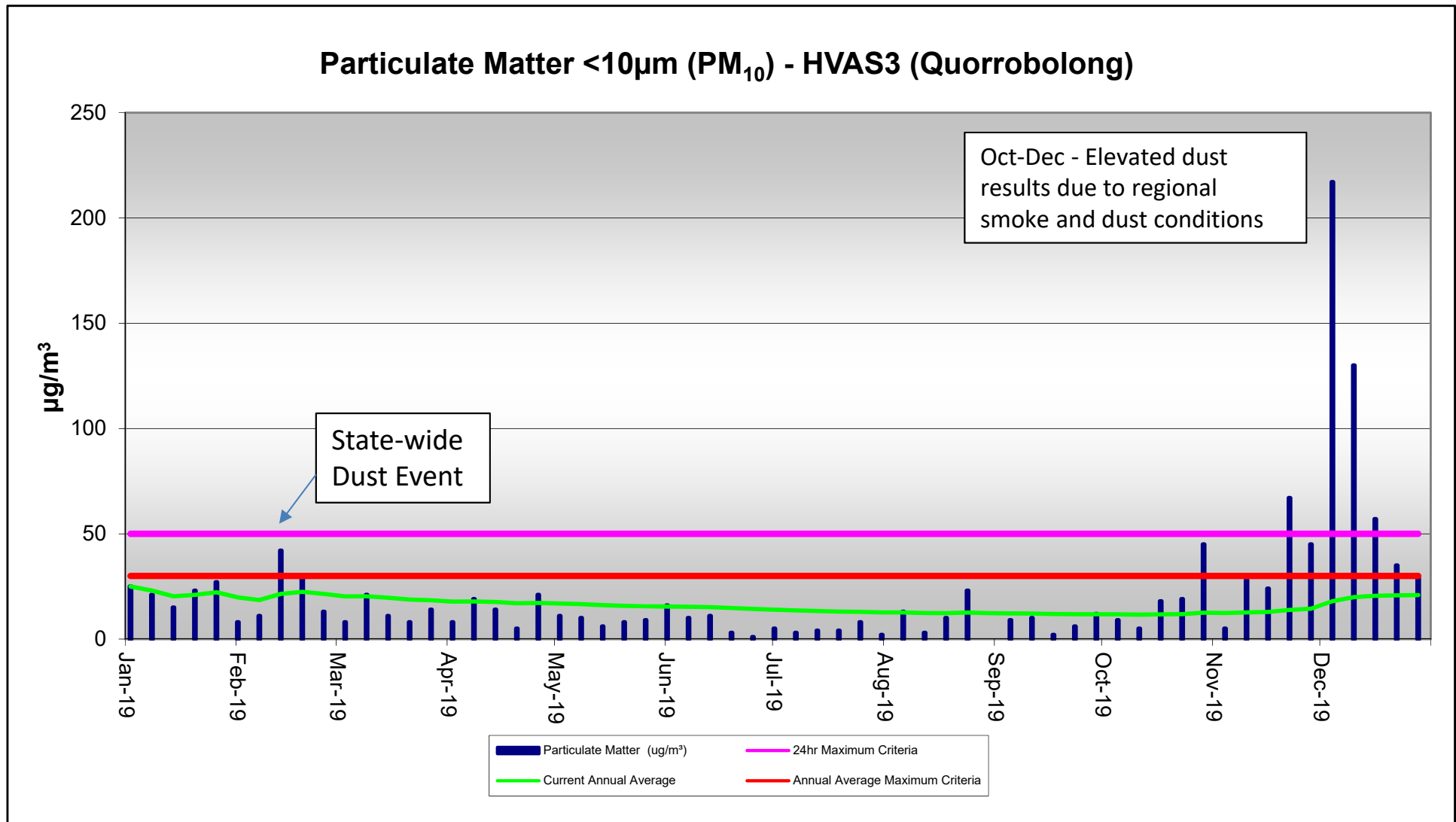
# Air Quality



# Air Quality

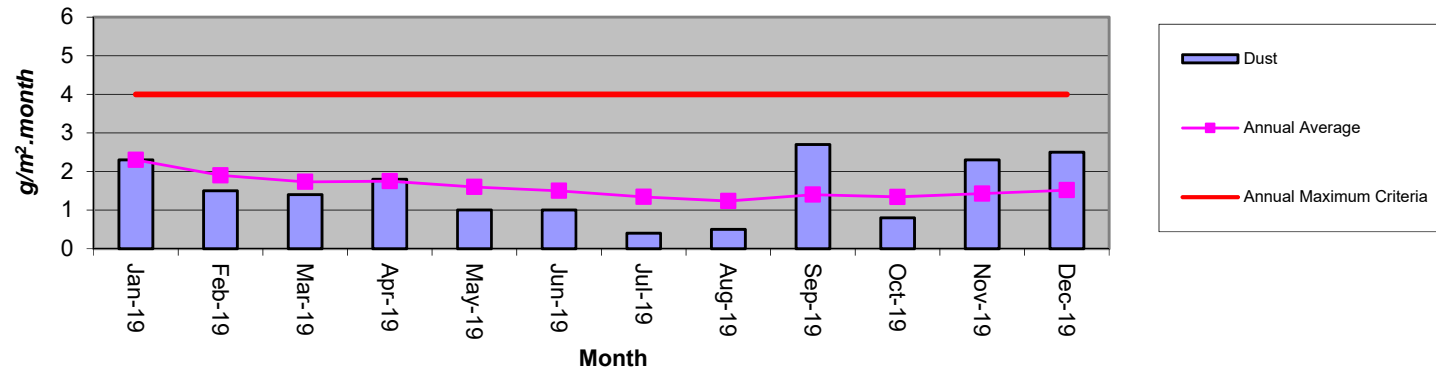


# Air Quality

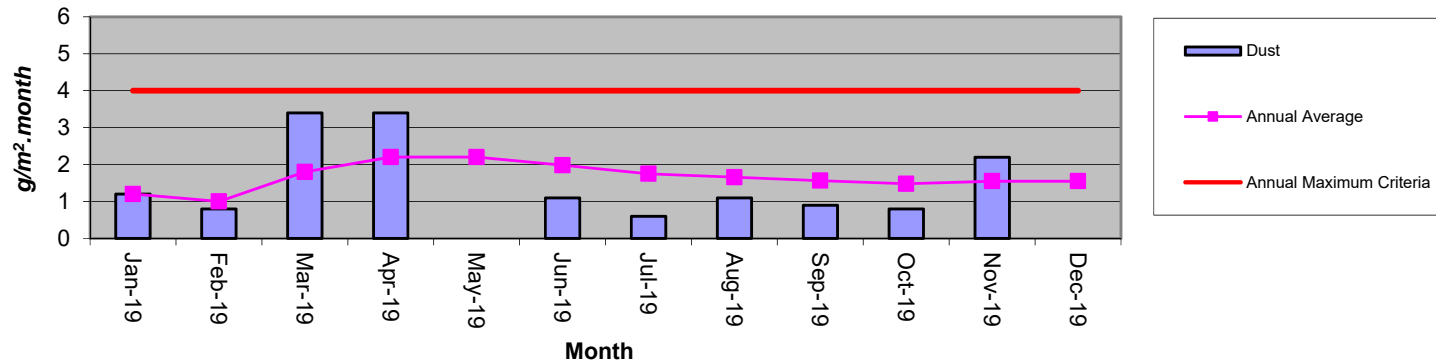


# Air Quality

Dust Deposition Gauge D1 - Insoluble Solids

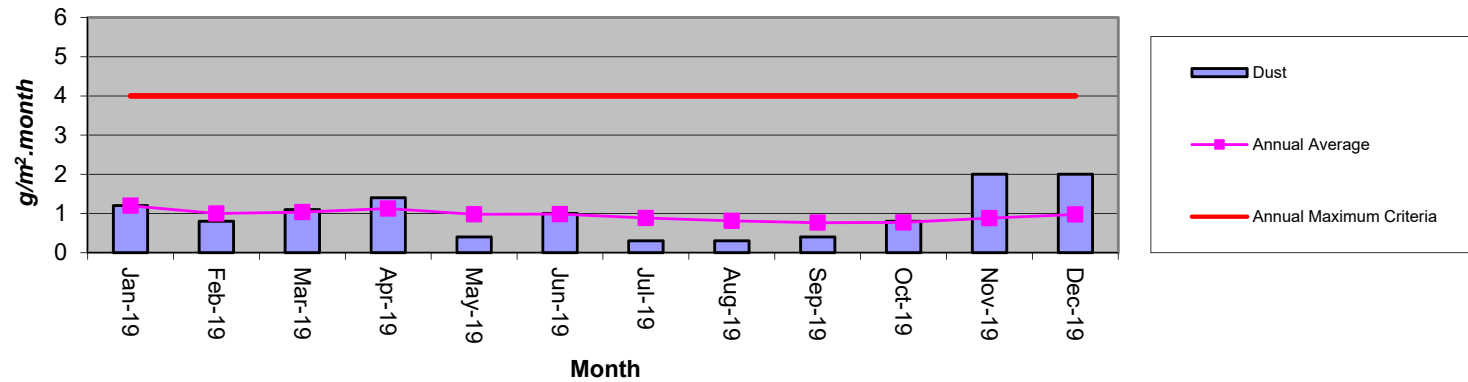


Dust Deposition Gauge D2 - Insoluble Solids

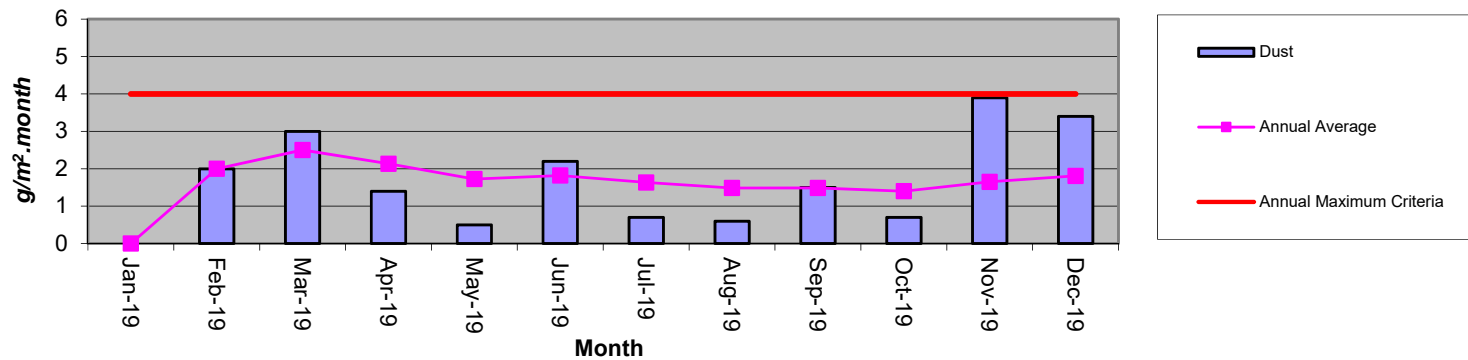


