

**MOOLARBEN COAL OPERATIONS - COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING No. 66**

**Date:** Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
**Time:** 1:01 pm  
**Location:** Moolarben Coal Open Cut Administration Board Room, Ulan  
**Attendance:** Independent Chairperson  
Lisa Andrews (LA)

Community Members

Dr Julia Imrie (JI)  
Cr Katie Dicker (KD) – MWRC Delegate  
David Stokes (DS)  
Bev Smiles (BS)

Moolarben Coal Operations

Brian Wesley (BW)  
Trent Cini (TC)  
Rebecca Shanks (RS)  
Emily Scanlon (ES) {Minute taker}

Apologies

David Lowe (DL)  
Helen Ungaro (HU)  
Mayor MWRC - Cr Des Kennedy (DK)  
Aleshia Lonsdale (AL)

***Meeting 66 Agenda and Presentation and Meeting 65 Minutes were provided to all meeting attendees.***

## 1. Introduction and Welcome

Lisa Andrews (LA) opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees to the Moolarben Coal Operations (MCO) Community Consultative Committee (CCC).

LA advised there are no changes to the declarations by the CCC members.

## 2. Apologies

David Lowe (DL)

Helen Ungaro (HU)

Mayor MWRC - Cr Des Kennedy (DK)

Aleshia Lonsdale (AL)

## 3. Business Arising from Previous Finalised Minutes

LA confirmed previous meeting minutes finalised and distributed on 5 July 2023.

TC informed the members that the previous action items not already closed out would be addressed during the presentation.

*Actions from Meeting 65:*

1. MCO to provide a copy of the IWQS to the CCC once DPE are satisfied - [Complete](#)
2. Provide data to JI from monitoring bores PZ-B, PZ-C and PZ-D once data is verified - [Complete](#)
3. Advise CCC if MCO fired a blast on Friday, 26th May 2023 at approximately 12:00pm - [Complete](#)
4. Investigate the historic classification of the stone cottages as "commercial receivers" - [Complete](#)
5. Advise the CCC when the submission report for the OC3 extension is available
6. Provide the 2022 AR Groundwater table with heading on each page as a pdf report - [Complete](#)
7. Provide supplier information to the CCC on the St John's wort mite

### Correspondence as sent with the Meeting Notice on 15/8/23 with 1 additional item:

- 23/6/23 – Email to members with draft minutes for review with St John's wort mite information received from David Lowe.
- 5/7/23 – Email to members with final minutes.
- 1/8/23 – Email to members with presentation and 2022 AR Groundwater information.
- 15/8/23 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice & Agenda for this CCC.
- [31/8/23 – Email to members with the Independent Water Quality Study \(IWQS\) and a reminder to RSVP for this meeting.](#)

### CCC Update Presentation

RS welcomed CCC members and provided an update on the 2023 Community Support Program (CSP) and Community Events since the last meeting. RS advised the applications for the MCO 2024 CSP are open.

RS provided an operations update for the opencut including the Independent Water Quality Study (IWQS) being approved by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). TC provided a hardcopy of the IWQS to JI and BS (Meeting #65, Action 1). JI advised she would like to discuss the IWQS during general business.

RS provided an operational update for the underground. JI queried if the requested groundwater data (Meeting #65, Action 2) was available. TC provided a hardcopy of the data to JI. JI queried if water quality analysis for groundwater is completed. TC advised water quality analysis at standpipe bores is completed on a bi-annual basis as per the MCO Groundwater Management Plan. JI requested a copy of the data once it is available (**Action 1**).

RS provided an update on exploration then environmental monitoring. JI queried if the “EPA 1 Daily Discharge Volumes” graph was inclusive of emergency discharge volumes. TC advised the graph only provided discharge data volumes for EPA Licensed Discharge Point 1.

BS queried why the discharge limit had increased. TC advised this change was a result of the Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) Variation (License No. 12932), discussed at the previous meeting (CCC Meeting #65). TC summarised the EPL variation included amendments to the release volume and conductivity limit at discharge point 1, with limit of 20 ML/day and conductivity limit of 619  $\mu\text{s}/\text{cm}$ . BS queried when this change took place. RS advised that the change took place towards the end of April 2023.

RS provided an update on surface water quality. JI stated the slight rise in pH may be attributed to a lack of rain. TC agreed the results were influenced by climatic conditions. DS followed on noting the springs are recently opening back up a bit more.

RS continued with water quality update. JI queried if the electrical conductivity (EC) increase in January 2023 was related to emergency discharge. TC replied that depending on the location it could potentially be related to the emergency discharge. JI queried what is the highest, MCO surface water monitoring point on Moolarben Creek. TC advised Surface Water 9 is currently the most upstream location along the Moolarben Creek.

RS continued with water quality update, air quality and noise monitoring all of which were completed and compliant with the relevant approved management plans.

TC discussed the historic identifier of “commercial receiver” relating to JI’s residence and cottages (Meeting #65, Action 4). TC advised MCO would take steps to have this amended in future documents. JI stated she would appreciate that change.

RS provided an update on community complaints.

RS provided an update on rehabilitation. BS asked to clarify the areas in the photos on the “Rehabilitation Update” slide. TC advised the location. TC provided further detail regarding the biodiversity offset credit system and the final land use detailed in the Project Approval. BS queried if there were timeframes set for rehabilitation works. TC confirmed there are timeframes. BS requested further information on the credit system and requirements. TC explained the type of species planted and the methodology being undertaken to complete the planting works. BS advised the information provided was sufficient and nothing further was required.

RS provided an update on MCO’s biodiversity offsets including the weed and feral animal management programs. JI queried what feral animals were being targeted. TC advised MCO participated in the Local Land Services (LLS) wild dog baiting program and are undertaking some feral pig baiting programs. JI queried if the program used 1080 bait and if MCO were familiar with HOGGONE bait. TC advised he was familiar with that product; however, MCO are yet to use it onsite. JI queried how MCO contain the 1080 bait. TC summarised the baiting program process. JI discussed the feral pig and trapping program at her property. JI stated she felt aerial baiting to be questionable. TC advised MCO participate in the LLS aerial baiting program on areas of MCO lands where there are no other access options; however, MCO complete ground baiting where access tracks are available.

RS continued the update on MCO’s biodiversity offsets. BS queried if the planting was a requirement of the offset land. TC discussed the requirements of the offset areas. BS queried the location of Moolarmoo. TC advised the location. JI noted the planting appeared to be dense and queried if it were to account for survival rates. TC confirmed that was correct. BS queried what the water body was in the photo. TC advised it to be the upper reaches of Lagoon Creek.

TC provided an update on the UG2 modification and noted the reports are expected to be available on the DPE website once DPE has reviewed the additional information requested.

TC provided an update on the OC3 extension project and noted MCO will advise the CCC when the submission report is available (Meeting #65, Action 5). TC discussed the amended OC3 Extension Project. JI asked what was the closest distance from the proposed project area to the Munghorn Gap Reserve. TC advised the distance is greater than the original proposal. BS queried if a new Project Modification would be submitted. TC advised it would be submitted as a Response to Submission. BS asked what the timeframe was for this submission. TC advised target lodgement is Q4 of 2023.

RS provided an employment update.

#### 4. General Business

LA asked if there were any general business updates to discuss.

DS queried if MCO completed blasting on Monday, 4th September 2023 around 12:00pm as neighbours in Cooyal heard and felt a blast. RS confirmed a blast was completed at that time. LA queried if DS would like this investigated. DS advised he did not wish to request further investigation. BS queried if the CCC could receive a blast update as the information would be useful. TC advised that blast information is provided in the Monthly Reports which are provided on the MCO website. BS queried who would be notified if there was a non-compliance. TC advised non-compliance notifications are provided to the regulator and included in monthly reports and the Annual Review. BS asked if the blast information could be provided in the next CCC meeting (**Action 2**). TC advised MCO will include blast information for the next CCC.

JI was invited to discuss IWQS. JI stated it was interesting and clarified a number of terms. JI noted she felt there were some weaknesses that limited its value and like many research papers it raised more questions than answered. JI noted the requirement to monitor upstream from the project area and therefore she would like to have seen monitoring locations at the top of the valley above the MCC operations and within some of the tributaries included in the assessment, however accepted that the monitoring location was endorsed by the EPA. JI also advised the length of the Goulburn River appeared to be incorrectly recorded as 150 km she had measured the river to be 225 km in length. JI stated that the research team had misinterpreted the geology, omitting the significance of Triassic Narrabeen Group on the catchment around MCC, incorrectly referring to Jurassic Pilliga sandstones as dominant. This should be rectified in any future studies. JI felt the metals and ions included in analysis had too narrow a focus with more needed on the influence of pH on toxicity. JI noted that of the pond life tested for eco-toxicity only one species had been collected from the project area. JI concluded that she felt further work was needed.

KD asked if the study would be repeated. TC advised both the EPA and DPE have reviewed the report and concluded that MCO have met the condition. TC noted MCO revised the EC limit at the licenced discharge point to be consistent with the findings of the IWQS.

JI queried the mine water make volume since the last meeting, stating the previous volume was around 16 ML. TC advised MCO continued to see approximately 16ML/day from UG operations, including water supply, inflows, and recirculation.

LA provided a presentation on the revised CCC guidelines. LA advised the documents are available on the DPE website and hardcopies of the updated Guidelines, Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct forms, Pecuniary/Non-Pecuniary Interest forms were provided to attendees.

LA advised Annual Reports are submitted to the DPE for uploading to its website and showed the CCC where to locate them. BS asked if LA could provide the report directly to the CCC (**Action 4**).

LA went through the Terms of Reference and advised she would send a copy of the Terms or Reference to the CCC for review (**Action 4**). LA advised any signed documentation can be scanned and emailed or brought to the next meeting.

Jl asked the draft Terms of Reference to be updated to include her title “Dr” .BS requested her organisation to be corrected as the Mudgee District Environment Group.

LA discussed the committee membership and options to allocate alternative representatives. LA advised she could be contacted for Nomination Forms for committee members. TC asked for that information to be included in the email for any CCC members who were not present at the time (**Action 4**).

LA went through the WH&S Risk Assessment Checklist. BS queried why they were considered “workers” for as per the WH&S Risk Assessment Checklist. LA explained the DPE had sought legal advice and CCC members are deemed as un-paid “workers” (volunteers). The CCC agreed the WH&S Risk Assessment Checklist requires further review. LA advised the document would be included in the email and open to comments (**Action 4**).

LA went through the revised Code of Conduct forms, revised Pecuniary Interest form and revised CCC Guidelines.

LA stated last year the attendance around Christmas was low and asked the CCC if they would be happy to hold the meeting one week earlier. The CCC agreed if there were any issues they would advise. LA noted the importance of confirming attendance at meetings moving forward.

**5. Next Meeting:** 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023, on site at 1:00pm.

Meeting closed at 2:37pm with LA thanking members for their attendance.

**Action Items:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
1	Provide bi-annual, groundwater quality results for standpipe bores to Jl.	MCO
2	Provide blast information in the next CCC meeting	MCO
3	Provide the CCC Annual Report to the CCC	LA
4	Provide the revised CCC documents for review, including information on alternative representatives	LA



# Community Consultative Committee Update

September 2023

Moolarben Coal Operations





# 2023 Community Support Program (CSP)

Yancoal-Moolarben Coal CSP Events during 2023 included:

- Henry Lawson Festival 2023
- Mudgee Running Festival 2023
- Gulgong Scarecrow Stroll
- UneARThed Art & Sculpture exhibition



# 2024 CSP - Call for Applications

**emPOWERING COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**Yancoal Community Support Program call for applications**

Moolarben Coal Operations is a proud and active member of the local community. Yancoal's 2024 Community Support Program offers community groups the opportunity to apply for funding to support projects, events and initiatives that help make a genuine positive difference to the Mid-Western Region.

If you have a project or idea with the potential to benefit others across the areas of health, community, environment, arts, culture, education or training, please visit: [www.moolarbencoal.com.au](http://www.moolarbencoal.com.au)

**NEED FUNDING TO HELP IMPROVE OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?**

Yancoal Community Support Program

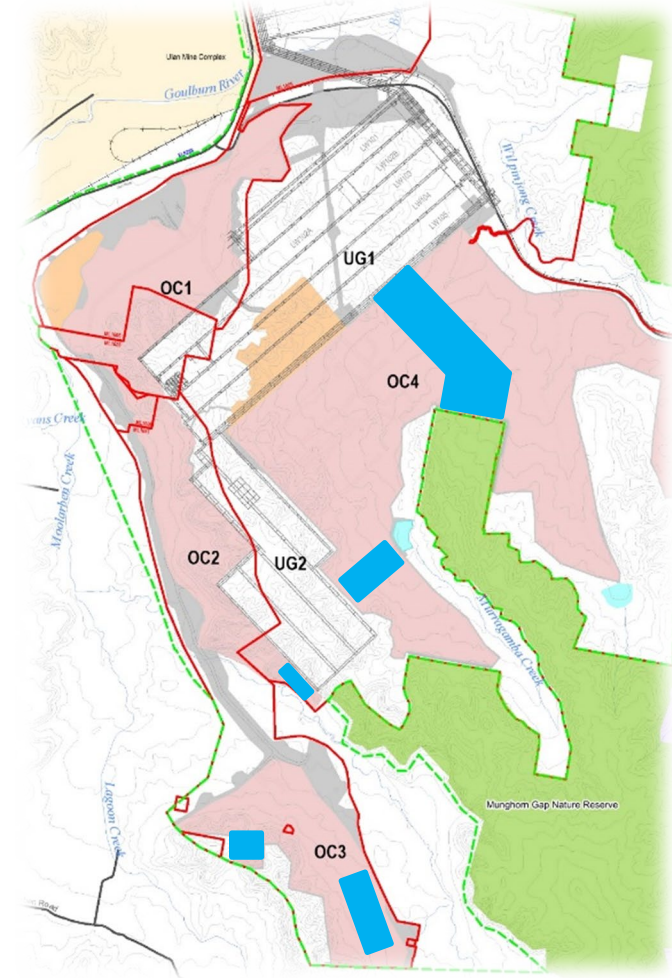
Applications close on 30th September 2023

**YANCOAL**  
兗煤澳大利亚有限公司  
MOOLARBEN COAL



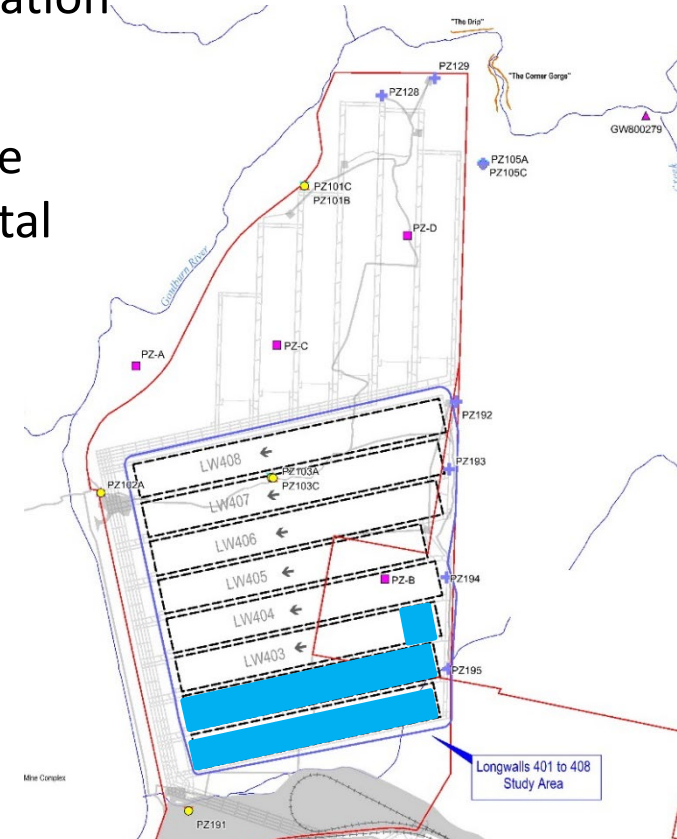
# Operational Update - Opencut

- Open cut operations in OC2, OC3 & OC4.
- Water Treatment Plant operations continue as required
- Independent Water Quality Study approved by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)



