

SITE: Middle Road, Paxton NSW 2325 Australia  
 POSTAL: Locked Bag 806 Cessnock NSW 2325 Australia  
 PHONE: +61 2 4993 7200  
 FAX: +61 2 4993 7326  
 WEBSITE: www.austarcoalmine.com.au  
 ABN 67 111 910 822

## Austar Coal Mine

### Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Daily Meeting Room – Austar Main Administration Building, Middle Road, Paxton  
 Time: 9:38am – 10:30am  
 Date: 24 March 2021

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

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
	MMH – Opened the meeting 9:38am and welcomed the CCC. Apologies are noted above.
<b>2</b>	<b>Declaration of Interests</b>
	MMH asked for any changes to previous declarations of interest. Declarations of interests remain current for all members
<b>3</b>	<b>Confirmation of Previous Minutes</b>
	The minutes of the previous meeting were considered representative of that meeting. AS moved, ML seconded.
<b>4</b>	<b>Business Arising from Previous Minutes</b>
	MMH - Final Mine subsidence survey for Bellbird South – will discuss in presentation
<b>5</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
	As listed in Agenda. Additional correspondence: Austar Coal Mine CCC Chair's Annual Report – Lodged 17 March with DPIE.
<b>6</b>	<b>Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints, Community Support</b>

	<p>Detail in presentation.</p> <p>MMH - What about the environmental positions – will they stay?  WF –environmental positions will probably stay, there is expressions of interest out to employees to give their preferences on whether they are redeployed, or take redundancy packages.</p> <p>ML – will all surface structures go? What will the final landform look like?  CM – no coal is left on site, final landforms will be designed, will do capping studies and final landform designs are yet to be finalised. This will be done as part of the detailed closure plan.</p> <p>AS – what about the railway?  WF - Austar owns around 9kms of rail.  ML-There are a lot of opportunities associated with the rail corridor.</p> <p>AS – are there zoning issues as well?  CM – yes, all things we need to look at in the closure planning process.  ML – Cessnock is going through the LEP process in the next few years, so it is good timing for potential synergies.</p> <p>AS – will the exploration licence lapse?  WF- still working through what will happen with the EL.  MMH – was the measured subsidence on Sandy Creek Rd of 819mm within predictions?  WF – yes. This was shown on the graph in the presentation.</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>General Business</b>
	<p>As per presentation</p> <p>AS - Will rehabilitation cease at Aberdare Emplacement area as this was not your mine?  CM - We will continue to rehabilitate it. There is reject at CHPP that can be used to continue this or we will redesign the landform to be safe, stable and non-polluting We have a mining lease over the area and will need to rehabilitate it before lease relinquishment.</p> <p>ML – where to from here with CCC?  MMH – we need to continue to meet – quite a lengthy process and lots to be done. If we need an extraordinary meeting, anyone is able to request that.  CM – added that there will be a lot of activity to report as we move to closure.</p> <p>AB – Will demolition occur only from Mon – Fri daytime?  CM – at this stage I believe we will operate under construction noise guidelines (daytime hours Mon – Fri, half day Saturday)</p> <p>AB – will security patrols continue?  WF – yes, and may increase as there are less people on site.</p> <p>MMH – do Community Support Programs (CSP) and sponsorship stop?  CM and WF – Yancoal’s corporate CSP is ongoing and supports organisations in the Hunter Valley. The Austar CSP ceased in 2020, with the transition to Care and Maintenance.</p> <p>AB – what will happen to rehabilitated land at lease relinquishment?  CM – potential land ownership has not been determined at this stage.</p>
<b>9</b>	<b>Meeting Dates</b>
	22 September 2020.
<b>9</b>	<b>Meeting Closed</b>
	MMH – Thanked the CCC and declared the meeting closed at 10:30am.

Recorded: Julie McNaughton 24 March 2021



# AUSTAR COAL MINE

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING

24 March 2021

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. General business / Community Sponsorship
8. Next meeting / Meeting close



# Current Activities

# Current Activities

## Mining Activities

- Care and Maintenance activities continued since last meeting and included:
  - Management of surface lands - water management, weed management, environmental monitoring
  - Dewatering the mine to keep all areas accessible
  - Continued ventilation and underground strata support to maintain access to all areas
  - Reverse Osmosis water treatment plant continues to operate
  
- On 26 February 2021 Yancoal made the decision to transition Austar Coal Mine from care and maintenance to closure. This decision followed a review that evaluated the viability of re-commencing production at Austar, however closure was considered the best option

## Closure Planning Activities

- Austar lodged a care and maintenance Mining Operations Plan (MOP) with the Resources Regulator in July 2020 which included a detailed strategy and timeframes for development of a final closure plan
- Completed a Mine Closure Planning Workshop that included:
  - Review of existing mine closure planning commitments
  - Generation of mine closure domains and closure management areas
  - Review of the approved final land use
  - Assessment of closure risks and opportunities
  - Identification of stakeholders for closure
  - Preparation of an obligations register
- Also completed a Mine Closure Risk Assessment



# Current Activities

## Closure Planning Activities - Next Steps

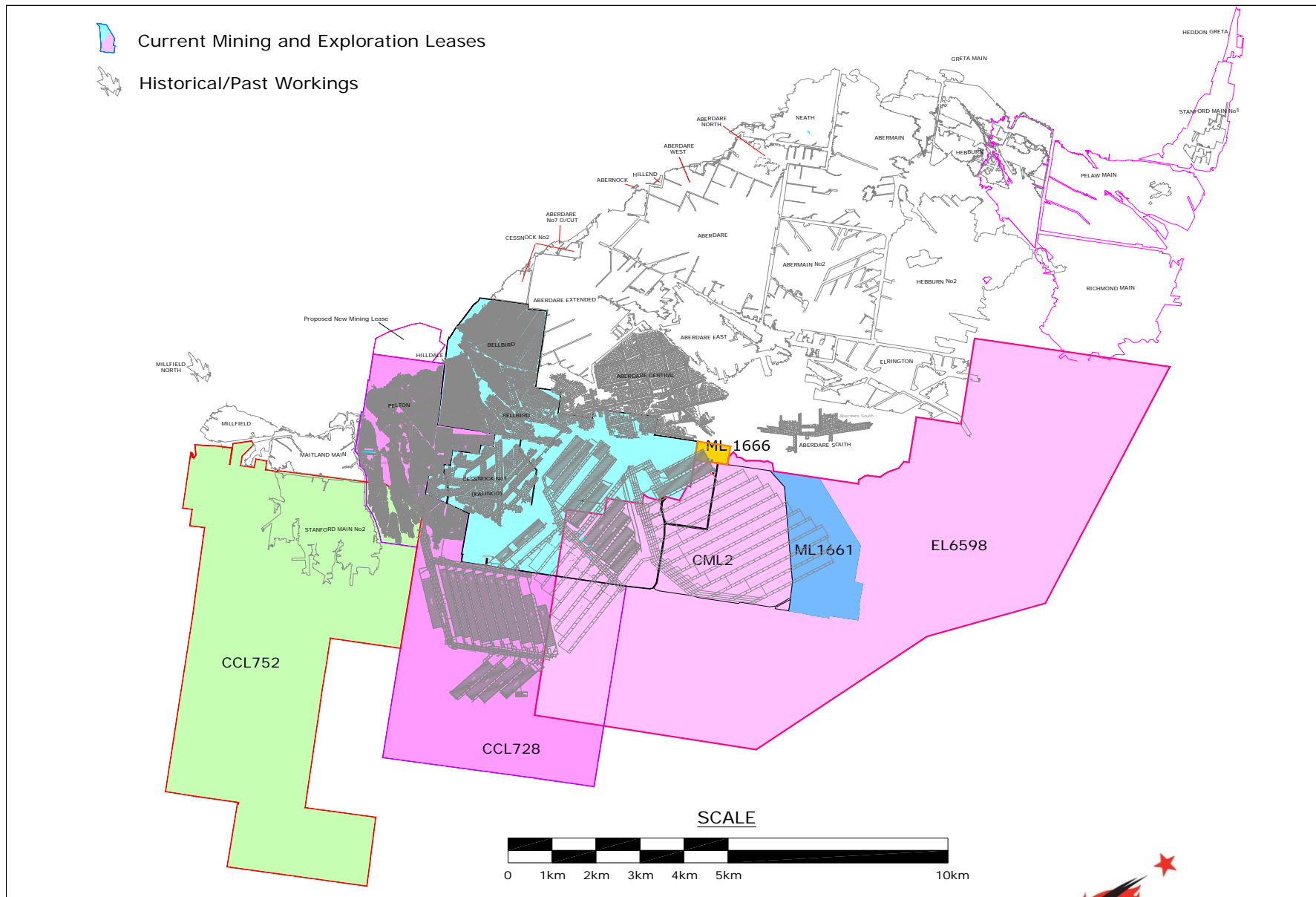
- Preparation of technical studies to close identified knowledge gaps
- Preparation of Detailed Mine Closure Plan / Execution Plan

# Current Activities

## Exploration Licence EL6598

- 47 exploration drill holes drilled by Austar since 2006
  - 27 signed off by the Resources Regulator
  - 8 with the Resources Regulator for approval
  - 7 holes have all data for lodgement next week
  - 4 holes – seeking sign off from landholder prior to lodgement
  - 1 active groundwater monitoring site
- Exploration Project
  - The exploration project planned for early 2021 has been postponed and landholders have been made aware that it will not occur this year
  - 5 Land Access and Compensation Agreements executed for a period of 3 years

# EL6598



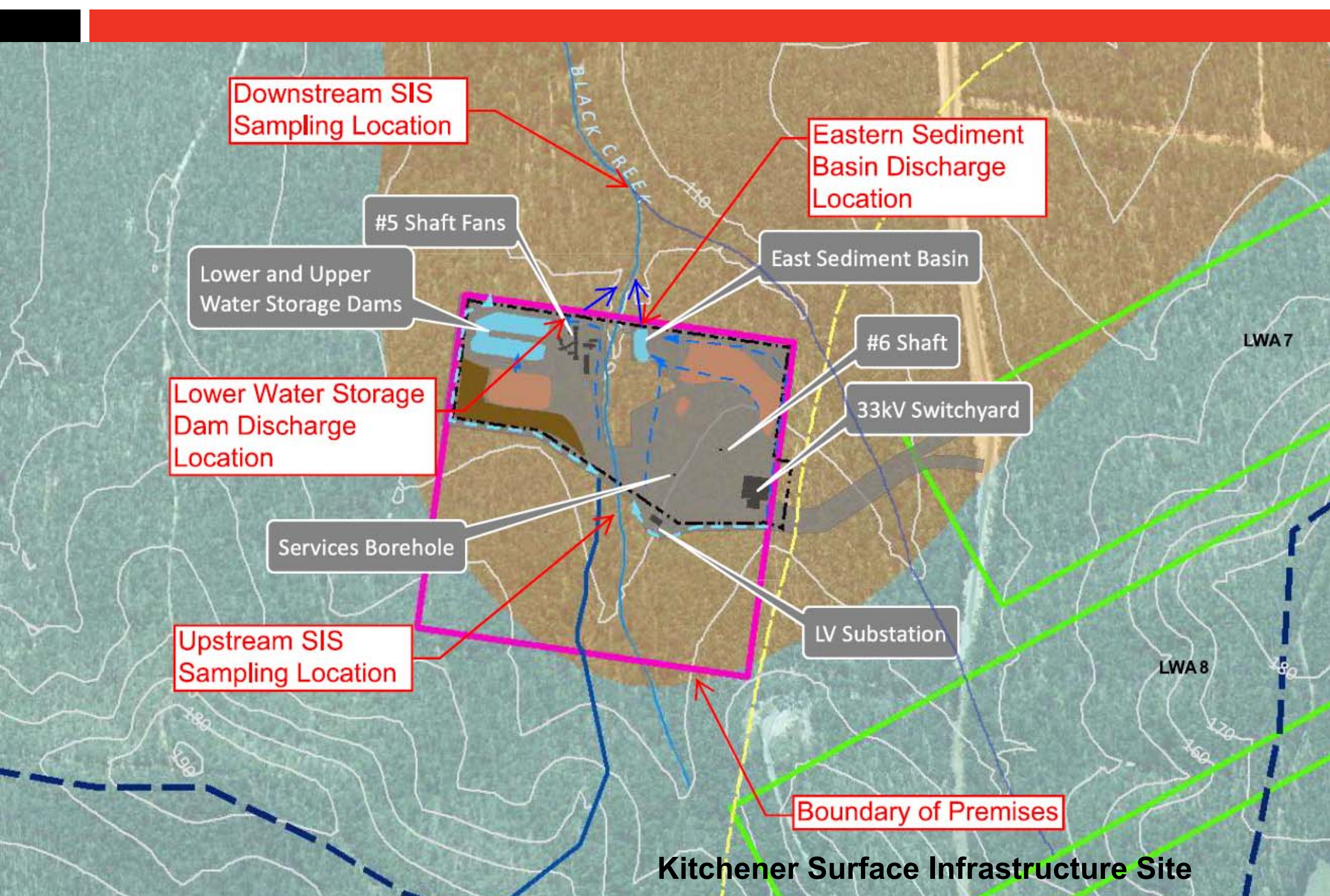


# Environmental Incidents

## Environmental Incidents (26 August 2020 – 23 March 2021)

### Sediment Basins Discharging to Black Creek – Kitchener SIS (commenced 20 March 2021)

- Eastern sediment basin and lower water storage dam discharging to Black Creek
- Greater than design rainfall received – 238mm over 8 days (292.6mm month to date)
- Eastern sediment basin designed to capture 42.8mm over 5 days
- Regulators notified (NSW EPA, DPIE and Resources Regulator)
- Water samples collected
- Incident report to be submitted





