

**MOOLARBEN COAL OPERATIONS - COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING No. 56**

**Date:** Tuesday 9 March 2021  
**Time:** 4:40 pm  
**Location:** Moolarben Coal Training Room  
**Attendance:** Independent Chairperson  
Lisa Andrews (LA)

Community Members

Dr Julia Imrie (JI)  
Bev Smiles (BS)  
Stephen Alcorn (SAlc)  
David Stokes (DS)

Moolarben Coal Operations

Graham Chase (GC)  
Steve Archinal (SA)  
Trent Cini (TC)  
Mat Croake (MC) {Minute taker}

Apologies

Aleisha Lonsdale (AL)  
Helen Ungaro (HU)  
Cr Des Kennedy (DK)  
Cr John O'Neill (JO)

***Meeting 56 Agenda and Presentation and Meeting 55 Minutes were provided to all meeting attendees.***

## **1. Introduction and Welcome**

LA thanked the environmental team for putting together and site tour and expressed her appreciation of the CCC members for their attendance and the change in meeting start time to accommodate.

## **2. Apologies**

Helen Ungaro (HU)  
Aleisha Lonsdale (AL)  
Cr Des Kennedy (DK)  
Cr John O'Neill (JO)

## **3. Business Arising from Previous Finalised Minutes**

LA confirmed previous meeting minutes finalised and distributed on 4 January 2021.

LA discussed previous actions items being:

1. *Water Quality Release data to be provided – Included in presentation.*
2. *Link to MCO Ground Water Management Plan to be provided to CCC members – Provided to CCC members on 4 January with the minutes to Meeting 55.*

*No further actions or business arising from CCC Meeting 55.*

## **Correspondence**

Correspondence to the CCC since meeting 55 included the following:

- *17/12/20 – Email with draft minutes sent to CCC for review (comments received back & incorporated into minutes).*
- *4/1/21 – Email with finalised minutes sent to CCC members.*
- *24/2/21 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice & Agenda for this meeting with Correspondence Report.*
- *1/3/21 – Email from JI with a request to include a site visit of the water management system, as well as requests for information/updates and water data (forwarded through to MCO for action). [Questions & answers addressed in the minutes.]*
- *5/3/21 – Email to members with COVID checklist form for completion and advising to arrive on site at 2.45pm.*

## **CCC Update Presentation**

GC expressed his appreciation of the CCC attending the site tour and welcomed CCC members to Yancoal-Moolarben Coal Operations.

GC provided an update on COVID-19 management actions. GC explained Yancoal's COVID-19 restrictions are conservative compared to current NSW Government Health advice. GC confirmed visitors are allowed only after General Manager (GM) approval.

GC provided an update on the Community Support Program (CSP) including, the 38 successful applicants for the 2021 CSP and the different CSP categories. GC also provide a brief overview of CSP events already completed in 2021.

TC provided an operational update. JI asked if the Independent Water Quality study (IWQS) will be used to inform the volume of water release to the Goulburn River. TC confirmed the IWQS will be used to inform the quality of the water releases. JI asked when MCO was planning to release 15 megalitres per day. TC confirmed MCO currently have approval to release up to 15 megalitres per day and is planning to release between 10 to 12 megalitres per day. BS asked if the water is coming from the underground and if so, at what volume? GC confirmed that approximately 105 litres per second is coming from underground operations including inflows, MCO water supply and recirculation from the open cut operations.

BS asked if MCO knew the volume of water being extracted from the UG4 operations. GC outlined the general underground operations dewatering process and explained that water from both the UG1 and UG4 operations is extracted from the same point. BS asked if specific volumes can be calculated from individual pumps. GC explained the different components of the dewatering systems.

JI asked where the dewatering pump for the underground operations is located. GC confirmed the location and further explained the dewatering process. BS asked if MCO is releasing water as a result of rainfall events. GC advised MCO is releasing water to manage stock levels across the MCO complex including water from the above average rainfall.

JI asked when the first extraction plan for UG4 will be ready for submission. GC confirmed the current estimation is submission in the second half of 2021 and approval in early to mid-2022. *[Action] JI requested to be notified as soon as reasonably practicable after approval.* JI asked if the extraction plan will include community consultation. GC confirmed the extraction plan will have agency consultation in accordance with the conditions of the project approval.

BS asked what was being upgraded at the Coal Handling & Processing Plant (CHPP). TC explained the upgrades.

JI asked if MCO has used the dewatering bores in UG4. GC confirmed MC has not used the dewatering bores in UG4 since the last CCC.

TC provided an exploration update. JI asked if the aerial survey includes her property. TC advised the scope of the survey has not been finalised and consultation with relevant landholders will take place prior to the survey.

BS enquired about the plan for drilling in EL6288. TC described the programs and general locations. BS asked how many exploration holes are proposed in the north of EL6288. GC confirmed MCO is planning to complete an additional nine exploration holes this year. JI asked if a study has been completed for the drilling. GC confirmed a study has been completed as part of the exploration program approval. JI asked if the study was available on the website. GC explained the study is not available on the website. TC explained the current regulatory requirements for publishing studies associated with exploration programs. JI asked if the exploration holes are for coal or water. GC confirmed the program targets coal and noted that some holes may be converted to piezometers.

TC provided an update on environmental monitoring. TC advised the CCC that additional slides have been added as requested regarding release water. JI asked how often metals are monitored. TC confirmed the monitoring is monthly.

JI referred to noise observed and enquired if activities have changed. GC requested that the noise concerns are directed to the MCO Community Complaints Hotline at the time to allow MCO to investigate the concerns and advised that no change in activities has occurred. BS asked where MCO noise monitors are located. TC confirmed the location of MCO's noise monitors on a map. BS asked if the attended noise monitoring was showing an increase in noise levels. TC explained the variability of noise levels caused by weather conditions and operations.

TC provided a rehabilitation and Offset management update. JI commented on the health of the rehabilitation visible on the site tour prior to the CCC meeting.

Jl asked what areas of MCO biodiversity offset are now secured in perpetuity and under what title is the land secured in perpetuity for conservation of biodiversity purposes?

GC explained the different offset security mechanisms of the MCO Offsets and described the locations of the offsets. Jl asked if there is auditing of the offset covenants and conditions. GC advised that covenants included rights of entry to relevant government bodies.

GC provided information on the proposed Underground 2 Modification including a general overview of the modification and indicative timing. GC confirmed there be an update at the next CCC meeting. BS asked if the modification will be referred to the EPBC. GC confirmed the modification will be referred to the EPBC.

GC presented the Open Cut Progression Feasibility Study. GC included a general overview of the current status of the study. BS asked if MCO is going to mine further west of current operations. GC explained MCO is not currently planning on mining to the west of current operations.

BS asked how much of OC4 has been mined to date. GC confirmed less than half of the approved OC4 area has been mined to date. BS asked if the proposed OC4 extension will interact with the Peabody-Wilpinjong Coal mine final void. GC explained the feasibility study will need to be completed to determine if any change to the final void is required.

GC provided an employment update.

LA called for any other questions from the CCC.

Jl asked for an update on the Independent Water Quality Study. GC confirmed the study is ongoing with an estimated completion date of mid to late 2021. Jl asked to be advised when the study is completed and a copy of the report is made available to the CCC.

Jl discussed the potential risk from far field movement impacts associated with mining UG4 LW panels 9 -14 that come to ~170 - 500 metres from the Goulburn River. GC provided a general overview of the nature of far field movements to the CCC. Jl asked if MCO is completing the same assessments for UG4 as UG1 (extraction plan). GC confirmed an Extraction Plan will be completed prior to the commencement of longwall mining in UG4 including subsidence considerations. Jl expressed her concern for the potential impacts of far field movements on sensitive geological and hydrological features associated with the Goulburn River gorge and escarpments. Jl referred to the Figure 4.5 in MCC report of monitoring from western and southern coal fields show ground movements of up to ~ 125mm from LW panels at active LW to depth of cover, ratios of 1.

