

Austar Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Daily Meeting Room – Austar Coal Mine Pit Top, Middle Road, Paxton
 Time: 10:00am – 11:00am
 Date: 21 September 2022

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

1	Welcome
	MMH – Opened the meeting 09:59am 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. AB acknowledged Yancoal as one of the sponsors of her Women in Mining Scholarship.
3	Confirmation of Previous Minutes
	The minutes of the previous meeting were considered representative of that meeting. AB moved, CM seconded.

4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes
	nil
5	Correspondence
	MMH noted correspondence: 13/4/22 -CM to MMH – Site Investigations Program update
6	Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints, Community Support
	<p>Detail in presentation.</p> <p>WF- Some air pumps left underground to maintain vital roads. Looking to commence sealing at drift, 1 shaft and 3 shaft on around 11 October. Today no. 2 shaft pumps have been turned off and probably won't start again for a number of years.</p> <p>MMH – seems to have got here very quickly – are we ahead of where we planned to be?</p> <p>WF – we are progressing very well and are currently sitting at 645 days accident free.</p> <p>MMH – with the pumps turned off, will the water impact the underground mine?</p> <p>WF – unsure and still doing studies on this. We do see water response underground after rains. We are currently flooding workings.</p> <p>Around 20-30 people will be on site to decommission surface facilities.</p> <p>AB – will security still be around?</p> <p>WF – security is still around, and trespassing is still an issue.</p>
7	Closure Planning Update
	<p>Detail in presentation.</p> <p>Questions raised around sink holes – why does Subsidence Advisory repair and not Austar? CM replied that this was due to the subsidence being caused by old historic underground workings under surface lease held by Austar.</p> <p>General discussion around heritage items and in particular what might happen to the railway – railway plans are not finalised yet.</p>
8	General Business
	<p>Detail in presentation.</p> <p>AS – will there be further exploration bores drilled?</p> <p>WF – there will be a number of groundwater monitoring bores drilled but no further exploration holes.</p>
9	Meeting Dates
	22 March 2023 and 20 September 2023 tentative dates to be confirmed. Committee members to advise of any conflicts.
10	Meeting Closed
	MMH – Thanked the CCC and wished everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and declared the meeting closed at 11:01am .

Recorded: Peter Madden and Julie McNaughton 21 September 2022

AUSTAR COAL MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

21 September 2022

Carly McCormack
ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SUPERINTENDENT

Agenda

1. Welcome / Apologies
2. Declaration of interests
3. Confirmation of previous minutes
4. Business arising from previous minutes
5. Correspondence
6. Current activities / Environmental monitoring update / Complaints
7. Mine Closure Planning update
8. General Business
9. Next meeting / Meeting close

Current Activities

'Early Works'

'Early Works' projects are being completed to progress decommissioning while detailed closure planning is being undertaken.

Early Works include:

- Decommissioning and removal of redundant mining equipment
- Partial/temporary mine sealing to minimise ongoing mine maintenance requirements prior to permanent sealing activities
- Decommissioning of redundant, non-heritage significant mining infrastructure at the Austar Pit Top and CHPP

Decommissioning Activities

Underground Decommissioning:

- Underground assets (including the longwall) have been brought to the surface for storage or sale
- Power has been disconnected at the pit bottom and a reduction in water pumping is allowing the progressive flooding of areas of the underground during mine withdrawal
- Any assets to remain underground have been decommissioned appropriately (i.e. de-oiled, de-gassed, hydrocarbons removed), surveyed and recorded on a plan as part of the site records

Decommissioning Activities

Surface Decommissioning:

- Equipment has been recovered from surface areas
- Decommissioning of equipment at the CHPP has also been progressed including the removal of conveyor belts, pumps and motors from the conveyor systems
- The ventilation fans at No. 5 Shaft were decommissioned on 17 March 2022

Mine Sealing

- Partial/temporary mine sealing is being undertaken to minimise ongoing mine maintenance requirements prior to permanent sealing activities
- In March 2022, the No. 5 and No. 6 Shafts at the Kitchener SIS were temporarily sealed at the surface with 140 kPa rated engineered designed steel plates
- Preparatory works have been completed for the partial mine sealing at No. 3 and No. 4 Shafts at the Kalingo Infrastructure Area (KIA) and No. 1 Shaft
- The Austar drift is also scheduled for sealing during Early Works

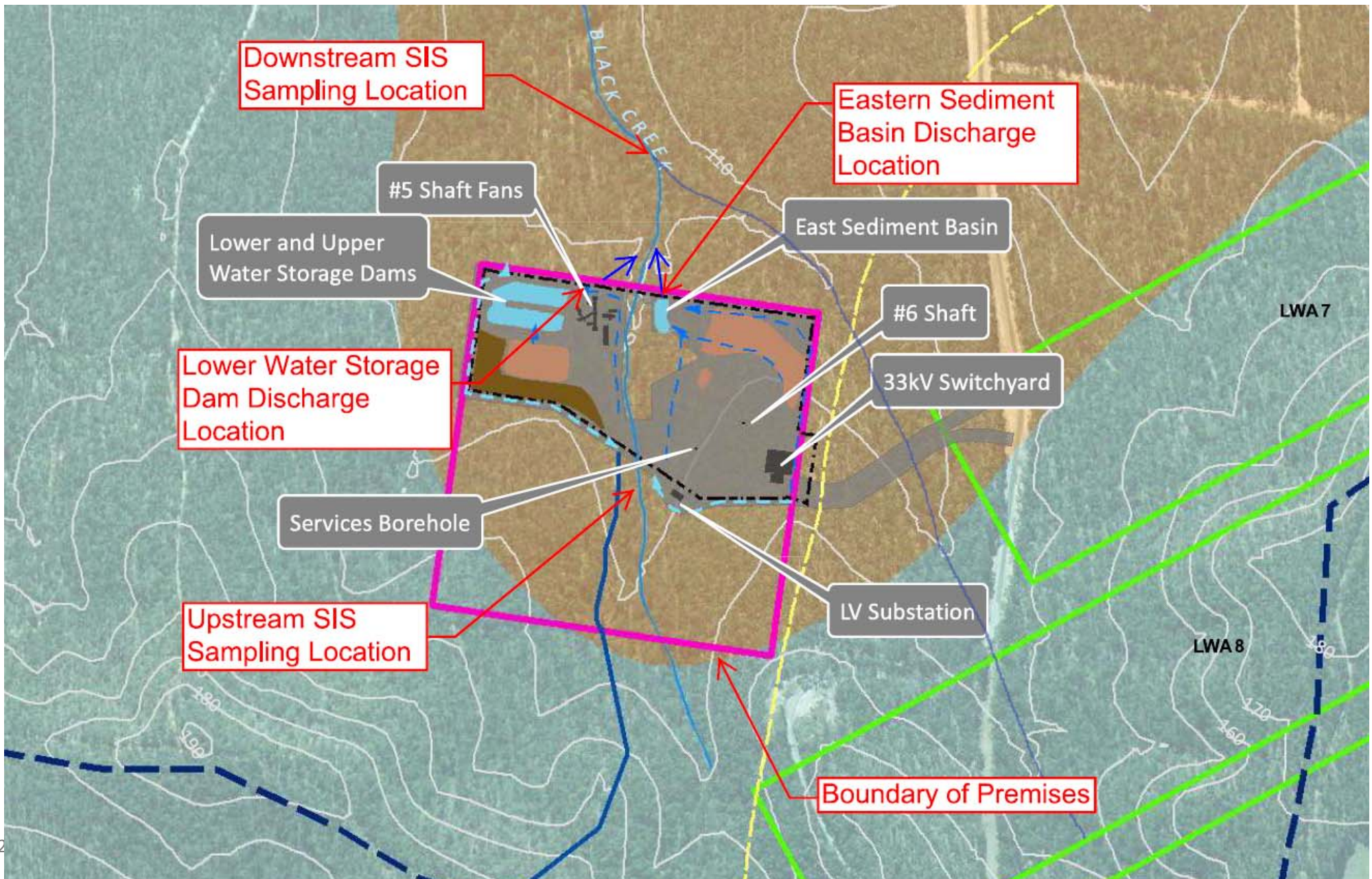
Mine Sealing – Preparation

- Works undertaken to prepare for mine sealing have included:
 - Risk assessment
 - Completion of due diligence assessments for ecology and heritage impacts in accordance with the Astar GDP process
 - Assessment of potential noise impacts
 - Preparation of Environmental Procedures to manage specific potential impacts including noise, traffic and erosion and sediment controls
 - Stakeholder and near neighbour engagement
 - Underground services decommissioned at Kalingo Infrastructure Area – power cut, water isolated and cables removed from service boreholes

Sediment Basins Discharging Offsite – Kitchener SIS

- Incident occurred from 6th to 10th July 2022
- Reported to the EPA under the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP)
- The water discharged off-site from these dams reports to Black Creek
- Greater than design rainfall received – 259mm received from 3/07/22 to 10/07/22 (8 days)
- The Kitchener sediment basins are designed to capture 42.8mm over 5 days
- Additional authorities also notified as per the PIRMP including DPE and Resources Regulator
- Incident reports submitted where required
- No response from the EPA as yet

Environmental Incidents (23 March 2022 – 20 September 2022)



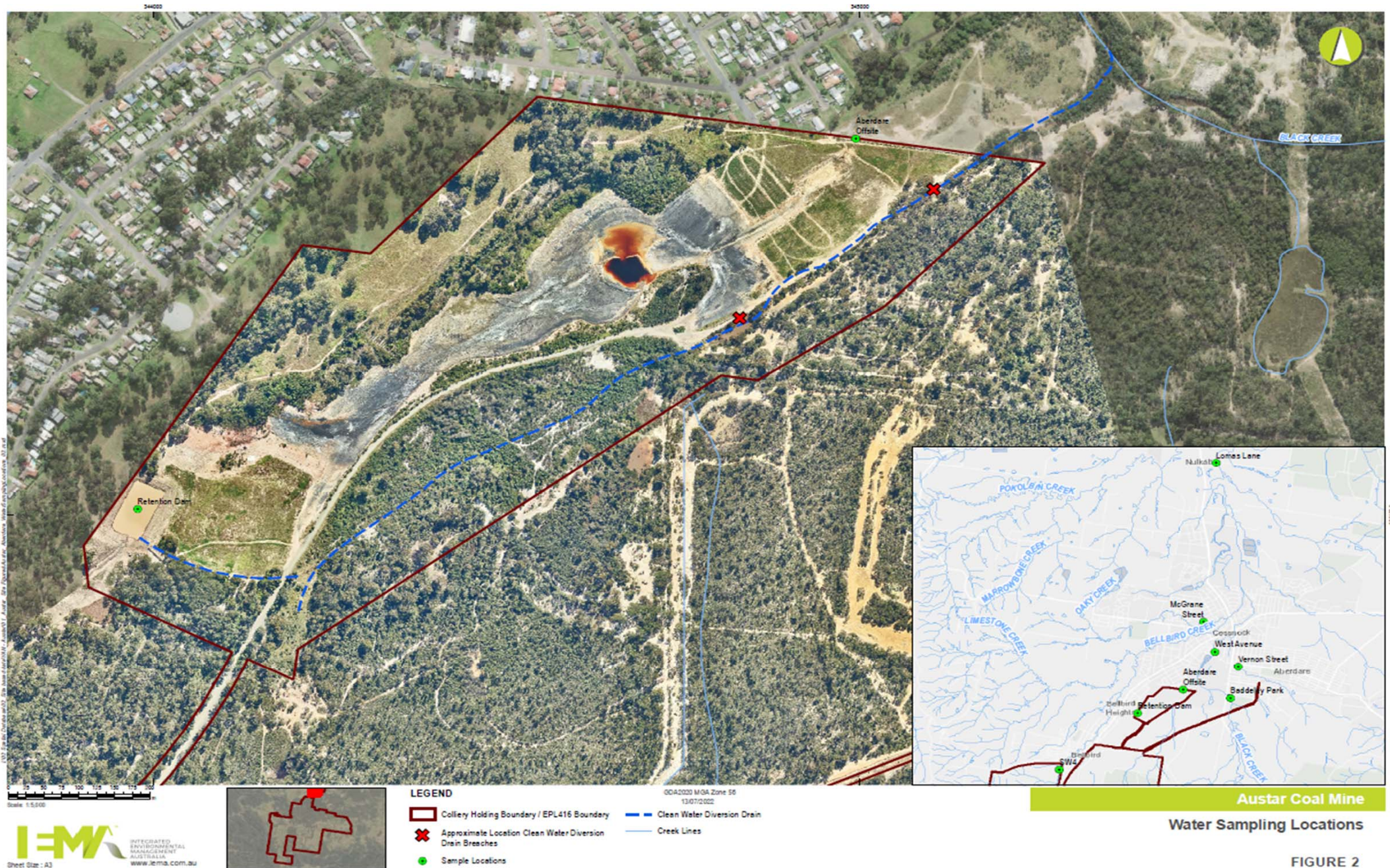
Aberdare Extended Emplacement Area Overflow, West Cessnock

- Incident occurred on 6 July 2022
- Reported to the EPA under the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP)
- The Aberdare Extended Emplacement Area contains an old open cut void. When the site was operational, Austar Coal Mine was progressively filling the void with coarse coal washery rejects prior to capping and rehabilitating.
- The Aberdare Extended Emplacement Area is generally not connected to the surrounding clean water systems with all water that falls within the open cut pit captured directly to the base of the pit to drain to old mine workings.
- At approximately 2:00pm on 5 July 2022 an inspection of the Aberdare Extended Emplacement Area was carried out and it was observed the clean water diversion drain to the south east of the emplacement area had breached its banks in two locations (refer Figure 2) and clean water was flowing into the emplacement area.

