

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: 20 March 2024

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
Craig Reiss (CR)	Austar Coal Mine
Julie McNaughton (JM)	Austar Coal Mine
William Farnworth (WF)	Austar Coal Mine
Maddison Stojcevski (MS)	Austar Coal Mine
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
Ashlee Baker (AB) (by videoconference)	Community Representative
John Rayner (JR)	Community Representative
Claire Mitchell (CM)	Student - Observer
Apologies	
Peter Sturrock (PS)	Community Representative
Justin Cornes (JS)	NSW Police Representative
Jay Suvaal (JS)	Cessnock Council Representative
Carly McCormack (CM)	Austar Coal Mine
John Moores (JMo)	Cessnock Council Representative

1	Welcome/Introductions
	MMH – Opened the meeting 10:00am and welcomed the CCC. Apologies are noted above.
2	Declaration of Interests
	MMH asked for any changes to previous declarations of interest. Declarations of interests remain current for all members. MMH introduced MS and CM to the committee
3	Confirmation of Previous Minutes
	The minutes of the previous meeting were considered representative of that meeting. AS moved, JM seconded.
4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes
	Nil
5	Correspondence
	MMH noted correspondence as per agenda: 28/9/23 & 29/09/23 – Email to RPS/MMH to CCC re Independent Environmental Audit. 20/10/23 – Email MMH to RPS on IEA 19/02/24 – Email MMH to DPE Chair’s Annual Report
6	Mine Closure Update

a.	Closure Project Status
	Detail in Presentation – presented by CR. MMH - asked when do we anticipate having feasibility studies completed. CR stated it should be finished around mid-2025.
b.	Early Works
	Detail in Presentation – presented by WF. AS - asked what will happens to Kalingo dam and surrounding land after it is decommissioned, will Austar sell it? WF - it will be decommissioned, and the dam wall will be removed along with the dam classification. CR - there is potential for it be used as residential land, but decisions have not been made on this. Currently Austar’s plans are to return it to grass land and forest as a post mining land use and other options may occur in the future. MMH – how will you contact landowners regarding the Historic Borehole Rehabilitation Project, that you have previously been unable to contact? JM - we have tracked down almost everybody and continue to attempt to contact landowners but may require the assistance of the Resource’s Regulator to access a few sites.
7	Environmental Monitoring Update, Incidents and Complaints
	Detail in Presentation – presented by JM.
8	General Business
	Details in Presentation – presented by JM AS - are you going to do the planned controlled burns soon? JM - we have had a controlled burn planned over the past few years but were unable to conduct the burn due to weather restrictions. Austar will get in contact with RFS to attempt to reschedule the controlled burn soon. MMH - asked about the actions from the audit – what sort of actions are required? JM - actions were mostly administrative in nature, and quite a few were addressed by minor updates to our management plans. There are two actions outstanding that require progression of the planned closure studies and should be completed in 2026. AS - what is happening with the railway line? CR - our plan was to leave the foundations and remove the rail and ballast, however there is significant external interests in the railway line so plans may change. AS - will the shafts at Kitchener SIS be filled in? WF - it will be filled using ballast or other imported material.
9	Next Meeting
	Next proposed meeting date 18 September 2024. Venue and time to be confirmed.
10	Meeting Closed
	MMH – Thanked the CCC and declared the meeting closed at 10:35am.

Recorded: Maddison Stojcevski 20 March 2024

AUSTAR COAL MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

20 March 2024

Carly McCormack
ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SUPERINTENDENT

Agenda

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





Mine Closure Planning Update


Closure Project Status

Closure Management Areas


LEGEND


 Colliery Holding Boundary


 Relevant Mining Titles


 Disturbance Footprint


CMA Boundaries


 CMA 1 - Austar Pit Top Facilities


 CMA 2 - Pelton CHPP


 CMA 3 - No.1 Shaft


 CMA 4 - No.2 Shaft

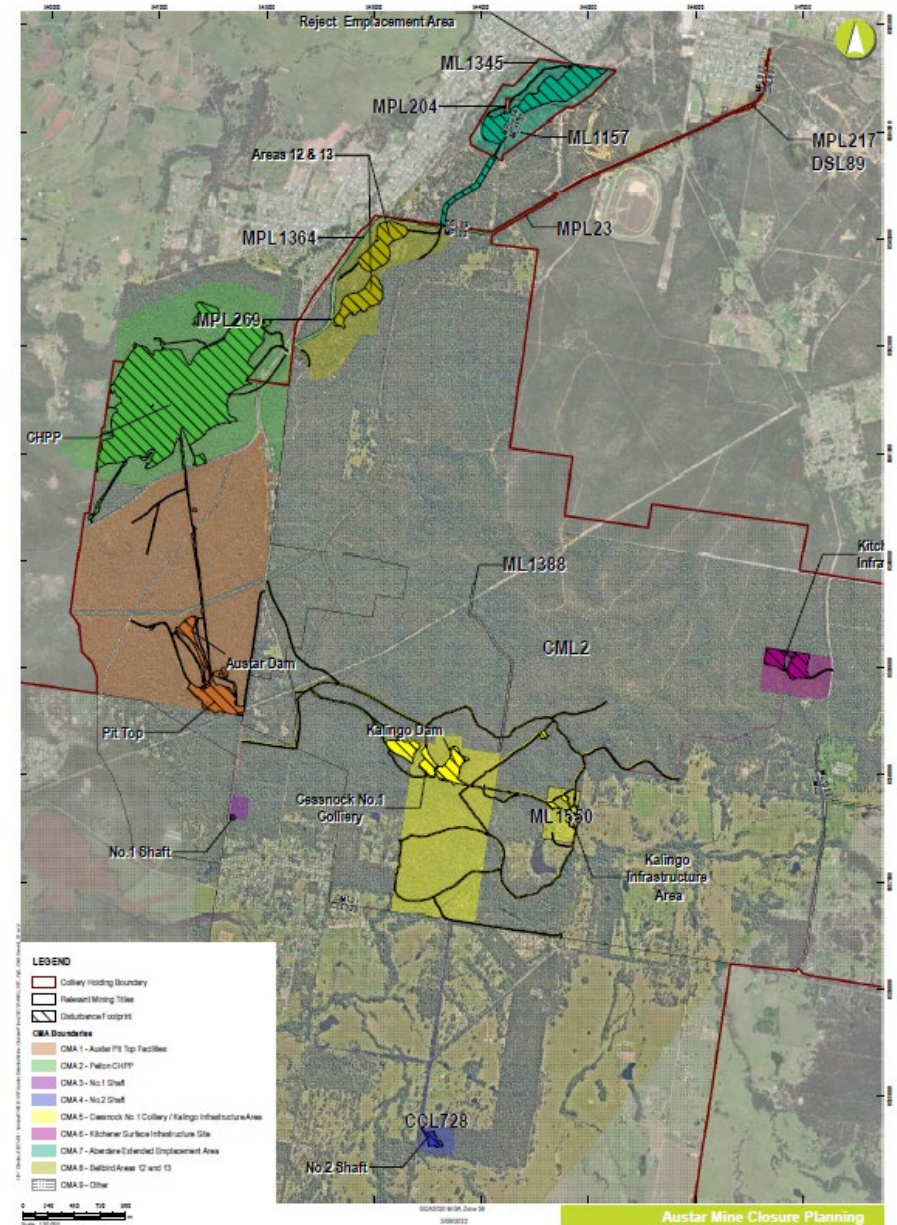
 CMA 5 - Cessnock No.1 Colliery / Kalingo Infrastructure Area

 CMA 6 - Kitchener Surface Infrastructure Site

 CMA 7 - Aberdare Extended Emplacement Area

 CMA 8 - Bellbird Areas 12 and 13

 CMA 9 - Other



Indicative Timeline & Current Status

Feasibility Study/Detailed Mine Closure Plan: 2024-Mid 2025

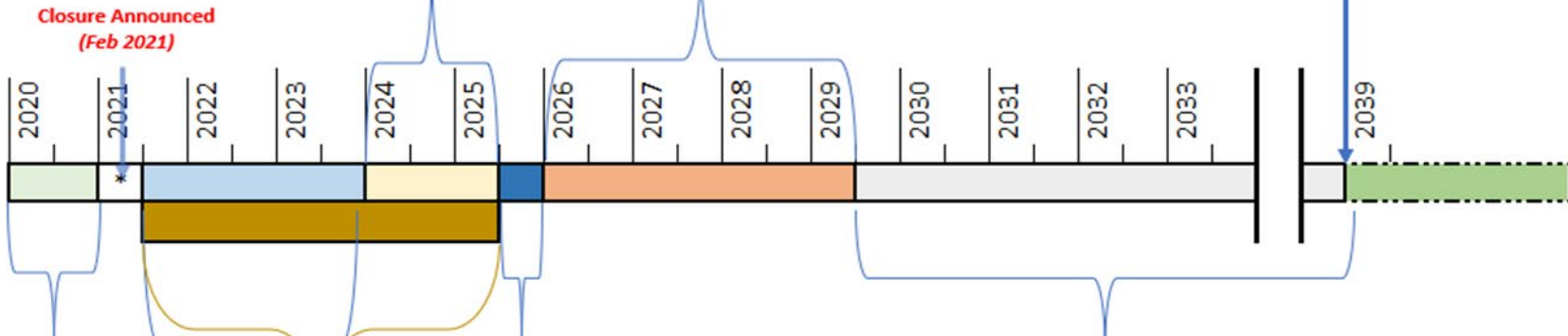
- Undertake detailed investigations and design to prove the single "Go Forward" rehabilitation case.
- Confirm rehabilitation/closure performance criteria with regulators and Yancoal internal stakeholders.

