

## Austar Coal Mine

### Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: Boardroom – Austar Main Administration Building, Middle Road, Paxton  
 Time: 9:29am – 10:19am  
 Date: 29 May 2019

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
Brian Wesley (BW)	Austar Coal Mine
Carly McCormack (CM)	Austar Coal Mine
Julie McNaughton (JM)	Austar Coal Mine
Councillor Mark Lyons (ML)	Cessnock City Council Representative
Chief Inspector Michael Gorman (MG)	NSW Police Service (Cessnock)
<b>Apologies</b>	
Ashlee Baker (AB)	Community Representative
Peter Sturrock (PS)	Community Representative
John Rayner (JR)	Community Representative
<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 Howard Reed	NSW Department of Planning & Environment
Ms Valerie Phillips	Librarian, Cessnock City Council

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome</b>
	MMH – Opened the meeting 9:29am and welcomed Chief Inspector Michael Gorman from Cessnock Police Service and Julie McNaughton, replacing Josh Chadwick.  Apologies noted
<b>2</b>	<b>Declaration of Interests</b>
	MMH asked for changes to previous declarations of interest  No changes to declarations of interests for other 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>
	The Cessnock City Councillors underground mine tour was conducted and feedback from the tour was positive.
<b>5</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>
	Correspondence was included in the agenda, no further discussion.  The January 2019 version of the CCC Guidelines will be sent out. Changes include grammatical errors, reference to the Planning Secretary and the ability to use email as well as mail. The guideline can be found on the Austar Coal CCC webpage and a link will be sent out to everyone.  MMH has lodged the annual report on the CCC for 2018 to DPE. This is on the DPE website and will be distributed to members of the CCC.  <b>Action:</b> Send link to CCC Guideline update  <a href="https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Guidelines/Community-Consultative-Committee-Guideline-31-01-2019.pdf">https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Guidelines/Community-Consultative-Committee-Guideline-31-01-2019.pdf</a>  and a copy of the CCC Annual report.  <a href="https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Reports/CCC-annual-reports/austar-voal-mine-community-consultative-committee-2018-annual-report-2019-05-17.pdf?la=en">https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Reports/CCC-annual-reports/austar-voal-mine-community-consultative-committee-2018-annual-report-2019-05-17.pdf?la=en</a>
<b>6</b>	<b>Current Operations, Environmental Monitoring Update, Complaints</b>
	BW – provided an update on operations. Austar is currently mining in Longwall B5 (due to finish in August this year) and then we will move to Longwall B6. We are progressively working on automation of

	<p>equipment to minimise risk of injury due to coal burst. An operator on the surface with video screens and diagnostics and can stop the longwall from the surface.</p> <p>MMH – will coal bursts continue to happen?</p> <p>BW – the hazard of coal burst occurs in mining throughout the world. We have done lots of modelling on coal burst. We are probably the leaders in underground equipment automation in Australia and it is well accepted by the workforce.</p> <p>AS – does the continuous miner still have people on it?</p> <p>BW – continuous miners would still require people to operate, however we aren't using them now, and may look to automation if we commenced using them again.</p> <p>CM – explained the Longwalls were going to be shortened due to faulting. Longwall B5 will be shortened by 281m, B6 by 234m and B7 by 121m. B7 will also reduce in width by 40m.</p> <p>ML – asked whether this would affect the economics of the mine?</p> <p>BW – it impacts with more frequent longwall moves and more times when we are not mining coal.</p> <p>AS – asked when would mining in LWB7 be completed?</p> <p>BW – LWB7 won't be mined in sequence LWB6 will be finished around March next year and then a decision will be made as to whether Stage 3 goes ahead or the mine winds back.</p> <p>CM – described the CHPP operations and the rehabilitation activities currently underway at the Aberdare extended emplacement area.</p> <p>ML – asked what would happen to the land when rehabilitation was complete?</p> <p>CM – this land is privately owned so it is up to the landowner.</p> <p>CM - gave an environmental monitoring update.</p>
7	<p><b>General Business</b></p>
	<p>CM – outlined the Austar Coal Community Support Program's successful applicants and outlined the formal process for assessing projects to support.</p> <p>MMH – noted there was a great diversity of projects sponsored this year.</p> <p>BW mentioned that there is also a Yancoal Community support program that has just announced a major contribution to the Westpac rescue helicopter service.</p> <p>AS – asked if there was any exploratory drilling in progress?</p> <p>BW- not at this stage – we are working towards a plan to explore towards the end of the year or early next year.</p> <p>MG – asked for an invite to the CCC as Austar is a major stakeholder in the Cessnock Community, and it is best practice to form relationships in these forums rather than turn up at incidents. Forming linkages through forums such as the CCC is important. MG also added that it may be worthwhile to bring others in his team out to do a site inspection.</p> <p>Committee members agreed with MG's comments. MMH to seek formal approval of his membership with DPE.</p>

<b>8</b>	<b>Meeting Dates</b>
	<p><b>2019 meeting dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 28 August 2019</li> <li>○ 27 November 2019</li> </ul>
<b>10</b>	<b>Meeting Closed</b>
	MMH – Declared the meeting closed at 10:19am.
	After the meeting, the CCC went to inspect the Remote Longwall Monitoring Room, where the longwall operation and automation was explained. This demonstrated how people have been removed from the operational areas of the longwall at times that may pose a risk of accident and the level of remote control Austar has engaged to mitigate longwall mining hazards.

Recorded: Julie McNaughton 29 May 2019



# AUSTAR COAL MINE

## COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING

Q2 2019  
29 May 2019

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 operations / Environmental monitoring update / Complaints
7. General business / Community Sponsorship
8. Next meeting / Meeting close



# Current Operations





# Current Operations

## Underground Mining Operations

- Currently production from Longwall B5 panel
- The mine has introduced higher levels of automation to the longwall and is subsequently applying remote mining methods to areas of the longwall panel where geological conditions indicate potential for increased coal burst risk. Workers are positioned well clear of the coal cutting machine and the remote mining method includes surface monitoring of automated operations via a series of cameras across the face
- A small coal burst event occurred on the longwall B5 face on 24th April 2019. Remote mining was being used, the nearest worker was over 190m from the incident and nil injuries occurred. Production recommenced with the continued application of remote mining following the completion of an investigation
- Longwall B5 is expected to finish in August 2019 and production is scheduled to commence in Longwall B6 in September
- The Stage 3 area continues to be assessed by the company and nil decisions have been made at this point in time



# Current Operations

## Underground Mining Operations

- Proposed to shorten LWB5 and LWB6, and to shorten and reduce width of LWB7
- LWB5 to be shortened by 281m from approved void length of 1105m to 824m
- LWB6 to be shortened by 234m from approved void length of 1059m to 825m
- LWB7 to be shortened by 121m from approved void length of 718m to 597m, and a reduced width of 40.5m from approved width of 237m to 196.5m
- Shortening longwalls due to geological factors
- Width reduction in LWB7 to preserve the integrity of Bellbird Mains