Aberdare Extended Emplacement Area Overflow, West Cessnock

- Mitigation actions were implemented immediately to raise the height of the clean water diversion drain bund and carry out repairs
- On Wednesday 6 July 2022 at approximately 7:30am an inspection of the Aberdare Extended Emplacement Area observed water to be leaving the coal reject area at a low flow and mixing with clean water from the breached clean water diversion drain in the north before leaving site
- Actions began immediately to construct a bund and prevent any further flow from the coal reject area
- The water discharged off-site from this emplacement area reports to Black Creek
- Additional authorities also notified as per the PIRMP including DPE and Resources Regulator
- Incident reports submitted where required
- No response from the EPA as yet

Environmental Incidents (23 March 2022 – 20 September 2022)



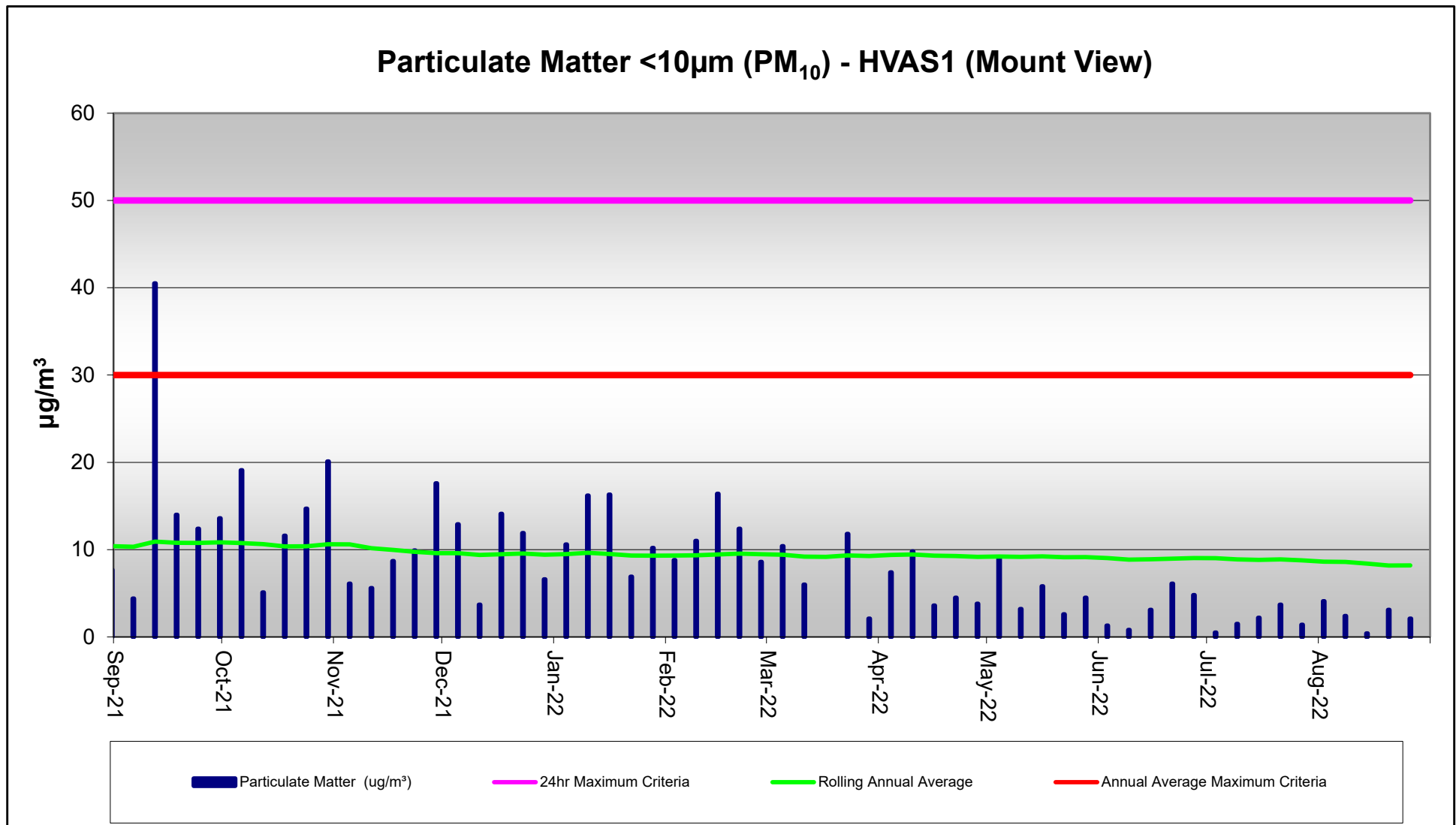
Environmental Incidents

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

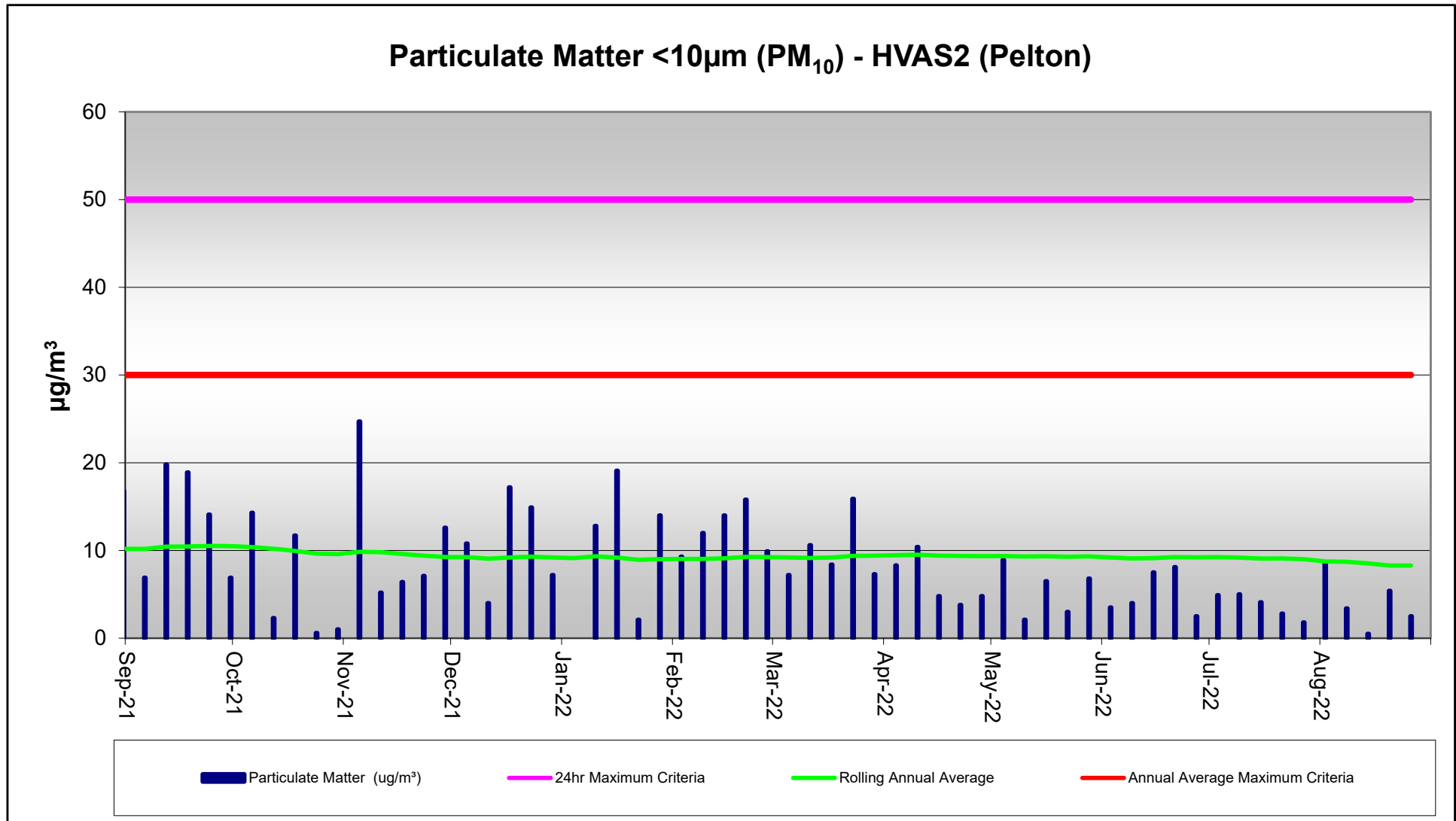
- Reported to NSW EPA in monthly status reports required by EPL
- Orange staining observed during all monitoring events since previous meeting (April-September)
- Notable actions completed to manage the issue:
 - Desilting of the Precipitate Dam, July 2021 (potential contamination source)
 - Monitoring network expanded to inform conceptual site model, July 2021. Review of initial 12 months of monitoring data currently being undertaken.
 - 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

