

Austar Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Daily Meeting Room – Austar Coal Mine Pit Top, Middle Road, Paxton
 Time: 10:00am – 11:00am
 Date: 23 March 2022

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
Ashlee Baker (AB)	Community Representative
Carly McCormack (CM)	Austar Coal Mine
Julie McNaughton (JM)	Austar Coal Mine
William Farnworth (WF)	Austar Coal Mine
Peter Madden (PM)	Austar Coal Mine
Michael Gorman (MG)	NSW Police Service (Cessnock)
Councillor John Moores (CJM)	Cessnock City Council representative
Apologies	
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
John Rayner (JR)	Community Representative
Peter Sturrock (PS)	Community Representative
Copy of minutes	
Councillor Jay Suvaal	Mayor of Cessnock City Council
Mr Joel Fitzgibbon MP	Federal Member for Hunter
Mr Clayton Barr	State Member for Cessnock
Ms Valerie Phillips	Librarian, Cessnock City Council

1	Welcome
	MMH – Opened the meeting 10:04am and welcomed the CCC. Apologies are noted above. MMH – Welcome to John Moores to the Austar CCC
2	Declaration of Interests
	MMH asked for any changes to previous declarations of interest. Declarations of interests remain current for all members
3	Confirmation of Previous Minutes
	The minutes of the previous meeting were considered representative of that meeting. AB moved, CM seconded.
4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes

	MMH – Following up from last meeting’s discussion - what is the status of the Sharing the Benefits Agreements (STBAs)? JM – STBAs are still active. Work is ongoing to close out the agreements.
5	Correspondence
	MMH noted correspondence: 7/3/22 – Cessnock City Council email on Council’s representation 14/3/22 - MMH email Chair’s Annual Report to DPE
6	Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints, Community Support
	Detail in presentation.
7	Closure Planning Update
	Detail in presentation.
8	General Business
	Detail in presentation. MG - Offer for meeting regarding security at Austar as workforce is reduced. WF – Security on site is generally good. If security needs to be increase in the future Austar can accommodate. CJM – What were the options presented to the workforce given some positions are no longer required? WF – The workforce ranked their preference between relocating to Ashton, taking a redundancy and continuing work at Austar until further notice.
9	Meeting Dates
	21 September 2022.
10	Meeting Closed
	MMH – Thanked the CCC and declared the meeting closed at 11:01am.

Recorded: Peter Madden 23 March 2022

AUSTAR COAL MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING

23 March 2022

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 activities / Environmental monitoring update / Complaints
7. Closure Planning update
8. General business
9. Next meeting / Meeting close

Current Activities

Decommissioning Activities

Underground Demobilisation:

- Approximately 75% of equipment has been recovered from underground and surface
- Transferred to other sites, stored for sale or scrapped
- General site surface clean-up ongoing

Mine Sealing:

- Initial temporary mine sealing focusing on public safety and mine security has been completed with seal placed on the Kitchener Shafts and half the UG workings
- Temporary Mine sealing is scheduled for completion mid 2022

Decommissioning Activities

No. 2 Shaft Demobilisation



Decommissioning Activities

Decommissioning:

- RO plant removed from service
- Reduction in water pumping allowing progressive flooding underground during mine withdrawal
- Planning for decommissioning remaining 3 shaft ventilation fans

Demolition:

- Planning for demolition and removal of all non-heritage redundant mine infrastructure
- Heritage, Demolition and HAZMAT studies in progress
- Proposed demolition activities are scheduled to commence during the second half of this year

Current Activities – Exploration boreholes

- Most exploration boreholes drilled by Austar have been rehabilitated and lodged for completion with the Resources Regulator
- Austar is undertaking a borehole status audit for holes drilled by Austar's predecessors, as well as service boreholes that may require rehabilitation

Next Steps

- Austar has engaged Xenith to carry out further assessment, preparation of ESF2 forms for rehabilitated holes and develop a plan for rehabilitation where required

Current Activities

- Weed management works are ongoing. Areas recently targeted include Green Cestrum along Quorrobolong Creek and Lantana around the CHPP
- Yancoal Environmental Assurance Audit held 23 - 24 February, draft report not yet received. Findings around housekeeping, water management, closure planning
- EPL Annual Return submitted in February

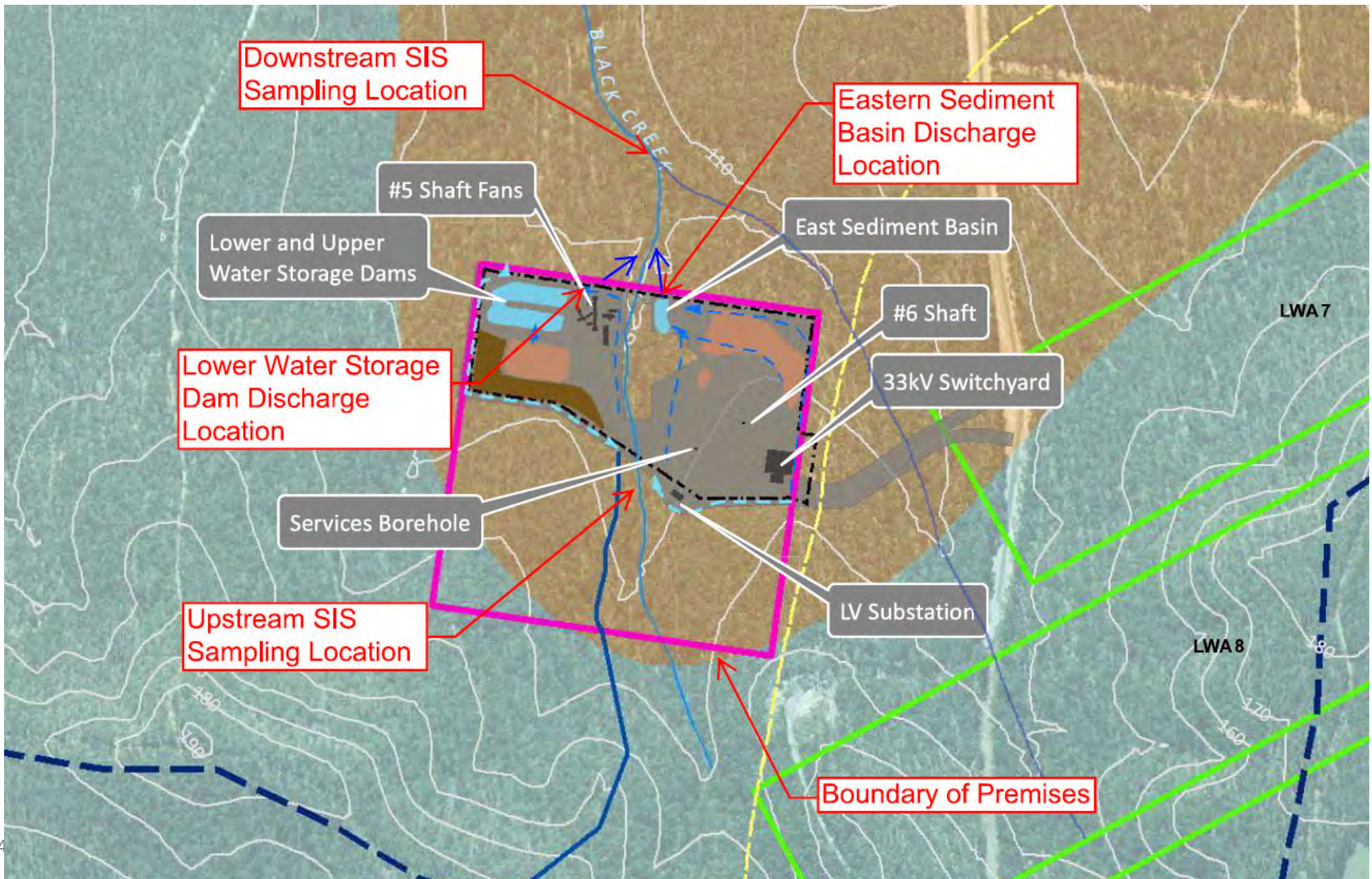
Environmental Incidents

Environmental Incidents (22 September 2021 – 22 March 2022)

Sediment Basins Discharging Offsite – Kitchener SIS

- Three incidents reported under the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP) being:
 - 19 February 2022 – Eastern Sediment Basin;
 - 23 February 2022 – Lower Water Storage Dam; and
 - 04 March & 10 March 2022 – Eastern Sediment Basin & Lower Water Storage Dam, respectively.
- The water discharged off-site from these dams reports to Black Creek
- Greater than design rainfall received – 314mm received from 19/02/22 to 8/03/22 (18 days)
- Sediment basins are designed to capture 42.8mm over 5 days
- Of the 18 days, only 4 did not exceed the 42.8mm 5 day rolling average
- Authorities notified as per PIRMP
- Incident reports submitted where required