# Air Quality

Dust Deposition Gauge D3 - Insoluble Solids

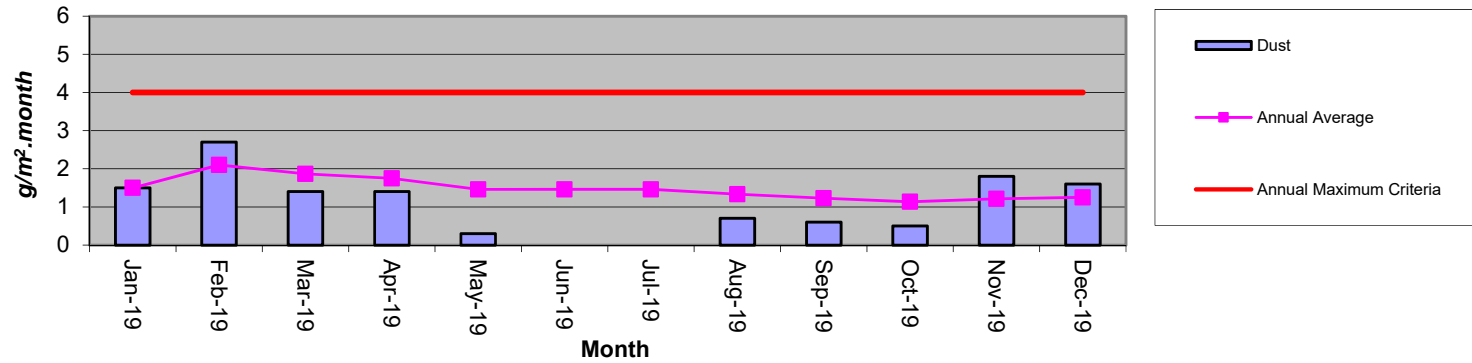


Dust Deposition Gauge D4 - Insoluble Solids

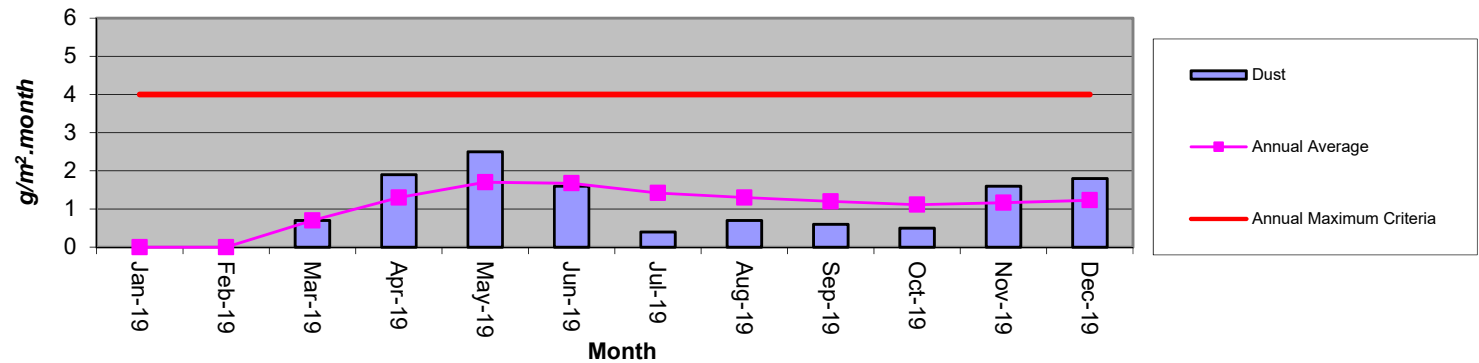


# Air Quality

Dust Deposition Gauge D5 - Insoluble Solids



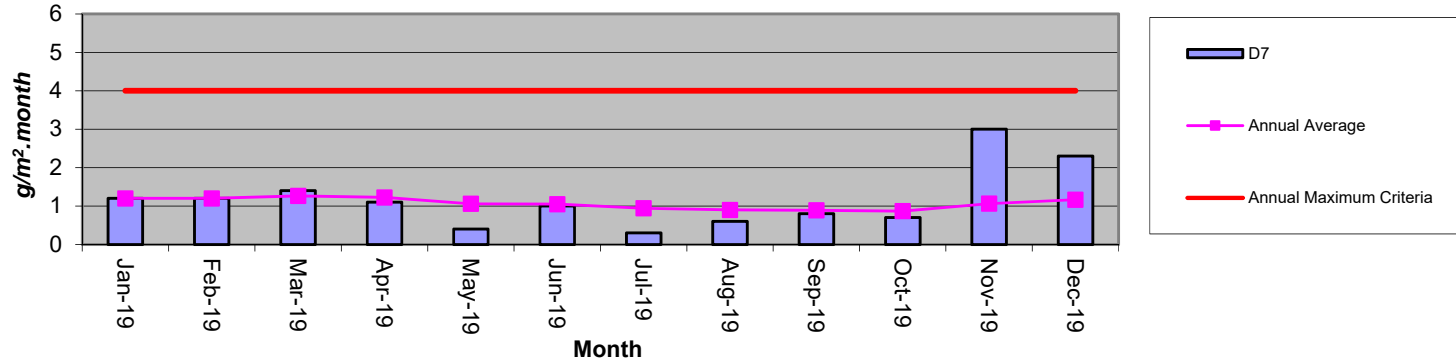
Dust Deposition Gauge D5A - Insoluble Solids