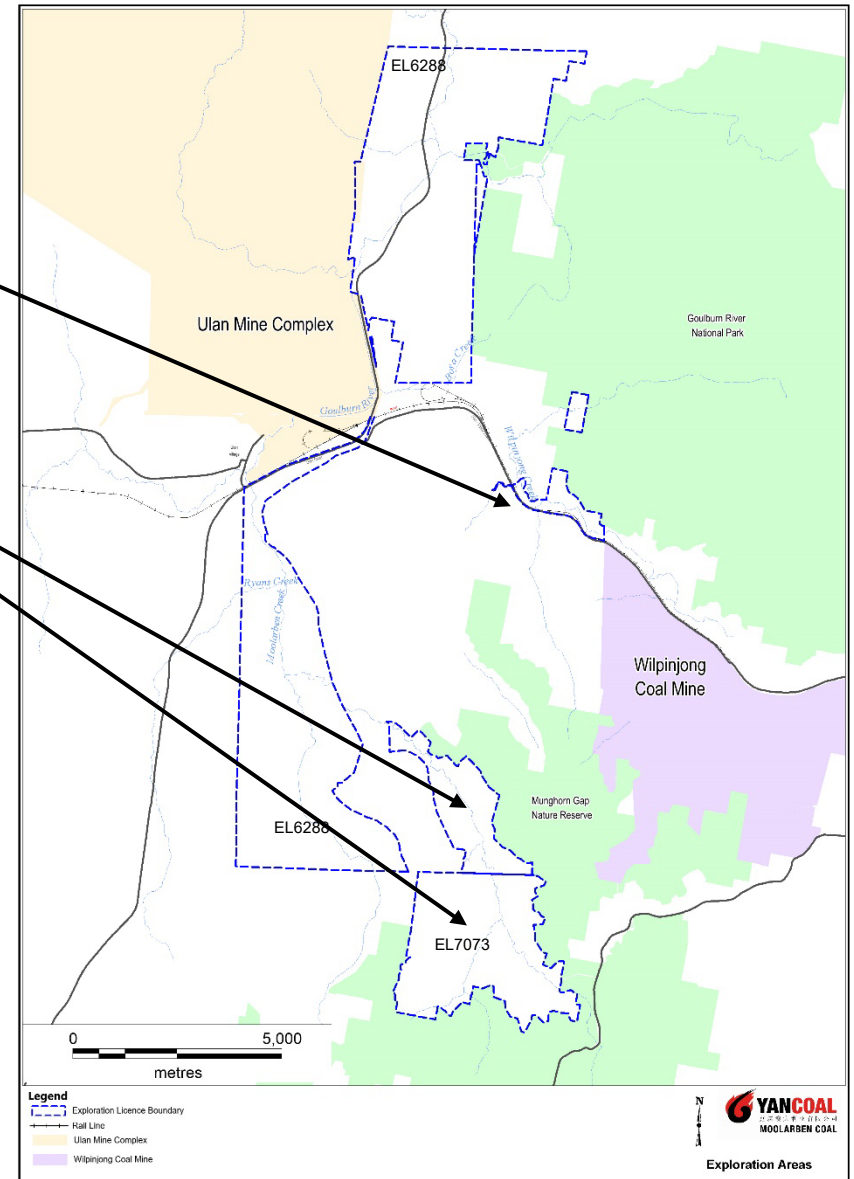
# Operational Update - Underground

- Longwall operations in LW403
- Continued underground development in UG4.
- UG4 EP continued Implementation
  - Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Array installation on going
  - Establishment of environmental monitoring sites in the Goulburn River National Park – Review of Environmental Factors is approved. Agreement currently waiting execution.
  - Groundwater Monitoring
    - PZ194 and PZ195– complete
    - PZ – A – planned for 2023
    - PZ – B – complete
    - PZ – C – complete
    - PZ – D – complete
    - PZ – E – planned for 2023
    - PZ – F – planned for 2023



# Exploration Update

- Drilling – Planned to continue in ML1715
- Drilling is planned to continue in EL6288 and EL7073
- Rehabilitation and monitoring activities have continued during the period.

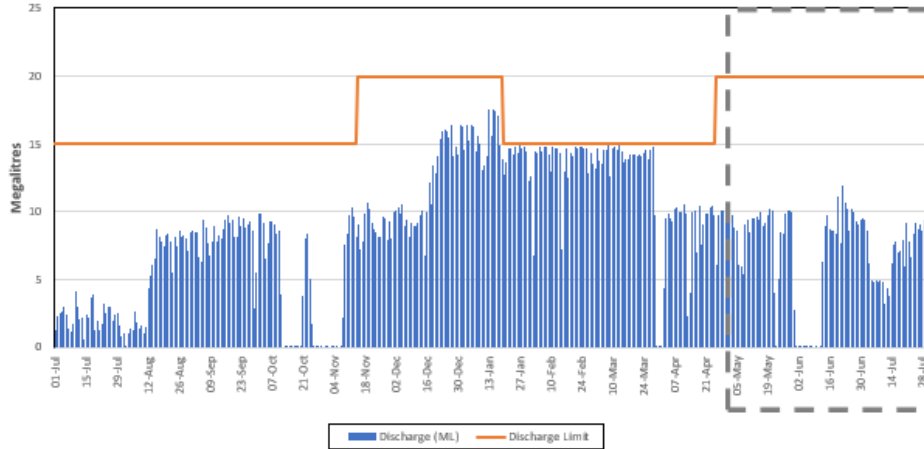




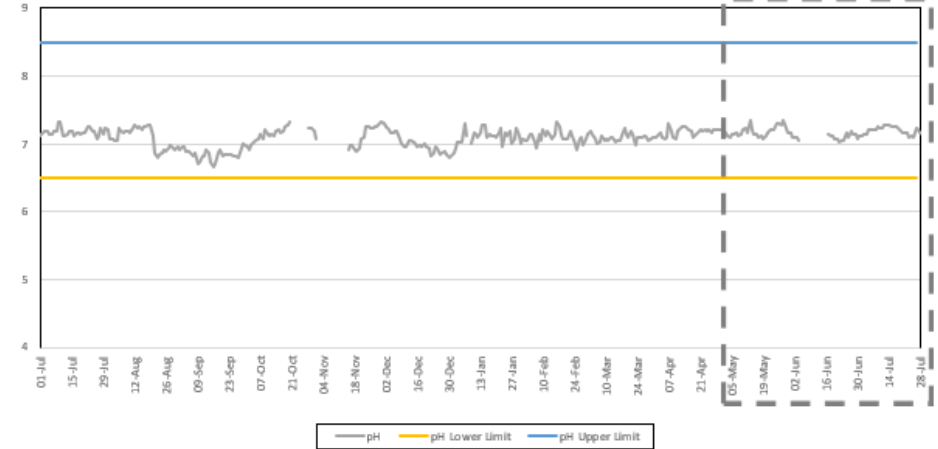


# Water Release – EPA01

EPA 1 Daily Discharge Volumes  
July 2022 - July 2023



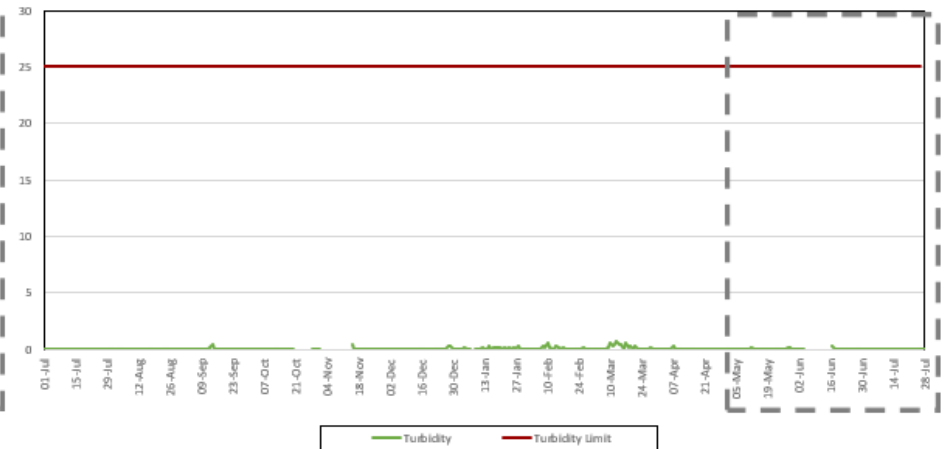
EPA 1 Daily Average pH  
July 2022 - July 2023



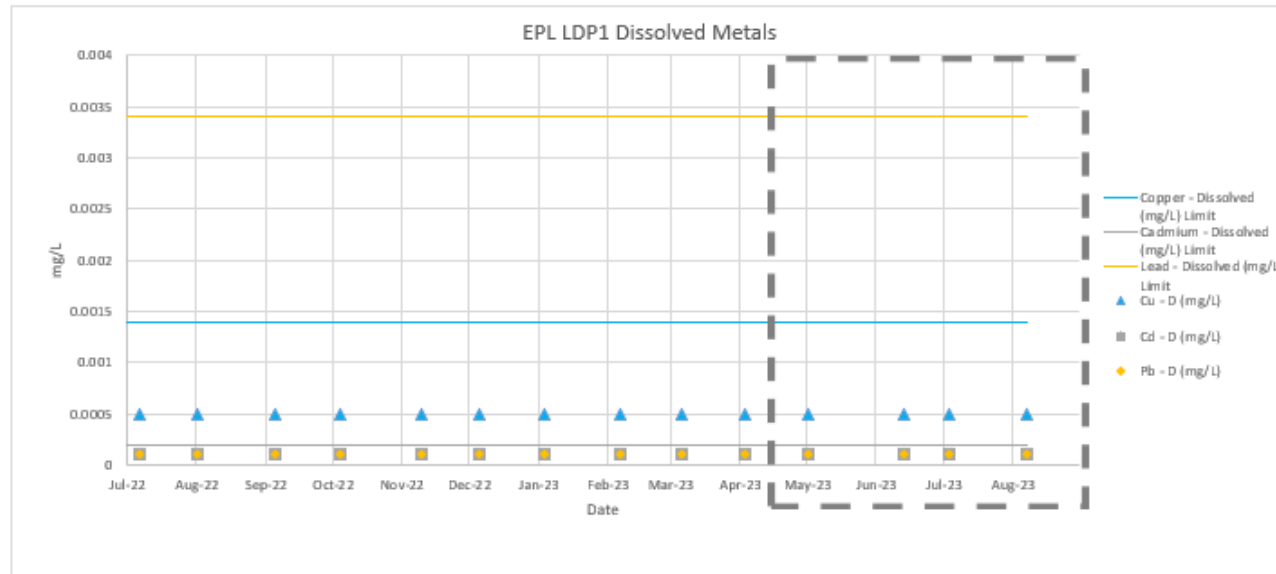
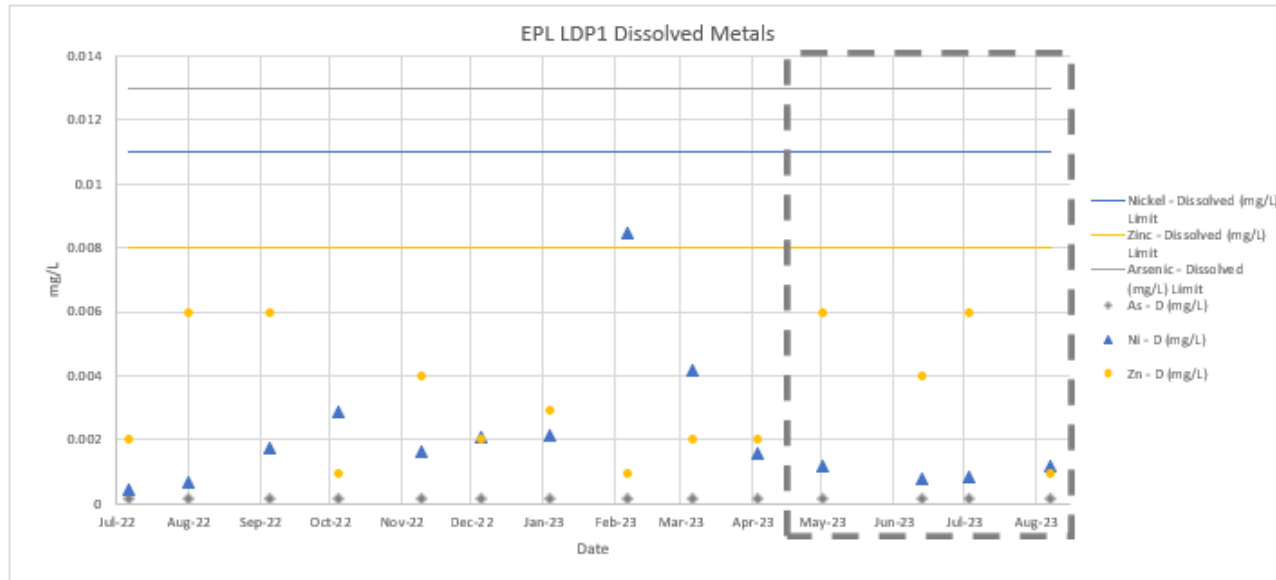
EPA 1 Daily Average EC  
July 2022 - July 2023