# Current Operations

## Coal Handling and Preparation Plant (CHPP)

- CHPP operating and consistently washing coal since last meeting
- Typically receiving 2 trains per day during Q2, predicted to increase to 3-4 trains per day during next quarter
- Rehabilitation activities have recommenced at Aberdare Reject Emplacement Area



# Environmental Incidents

## Environmental Incidents (20 February – 28 May 2019)

### Air Quality Criteria Exceedance

- Minor exceedance of 24-hour average Particulate Matter <math><10\mu\text{m}</math> (PM<sub>10</sub>) criterion on 6 March 2019
- Limit 50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , monitored result 51.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  (current annual average 12.8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
- Contributing factors: significant bushfire in Werakata State Conservation Area, subdivision with large areas of exposed soils adjacent to TEOM, gusty and erratic winds throughout day
- Reported to Department of Planning and Environment

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

- Continue to monitor surface and groundwater
- Any runoff contained and pumped to precipitate dam



# Environmental Monitoring Update

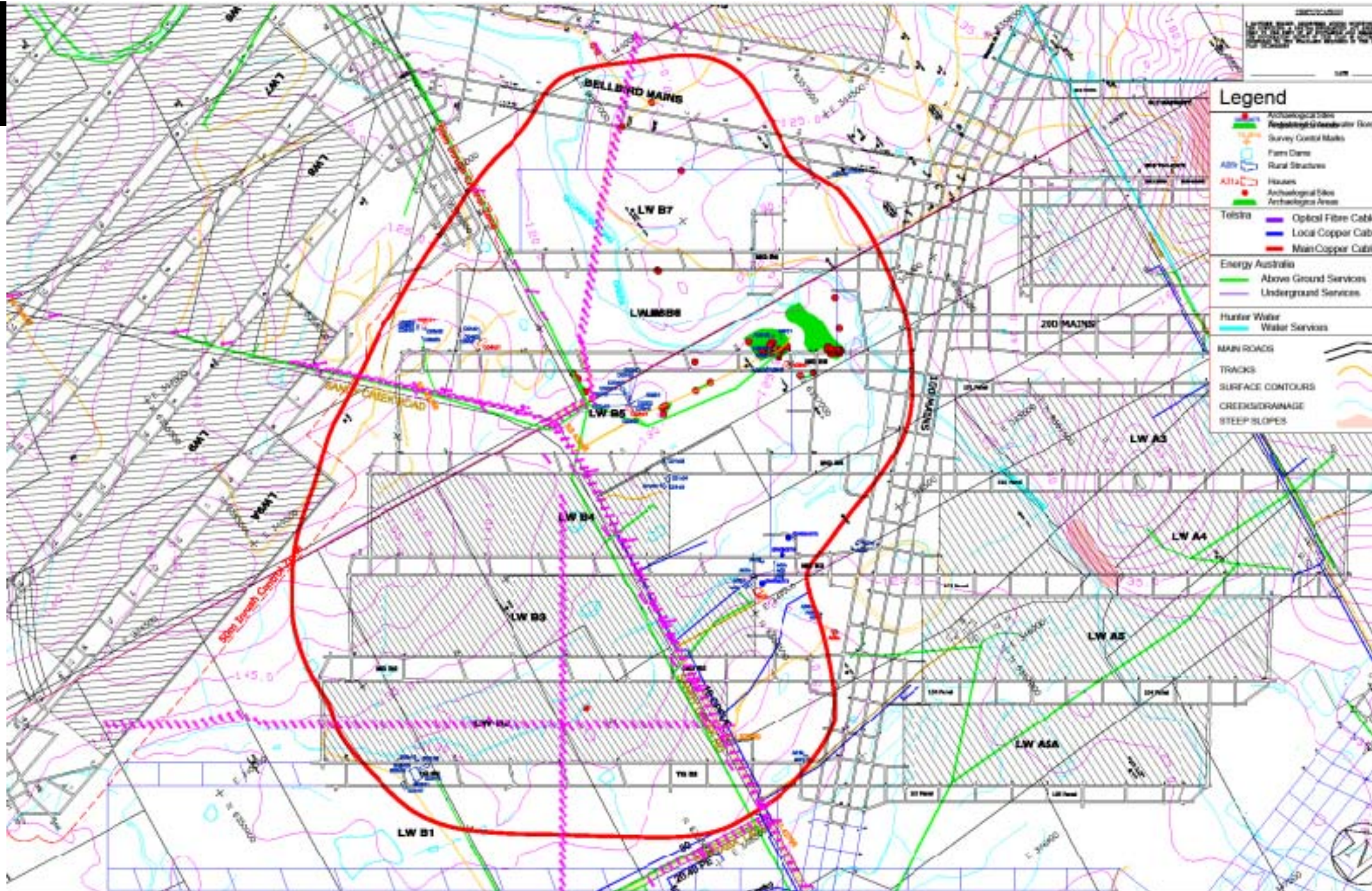


# Subsidence

## Bellbird South Mining Area

- Subsidence surveys are ongoing along the Sandy Creek Road monitoring line
- Maximum recorded surface level movement on Sandy Creek Road is approximately 516 mm with the last survey conducted on 15 May 2019





- ### Legend
- Archaeological Sites
  - Rehabilitation/Leachwater Basins
  - Survey Control Marks
  - Farm Dams
  - Rural Structures
  - Houses
  - Archaeological Sites
  - Archaeological Areas
  - Telstra
    - Optical Fibre Cable
    - Local Copper Cable
    - Main Copper Cable
  - Energy Australia
    - Above Ground Services
    - 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
  - LWB1 - B7 EXTRACTION PLAN AREA
  - LONGWALL EXTRACTION AREA
  - SURFACE CONTOURS