Environmental Incidents



Environmental Incidents

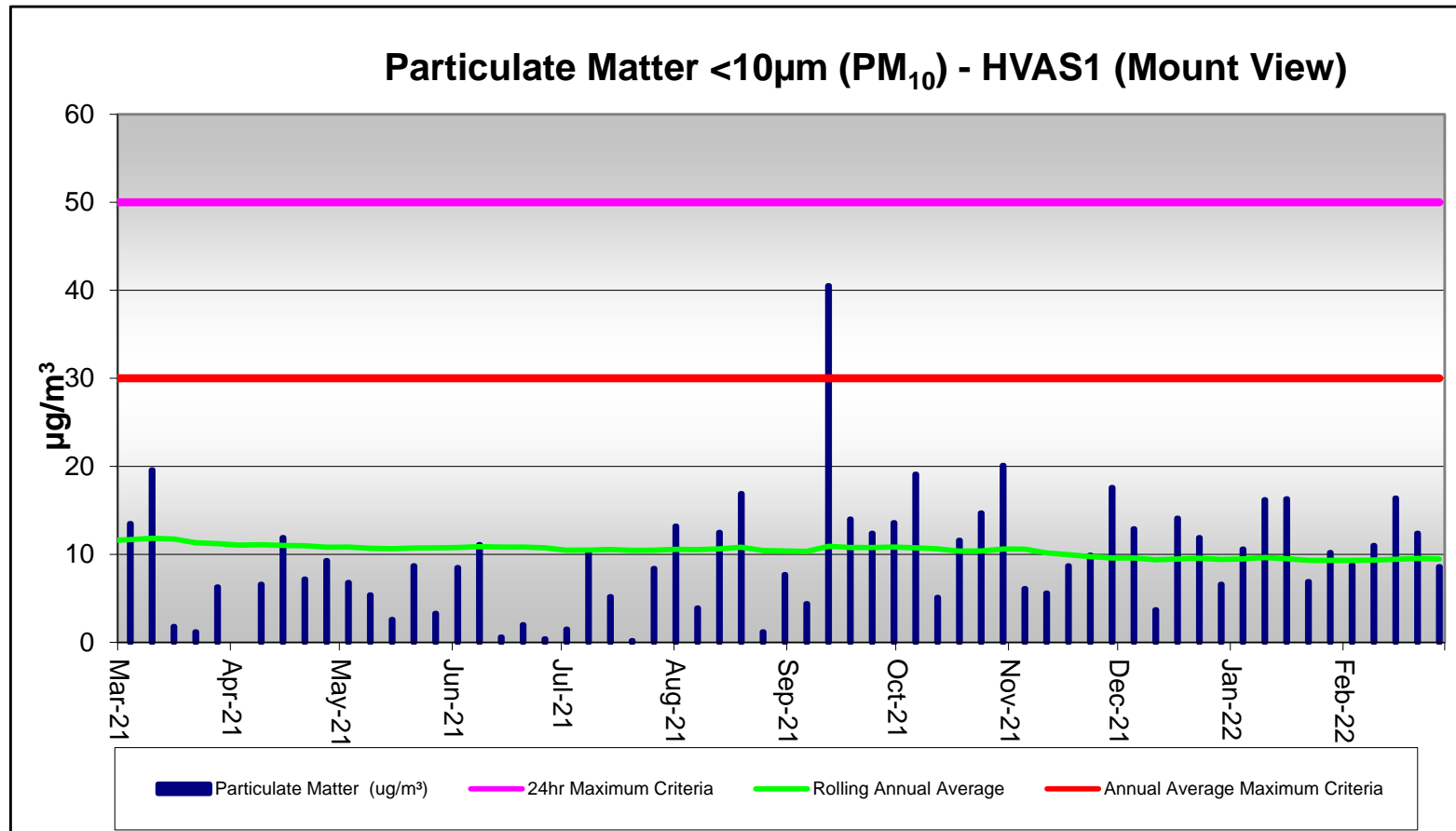
Environmental Incidents

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

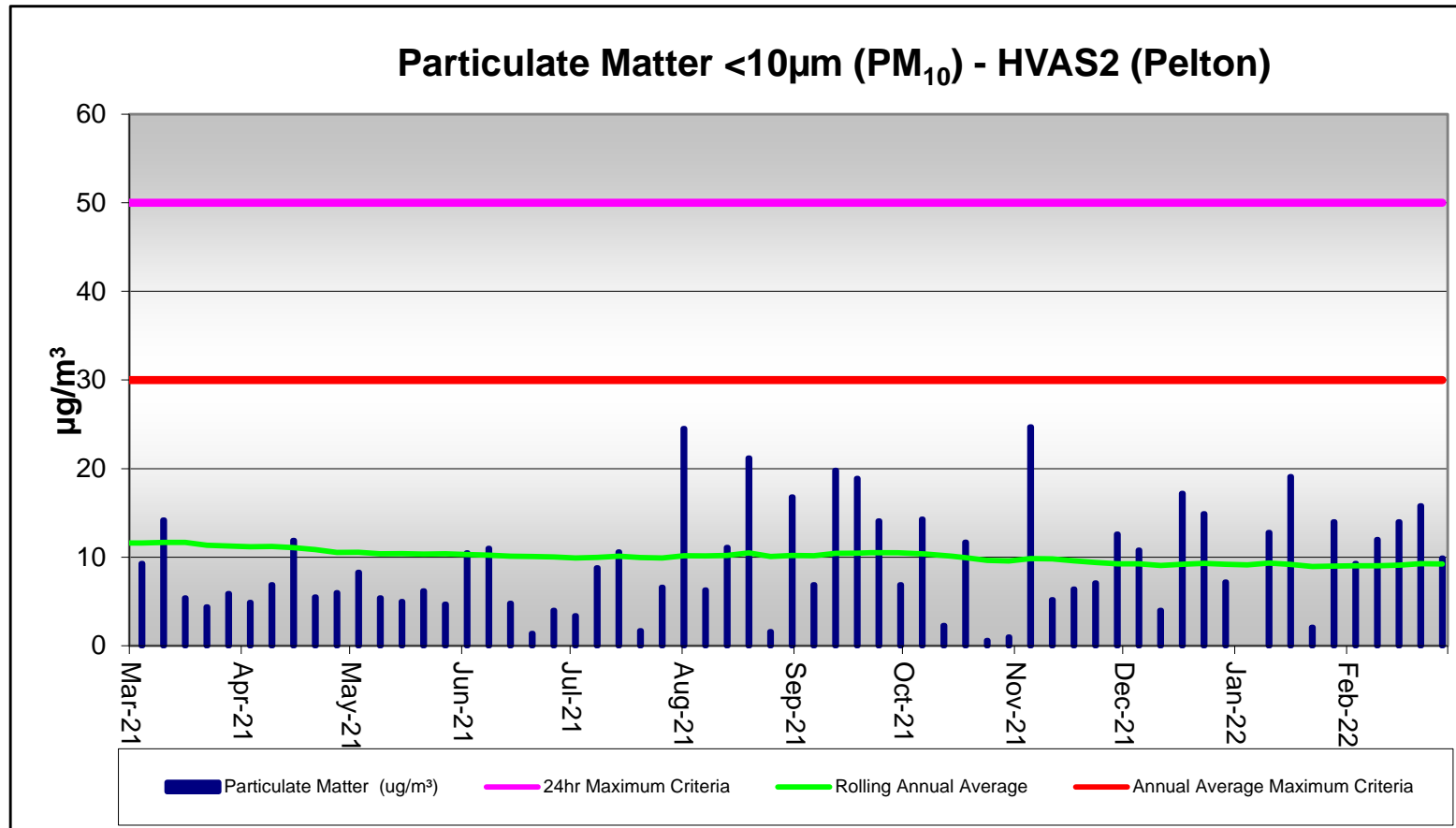
- Orange staining reported during all monitoring events with the exception of one (February) since previous meeting (October-March)
- RO plant ceased operation (and discharge to Bellbird Creek) on 18 May 2021
- Reported to NSW EPA in monthly status reports required by EPL

