

Austar Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Daily Meeting Room – Austar Coal Mine Pit Top, Middle Road, Paxton
 Time: 10:00am – 11:20am
 Date: 22 March 2023

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
Craig Reiss (CR)	Austar Coal Mine
Carly McCormack (CM)	Austar Coal Mine
Julie McNaughton (JM)	Austar Coal Mine
William Farnworth (WF)	Austar Coal Mine
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
Peter Sturrock (PS) (by videoconference)	Community Representative
Apologies	
John Rayner (JR)	Community Representative
Michael Gorman (MG)	NSW Police Service (Cessnock)
Ashlee Baker (AB)	Community Representative
Councillor John Moores (CJM)	Cessnock City Council representative

1	Welcome
	MMH – Opened the meeting 10:00am and welcomed the CCC. Apologies are noted above.
2	Declaration of Interests
	MMH asked for any changes to previous declarations of interest. Declarations of interests remain current for all members. MMH welcomed CR to the committee. CR introduced himself as the Closure Project Manager
3	Confirmation of Previous Minutes
	The minutes of the previous meeting were considered representative of that meeting. AS moved, PS seconded.
4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes
	Nil
5	Correspondence
	MMH noted correspondence: 29/9/22 – JM email to CCC regarding the Community Support Program 6/10/22 – MMH email to CCC on Draft Guidelines Review 9/3/23 – Chair’s Annual Report to the Department of Planning and Environment submitted (available on Austar website)
6	Mine Closure Update

a.	Closure Project Status
	<p>Detail in Presentation.</p> <p>Conversation about Green Gravity:</p> <p>AS – Who is Green Gravity?</p> <p>CR – an Australian owned company, with many of the personnel originating from BHP Engineering roles.</p> <p>MMH – would it be a Yancoal / Green Gravity partnership, or would you hand the site over to Green Gravity</p> <p>CR – that hasn't yet been determined. We are in early days of proving the concept at this stage.</p> <p>AS – do the shafts need to be dry?</p> <p>CR – water seepage is an issue, the shafts will need to be relatively dry.</p> <p>PS – do you think this will take years to prove up?</p> <p>CR – we are looking at a concept project at No1 shaft at this stage, pending all approvals that should be running in the next year or so.</p> <p>AS – what are the technical challenges?</p> <p>CR – managing a lot of weights at the top and bottom of the shaft, keeping weights dropping straight in the shaft, water seepage are some of the challenges.</p> <p>PS- commented that it sounds like a very interesting project, and commended Austar for investigating innovative options.</p>
b.	Early Works
	<p>WF – At this stage we are not pumping from underground, however we may recommence depending on the Green Gravity Project.</p> <p>AS – what happens to the Railway?</p> <p>WF -at this stage, we will remove the rail and sleepers and sell them, then use the ballast to fill unlined shafts that are not useful for the Green Gravity Project.</p>
c.	Stakeholder Engagement
	<p>Detail in presentation</p> <p>MMH – asked what was the issue around relocating the miners' memorial?</p> <p>CM – replied that the Council advised that the park was heritage listed and commemorated a specific event that occurred at Bellbird Mine and other memorials in this park may detract from that event.</p>
d.	Technical Studies
	<p>Detail in presentation.</p> <p>Further discussion around the Green Gravity Project. CR explained that ideally the project needed three drops to consistently produce energy and could generate 5MW for around four hours. A solar plant is being looked at to power the lifting of the weights, we may need around 20 hectares of solar panels.</p> <p>AS asked if the regional groundwater study was to address the risk that contaminated water may flow from the mine to somewhere else.</p> <p>CM confirmed that the mine was currently flooding and that we are undertaking a groundwater study to help understand potential impacts.</p> <p>MMH commented that there seemed to be as much to do to close a mine as there was to start a new mine.</p>
7	Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints
	<p>Detail in presentation.</p> <p>WF noted that there was no obvious impact from mine sealing works on air quality. JM commented that D5 and D5a are the closest dust gauges to the works at 3 and 4 shaft, and no impacts were evident.</p>
8	General Business

	<p>Detail in presentation.</p> <p>Borehole Audit</p> <p>AS – How many historic exploration boreholes are there to audit? JM replied around 150.</p> <p>AS - asked how long the No 2 shaft pipeline is. CM replied that we were not sure, but it ran from Church St, Ellalong, along Sandy Creek Rd and up Dry Creek Rd. AS asked how many residents would be affected. JM replied around 6 households. AS asked if we would need to pull the pipeline out? CM replied that we would likely leave in situ, as the environmental impact of pulling it out would outweigh any risk of leaving it in the ground. It is potable water, so the pipeline is not polluted.</p> <p>Exploration Licence</p> <p>AS – asked whether Austar would renew its Exploration Licence after its expiry in 2024. WF replied that it was likely it would be surrendered, however Yancoal’s plans for the licence has not been finalised.</p> <p>Sharing the Benefits Agreements</p> <p>PS – the Sharing the Benefits Agreements signed by some landholders have caveats. When can landholders expect these to be lifted?</p> <p>AS – confirmed that there were no formal caveats, just conditions of the agreement that should be followed.</p> <p>JM agreed with AS and outlined some of the conditions landholders may need to comply with. JM explained that the agreements haven’t been cancelled as yet as they are an access agreement and Austar may still have some monitoring sites on these properties as well as historically drilled boreholes, and need to make sure that all rehabilitation is done prior to cancelling the agreements. JM committed to looking at any individual property that needs the agreement removed on a case by case basis and getting the agreement removed in accordance with the landowner’s wishes. PS asked how long they would stay in place for. JM replied that we were going to try to get most of the works completed in 2023, and the STBA landholders could be prioritised as we have existing relationships with these landholders.</p>
9	Meeting Dates
	Next meeting 20 September 2023, 10am, meeting room to be confirmed closer to the meeting.
10	Meeting Closed
	MMH – Thanked the CCC and declared the meeting closed at 11:20am.

Recorded: Julie McNaughton 22 March 2023

AUSTAR COAL MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

22 March 2023

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. Mine Closure Planning Update
 - a. Closure Project Status
 - b. Early Works
 - c. Stakeholder Engagement
 - d. Technical Studies
7. Environmental monitoring update
8. Environmental Incidents / Community Complaints
9. General Business
10. Next meeting / Meeting close





Mine Closure Planning Update

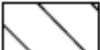
Closure Project Status

Closure Management Areas


LEGEND


 Colliery Holding Boundary


 Relevant Mining Titles


 Disturbance Footprint


CMA Boundaries


 CMA 1 - Austar Pit Top Facilities


 CMA 2 - Pelton CHPP


 CMA 3 - No.1 Shaft


 CMA 4 - No.2 Shaft

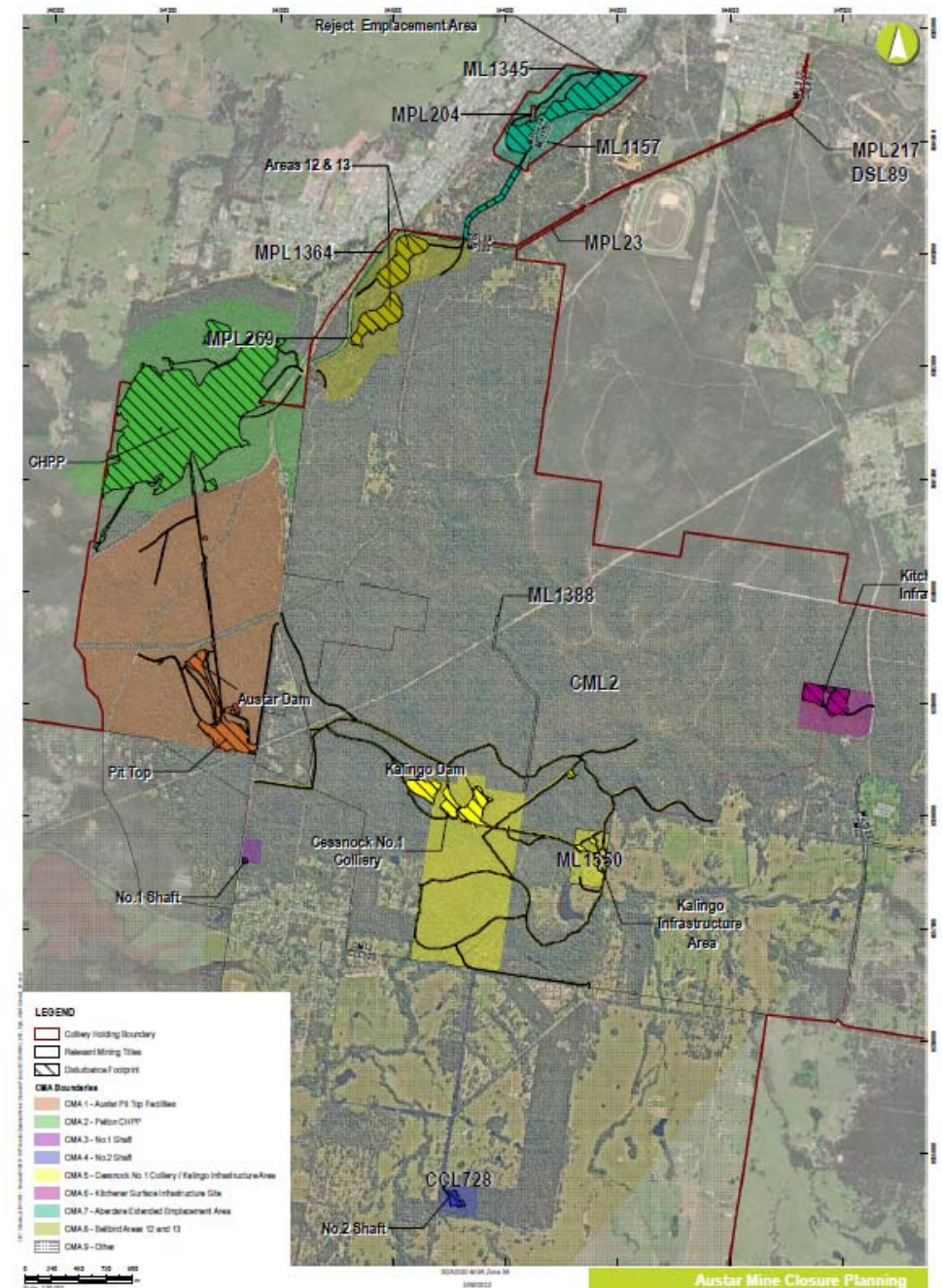
 CMA 5 - Cessnock No.1 Colliery / Kalingo Infrastructure Area

 CMA 6 - Kitchener Surface Infrastructure Site

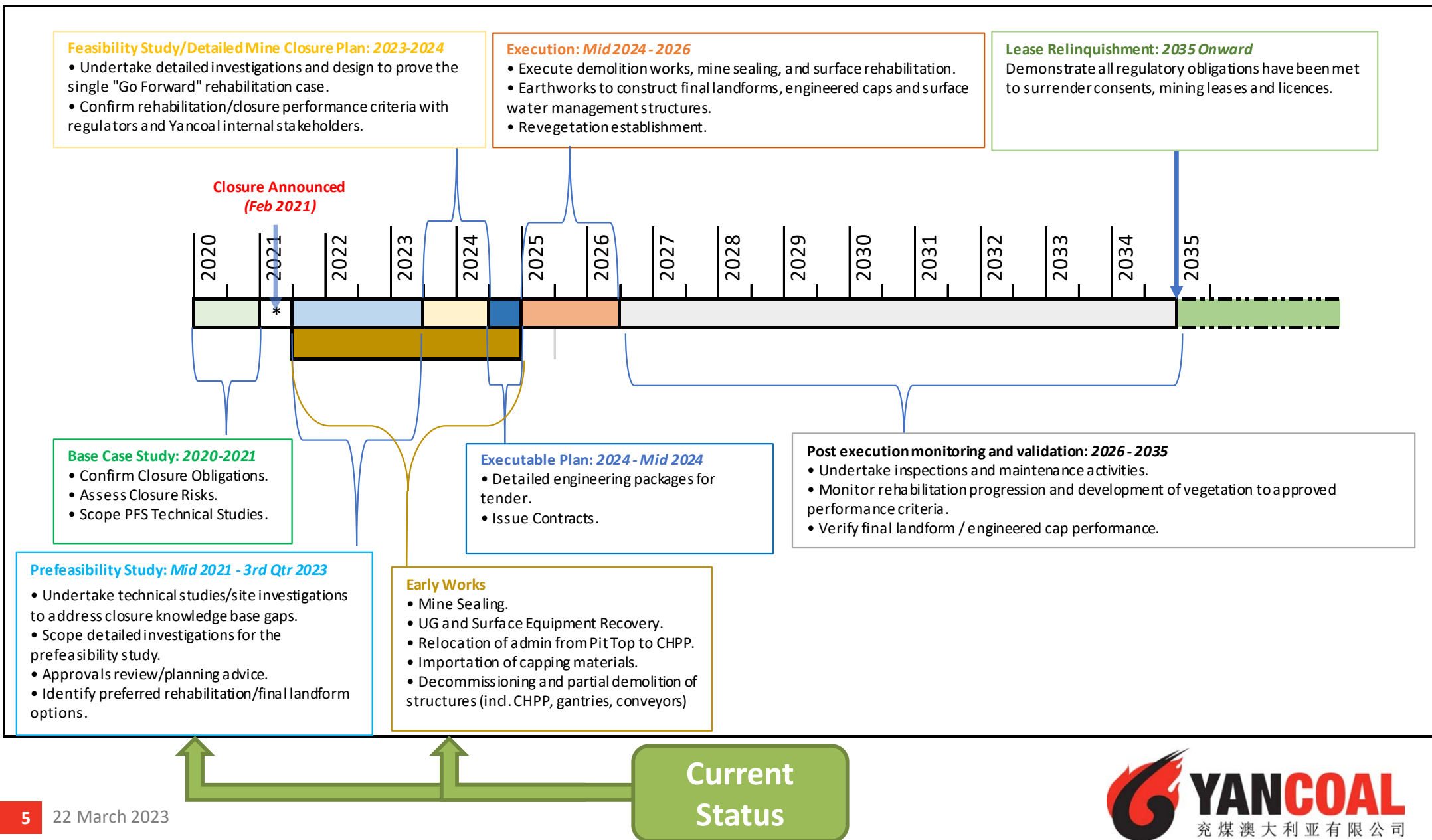
 CMA 7 - Aberdare Extended Emplacement Area

 CMA 8 - Bellbird Areas 12 and 13

 CMA 9 - Other



Closure Execution Strategy



PFS Milestones Achieved

PFS Milestones Achieved to date:

1. Site wide field investigations completed (Geotech, Geochem and contamination sampling)
2. Closure surface water monitoring program commenced
3. Ground water monitoring network and modelling progressed
4. Demolition study complete
5. Hazardous materials study complete
6. Rehabilitation Management Plan complete
7. Contamination study progressed
8. Heritage Impact Assessment progressed
9. Subsidence / Land Stability Study complete
10. Concept landform, REA and tailings disposal trade-off study complete – potential on-site sources of capping identified
11. Partnered with Green Gravity to conduct a concept study on using shafts for a Gravity Energy Storage System (GESS)
12. Coronium conducting a study on a potential solar power plant at the CHPP to support Green Gravity GESS



Mine Closure Planning Update

Early Works

Early Works - Decommissioning Activities

U/G Demobilisation:

- UG demobilisation complete

Surface Decommissioning:

- RO plant removed from service
- Water pumping from underground has ceased allowing progressive flooding underground workings
- Decommissioning activities are complete on CVA1 conveyor and progressing on the Drift Winder
- Equipment at the CHPP is being progressively disconnected in preparation for the recovery of the equipment from the Plant

Early Works – Partial Mine Sealing

Partial Mine Sealing:

- Mine sealed 11 October 2022, access no longer possible to U/G workings, ventilation ceased and mine is gradually flooding.
- The mine access drift has been permanently sealed.
- Shafts 1, 3 and 4 have been partially sealed concrete base and steel cap.
- Shafts 5 and 6 have been temporarily sealed with a steel cap
- Shaft 2 will remain open at least until the water model has been completed.
- Sealing of exploration and services boreholes to allow rehabilitation sign off to continue in 2023.
- Some boreholes have been kept open for water and gas monitoring.