EPA 1 Daily Average Turbidity  
July 2022 - July 2023

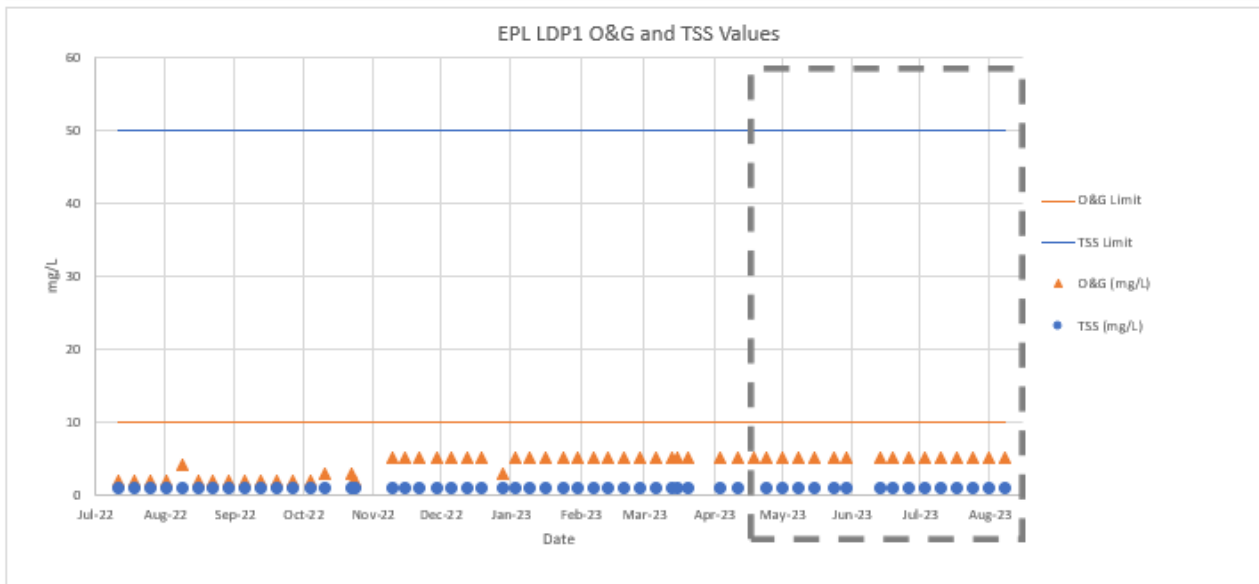
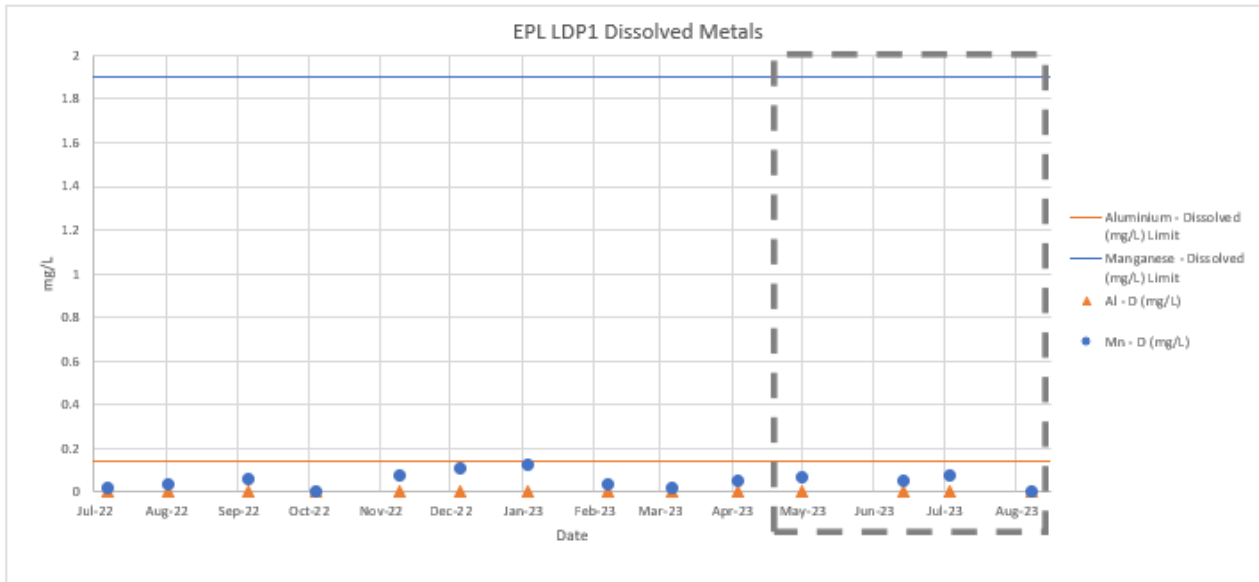


# Water Release – EPA01

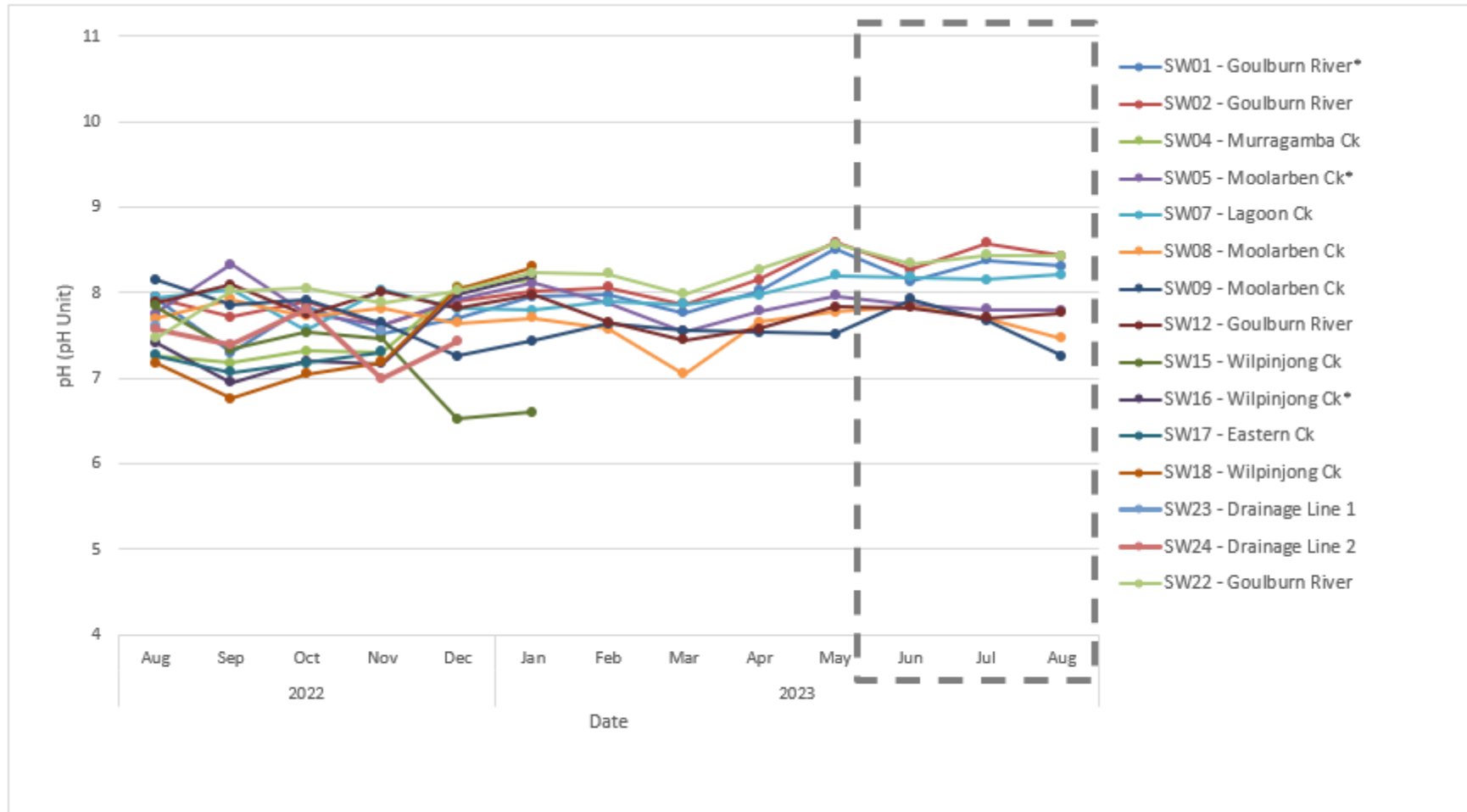




# Water Release – EPA01

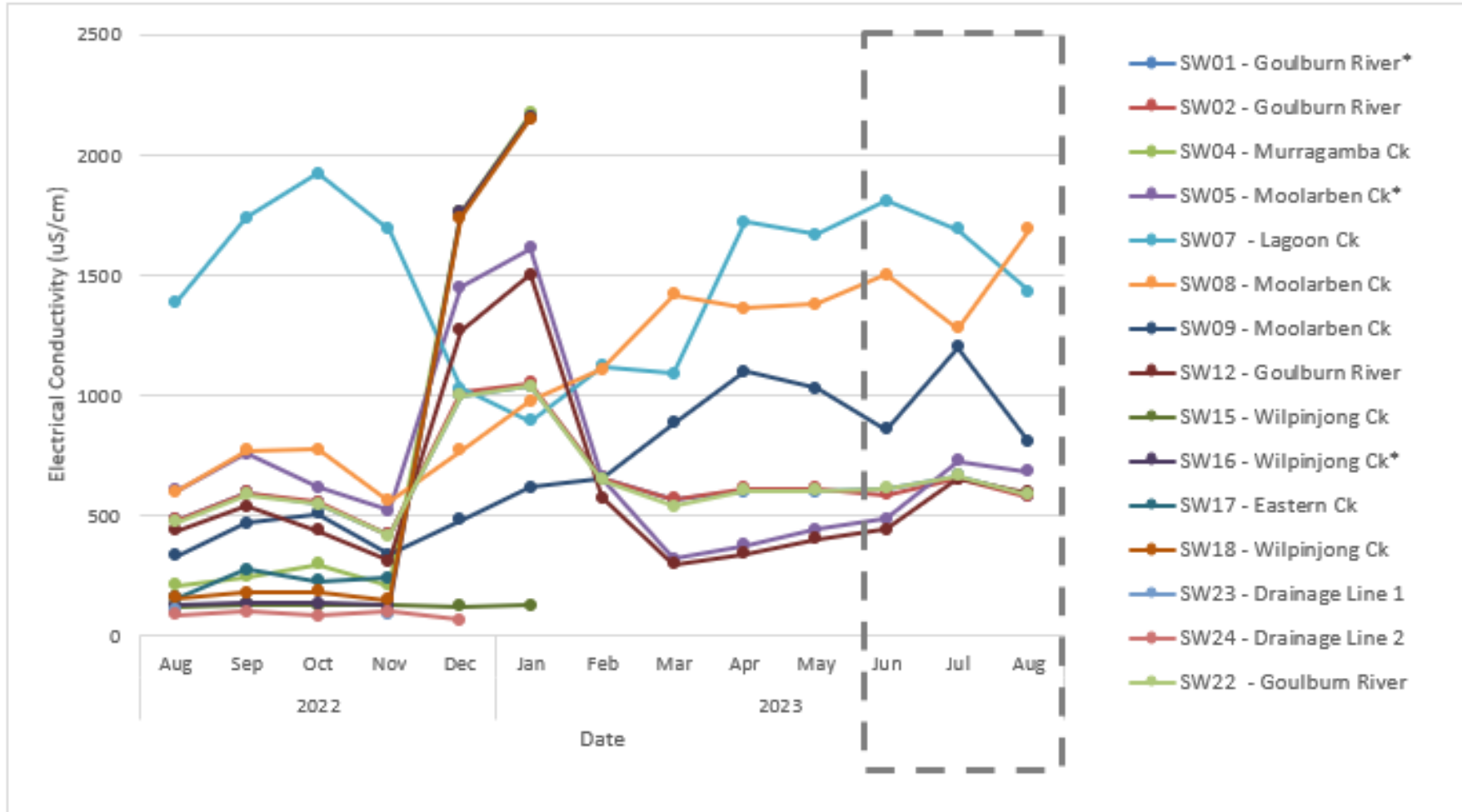


# Water Quality - pH



\* Monitoring Locations with associated trigger investigation levels as per the Surface Water Management Plan

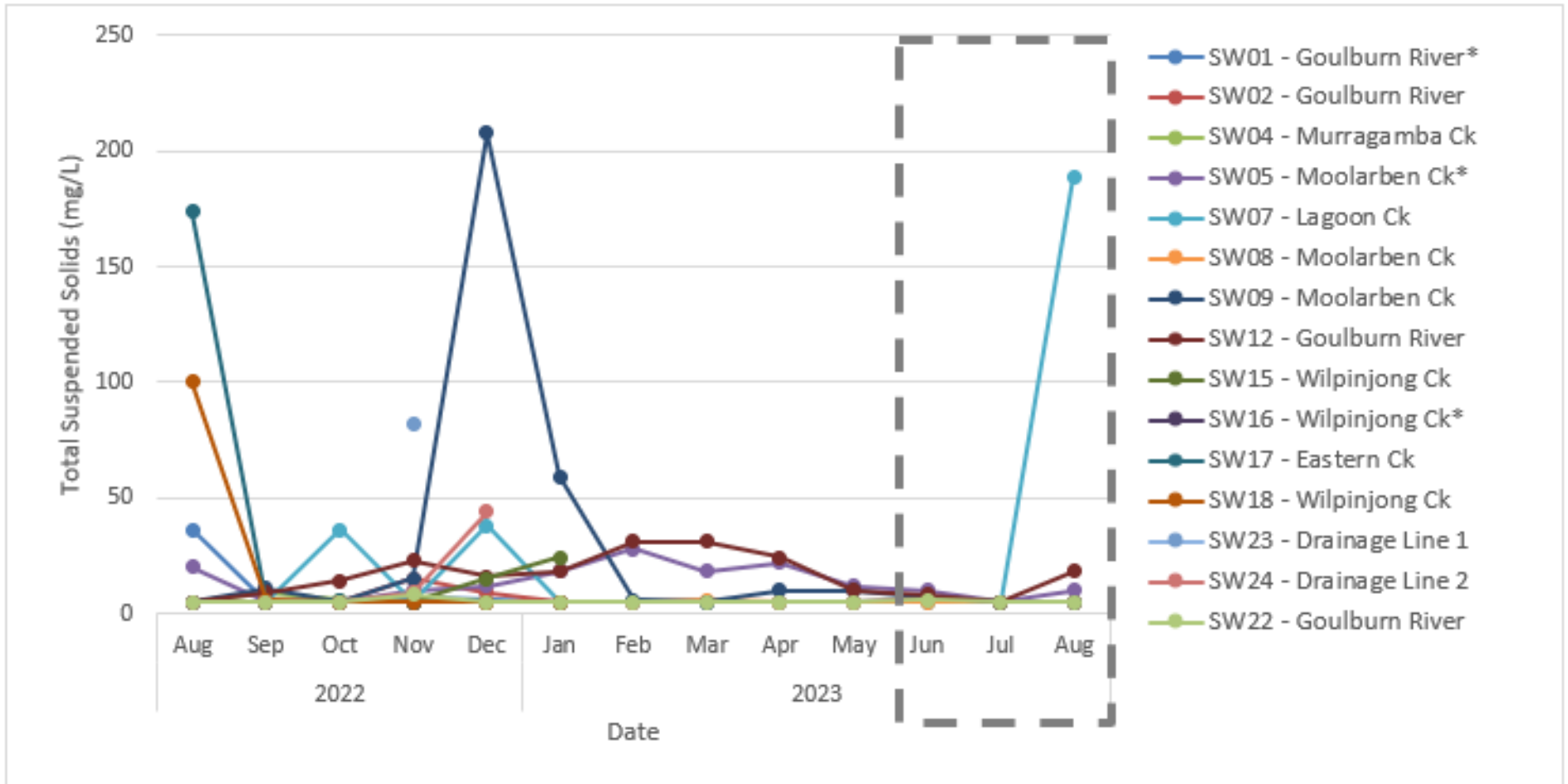
# Water Quality - EC



\* Monitoring Locations with associated trigger investigation levels as per the Surface Water Management Plan



# Water Quality - TSS



\* Monitoring Locations with associated trigger investigation levels as per the Surface Water Management Plan

# Air Quality

Site	July 2022 PM10 Annual Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	July 2023 PM10 Annual Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Air Quality PM10 Annual Average Criteria ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
TEOM 01	11.9	13.3	25.0
TEOM 07	7.5	8.5	25.0
TEOM 04	11.1	12.1	25.0