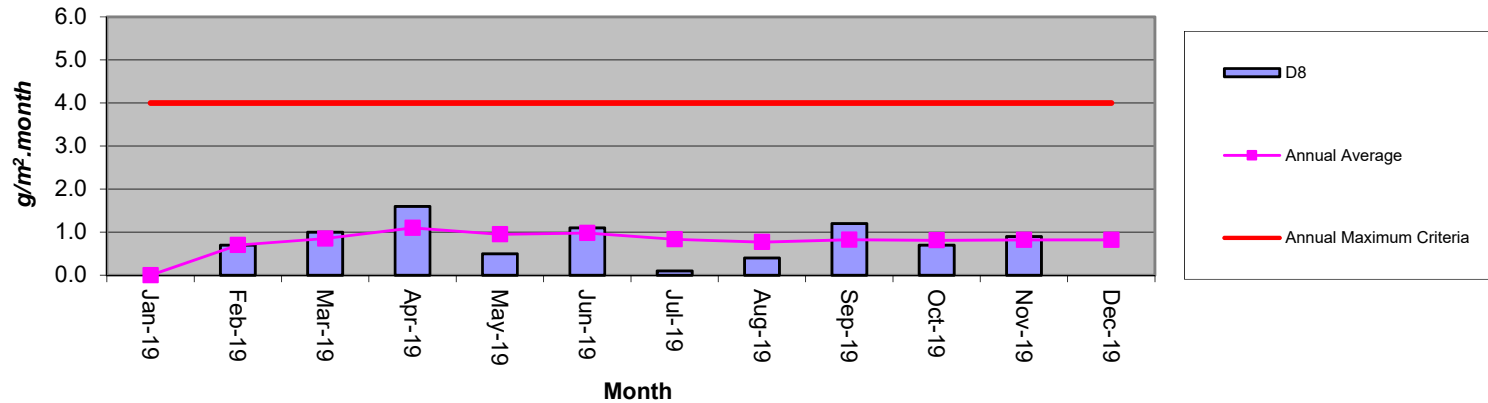


# Air Quality

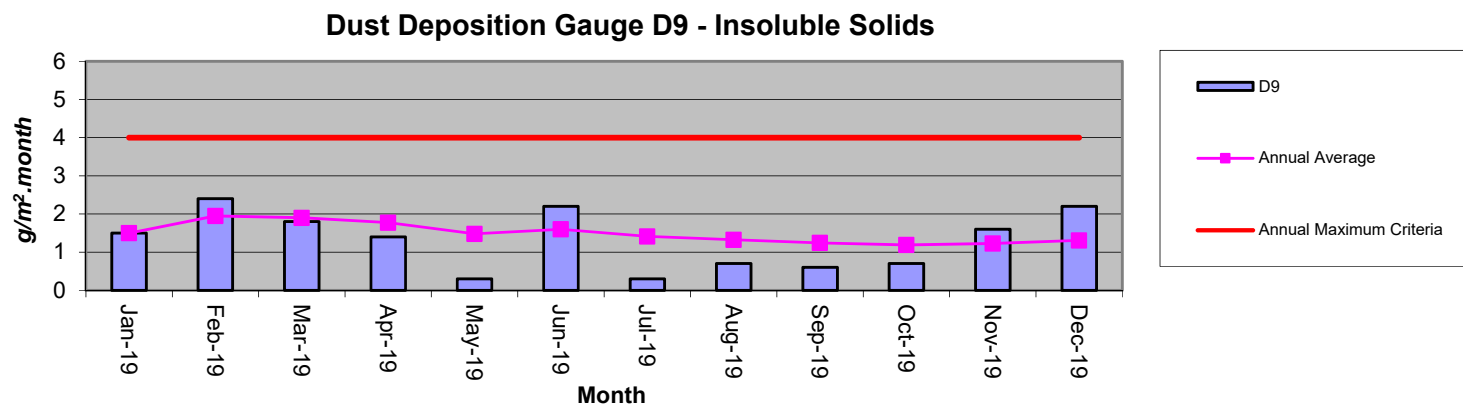
Dust Deposition Gauge D7 - Insoluble Solids



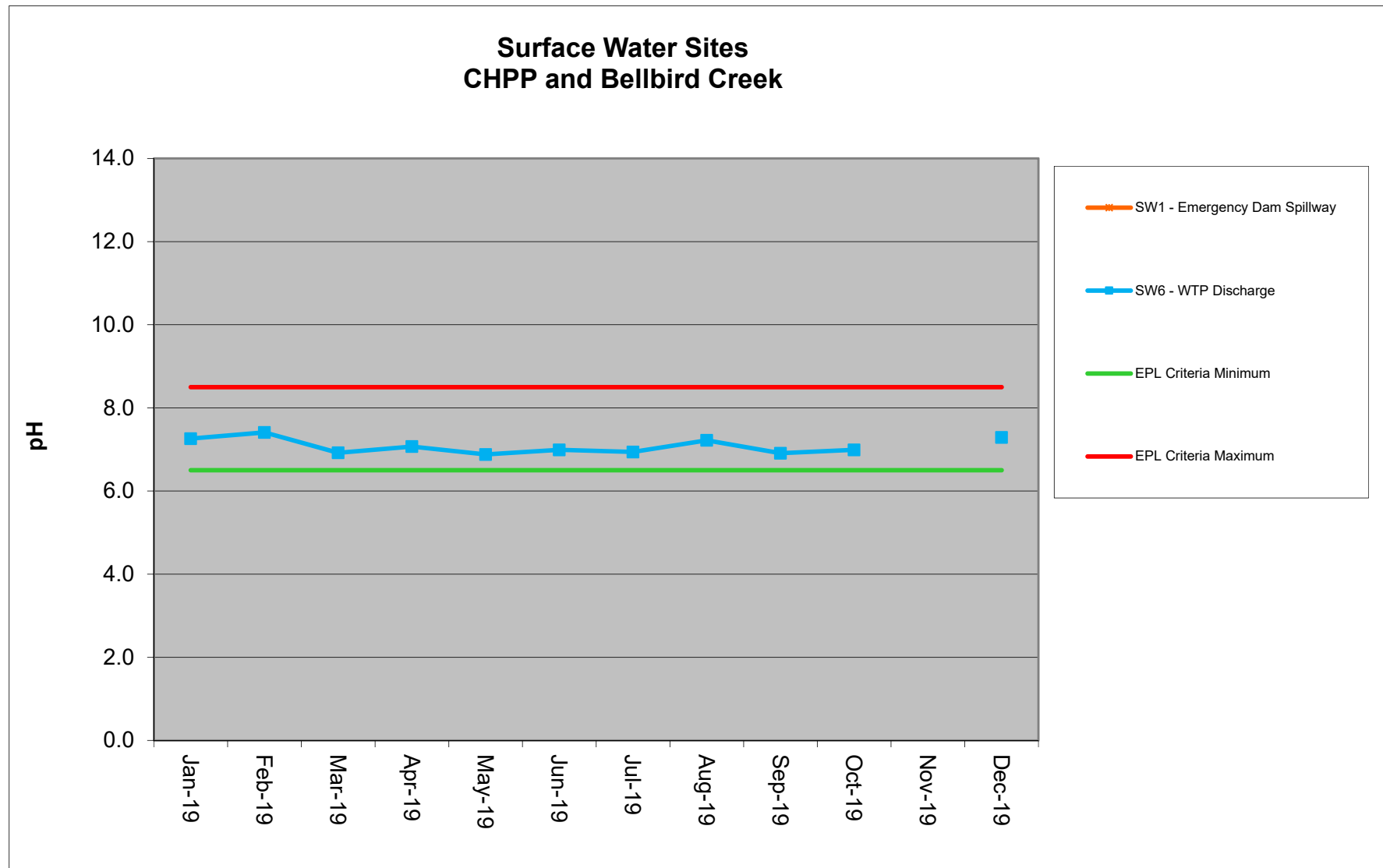
Dust Deposition Gauge D8 - Insoluble Solids