### ***General Business***

BS expressed her disappointment of the last two CCC meeting minutes not being available on the MCO website. GC acknowledged the omission of the minutes from the MCO website and explained it was an oversight from MCO that has been addressed. LA confirmed that MCO had advised her of the omission and that the minutes had now been published.

**4. Next Meeting:** 9 June 2021, commencing at 4pm.

*Meeting Closed at 5:54pm with LA thanking all for their attendance.*

**Action Items:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
1	CCC to be notified following approval of the UG4 extraction plan LW401 to LW408	MCO
2	CCC to be notified when aerial survey is to be conducted.	MCO
3	Advise CCC when Independent Water Quality Study is complete and provide copy of the report to members.	MCO

# Community Consultative Committee Update

March 2021

Moolarben Coal Operations



# COVID – 19 Update

- Proactively managing the situation to safeguard the health and safety of our people.
- Yancoal continues to monitor the situation and health advice.
- Site access restrictions continue.
- Screening people on entry (Thermal Cameras).
- Implementation of social distancing and reinforcement of hygiene practices.
- Enhanced cleaning.
- Community support focused on COVID response and health.



# 2021 Community Support Program (CSP)

- 38 Successful CSP applications for 2021
- Successful applications were spread across 5 CSP categories:
  - 6 Culture & Arts applications;
  - 5 Education and Training applications;
  - 4 Environment applications;
  - 2 Health applications; and
  - 21 Social & Community applications.

A number of CSP events have been modified and/or cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions already in 2021.



# 2021 Community Support Program (CSP)

2021 Yancoal-Moolarben Coal CSP events thus far include;

Gulgong Amateur Fishing Club Silver Perch fingerling release in the Cudgegong River



Supply and install Tree guards for revegetation project at Lake Windamere Under Canvas Camp site

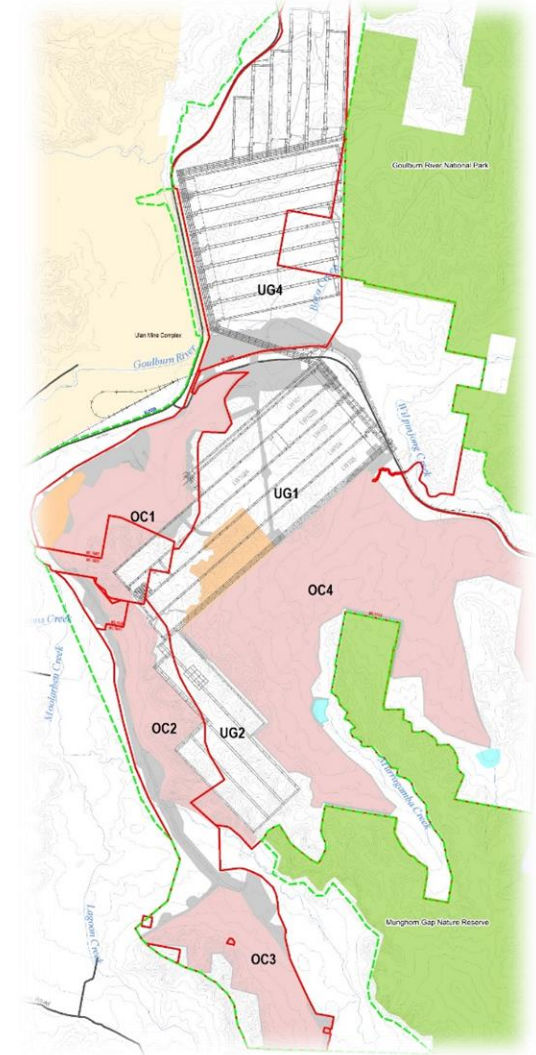


Completion of the pool facilities upgrade at Lue Public School



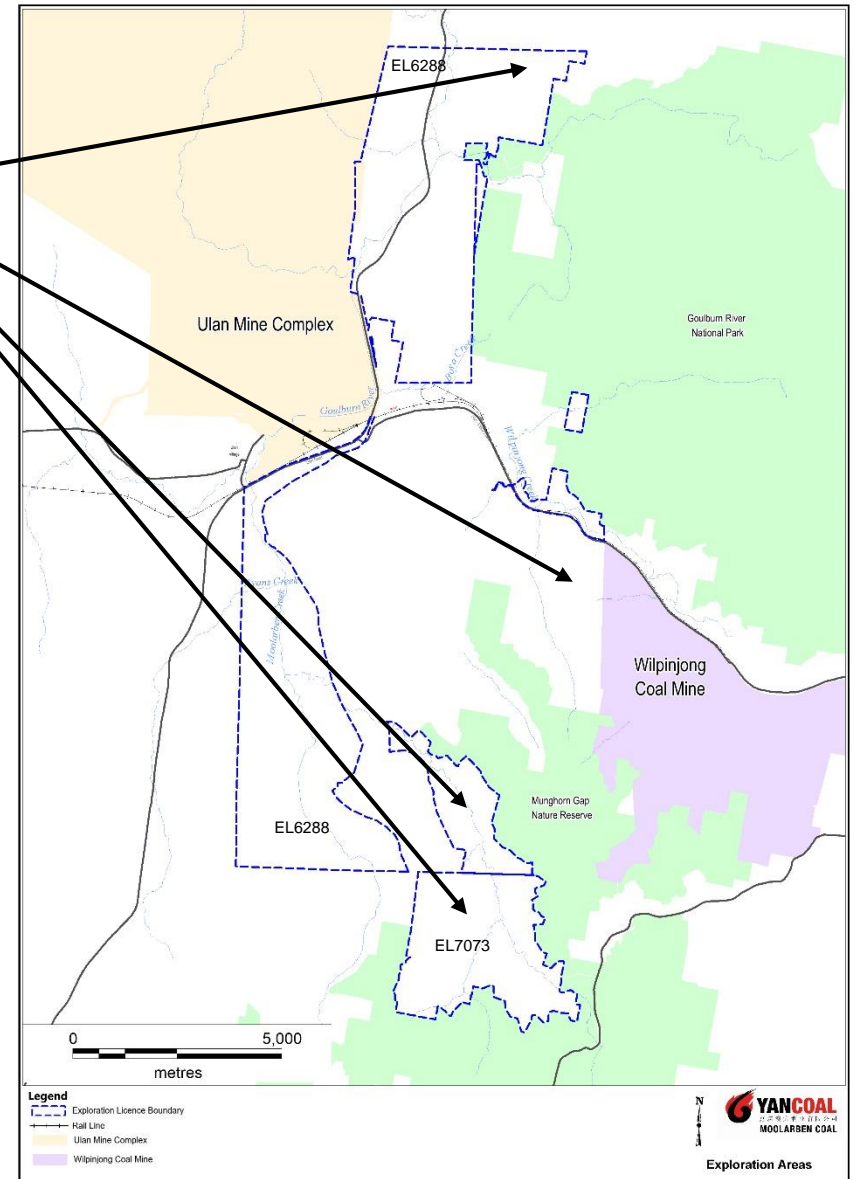
# Operational Update

- UG4 surface infrastructure - construction commenced.
- LW401-408 Extraction Plan being prepared.
- CHPP Upgrade from 13 to 16Mtpa
  - Design of existing facility upgrades commenced
  - Within existing footprint
  - Construction in 2022