Environmental Monitoring Update

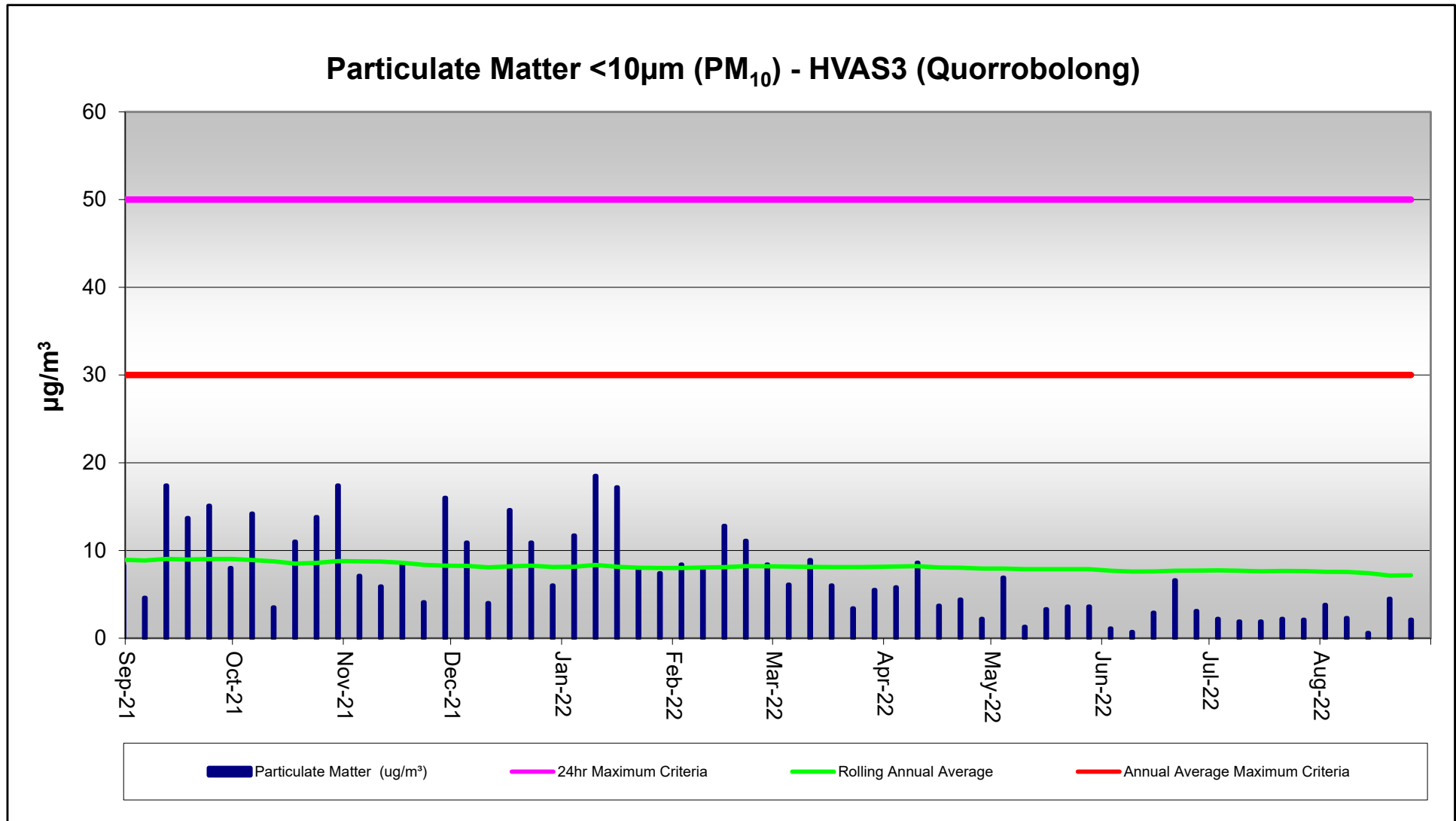
Air Quality



Air Quality

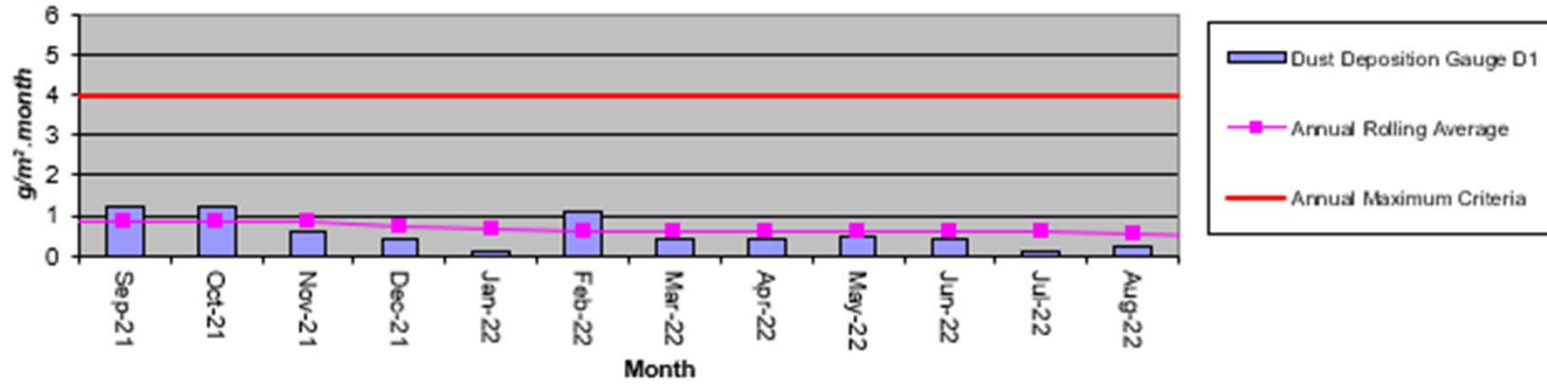


Air Quality

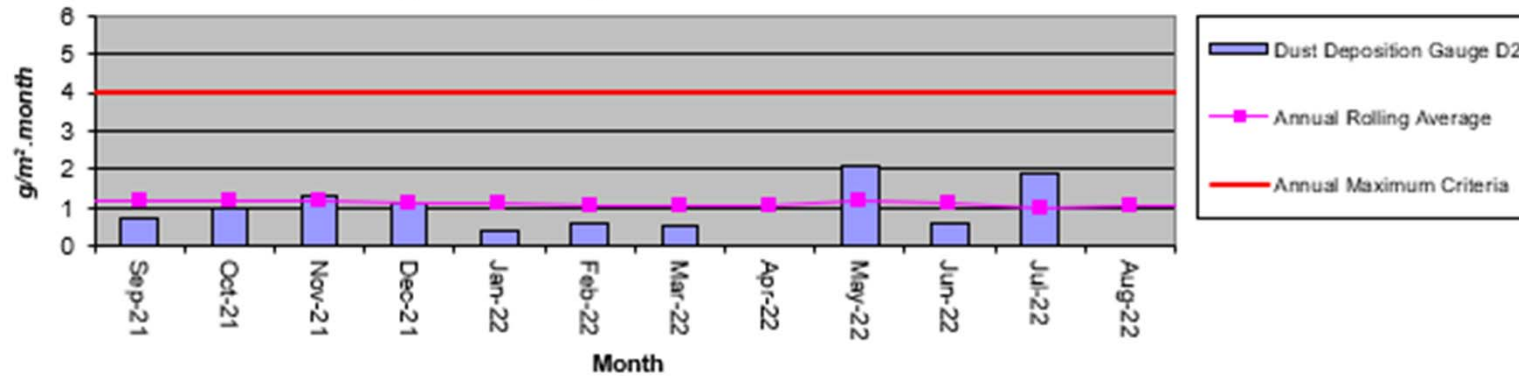


Air Quality

Dust Deposition Gauge D1 - Insoluble Solids

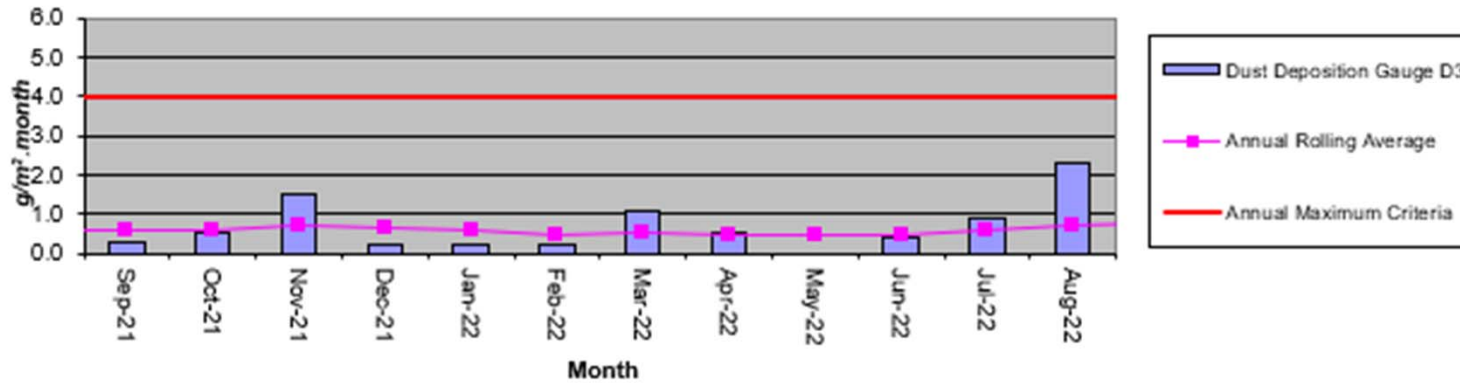


Dust Deposition Gauge D2 - Insoluble Solids

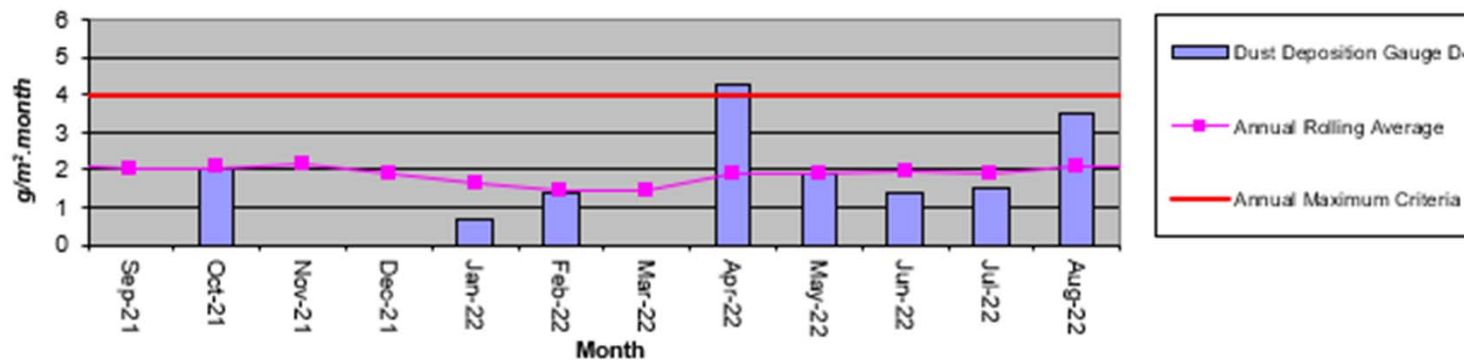


Air Quality

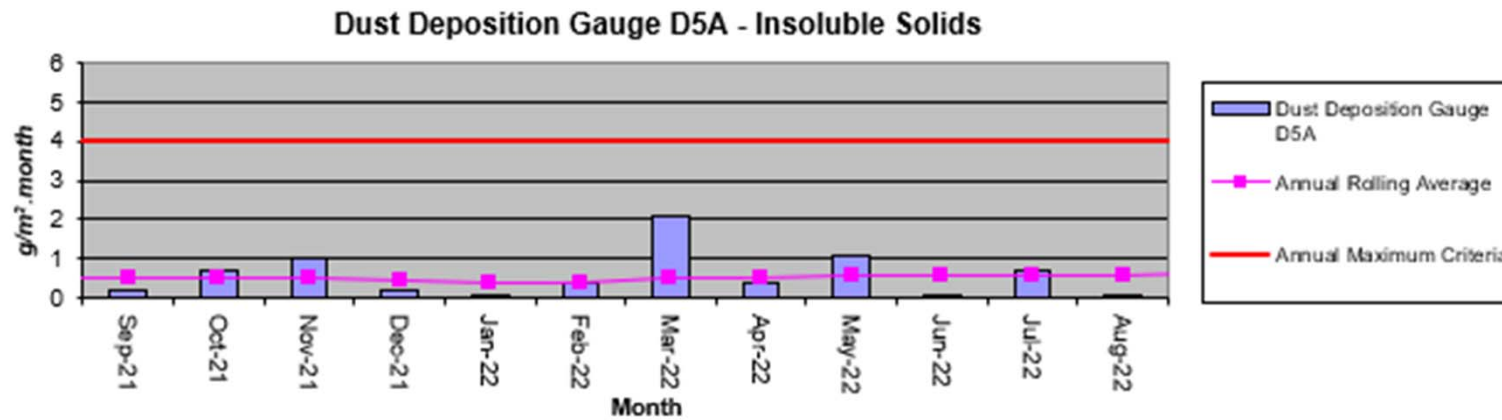
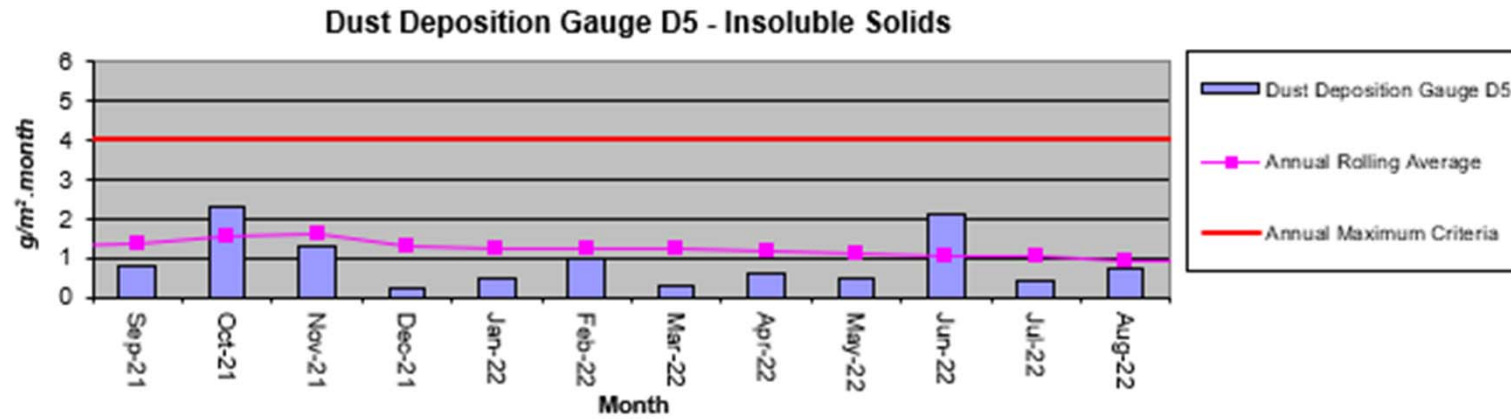
Dust Deposition Gauge D3 - Insoluble Solids