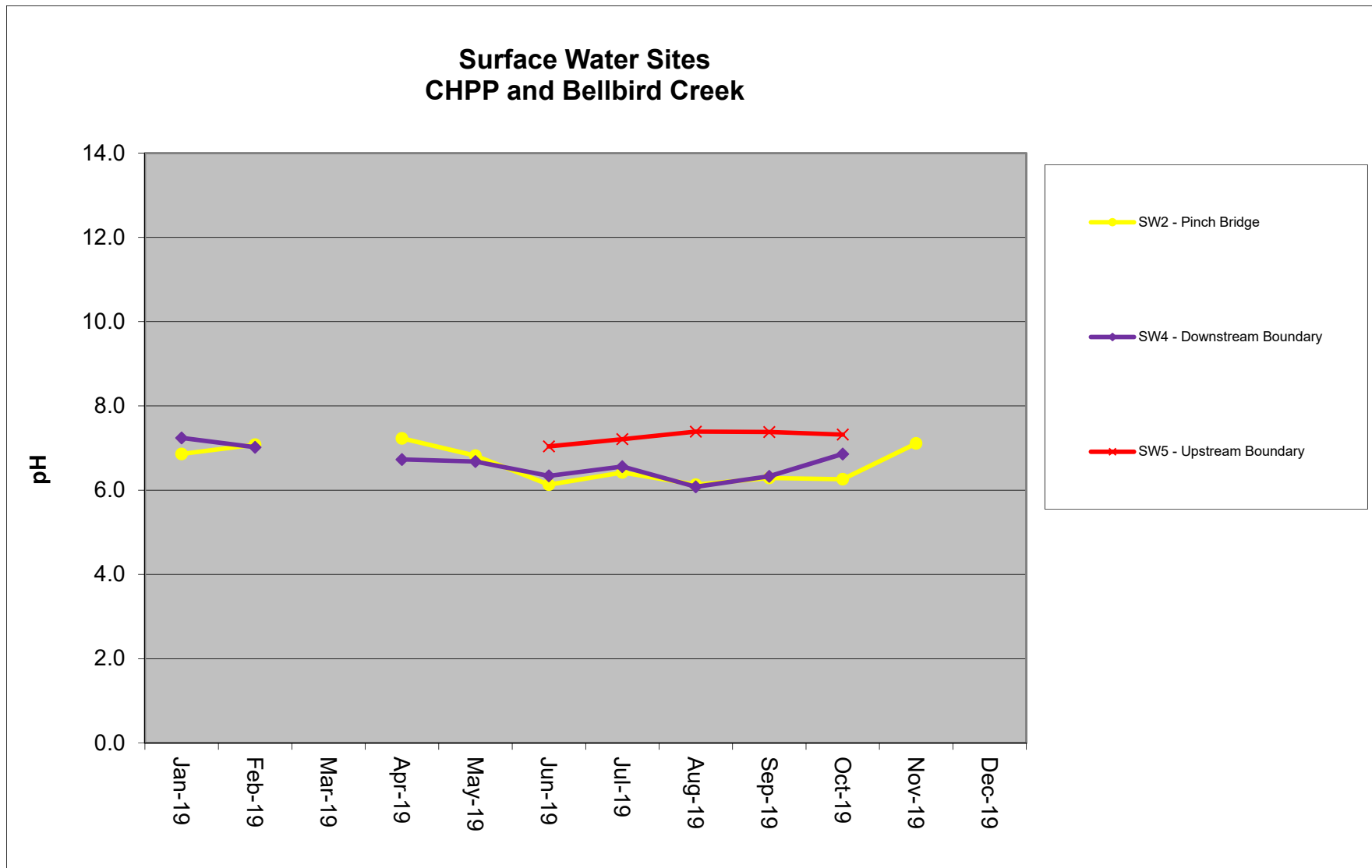
# Air Quality



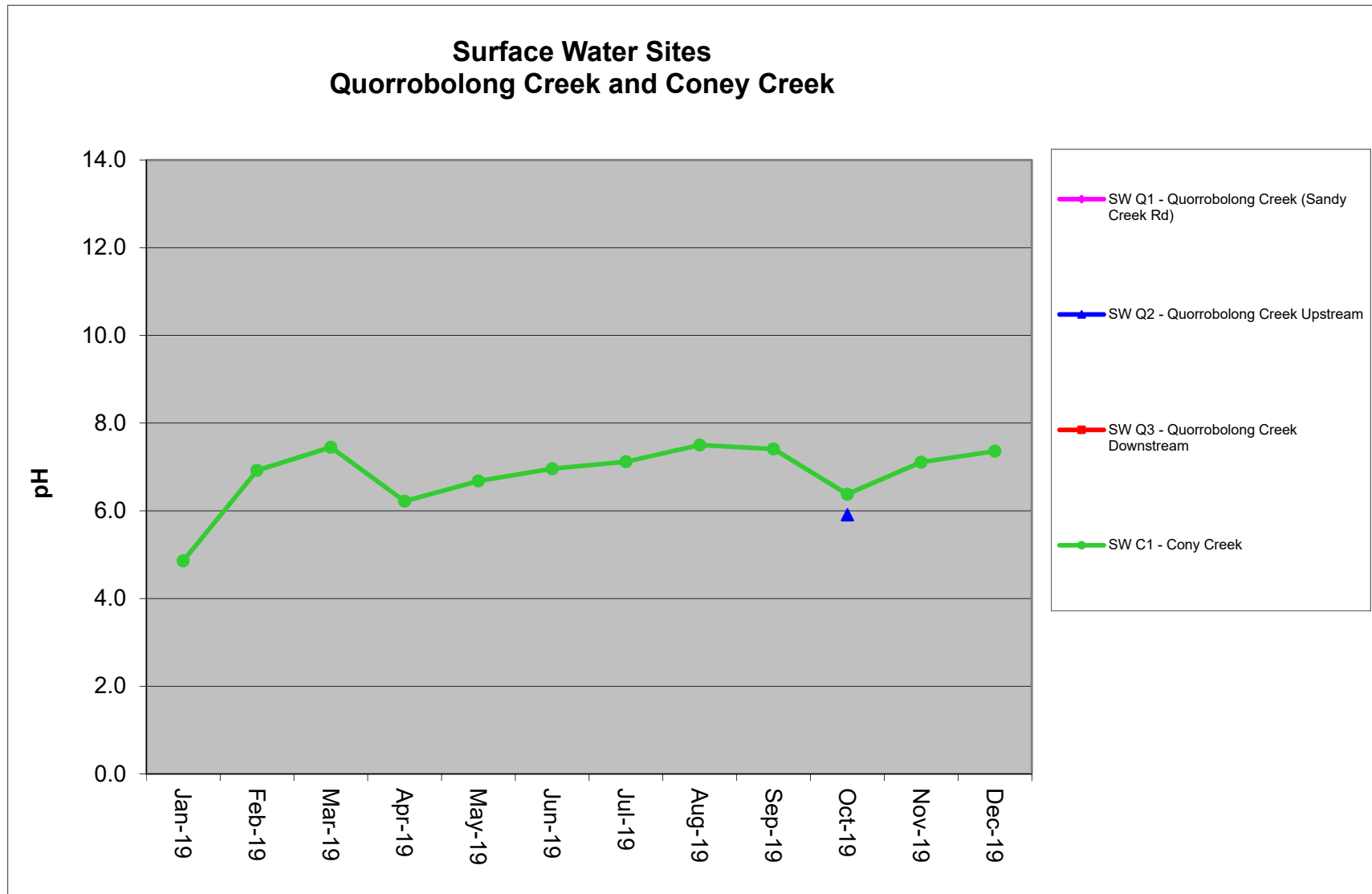
# Water Monitoring



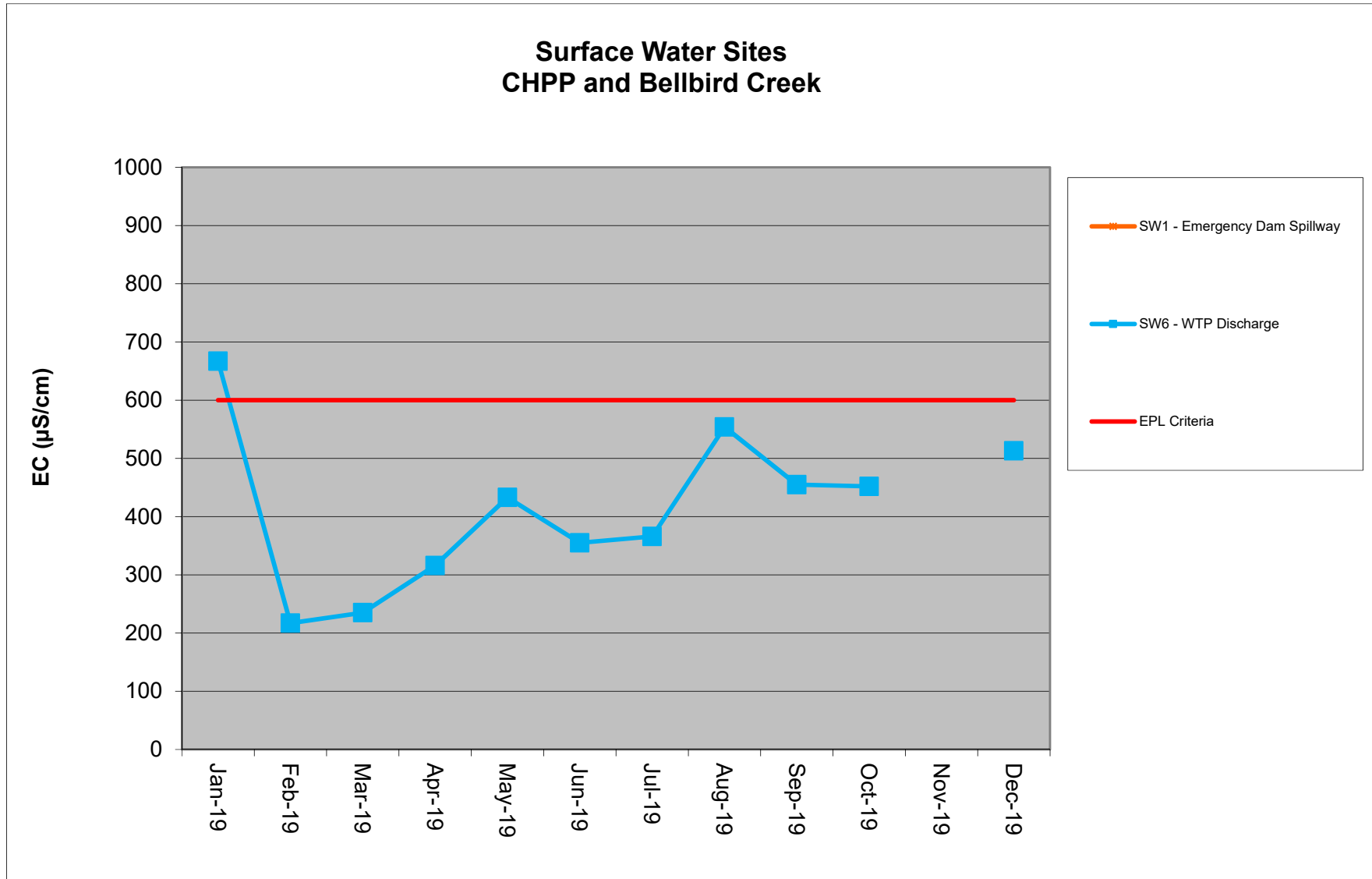
# Water Monitoring



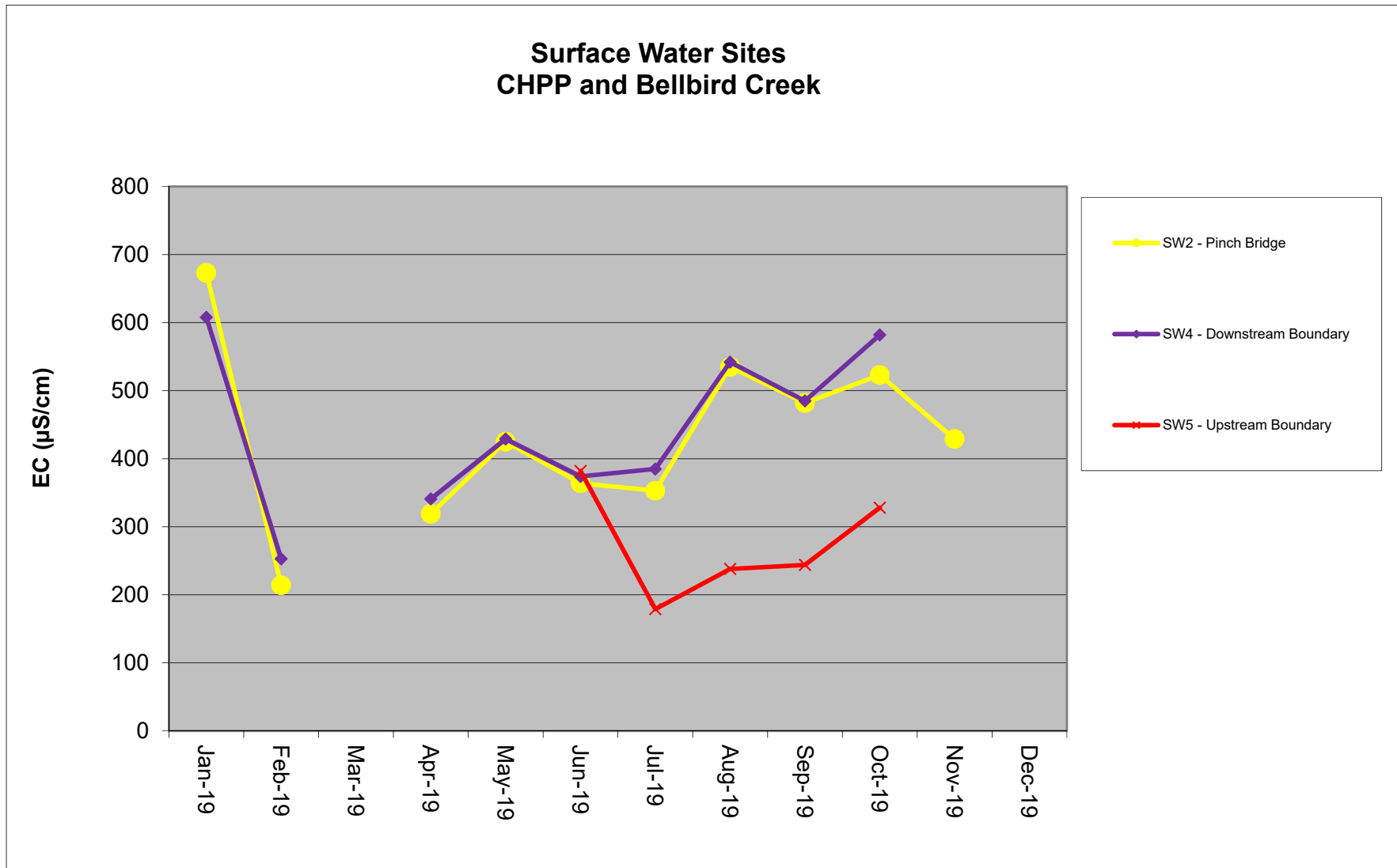
# Water Monitoring



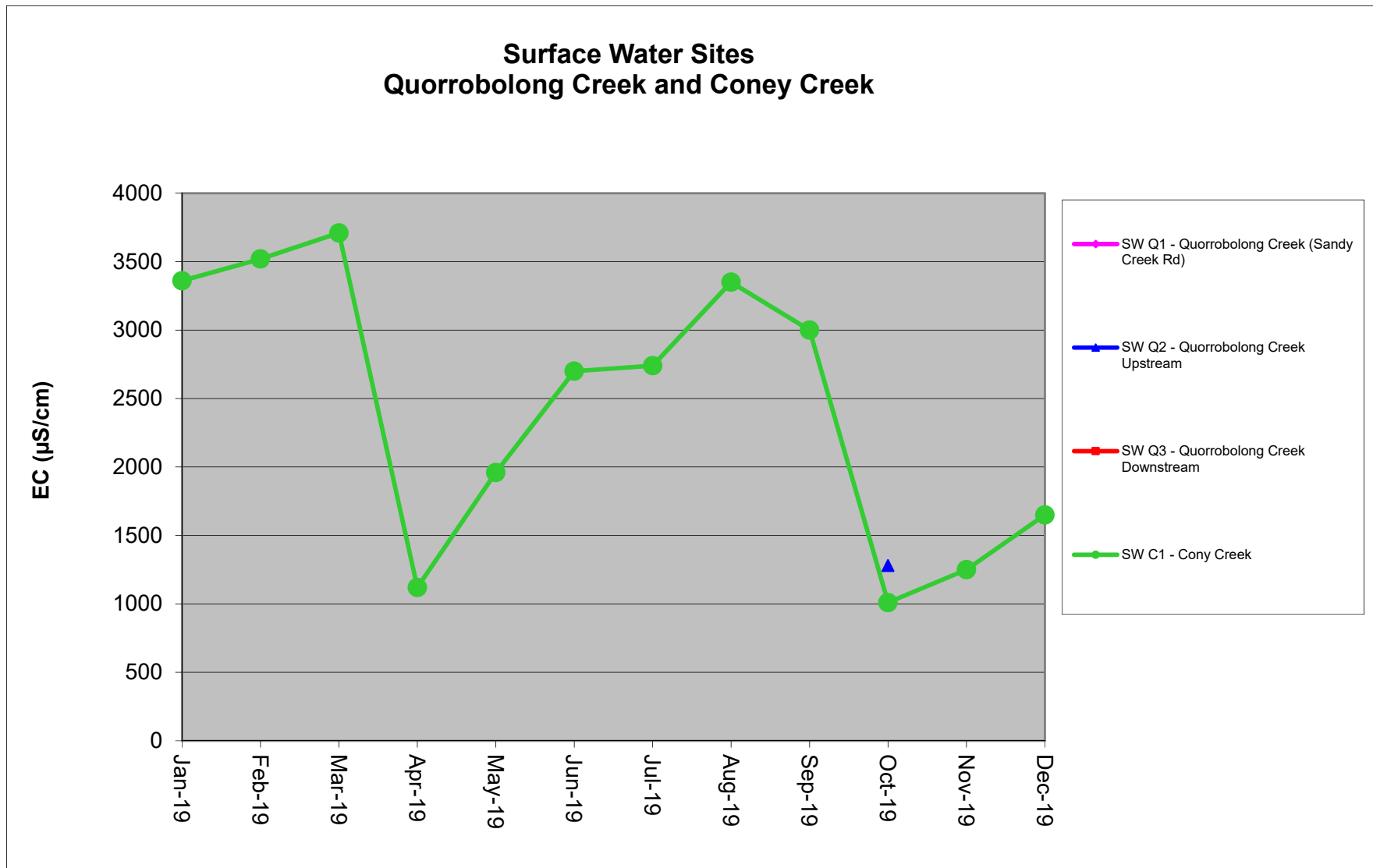
# Water Monitoring



# Water Monitoring



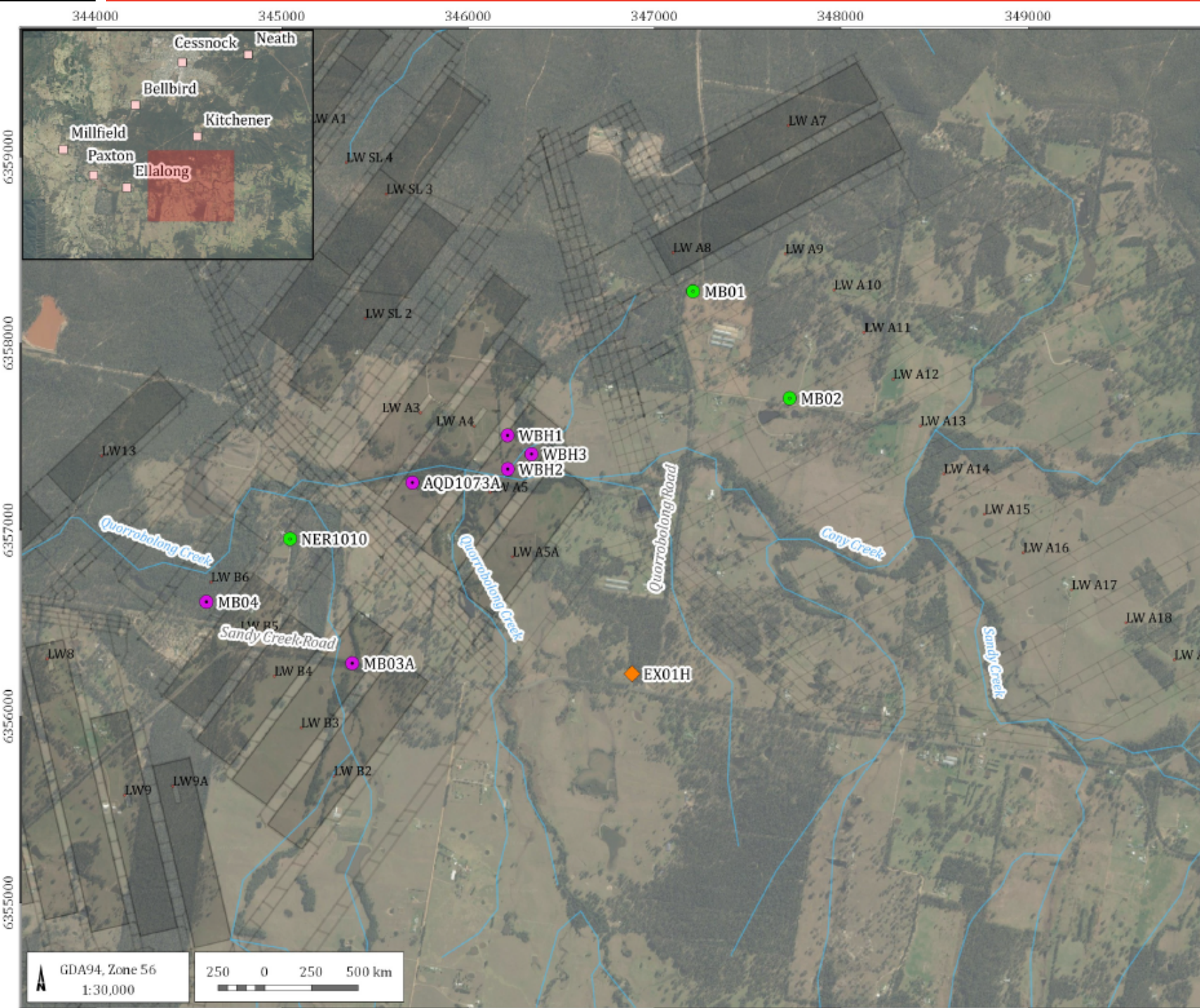
# Water Monitoring





# Groundwater Monitoring

- There are no new trends in groundwater quality or water levels
- Groundwater levels in alluvial monitoring bores shows a generally decreasing trend in response to prevailing dry climatic conditions
- The water level in NER1010 increased due to recharge onset by development works in October 2019
- Groundwater elevation in MB01 was measured higher than the monitoring event prior, however the previous result may have been influenced by blockage within the well at the time
- Monitoring bore MB02 water elevation was recorded 81.33 mtoc lower than in Q3 2019 due to poor recovery following airlift development in October 2019. MB02 groundwater levels are expected to gradually increase over time