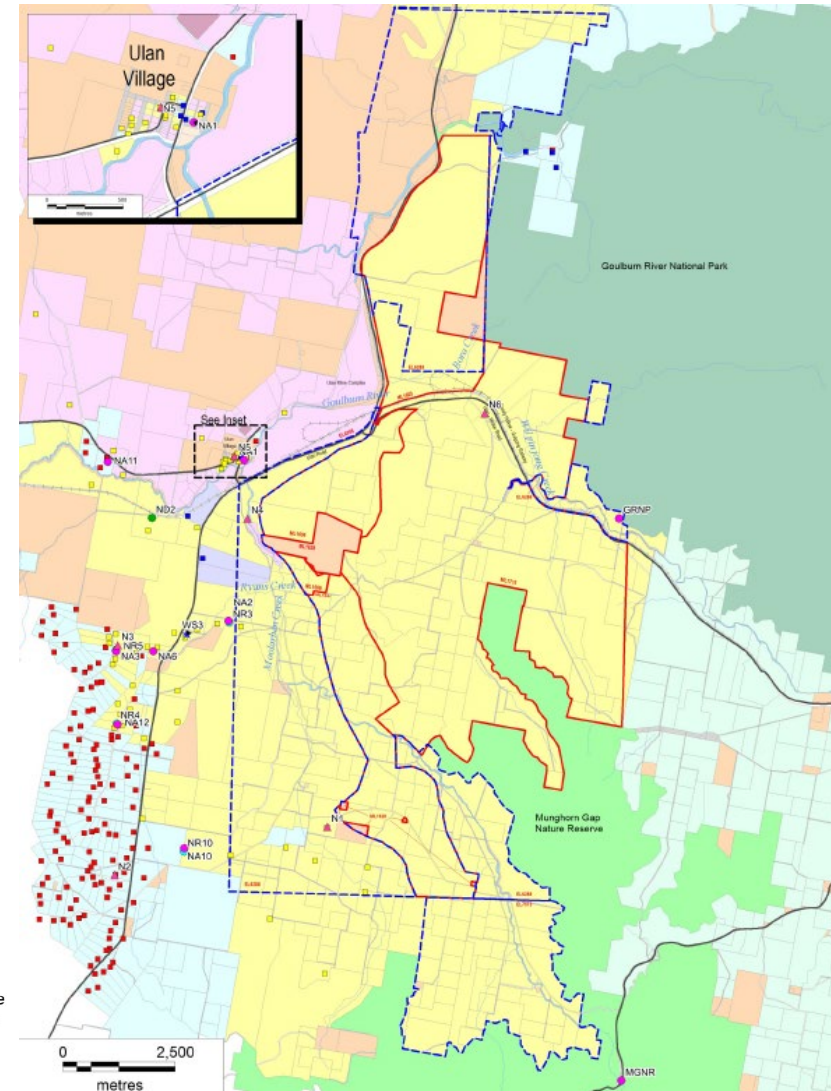
Site	July 2022 PM2.5 Annual Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	July 2023 PM2.5 Annual Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Air Quality PM2.5 Annual Average Criteria ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
TEOM 07	3.8	4.2	8.0

Monthly monitoring reports are available on our website:

[www.moolarbencoal.com.au/page/environment/environmental-monitoring/](http://www.moolarbencoal.com.au/page/environment/environmental-monitoring/)

# 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



## LEGEND

- Exploration Licence Boundary
- Mining Lease Boundary
- Rail Line
- Watercourse

## Ownership

- Yancoal
- Ulan Coal Mines Limited
- Wilpinjong Coal Mine
- Privately Owned
- Crown
- Commercial

- National Park
- Nature Reserve
- Mine Owned Receiver
- Private Receiver
- Commercial Receiver

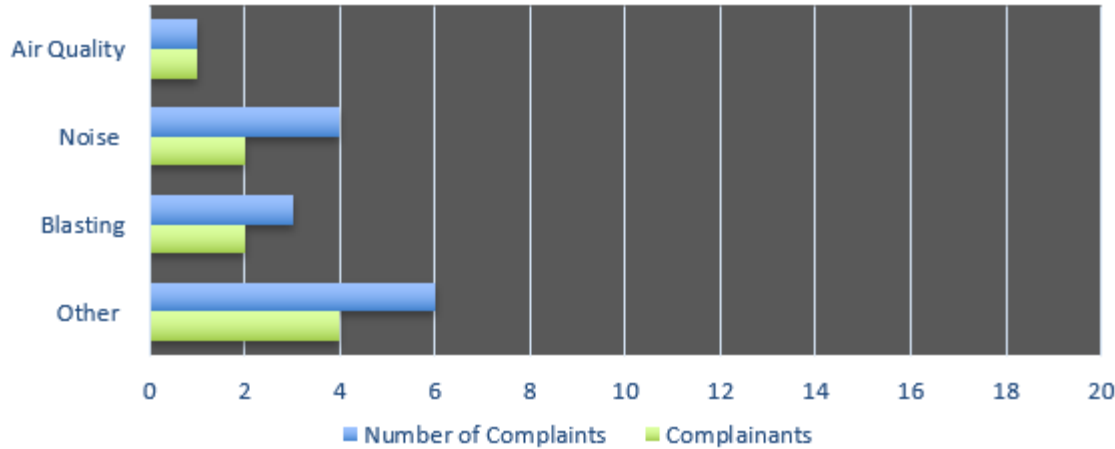
## Noise Monitoring Locations

- Real-time Noise Monitoring Site
- Attended Noise Monitoring Site
- Directional Receiver
- Background Noise Monitoring
- Weather Station

# Community Complaints

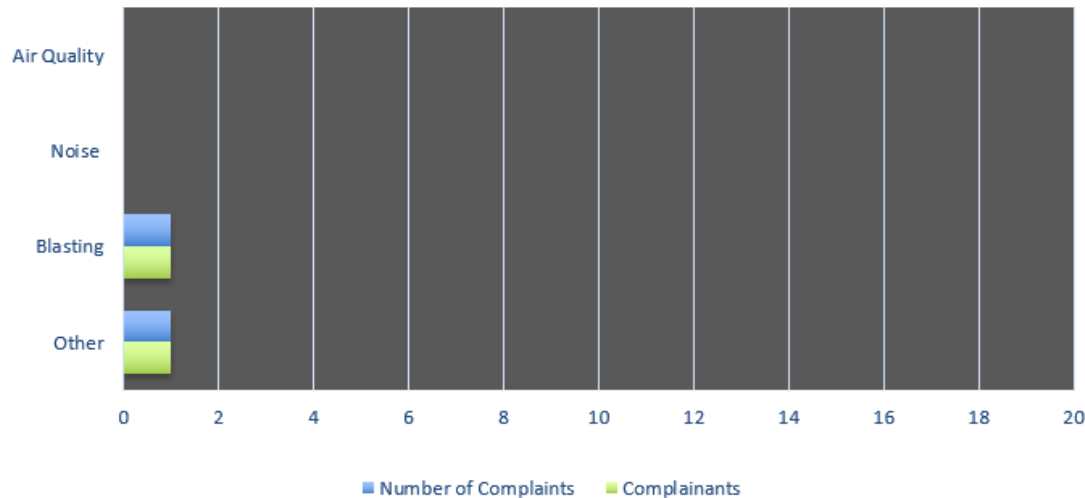
## MCO Complaints YTD

Jan - May 2023



## MCO Complaints - Q3

June 2023 - August 2023





# Rehabilitation Update

- Rehabilitation works in OC2 are underway with aerial seeding planned for September pending weather.
- Bulk shaping of rehab in OC2, OC3 and OC4 are in progress.
- Approximately 15,000 tube stock was planted in OC2 in 2023.





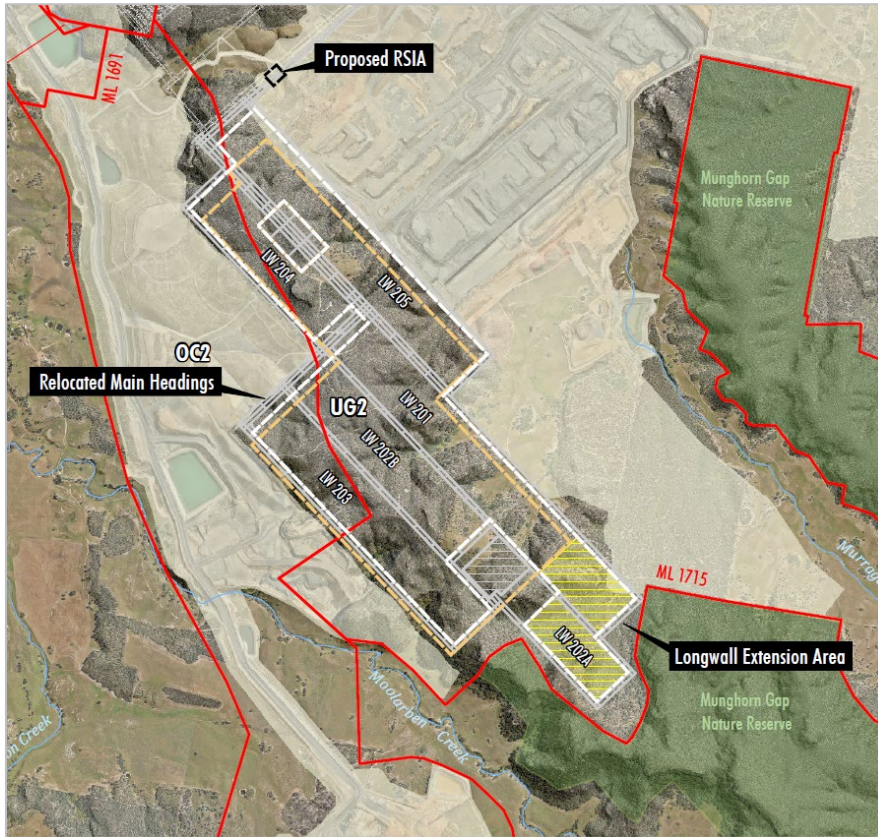
# Biodiversity Offset Areas Update

- Planting 2023 completed at Ulan 18, Moolarmoo, Redhills and Dun Dun Biodiversity Offsets.
  - Approximately 32,000 trees planted
- Offset maintenance works have continued, with pest baiting underway and weed management to begin.

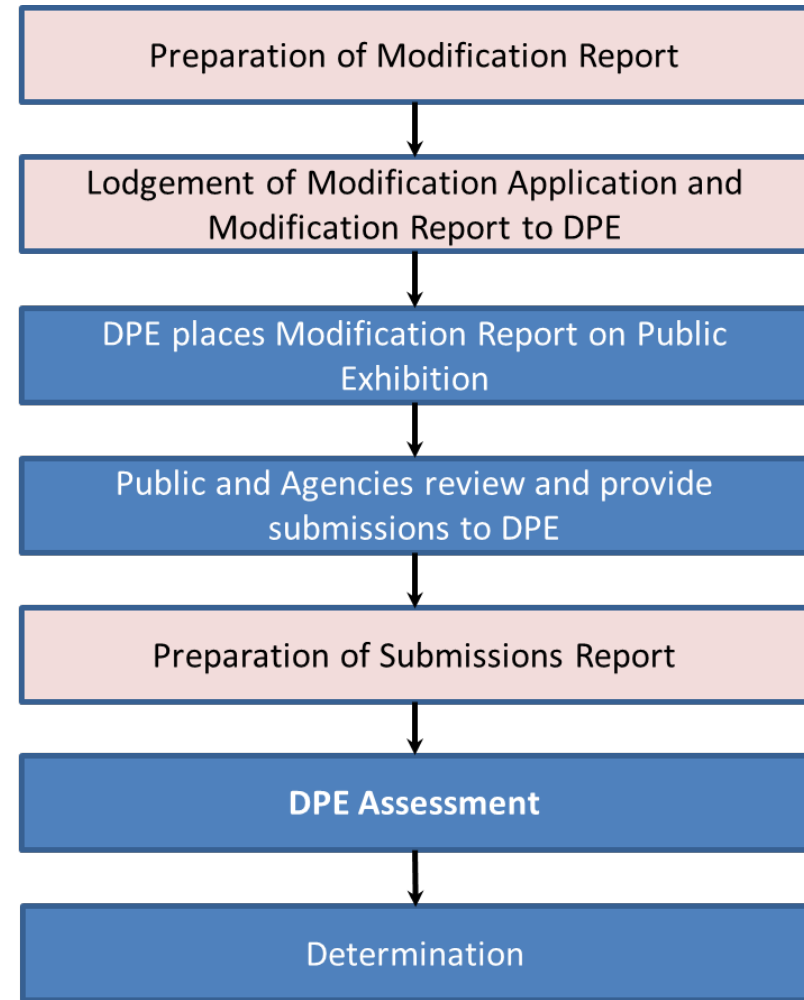


# UG2 Modification

- Additional Information to be provided to the Department.



Current Status  
→

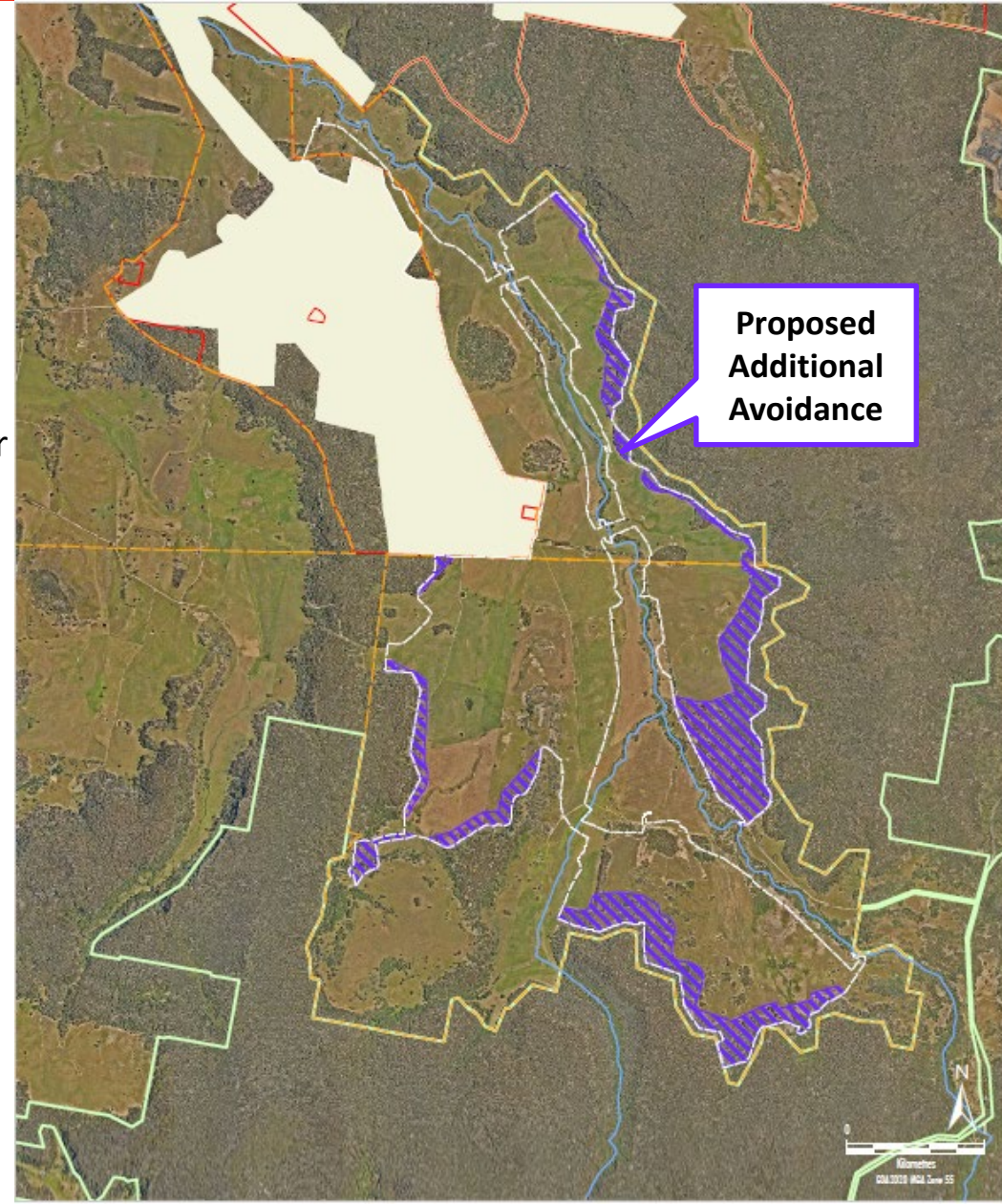




# OC3 Extension – Proposed Amended Project

## Amended Project Overview

- Reduced extent of open cut mining
- Additional Avoidance
  - Reduced disturbance of native vegetation
  - Reduced disturbance of habitat for other threatened fauna and flora species
  - Reduced amenity impacts (including noise, air quality etc.)
  - Avoidance of additional Aboriginal heritage sites
- Total ROM extraction of approx. 30 Mt over the life of the amended Project (down from 40 Mt proposed in the EIS)
- No change to:
  - Mine life (2025 to 2034)
  - Backfilling of voids