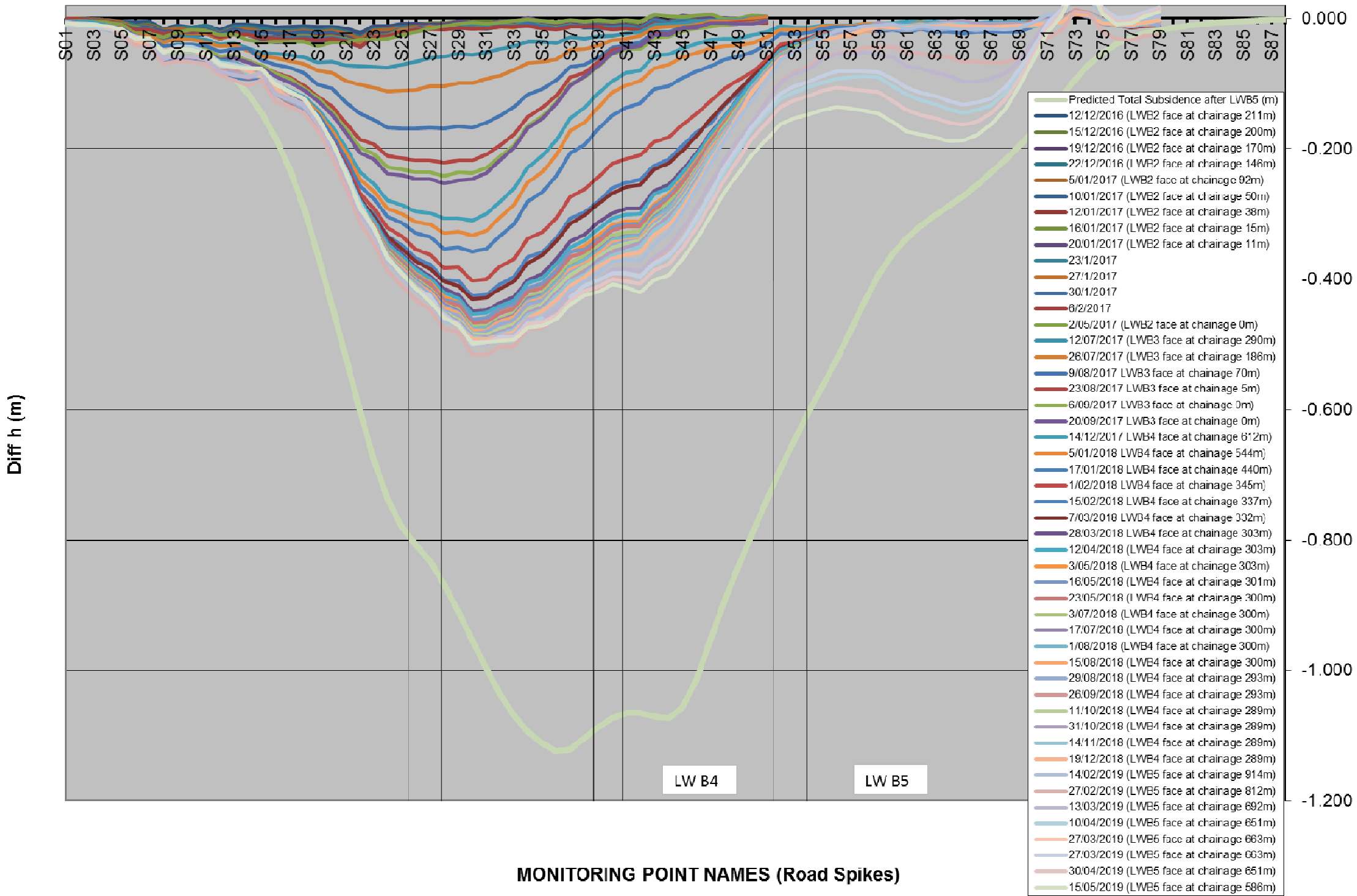
- Legend symbols for extraction plan area (red line), longwall extraction area (hatched box), and surface contours (wavy line).

<b>AUSTAR COAL MINE</b> YARCOL MINEFIELD PTY LTD	
NAME: N. WRIGHT DESIGN DATE: 6/12/2018 DRAWING ENGINEER: MANDY	TITLE: LONGWALL B4-B7 EXTRACTION PLAN APPLICATION SUBSIDENCE MONITORING SURVEY PLAN (CML 2 & CCL 728)
SHEET NO: 1:5000 DRAWING NO: EP1807 - PLAN 7	SCALE: 1:5000 SHEET NO: 70 TOTAL SHEETS: 0