Early Works – Demolition

Demolition:

- Planning for demolition and removal of all non-heritage redundant mine infrastructure.
- Demolition and HAZMAT studies completed.
- Demolition scope of works completed by Liberty Industrial.
- Early works demolition to include Pit Top and CHPP pending outcomes of heritage assessment.
- Major component of the proposed demolition activities will be detailed in the Forward Program.



Mine Closure Planning Update

Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder Engagement Update – Since Last Meeting

Cessnock City Council

- Miners Memorial relocation proposal

Site Investigations and Mine Sealing Program

- Agency Notifications (RR, DPE, EPA, NRAR, CCC)
- Near neighbour notifications and noise agreements

Resources Regulator

- Submission Rehabilitation Objectives Statement, Final Landform and Rehabilitation Plan, Forward Program
- Rehabilitation Management Plan published Austar website
- Q3 2022 & Q1 2023 Closure Planning Updates

Multi Agency Update

- Q4 2022 Closure Planning Update – Resources Regulator, EPA, DPE & Crown Lands

Crown Lands

- Update on mine closure planning progress for Crown owned land
- Site inspection re: rehabilitation outcomes (Heritage structures, contamination and HAZMAT outcomes, final landform) on Crown Land parcels

Community Consultative Committee

- Update on mine closure planning progress (September 2022)

Planned Stakeholder Engagement – Next 6 months

Cessnock City Council

- Continued consultation on Miners Memorial relocation proposal
- Heritage and demolition
- Reinstatement of Area 12 sinkhole and Council Black Creek flood model

Resources Regulator / MEG

- Mining lease application MLA 521

Crown Lands


- Crown Lands Compensation Agreement

Hunter Water

- Disconnection of Austar private potable water line, including disconnection of private residents [further details in General Business]

Community Consultative Committee

- Update on mine closure planning progress – this meeting

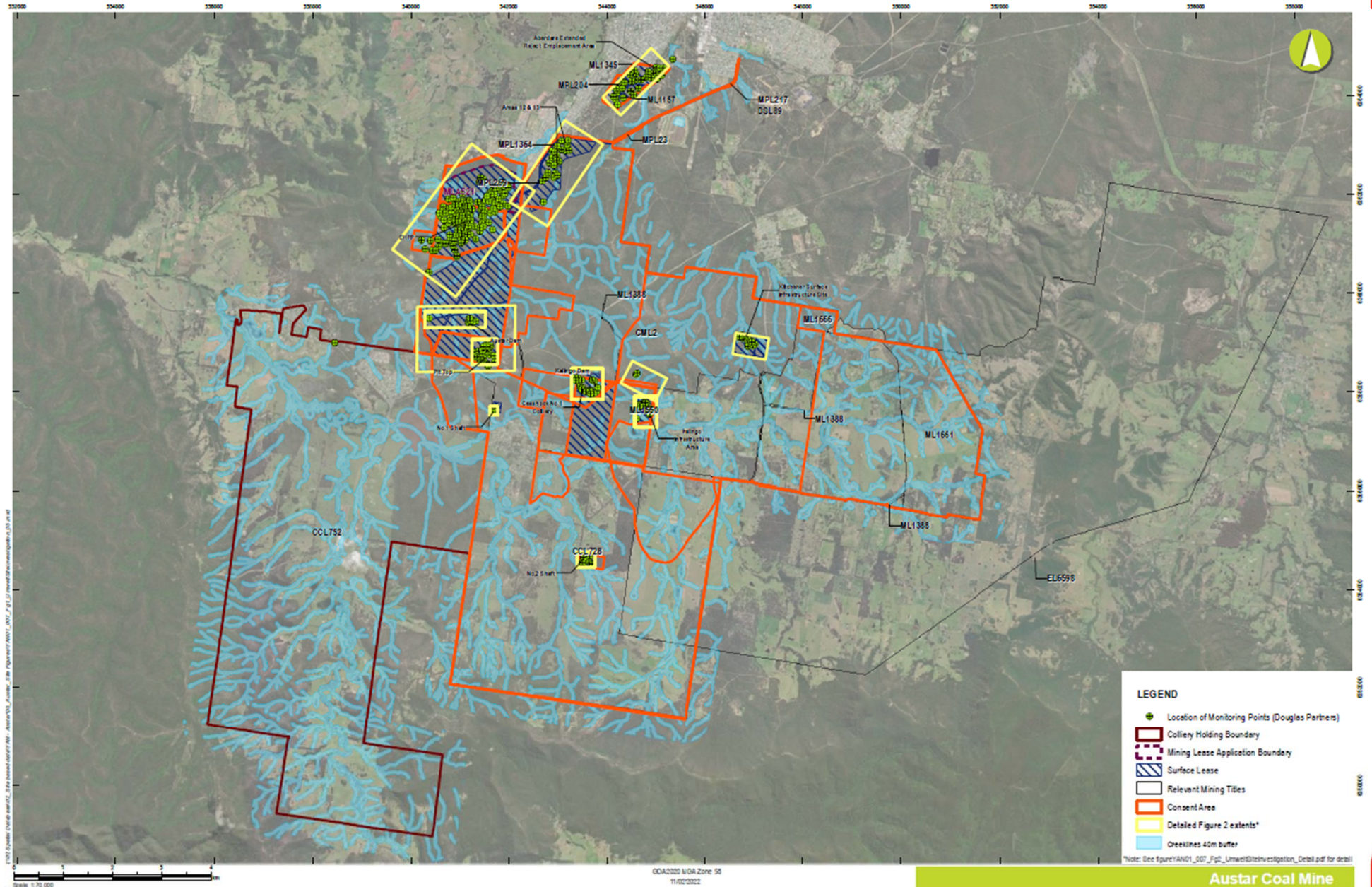


Mine Closure Planning Update Technical Studies

PFS Site Investigations Update

- PFS Site Investigation sampling program completed September 2022
- Sampling program comprised approximately 300 sample locations for a range of analytical suites (Geotech, Contamination, AMD)
- The results of the program are informing many of Aустar's closure studies including:
 - Rehabilitation materials identification and characterisation
 - Geochemical investigations (mine waste assessments)
 - Groundwater assessment to inform water balance
 - Landform and capping options assessments

Site Investigations - Locations



Final Land Use Options

Study Status:

- Final Land Use Options Assessment – complete in September 2022
- Residential and Renewable Energy opportunities identified as most feasible for further assessment

Renewable Energy Concept Study:

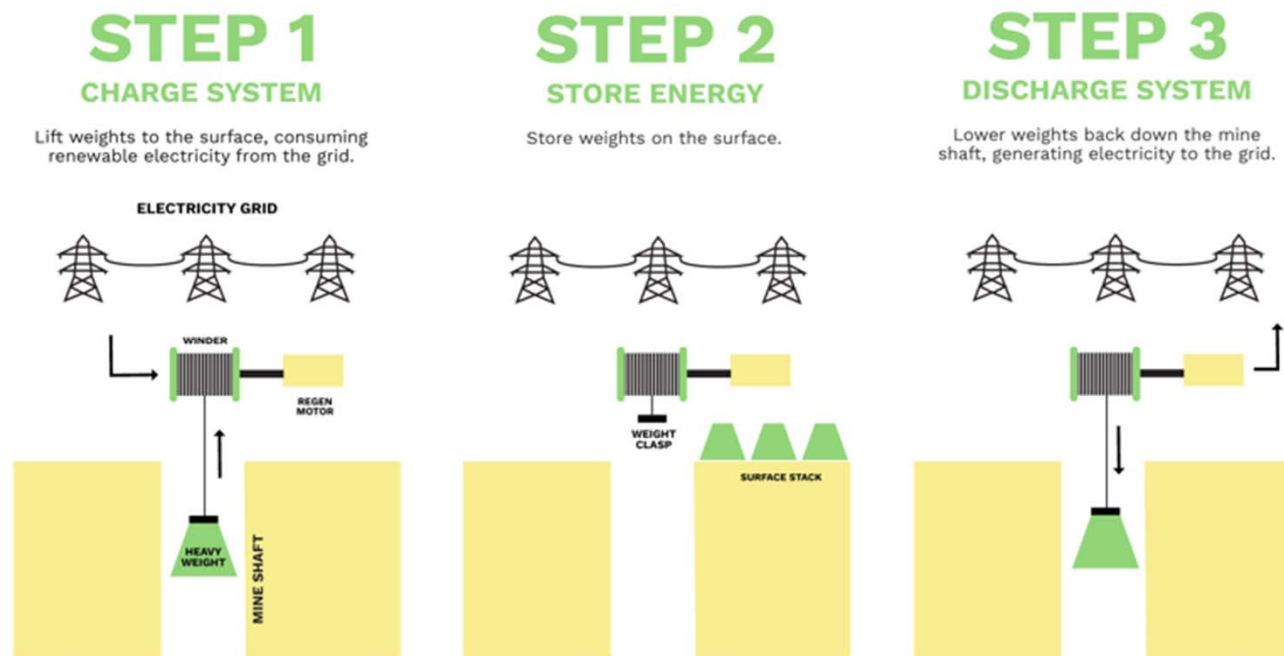
- Green Gravity is conducting a concept study for the installation of Green Gravity technology in ventilation shafts to store and release renewable energy
- Solar plant / battery storage options for Austar owned land are also being assessed

Next Steps:

- Austar will assess outcomes of concept studies to determine if a Green Gravity demonstration plant is viable

Final Land Use Options

- Green Gravity – gravity energy storage solution (GESS) demonstration plant being considered for No.1 Shaft to prove concept
- No.5 and No.2 Shafts are being considered for commercial GESS



Historic Heritage

Listings:

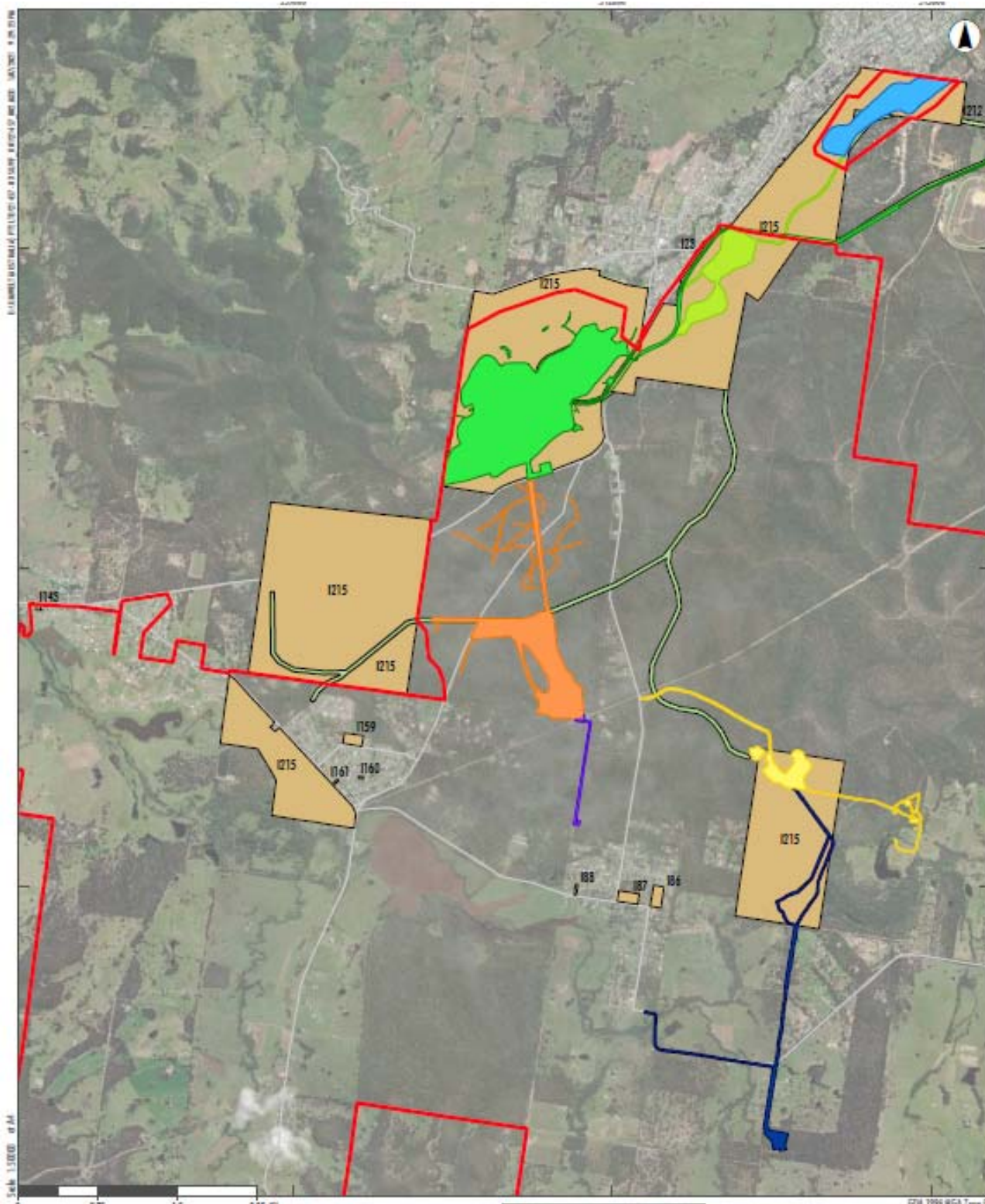
- Two listings within Austar mining leases:
 - The Collieries of the South Maitland Coalfields/Greta Coal Measures (General Item 1215)
 - The South Maitland Railway System (Landscape Item 1212)