Execution: 2026 - Mid 2029

- Execute demolition works, mine sealing, and surface rehabilitation.
- Earthworks to construct final landforms, engineered caps and surface water management structures.

Lease Relinquishment: 2039 Onward

- Demonstrate all regulatory obligations have been met to surrender consents, mining leases and licences.



Base Case Study: 2020-2021

- Confirm Closure Obligations.
- Assess Closure Risks.
- Scope PFS Technical Studies.

Prefeasibility Study: Mid 2021 - 3rd Qtr 2023

- Undertake technical studies/site investigations to address closure knowledge base gaps.
- Scope detailed investigations for the prefeasibility study.
- Approvals review/planning advice.
- Identify preferred rehabilitation/final landform options.

Executable Plan: Mid 2025 - 2026

- Detailed engineering packages for tender.
- Issue Contracts.

Early Works

- Mine Sealing - bore holes & shaft filling
- UG and Surface Equipment Recovery.
- Relocation of admin. from Pit Top to CHPP.
- Demolition of non-heritage items
- Desilting and removal of Kalingo Dam

Post execution works, monitoring and validation: 2029 - 2039

- Undertake inspections and maintenance activities.
- Monitor rehabilitation progression and development of vegetation to approved performance criteria.
- Remove sedimentation dams
- Verify final landform / engineered cap performance.
- Verify groundwater model predictions.



Current Status

Closure Planning Status

- **Pre-feasibility Study (PFS)** complete and go-forward options identified for:
 - Preferred final land uses
 - Conceptual final landforms
 - Demolition strategy with consideration to heritage values

- **Feasibility Study (FS)** commenced including:
 - Development of Sampling Analysis Quality Management Plan (SAQMP) to set out the scope of site investigations required to address knowledge gaps identified in PFS
 - Scoping of studies and assessments to prove up the preferred rehabilitation and closure options



Mine Closure Planning Update

Early Works

Surface Decommissioning

- Surface decommissioning is continuing onsite with work progressing on decommissioning the conveyor gantry
- Third-party interest in offsite reuse of workshop, store and other buildings
- Third-party interest in reuse of CHPP components
- Remaining infrastructure will be demolished and removed from site

Demolition

- Demolition Study proposed demolition methodologies
- Intrusive hazardous materials survey completed
- Demolition planning has commenced including:
 - Environmental risk assessment
 - Due diligence investigations (arch, heritage, noise, ecology)
 - Review of Environmental Management Plans
 - Equipment decommissioning
 - Preparations for tendering for demolition contractor
- Early works demolition of non-heritage structures scheduled to commence in Q3 2024

Kalingo Dam Decommissioning

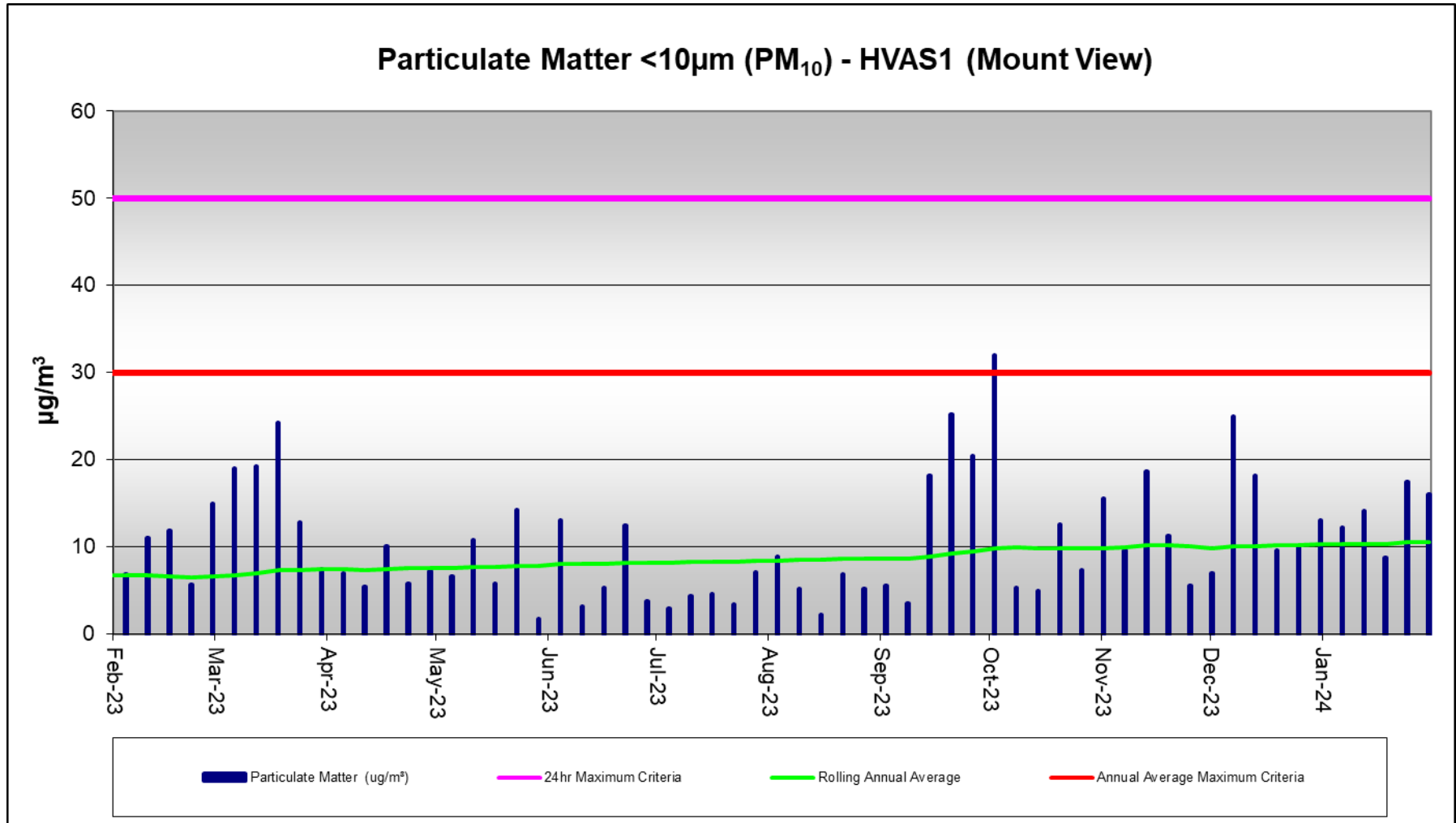
- Kalingo Dam is being cleared of sediment ahead of dam wall removal
- Approx 50% of the sediment in the dam floor has been removed
- Sediments are being progressively sampled, characterised and given waste classification in accordance with NSW EPA requirements
- To date all samples classified as 'general solid waste (non-putrescible)'
- Sediment removed to East Open Cut reject emplacement area
- Dam wall scheduled for removal Q4 2024-Q1 2025