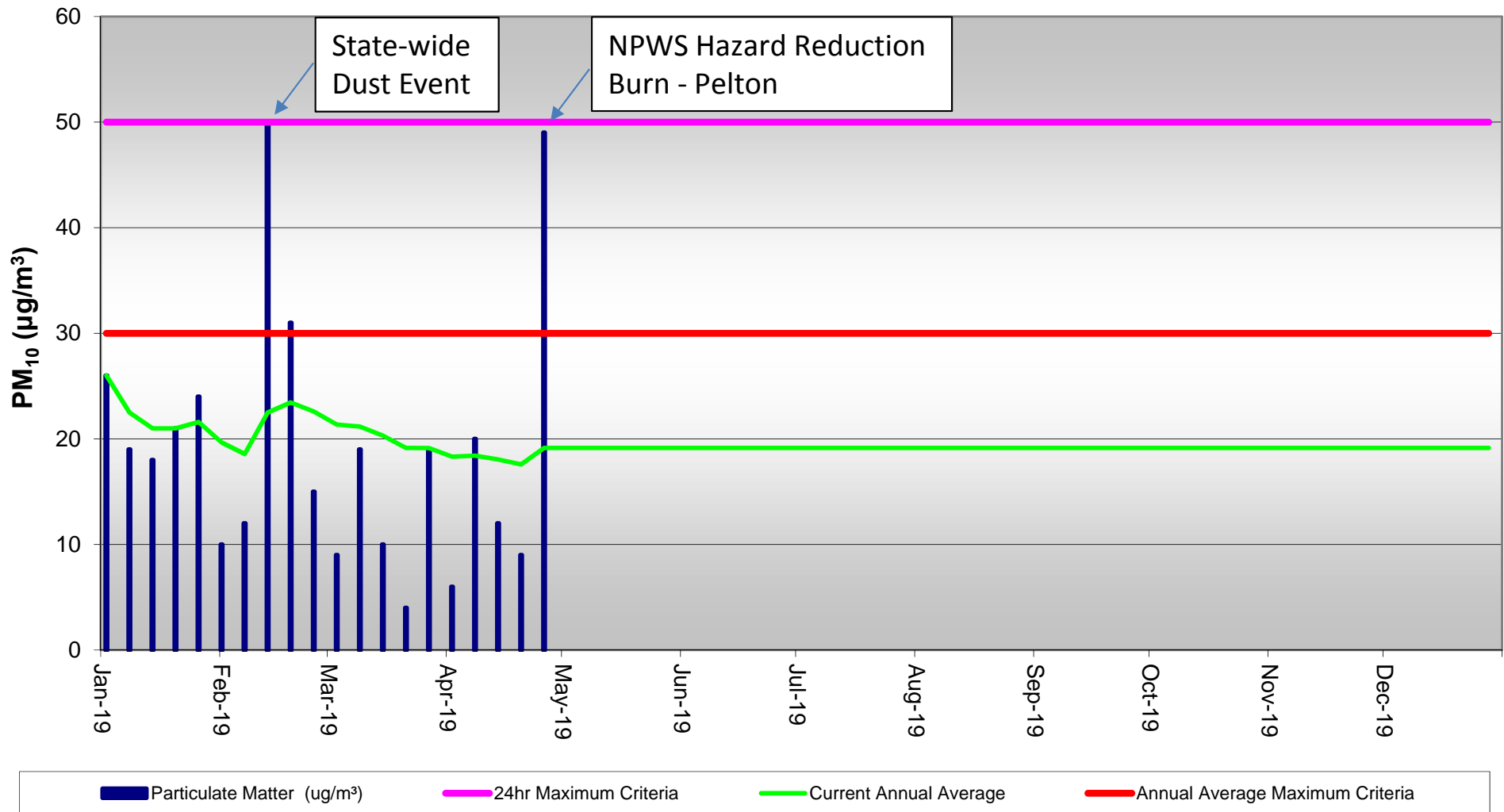


# Subsidence- LINE "SCR1"



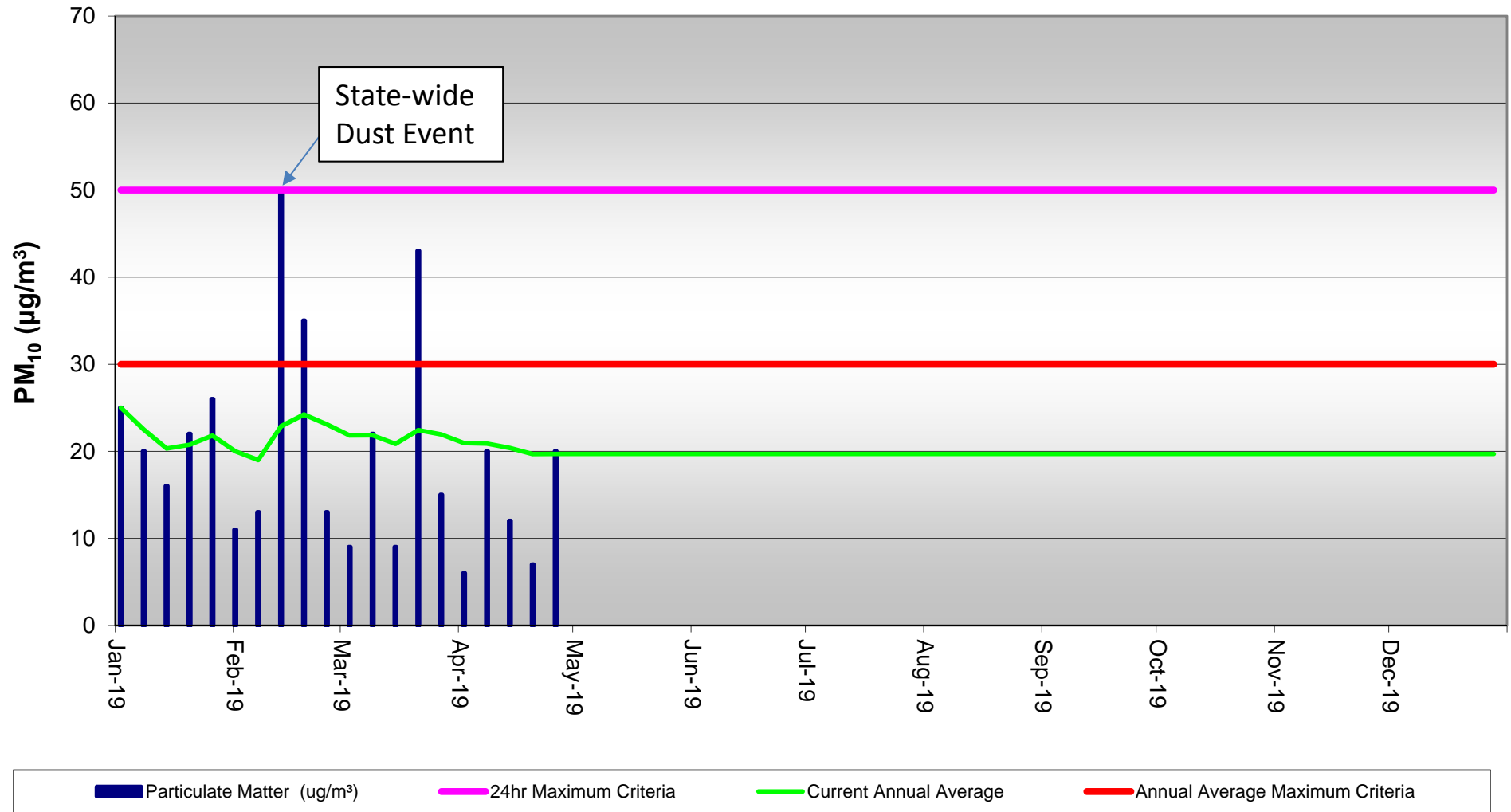
# Air Quality

## Particulate Matter <10µm (PM<sub>10</sub>) - HVAS1 (Mount View - West CHPP)



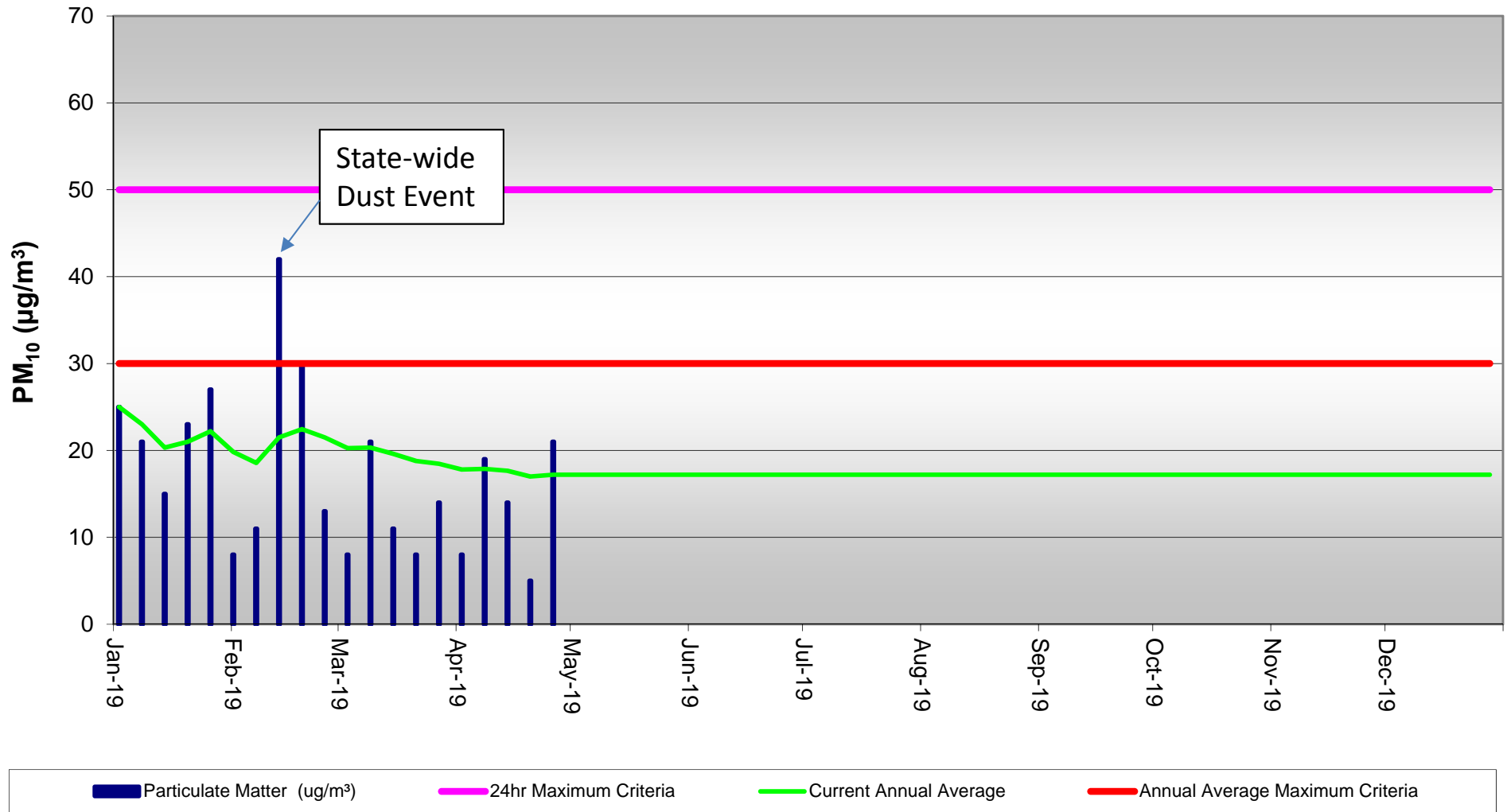
# Air Quality

## Particulate Matter <10µm (PM<sub>10</sub>) - HVAS2 (Pelton - East CHPP)



# Air Quality

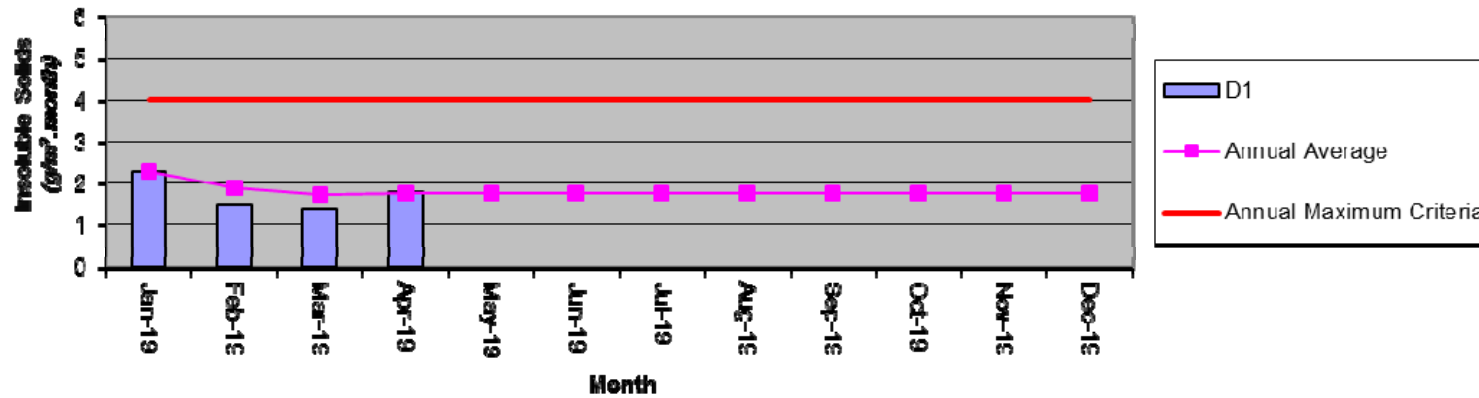