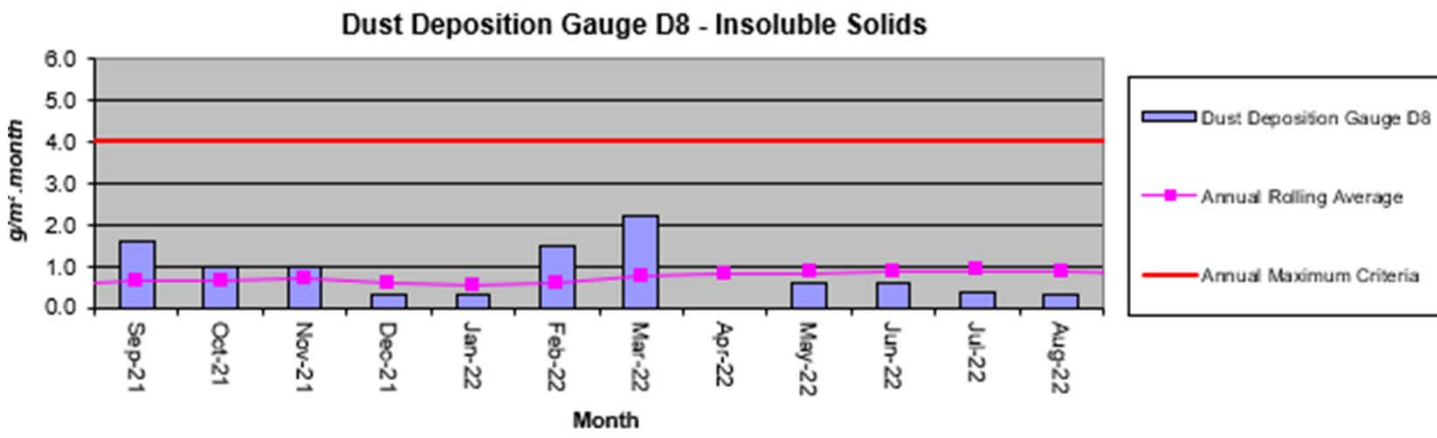
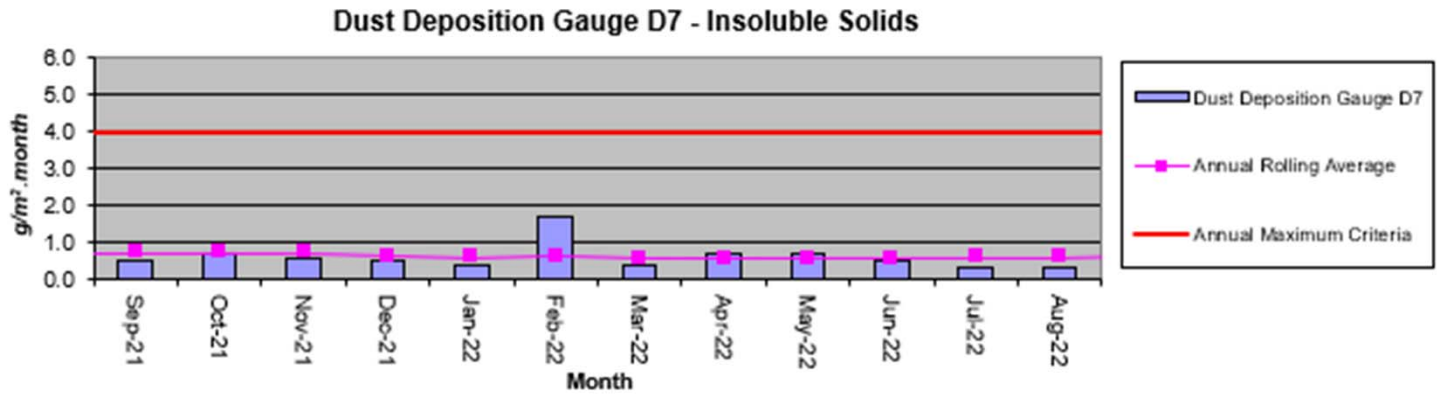
Dust Deposition Gauge D4 - Insoluble Solids