Historic Borehole Rehabilitation Project

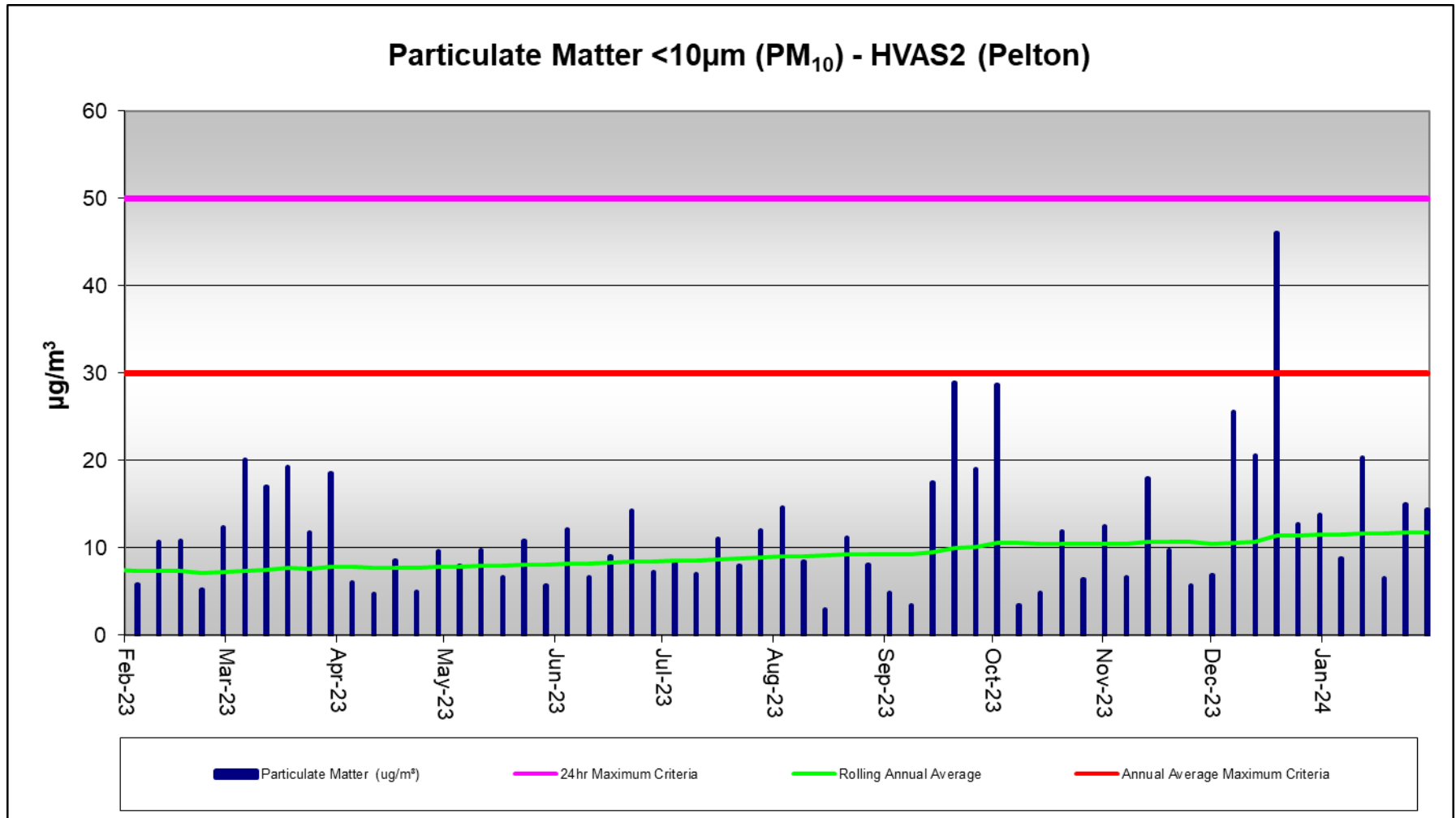
- Total of 341 boreholes on current consolidated list
- 42 boreholes have been approved through ESF2 submissions
- 157 have draft ESF2 applications under internal review / seeking landholder signoff
- 28 boreholes require minor rehabilitation works
 - May include removal of sediment fencing and debris, filling old sumps, cutting off sealed casing below ground level
- 73 boreholes requiring significant rehabilitation
 - May include clean out and sealing of boreholes (including CHPP tailings holes), modification of existing tracks and creation of drill pads, removal of extensometer housings, removal of debris, and track and site rehabilitation
- 9 water monitoring bores (future rehabilitation when no longer required)
- 32 sites require inspection and Landholder Statements

Environmental Monitoring Update

Air Quality

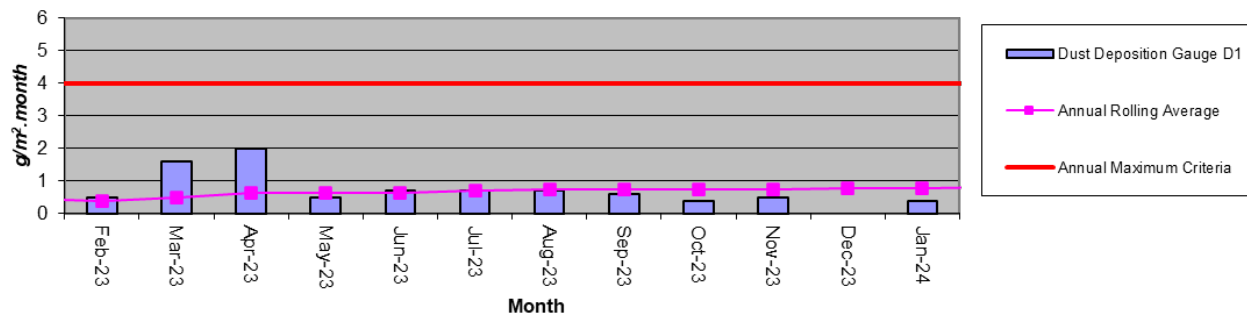


Air Quality

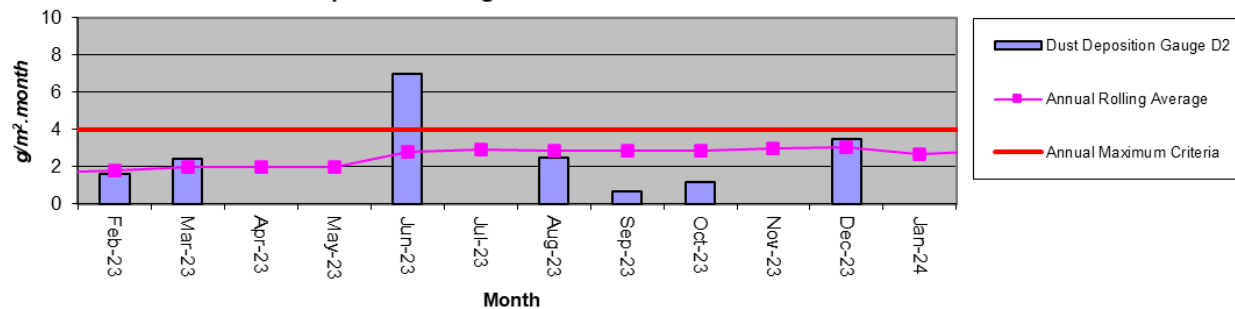


Air Quality

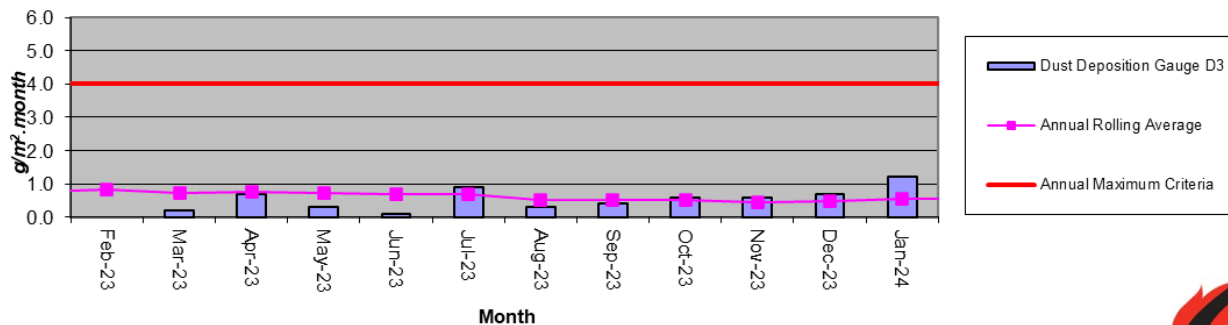
Dust Deposition Gauge D1 - Insoluble Solids