# Environmental Incidents

## Environmental Incidents

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

- Minor orange staining recorded since previous meeting
- During rainfall events causing creek to flow:
  - Water samples collected – at containment points and downstream boundary to site
  - Pumps activated to return water to mine water system
- Ongoing study by geochemist to determine source of orange staining
- Reported to NSW EPA in monthly status reports required by EPL



# Environmental Monitoring Update

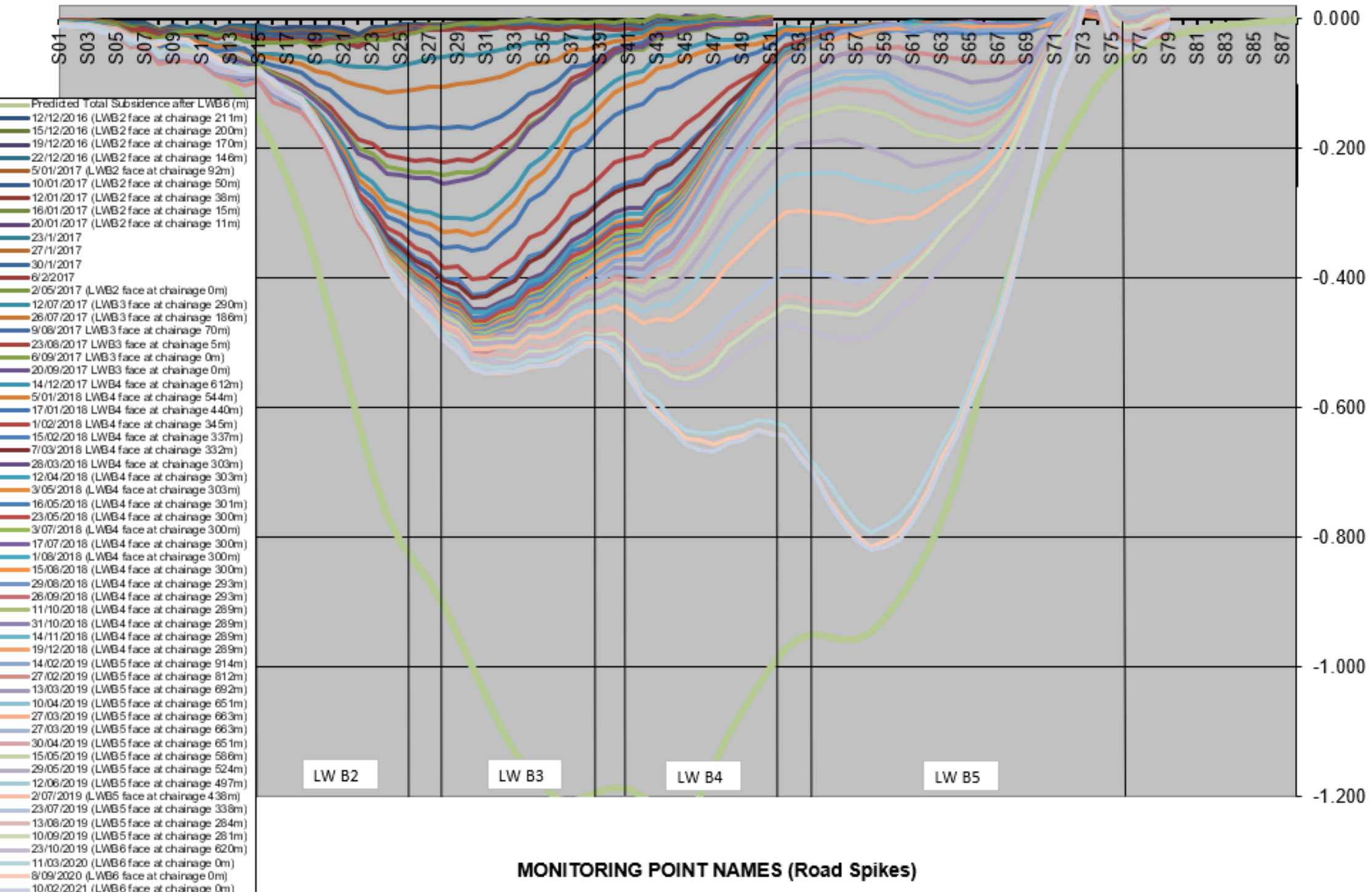
# Subsidence

## Bellbird South Mining Area

- Final subsidence survey along Sandy Creek Road complete. Additional surveys on individual properties still to be completed
- Subsidence determined to be substantially complete in Bellbird South Mining Area
- Maximum recorded surface level movement on Sandy Creek Road is approximately 819mm with the last survey conducted on 10 February 2021
- Subsidence signage to be removed from Sandy Creek Road and Quorrobolong Road

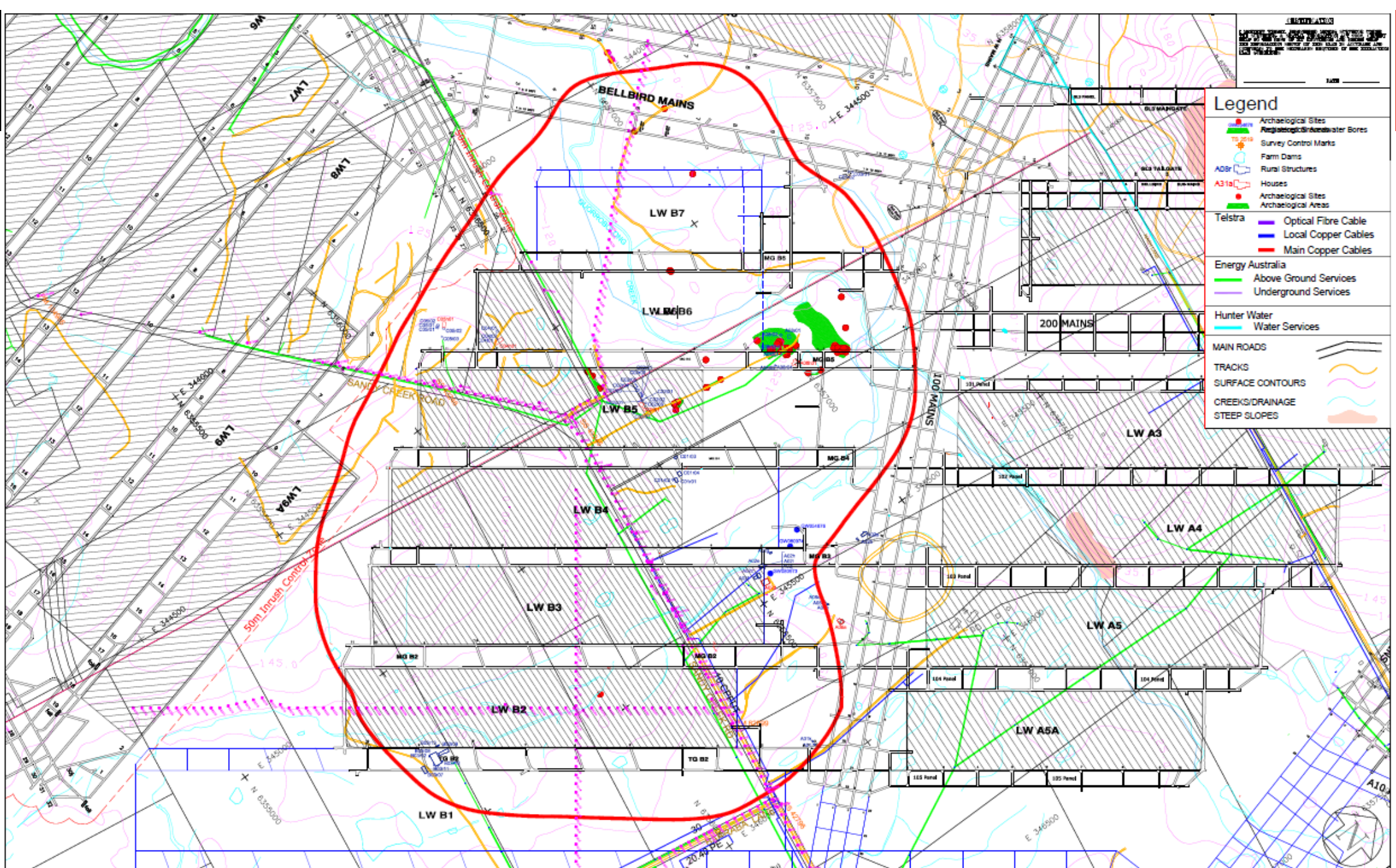


### Subsidence- LINE "SCR1"



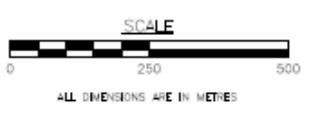
**MONITORING POINT NAMES (Road Spikes)**