Study Status:

- Specialist Heritage Assessment Review completed for all items previously assessed to have heritage significance
- Progressing preparation of Heritage Impact Assessment
- Site visit undertaken with Crown Lands (and Resources Regulator) in February 2023 to progress consultation regarding the fate of heritage structures on Crown Land

Next Steps:

- Complete Heritage Impact Assessment



Legend

- Study Area Boundary
- OMA 1 - Auster Pit Top Facilities
- OMA 2 - Pelton CHPP
- OMA 3 - No.1 Shaft
- OMA 4 - No.2 Shaft
- OMA 5 - Cessnock No.1 Colliery / Kalingo Infrastructure Area
- OMA 6 - Kitchener Surface Infrastructure Site
- OMA 7 - Abendore Extended Employment Area
- OMA 8 - Bellbird Areas 12 and 13
- Item - General
- Item - Landscape



Groundwater

Study Status:

- Gap Analysis, Forward Works Plan (FWP) and Model Plan have been developed in Stage 1 studies
- Additional on-site groundwater monitoring bores have been installed, monitoring commenced and ongoing in accordance with FWP
- Additional deep monitoring bore(s) yet to be installed

Next Steps:

- Identify location(s) for and install deep monitoring bore(s)
- Fill data gaps to progress assessment of potential post closure risks and impact pathways
- Regional groundwater study for PFS

Contamination

Study Status:

- Preliminary Site Investigations (PSIs) complete for CMA 1 to 8
- PFS contamination sampling and analysis program complete September 2022
- Draft PFS Contamination Site Investigation reports CMA 1 to 8 completed December 2022

Next Steps:

- PFS Contamination Reports to be finalised
- Develop a Waste Management Strategy and Contamination Site Strategy to review the contamination findings and advise waste management and approvals requirements including:
 - Disposal options for any identified exceedances (onsite or offsite)
 - Bulk material spoil management (e.g. waste transport and disposal)
 - Identify further investigations required in the Feasibility Study

Study Status:

- Closure Acid Mine Drainage sampling completed September 2022
- Final AMD suite laboratory reporting due next week
- Additional sampling from Tailings Dam 9, North-West Tailings Dam and Stormwater Retention Dam being undertaken this week to enhance understanding of total potential acid load and subsequent recommendations
- Multidisciplinary opportunities / constraints review undertaken to consider AMD management recommendations in PFS Concept Landform Designs

Next Steps:

- Undertake additional sampling and receipt laboratory results
- Prepare PFS AMD management recommendations
- Scope any additional investigations required in Feasibility Study
- Incorporate PFS AMD management recommendations into PFS Concept Landform Designs

Landform and Capping Materials

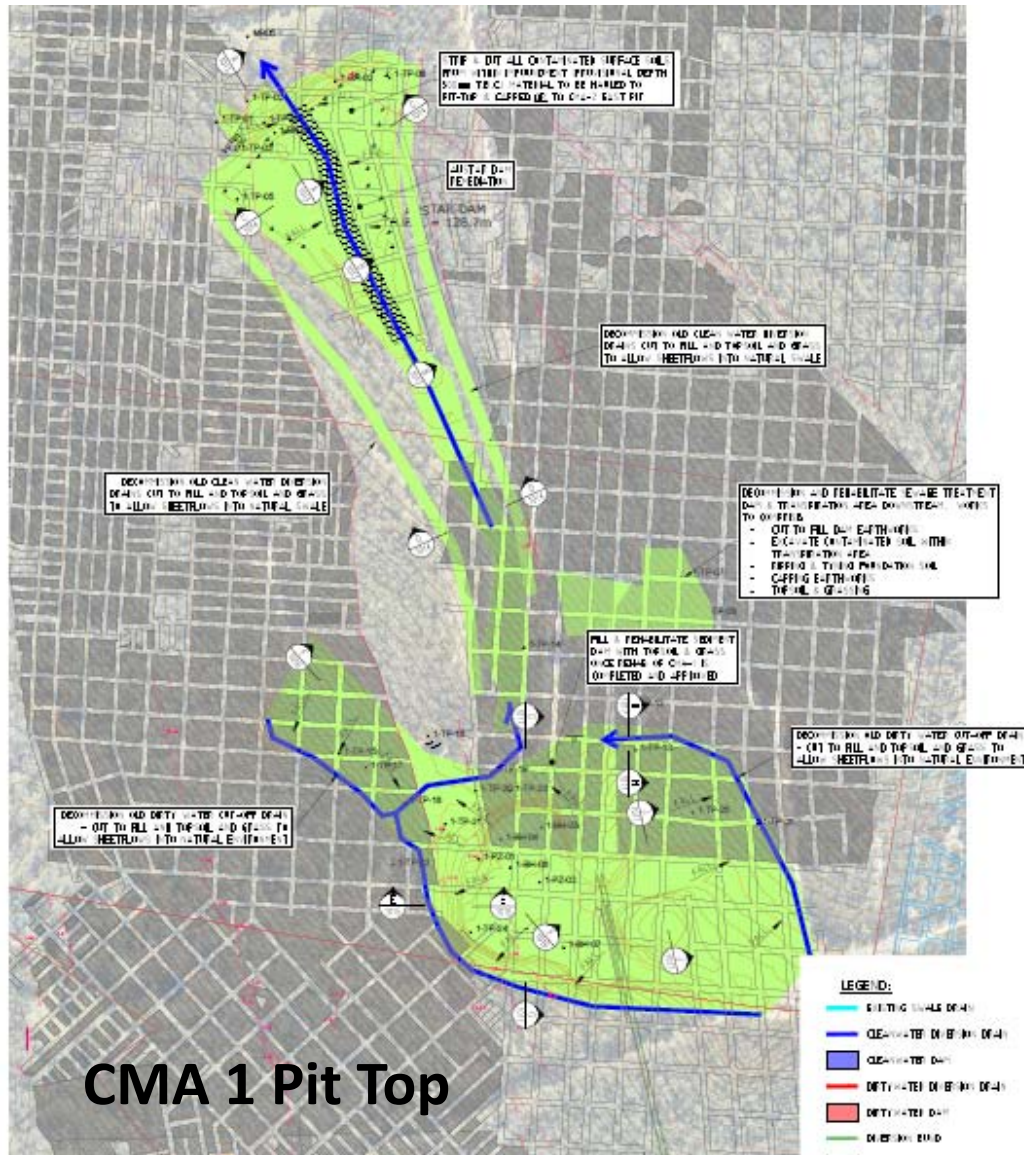
Study Status:

- Materials 'bulk rehandle' options assessment completed.
- 3D material model progressed (using site investigation bore and test-pit log data, survey and LiDAR)
- Concept design drawings and "Basis of Design" report prepared for CMA 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8
- Based on the concept design, all material can be sourced on site via borrow pits and will not require mass import of materials
- Multidisciplinary opportunities constraints review completed

Next Steps:

- Develop concept designs for remaining CMAs (CMA 3, 4 and 5)
- Review and complete concept designs based on outcomes specialist input (i.e. AMD)
- Prepare PFS Coarse Rejects and Tailings Management Strategy and Capping Design for all coarse rejects and tailings emplacements to identify conceptual capping design criteria and performance criteria, and scope further design works to be carried out in the Feasibility Study
- Complete approvals pathway review of PFS conceptual final landform design

PFS – Conceptual Land Form Design Example



- Structures demolished and removed
- Austar Dam removed
- Self draining
- Blends into surrounding landscape

PFS – Conceptual Land Form Design

Next Steps - Approvals Pathway(s)

- Based on the PFS Concept final landform design, Austar is carrying out an approvals gap analysis of the proposed final landforms against existing development consents and secondary approvals to inform approvals to be sought in FS
- A desktop study will be undertaken to define biodiversity offset requirements for all proposed clearing (including site won materials, Green Gravity project and site rehabilitation) associated with the concept design

Geotechnical

Study Status:

- Preliminary Geotechnical Investigations complete for CMA 1 to 8
- PFS geotechnical sampling and analysis complete September 2022
- PFS Geotechnical Site Investigation reports CMA 1 to 8 drafted December 2022 detailing preliminary information on subsurface conditions for each. Reported geotechnical information included:
 - Depth and nature of fill at test locations
 - Combustibility of existing coal reject and emplaced material
 - Potential of subsurface material for re-use as capping material
 - Subsurface conditions at mine shafts and mine openings for assessment of capping requirements by others
 - Review of the previously identified geotechnical hazards following the subsurface investigation and laboratory testing

Next Steps:

- PFS Geotechnical Site Investigation Reports to be finalised

Surface Water

Study Status:

- Closure Surface Water Monitoring Program (CSWMP) prepared with Geochemical specialist input
- Implementation of CSWMP has been commenced
- A conceptual surface water design is being progressed as part of the preparation of the Conceptual Final Landform Design

Next Steps

- Continue implementation of CSWMP to obtain baseline data

Mine Sealing

Study Status:

- Designs for sealing of active mine entries and boreholes by Burke Engineering Services have commenced implementation.
- Geotechnical sampling for detailed shaft seal designs completed September 2022.
- All shafts (except No.2) partial sealed - completed 11 October 2022.
- No.2 shaft partially filled with water, to remain open until water model completed.
- The Drift and several services boreholes are permanently sealed.

Next Steps:

- Ongoing capping and rehabilitation of exploration and services boreholes

Demolition & HAZMAT

Study Status:

- Intrusive HAZMAT survey completed.
- Demolition Scope of Works prepared including quantities, waste streams, EMP and proposed procedures.

Next Steps:

- Review contamination data, surface water management requirements and heritage obligations to develop final works packages.
- HAZMAT clean up to be managed as part of the demolition project.
- Complete demolition risk assessments and activity permits.
- Commence demolition of non heritage infrastructure.

Landform Stability and Mine Subsidence

Study Status:

- GHD engaged to assess land stability and secondary subsidence (i.e. sinkholes) in areas of historic workings
- Field inspection completed August 2022
- Land Stability and Subsidence Desktop Review complete for PFS

Key Findings:

- There is a correlation between sinkhole development and significant rainfall (flooding) events dating back to 1920s
- There is a correlation between sinkhole locations and depth of cover. 60% of all sink holes occurred where depth of cover is less than 20m
- Landform anomalies may impede surface water flows and may exacerbate sinkhole forming conditions above shallow historic underground workings

Landform Stability and Mine Subsidence

- Recently identified sinkholes in historic shallow mine workings east of Wollombi Road at Bellbird and West Cessnock as result wetter than average conditions.
- Notified Subsidence Advisory NSW who fenced area and have begun repairs.
- Austar have erected new signage and remind the public this is private property and no trespassing.
- Temporary safety fencing has been stolen on a number occasions.
- Austar plead with the Community to respect the barriers put in place for both site personnel and public safety.



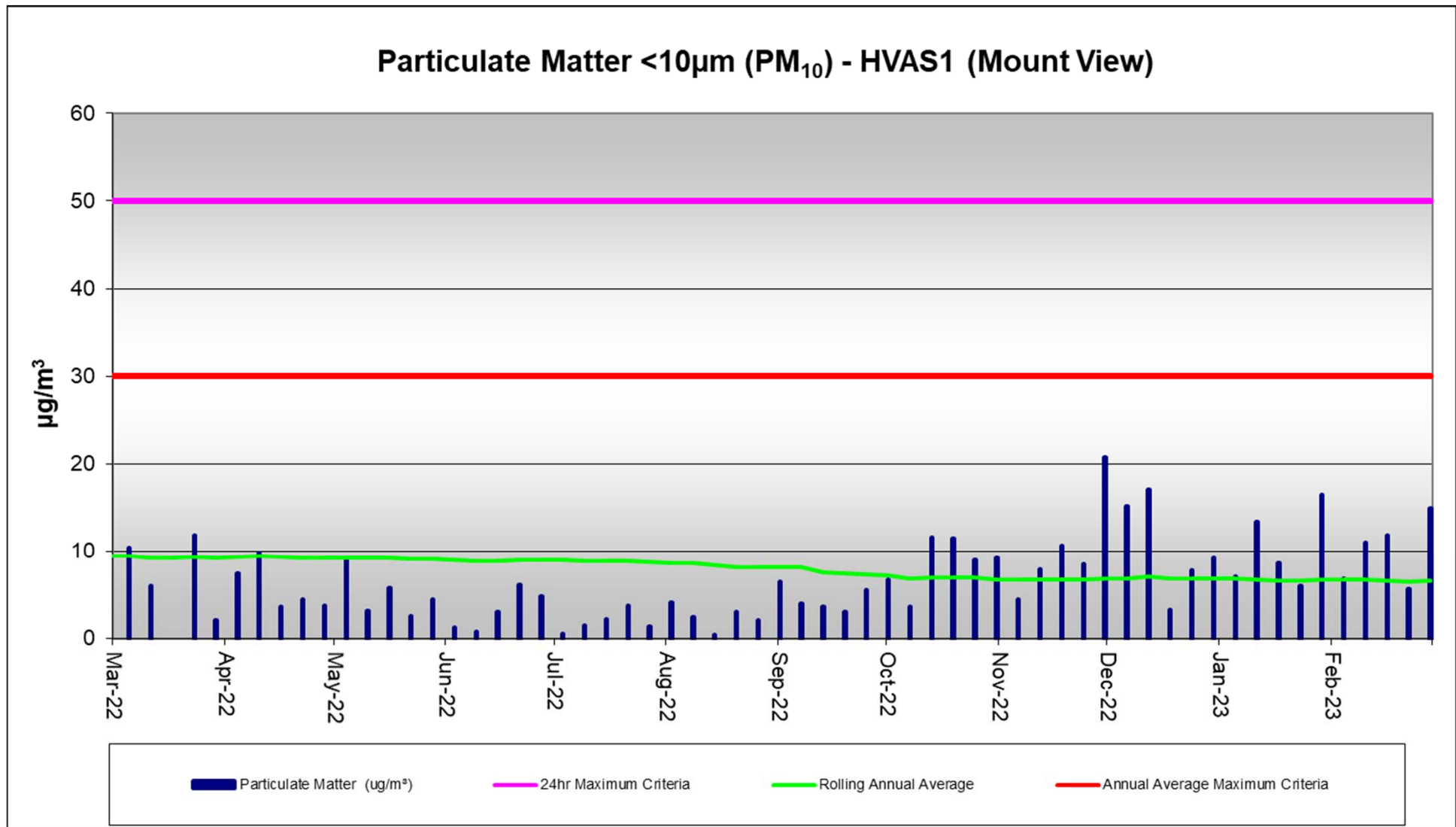
Next Steps

Additional technical studies being scoped to fill identified data gaps:

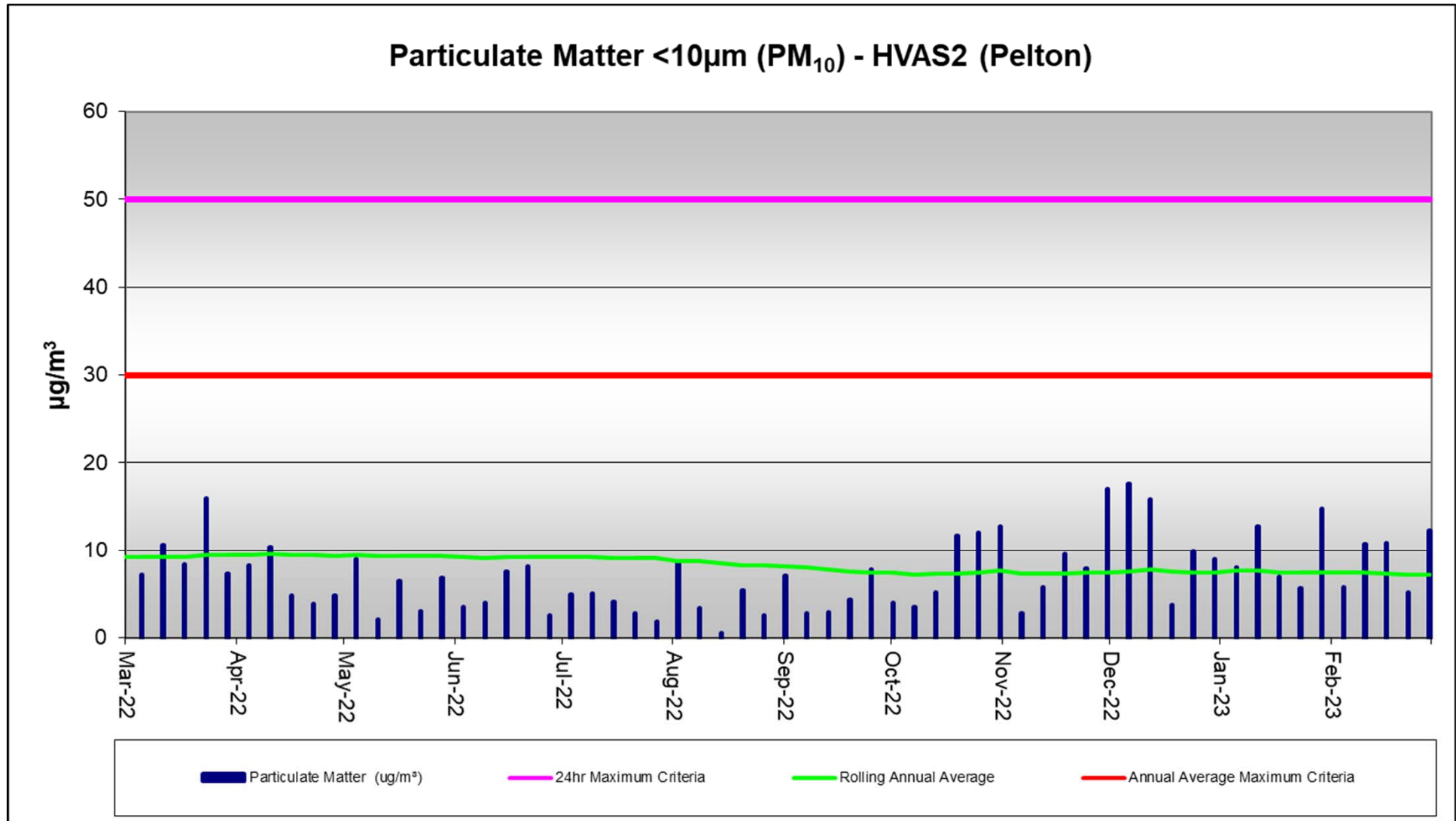
- Flood Assessment Study
- Waste Management Strategy
- Contamination Site Strategy
- Reject/Tailings Disposal and Capping Earthworks Approvals Strategy
- PFS Coarse Rejects and Tailings Management Strategy and Capping Design

Environmental Monitoring Update

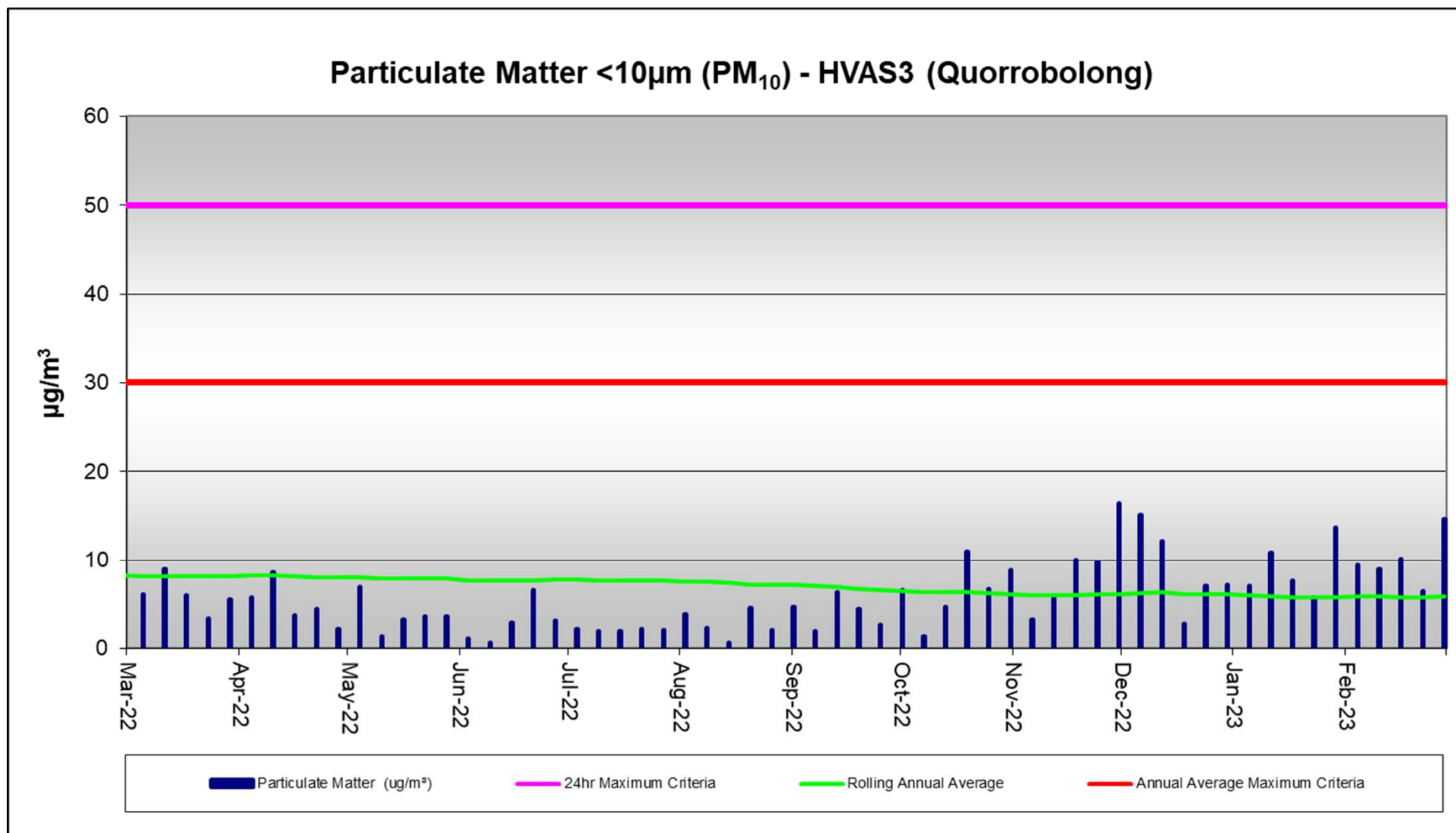
Air Quality



Air Quality

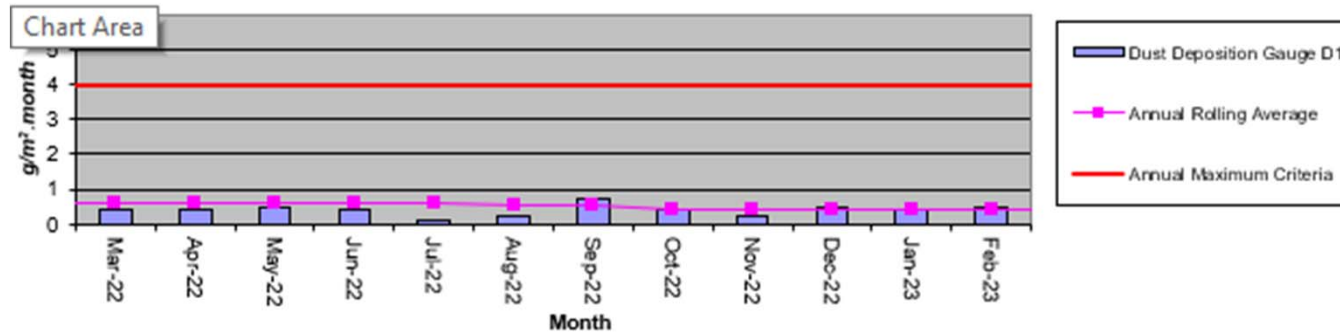


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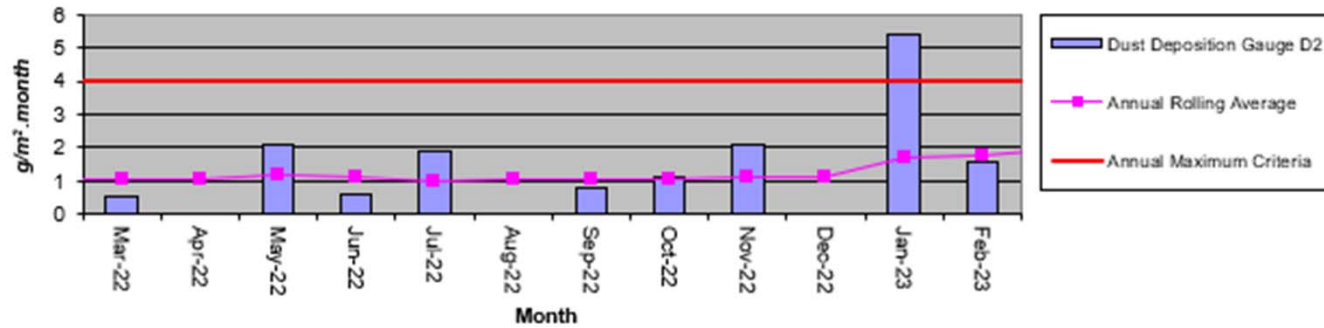


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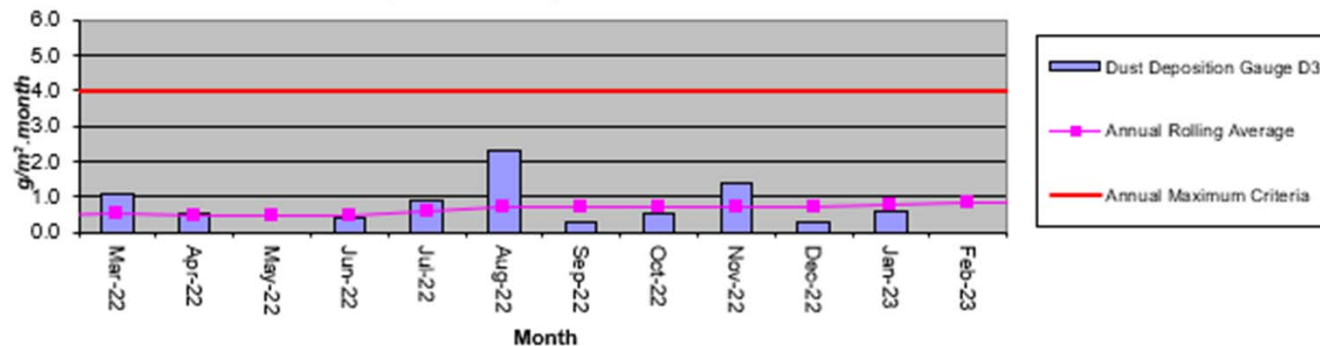
Dust Deposition Gauge D1 - Insoluble Solids