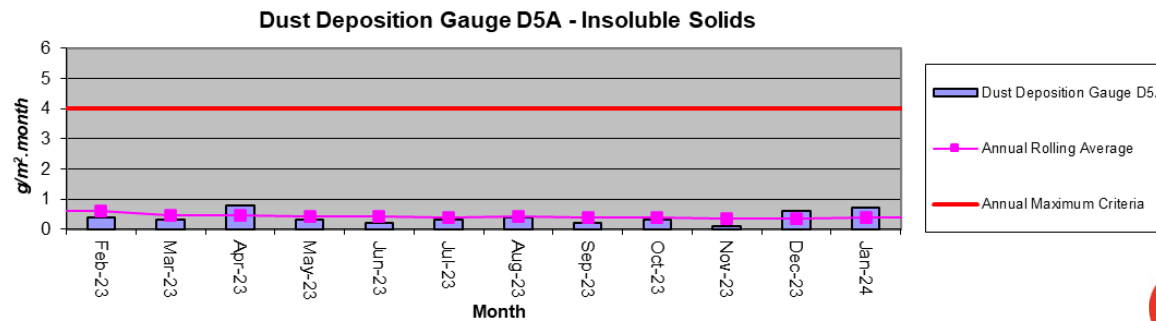
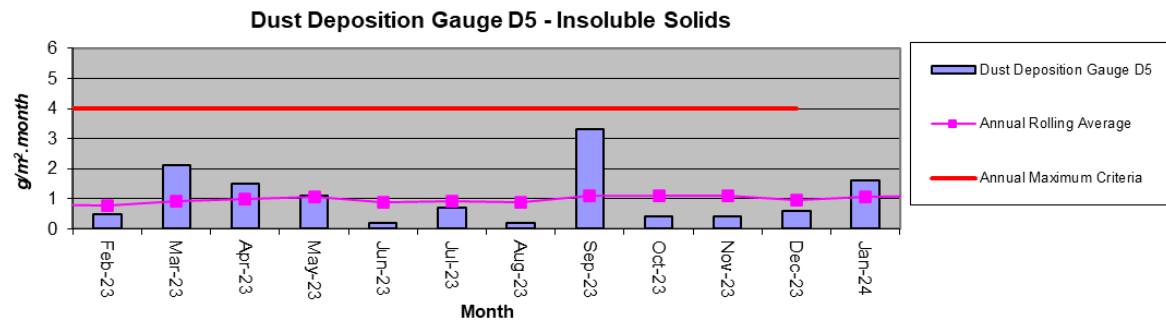
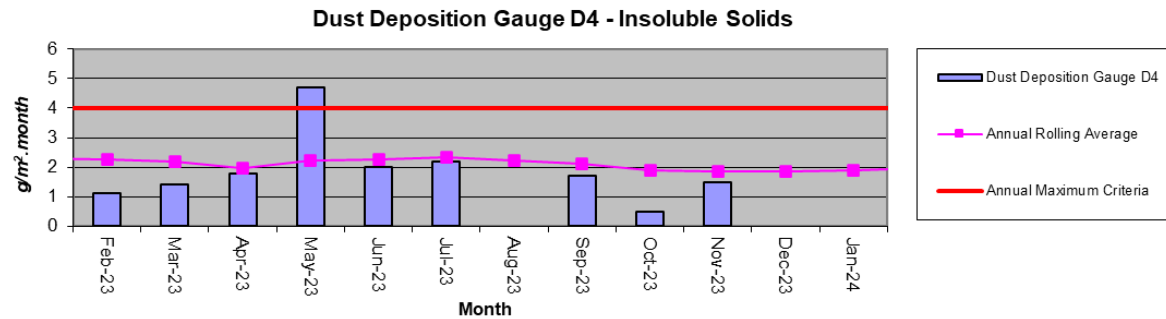
Dust Deposition Gauge D2 - Insoluble Solids



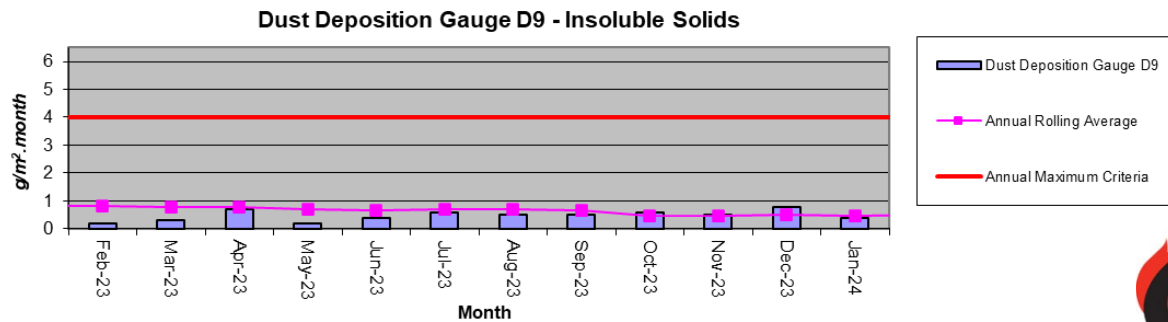
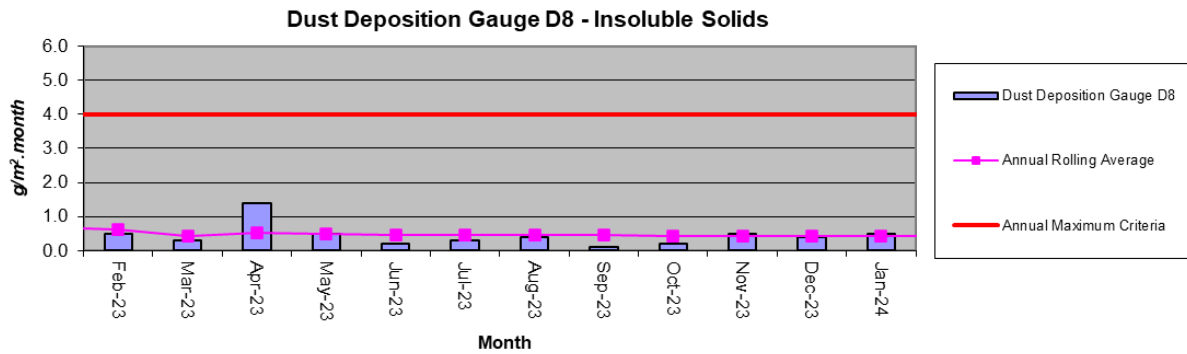
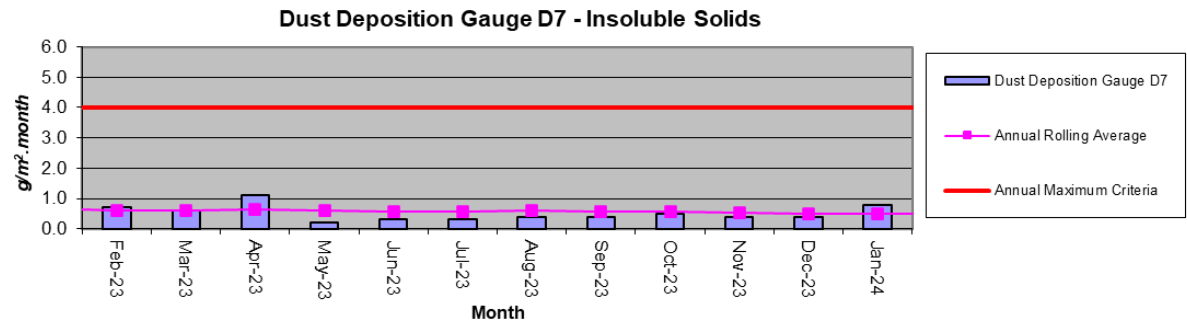
Dust Deposition Gauge D3 - Insoluble Solids