### Legend

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



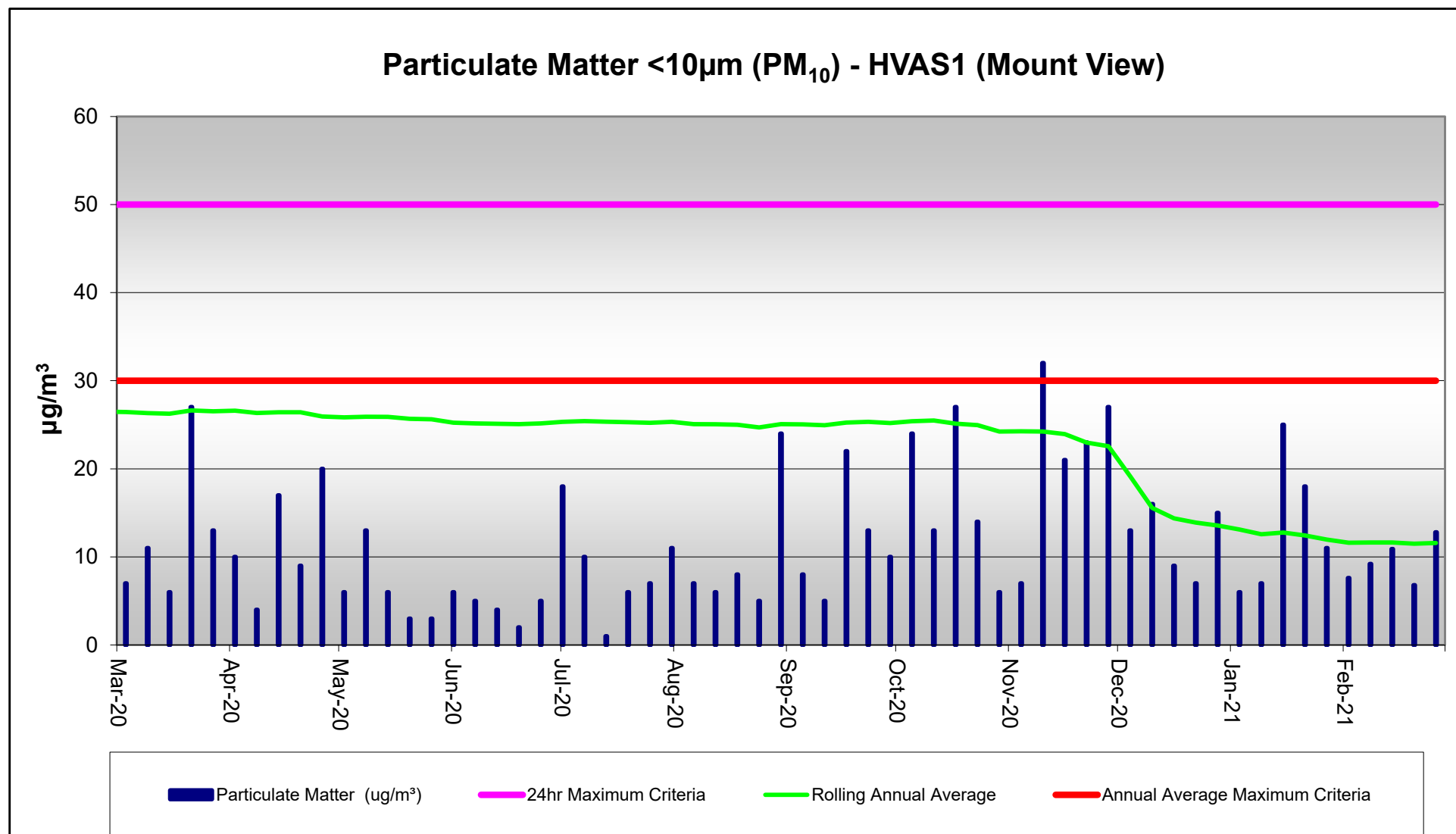
**LEGEND**

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

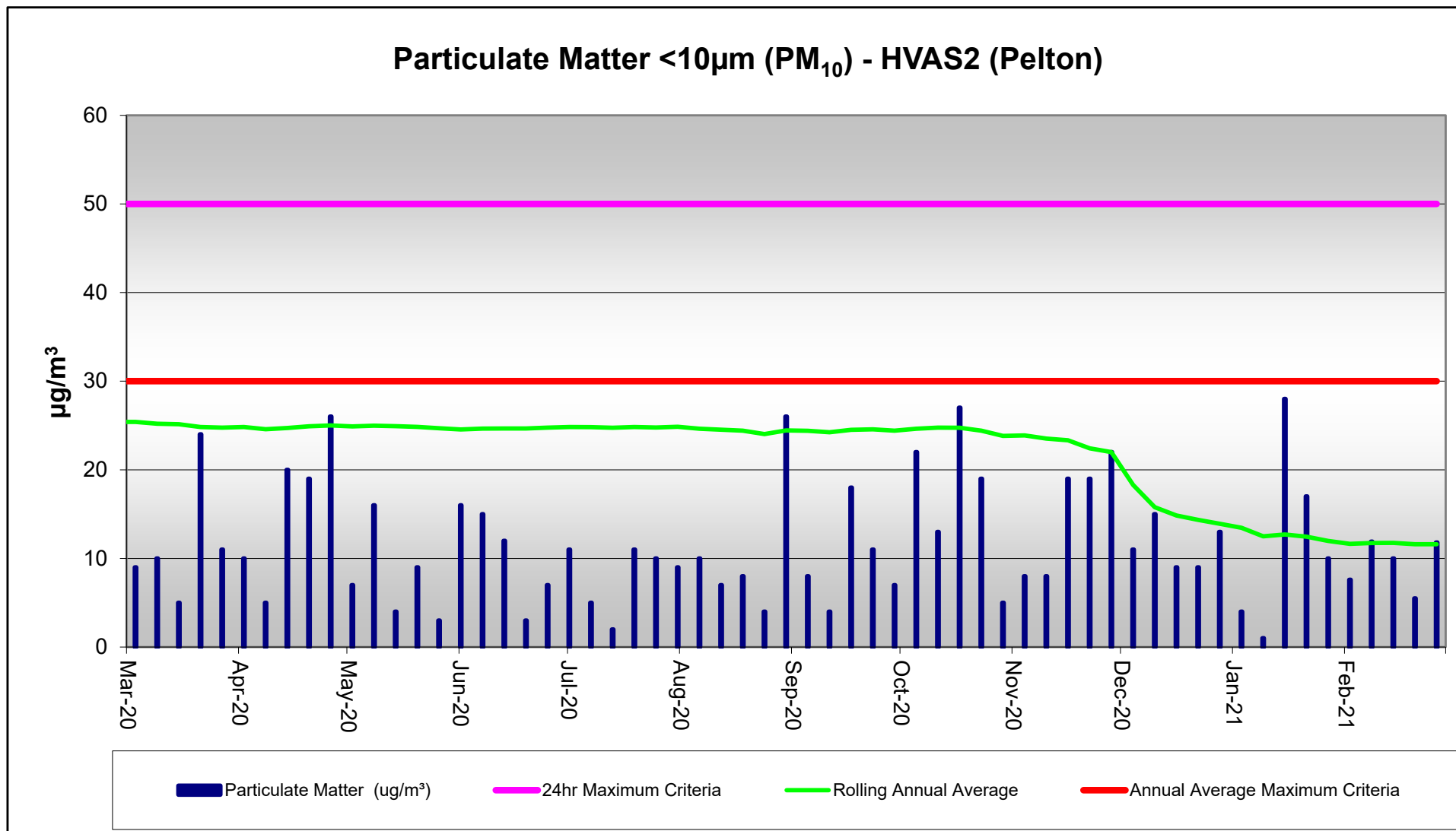
- LWB4 - B7 EXTRACTION PLAN AREA
- LONGWALL EXTRACTED AREA
- SURFACE CONTOURS

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

# Air Quality

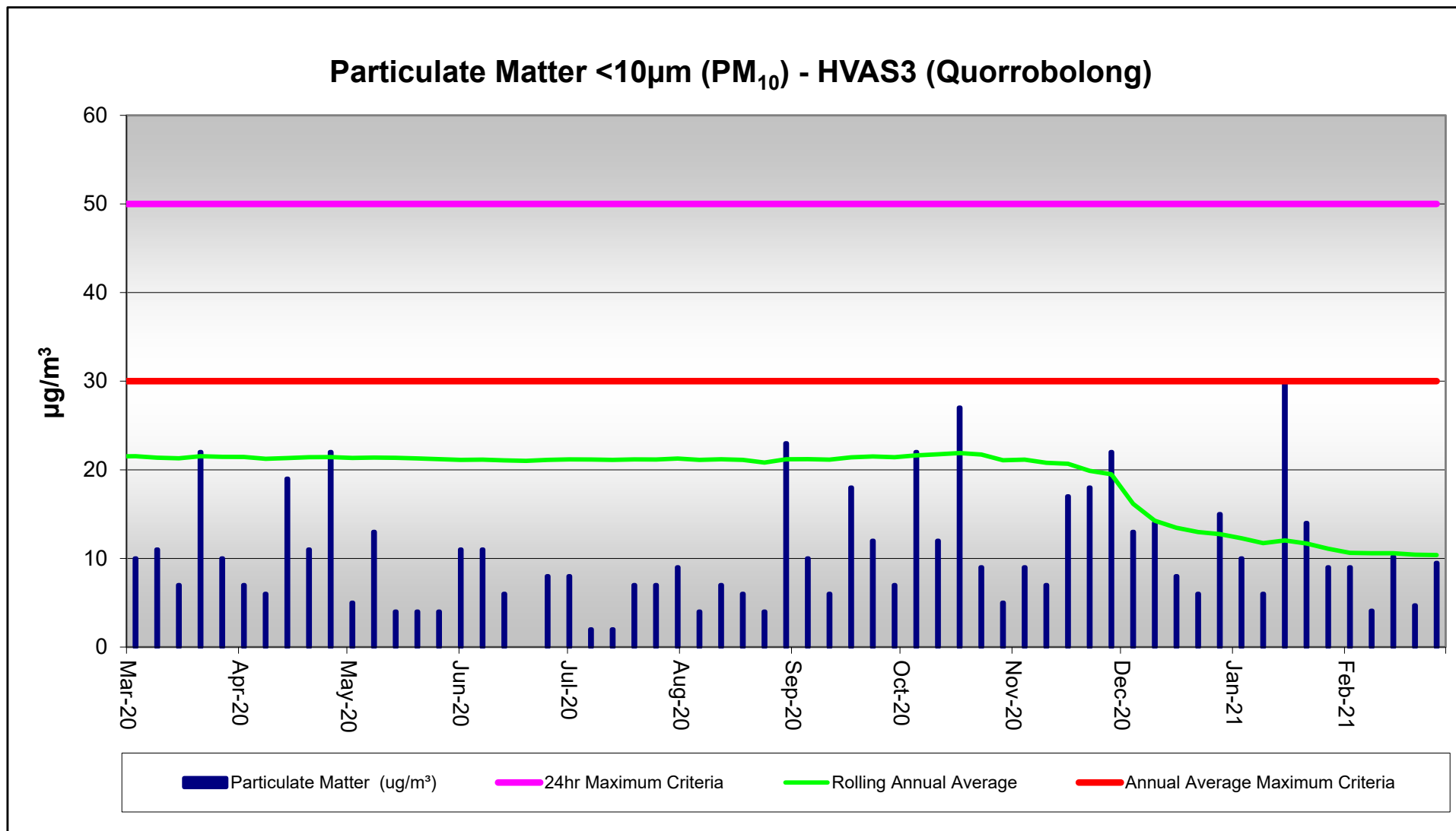


# Air Quality



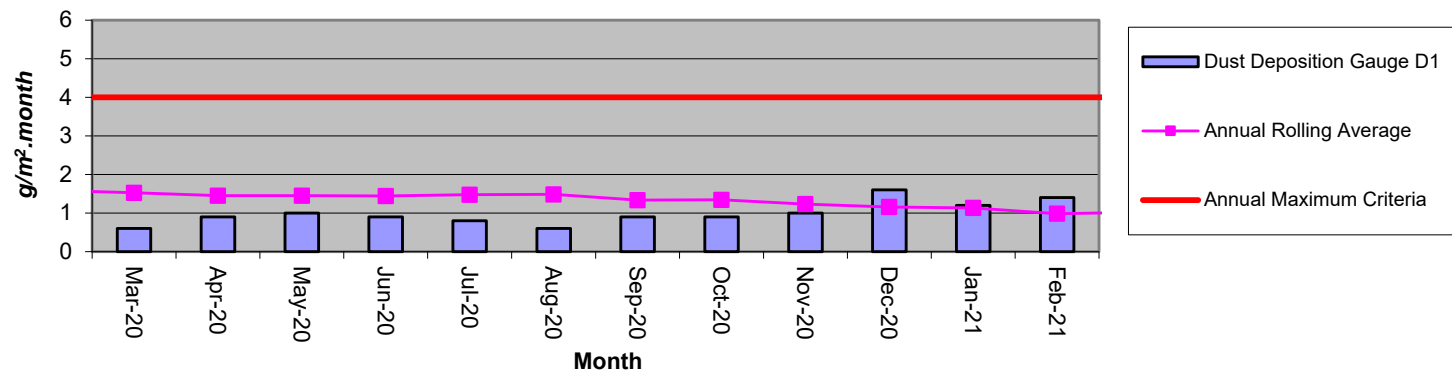


# Air Quality

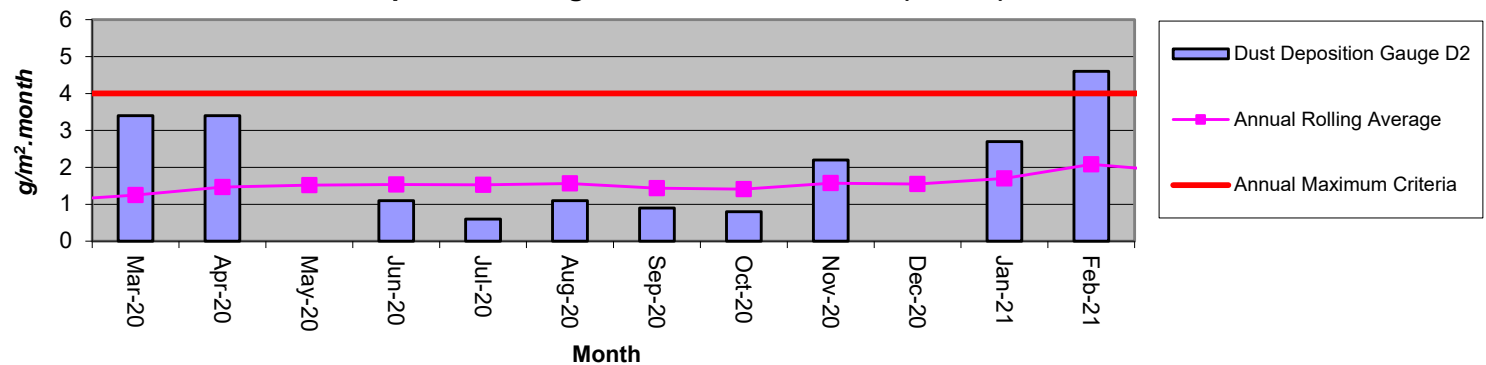


# Air Quality

Dust Deposition Gauge D1 - Insoluble Solids (Mount View)

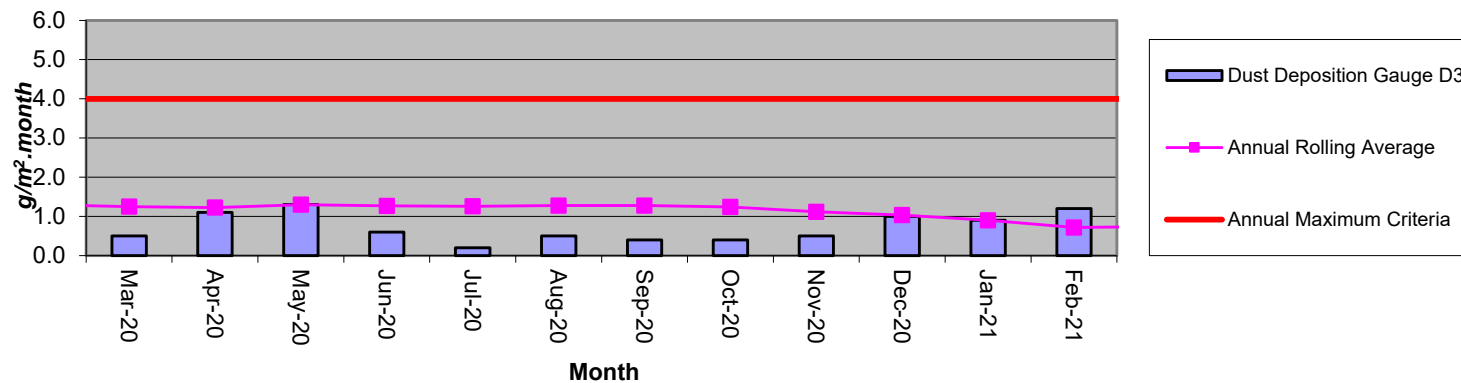


Dust Deposition Gauge D2 - Insoluble Solids (Pelton)