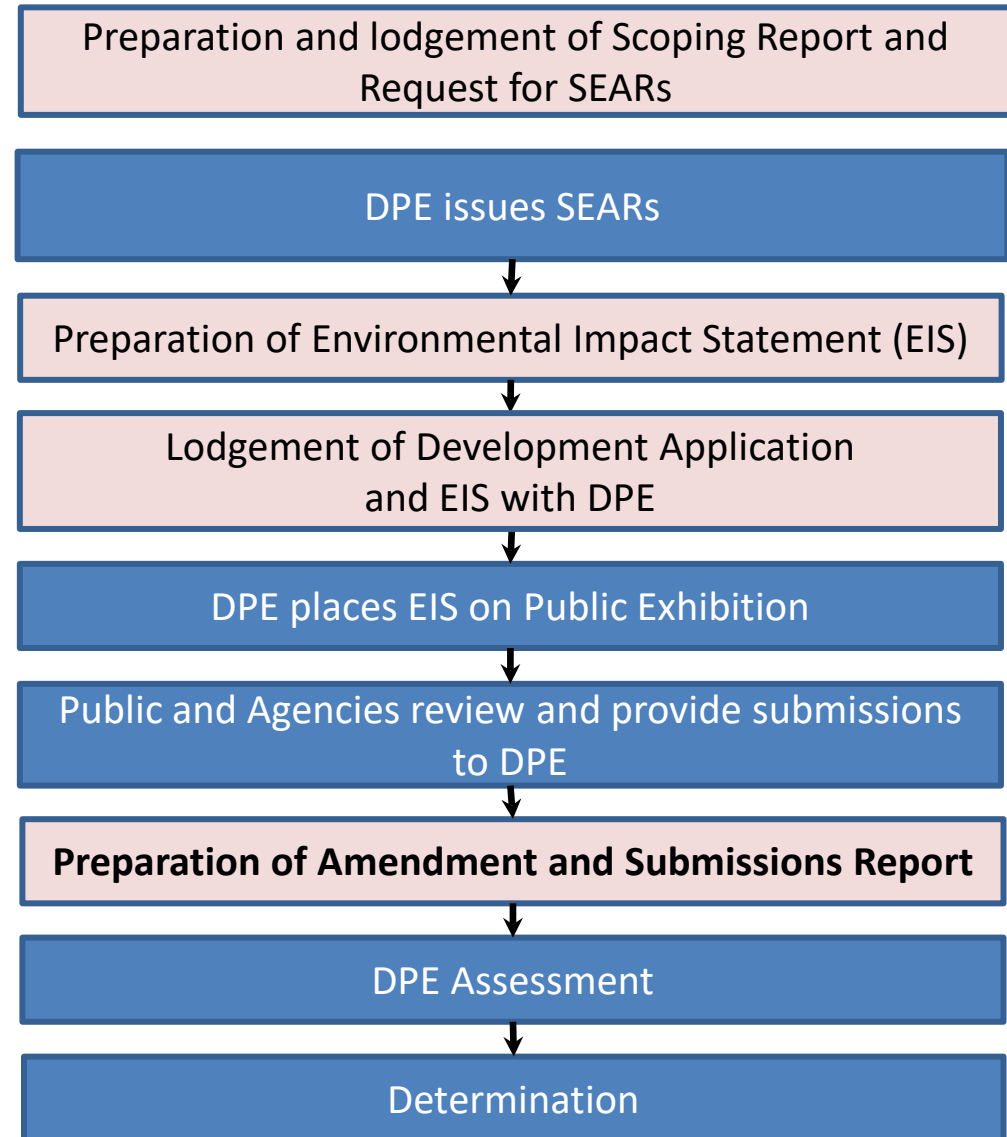


# OC3 Extension Project – Amended Project

## Amendment Report

- Target lodgement Q4 2023
- Supporting specialist studies being undertaken include:
  - Surface Water
  - Groundwater
  - Biodiversity
  - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
  - Aquatic Ecology
  - Noise
  - Blasting
  - Economic
  - Air Quality
  - Greenhouse Gas

**Current Status** →



# Employment Update

## Current Traineeships

- 21 Trainees currently onsite
  - 20 Underground trainee mineworker
  - 1 Administration trainee at the Underground

## Apprentices

- 26 Apprentices
  - 5 Underground
  - 13 Open Cut
  - 7 CHPP apprentices
- Apprentice intake for 2024 underway









# Community Consultative Committee Update

September 2023

Moolarben Coal Operations





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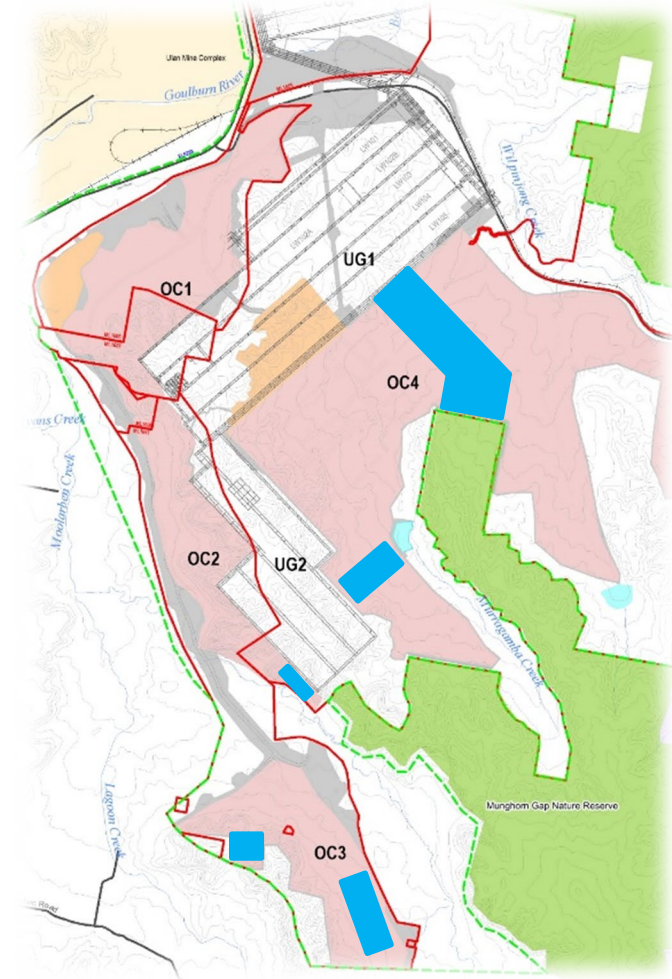
Applications close on 30th September 2023





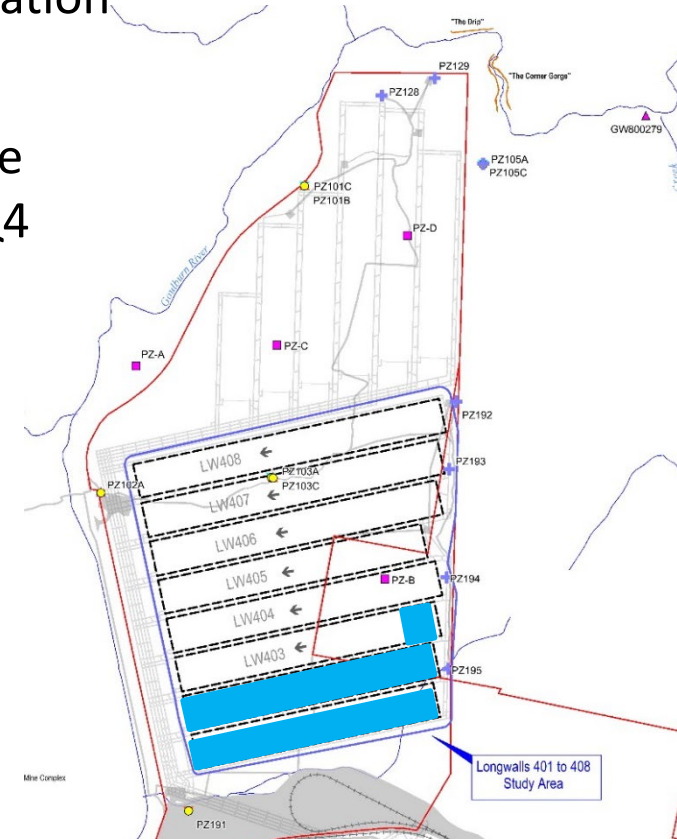
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# Operational Update - Underground

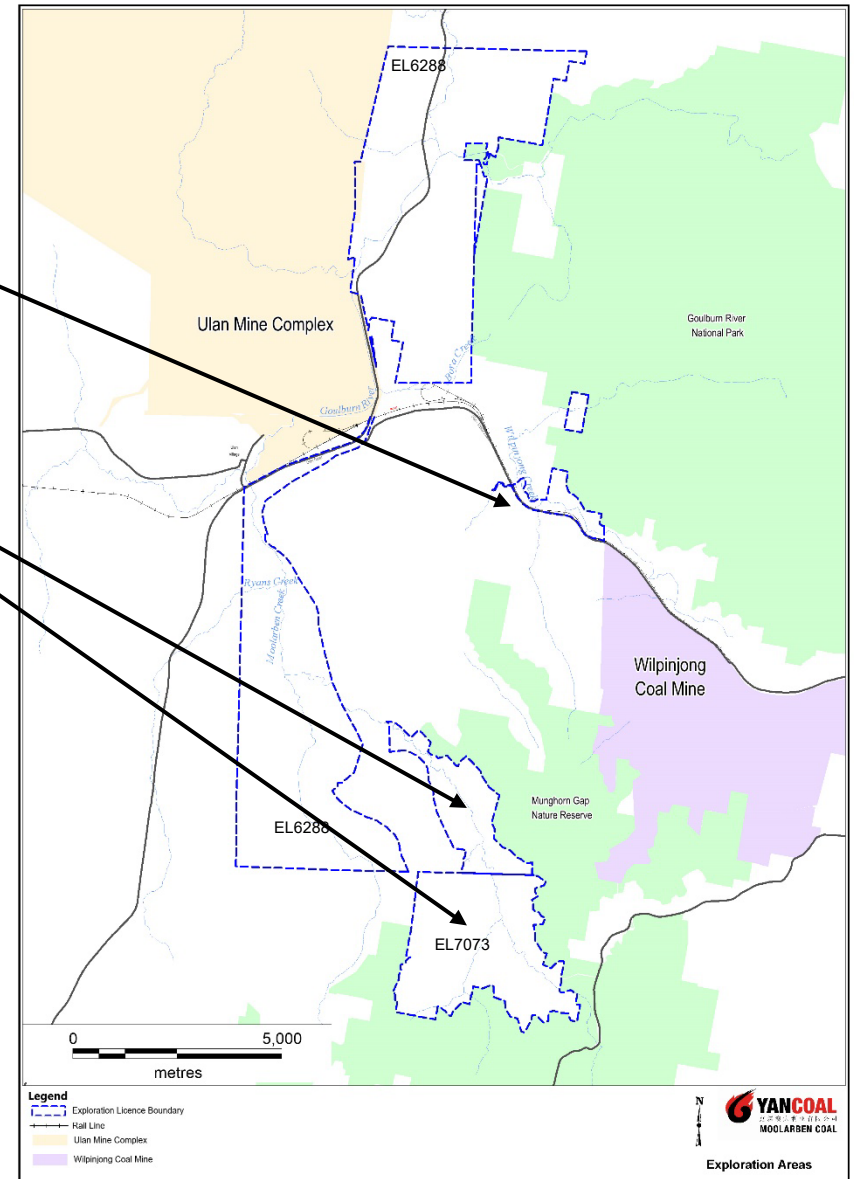
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# Exploration Update

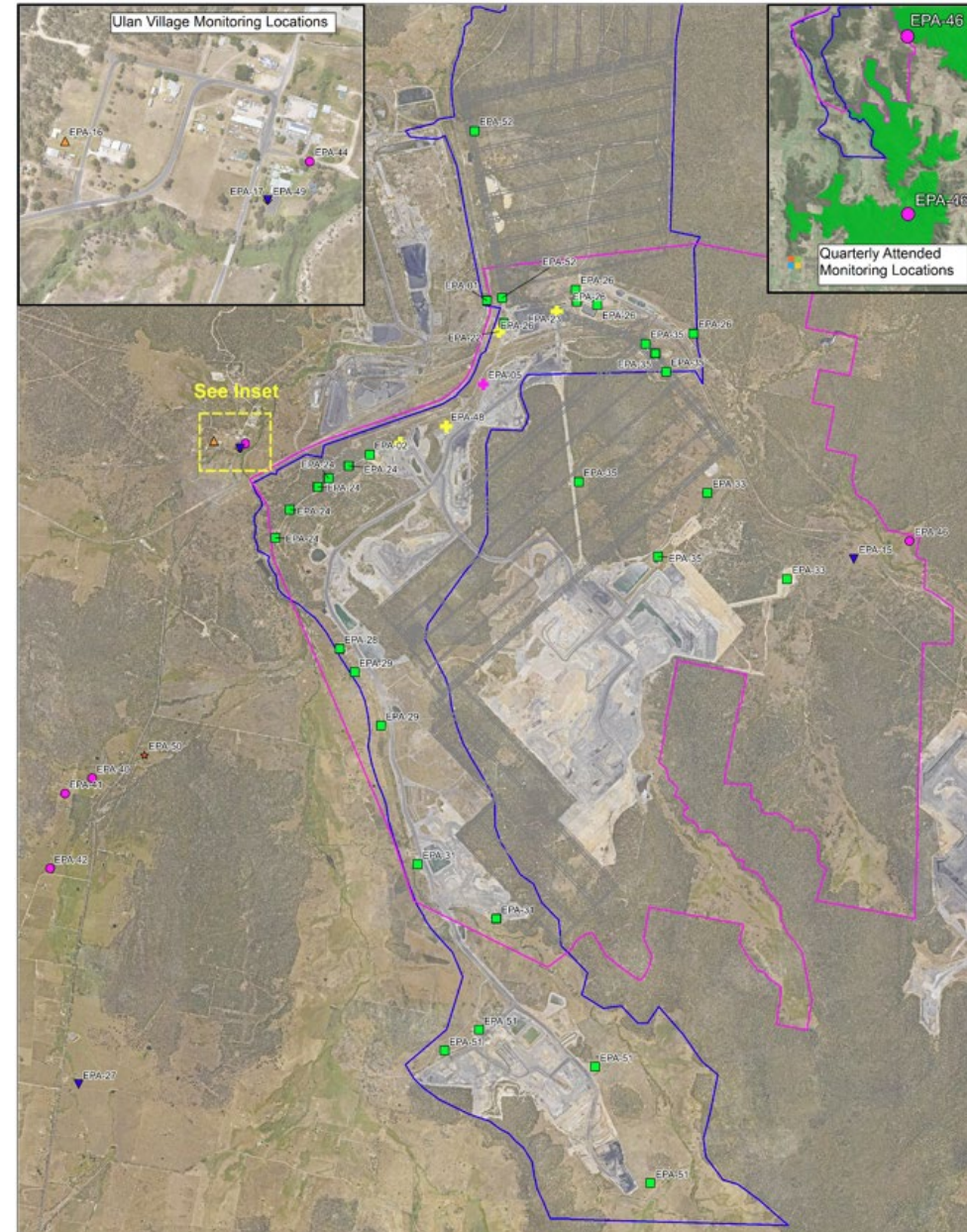
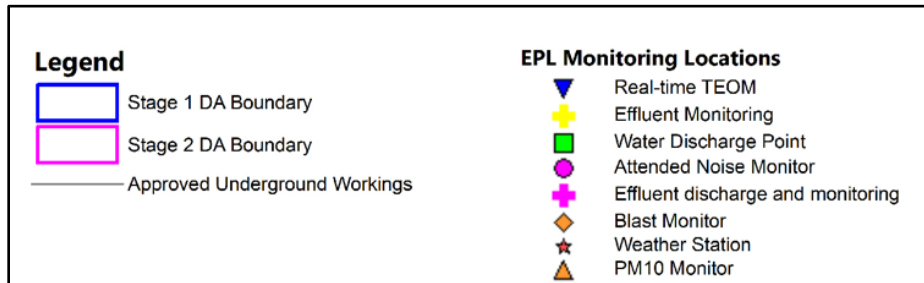
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# Environmental Monitoring