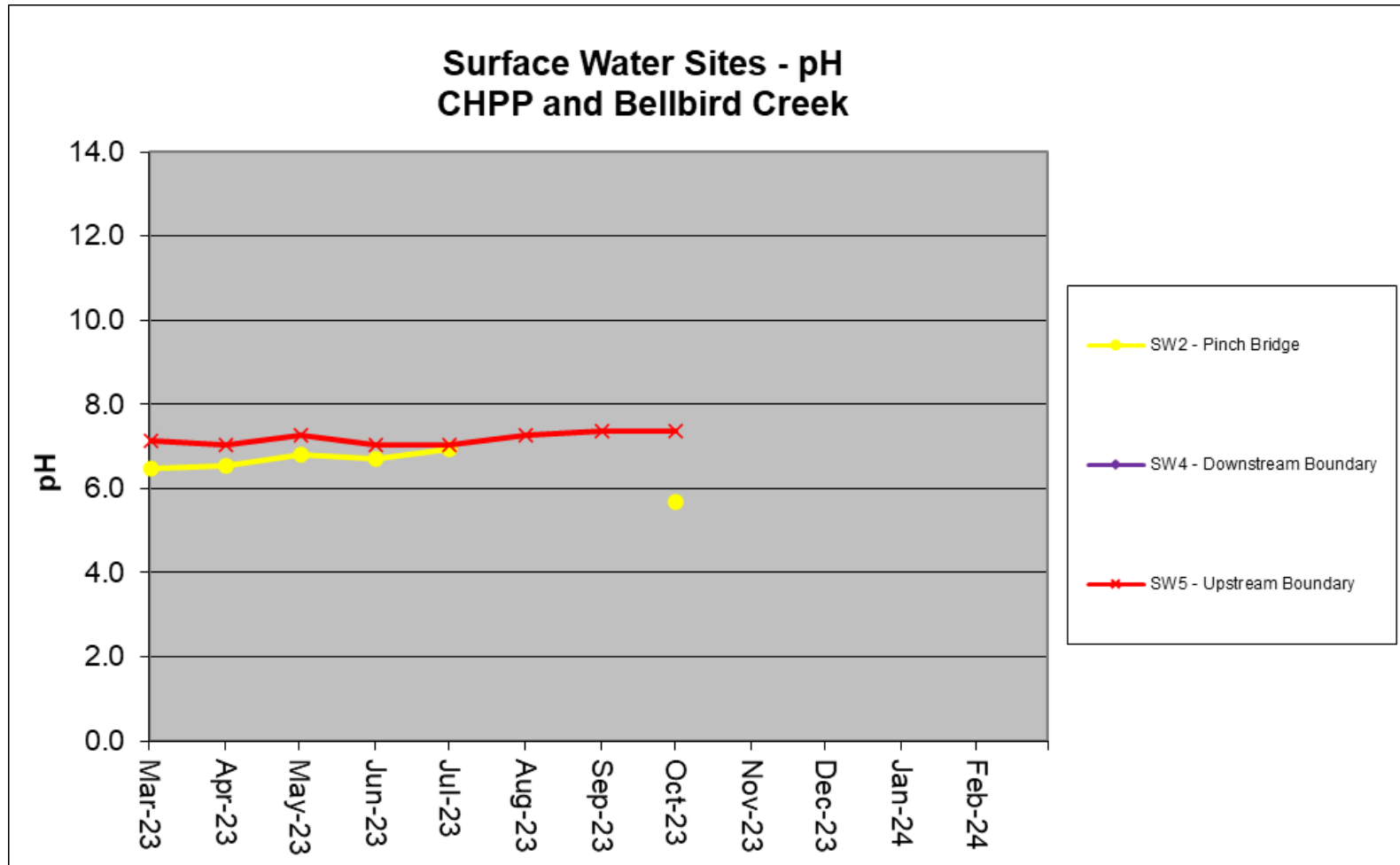
Air Quality



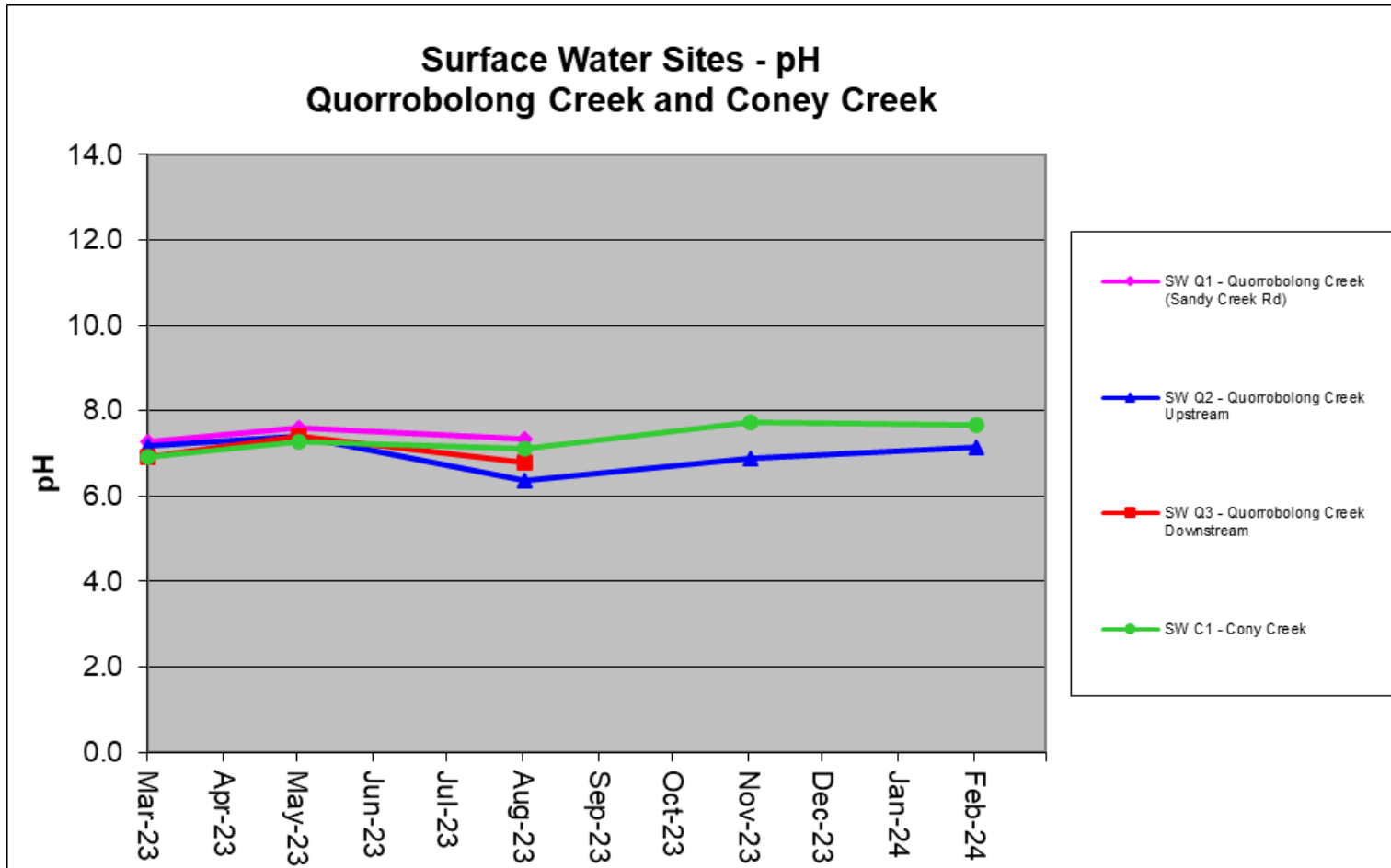
Air Quality



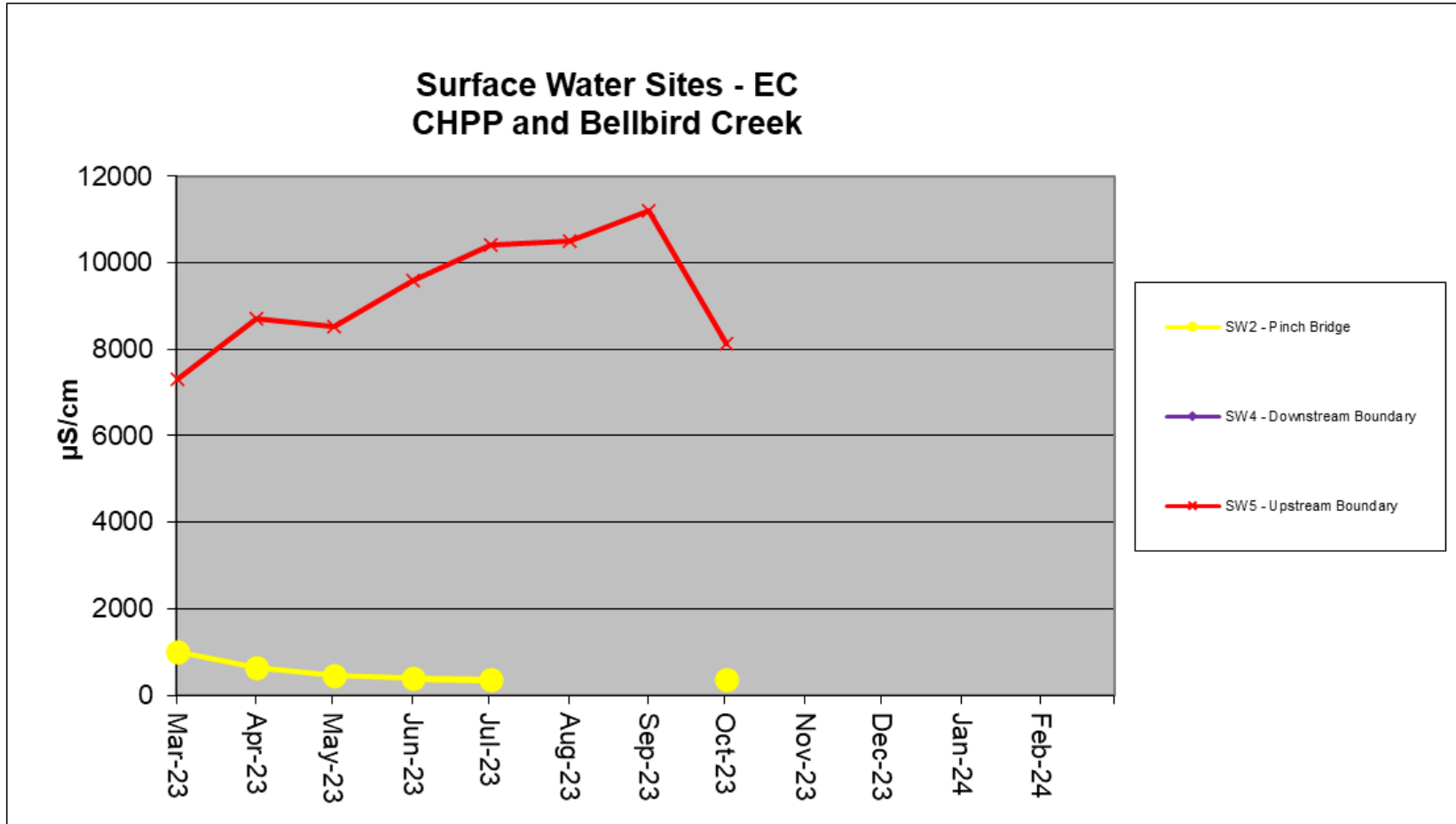
Water Monitoring



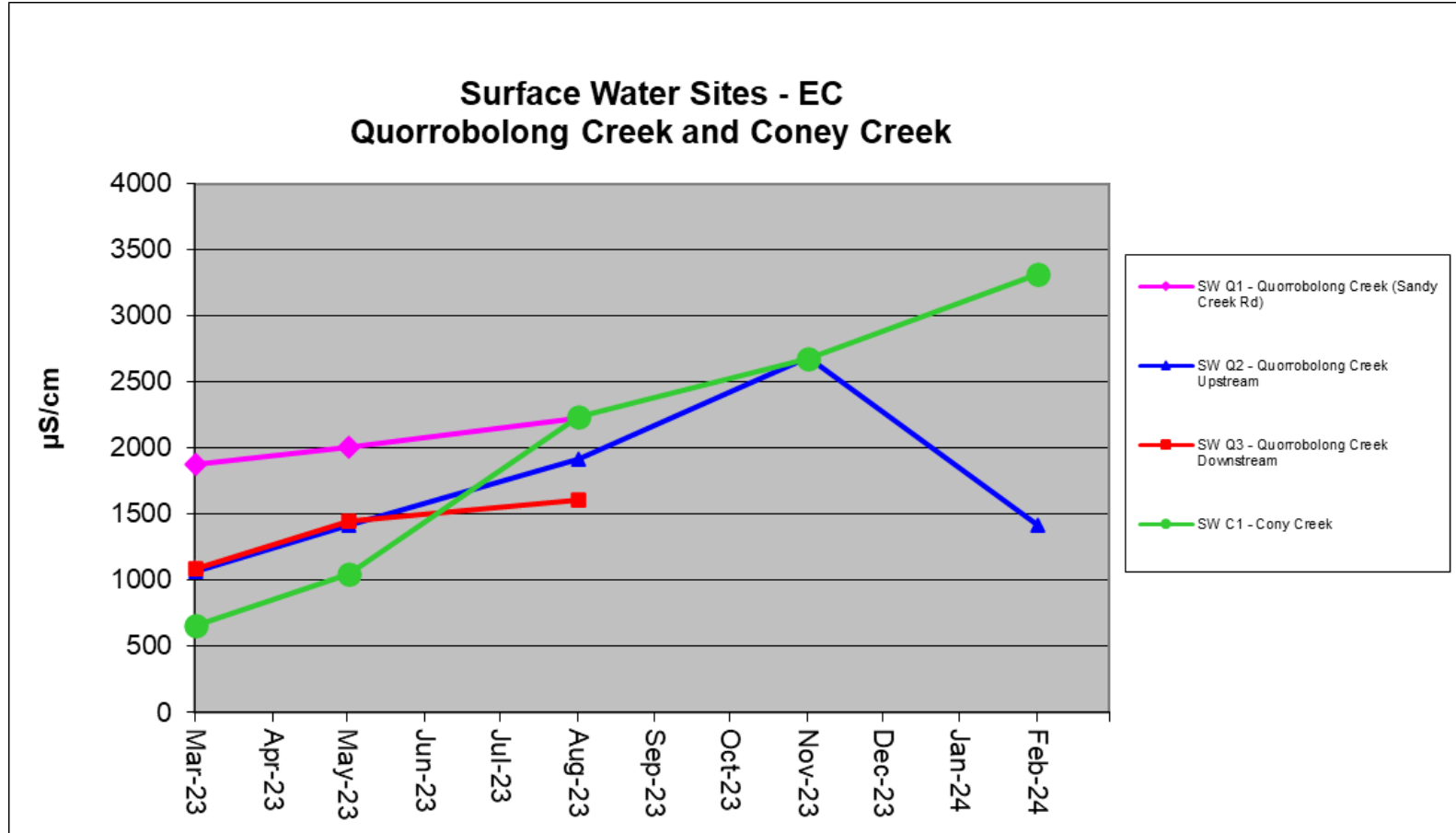
Water Monitoring