Environmental Monitoring Update

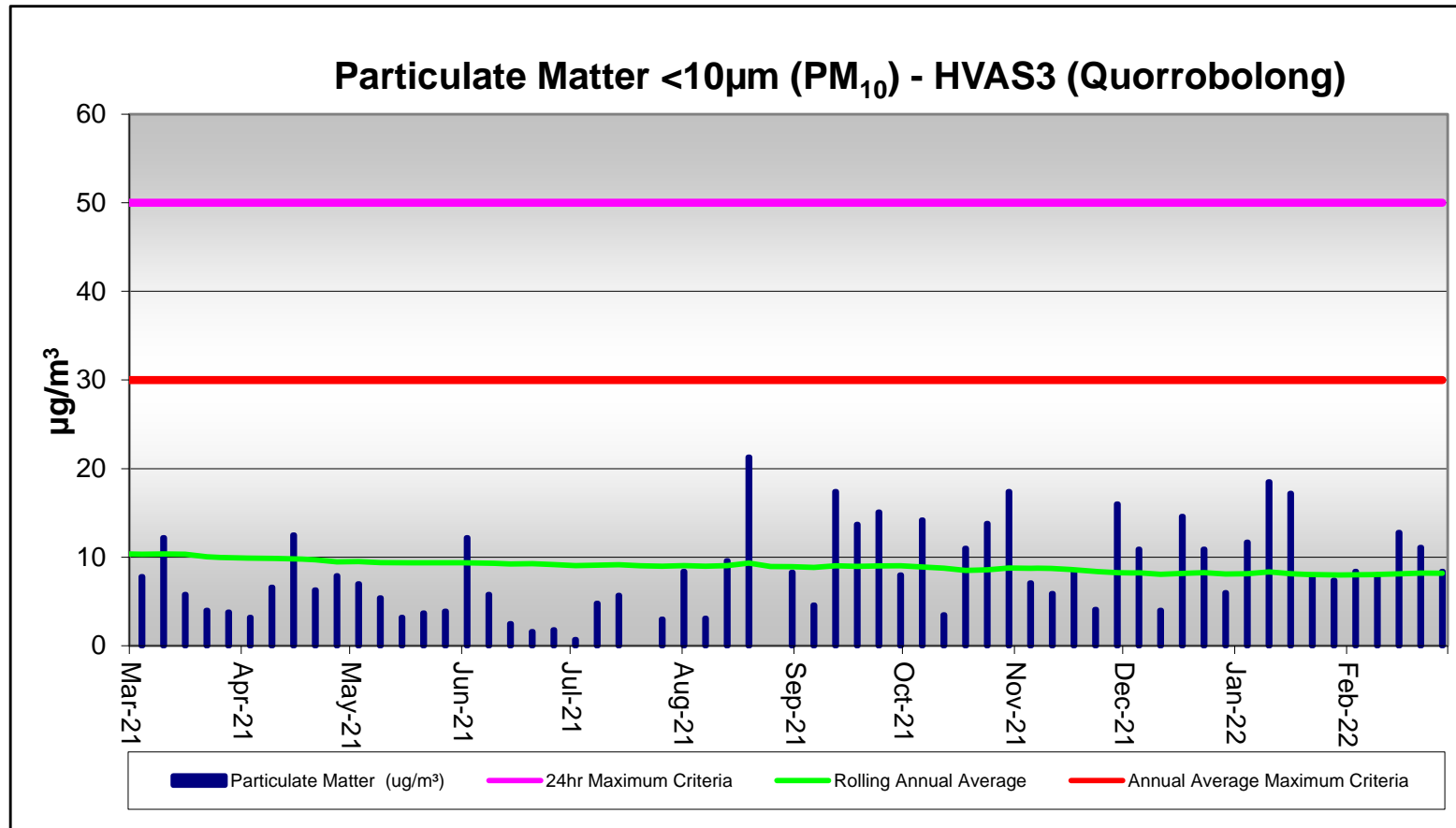
Air Quality



Air Quality

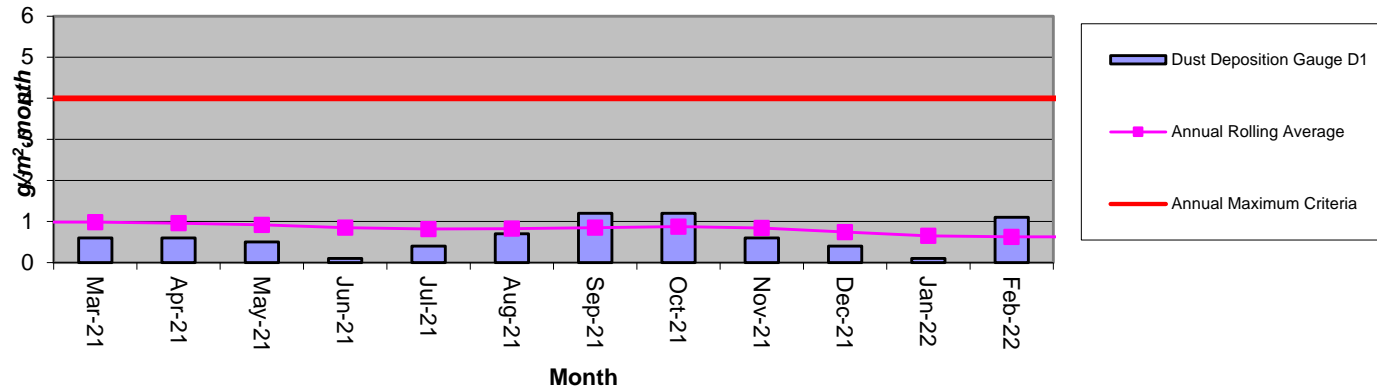


Air Quality

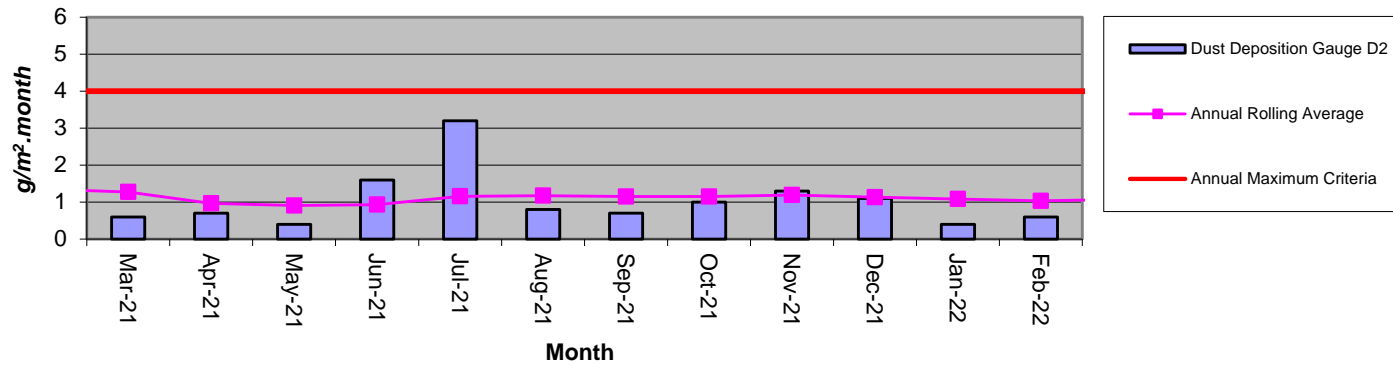


Air Quality

Dust Deposition Gauge D1 - Insoluble Solids

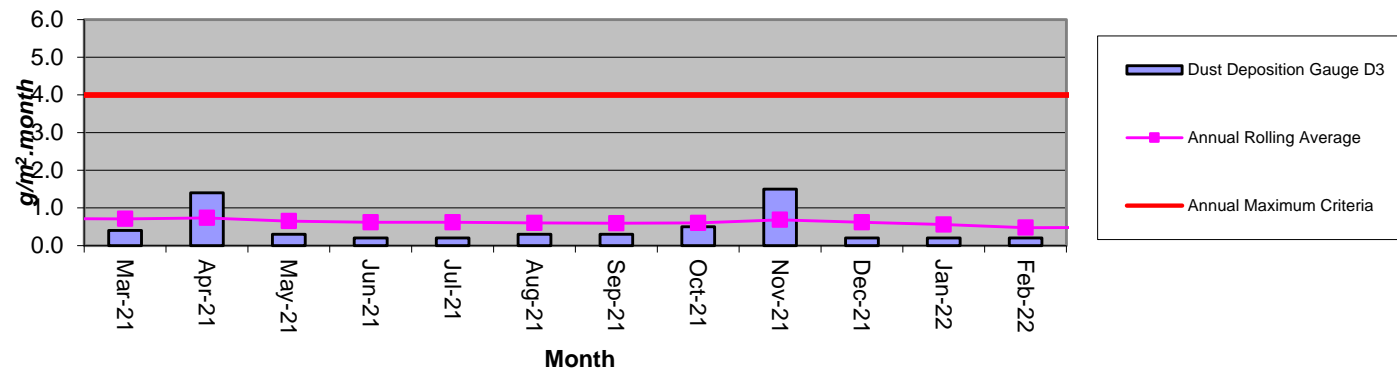


Dust Deposition Gauge D2 - Insoluble Solids

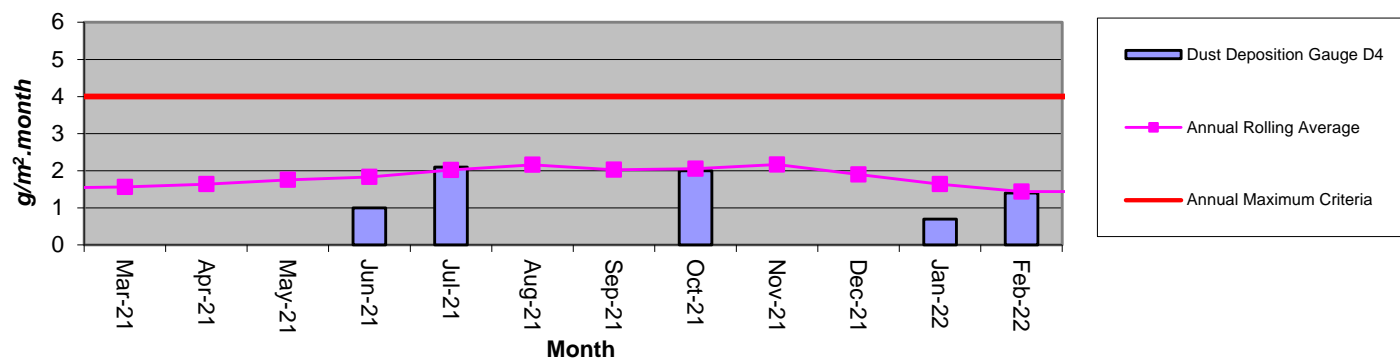


Air Quality

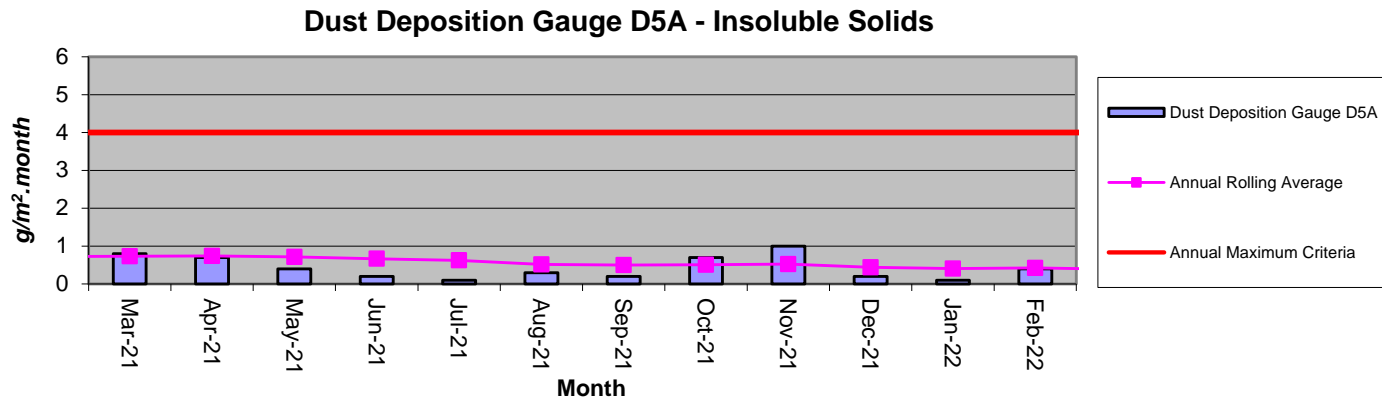
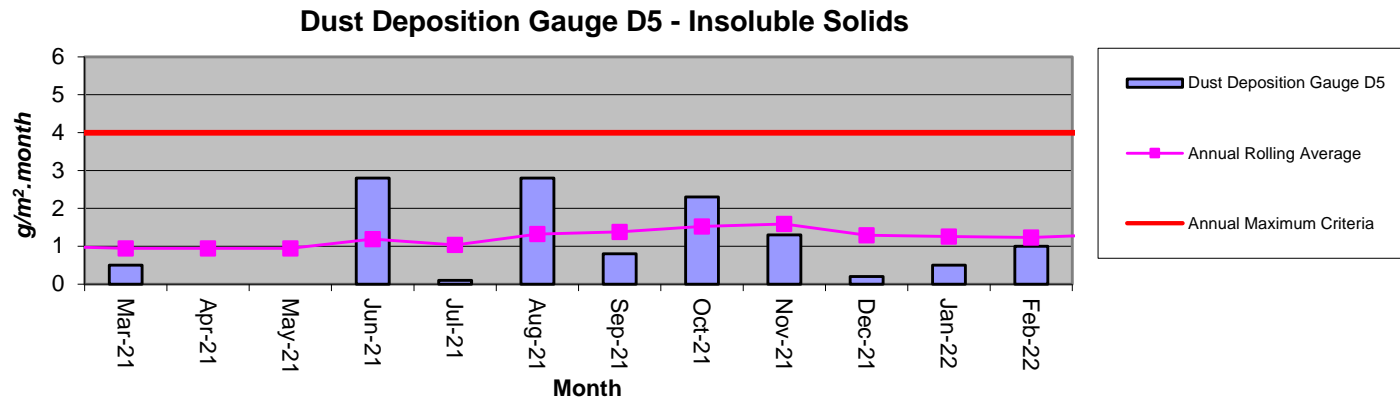
Dust Deposition Gauge D3 - Insoluble Solids