Dust Deposition Gauge D2 - Insoluble Solids

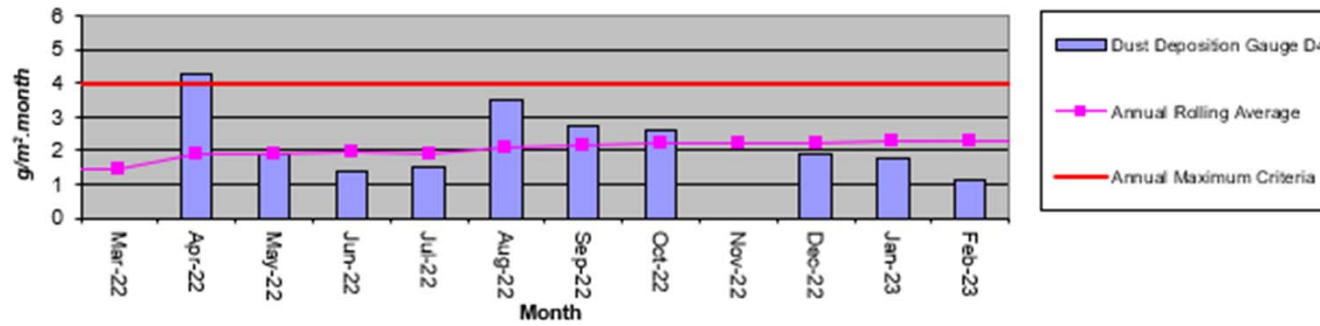


Dust Deposition Gauge D3 - Insoluble Solids

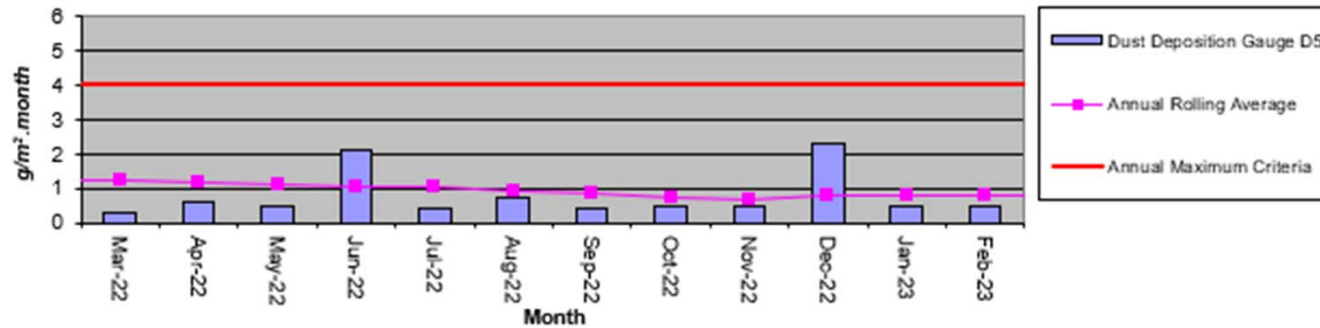


Air Quality

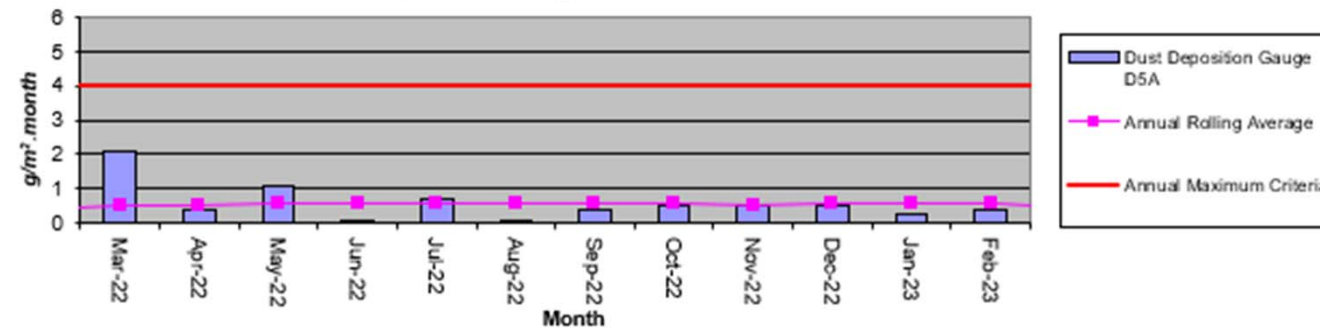
Dust Deposition Gauge D4 - Insoluble Solids



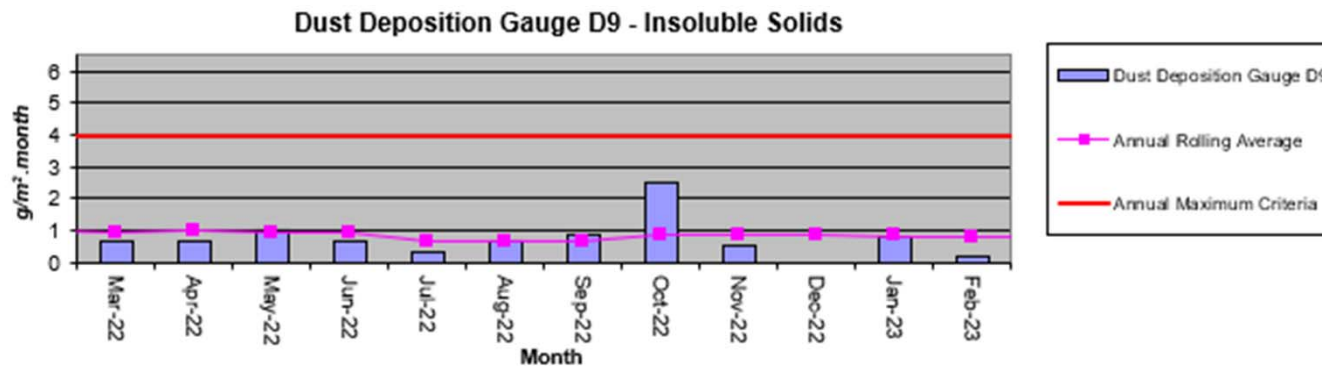
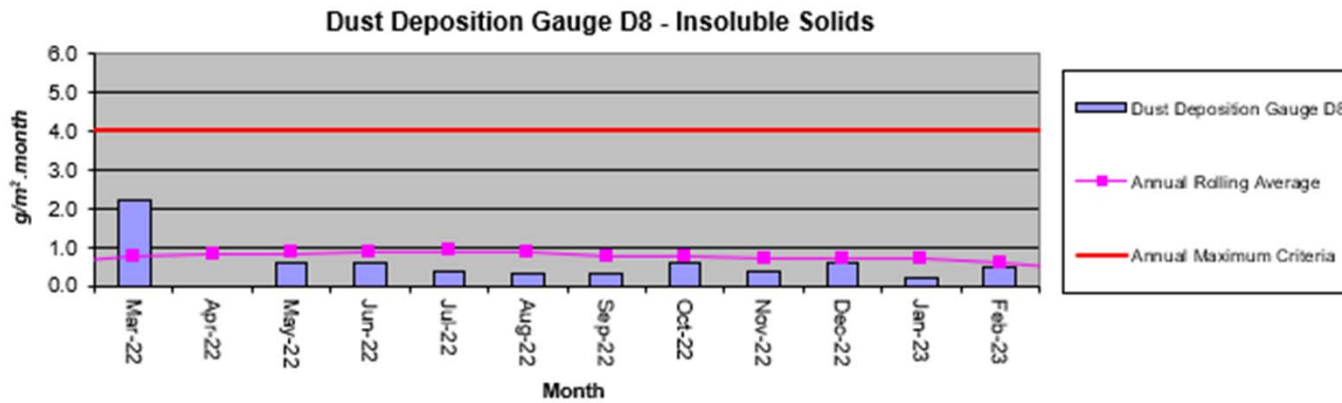
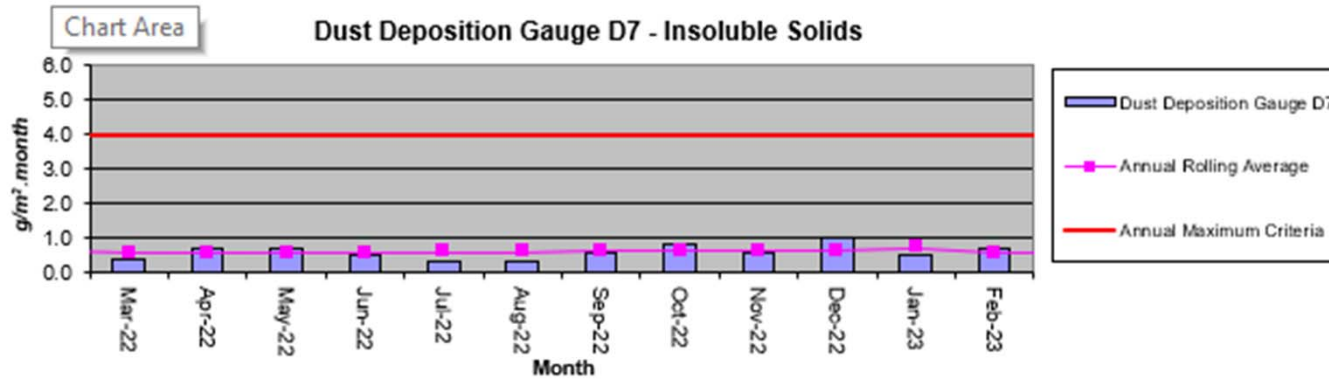
Dust Deposition Gauge D5 - Insoluble Solids



Dust Deposition Gauge D5A - Insoluble Solids

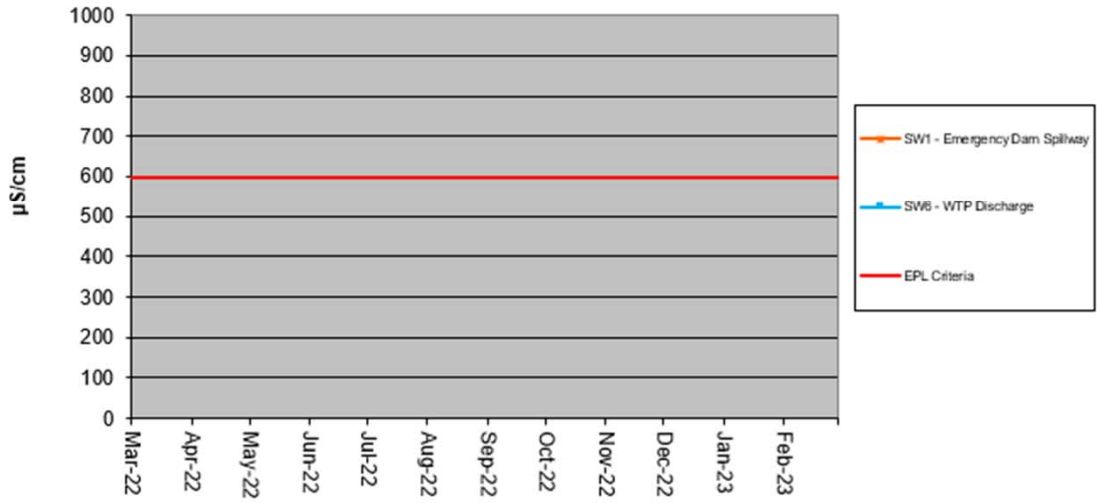


Air Quality

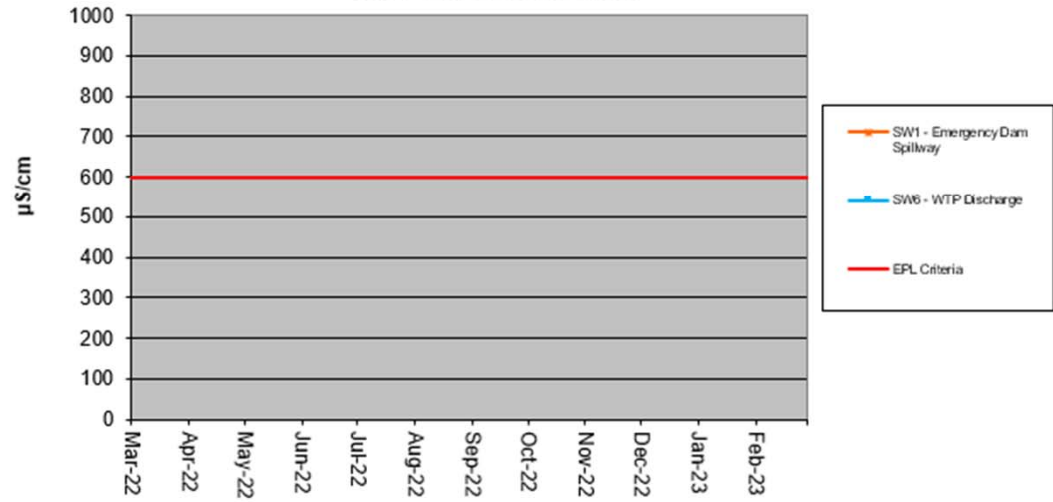


Water Monitoring

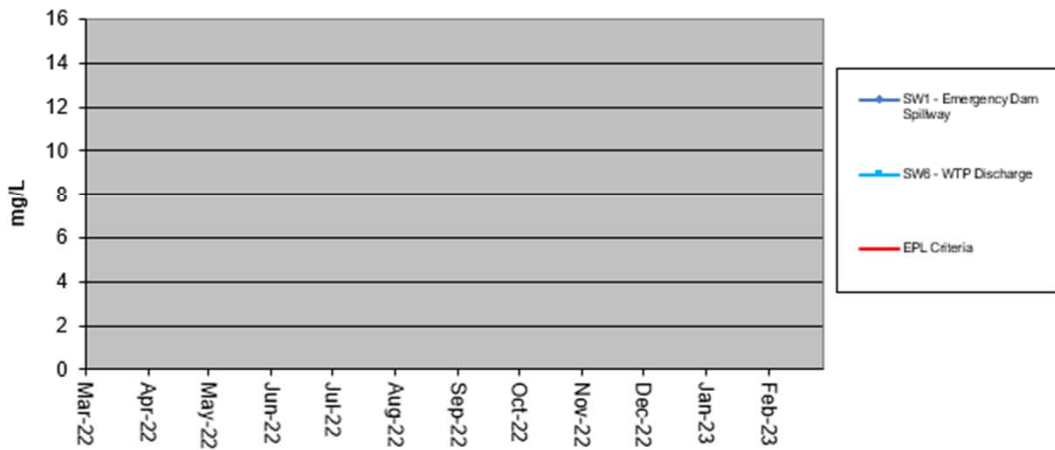
Surface Water Sites - EC
CHPP and Bellbird Creek