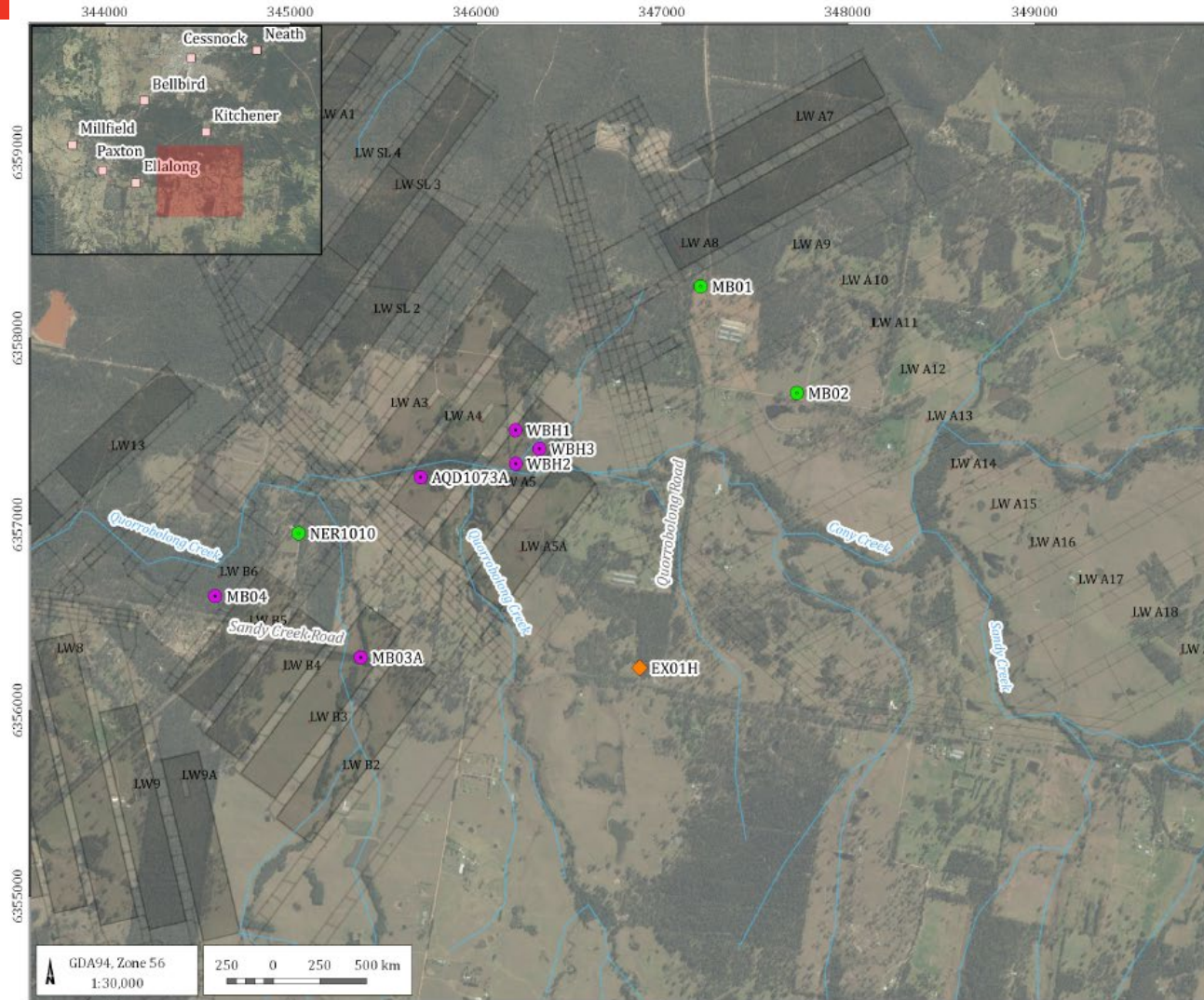
Water Monitoring



Water Monitoring



Groundwater Monitoring



LEGEND

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

Yancoal - Astar Coal Mine
Groundwater Monitoring (G1828J)