# Exploration Update

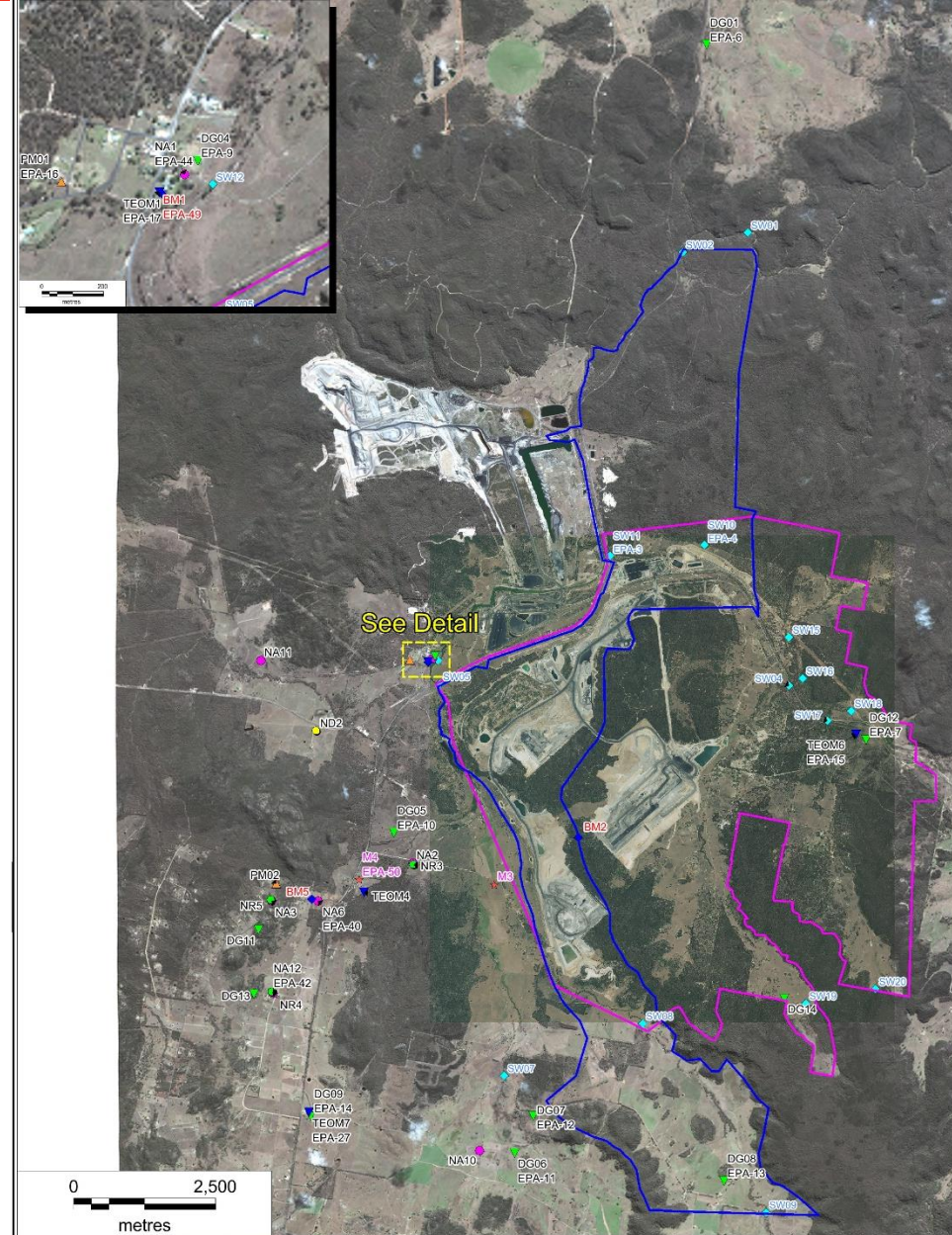
- Drilling – programs planned in EL6288, EL7073 and ML1715
- Aerial survey – planning for program across tenements.
- Rehabilitation and monitoring activities have continued during the period.



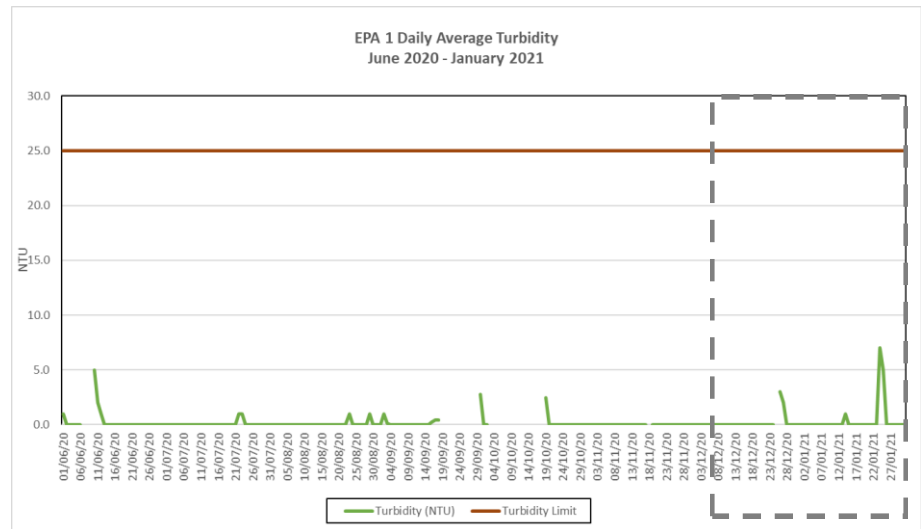
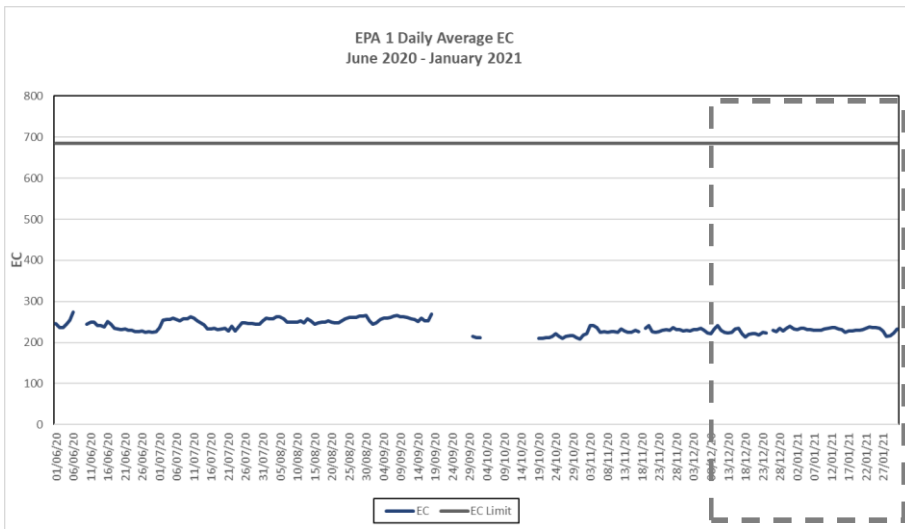
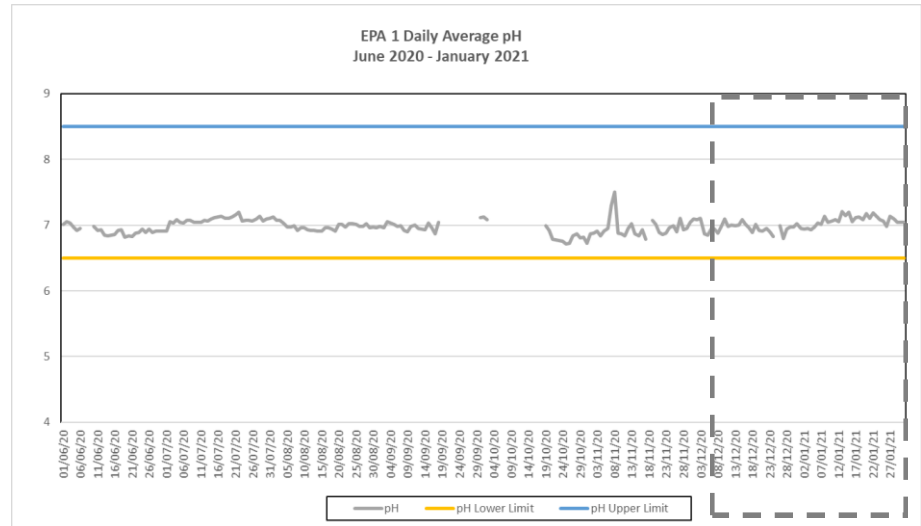
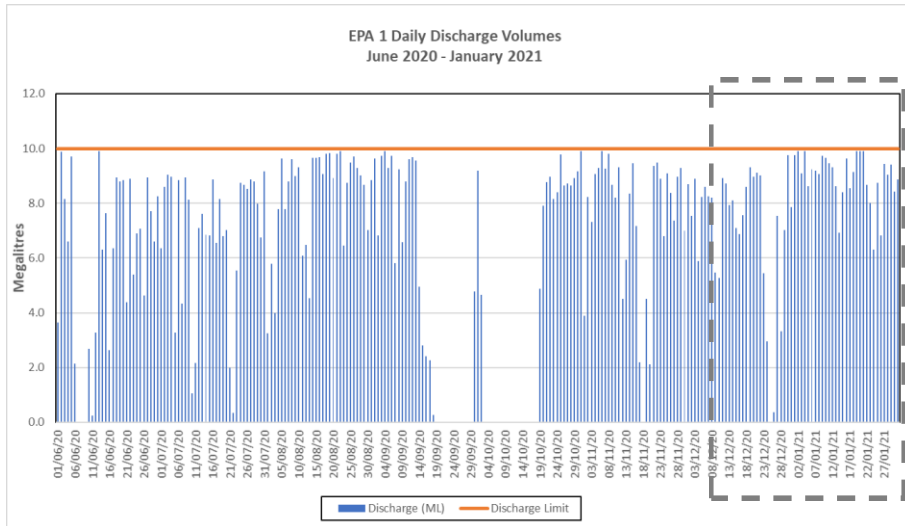
# Environmental Monitoring