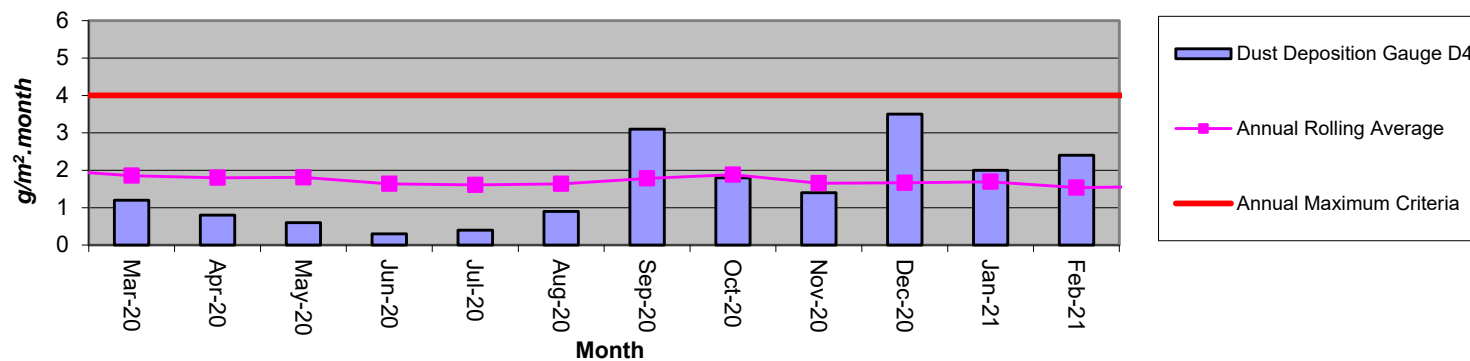


# Air Quality

Dust Deposition Gauge D3 - Insoluble Solids (Bimbadeen Road)



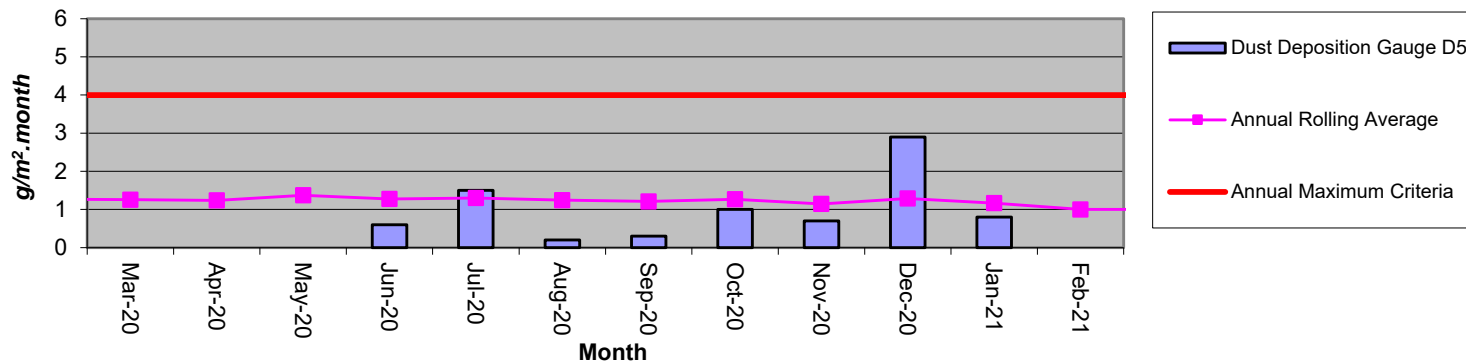
Dust Deposition Gauge D4 - Insoluble Solids (Ellalong)



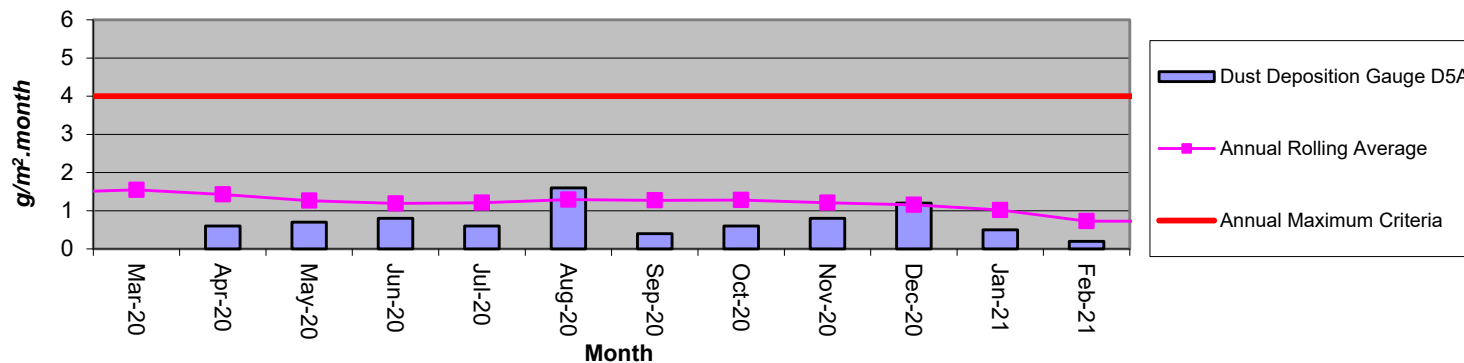


# Air Quality

Dust Deposition Gauge D5 - Insoluble Solids (3 Shaft)

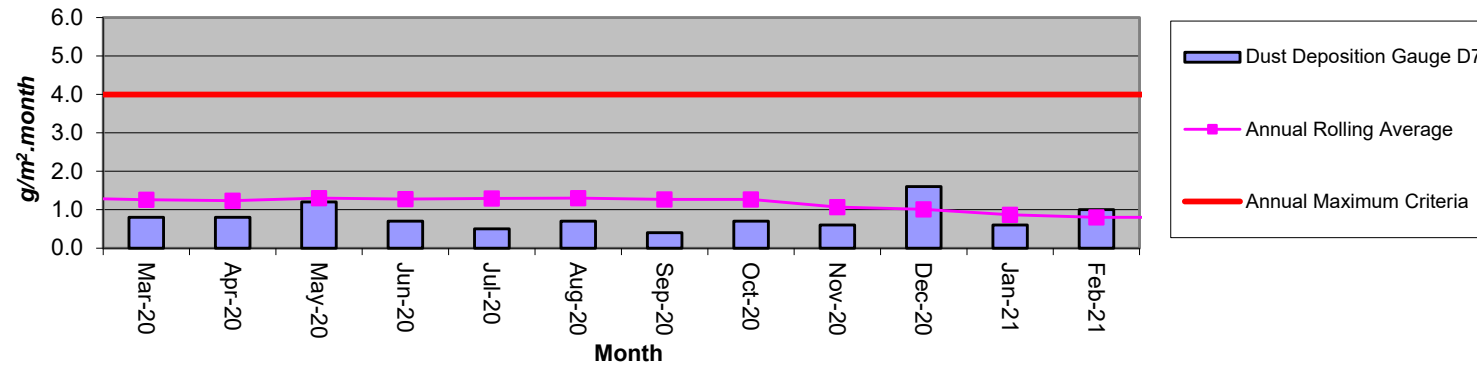


Dust Deposition Gauge D5A - Insoluble Solids (3 Shaft)

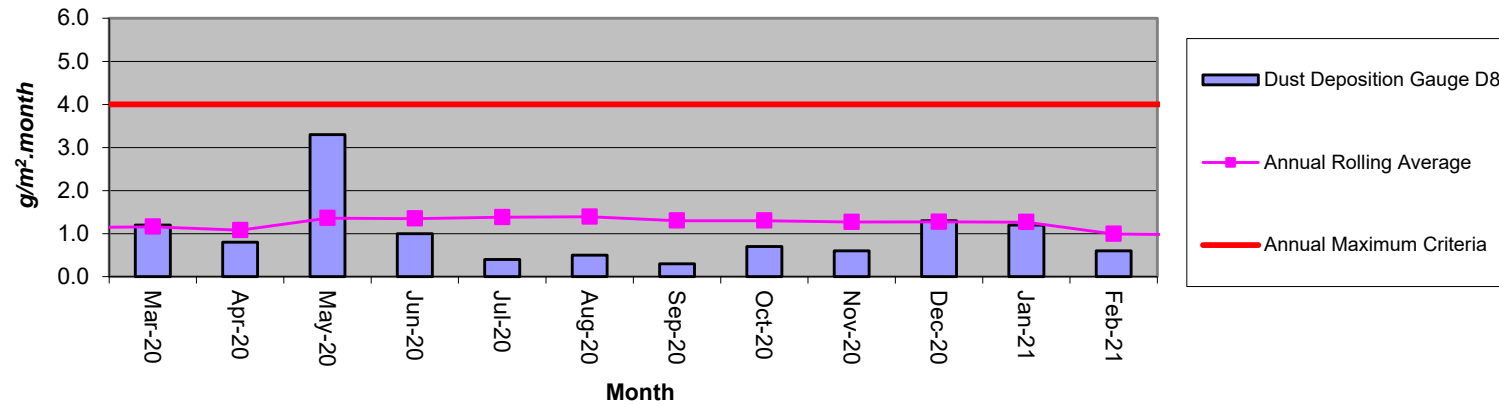


# Air Quality

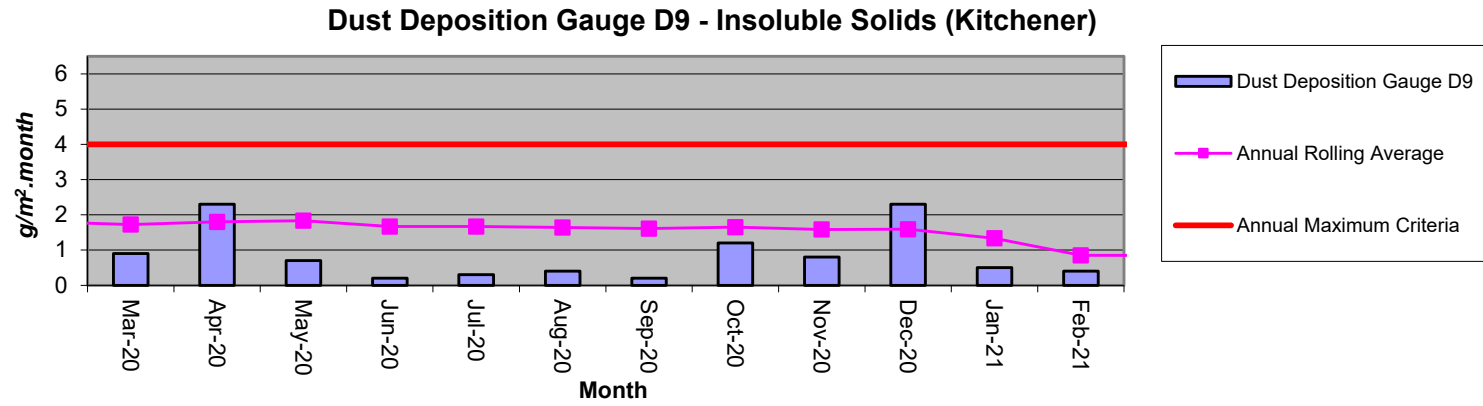
**Dust Deposition Gauge D7 - Insoluble Solids (Pelton Fire Trail)**