Astar monitoring bore and VWP locations

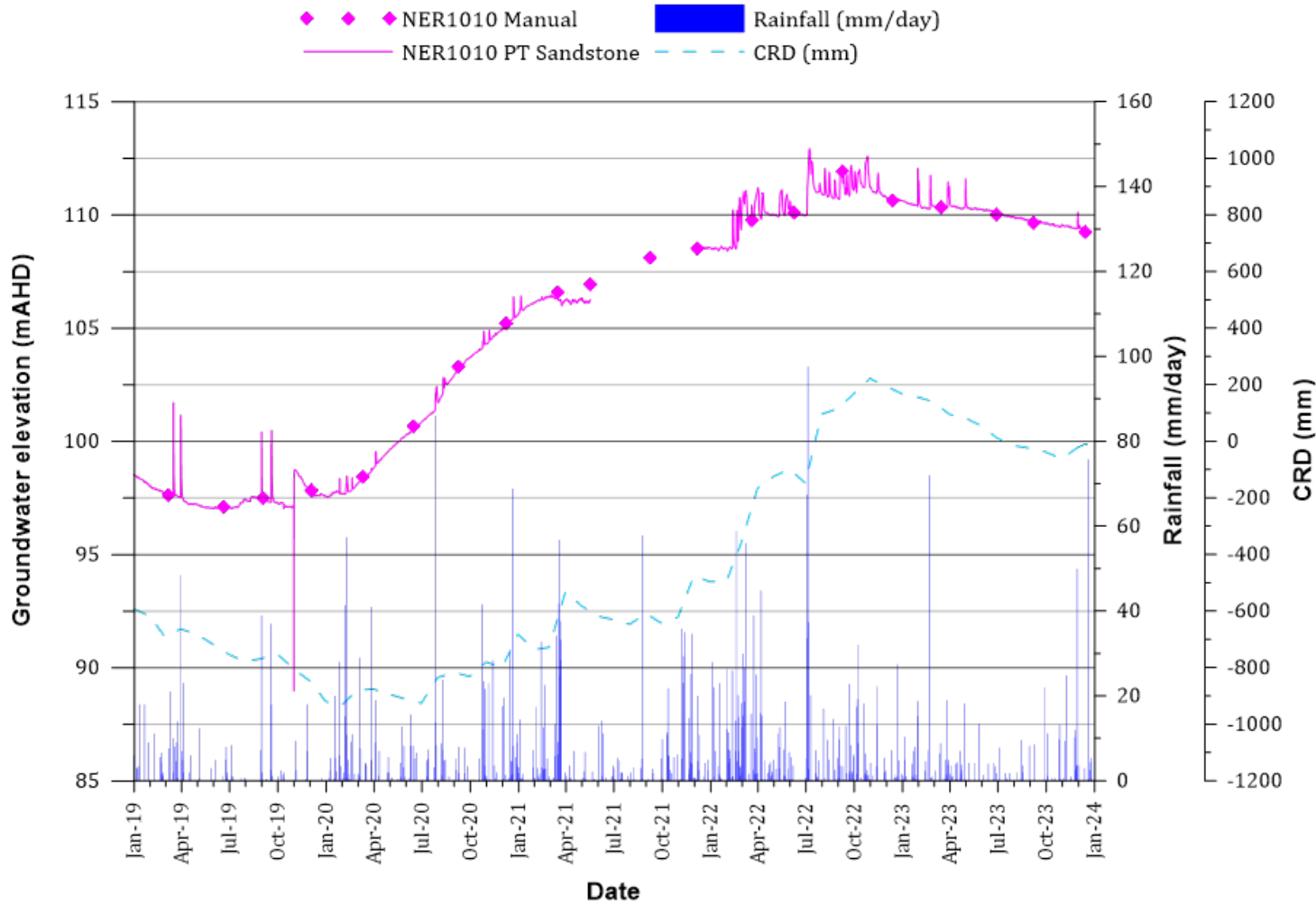
DATE
24/09/2019

FIGURE No.
2.1



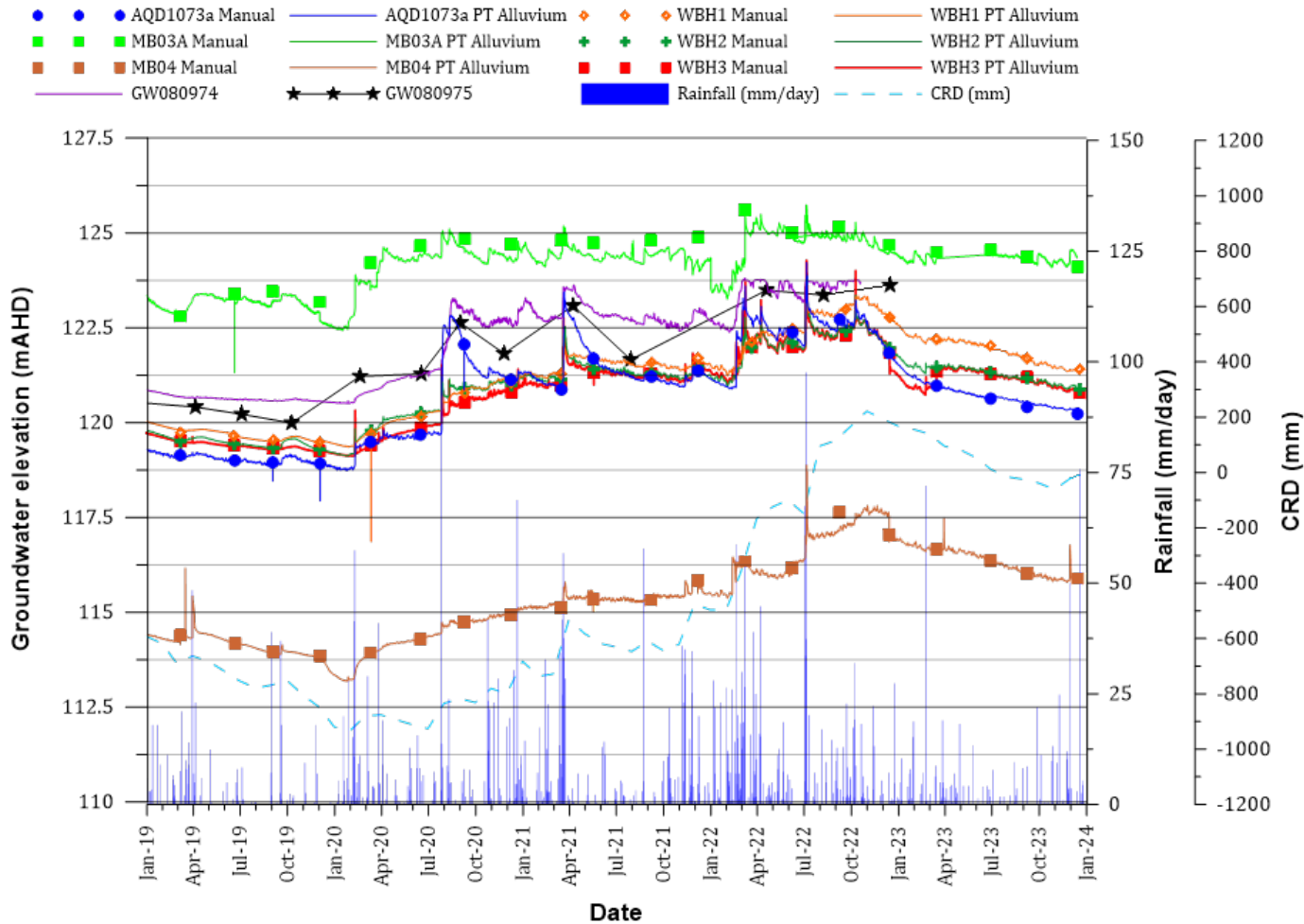
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Note: longwall panel background georeferenced accuracy ~ 10 m.