## Particulate Matter <10µm (PM<sub>10</sub>) - HVAS3 (Quorrobolong – East Kitchener SIS)



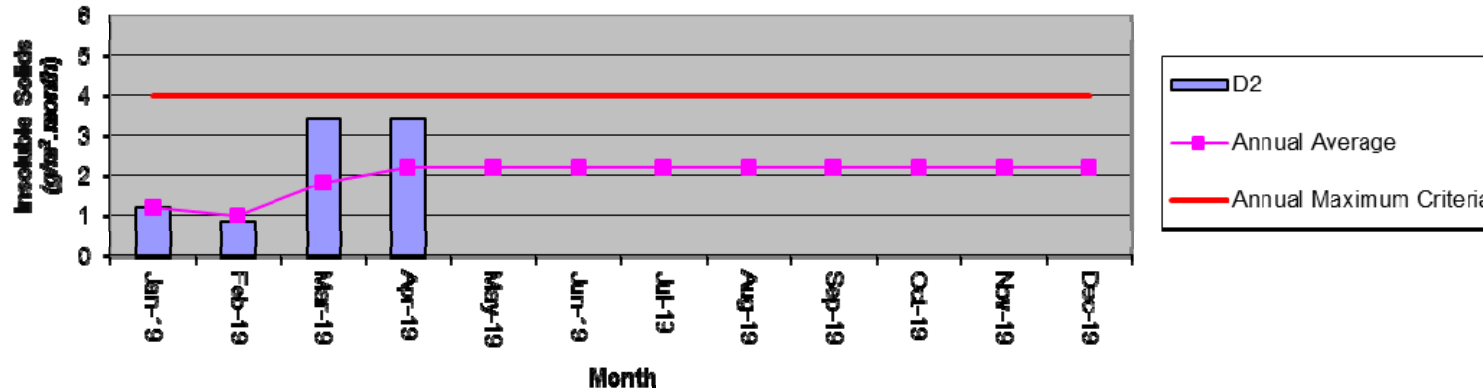
Note: Details on November 2018 high dust reading reported in previous CCC presentation

# Air Quality

Dust Deposition Gauge D1 - Insoluble Solids



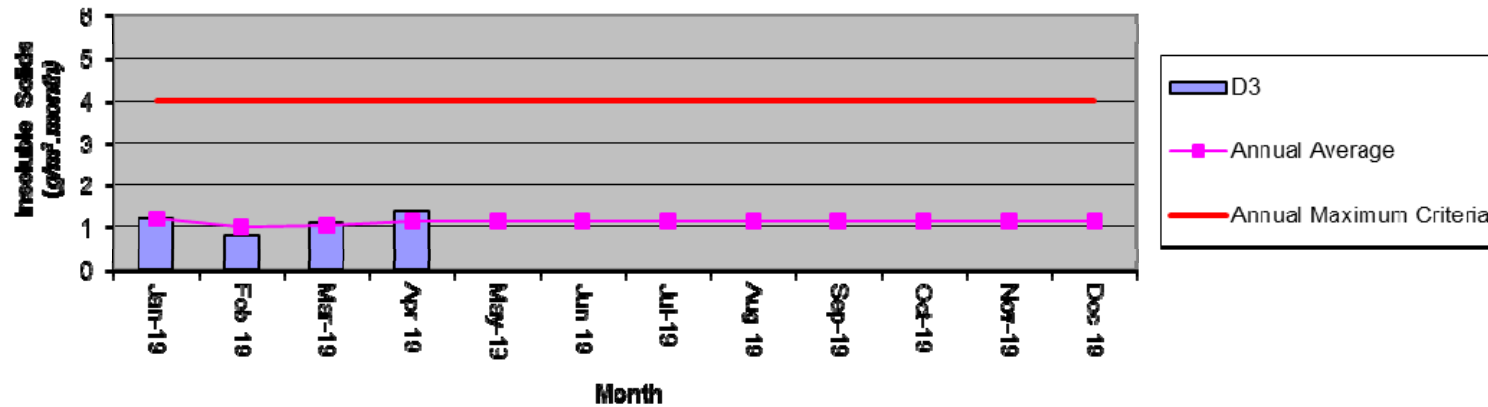
Dust Deposition Gauge D2 - Insoluble Solids