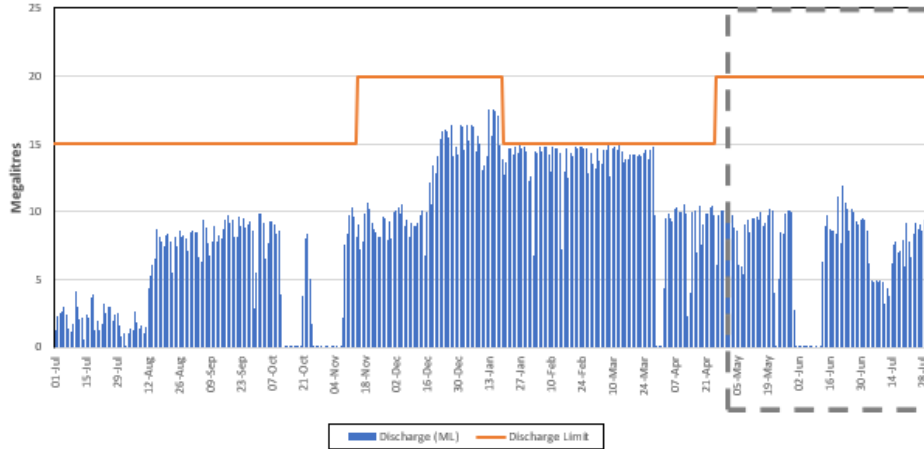
## Monitoring network

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



# Water Release – EPA01

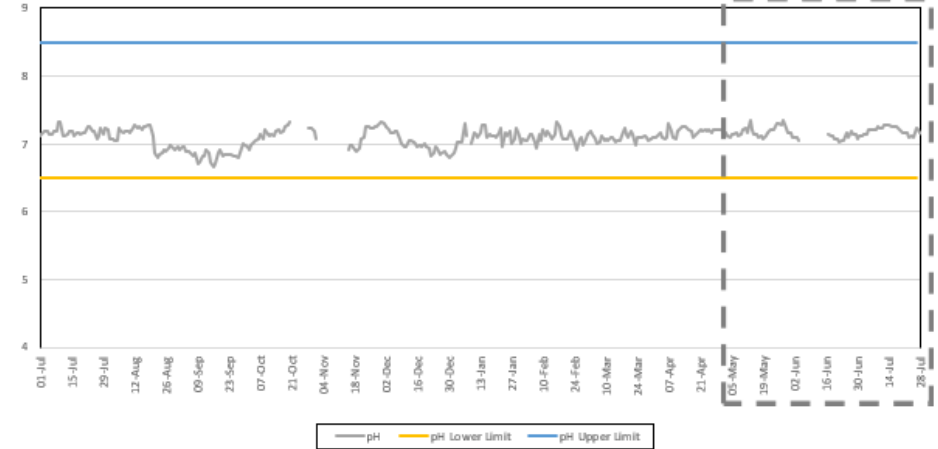
EPA 1 Daily Discharge Volumes  
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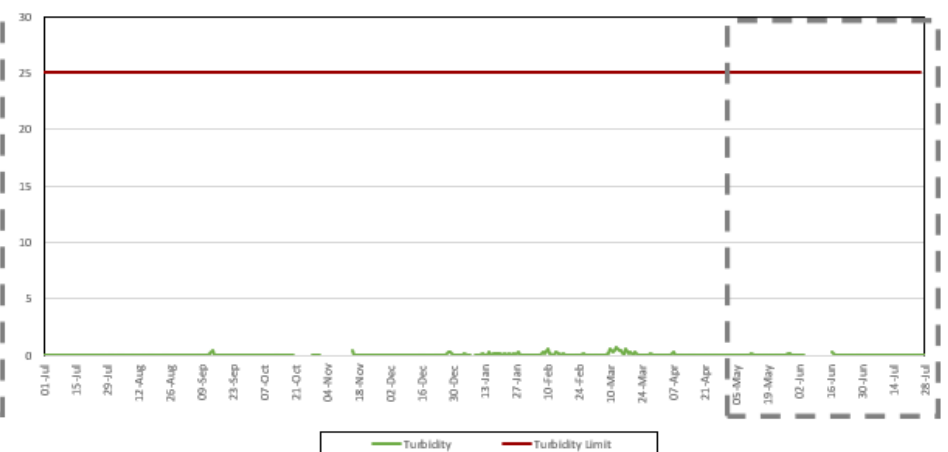
EPA 1 Daily Average EC  
July 2022 - July 2023



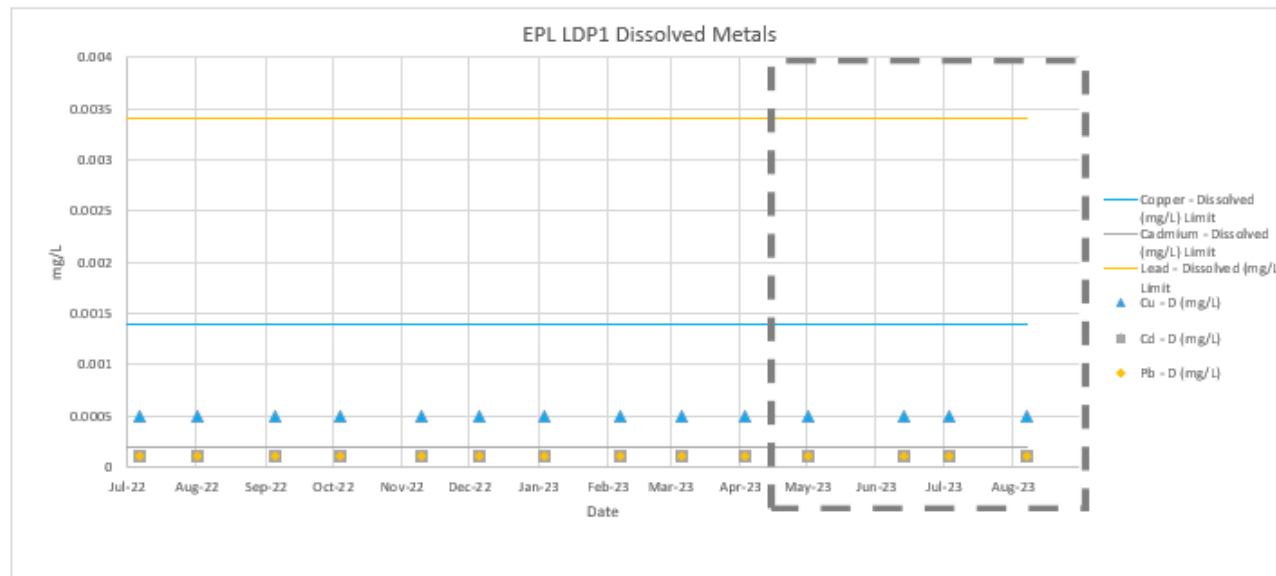
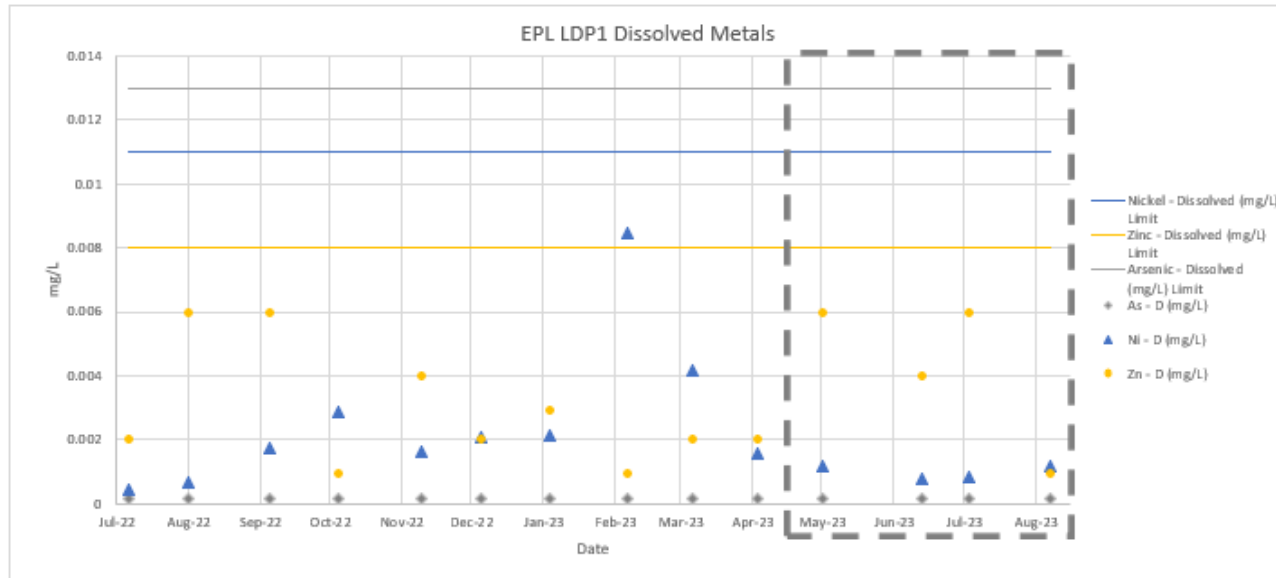
EPA 1 Daily Average pH  
July 2022 - July 2023



EPA 1 Daily Average Turbidity  
July 2022 - July 2023

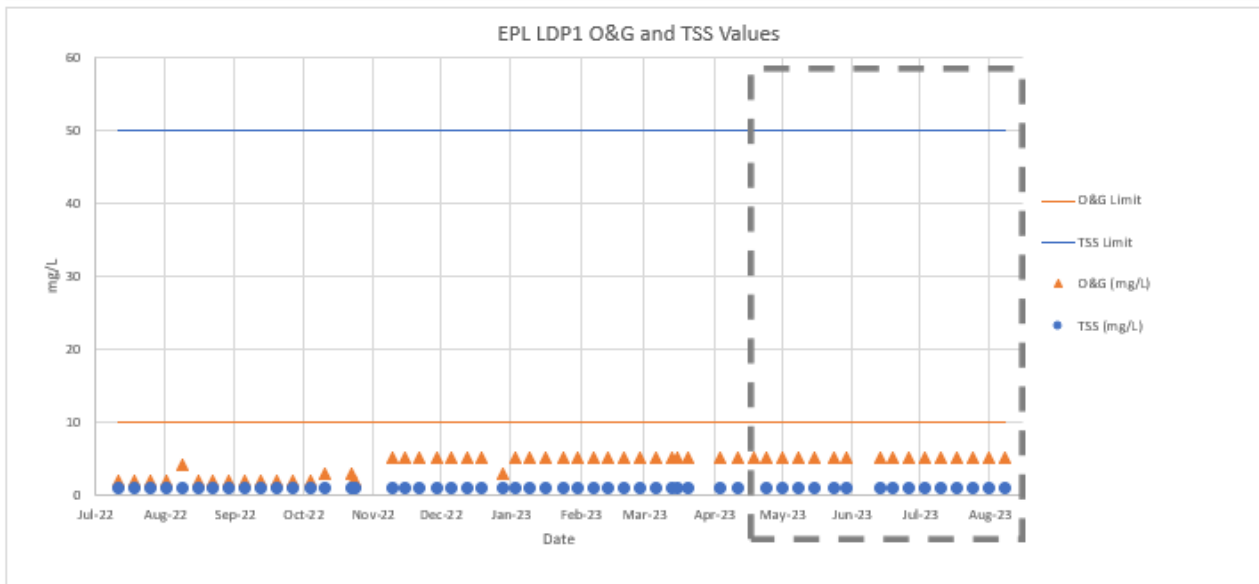
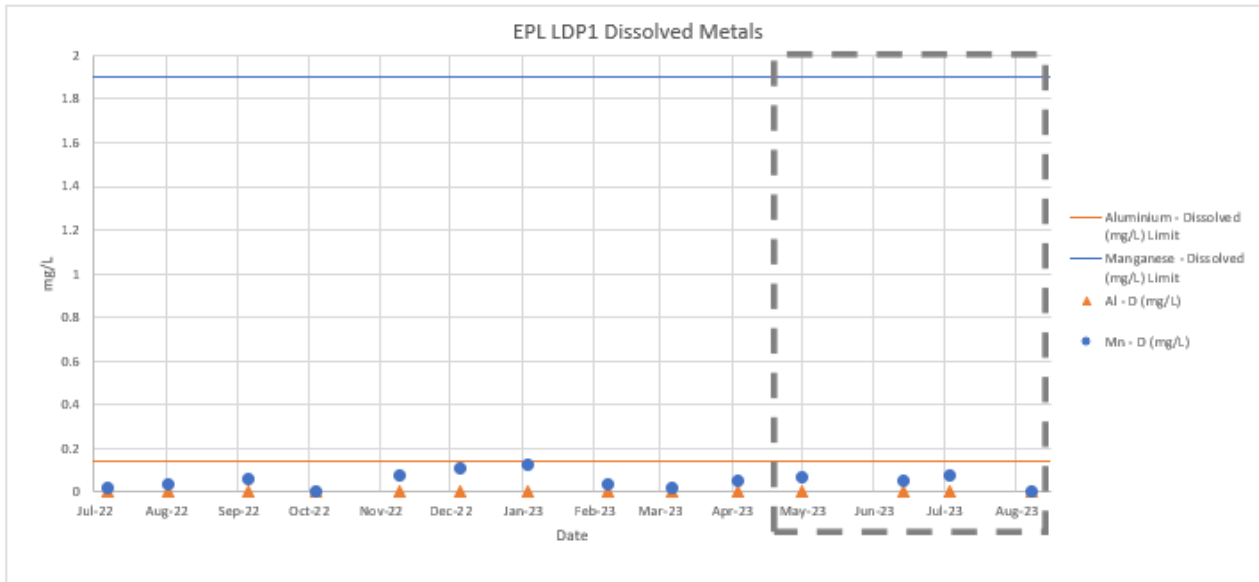