## Monitoring network

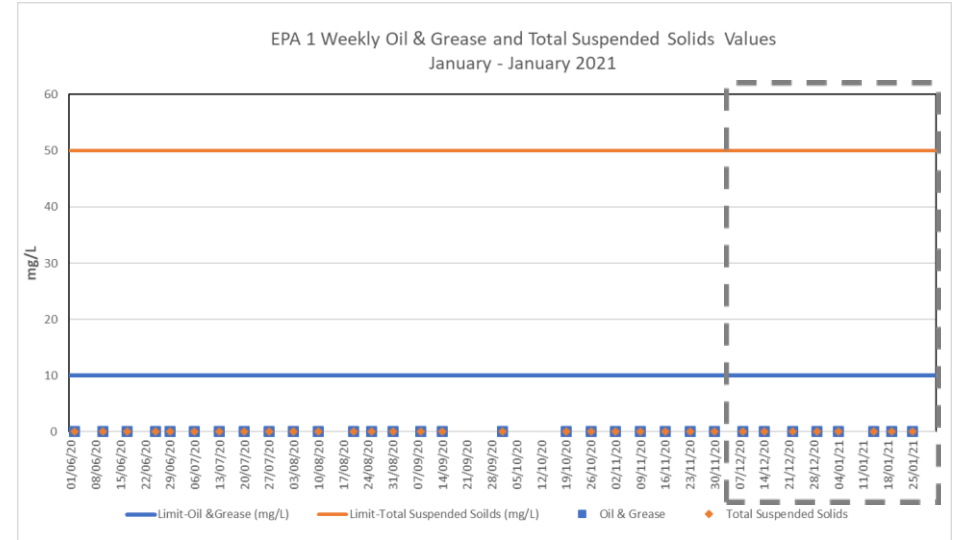
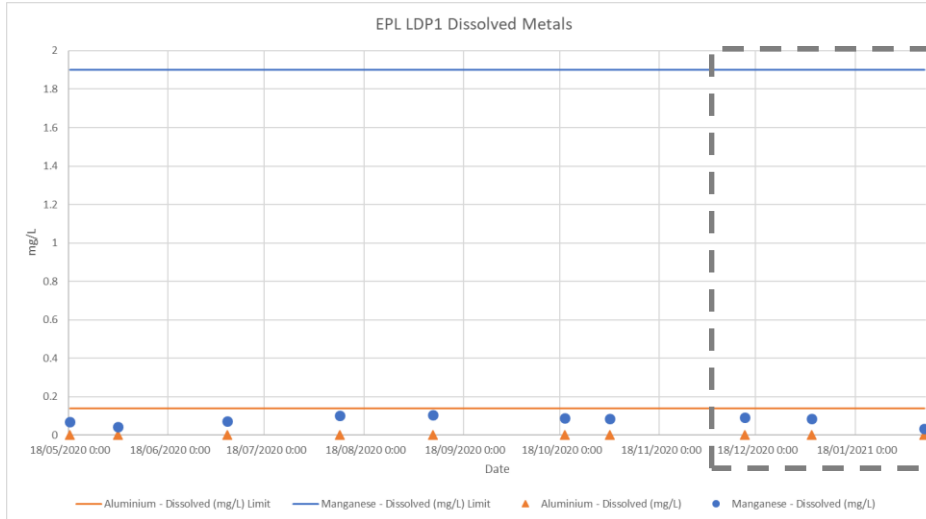
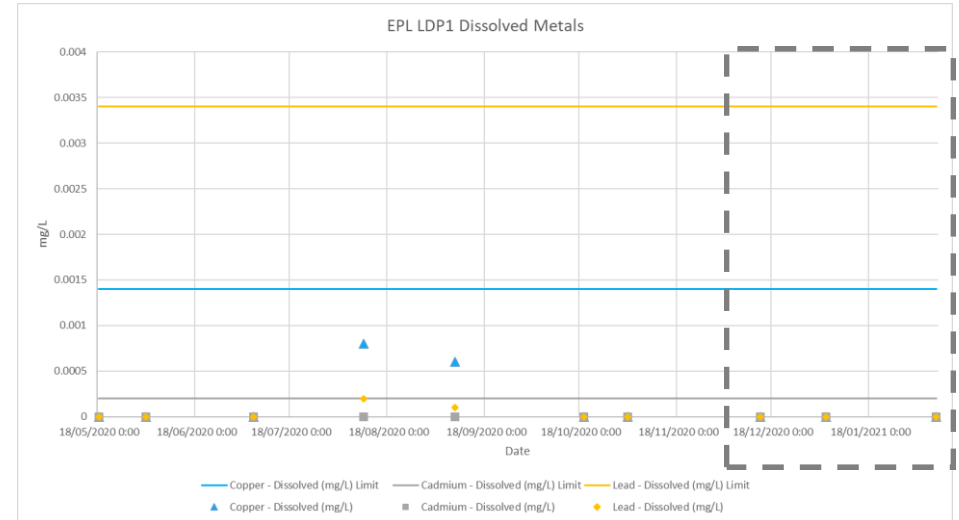
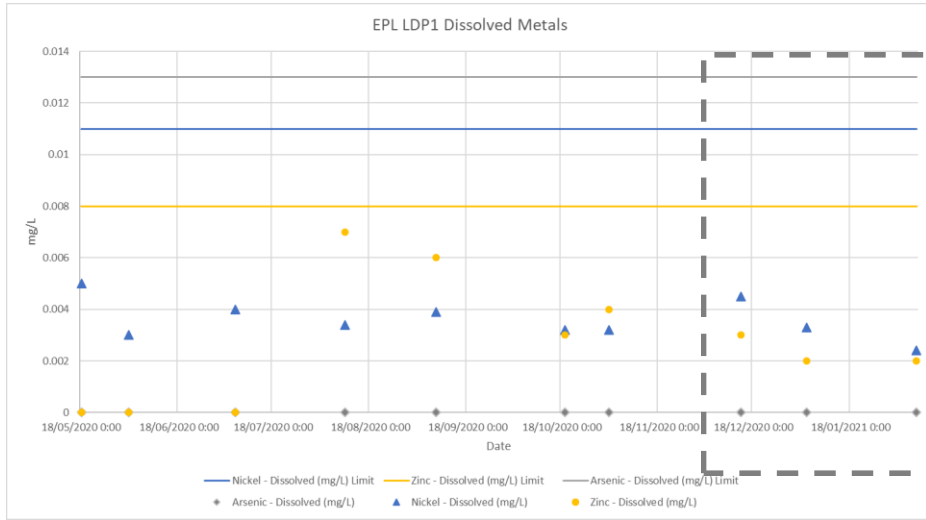
- Water;
- Air Quality;
- Blasting;
- Noise;
- Meteorology.