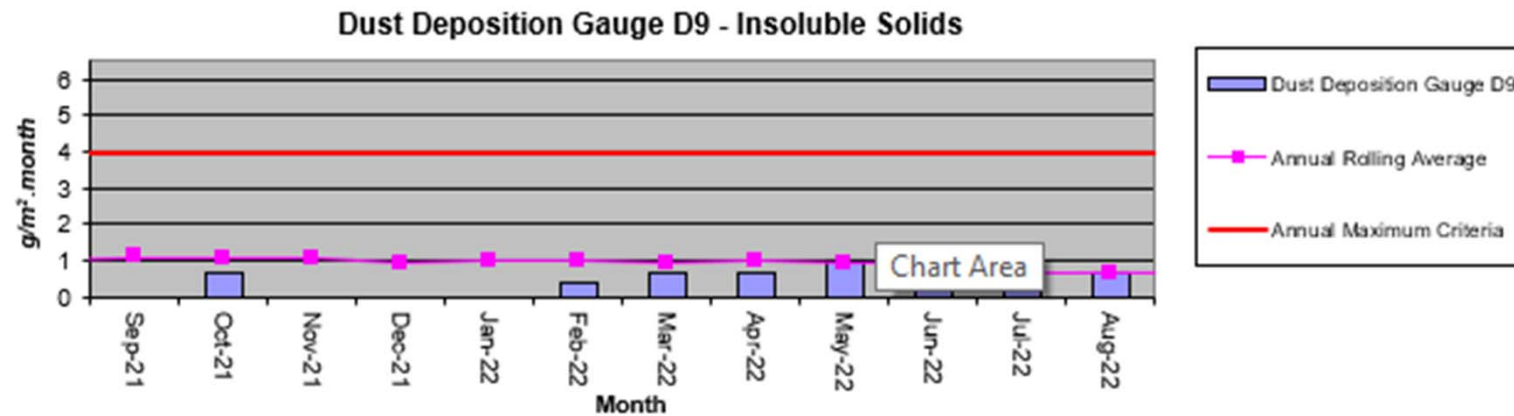
Air Quality



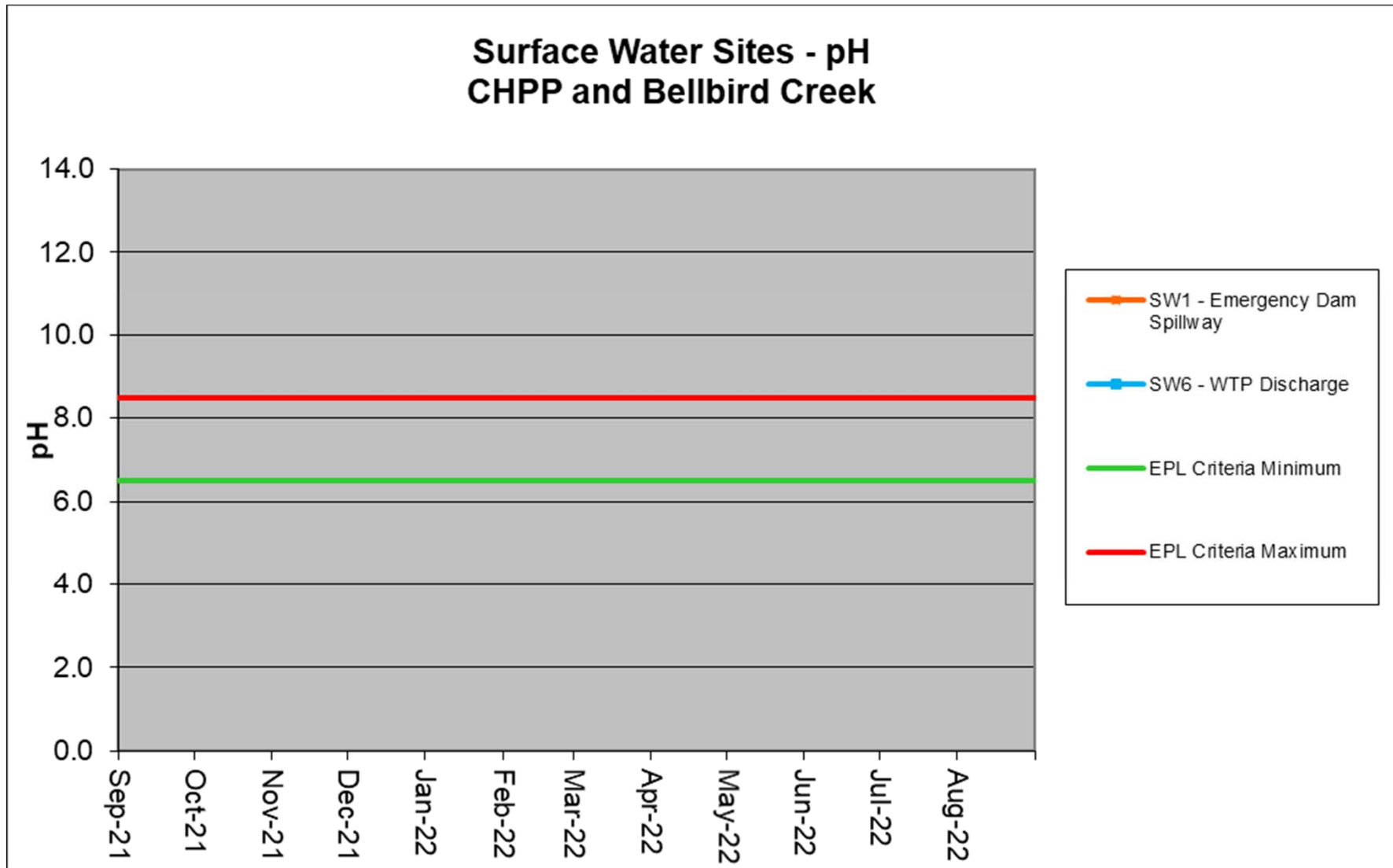
Air Quality



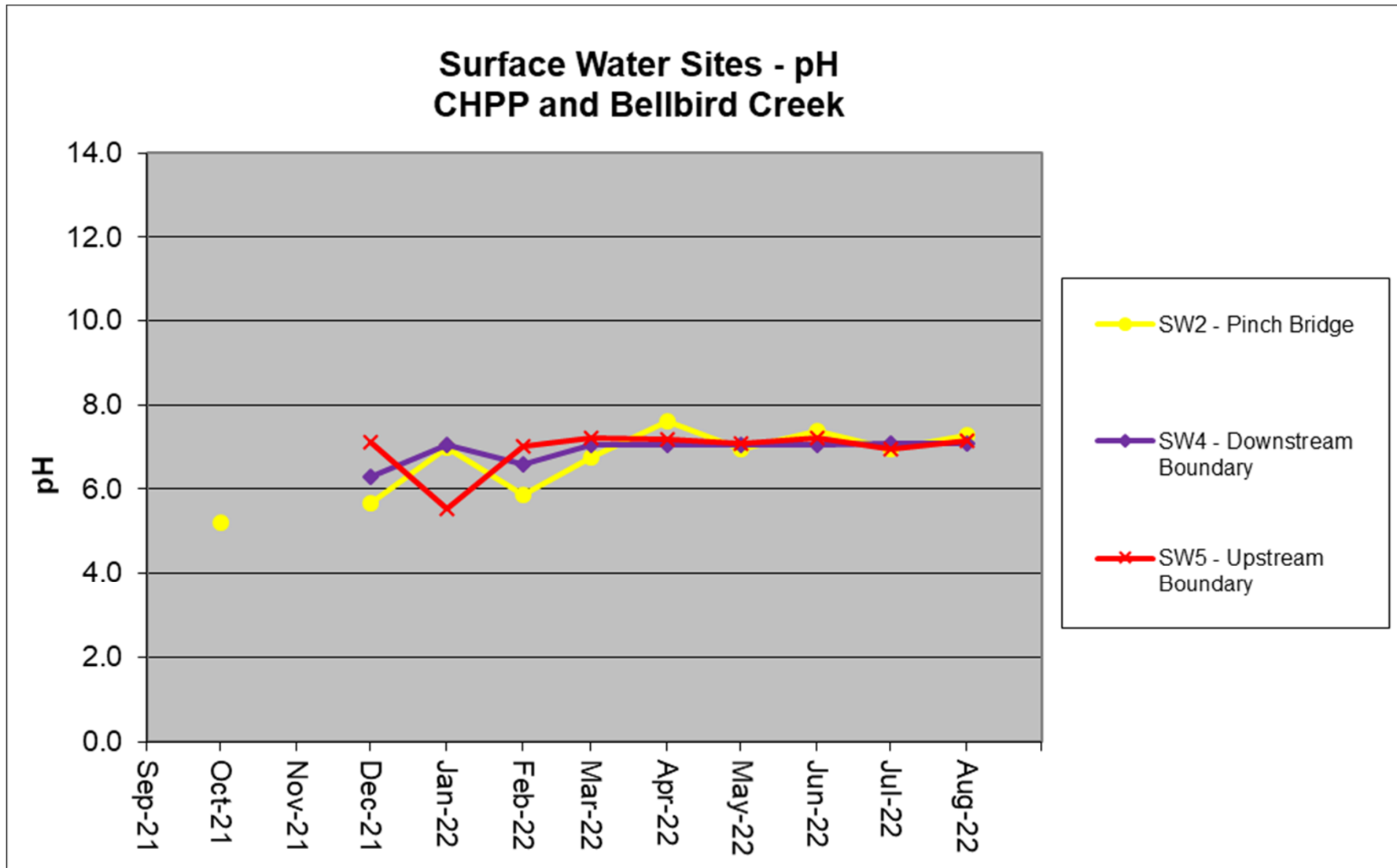
Air Quality



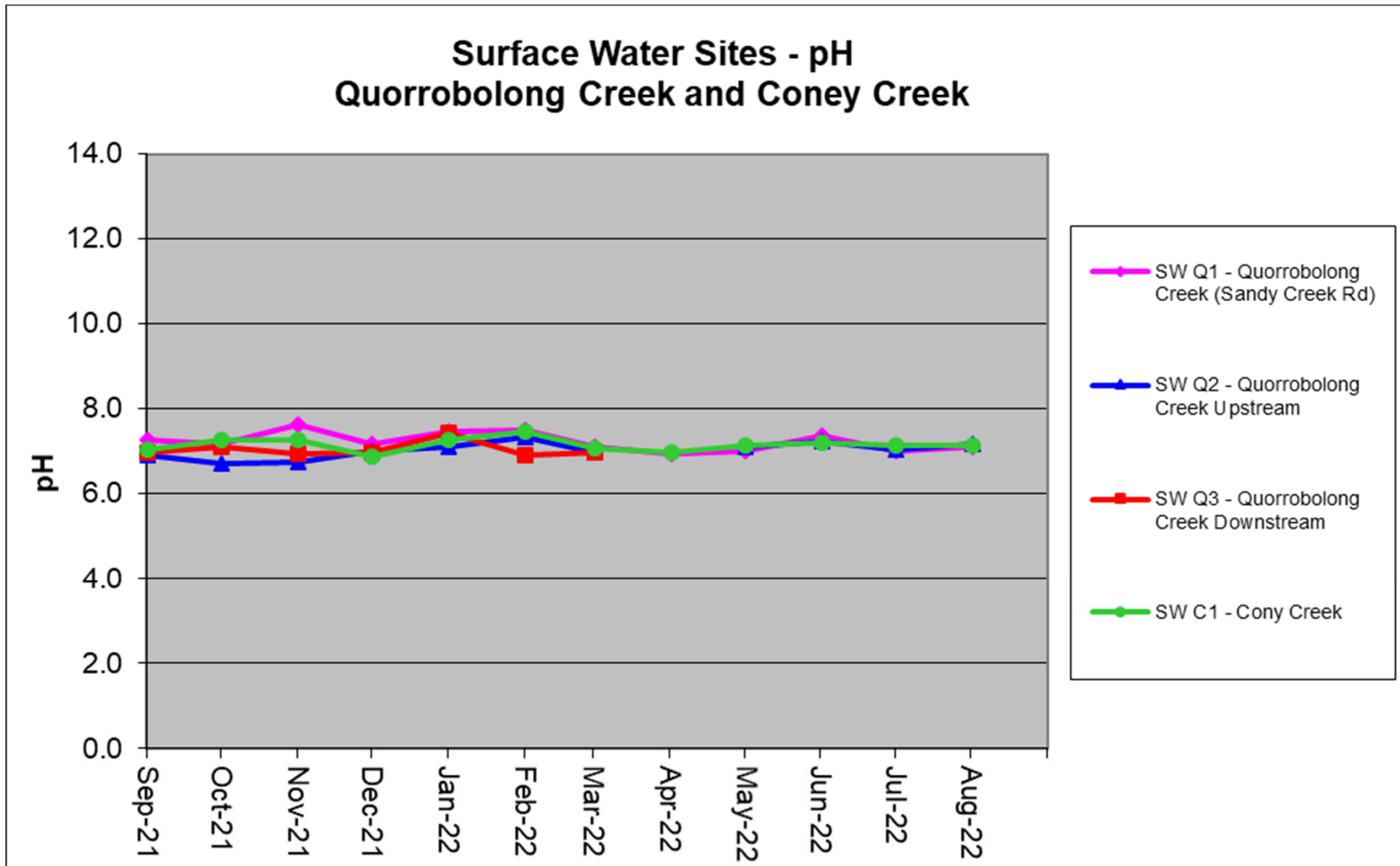
Water Monitoring



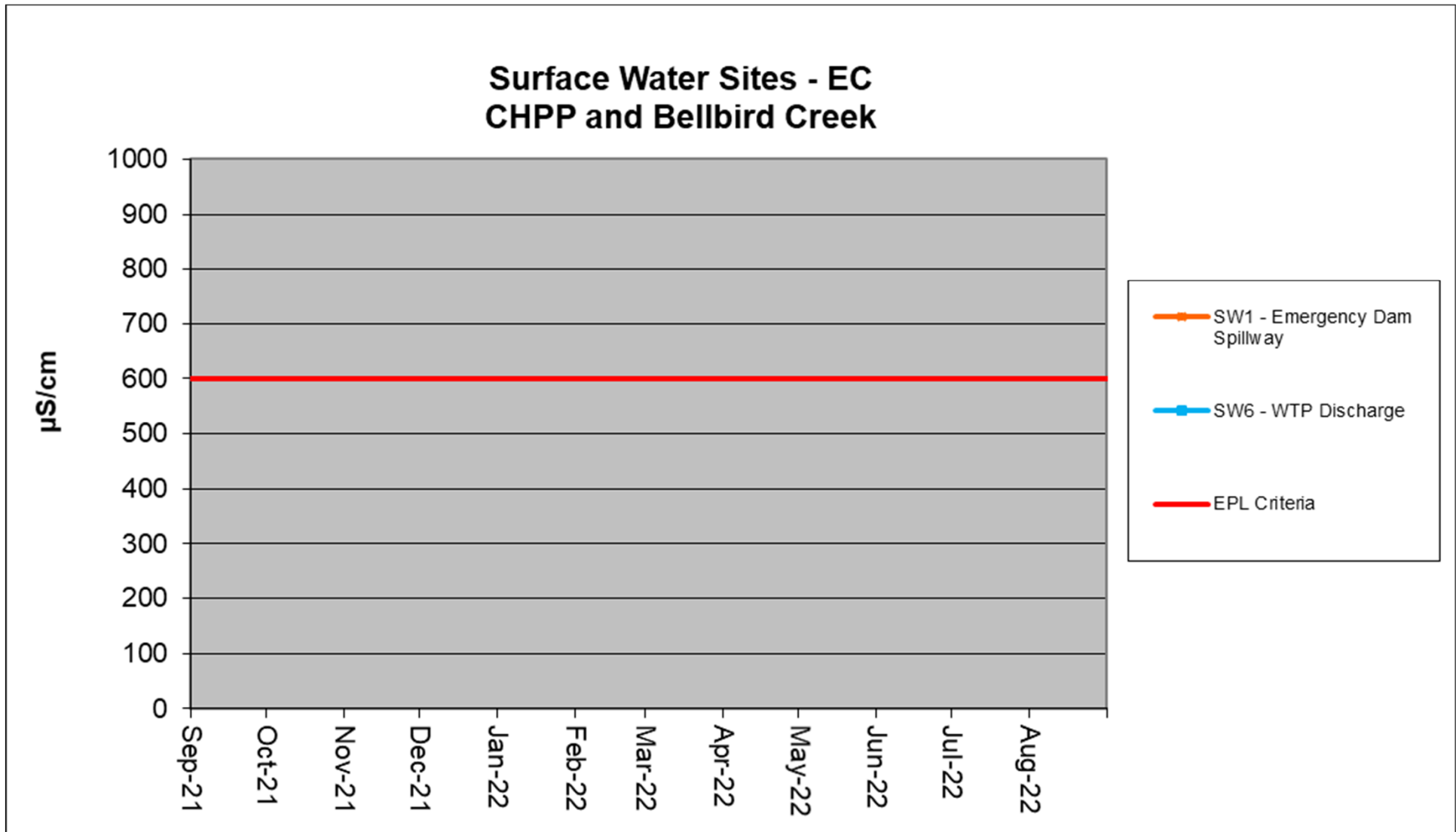
Water Monitoring



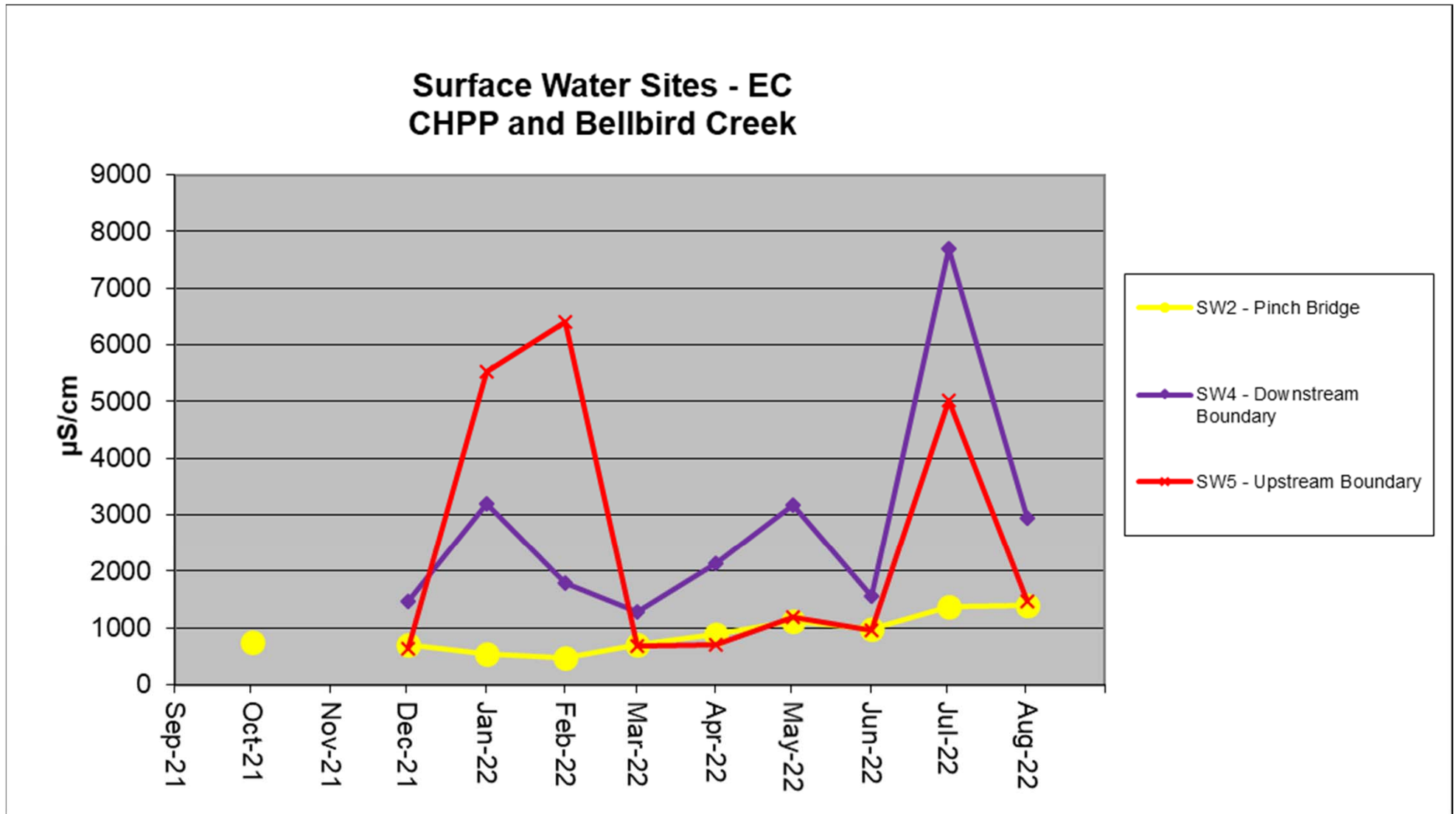
Water Monitoring



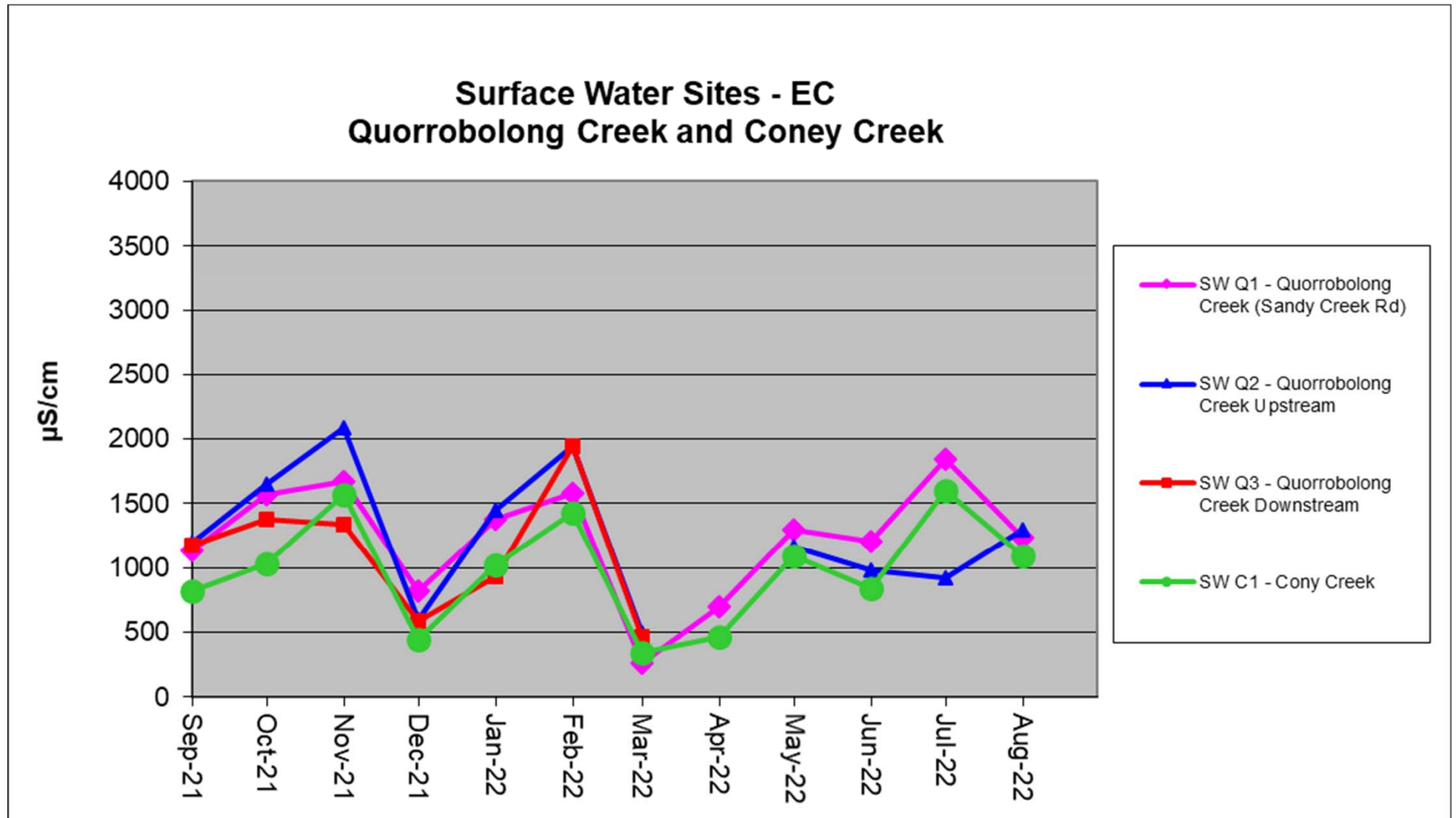
Water Monitoring



Water Monitoring



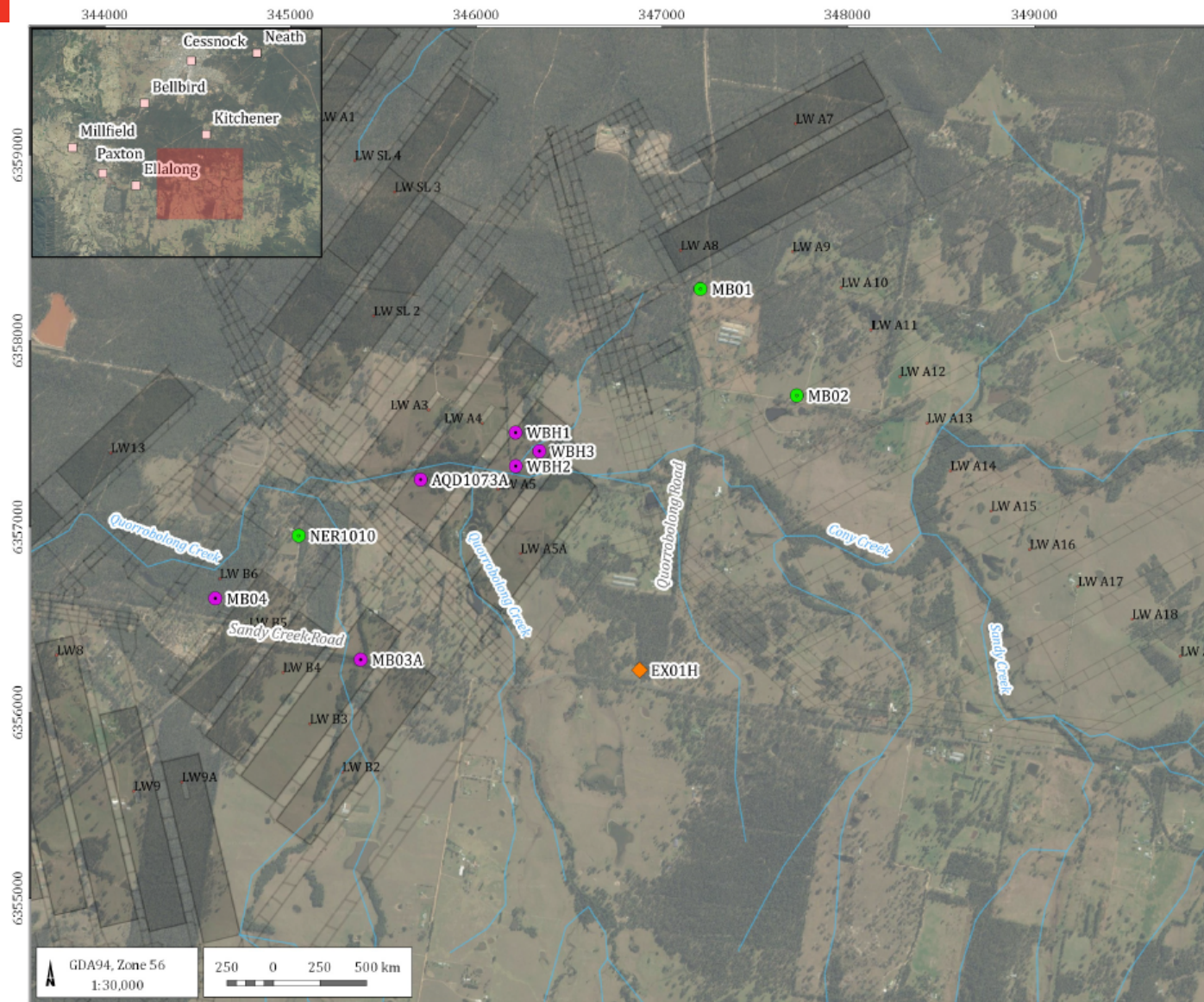
Water Monitoring



Groundwater Monitoring

- There are no new trends in groundwater quality or water levels
- Groundwater elevation in all alluvial monitoring bores increased during the period from January – June 2022 and trends are closely aligned to rainfall
- Manually recorded groundwater levels in NER1010 increased between January – June 2022
- Manually recorded groundwater levels in MB01 increased between January – June 2022. PT data indicates a potential error with the device