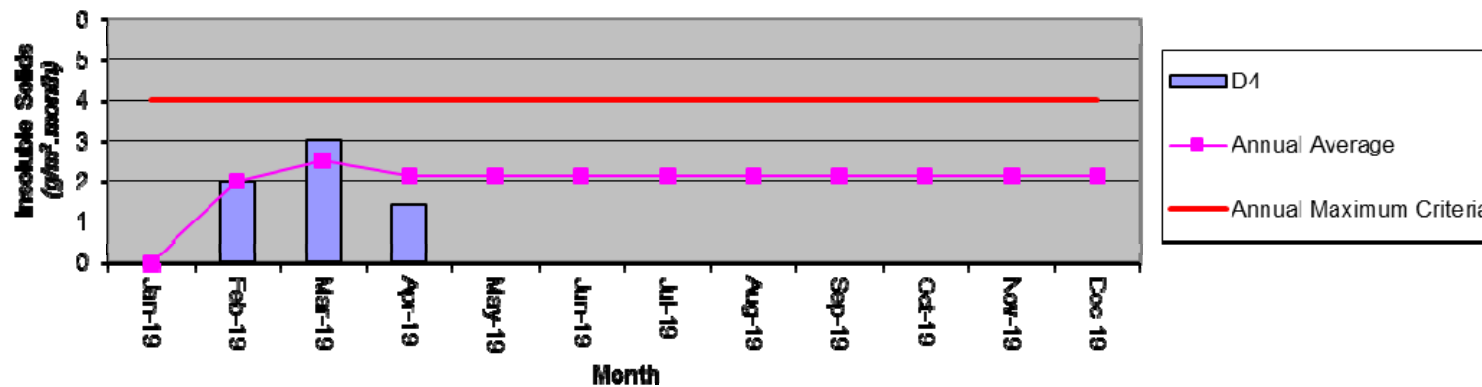


# Air Quality

Dust Deposition Gauge D3 - Insoluble Solids

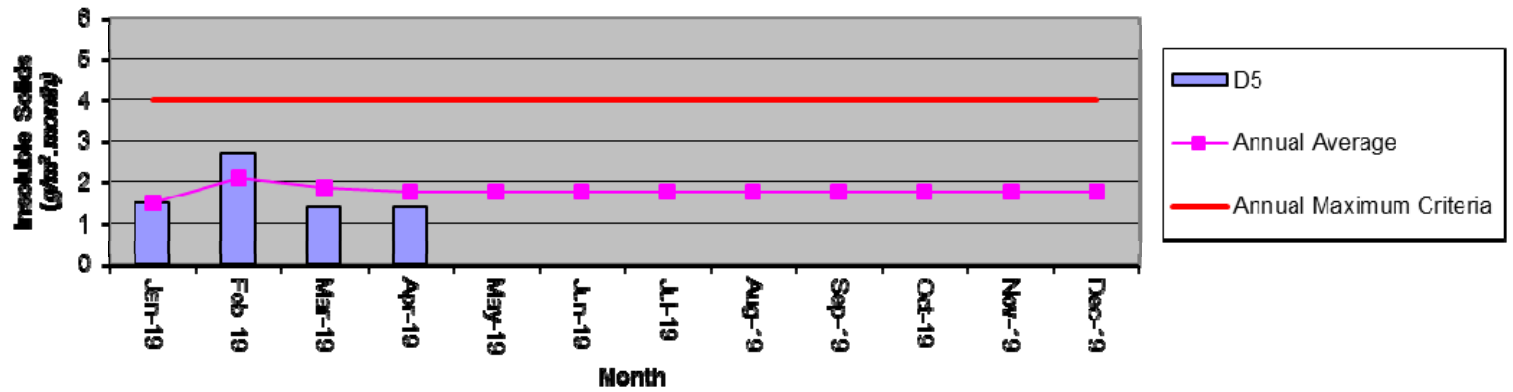


Dust Deposition Gauge D4 - Insoluble Solids

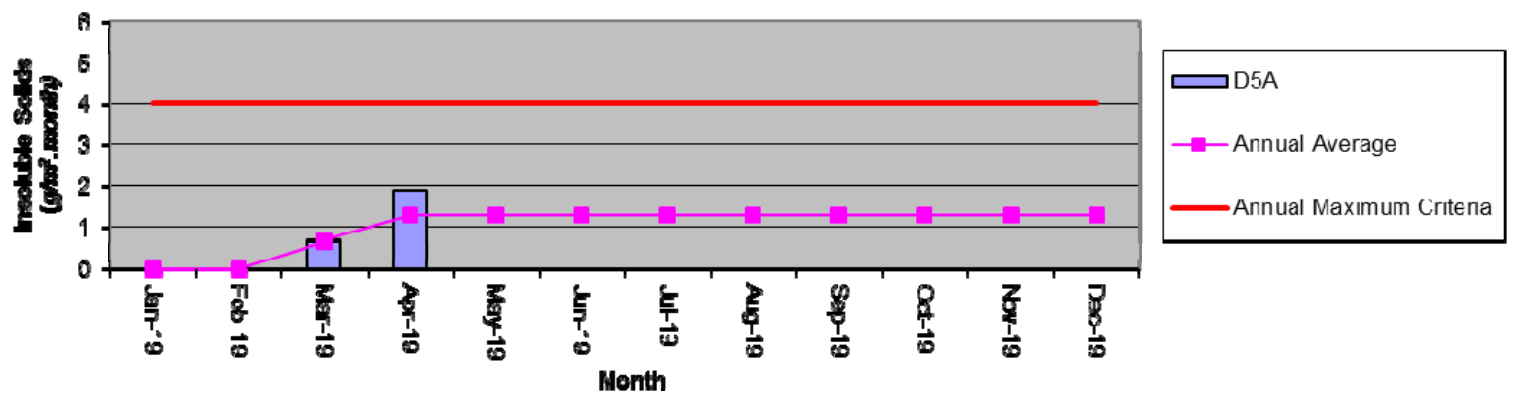


# Air Quality

Dust Deposition Gauge D5 - Insoluble Solids