# Water Release – EPA01

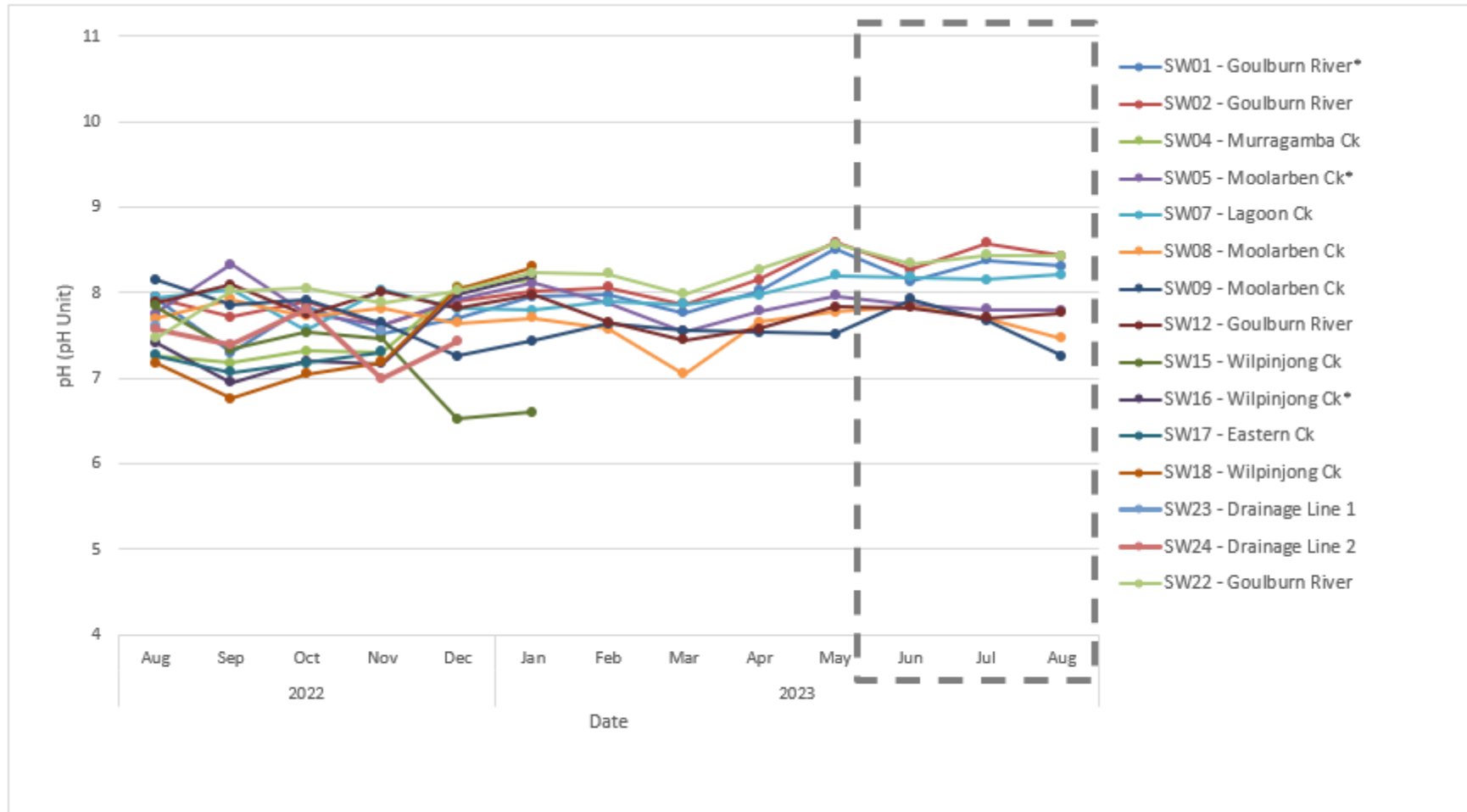




# Water Release – EPA01

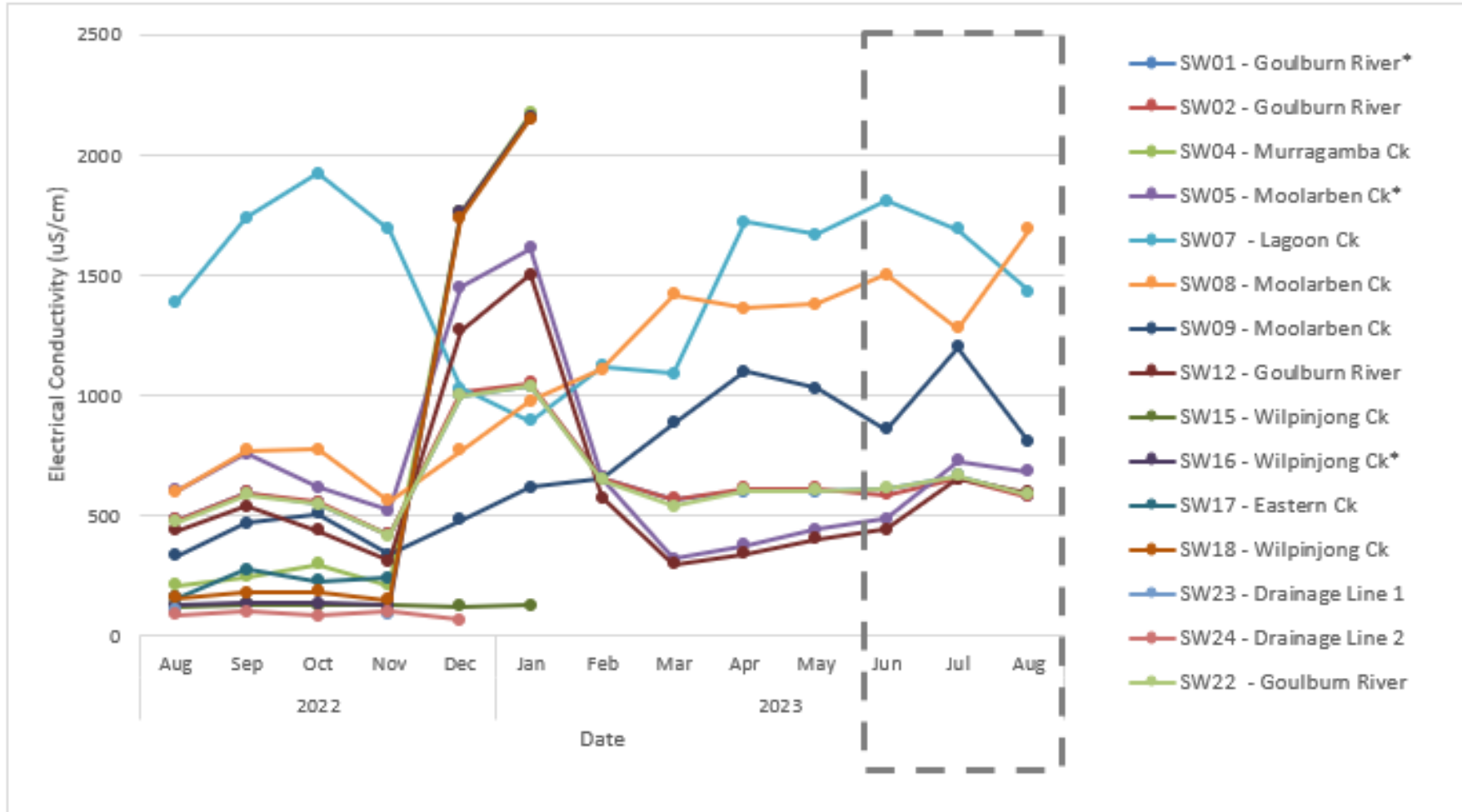


# Water Quality - pH



\* Monitoring Locations with associated trigger investigation levels as per the Surface Water Management Plan

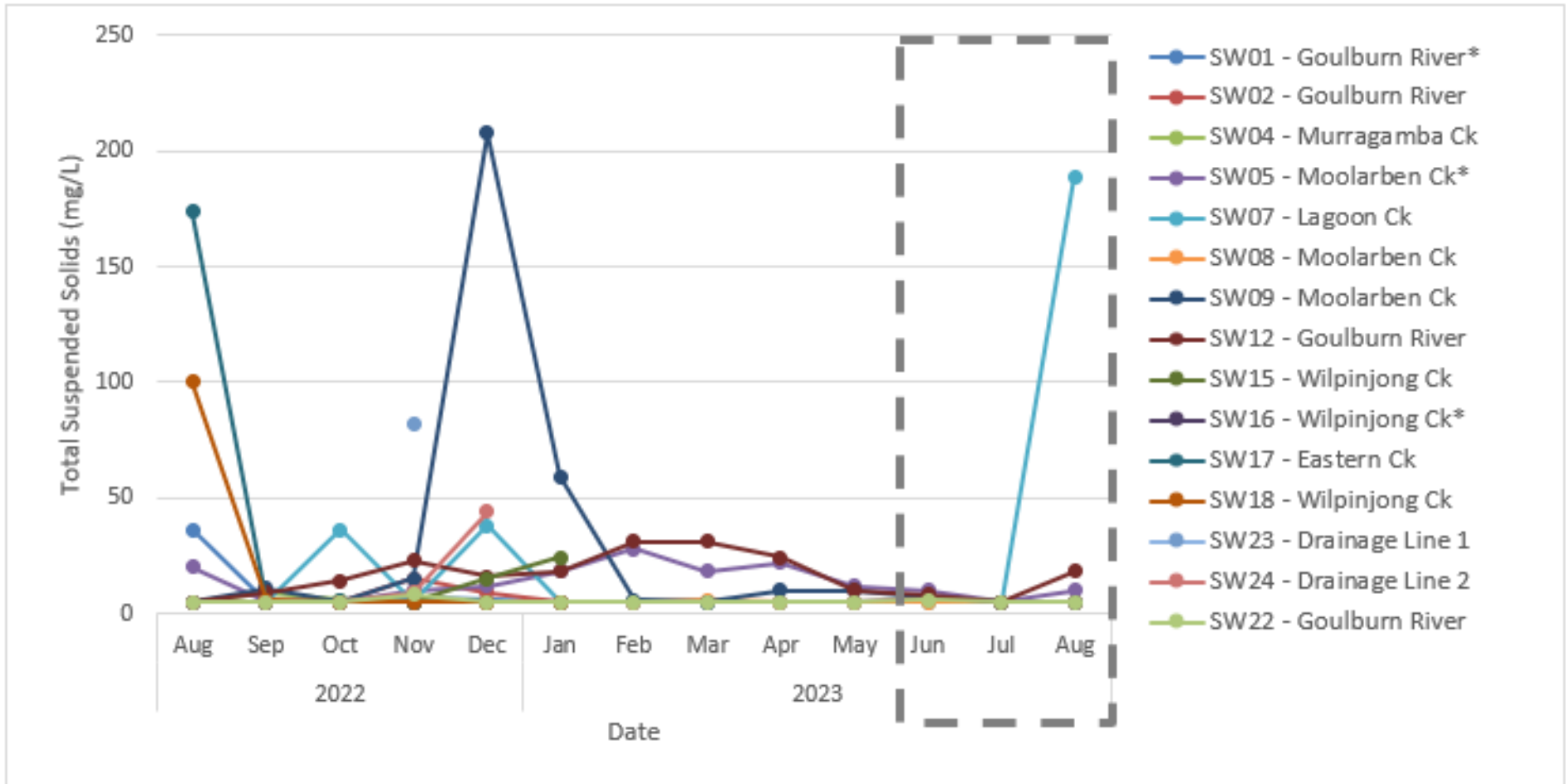
# Water Quality - EC



\* Monitoring Locations with associated trigger investigation levels as per the Surface Water Management Plan



# Water Quality - TSS



\* Monitoring Locations with associated trigger investigation levels as per the Surface Water Management Plan

# Air Quality

Site	July 2022 PM10 Annual Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	July 2023 PM10 Annual Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Air Quality PM10 Annual Average Criteria ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
TEOM 01	11.9	13.3	25.0
TEOM 07	7.5	8.5	25.0
TEOM 04	11.1	12.1	25.0

Site	July 2022 PM2.5 Annual Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	July 2023 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	3.8	4.2	8.0

Monthly monitoring reports are available on our website:

[www.moolarbencoal.com.au/page/environment/environmental-monitoring/](http://www.moolarbencoal.com.au/page/environment/environmental-monitoring/)

# 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

## LEGEND

- Exploration Licence Boundary
- Mining Lease Boundary
- Rail Line
- Watercourse

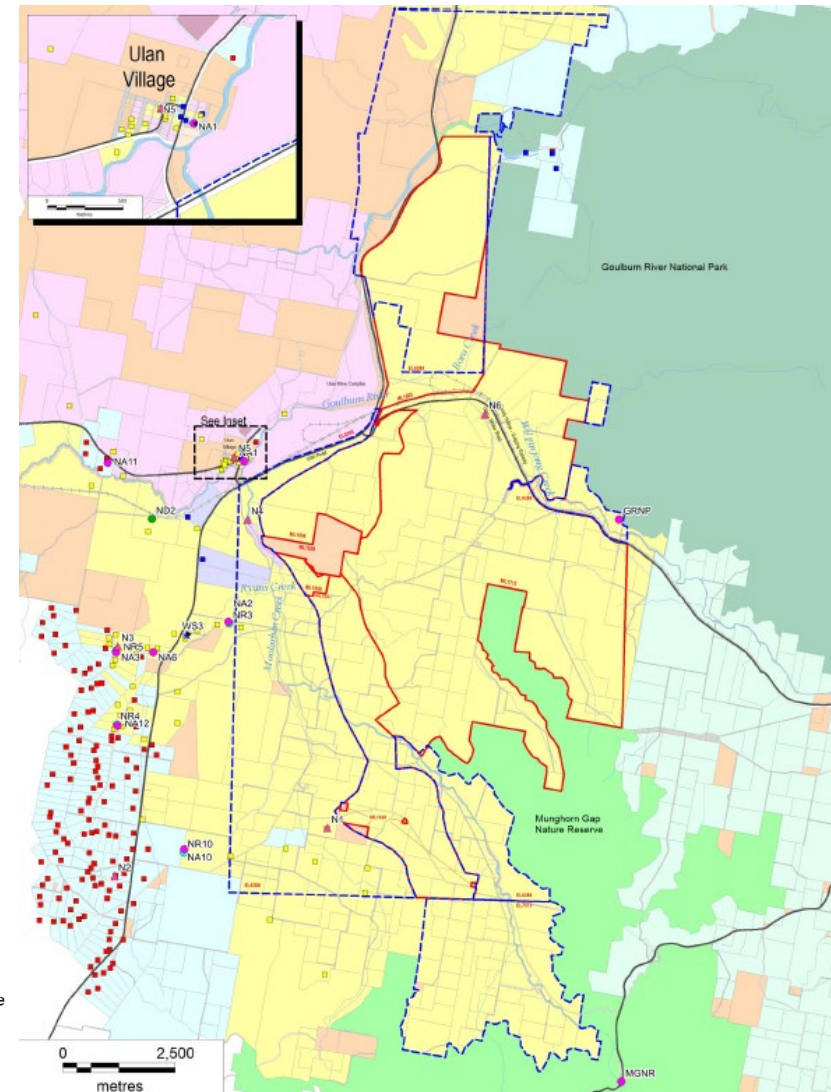
## Ownership

- Yancoal
- Ulan Coal Mines Limited
- Wilpinjong Coal Mine
- Privately Owned
- Crown
- Commercial

- National Park
- Nature Reserve
- Mine Owned Receiver
- Private Receiver
- Commercial Receiver

## Noise Monitoring Locations

- Real-time Noise Monitoring Site
- Attended Noise Monitoring Site
- Directional Receiver
- Background Noise Monitoring
- Weather Station

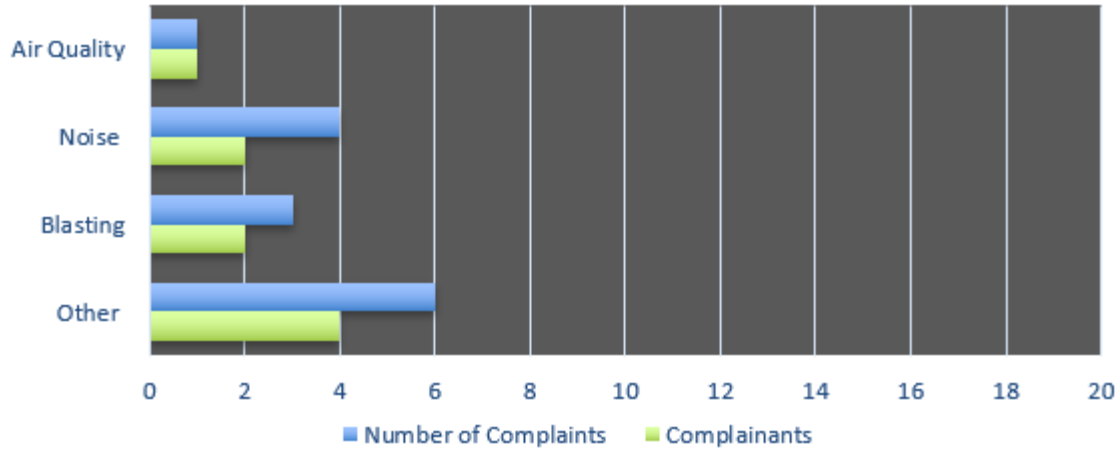




# Community Complaints

## MCO Complaints YTD

Jan - May 2023



## MCO Complaints - Q3

June 2023 - August 2023



# Rehabilitation Update

- Rehabilitation works in OC2 are underway with aerial seeding planned for September.
- Bulk shaping of rehab in OC2, OC3 and OC4 are in progress.
- Approximately 15,000 tube stock was planted in OC2 in 2023.