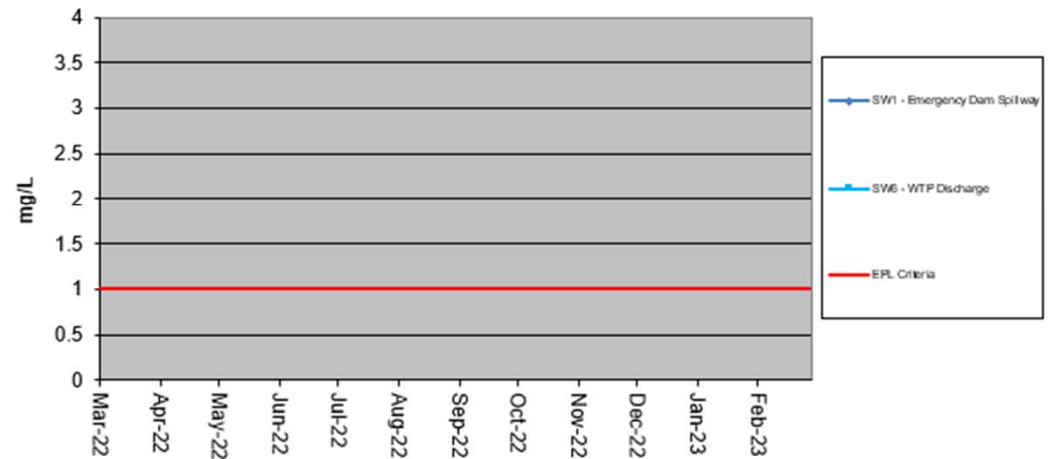
Surface Water Sites - EC
CHPP and Bellbird Creek



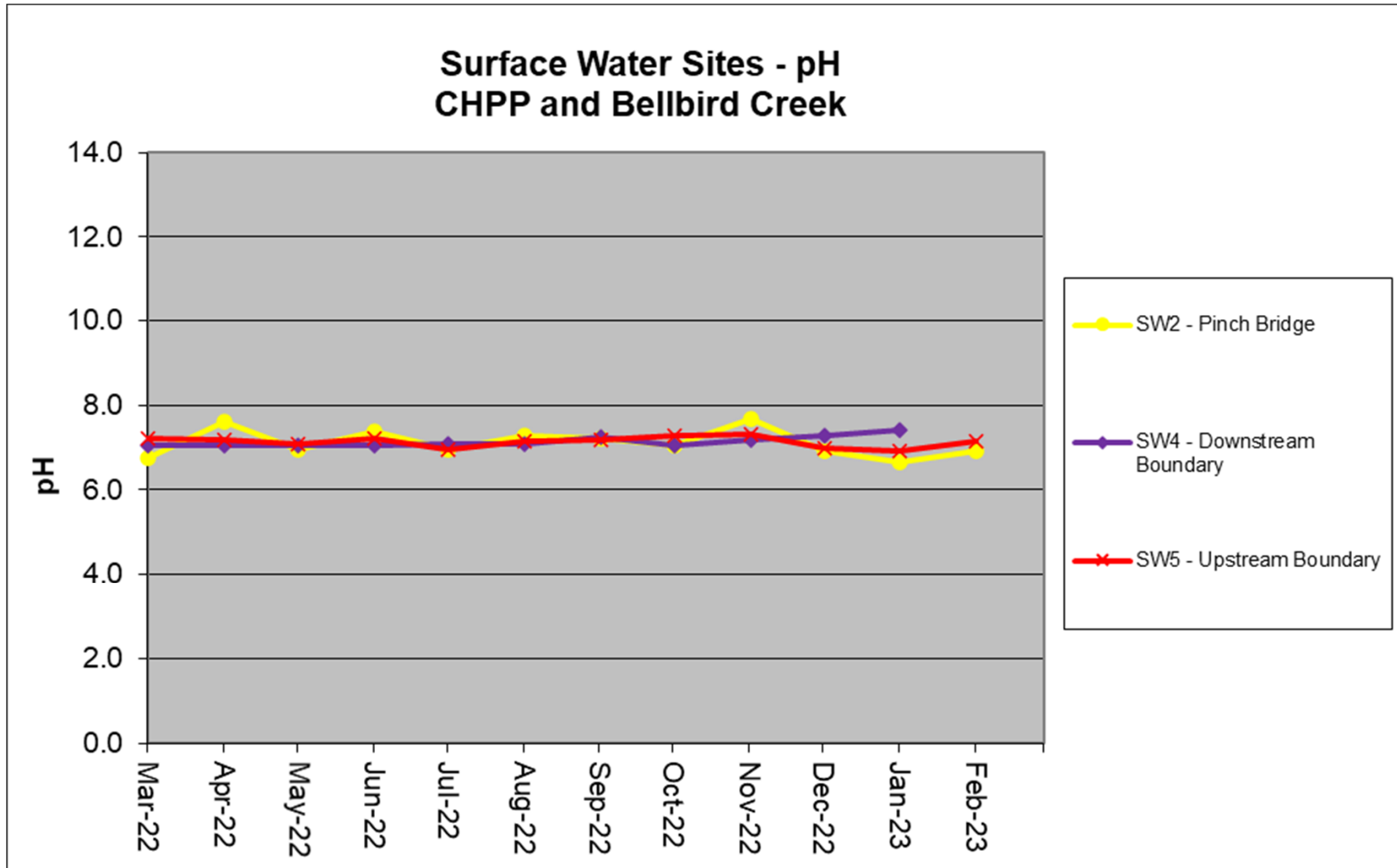
Surface Water Sites - TSS
CHPP and Bellbird Creek



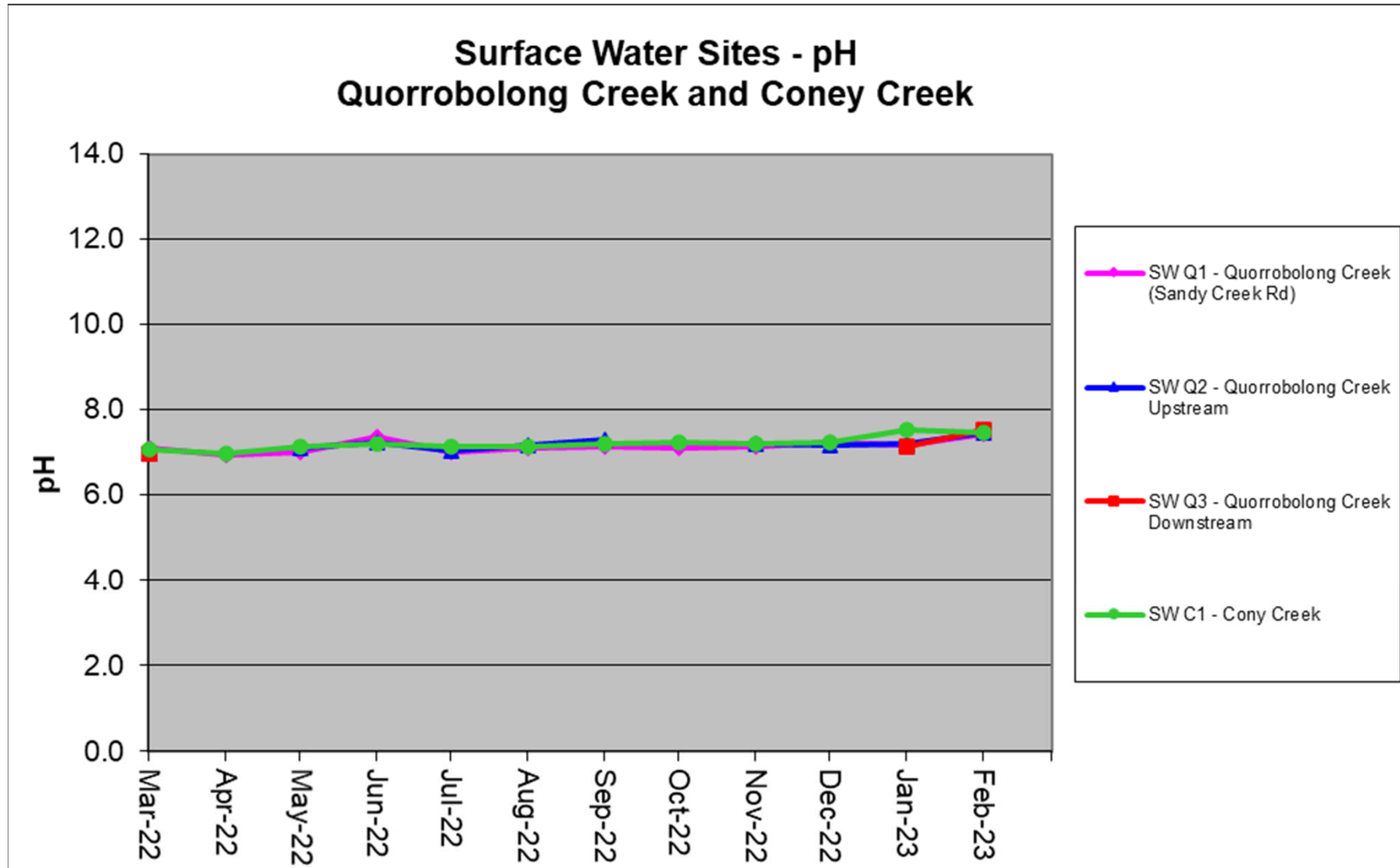
Surface Water Sites - Iron (Total)
CHPP and Bellbird Creek