Dust Deposition Gauge D4 - Insoluble Solids

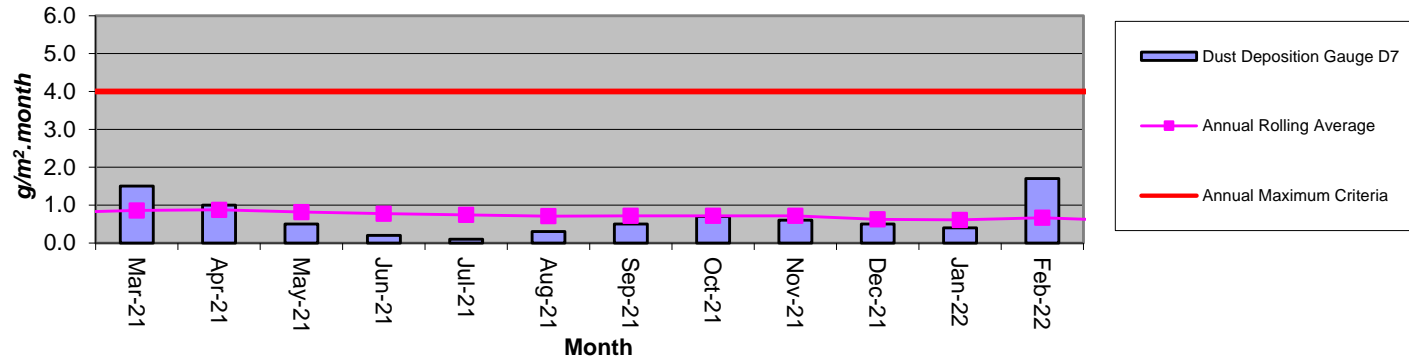


Air Quality

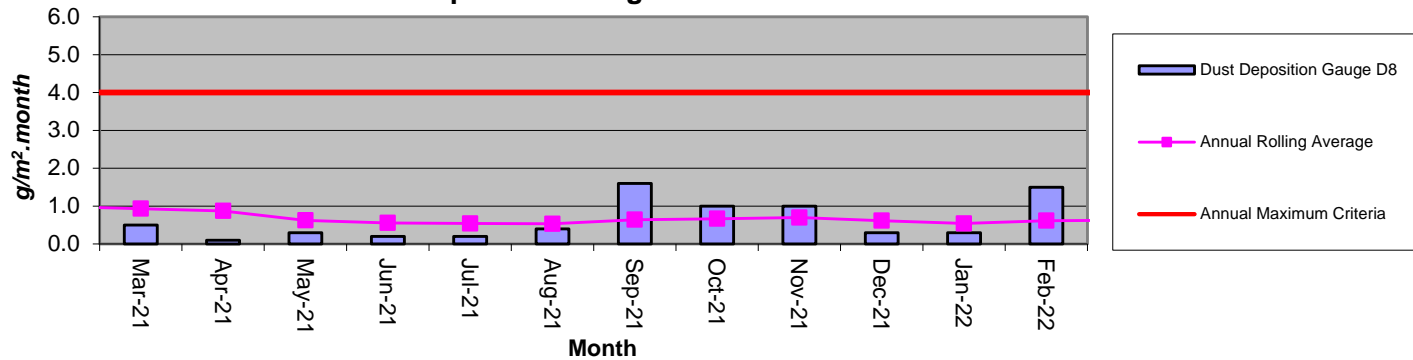


Air Quality

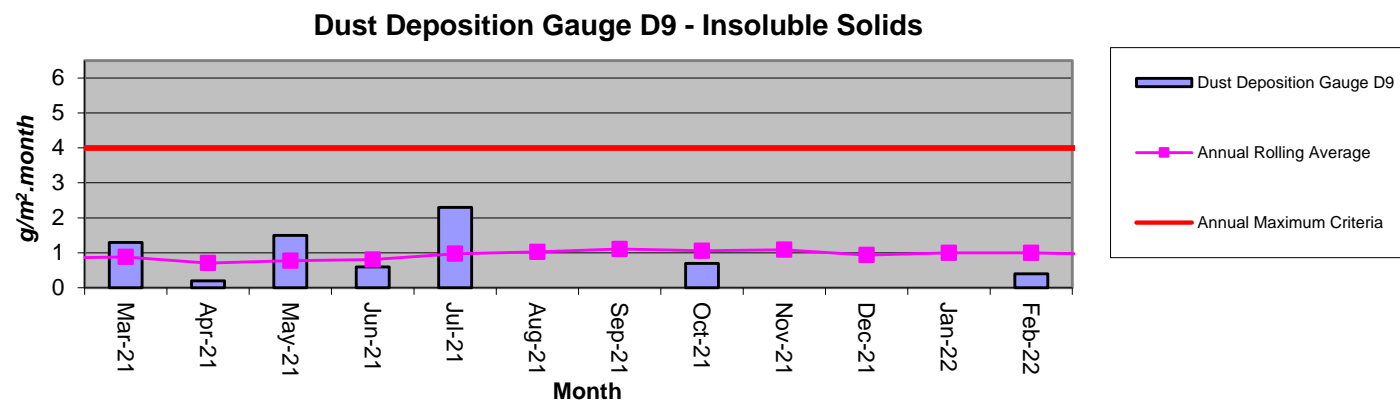
Dust Deposition Gauge D7 - Insoluble Solids



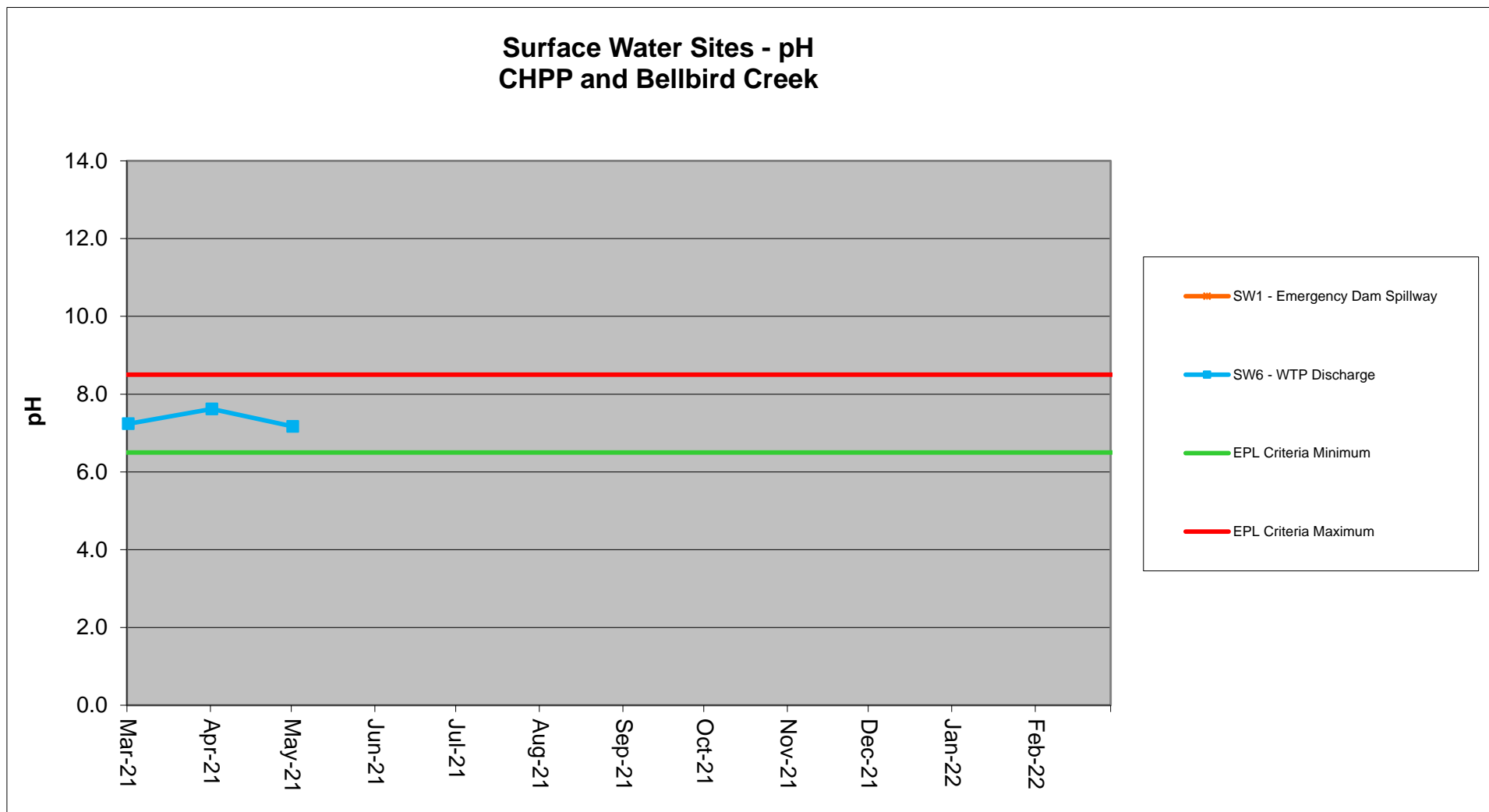
Dust Deposition Gauge D8 - Insoluble Solids