- LEGEND
- Populated place
  - Monitoring locations**
    - Alluvium
    - Branxton Formation
    - VWP, Branxton Formation and Greta Coal Measures
  - Mine plan
  - Longwall panels
  - Watercourse

Yancoal - Austar Coal Mine  
Groundwater Monitoring (G1828I)

**Austar monitoring bore and VWP locations**

DATE  
24/09/2019

FIGURE No:

**2.1**



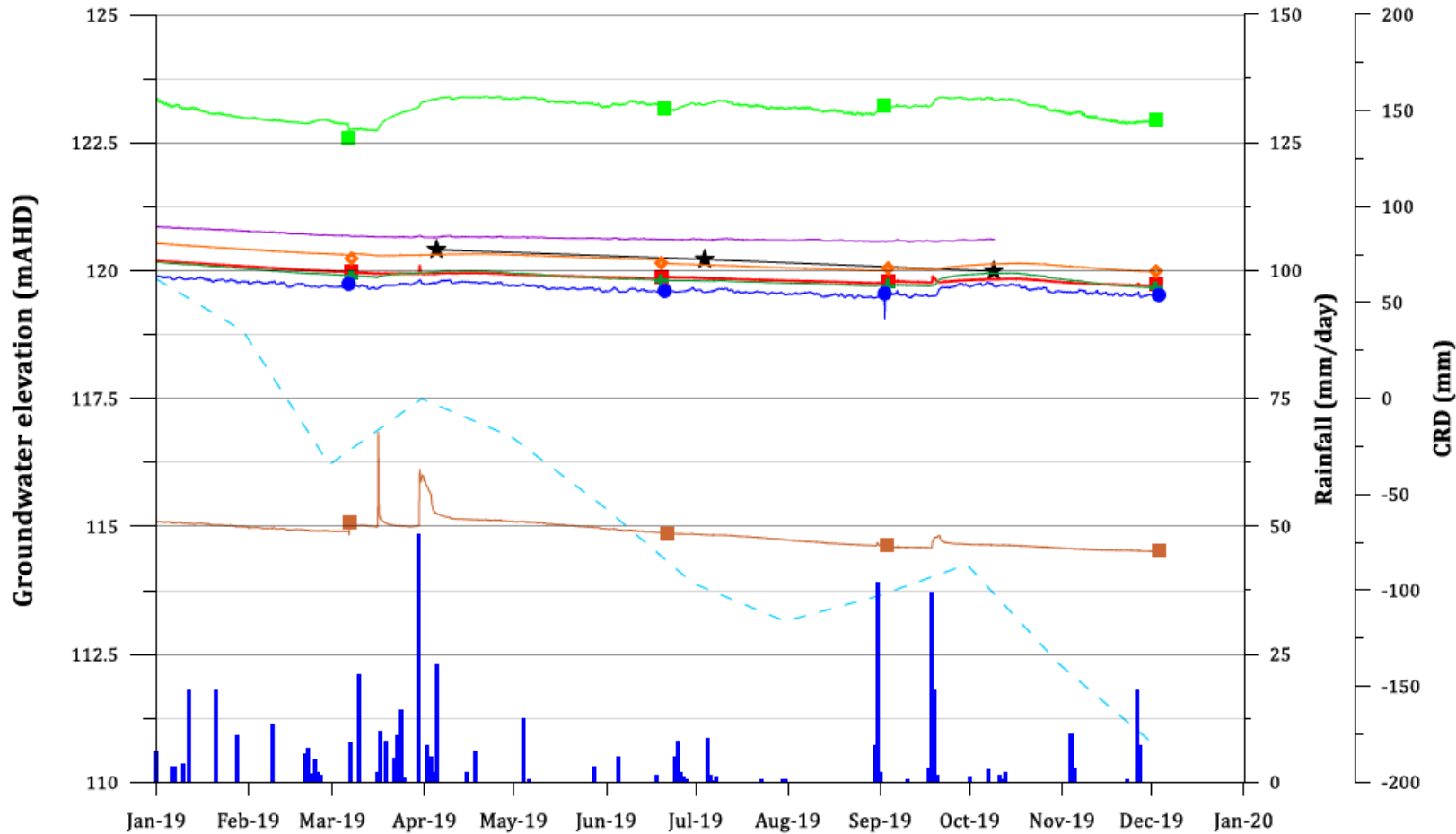
GDA94, Zone 56  
1:30,000

250 0 250 500 m

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 H:\Groundwater\Jobs\G1828I\Yancoal\_Austar\_GW\_monitoring\_and\_compliance\_2019\3\_GIS\Workspaces\20190924\_G1828I\_Austar\_monitoring\_bore\_and\_VWP\_locations\_updatedSept2019.ggs  
 Note: longwall panel background georeferenced accuracy ~ 10 m.

# Groundwater Monitoring

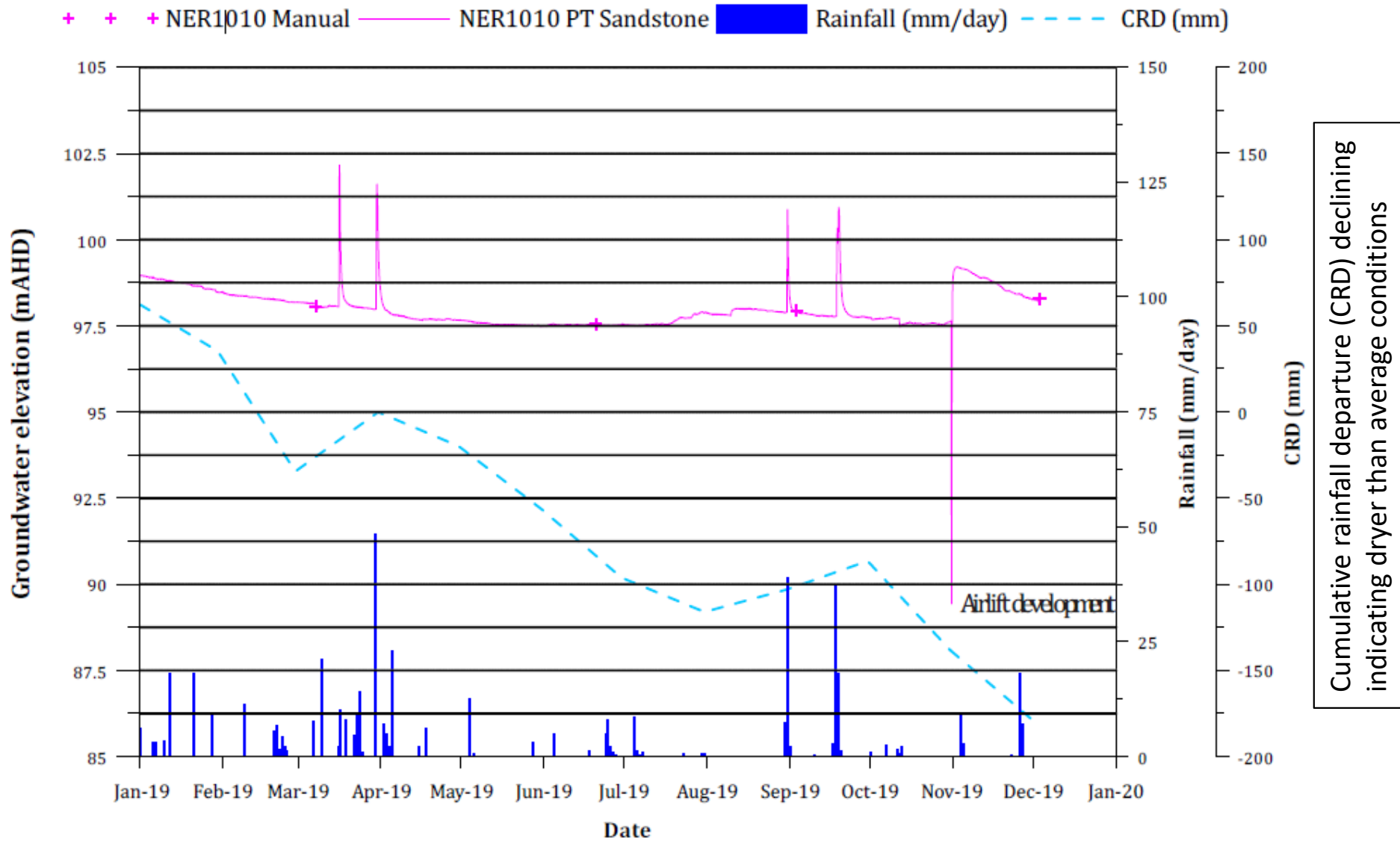
- ● ● AQD1073a Manual    + + + WBH2 Manual    — — — WBH3 PT Alluvium    ■ ■ ■ MB04 Manual    — — — GW080974
- — — AQD1073a PT Alluvium    — — — WBH2 PT Alluvium    ■ ■ ■ MB03A Manual    — — — MB04 PT Alluvium    ★ ★ ★ GW080975
- ◆ ◆ ◆ WBH1 Manual    ■ ■ ■ WBH3 Manual    — — — MB03A PT Alluvium    ■ ■ ■ Rainfall (mm/day)    — — — CRD (mm)
- — — WBH1 PT Alluvium