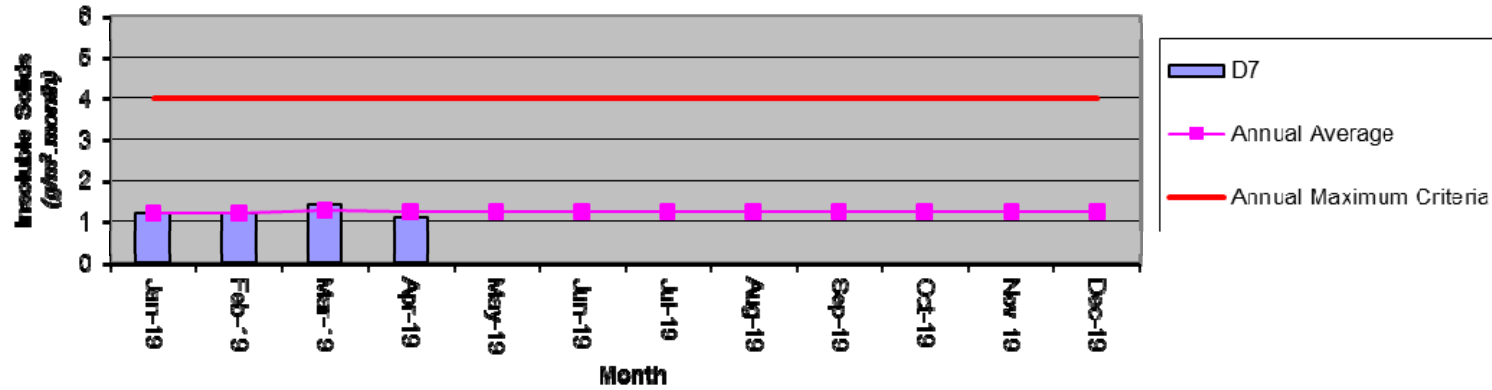


Dust Deposition Gauge D5A - Insoluble Solids

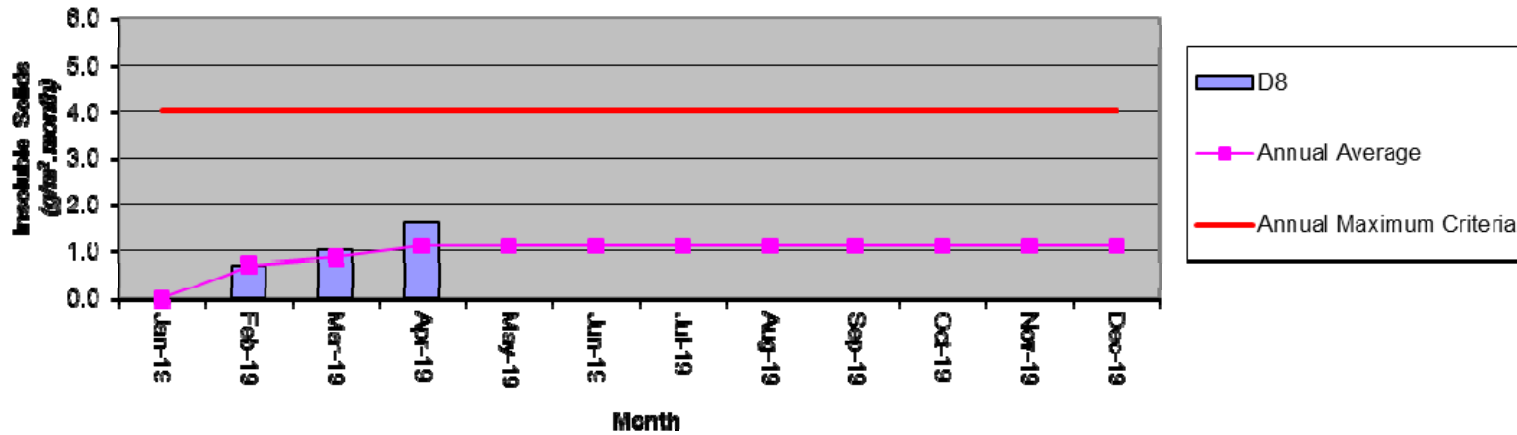


# Air Quality

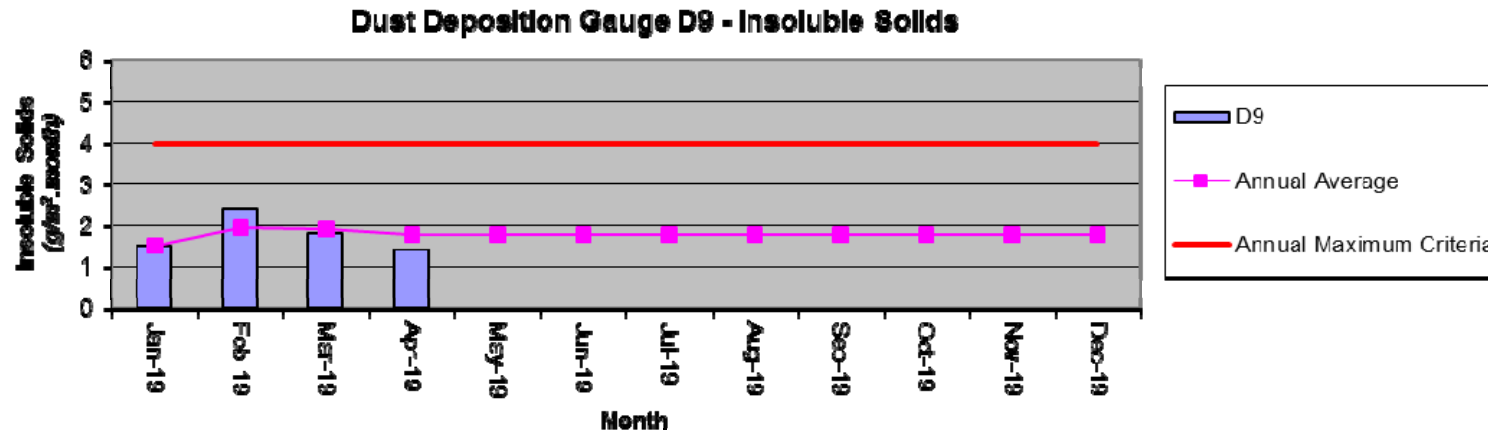
Dust Deposition Gauge D7 - Insoluble Solids