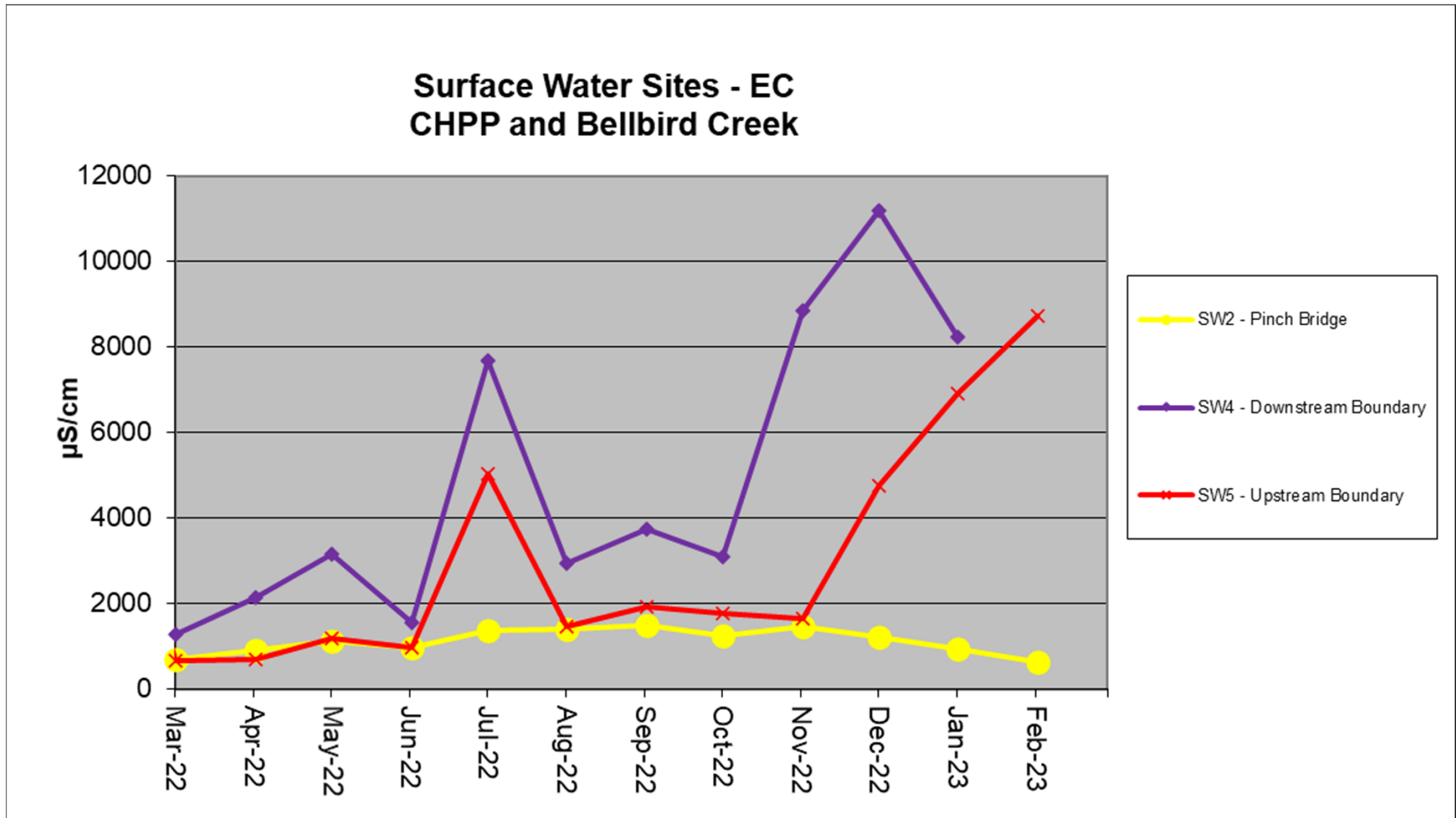
Water Monitoring



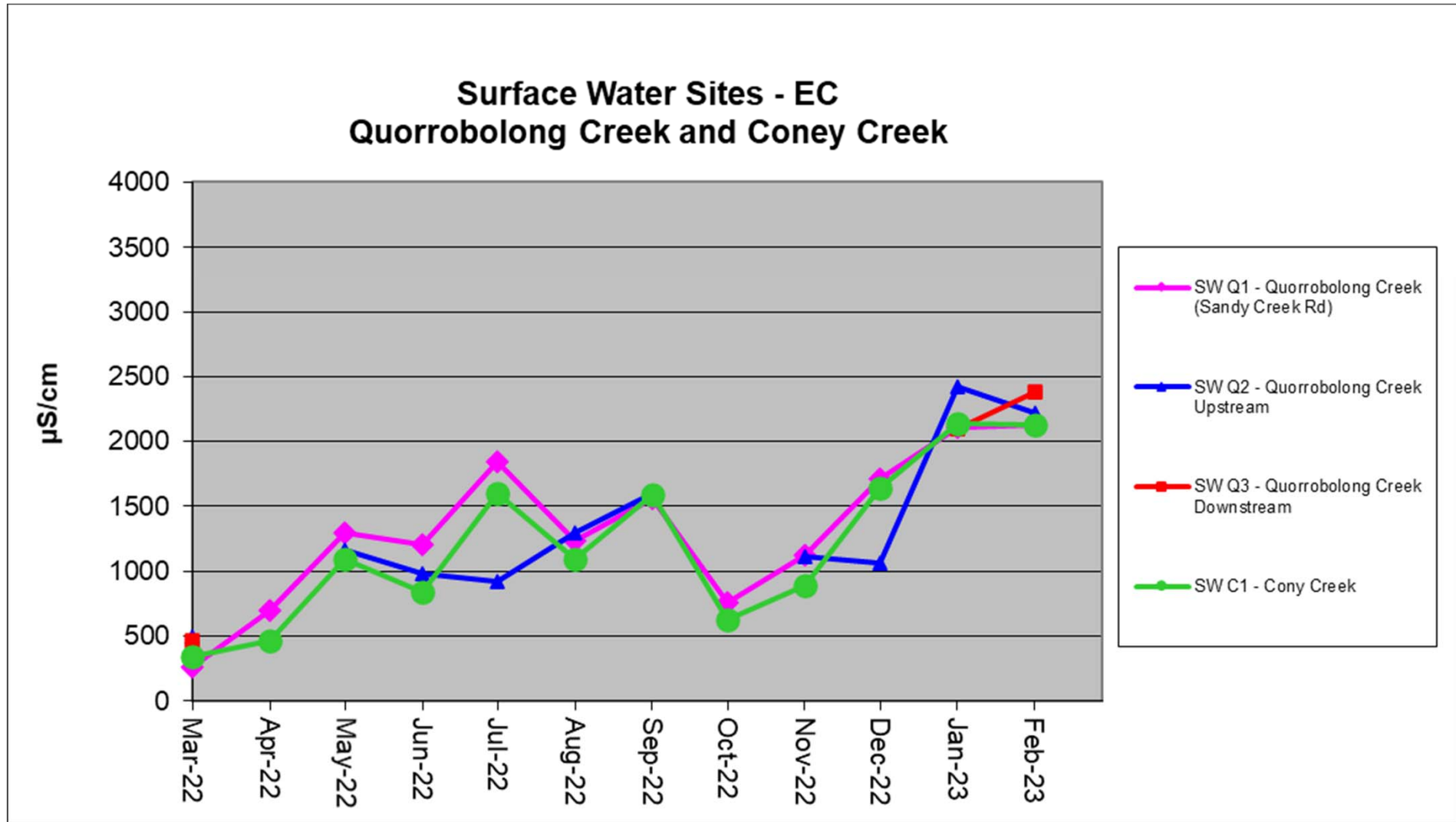
Water Monitoring



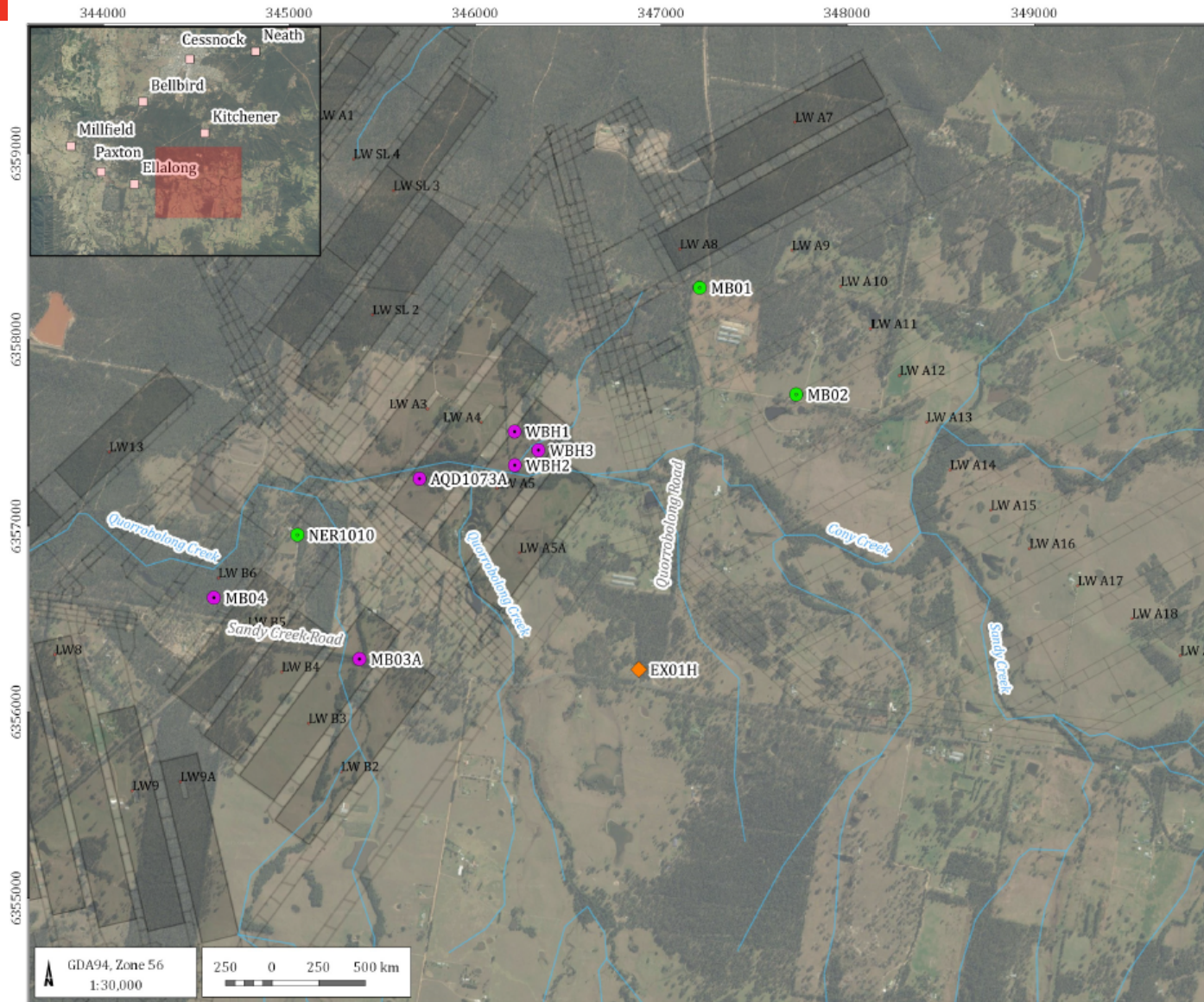
Water Monitoring



Water Monitoring



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



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N:\Groundwater Jobs\G18281\Yancoal Austar GW monitoring and compliance 2019\3_GIS\Workspaces\20190924_G18281_Austar monitoring bore and VWP locations_updatedSept2019.gps
Note: longwall panel background georeferenced accuracy ~ 10 m.



Groundwater Monitoring

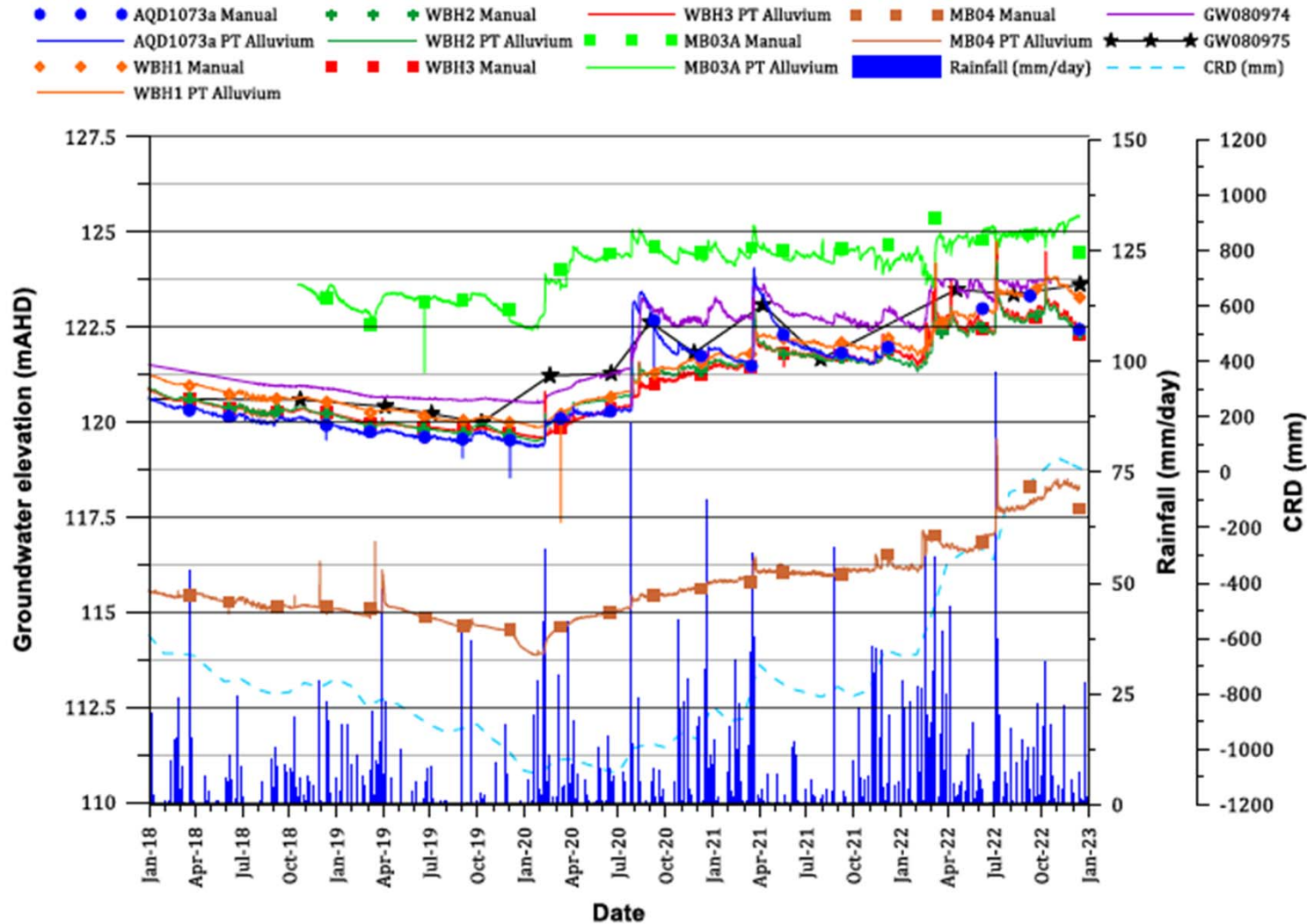


Figure E 2 5-year Stage 2 and Bellbird South alluvium & WaterNSW groundwater level hydrographs