Cumulative rainfall departure (CRD) declining indicating dryer than average conditions

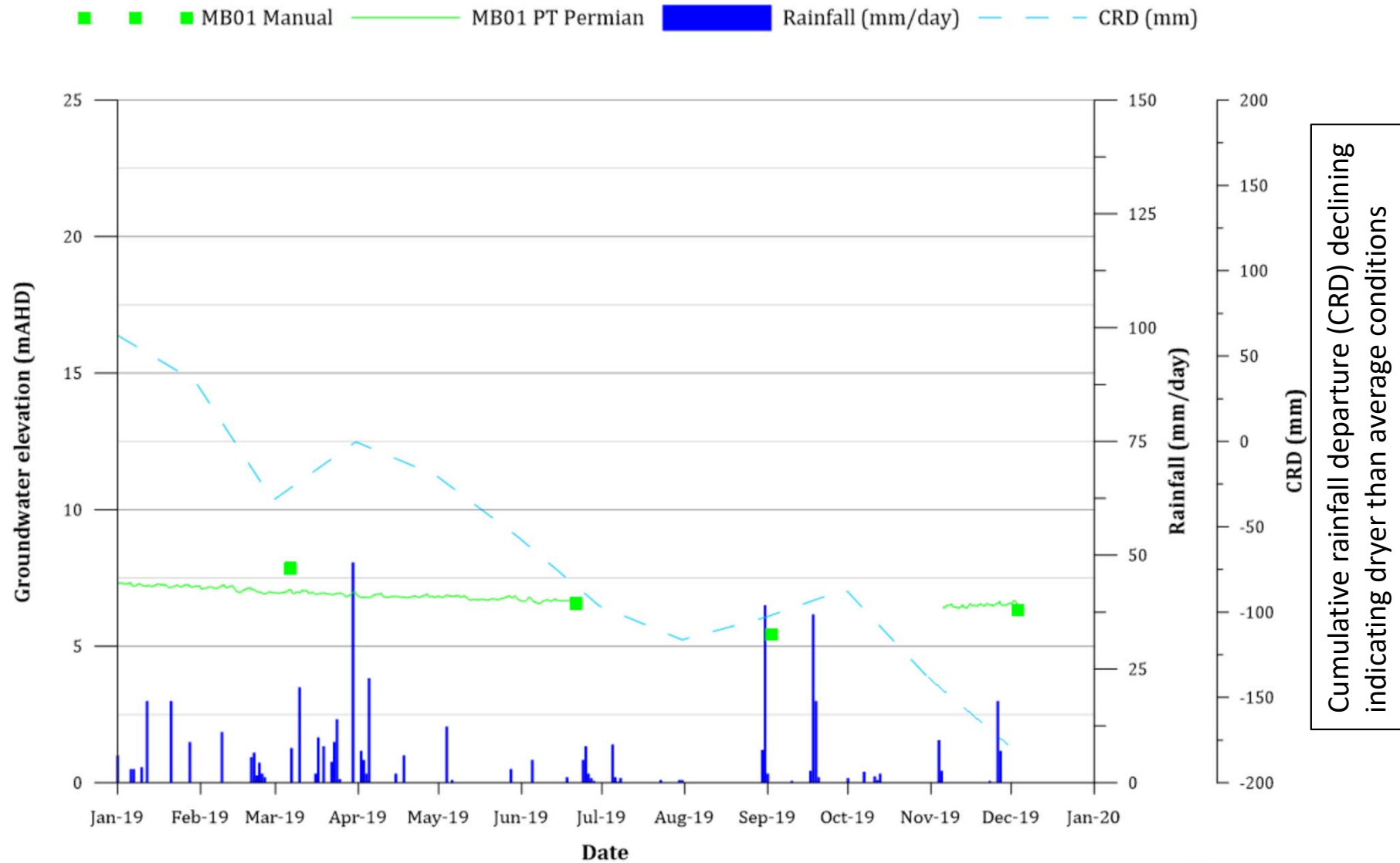
**Stage 2 & Bellbird South alluvium and sandstone aquifer and Water NSW groundwater level hydrographs**

# Groundwater Monitoring



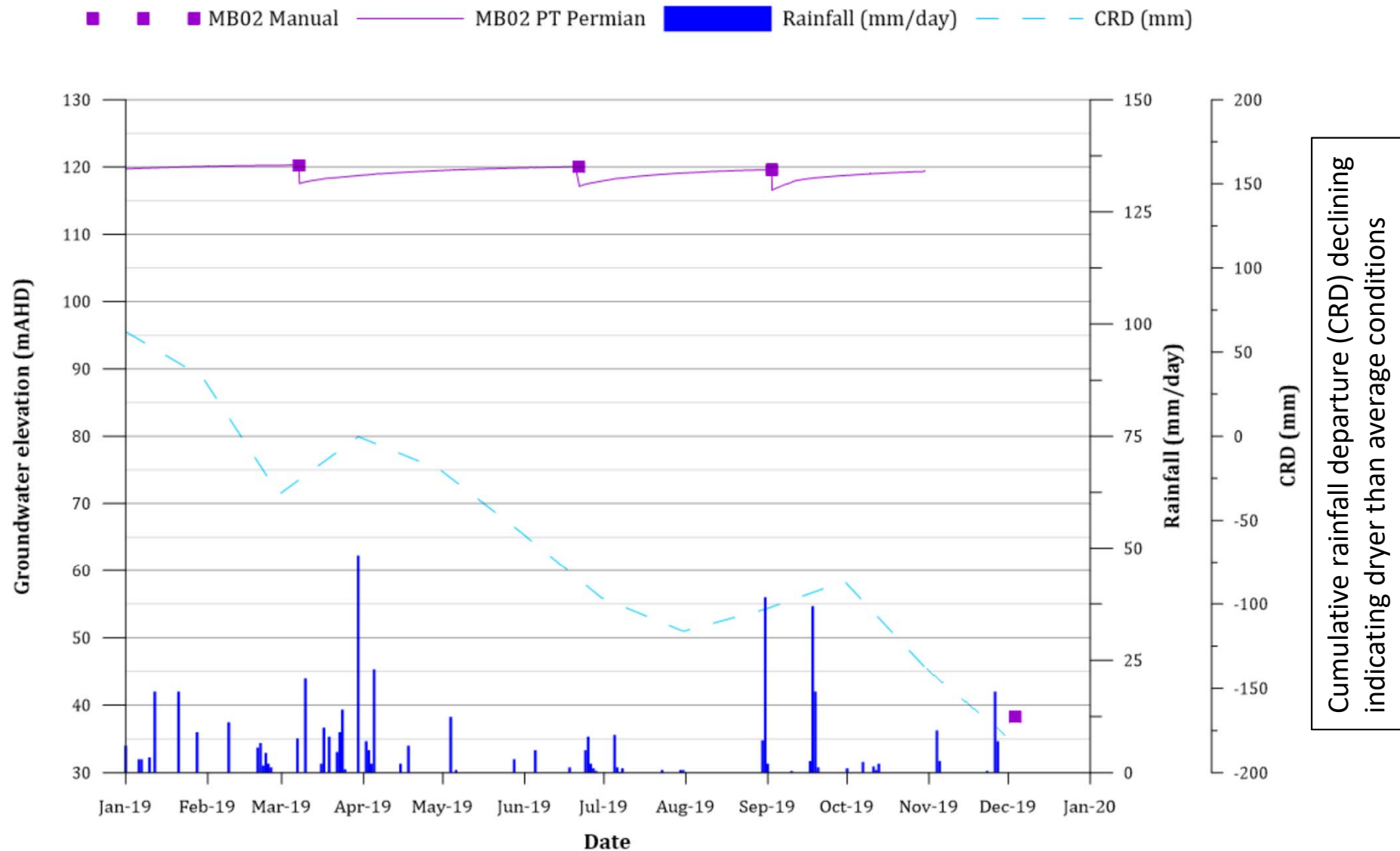
NER1010 groundwater level hydrograph

# Groundwater Monitoring



**Stage 3 MB01 sandstone aquifer  
groundwater level hydrograph**

# Groundwater Monitoring



Cumulative rainfall departure (CRD) declining indicating dryer than average conditions