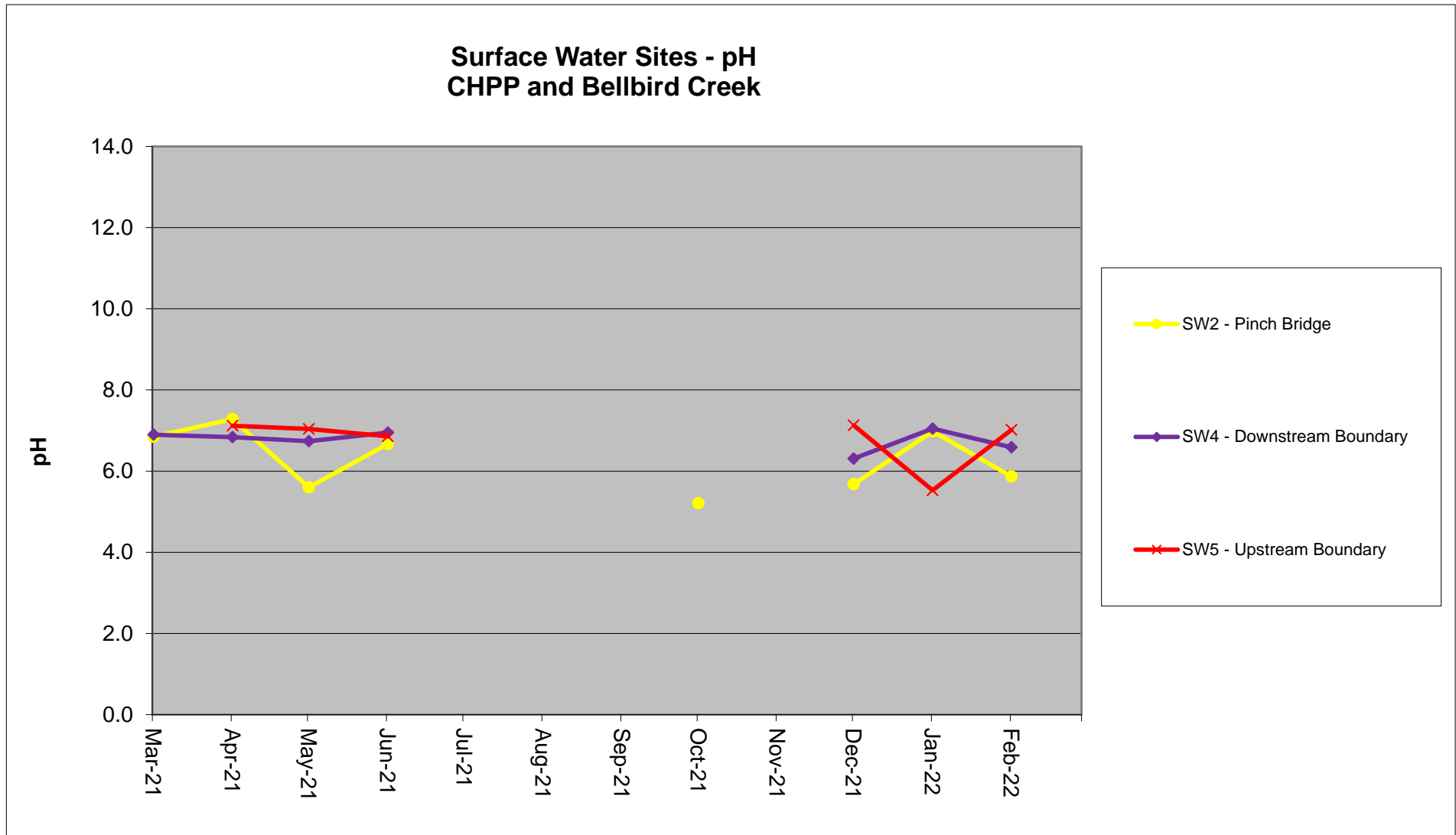
Air Quality



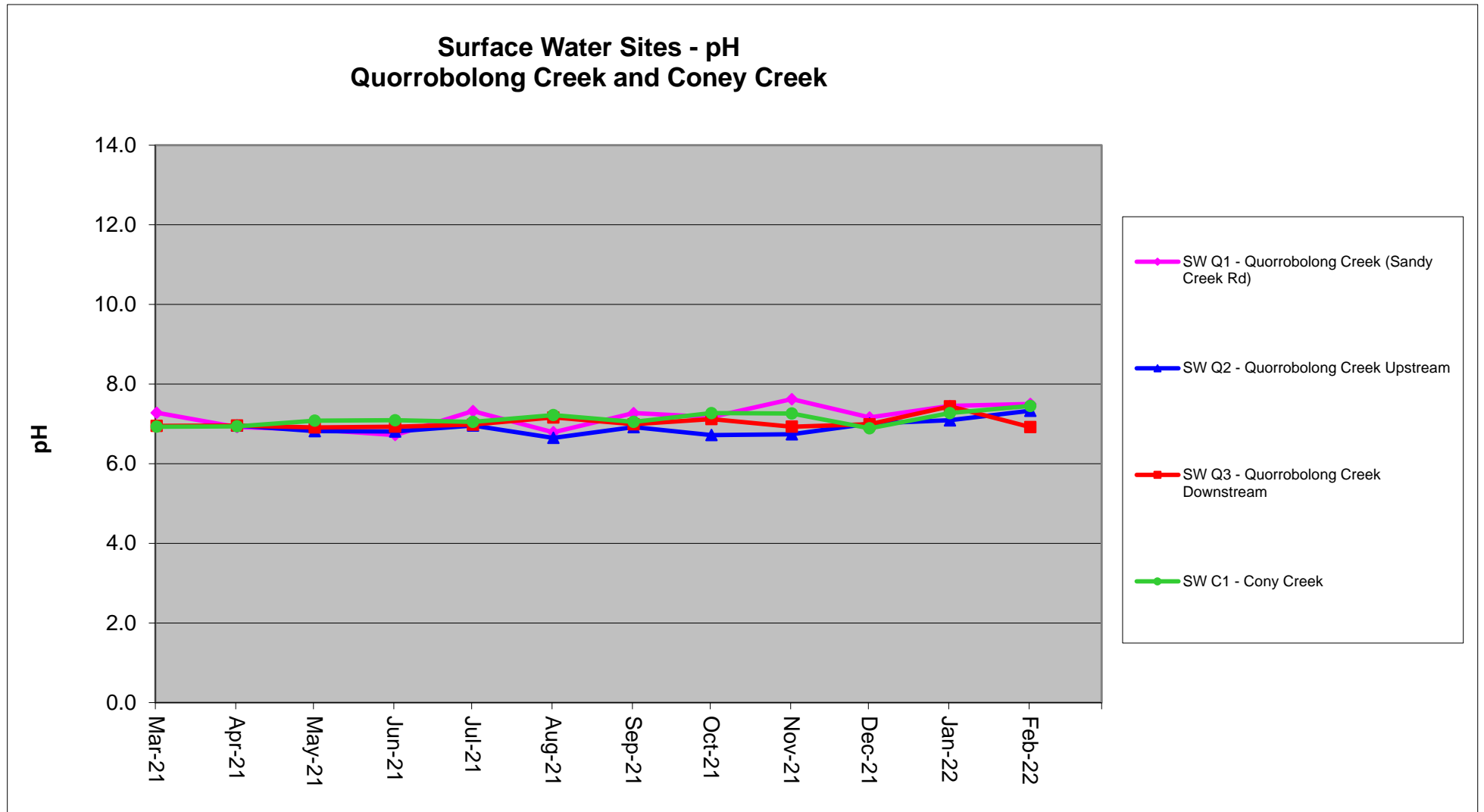
Water Monitoring



Water Monitoring

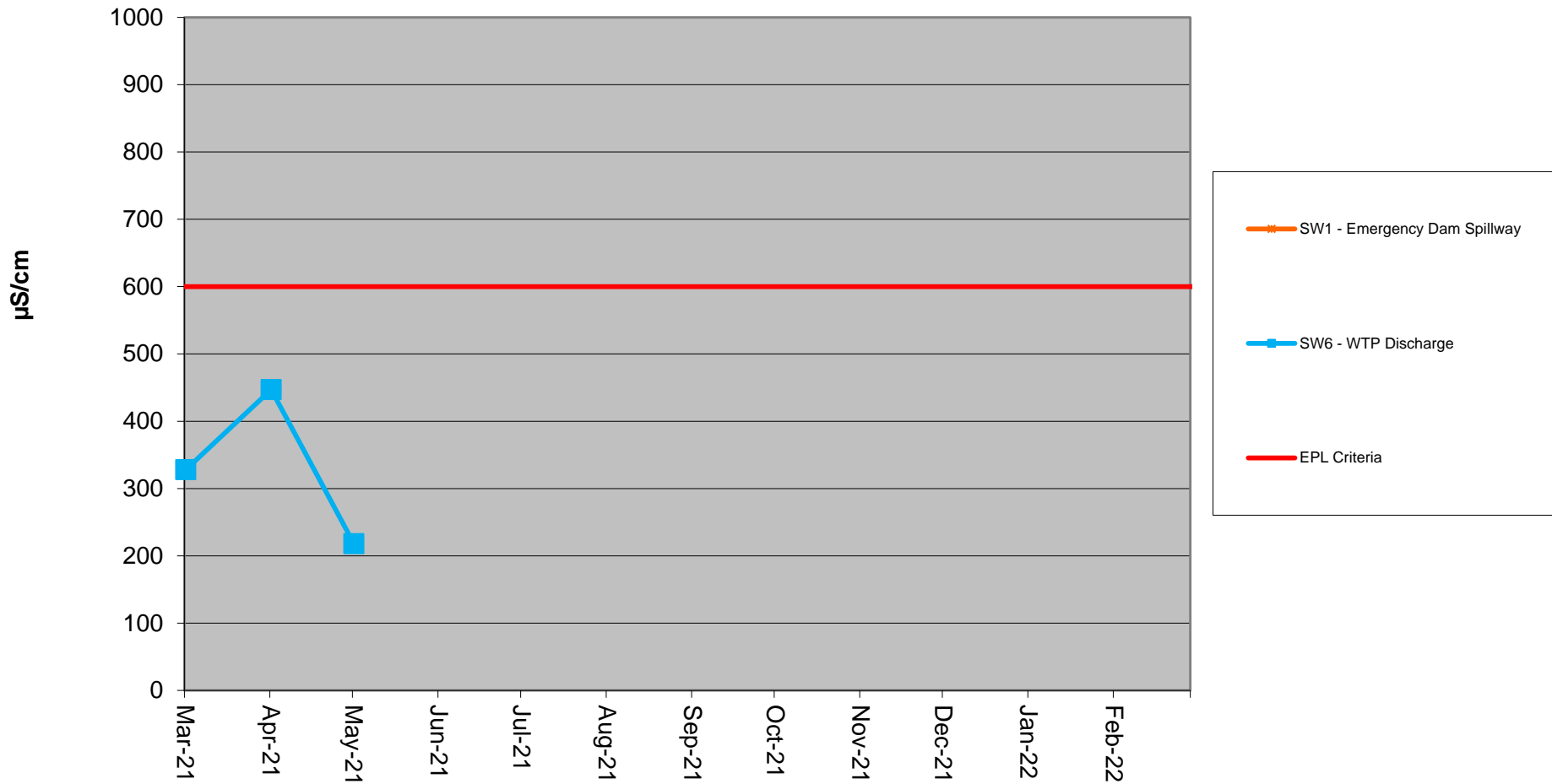


Water Monitoring

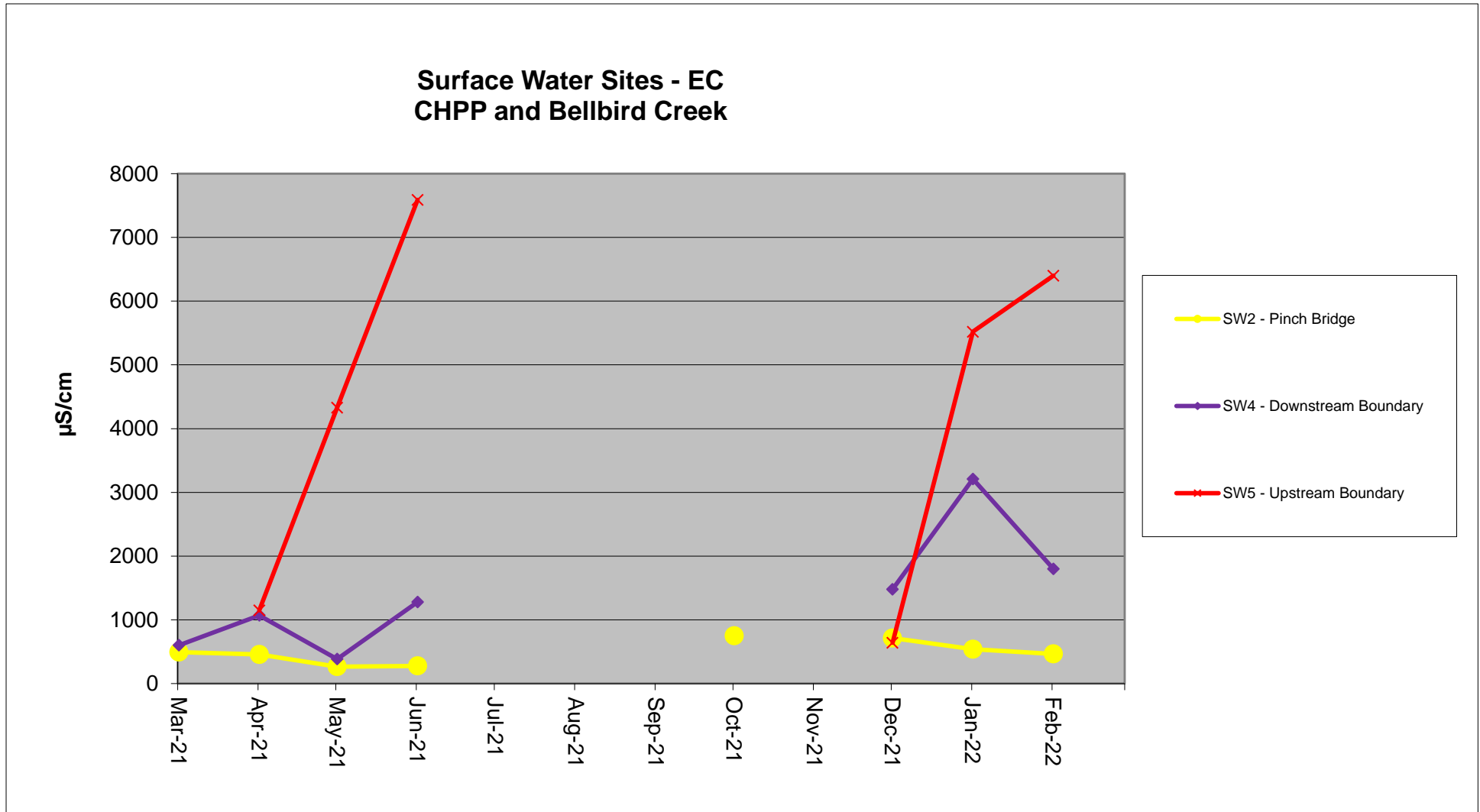


Water Monitoring

Surface Water Sites - EC
CHPP and Bellbird Creek

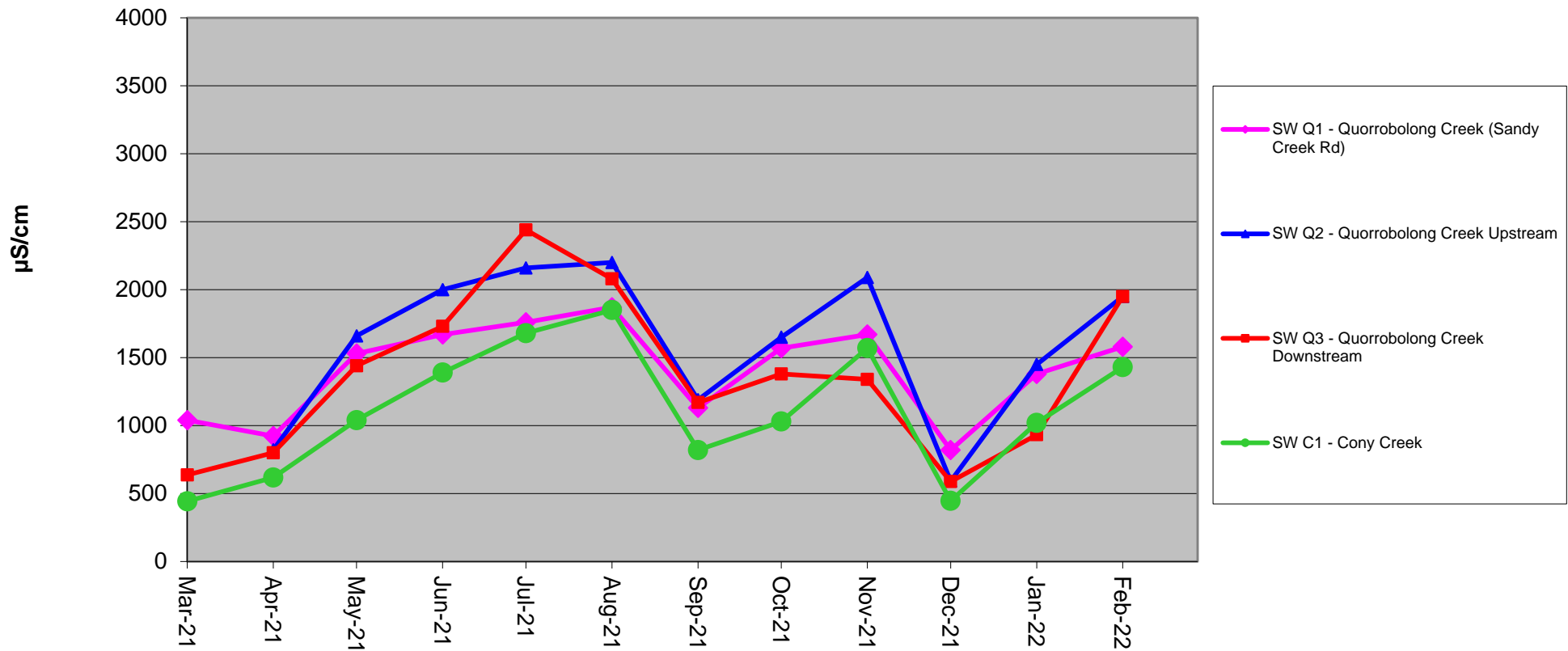


Water Monitoring



Water Monitoring

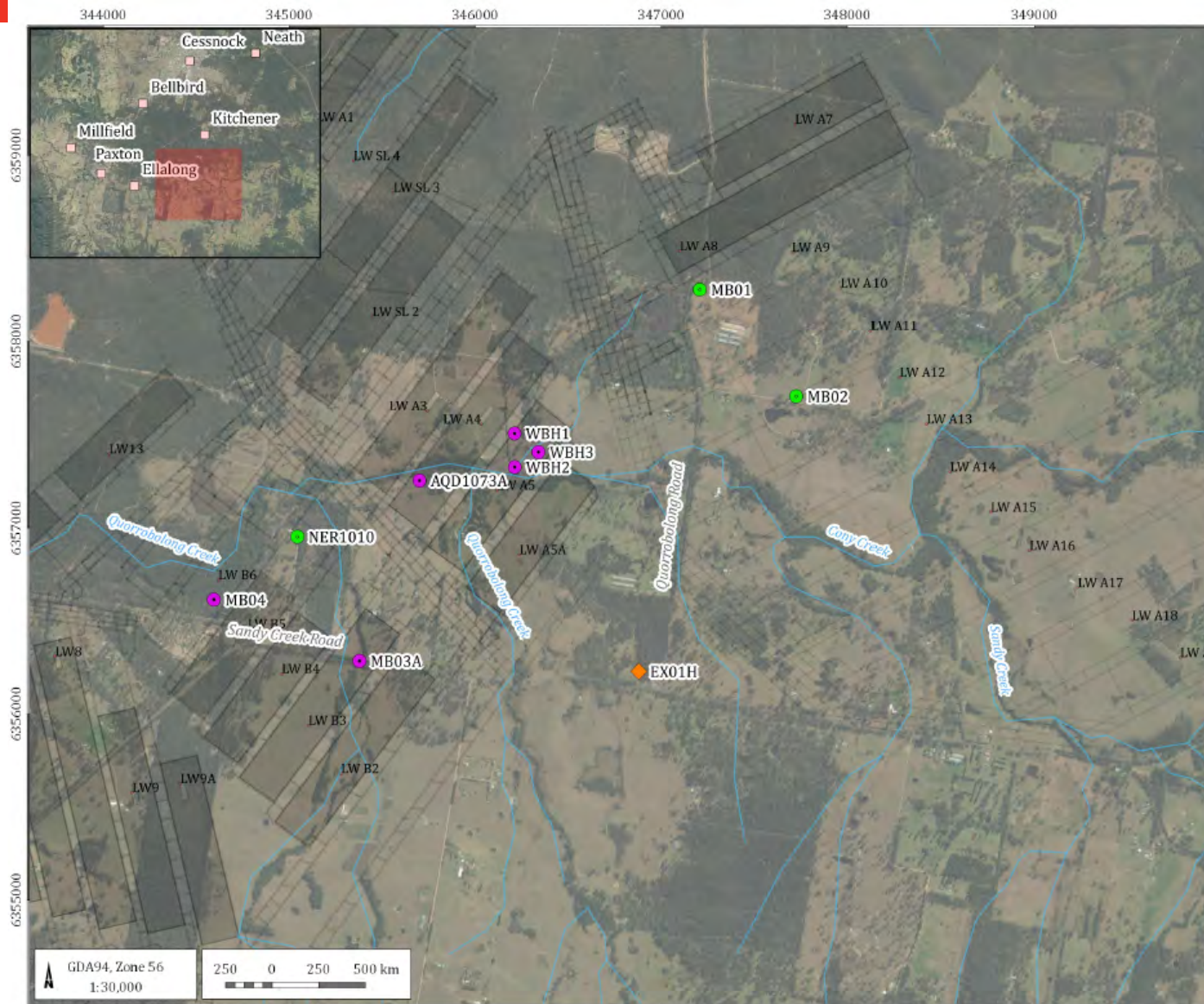
Surface Water Sites - EC
Quorrobolong Creek and Coney Creek



Groundwater Monitoring

- There are no new trends in groundwater quality or water levels
- Excepting monitoring bore MB03A in which groundwater elevation increased, groundwater elevation in alluvial monitoring bores decreased during Q4 2021
- Manually recorded groundwater levels in NER1010 increased between Q3 and Q4 2021. PT data was not recorded in NER1010 during the monitoring period due to a faulty logger