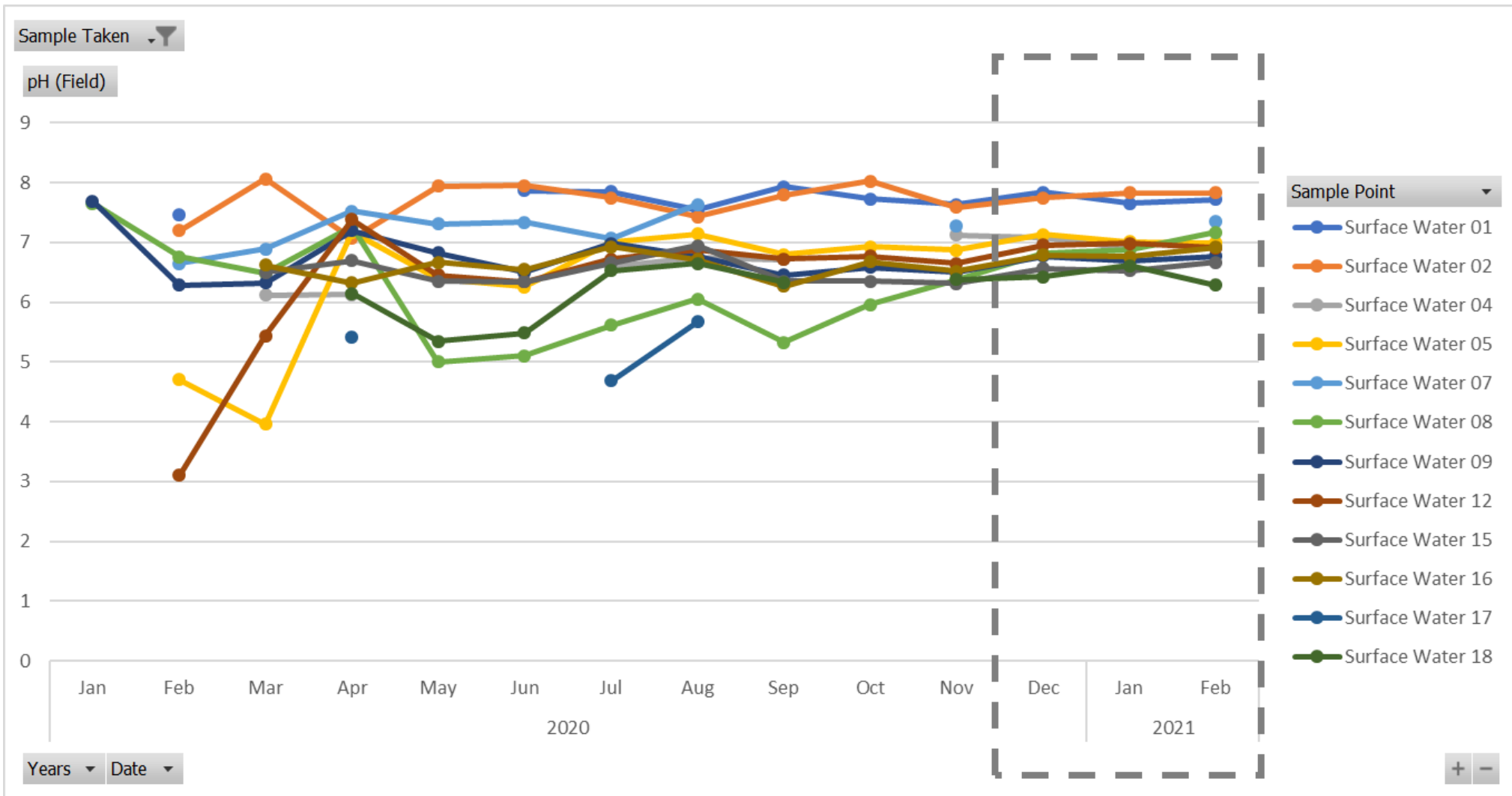
# Water Release



# Water Release

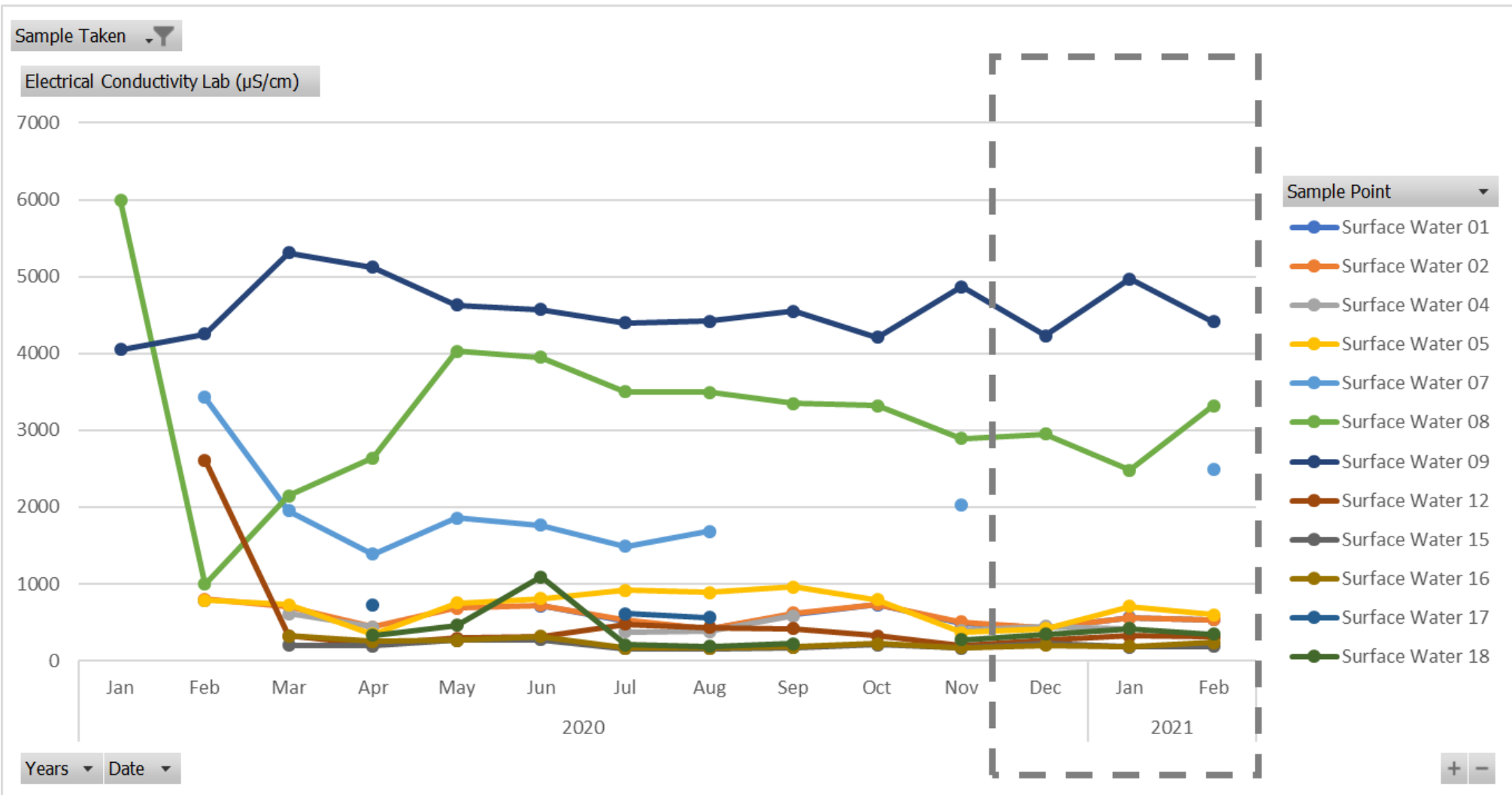


# Water Quality - pH

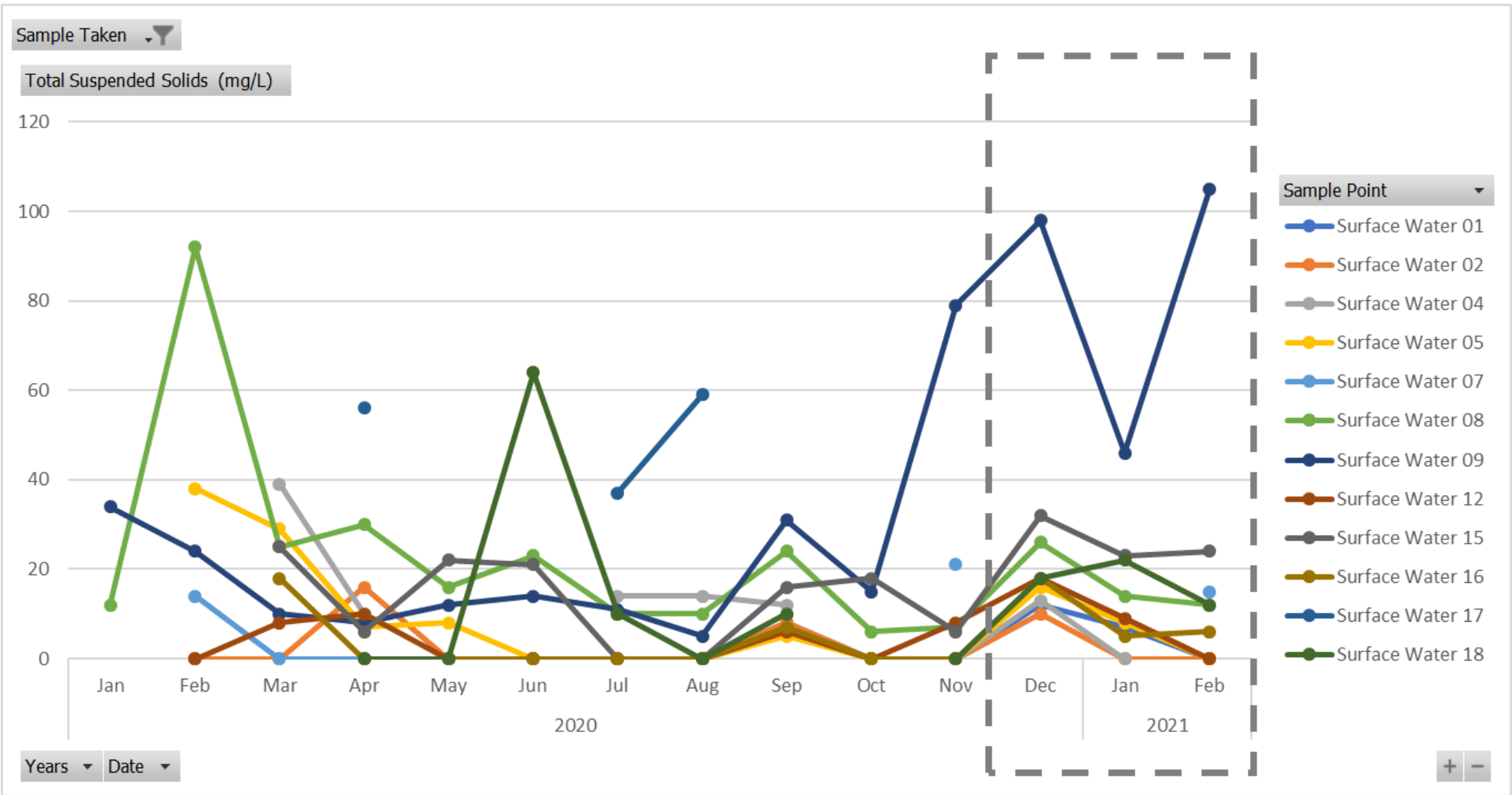




# Water Quality - EC



# Water Quality - TSS



# Air Quality

Site	February 2020 PM10 Annual Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	February 2021 PM10 Annual Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Air Quality PM10 Annual Average Criteria ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