**Dust Deposition Gauge D8 - Insoluble Solids (Coney Creek Lane)**

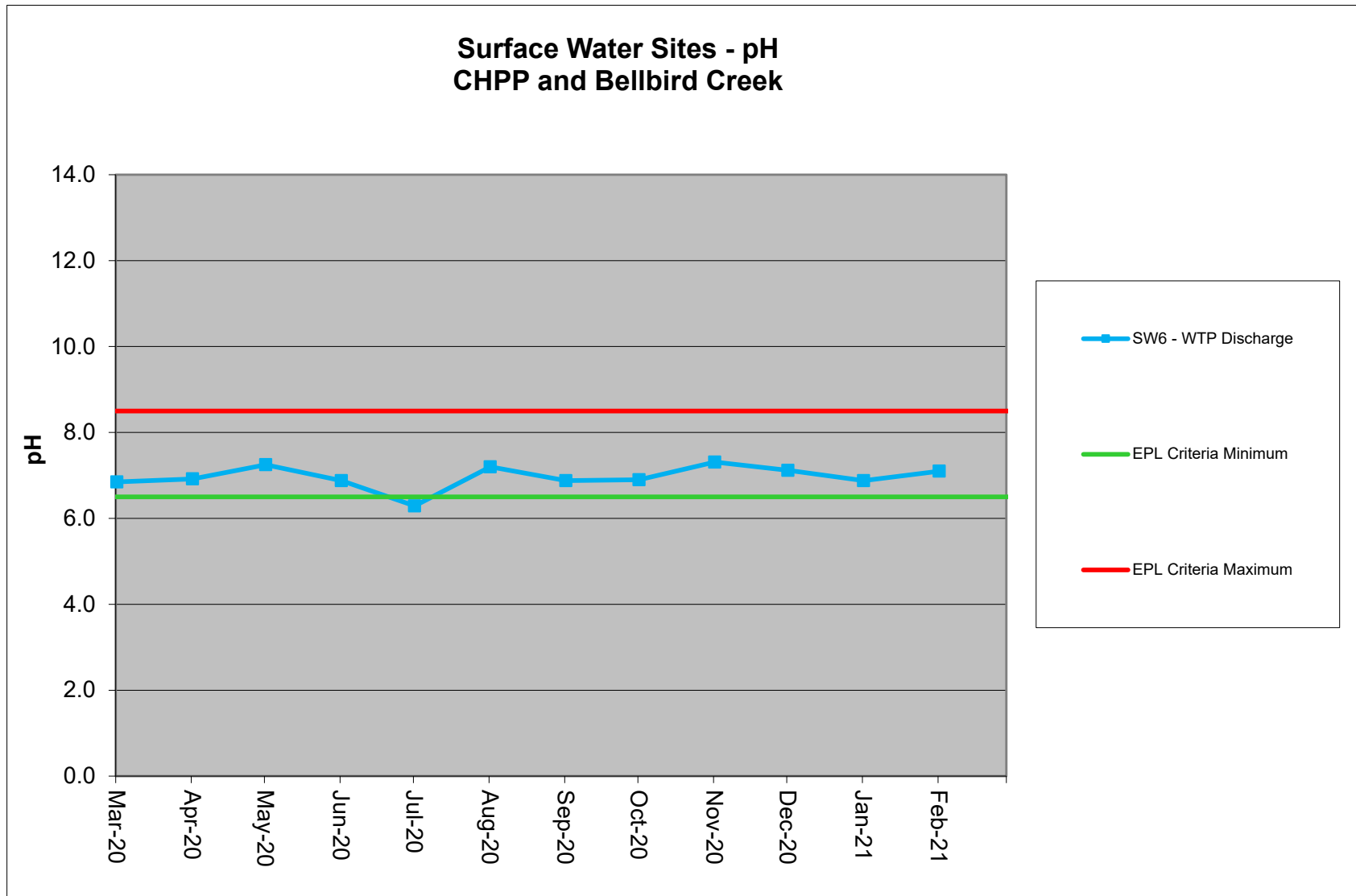


# Air Quality

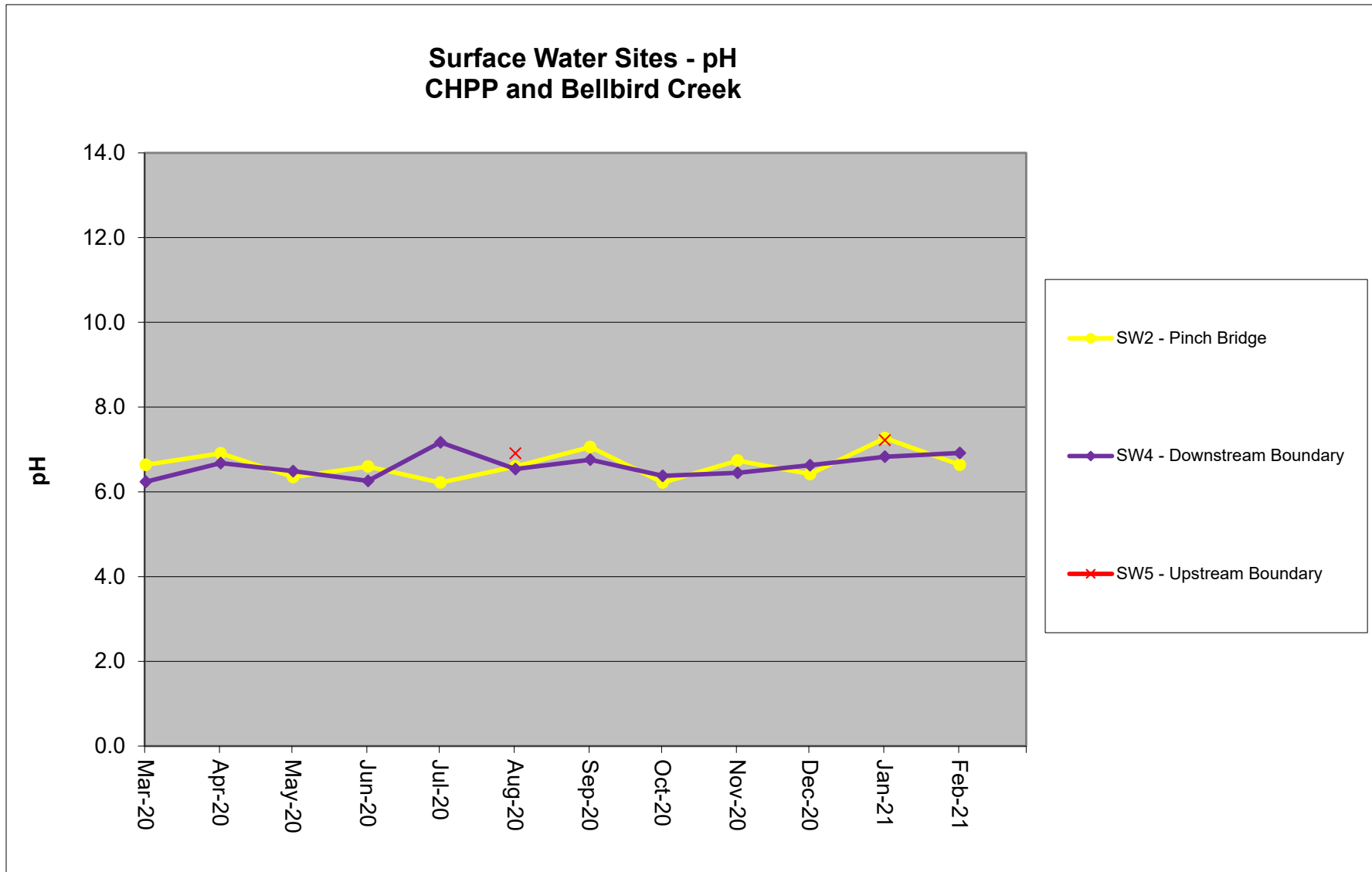




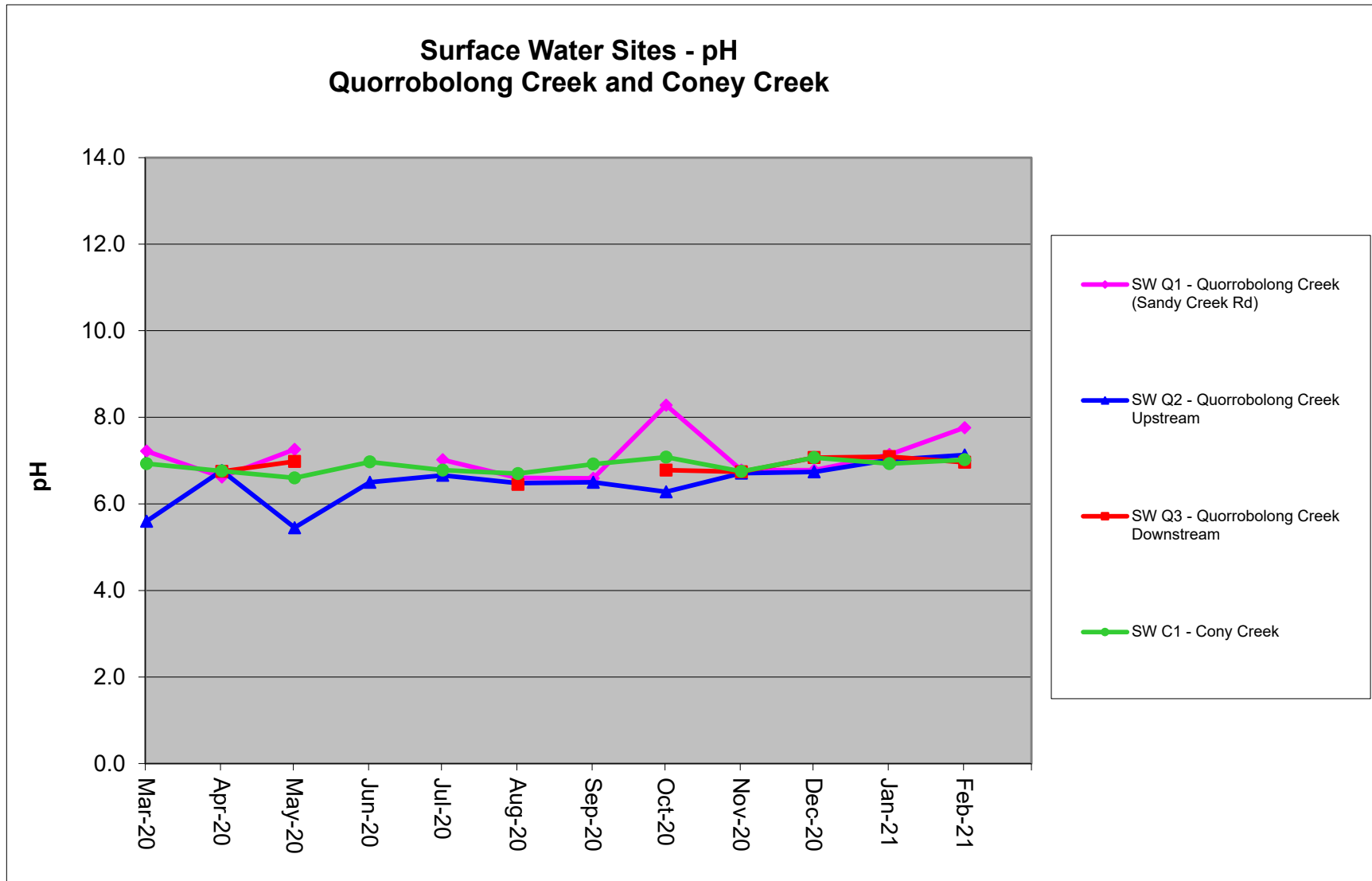
# Water Monitoring



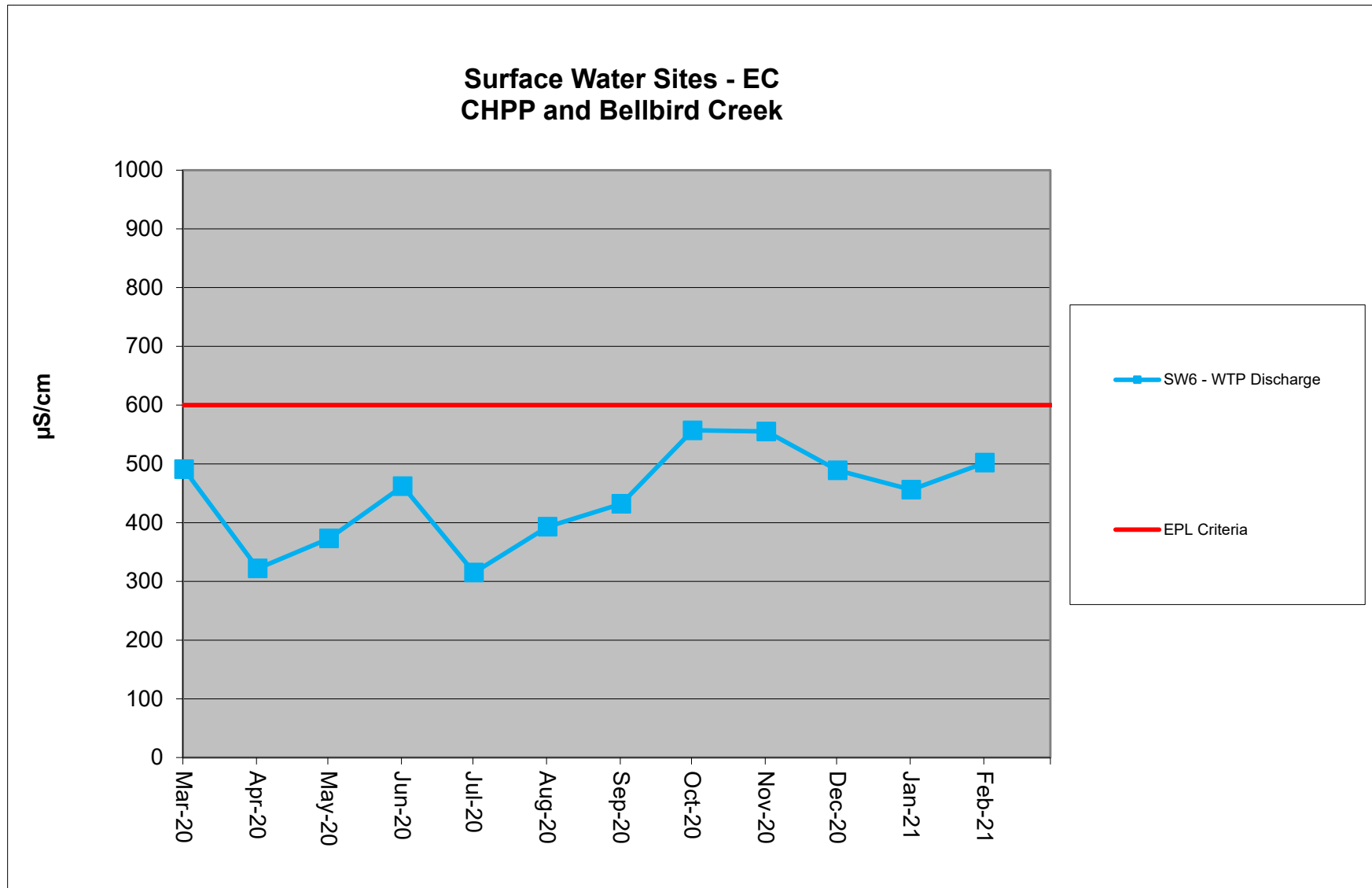
# Water Monitoring



# Water Monitoring

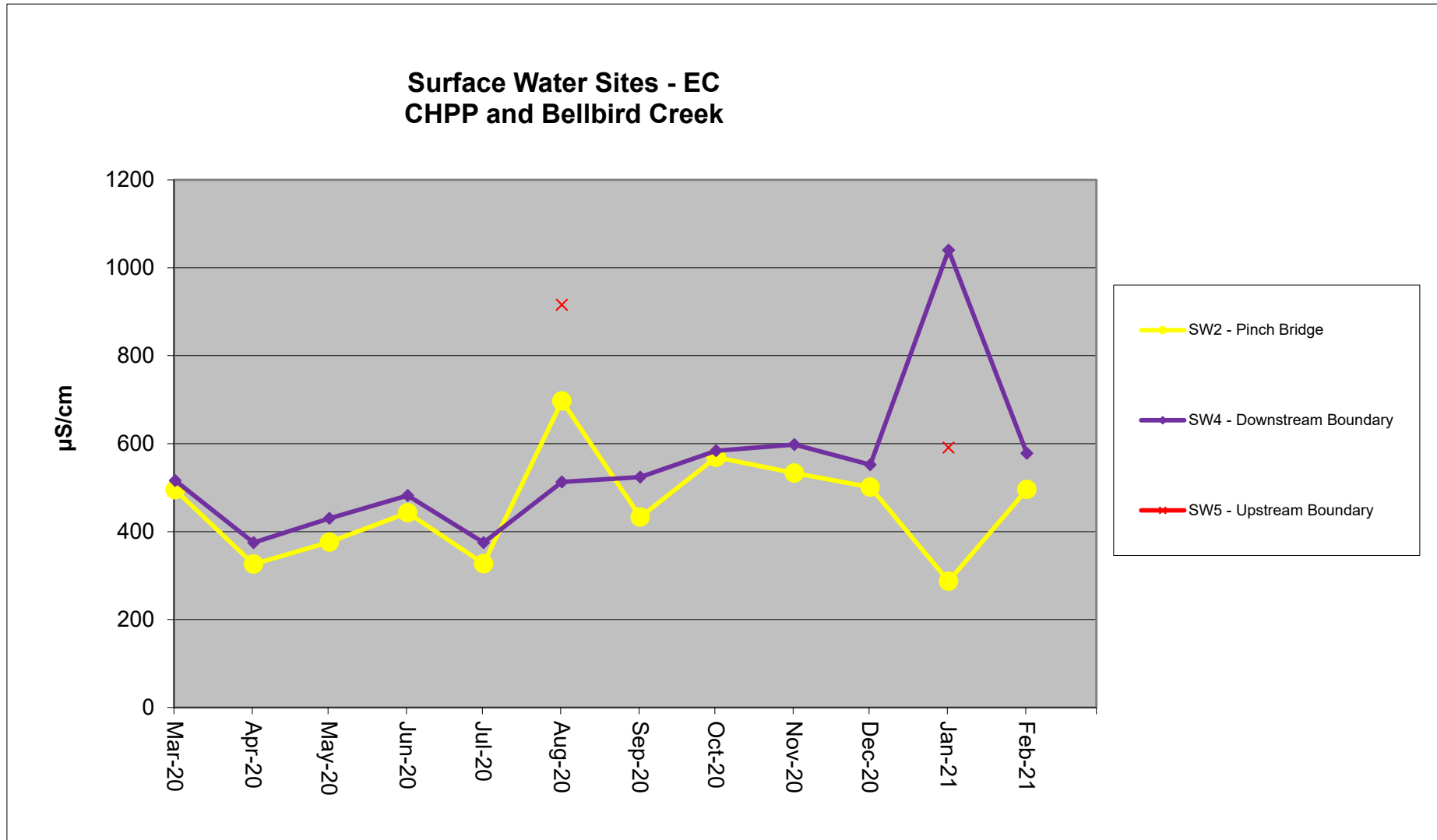


# Water Monitoring

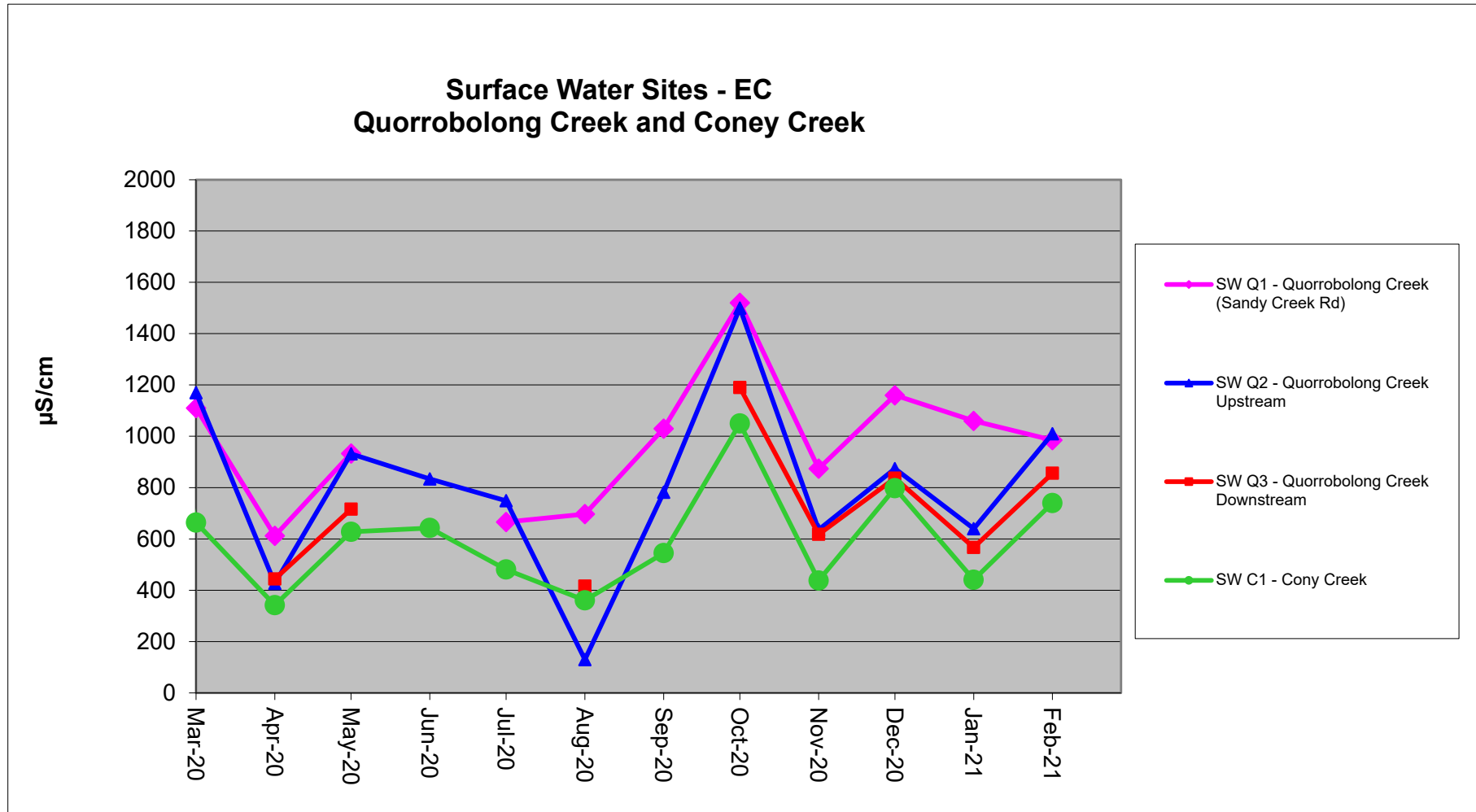




# Water Monitoring

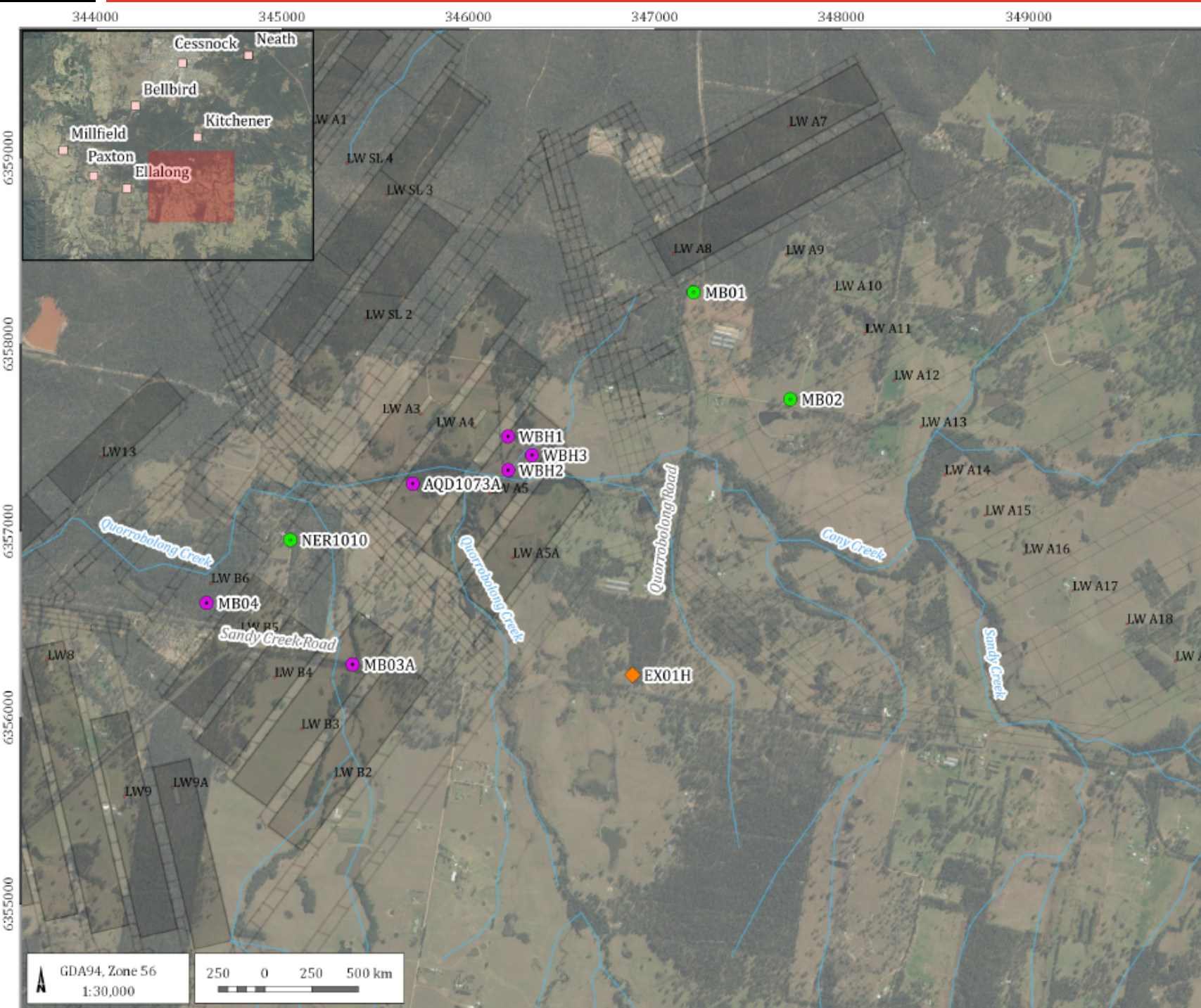


# Water Monitoring



# Groundwater Monitoring

- There are no new trends in groundwater quality or water levels
- Groundwater levels in alluvial monitoring bores show a generally stable trend during Q4 2020
- Groundwater levels in NER1010 and MB02 continue to recover following air lift development in October 2019
- Groundwater pH in alluvial bores displayed no significant trends between Q3 and Q4 2020
- Sandstone aquifer monitoring bores recorded variable results with MB01 recording a decrease in pH while MB02 continued to increase in pH
- Groundwater EC values decreased throughout all alluvial and sandstone aquifer monitoring bores, except for WBH3. Moderate rainfall throughout Q4 2020 has contributed to a reduction in EC values in these bores



**LEGEND**

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

Yancoal - Austar Coal Mine  
Groundwater Monitoring (G1828I)