- Groundwater elevations in Stage 3 monitoring bores MB01 and MB02 increased between Q3 2021 and Q4 2021
- Groundwater pH in alluvial bores displayed no prevailing trends between Q3 and Q4, 2021
- Groundwater EC recorded in Stage 2 and Bellbird south alluvium decreased during Q4 2021. EC in Stage 3 monitoring bores decreased during the quarter

Groundwater Monitoring



- 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 (G18281)

Austar monitoring bore and VWP locations

DATE
24/09/2019

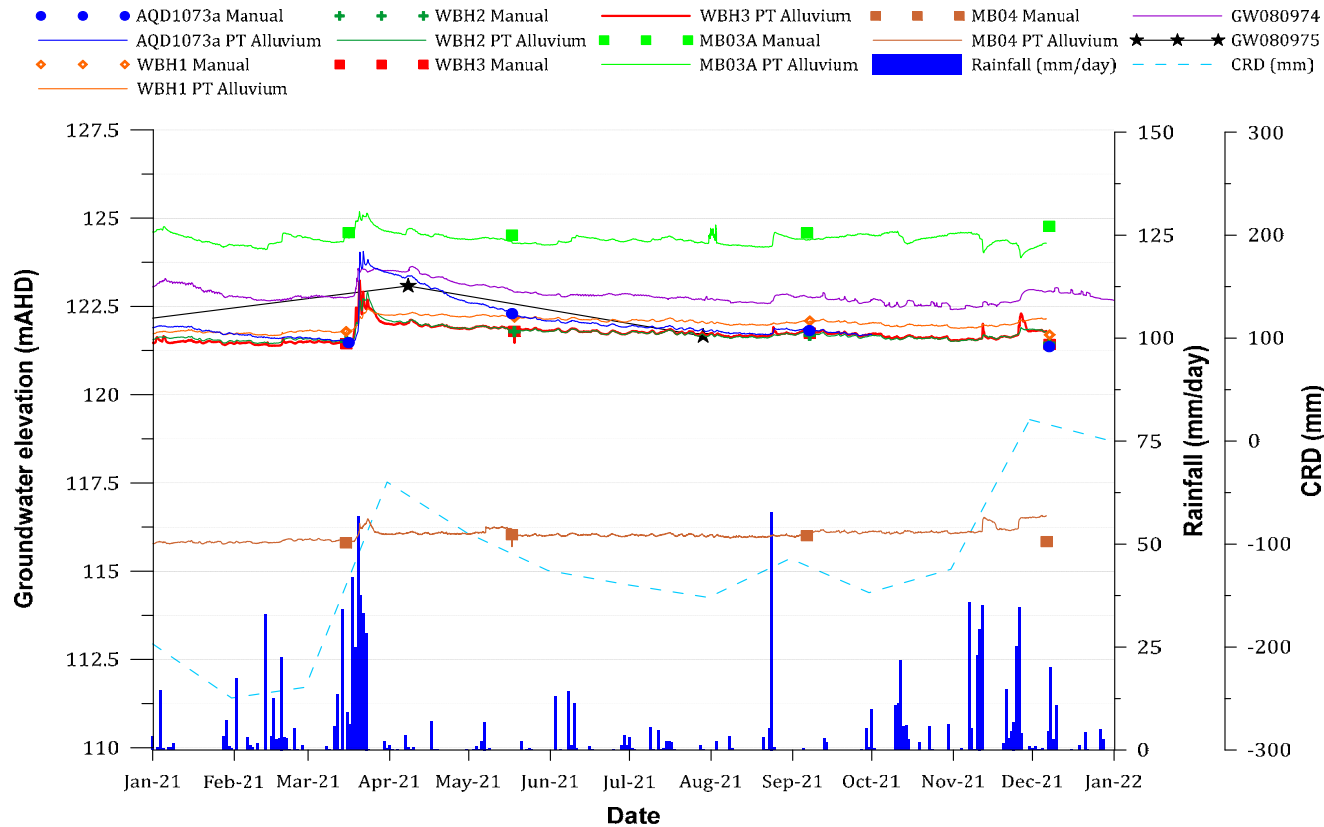
FIGURE No:
2.1



©2019 Australasian Groundwater and Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd (AGE) - www.ageconsultants.com.au
N:\Groundwater Jobs\G18281\Yancoal Austar GW monitoring and compliance 2019\3_GIS\Workspaces\20190924_G18281_Austar monitoring bore and VWP locations, updated Sept 2019.ags
Note: longwall panel background georeferenced accuracy ~ 10 m.