**Stage 3 MB02 sandstone aquifer groundwater level hydrograph**

# Noise Monitoring

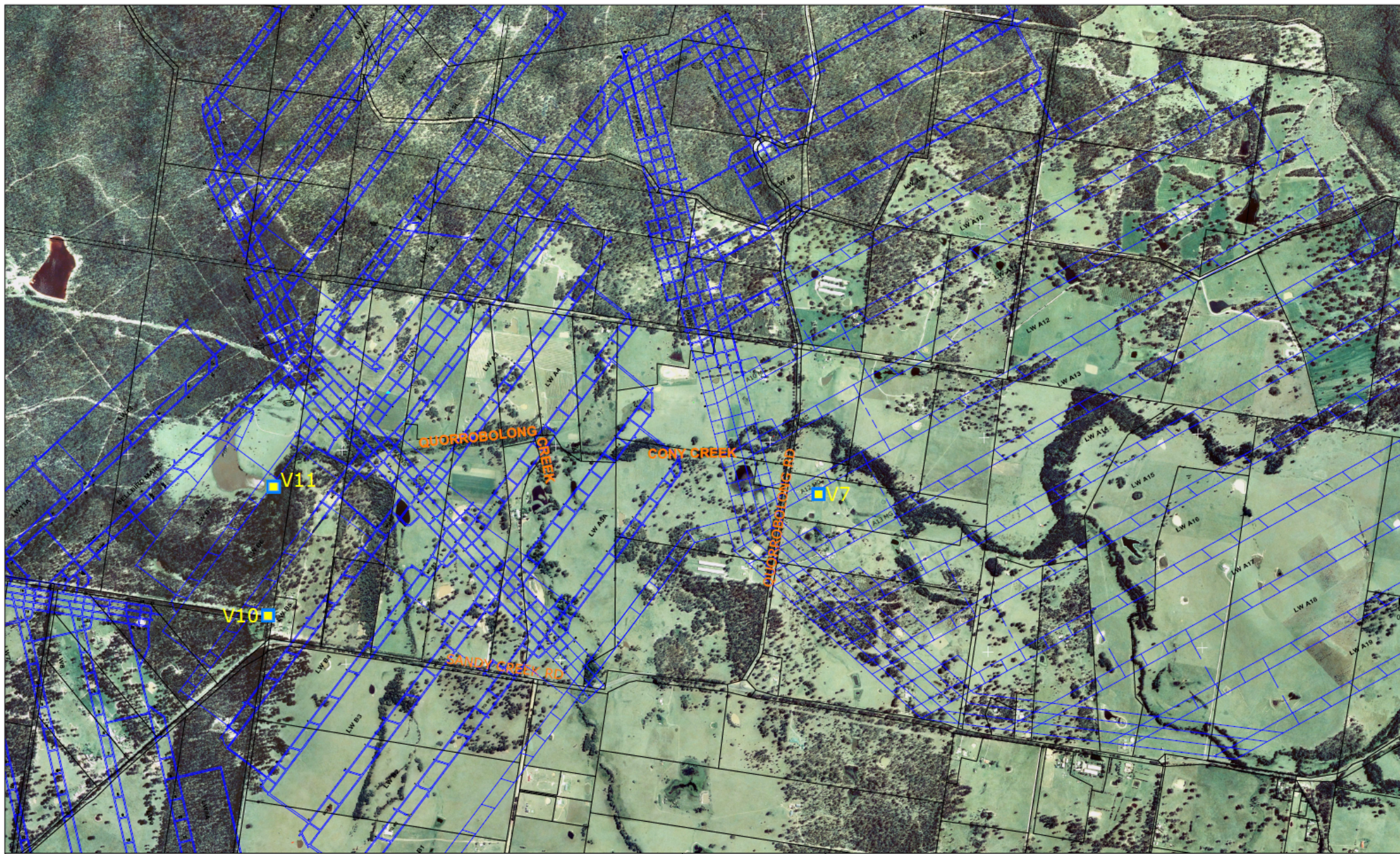
**Since last CCC meeting (27 November 2019 – 25 February 2020)**

- NIL noise exceedances since last meeting

## Since last CCC meeting (27 November 2019 – 25 February 2020)

- **Monitor V7 – 345 Quorrobolong Road**
  - Monitoring commenced 11 June 2013
  - No new vibration events recorded greater than 1mm/s on any axis
- **Monitor V11 – above LWB6**
  - Monitoring commenced 19 July 2017
  - 16 new vibration events recorded greater than 1mm/s on any axis
  - Ranging between 1.06-13.46 mm/s peak vibration
  - Mining commenced in LWB6 on 27/09/2019 and completed 12/02/2020
- **Monitor V10 – above LWB5**
  - Monitoring commenced 28 August 2017
  - 22 new vibration events recorded greater than 1mm/s on any axis
  - Ranging between 1.07-3.26 mm/s peak vibration
- Minimal risk of cosmetic damage criteria 15 mm/s (BS 7385:1993)





**LEGEND:**

■ V7 Vibration Monitors

DRAWN  
J. Chadwick

DATE  
21/1/2019

CHECKED  
C. McCormack

APPROVED  
C. McCormack

**AUSTAR COAL MINE**

TITLE  
**Figure 11: Vibration Monitoring Locations**

SCALE  
Not to scale

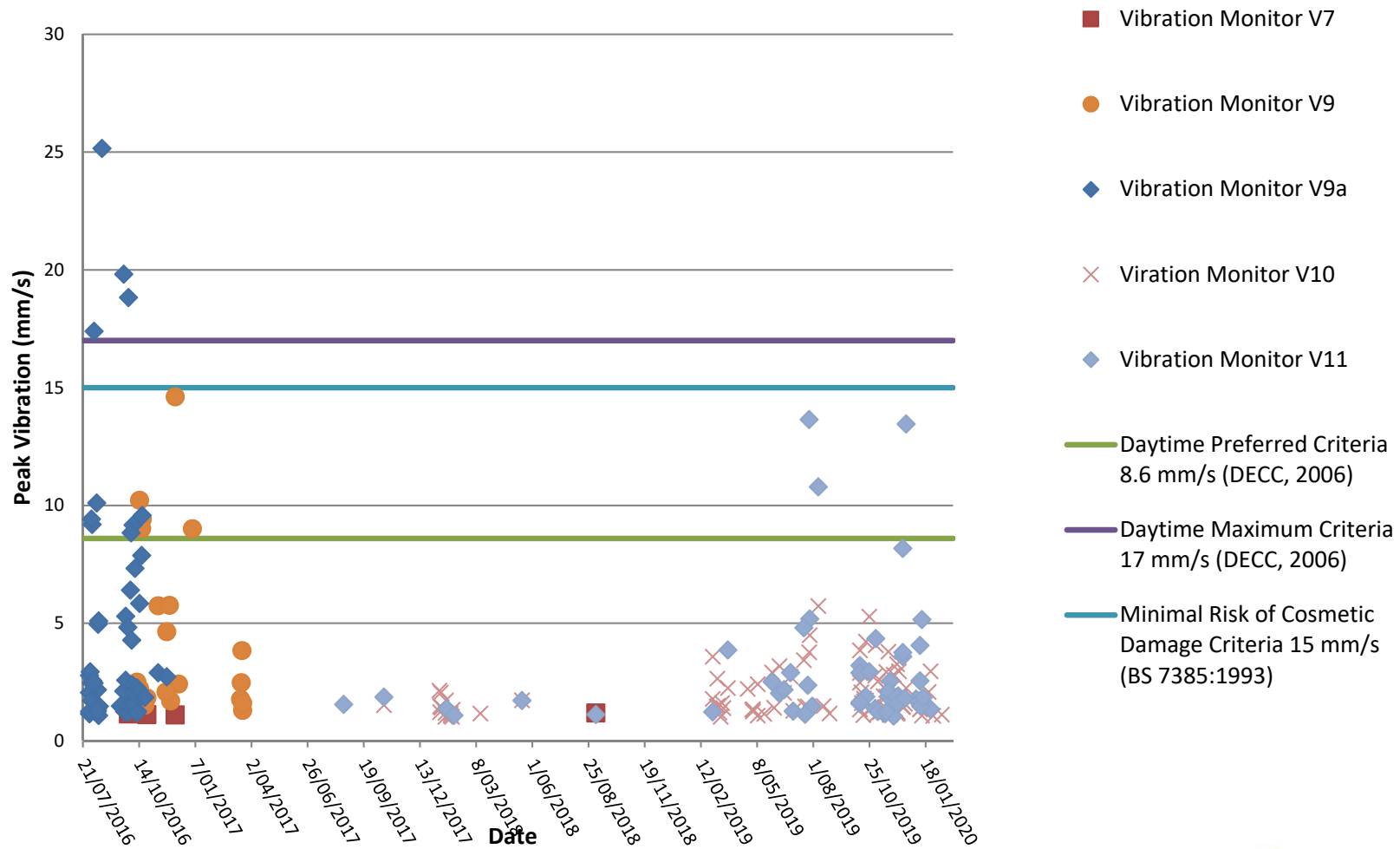
DRAWING No.  
Environmental/ Monitoring Plan

A3



# Vibration

Austar Peak Ground Vibration - Night and Day Combined (Events > 1mm/sec)



# Community Complaints

## Since last CCC meeting (27 November 2019 – 25 February 2020)

- **1 x Dust related complaint – 22 February 2020**
  - Resident in O’Brien Street, Cessnock reported dust in pool since commencement of capping at Aberdare Reject Emplacement Area in the second half of last year, and particularly over the Christmas period
  - Actions:
    - Capping and topsoiling of 1ha of emplaced reject was completed in Q4 2019
    - Soils samples of the capped area were collected on 21 February 2020 and will be used to guide vegetation establishment
    - Seeding of newly capped area to be completed Q1 2020

# General Business



## Community Sponsorship and Donations

### Community Support Program 2020

- Applications closed 4 November 2019
- 17 applications received
- 9 successful applicants

### Community Donations

- Cessnock Rugby League Football Club Fence Signage Sponsorship 2020
- Kurri Kurri Rugby League Football Club Fence Signage Sponsorship 2020

## Bushfire Risk Management

- Continued implementation of Bushfire Management Plan actions
- Ongoing liaison with RFS

## Completed Reports and Studies

- Annual Review 2018-19 – Accepted by DPIE February 2020
- EPA Annual Return 2019 – Lodged with EPA February 2020

- **Other Business –**

# Next Meeting / Close