- Groundwater elevation increased in MB02 during the period from January – June 2022. A sharp spike in March is being investigated by the groundwater consultant

Groundwater Monitoring



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

Yancoal - Astar Coal Mine
Groundwater Monitoring (G18281)

Astar monitoring bore and VWP locations

DATE
24/09/2019

FIGURE No.
2.1



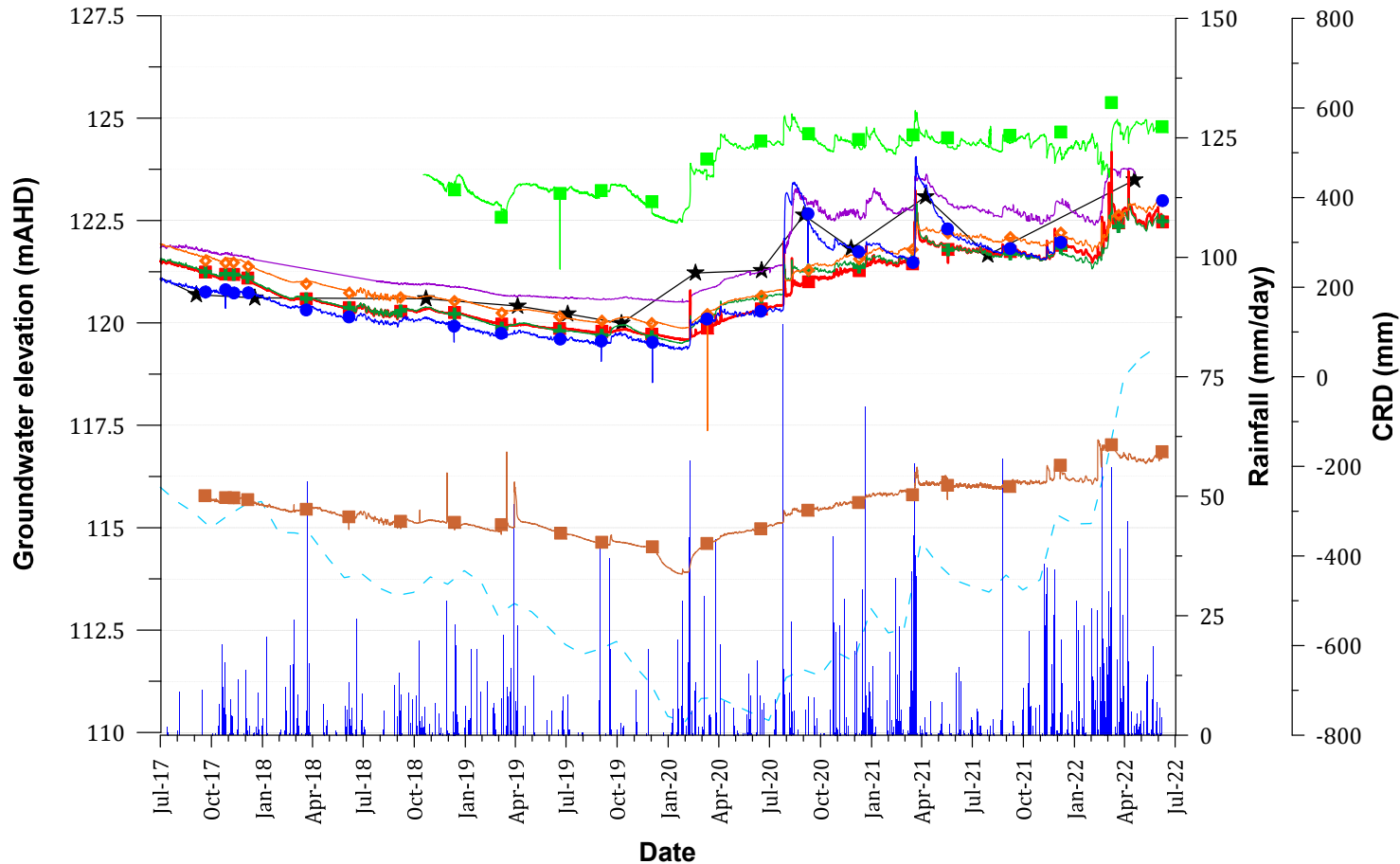
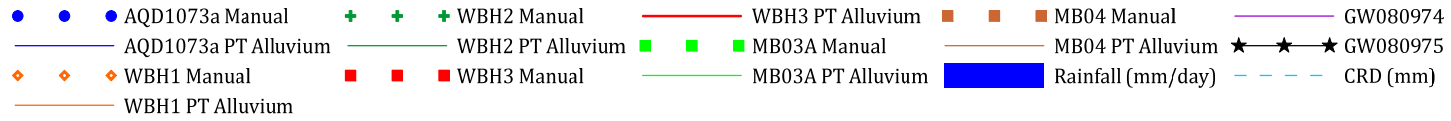
GDA94, Zone 56
1:30,000

250 0 250 500 km

©2019 Australasian Groundwater and Environmental Consultants Pty Ltd (AGE) - www.ageconsultants.com.au
N:\Groundwater Jobs\G18281\Yancoal Astar GW monitoring and compliance 2019\3_GIS\Workspaces\20190924_G18281_Astar monitoring bore and VWP locations_updatedSept2019.ags
Note: longwall panel background georeferenced accuracy ~ 10 m.