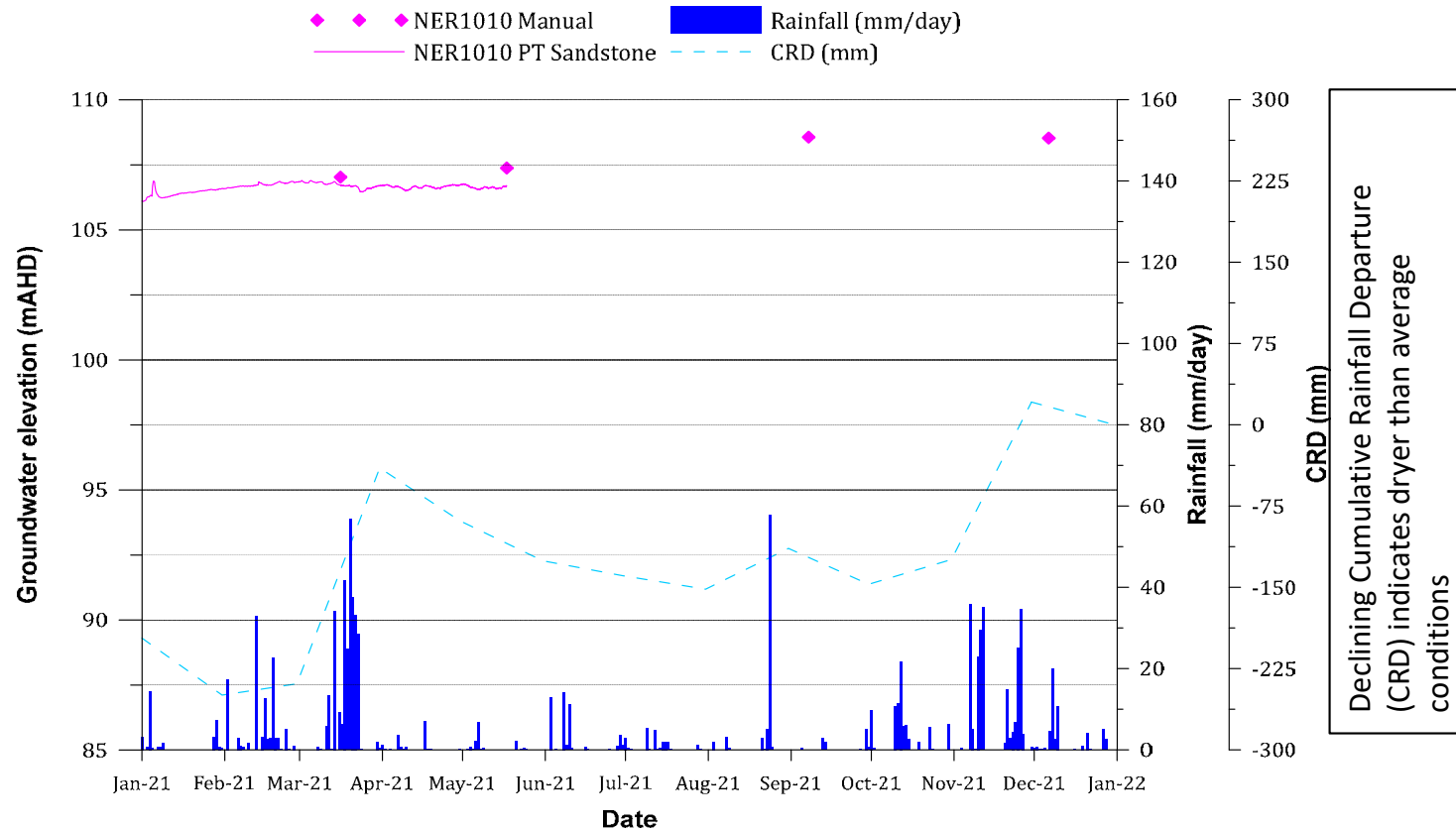
Groundwater Monitoring



Declining Cumulative Rainfall Departure (CRD) indicates dryer than average conditions

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

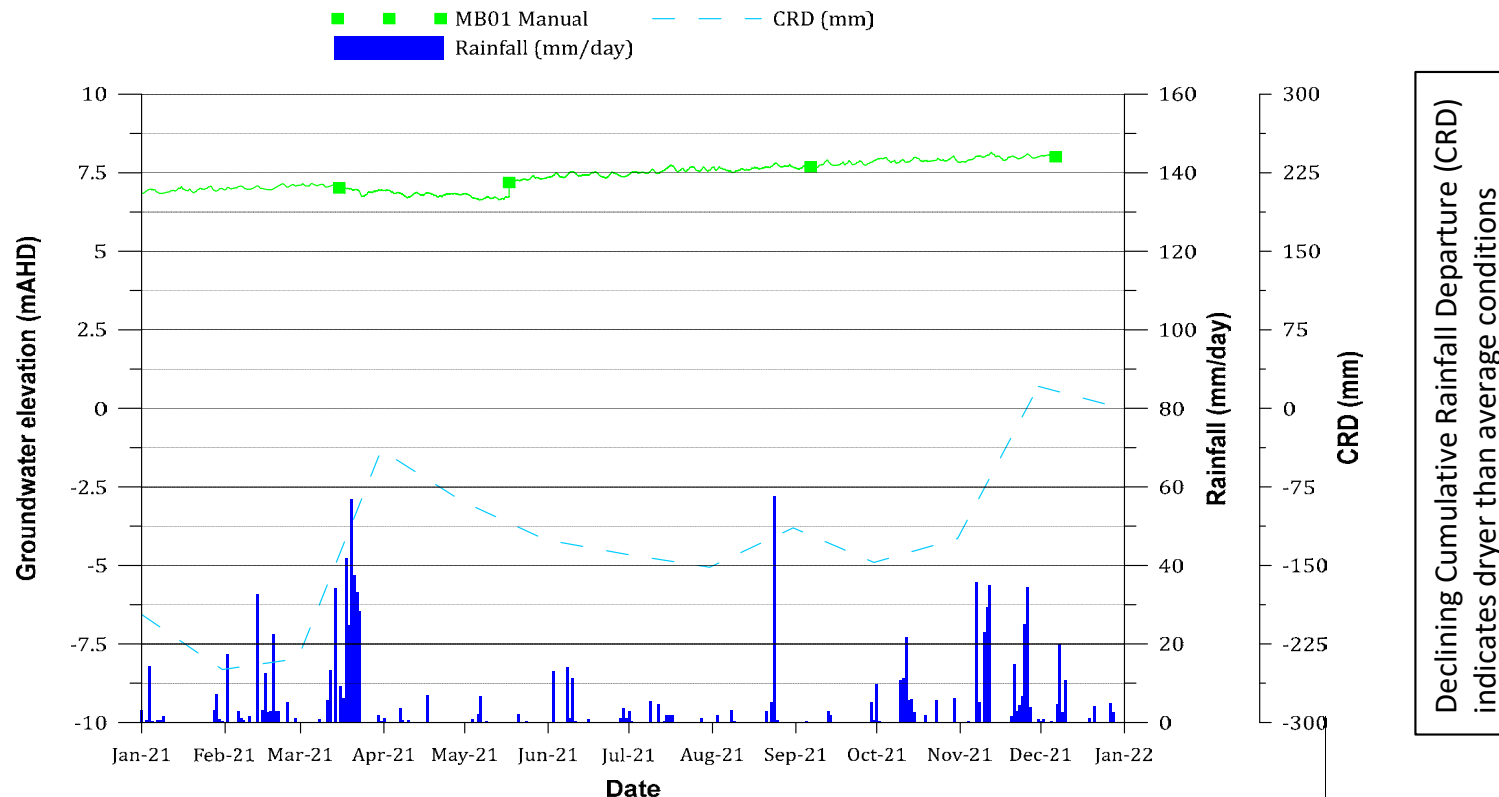
Groundwater Monitoring



Declining Cumulative Rainfall Departure (CRD) indicates dryer than average conditions

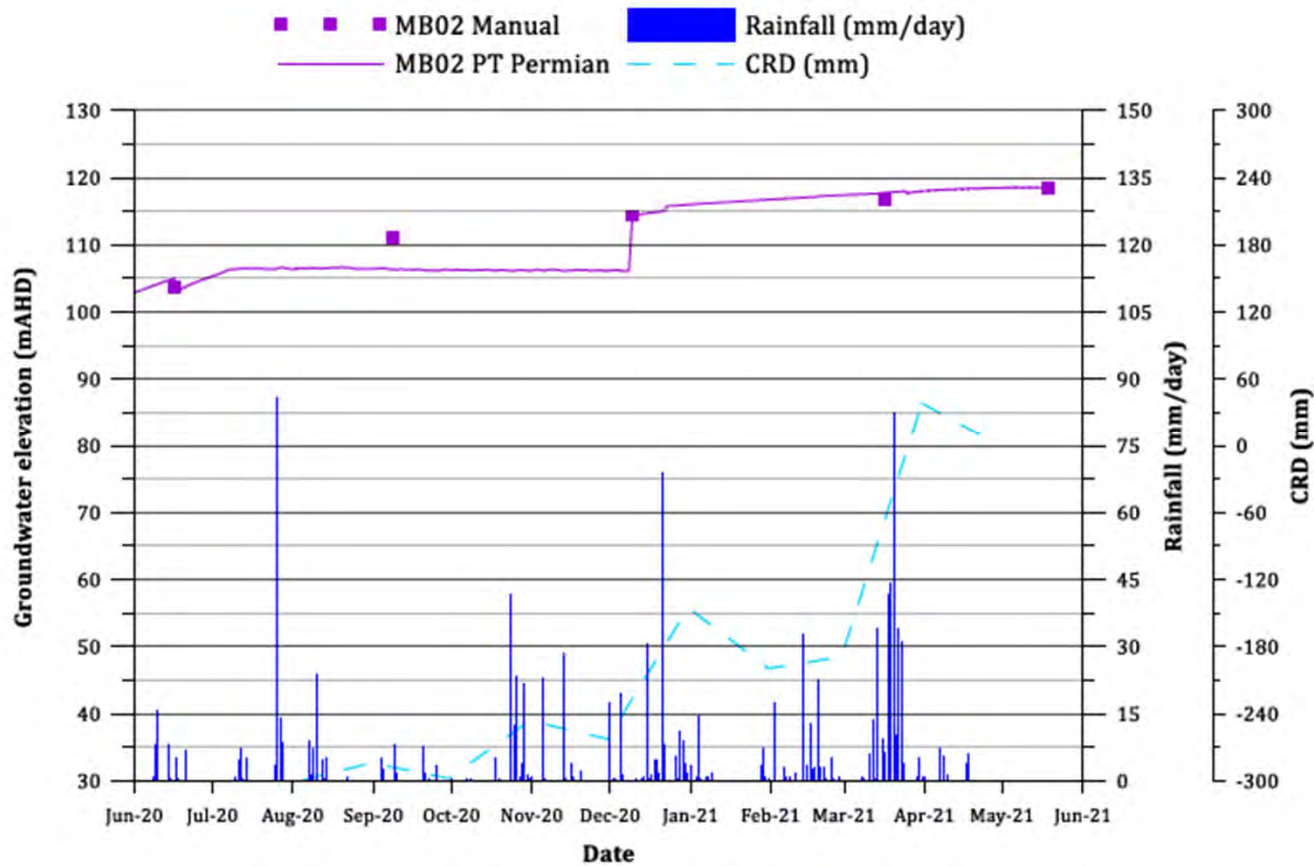
NER1010 groundwater level hydrograph

Groundwater Monitoring



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

Groundwater Monitoring



Declining Cumulative Rainfall Departure (CRD) indicates drier than average conditions

Stage 3 MB02 sandstone aquifer groundwater level hydrograph

Noise Monitoring

Since last CCC meeting (22 September 2021 – 22 March 2022)

- No noise exceedances since last meeting
- CHPP and associated infrastructure not operational
- Ventilation fans at Kitchener SIS ceased operation 17/03/2022
- Temporary shaft sealing activities at Kitchener SIS are almost complete
- Surface water pumps, drift and shaft haulage remain operational

Rehabilitation Monitoring

- Rehabilitation monitoring is undertaken annually and is scheduled for the Q2 or Q3.