TEOM 01	17.8	13.9	25.0
TEOM 07	16.1	9.3	25.0
TEOM 04	19.7	12.6	25.0

Site	February 2020 PM2.5 Annual Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	February 2021 PM2.5 Annual Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Air Quality PM2.5 Annual Average Criteria ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
TEOM 07	6.5*	4.8	8.0

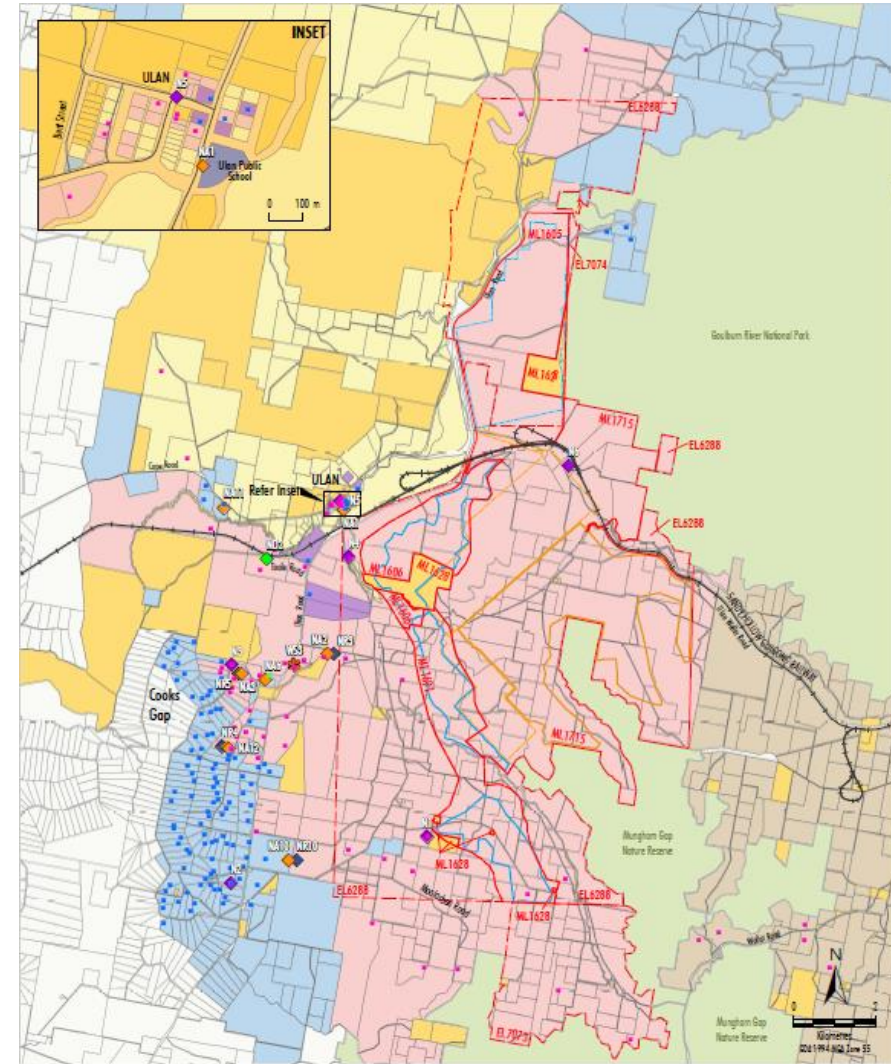
\*less than 12 months of data

Monthly monitoring reports are available on our website:

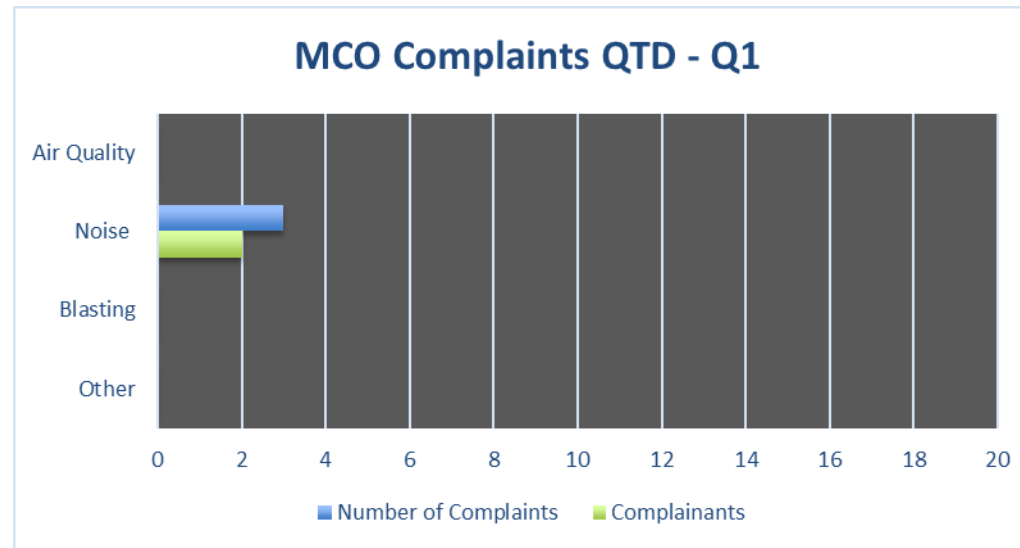
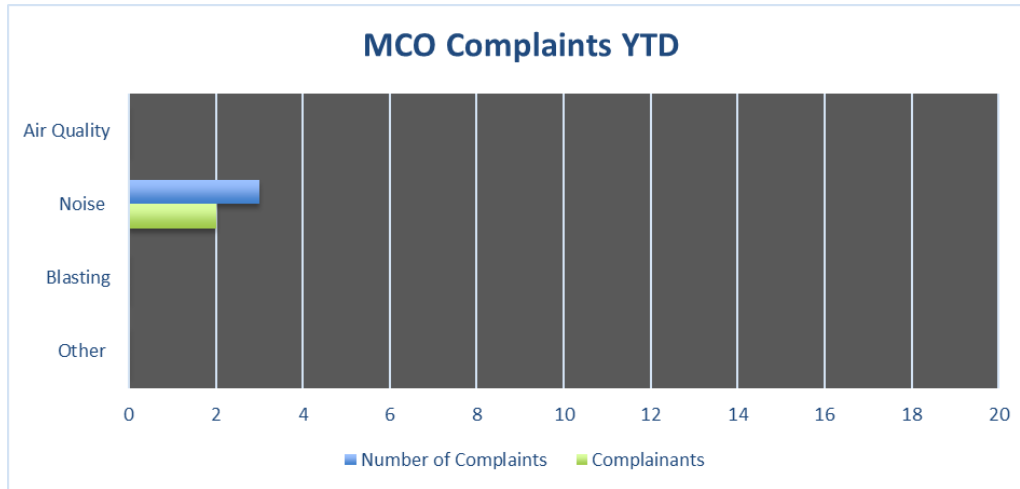
[www.moolarbencoal.com.au/environment-and-community/monitoring-results/](http://www.moolarbencoal.com.au/environment-and-community/monitoring-results/)

# Noise Monitoring

- All monthly & quarterly attended noise monitoring within criteria.
- Continued implementation of:
  - Planning controls - scheduling
  - Engineering controls - attenuation
  - Operational controls - bunds/screens
  - Real-time monitoring triggers
  - Real-time response protocols

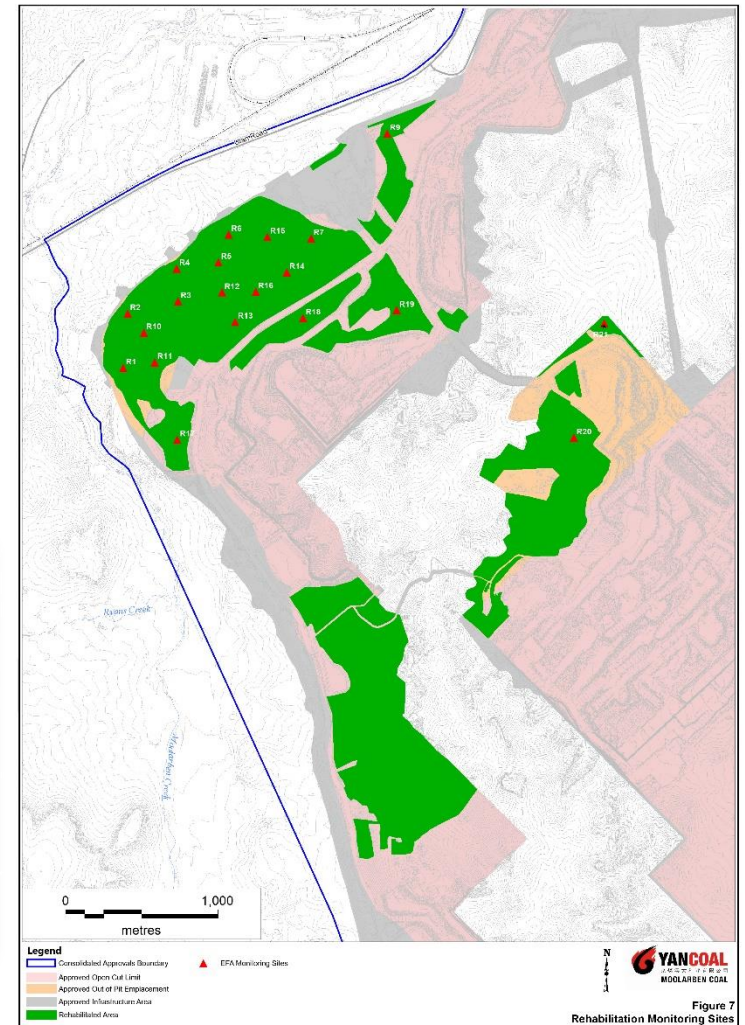


# Community Complaints



# Rehabilitation Update

- Rehabilitation maintenance works are continuing.
- Autumn rehabilitation monitoring planned to commence in May



# Biodiversity Offset Areas Update

- Weed control and offset maintenance works have continued.
- Spring monitoring was completed and autumn monitoring set to commence soon