**Austar monitoring bore and VWP locations**

DATE  
24/09/2019

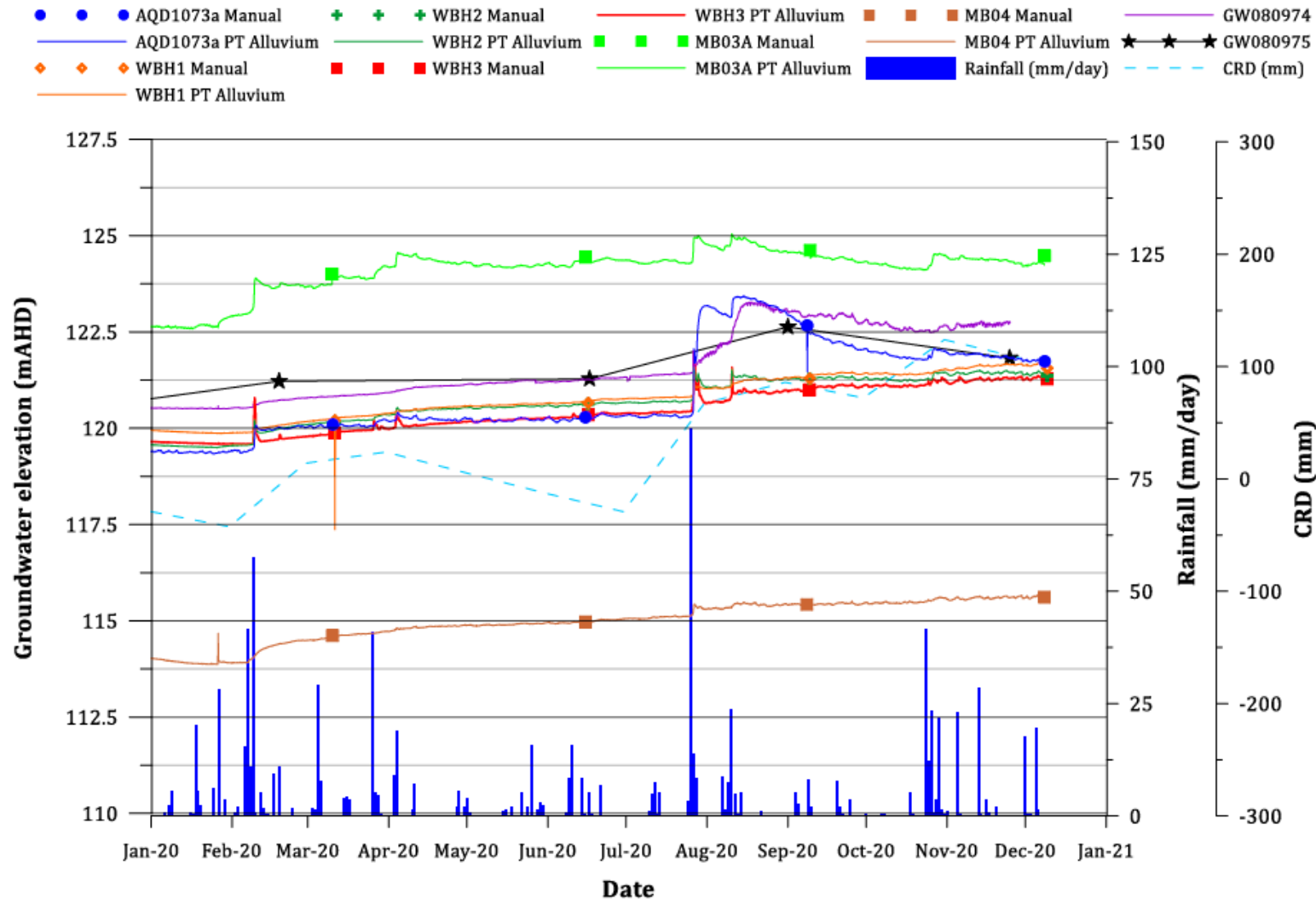
FIGURE No:

**2.1**





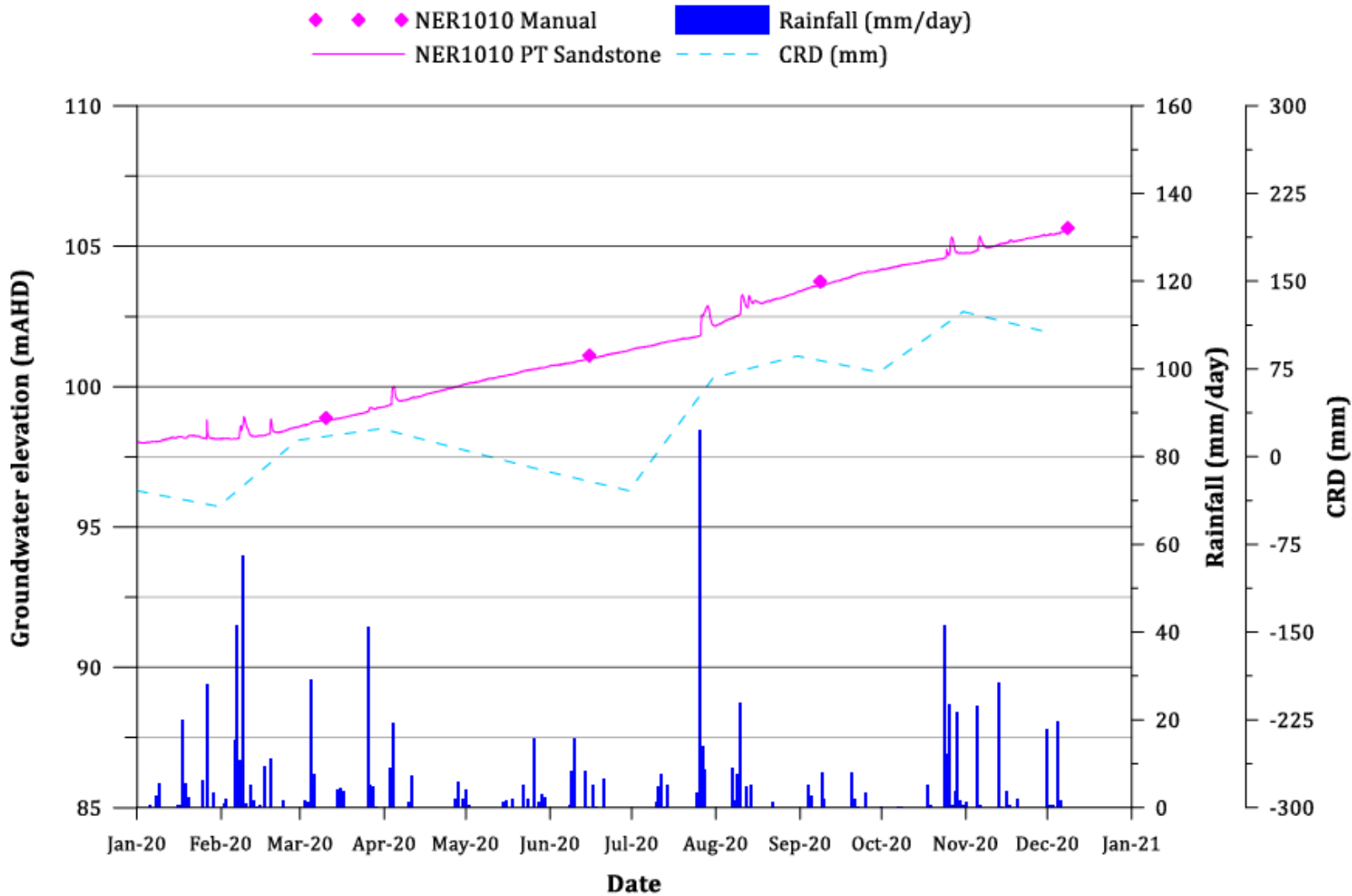
# Groundwater Monitoring



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

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

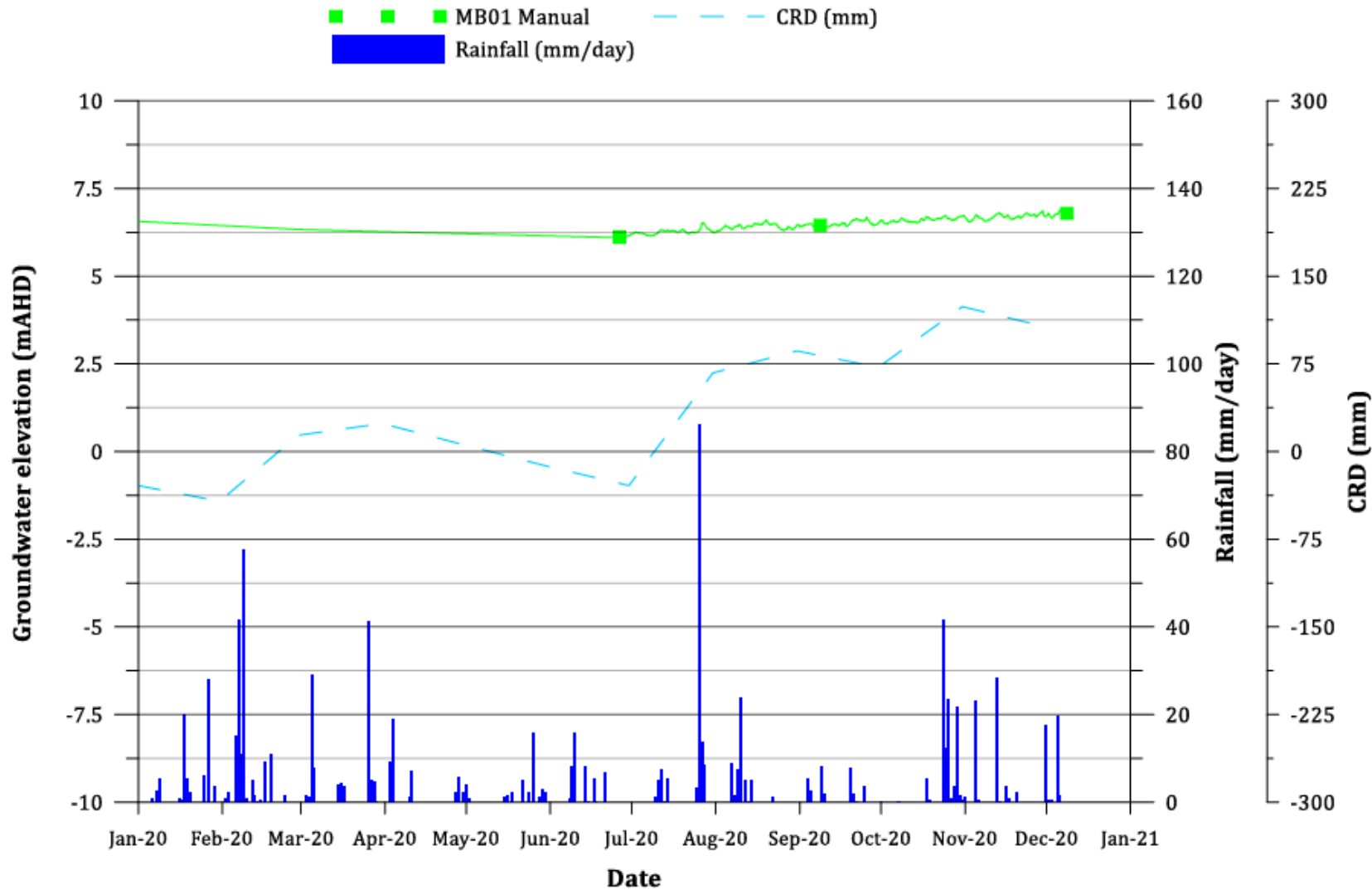
# Groundwater Monitoring



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

NER1010 groundwater level hydrograph

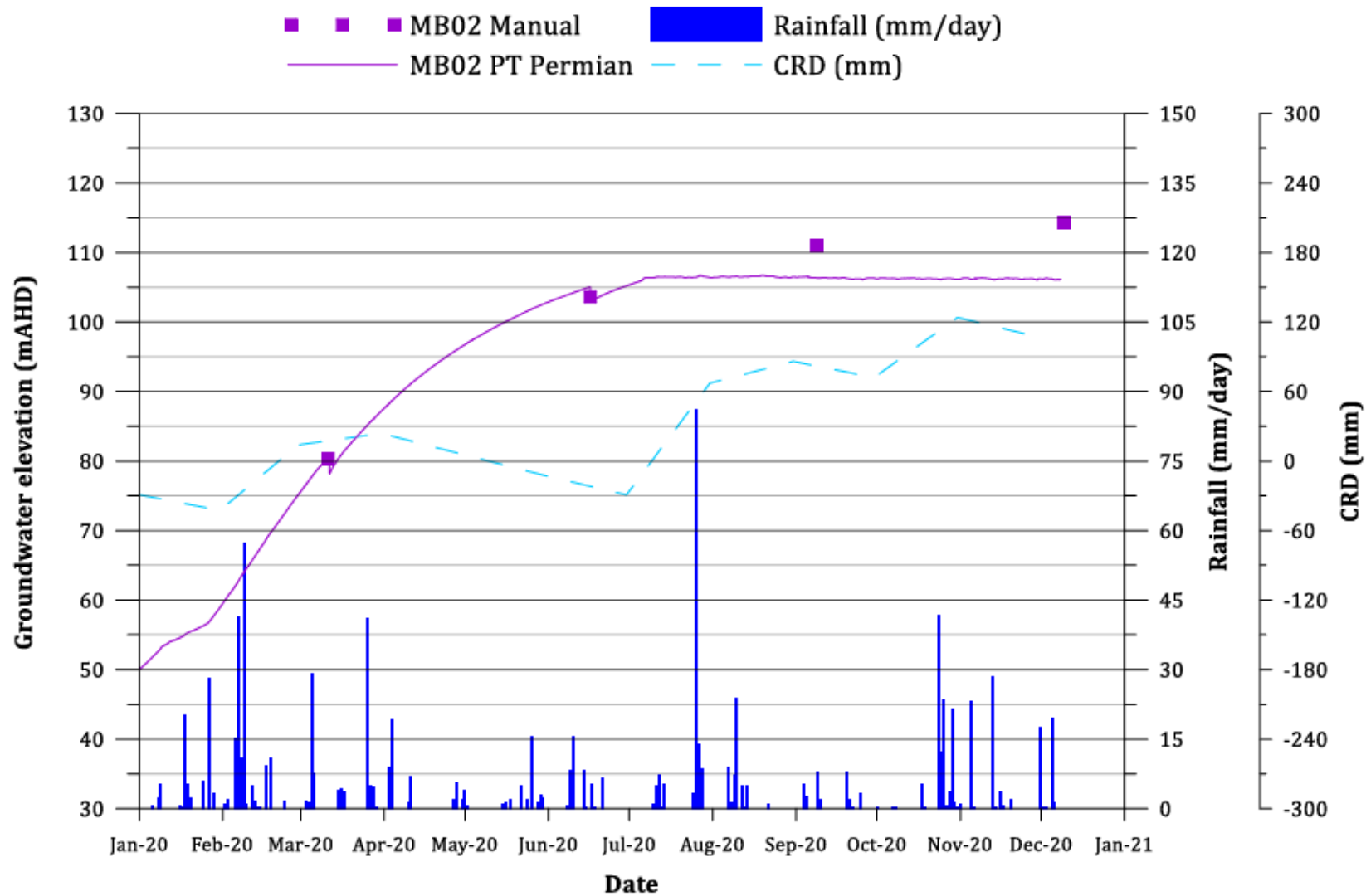
# Groundwater Monitoring



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

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

# Groundwater Monitoring



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

Stage 3 MB02 sandstone aquifer groundwater level hydrograph



# Noise Monitoring

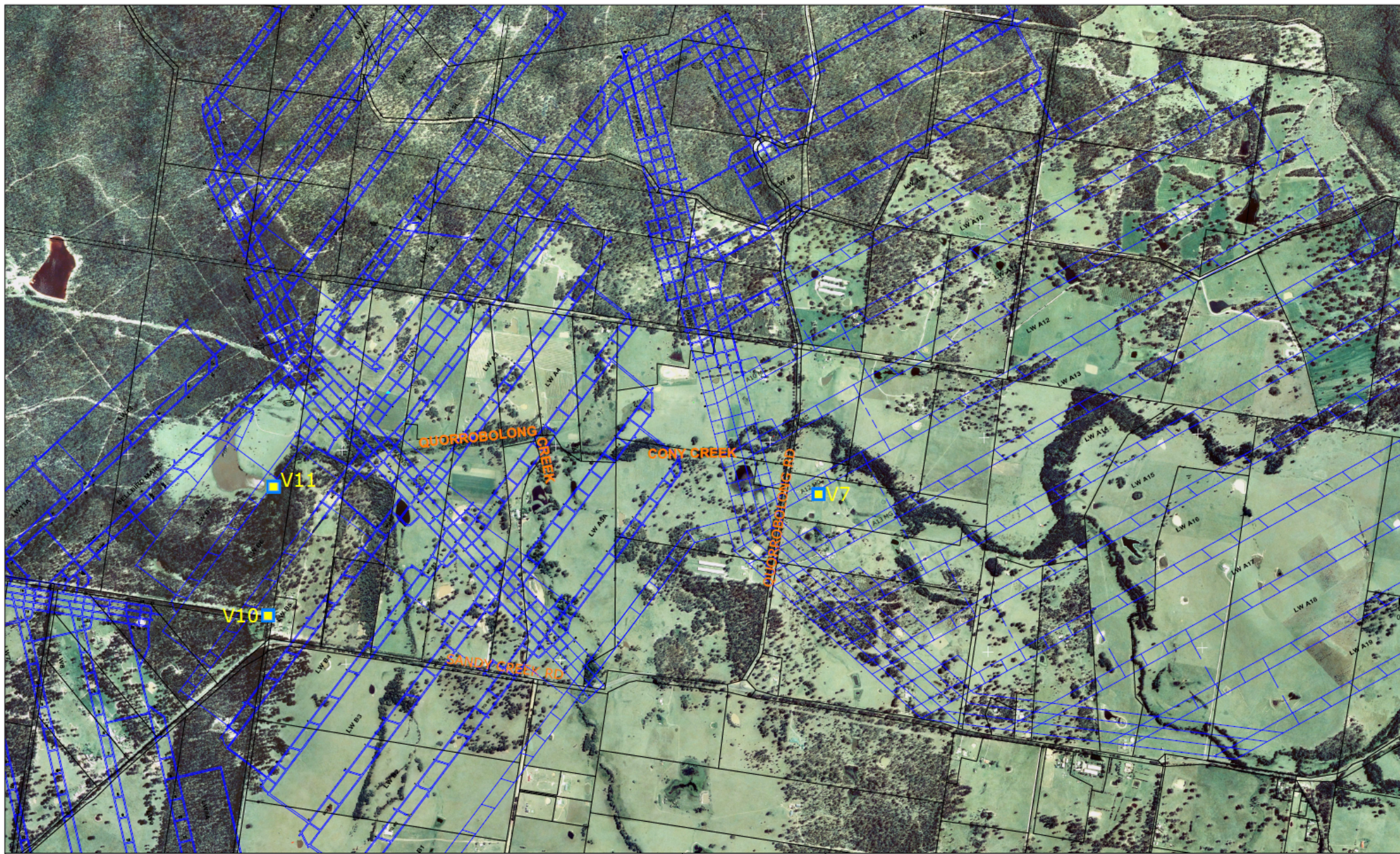
## Since last CCC meeting (26 August 2020 – 23 March 2021)

- NIL noise exceedances since last meeting
- CHPP and associated infrastructure not operational
- Ventilation fans, surface water pumps, drift and shaft haulage remain operational
- RO water treatment plant continues to operate

## Since last CCC meeting (26 August 2020 – 23 March 2021)

- **Monitor V7 – 345 Quorrobolong Road**
  - Monitoring commenced 11 June 2013
  - No new vibration events recorded greater than 1mm/s on any axis
- **Monitor V11 – above LWB6**
  - Monitoring commenced 19 July 2017
  - No new vibration events recorded greater than 1mm/s on any axis
- **Monitor V10 – above LWB5**
  - Monitoring commenced 28 August 2017
  - 2 new vibration events recorded greater than 1mm/s on any axis
  - Ranging between 1.42-2.23 mm/s peak vibration
- Minimal risk of cosmetic damage criteria 15 mm/s (BS 7385:1993)





LEGEND: ■ V7 Vibration Monitors

DRAWN  
J. Chadwick  
DATE  
21/1/2019  
CHECKED  
C. McCormack  
APPROVED  
C. McCormack

# AUSTAR COAL MINE

TITLE  
**Figure 11: Vibration Monitoring Locations**

SCALE  
Not to scale

DRAWING No.  
Environmental/ Monitoring Plan

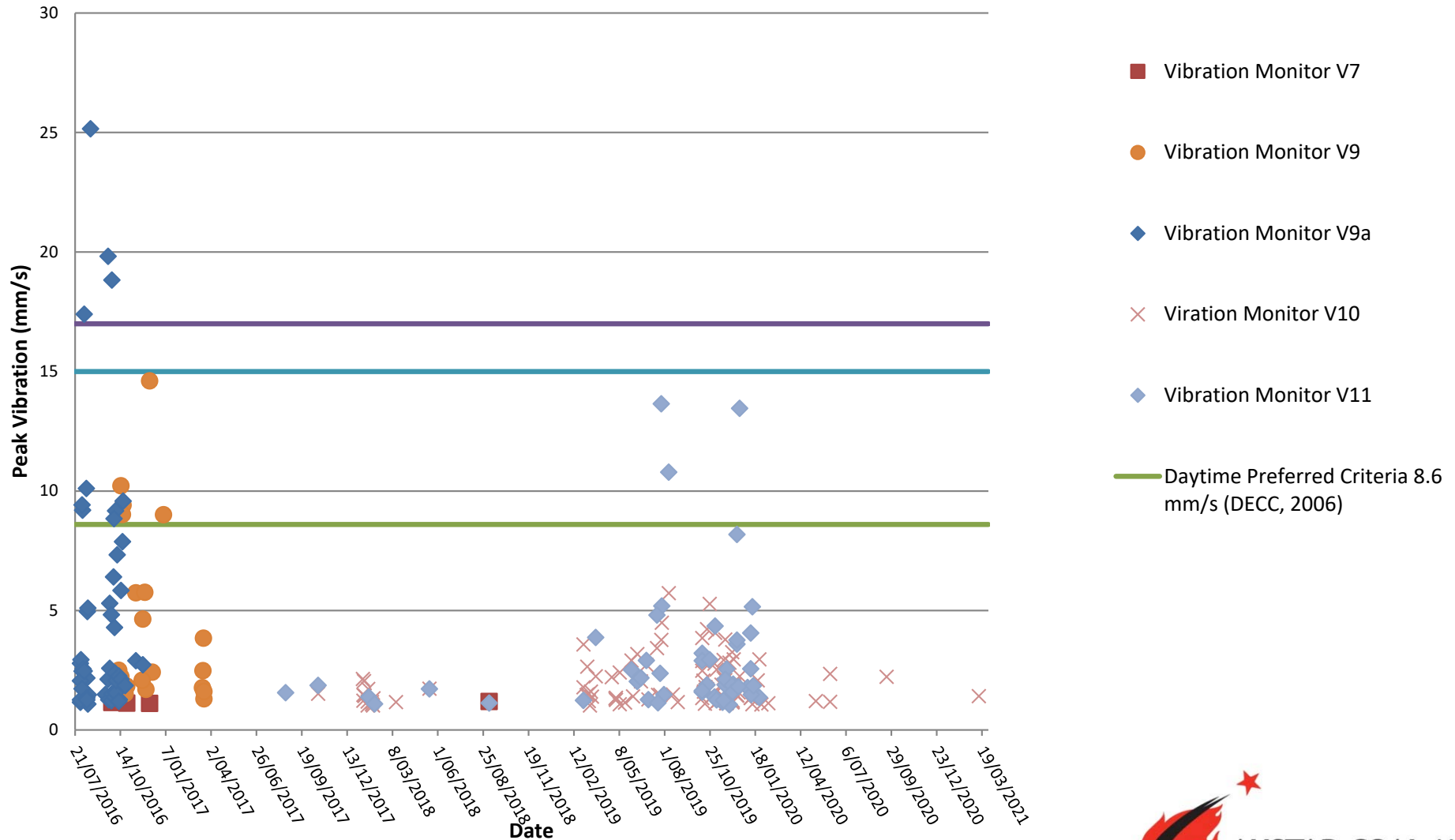
A3





# Vibration

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





# Community Complaints

## Since last CCC meeting (25 August 2020 – 23 March 2021)

- NIL community complaints since last meeting

# General Business



## Community Sponsorship and Donations

### Community Support Program 2020 successful applicants

- Bellbird Public School P&C Association
- Branxton Croquet Club
- Cessnock Evening Country Women's Association
- Hunter Hands of Hope
- Hunter Prelude Early Intervention
- Nulkaba Public School

### Community Donations

- Cessnock High School Presentation



## Independent Environmental Audit – DPIE

- Independent Audit site visit component from 21 – 23 October
- Conducted by SLR Consulting who were endorsed by DPIE
- Demonstrated a high degree of compliance with Development Consent, Environmental Protection Licence and Mining Lease conditions
- Audit findings were risk assessed and classed as compliant, non-compliant (low, medium or high risk), non-compliant (administrative)
- A total of 709 conditions were reviewed, 312 were not triggered in the audit period, 343 were compliant
- There were 6 low risk non-compliances and 11 administrative non-compliances identified. Nine non-compliances had been self-reported in Annual Reviews over the three year audit period

## Independent Environmental Audit – DPIE Continued

The following general areas of improvement were noted during the audit:

- Spill kits should be located at the pump in the orange staining clean water drain
- Continue to liaise with the EPA with regard to noise management and the implementation (or suspension) of the PRP
- Minor administrative updates are required to management plans to:
  - reflect transition to Care and Maintenance and any appropriate changes to environmental management
  - Include document control to state when they are reviewed and what triggered the review
- Improve Annual Review reporting, including inclusion of long-term trend data



## Independent Environmental Audit – DPIE Continued

The following areas of good performance were noted during the audit:

- Austar staff were very well prepared for the audit
- Austar had excellent record keeping during the audit period
- No excessive dust or noise emissions were noted during the site inspection
- Good housekeeping and hydrocarbon management
- Appropriate waste management
- Minimal evidence of erosion or sedimentation around the site
- Good weed and bushfire management
- Recent rehabilitation at the Aberdare REA and West Pit well established, good cover
- Regular repair and replacement of erosion and sediment controls
- Based on information provided the site has a good relationship with the Community

## Reports and Studies in Preparation / Review

- Environmental Management Strategy and Management Plans currently under review for transition from care and maintenance to closure and to be lodged with DPIE for approval

## Completed Reports and Studies

- Annual Review 2020 lodged with and approved by DPIE
- EPL Annual Return submitted to EPA in February 2021
- Independent Audit Report submitted to DPIE in December 2020
- Mining Operations Plan (MOP) Amendment A submitted to the Resources Regulator July 2020 and approved in March 2021
- Rehabilitation relinquishment forms for exploration boreholes submitted to Resources Regulator

## Bushfire Management

- Bushfire Hazard Reduction Certificate issued by NSW Rural Fire Service for Austar land at Pelton. Burn to be undertaken November to May due to ecological constraints
- Future hazard reduction burn areas identified on Austar owned land adjacent to Bellbird and Ellalong
- Continued management of fire breaks and fire trails



## Other Business –



# Next Meeting / Close