Community Complaints

Since last CCC meeting (22 September 2021 – 22 March 2022)

- No community complaints since last meeting

Mine Closure Update

Closure Planning Overview

Recap of last meeting:

- **March 2020:** Austar transitioned to ‘care and maintenance’
 - *Commenced works to scope detailed mine closure planning (Mining Operations Plan amendment, Austar Mine Closure Base Case Assessment)*
- **February 2021:** Yancoal announced permanent mine closure
 - *Yancoal resourced the Austar Closure Planning Team (April 2021)*
 - *Austar commissioned a team of subject matter experts to complete knowledge gap assessments and develop detailed study scopes (May 2021 onward)*

Closure Execution Timeline

Feasibility Study/Detailed Mine Closure Plan: 2023-2024

- Undertake detailed investigations and design to prove the single "Go Forward" rehabilitation case.
- Confirm rehabilitation/closure performance criteria with regulators and Yancoal internal stakeholders.

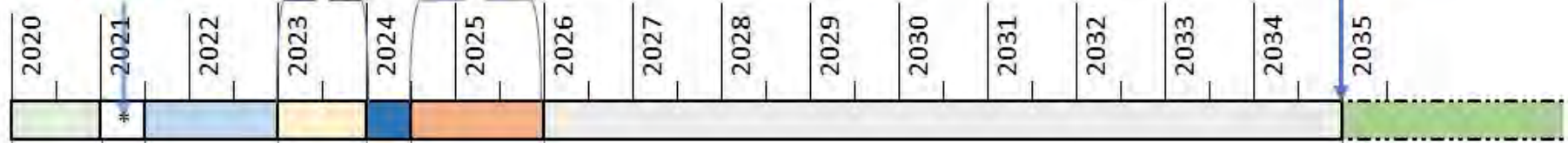
Execution: Mid 2024 - 2026

- Execute demolition works, mine sealing, and surface rehabilitation.
- Earthworks to construct final landforms, engineered caps and surface water management structures.

Lease Relinquishment: 2035 Onward

- Demonstrate all regulatory obligations have been met to surrender consents, mining leases and licences.

Closure Announced
(Feb 2021)



Base Case Study: 2020-2021

- Confirm Closure Obligations.
- Assess Closure Risks.
- Scope PFS Technical Studies.

Executable Plan: 2024 - Mid 2024

- Detailed engineering packages for tender.
- Issue Contracts.

Post Execution Monitoring and Validation: 2026 - 2035

- Undertake inspections and maintenance activities.
- Monitor rehabilitation progression and development of vegetation to approved performance criteria.
- Verify final landform / engineered cap performance.

Prefeasability Study: Mid 2021 - 2023

- Undertake technical studies/site investigations to address closure knowledge base gaps.
- Scope detailed investigations for the prefeasibility study.
- Approvals review/planning advice.
- Identify preferred rehabilitation/final landform options.

Current
Status

Closure Goals and Objectives

The primary **goal** for mine closure is to rehabilitate the impacts of mining to:

- Achieve safe, stable landforms with beneficial land uses; and
- Satisfy all regulatory requirements under development consents, mining leases and licences

The primary **objective** for the mine closure planning phase is to identify the most appropriate landform(s) and rehabilitation outcomes for executing closure that:

- Are credible, reliable and achievable; and
- Consider optimising beneficial land use(s) post-closure

Stakeholder Consultation

Engagement to date:

- Cessnock City Council
 - Update on mine closure planning process
- RR, DPE, EPA
 - Joint agency closure planning updates
- Resources Regulator
 - New rehabilitation conditions on mining leases – rehabilitation reforms
 - Updates on mine closure planning process
- Landholder consultation
 - Winton Partners Bellbird – Aberdare Extended REA, adjacent residential development
- South Maitland Railway
 - Closure of Austar and future of Austar section of rail line
- Community Consultative Committee
 - Updates on mine closure planning progress

Knowledge Gap Assessments

- Key knowledge gap assessments carried out by Subject Matter Experts include:
 - Tenement and development consent history review (in progress)
 - Contamination and materials preliminary site investigations
 - Surface and groundwater desktop assessments
 - Subsidence and land stability assessments (in progress)
 - Heritage review of historic Austar mine structures
 - Mine sealing investigations
 - Demolition and hazardous materials studies (in progress)

Field Investigations

Priority investigations to address knowledge gaps are programmed to commence April 2022:

- Rehabilitation materials identification and characterisation
- Geochemical investigations (mine wastes assessments)
- Groundwater assessment to inform water balance
- Austar Complex heritage assessment

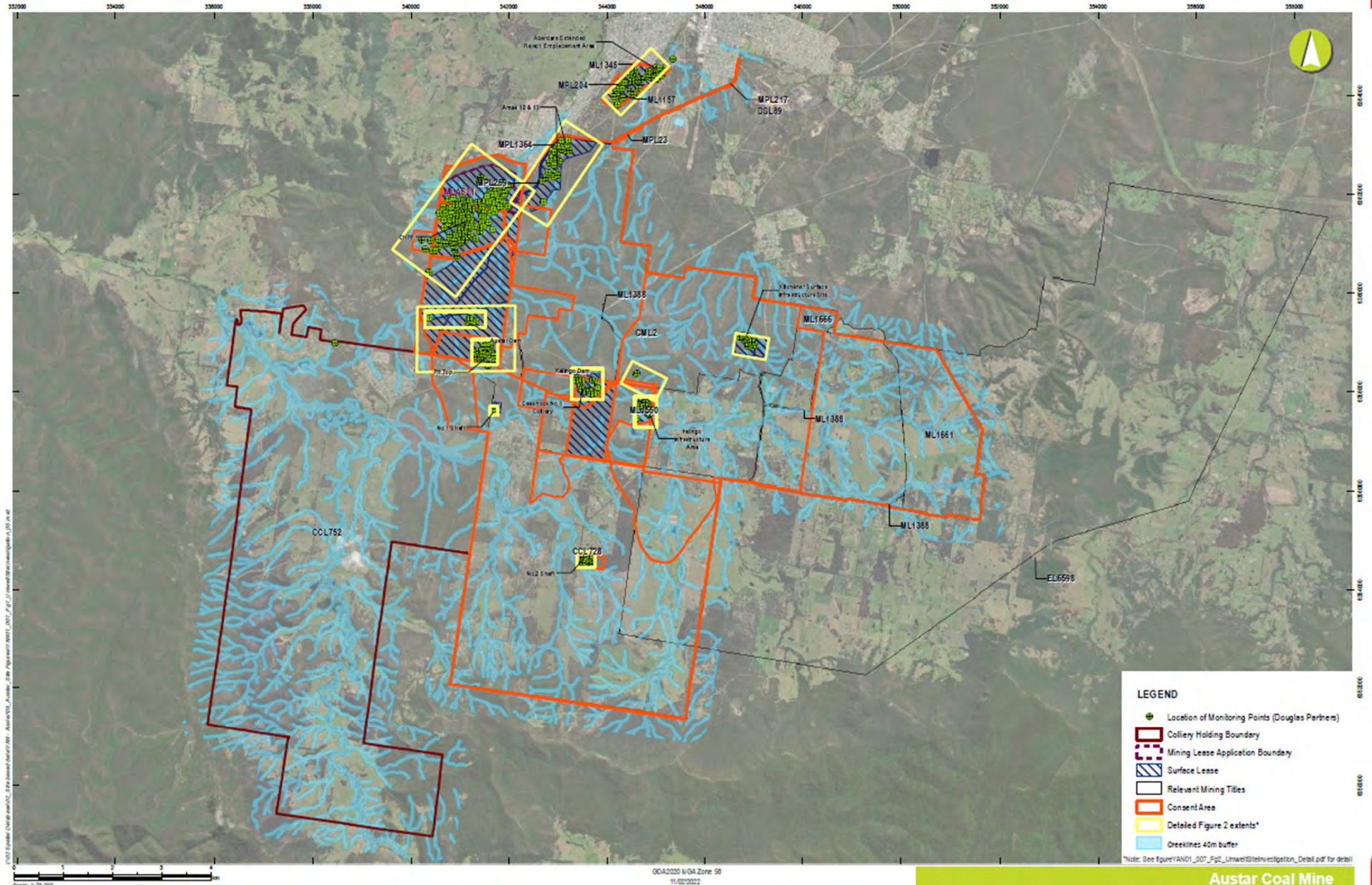
Priority investigations are required to inform landform and capping options assessments for the Prefeasibility Study.

Field Investigations – Preparation

Investigation planning and site preparation activities completed to date include:

- Field investigations risk assessment
- Environmental controls and procedures developed
- Due diligence clearances complete
- Site investigation Sampling and Quality Plan (SAQP) finalised
- Contractor engagement complete

Field Investigations – Proposed Activities



- LEGEND**
- Location of Monitoring Points (Douglas Partners)
 - ▭ Colliery Holding Boundary
 - - - Mining Lease Application Boundary
 - ▨ Surface Lease
 - ▭ Relevant Mining Titles
 - ▭ Consent Area
 - ▭ Detailed Figure 2 extents*
 - ▭ Creeklines 40m buffer

*Note: See figureYAND1_007_Fig2_Umwelt@Investigation_Detail.pdf for detail

Austar Coal Mine

**Site Investigation Program
Austar Mine Complex**

FIGURE 1



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General Business



Community Sponsorship and Donations

Community Support Program

- The Yancoal corporate CSP is ongoing and continues to support organisations in the Hunter Valley

Community Donations

Community donations will still continue as appropriate through the transition to closure, as Austar is still a member of the local community

- Cessnock Rugby League Football Club sponsorship will continue into the 2022 season
- Cessnock Mayoral scholarship support continues into 2022. (Applications open until 4 April)

Management Plan Review

Plan	DA Requirement	Approval Authority	Approval Date
Environmental Management Strategy, April 2021	DA29/95 – Schedule 5 Condition 1 PA08_0111 - Schedule 7 Condition 1	DPIE	18 August 2021
Landscape Management Plan – Kitchener SIS, April 2021	PA08_0111 – Schedule 6 Condition 4	DPIE	19 August 2021
Site Water Management Plan, April 2021	DA29/95 – Schedule 3 Condition 6-11 PA08_0111 – Schedule 4 Condition 9	DPIE	11 March 2022
Noise and Vibration Management Plan, April 2021	DA29/95 – Schedule 3 Condition 13-16 PA08_0111 – Schedule 4 Condition 2-3	DPIE	Approval not yet received
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan, April 2021	DA29/95 – Schedule 3 Condition 17-20 PA08_0111 – Schedule 4 Condition 6-7	DPIE	13 September 2021
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan, June 2021	PA08_0111 – Schedule 3 Condition 4 and Schedule 4 Condition 10	DPIE	30 June 2021
Historic Heritage Management Plan, April 2021	PA08_0111 – Schedule 4 Condition 11	DPIE	30 June 2021

Bushfire Management

- Bushfire Hazard Reduction Certificate issued by NSW Rural Fire Service for Austar land at Pelton. Burn postponed due to wet conditions experienced through the summer period. Can only burn from November to May
- Future hazard reduction burn areas identified on Austar owned land adjacent to Bellbird and Ellalong and due diligence studies will be progressed in the coming months
- Continued management of fire breaks and trails
- The Bushfire Management Plan is due for review in 2022



Rehabilitation reforms

- The Resources Regulator has amended the Mining Act 1992 with new mining lease conditions relating to rehabilitation and sets clear, achievable and enforceable requirements for rehabilitation.
- Austar is currently preparing relevant documentation to comply with the new conditions, including:
 - A Risk assessment to identify rehabilitation risks and appropriate controls to inform the RMP
 - Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP), to include rehabilitation objectives, completion criteria and a final landform and rehabilitation plan
 - A forward works program for the next three years

Other Business –

Next Meeting / Close