Groundwater Monitoring

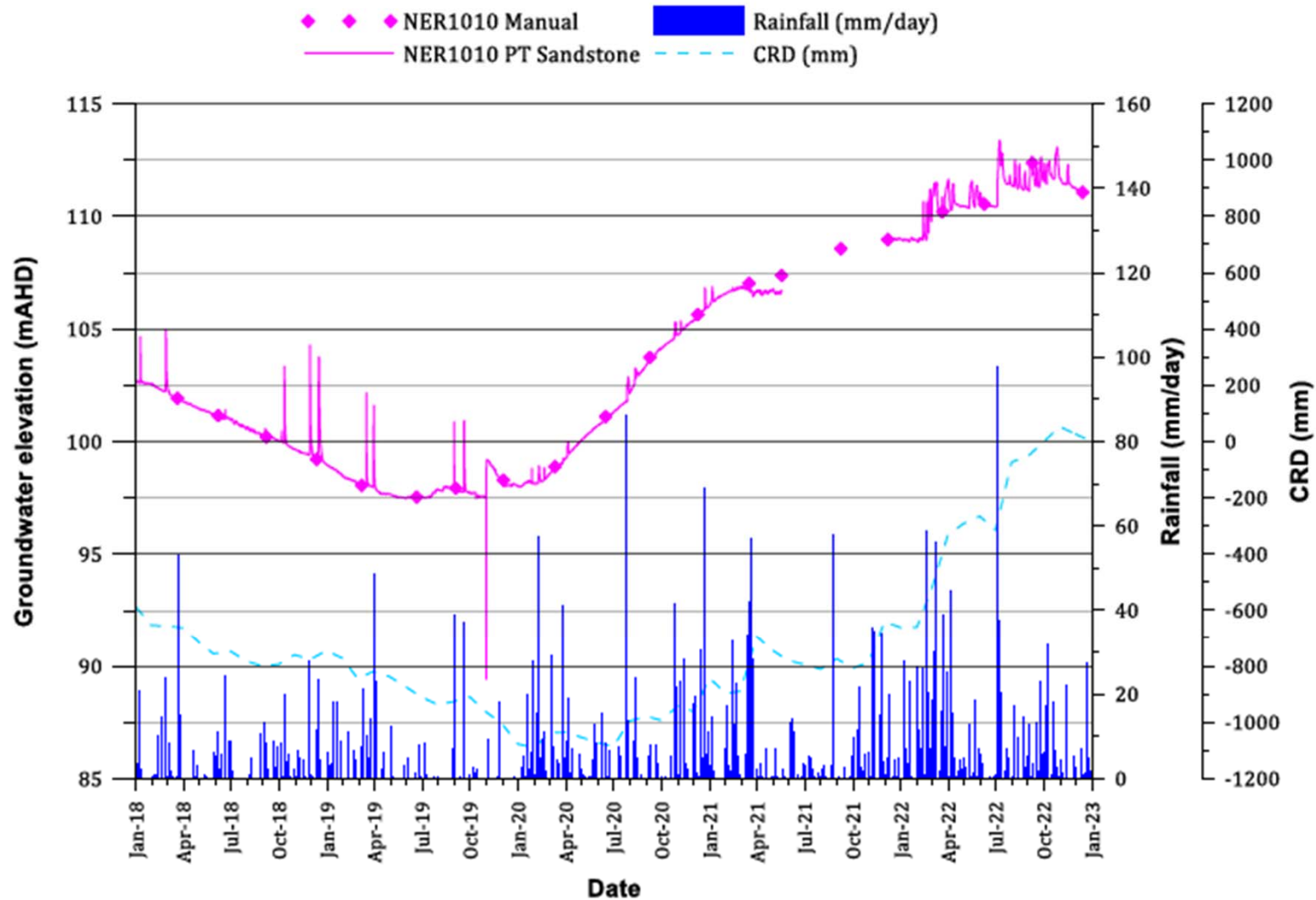


Figure E 1 5-year NER1010 groundwater level hydrograph

Groundwater Monitoring

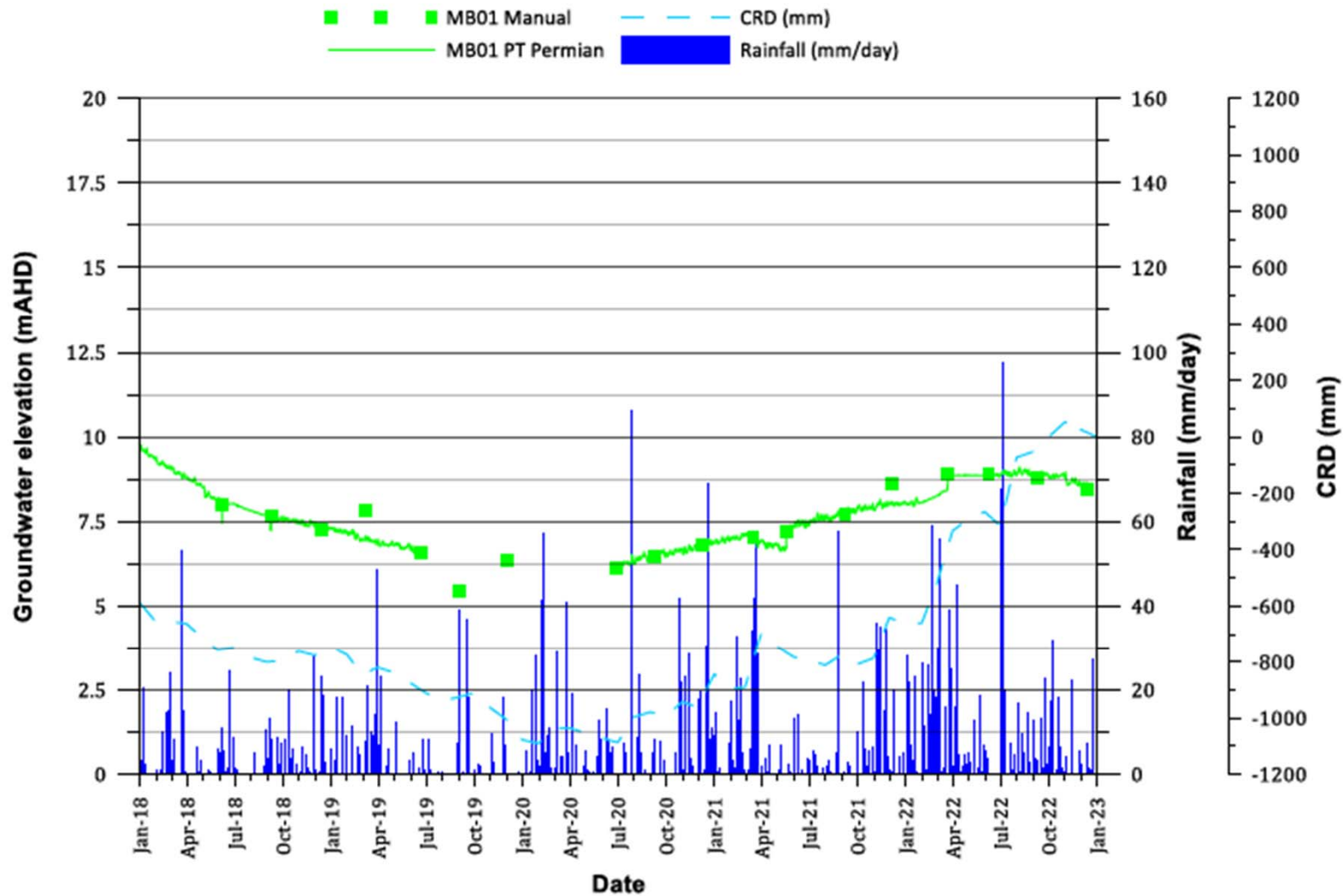


Figure E 3 5-year Stage 3 MB01 sandstone aquifer groundwater level hydrograph

Groundwater Monitoring

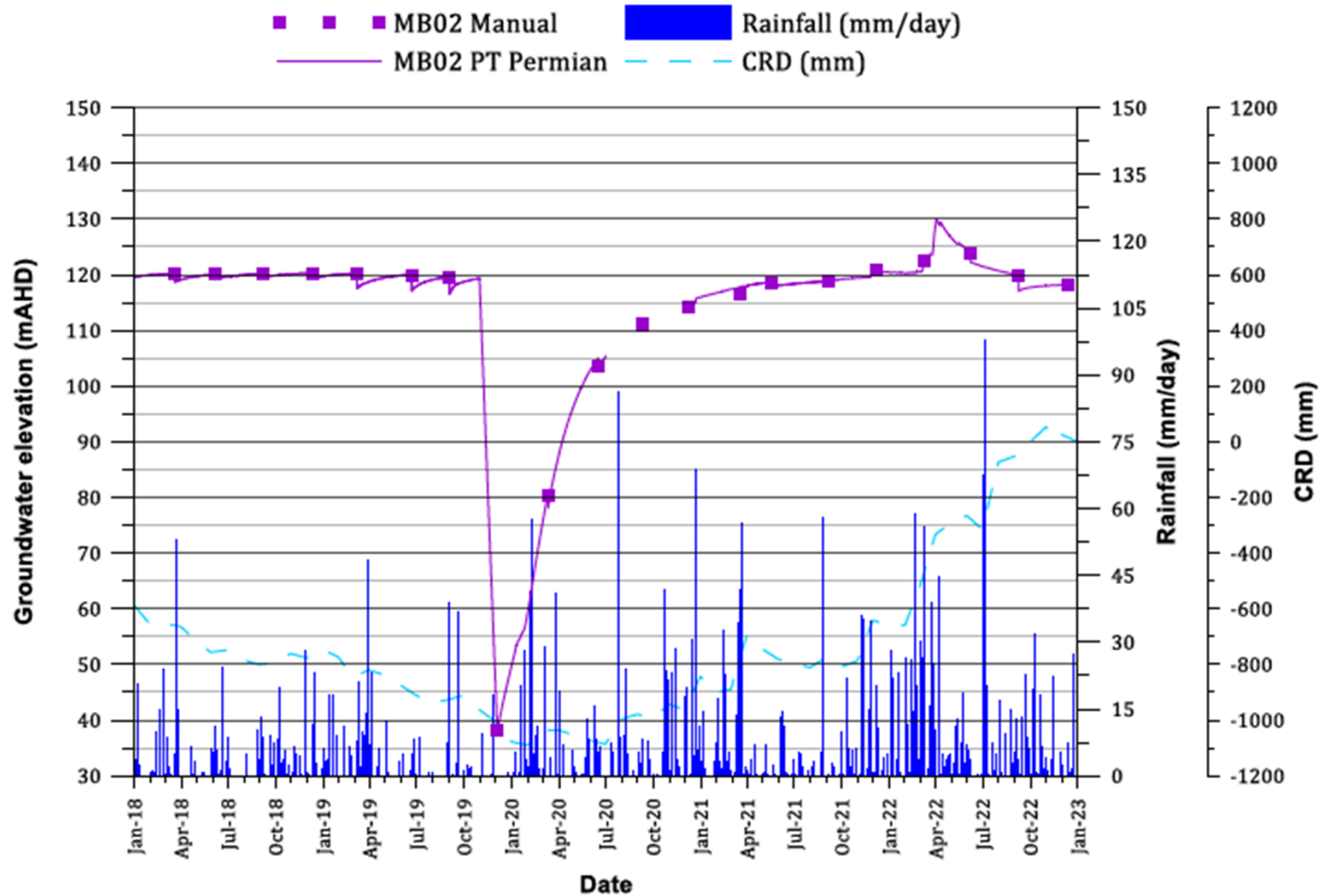


Figure E 4 5-year Stage 3 MB02 sandstone aquifer groundwater level hydrograph

Since last CCC meeting (21 September 2022 – 21 March 2023)

Noise Monitoring

- No noise exceedances recorded during attended noise monitoring

Noise Modelling

- Partial mine sealing activities were modelled to ensure compliance with noise limits. Where noise modelling predicted exceedances of limits, negotiated noise agreements were implemented.

Operations

- CHPP and associated infrastructure remain non-operational
- Decommissioning of underground mine infrastructure at Kalingo Infrastructure Area, partial sealing at 1, 3 and 4 shafts and the portal at Pit Top.



Environmental Incidents and Community Complaints

Administrative Non compliance – continuous noise monitor outage

- Continuous noise monitor stopped operating around 6am 22 February. This was identified in the daily report sent the following morning.
- Site personnel were unable to restart, environmental monitoring contractor called to address the outage.
- Unit was found to be unserviceable in the field and was taken back to the workshop. A replacement unit was fitted on 27 February.
- No noisy works were undertaken while the noise monitor was out of service.
- Discussed issue with DPE Compliance officer and advised this would be reported in the 2023 Annual Review.

Environmental Incidents

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

- Reported to NSW EPA in monthly status reports required by EPL
- Orange staining observed during all monitoring events since previous meeting (September - March)
- Notable actions completed to manage the issue:
 - Additional pumping to prevent ponding and seepage in open drains
 - Desilting of the Precipitate Dam, July 2021 (potential contamination source)
 - Inclusion of acid mine drainage analysis during the Site Investigations program to determine the nature of waste materials and inform the conceptual site model, June 2022
 - Desilting mine water drains close to the drainage line under investigation, construction of drains on Product stockpile to relocate mine water flows

Community Complaints

Since last CCC meeting (21 September 2022 – 21 March 2023)

- No community complaints since last meeting

General Business



General Business – Community Support Program

Austar Community Support Program

- The Yancoal corporate CSP is ongoing and continues to support organisations in the Hunter Valley.
- Long standing community donations will continue during 2023, including CRLFC sponsorship and the Cessnock Mayoral Scholarships.
- The 2023 Austar Community Support Program was very successful. Groups awarded funding in the 2023 round include:
 - Aberdare Pre-school – cultural inclusion project
 - Bellbird Pre-school – permanent climbing fixture
 - Cessnock Community of Great Public Schools – early intervention for transition to school success program
 - Cessnock District Netball Association – shade shelters
 - Kitchener Public School – staying connected program
 - Cessnock Community Leos – backpacks for schools project

General Business – Bushfire Management

- Continued management of fire breaks and trails, with the slasher running almost continuously over the past three months
- Bushfire Hazard Reduction burn by NSW Rural Fire Service on Austar land at Pelton continues to be postponed due to wet conditions / time of burn limitations due to vulnerable fauna.
- The Bushfire Management Plan will be reviewed in 2023 in consultation with the RFS and a bushfire consultant.



General Business – Exploration Boreholes

- All exploration boreholes previously drilled in EL6598 by Austar have been rehabilitated, with around three holes requiring minor maintenance prior to sign off.
- Two boreholes are outstanding, pending lodgement of either final photos or landholder sign off
- A borehole status audit has commenced for historic holes drilled by Austar's predecessors, as well as services boreholes that may require rehabilitation. Holes date back to the late 1800's. The audit will determine Austar's rehabilitation obligations.

General Business – Rehabilitation Reforms

- New mining lease conditions relating to rehabilitation came into force on 2 July 2022.
- Austar has prepared and lodged with the Resources Regulator:
 - A Rehabilitation Management Plan (RMP), including rehabilitation objectives and completion criteria
 - A Forward Plan for the next three years
- The RMP and Forward Plan are on the Austar Website.
- The Resources Regulator has reviewed rehabilitation objectives and has updated their guideline and asked Austar to revise the rehabilitation objectives. Revised objectives were lodged in February.

General Business – No.2 Shaft Potable Water Line

- No.2 Shaft infrastructure being decommissioned in preparation for demolition.
- Austar own potable water line from Church Street Ellalong to No.2 Shaft site on Dry Creek Road.
- Notification to private residents connected to line that it will be decommissioned and supply terminated.
- Line not constructed to standard and therefore Hunter Water will not take ownership.
- Sufficient notification period will be given to allow residents to make alternate arrangements.

General Business – Reporting

Published on Austar website:

- Rehabilitation Management Plan
- Forward Program
- Annual Review 2021-22 (lodged 29 Sept 2022, accepted by DPE 14 March 2023)
- Community Consultative Committee Annual Report 2022

Documents available: www.austarcoalmine.com.au

Additional reporting:

- National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) Reporting – Austar under reporting threshold 2022 and did not need to lodge a report.
- Exploration licence renewal approved. New expiry date July 2024.
- NGERs reporting lodged in October 2022.
- EPL 416 Annual Return Lodged February 2023

General Business – Management Plans

- Austar Environmental Management Strategy and associated Management Plans updated to reflect the sealing of the underground mine and progression of closure planning.
- Pollution Incident Response Management Plan reviewed and workforce refresher training undertaken in December 2022.

Management Plan	Date Lodged
Environmental Management Strategy	1/02/2023
Landscape Management Plan - Kitchener SIS	20/02/2023
Site Water Management Plan	Lodged for consultation with other departments on 10/03/2023.
Noise and Vibration Management Plan	22/02/2023
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan	22/02/2023
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan	21/02/2023

General Business –

Next 6 Months:

- Preparation for 3 yearly Independent Environmental Audit – due to be undertaken in Q4 2023
- Rehabilitation Monitoring due for completion in Q2
- Annual Review / Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program due in August 2023
- Closure PFS to be finalised in Q3

Other Business –

Next Meeting /
Close