*E. Blakelyi* tubestock



Hooded Robin

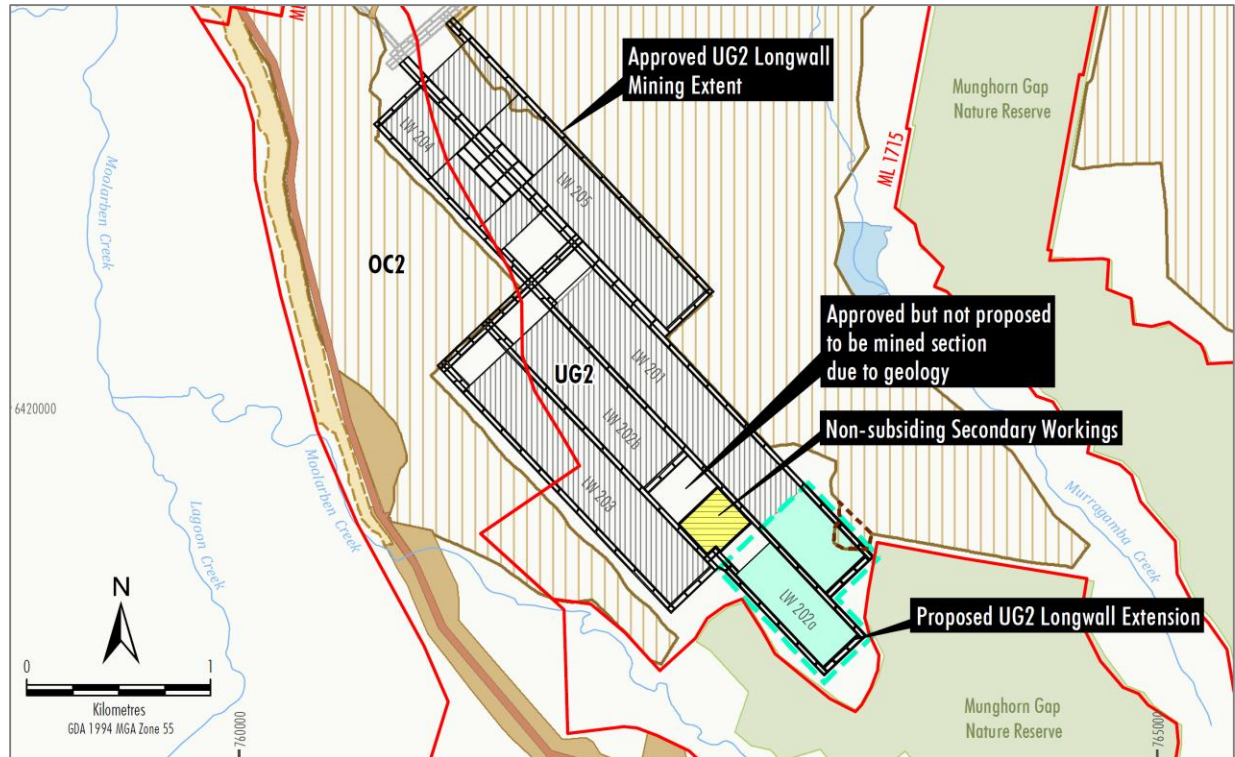


Figure 5  
Moolarben Coal Complex  
Biodiversity Offset Areas

# Underground 2 Modification

## Modification Description

- Extension of two longwall panels
- Increase in maximum extraction height
- Non-subsiding secondary workings beneath cliff feature
- Approved section of LW202 not to be mined due to geology





# Underground 2 Modification

## Indicative Timing

- Specialist Assessments → Commenced
- EPBC Referral Lodgement → Q2 2021
- Modification Report Lodgement → Mid-2021

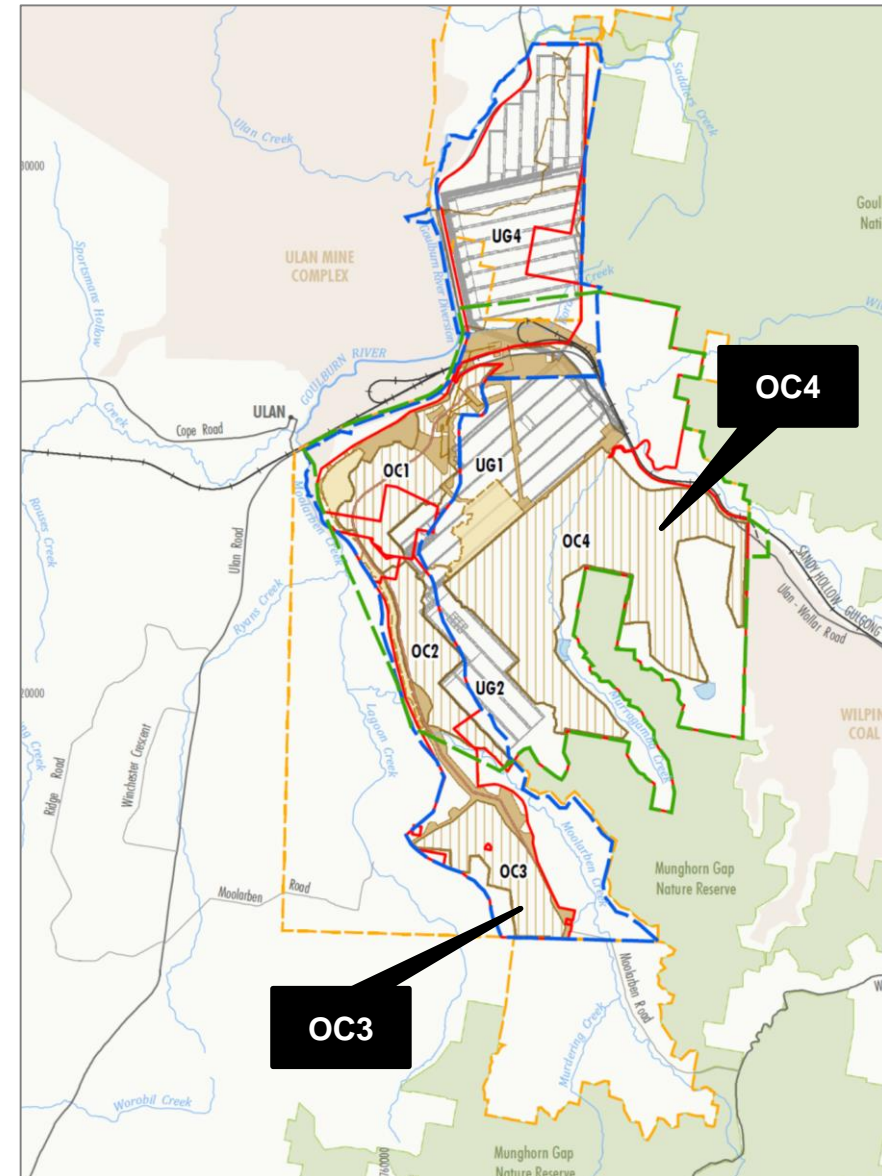
## Stakeholder Engagement

- Briefing relevant agencies → March to May 2021
- Community newsletter → distributed April 2021
- Registered Aboriginal Party consultation process for ACHA

# Open Cut Progression Feasibility

## Indicative Project Scope

- Progression of open cut operations within existing tenements
- Options under investigation include:
  - Potential extension of OC4 within ML 1715
  - Potential extension of OC3 to the south within EL 6288 and EL 7073
- Exploration in progress
- Baseline and feasibility studies commenced
- Project Scope will be informed by
  - Exploration
  - Baseline studies
  - Feasibility study
  - Stakeholder engagement



# Employment Update

## Current Traineeships

- 10 Underground
- 2 Land Conservation

## Apprentices

- Currently 4 Underground,  
13 Open Cut and 7 at the CHPP

## General

- 2020 Moolarben Spirit Award presentation night – March 2021
- Mock interviews at the High Schools
- Try a Trade – May 2021





9 March 2021