Groundwater Monitoring



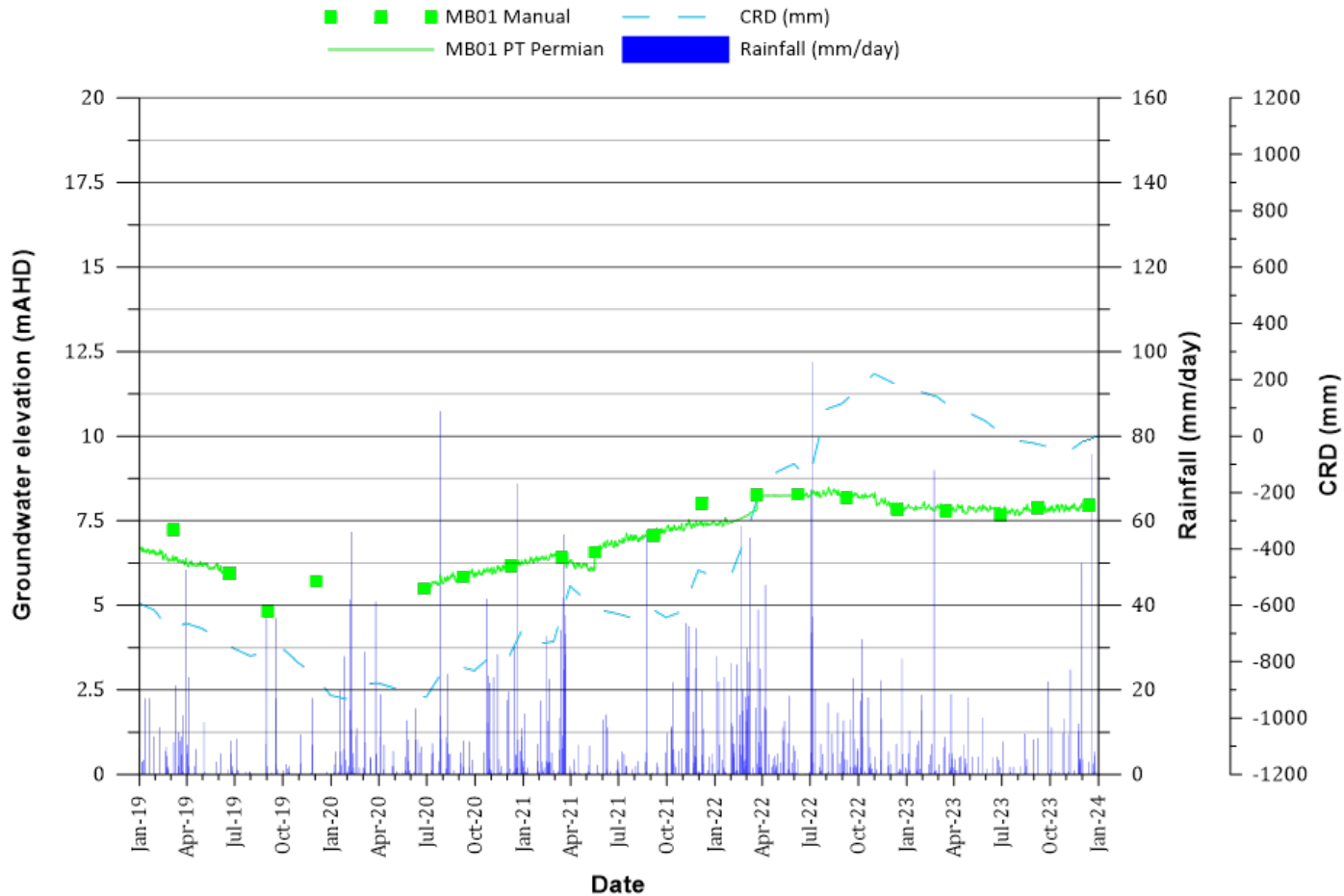
5-year NER1010 groundwater level hydrograph

Groundwater Monitoring



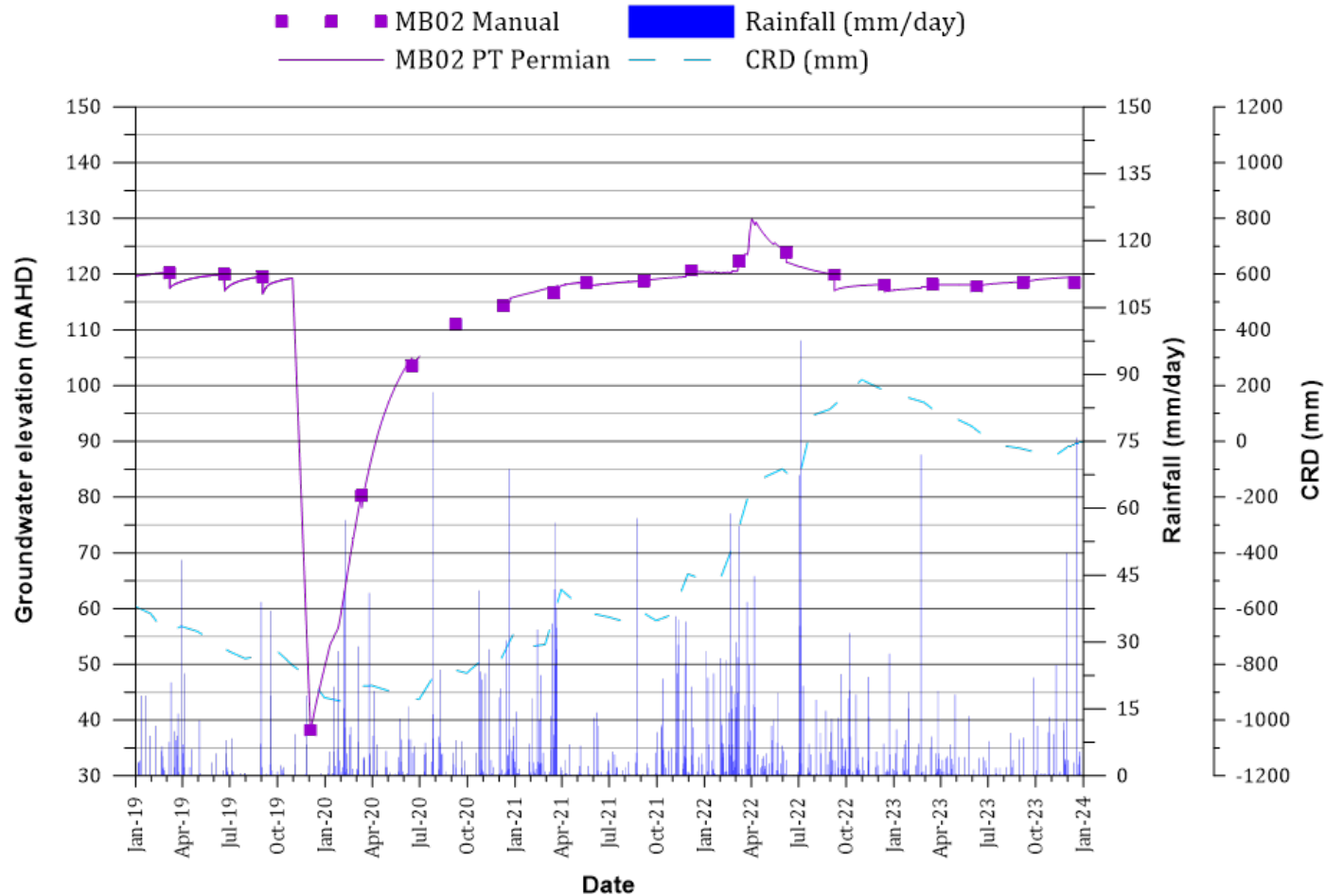
5-year stage 2 and Bellbird South alluvium and WaterNSW groundwater level hydrographs

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 (20 September 2023 – 20 March 2024)

Noise Monitoring

- No noise exceedances recorded during attended noise monitoring, no noise complaints

Operations

- CHPP and associated infrastructure remain non-operational
- Decommissioning works at CMA 1 – Pit Top, CMA 2 – Pelton CHPP, CMA 4 – No.2 Shaft and CMA 5 - Kalingo Infrastructure Area



Environmental Incidents and Community Complaints

Environmental Incidents and Complaints

- There have been no reportable incidents or community complaints since the last CCC meeting on 20 September 2023

Environmental Incidents

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

- Reported to NSW EPA in monthly status reports required by EPL
- Some historic orange staining observed during all monitoring events since previous meeting
- Drainage line is drying out and groundwater level has dropped
- Notable actions completed to manage the issue:
 - Additional pumping to prevent ponding and seepage in open drains
 - Desilting of the Precipitate Dam, July 2021 (potential contamination source)
 - Inclusion of acid mine drainage analysis during the Site Investigations program, June 2022
 - Desilting mine water drains close to the drainage line under investigation, construction of drains on Product stockpile to relocate mine water flows
 - Geochemical assessments as part of closure planning

General Business



General Business – Bushfire Management

- Management of fire breaks with slashing scheduled for March.
- Fire trail maintenance works in Kalingo area undertaken in September 2023
- Bushfire Management Plan was updated in November 2023. Plan will be forwarded to RFS.



General Business – Community Support Program

The Astar Community Support Program for 2024 has been finalised, with the following organisations supported through the project:

- Cessnock District Netball Association – Sharing the dignity station
- Kiray Putjung Aboriginal Corporation – NAIDOC celebrations
- Kitchener Public School P&C – KPS joins Drum Corp
- Hunter Wildlife Rescue – watering stations for wildlife.

Thanks to Margaret for her help in assessing the applications.

Astar is also supporting the CRLFC and the Cessnock Council Mayoral Scholarships in 2024/

General Business – Reporting

Published on Austar website:

- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan (approved 12/3/2024)
- Environmental Management Strategy (approved 12/3/2024)
- Annual Review
- Annual Rehabilitation Report and Forward Program

Additional reporting:

- NGERs reporting lodged October 2023
- Annual Review was lodged September 2023
- EPL Annual return was lodged February 2024

General Business – Independent Environmental Audit

- The three yearly Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) was held on 31 October and 1 November 2023 by RPS, with specialist auditors in water management, air quality, subsidence, acoustics and rehabilitation.
- The audit identified four non compliances (three previously reported) and provided seven recommendations and five actions, three of which have been closed out and two which are scheduled and planned as part of the feasibility study for closure.

Other Business –

Next Meeting /
Close