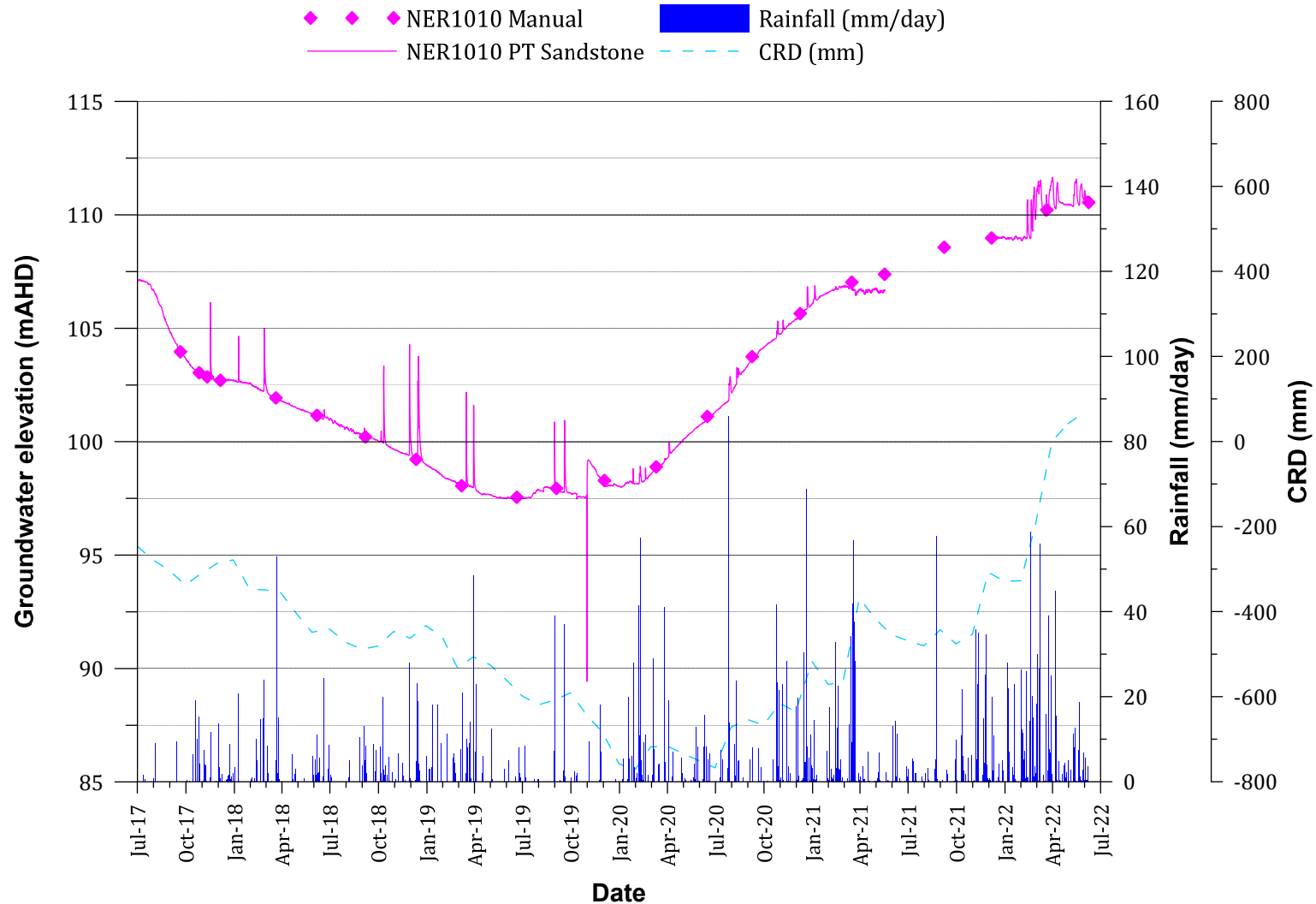


Groundwater Monitoring



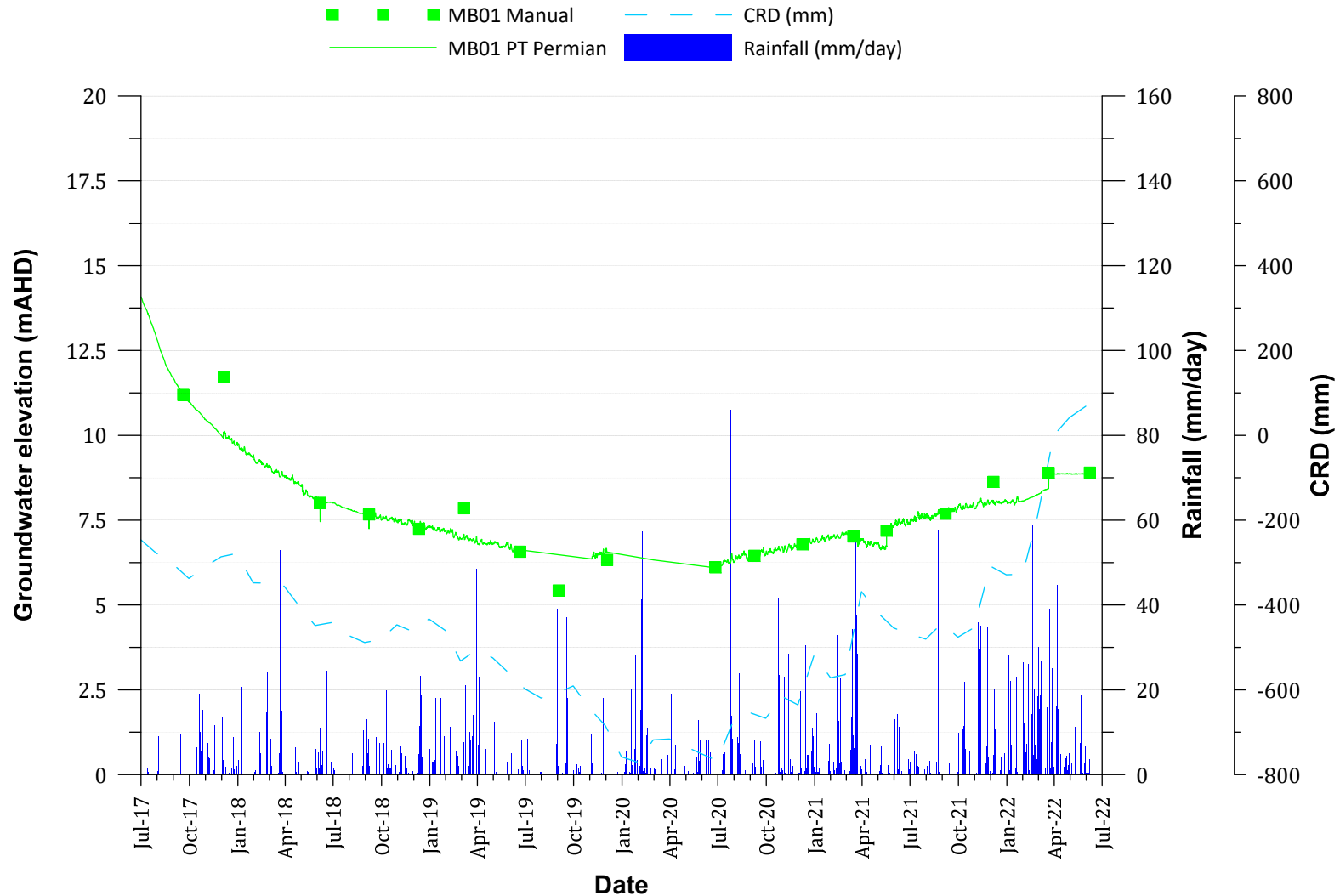
5-year Stage 2 & Bellbird South alluvium and Water NSW groundwater level hydrographs

Groundwater Monitoring



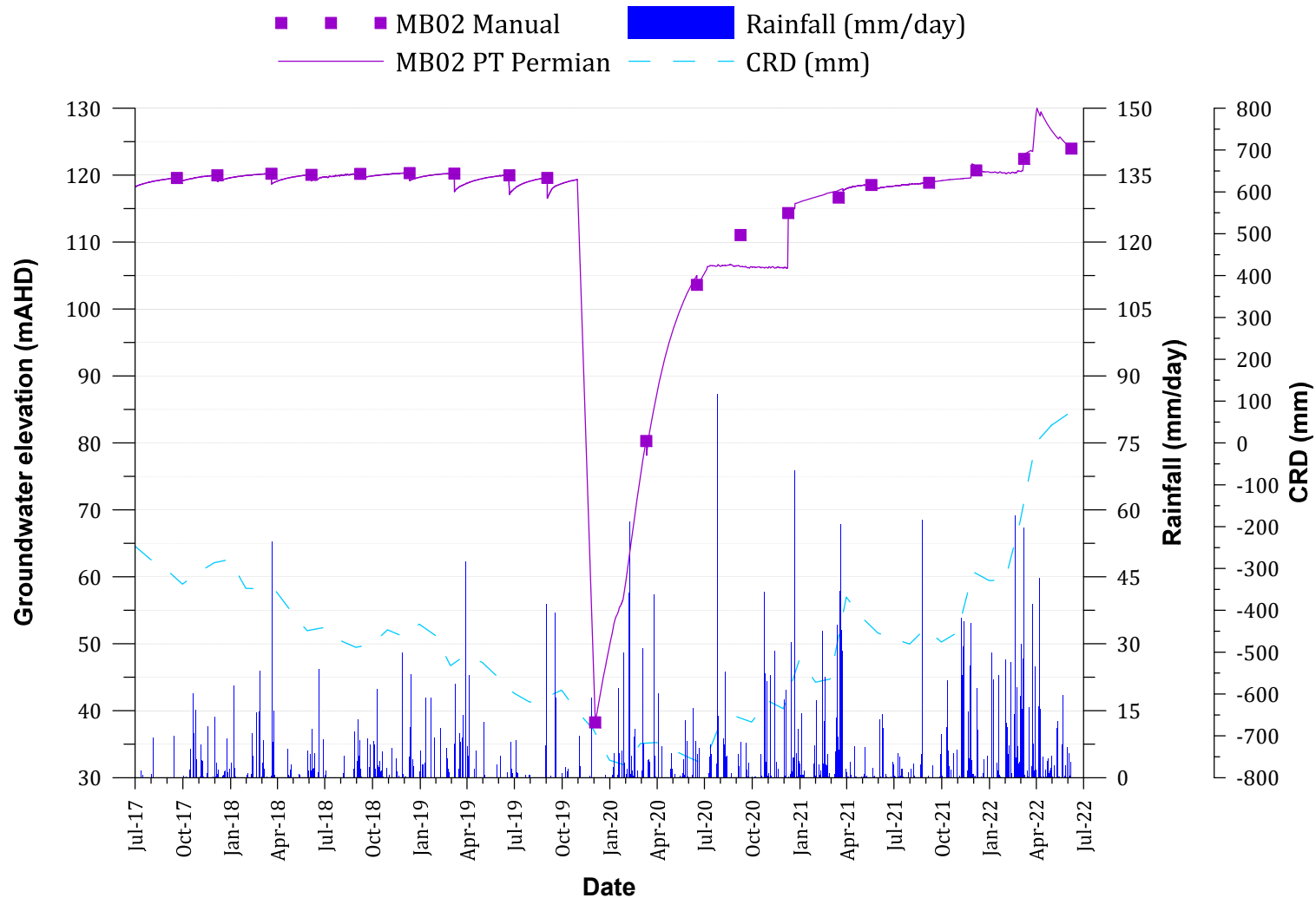
5-year NER1010 groundwater level hydrograph

Groundwater Monitoring



**5-year Stage 3 MB01 sandstone aquifer
groundwater level hydrograph**

Groundwater Monitoring



5-year Stage 3 MB02 sandstone aquifer groundwater level hydrograph

Since last CCC meeting (23 March 2022 – 20 September 2022)

Noise Monitoring

- No noise exceedances recorded during attended noise monitoring

Operations

- CHPP and associated infrastructure remain non-operational
- Temporary shaft sealing activities at Kitchener SIS complete
- Compressors on site have been progressively decommissioned at No. 3 Shaft and Pit Top, currently only one in use at each site.
- Noise modelling for surface decommissioning works have been undertaken to give an indication of whether we can meet the adopted noise limits in the decommissioning phase.

Rehabilitation Monitoring

- Rehabilitation monitoring is undertaken annually and was completed in Q2.
- 4 x rehab areas include Area 12 (Bellbird), Area 13 (Bellbird), Aberdare REA and Kalingo.