# Biodiversity Offset Areas Update

- Planting 2023 completed at Ulan 18, Moolarmoo, Redhills and Dun Dun Biodiversity Offsets.
  - Approximately 32,000 trees planted
- Offset maintenance works have continued, with feral animal baiting and weed management programs progressing.



*Moolarmoo*

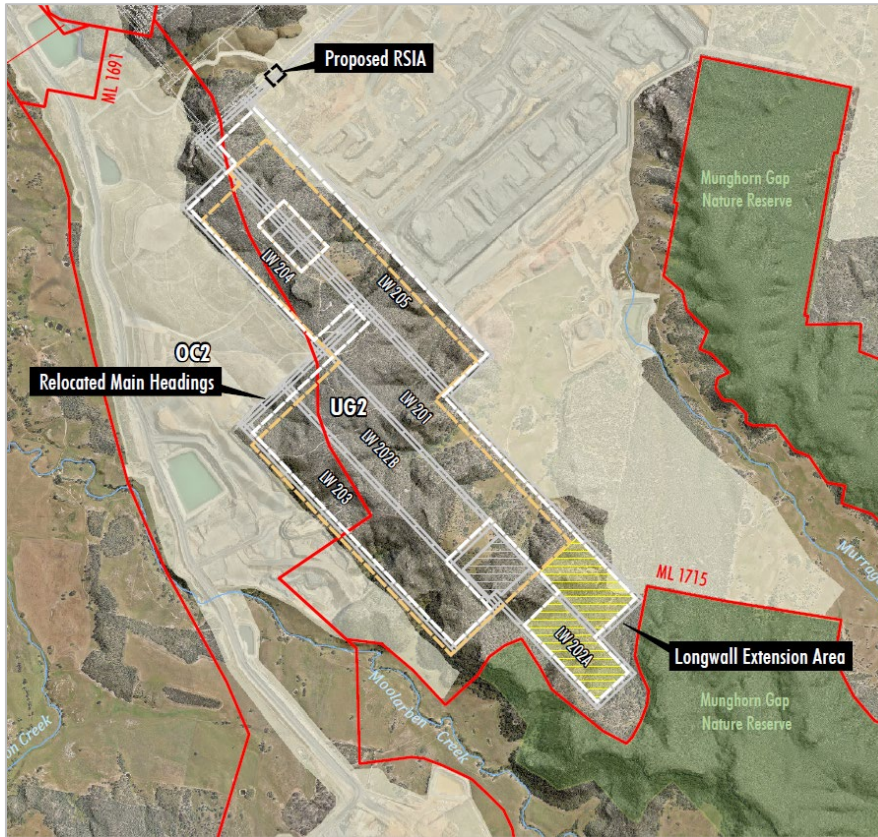


*Red Hills*

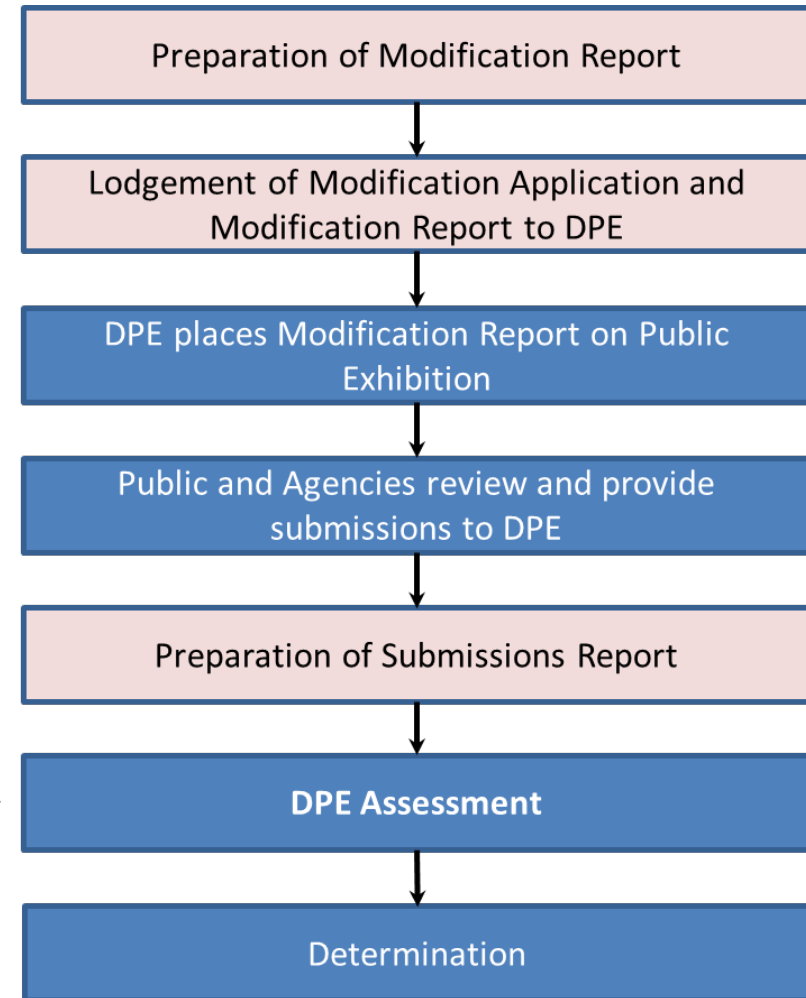


# UG2 Modification

- Additional Information to be provided to the Department.



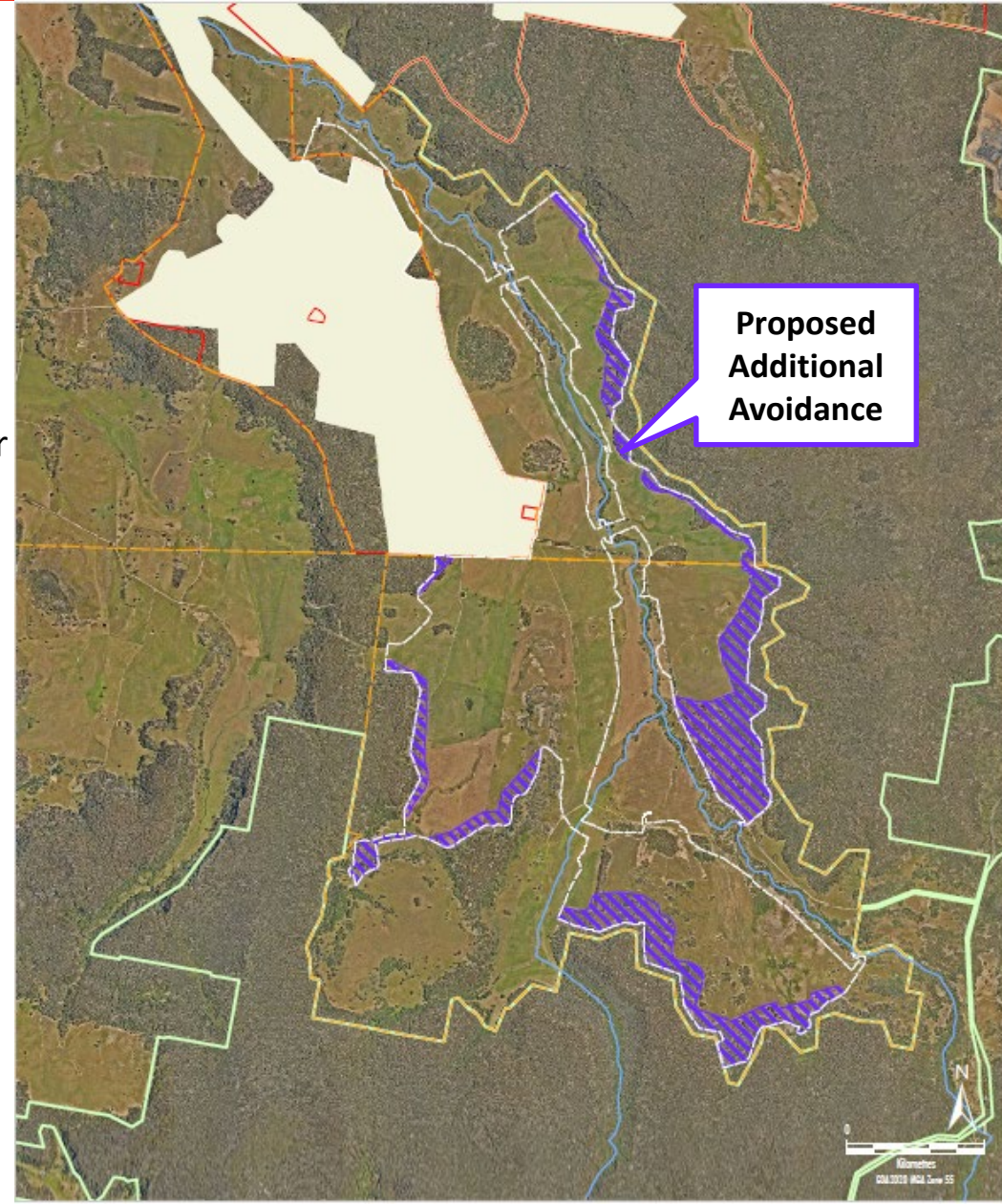
Current Status  
→



# OC3 Extension – Proposed Amended Project

## Amended Project Overview

- Reduced extent of open cut mining
- Additional Avoidance
  - Reduced disturbance of native vegetation
  - Reduced disturbance of habitat for other threatened fauna and flora species
  - Reduced amenity impacts (including noise, air quality etc.)
  - Avoidance of additional Aboriginal heritage sites
- Total ROM extraction of approx. 30 Mt over the life of the amended Project (down from 40 Mt proposed in the EIS)
- No change to:
  - Mine life (2025 to 2034)
  - Backfilling of voids



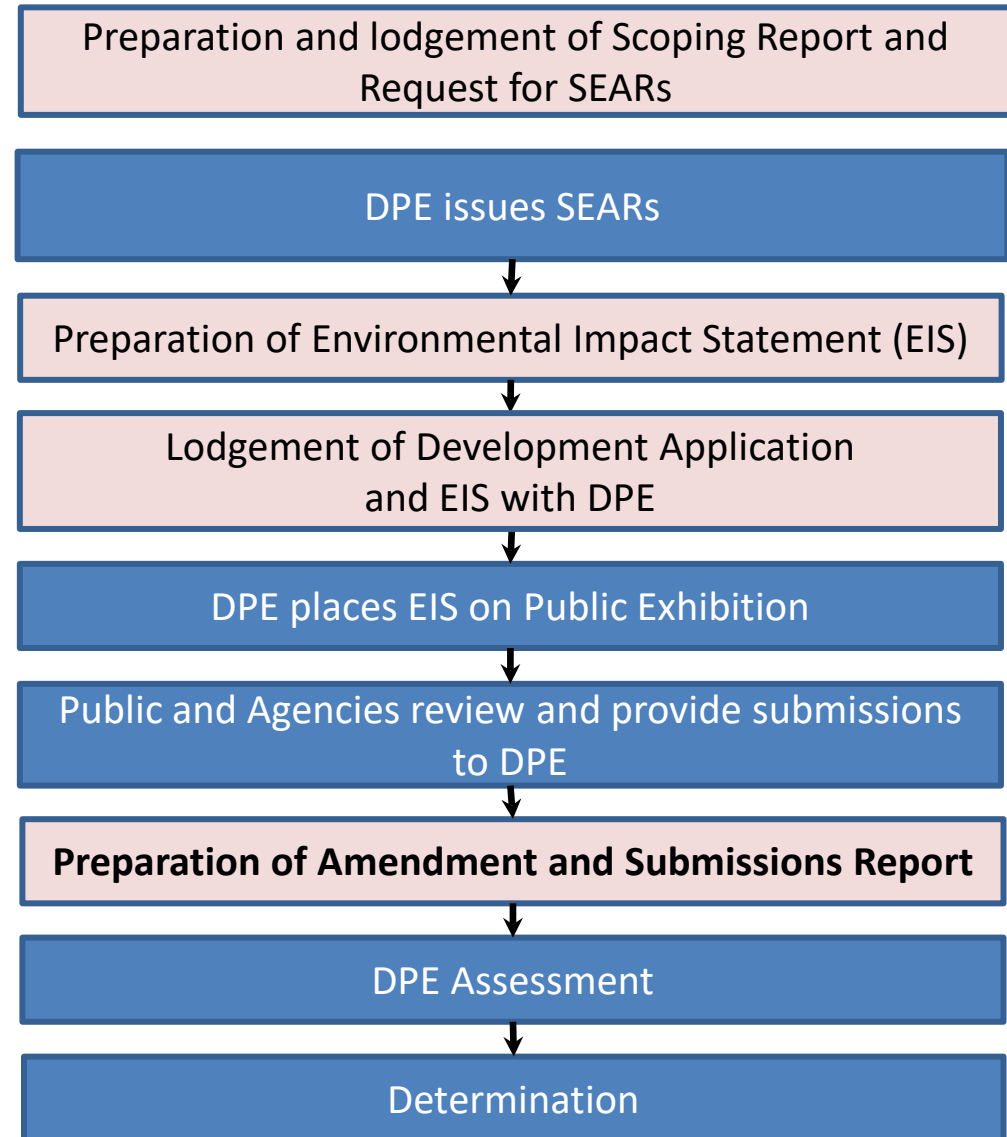


# OC3 Extension Project – Amended Project

## Amendment Report

- Target lodgement Q4 2023
- Supporting specialist studies being undertaken include:
  - Surface Water
  - Groundwater
  - Biodiversity
  - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage
  - Aquatic Ecology
  - Noise
  - Blasting
  - Economic
  - Air Quality
  - Greenhouse Gas

**Current Status** →





# Employment Update

## Current Traineeships

- 50 Trainees currently onsite
  - 34 Underground trainee mineworker
  - 15 Open Cut trainee mineworker
  - 1 Administration trainee at the Underground

## Apprentices

- 26 Apprentices – 6 Underground, 13 Open Cut and 7 CHPP apprentices.
- Apprentice intake for 2024 underway