Findings

- Weed control works appear to be making an impact.
- Areas 12 & 13 and Aberdare REA had signs of human interference (such as rubbish and bike tracks).
- Due to ongoing preferable weather conditions, diversity and vegetative coverage have generally increased since baseline.

Recommendations

- Weed control works to continue
- Supplementary planting should be considered
- Remediate dirt bike tracks
- Consider control options for unauthorised access.

Community Complaints

Since last CCC meeting (23 March 2022 – 20 September 2022)

- No community complaints since last meeting

Mine Closure Planning Update

Closure Goals and Objectives

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

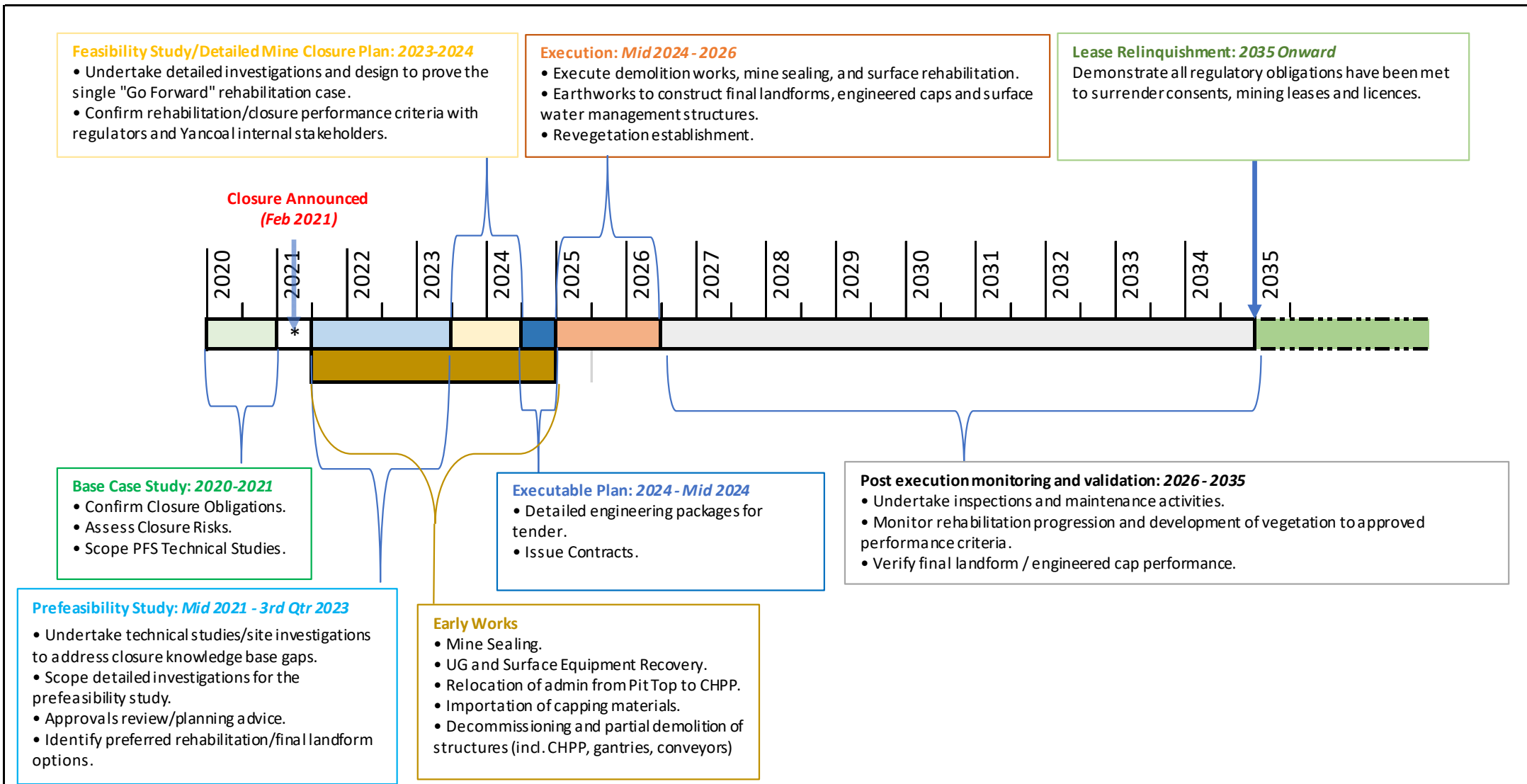
- Achieve safe, stable landforms with a beneficial land use; and
- Satisfy all regulatory requirements under development consents, mining leases and licences

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

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

Current mine closure planning activities are focussed on identifying final landform(s) and rehabilitation outcomes that can be progressed to detailed design that will be cost effective, achievable, and can be demonstrated to meet regulatory obligations for closure.

Closure Execution Timeline



Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

- Developed a Mine Closure Stakeholder Engagement Strategy
- Key objectives are to engage stakeholders in a way that:
 - Facilitates two-way communication
 - Provides access to relevant information during the closure process
 - Allows the views, opinions and suggestions of stakeholders to be expressed, and ensures that Yancoal adequately understands and considers stakeholder issues for incorporation into closure planning when appropriate
 - Ensures that obligations (e.g., via approvals) and commitments (e.g., contractual) are met to the satisfaction of stakeholders throughout the closure process

Stakeholder Consultation – Recent Engagement

- **Cessnock City Council**
 - Update on mine closure planning process
 - Council Heritage Officer and Planning and Development teams
- **RR, DPE, EPA**
 - Joint agency closure planning updates
- **Resources Regulator**
 - New rehabilitation conditions on mining leases – rehabilitation reforms
 - Updates on mine closure planning process
- **Landholder consultation**
 - Near neighbours regarding Site Investigations and Early Works programs
 - Winton Partners Bellbird – Aberdare Extended REA and adjacent residential development
- **Crown Lands**
 - Updates on mine closure planning progress
 - Heritage structures and final landform for Crown Lands
- **Community Consultative Committee**
 - Updates on mine closure planning progress

Site Investigations – Scope of Works

Site investigations to address knowledge gaps commenced in June 2022 and were completed in September 2022.

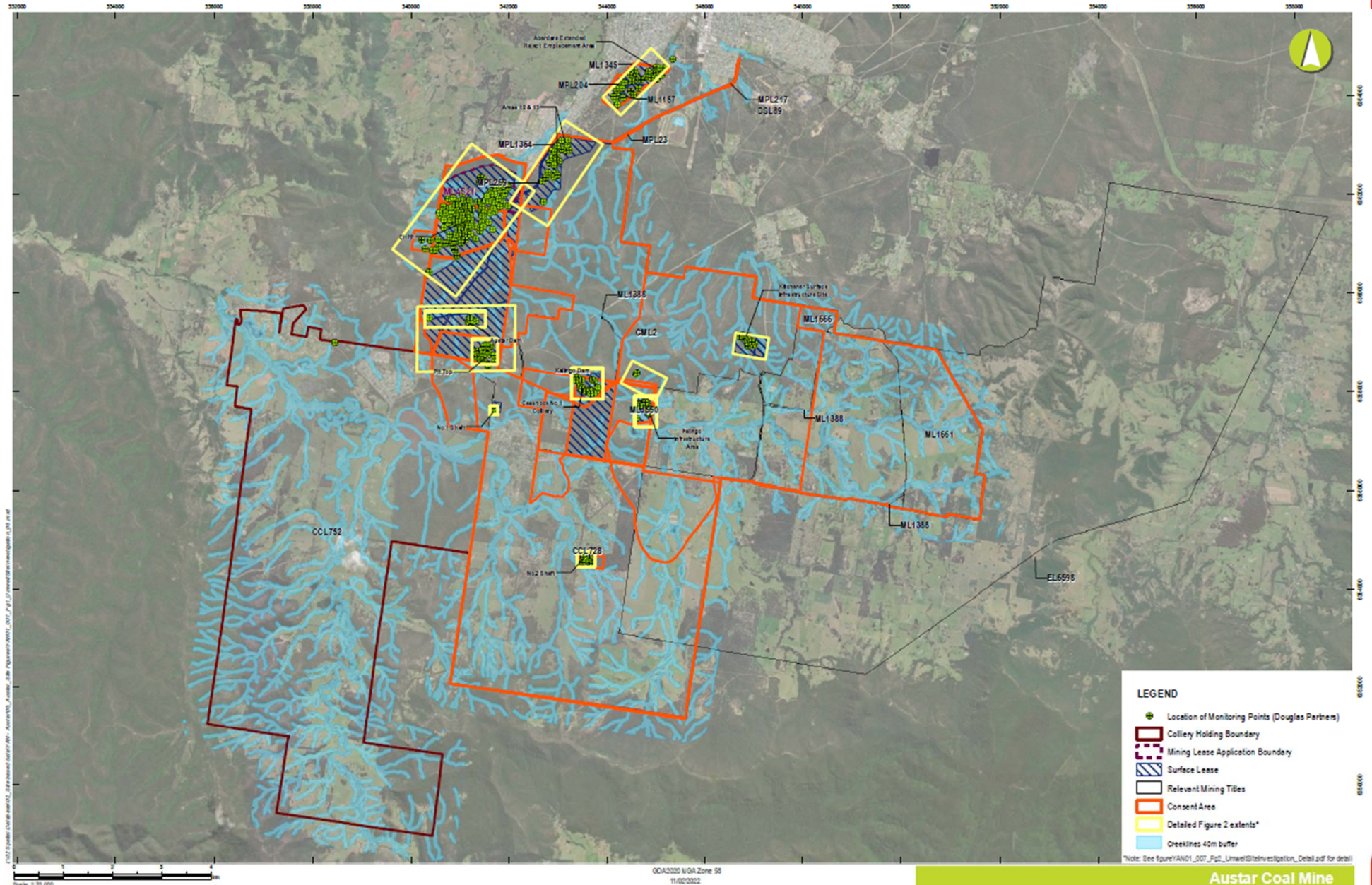
The investigations involved shallow soil sampling, test pitting, surface water collections, drilling of boreholes and installation of contamination monitoring bores and groundwater monitoring wells.

Approximately 300 locations were completed across the site. The results of the program will inform many of Austar's closure studies including:

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

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

Site Investigations - Locations



LEGEND

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

*Note: See figureYAND1_007_Fig2_Umsett@Investigation_Detail.pdf for detail

Austar Coal Mine

**Site Investigation Program
Austar Mine Complex**

FIGURE 1



有限公司

Site Investigations – Implementation

Significant planning and preparation activities were completed for the site investigations including:

- Detailed site investigation risk assessment
- Development of site investigation specific environmental controls and procedures
- Completion of due diligence heritage and ecology assessments
- Development of Site Investigation Sampling Analysis Quality Plan (SAQP)
- Stakeholder and near neighbour engagement
- Completion of Ground Disturbance Permit and Work Permits
- Implementing investigations and installations

Technical Assessments Update

- Key technical assessments continue to be progressed by Subject Matter Experts including:
 - Tenement and development consent history review
 - Contamination and materials site investigations
 - Surface and groundwater desktop assessments
 - Subsidence and land stability assessments
 - Heritage review of historic Austar mine structures
 - Mine sealing investigations
 - Demolition and hazardous materials studies
 - Final land use options assessment

Mine Subsidence

- GHD engaged to review mine subsidence areas and rehabilitation requirements including subsidence identification and mapping, and any monitoring and management requirements
- Identified some recent 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



General Business



Austar Community Support Program

- The Yancoal corporate CSP is ongoing and continues to support organisations in the Hunter Valley.
- The Austar Community Support Program annual round is open until the 4th November. Projects need to fall into one or more of the following categories:
 - Health
 - Social and Community
 - Culture and Arts
 - Environment
 - Education and Training.
- Regular community donations will continue during 2023. CRLFC sponsorship will continue into 2023.

General Business – Bushfire management

- Bushfire Hazard Reduction burn by NSW Rural Fire Service on Austar land at Pelton continues to be postponed due to wet condition.
- Future hazard reduction burn areas identified on Austar owned land adjacent to Bellbird and Ellalong and due diligence studies will be progressed prior to potential burns.
- Continued management of fire breaks and trails
- The Bushfire Management Plan is due for review in 2022



General Business – Exploration boreholes

- All exploration boreholes previously drilled in EL6598 by Austar have been rehabilitated
- 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 1800's and may not all be Austar's responsibility – the audit will clarify these points prior to the development of a rehabilitation plan.

General Business – Rehabilitation Reforms

- New mining lease conditions relating to rehabilitation came into force on 2 July.
- The lease conditions set clear, achievable and enforceable requirements for rehabilitation.
- Austar has prepared the relevant documentation to comply with the new conditions, including:
 - A Rehabilitation Risk Assessment to inform the RMP
 - 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.

Other Business –

Next Meeting /
Close