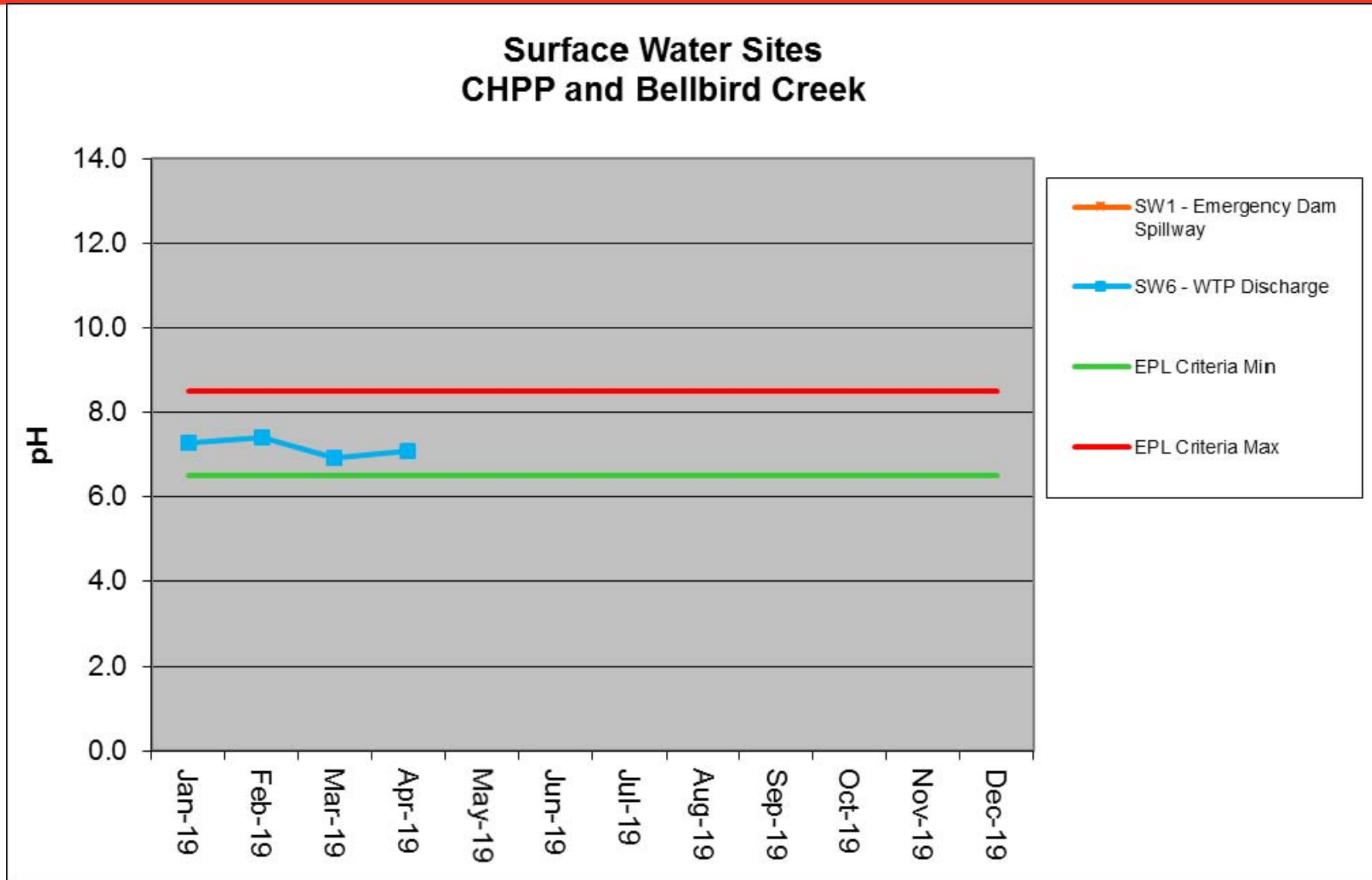
Dust Deposition Gauge D8 - Insoluble Solids



# Air Quality

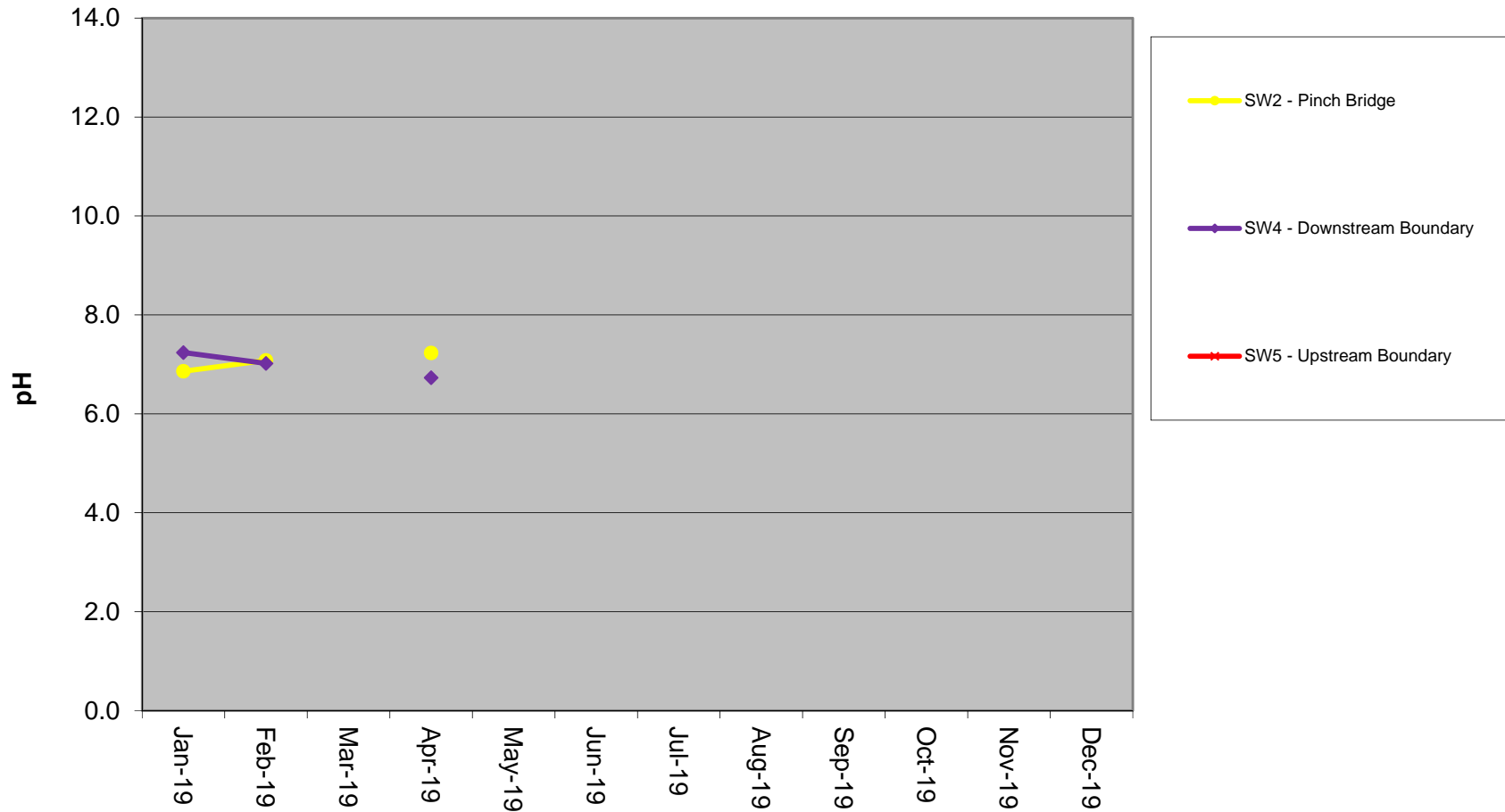


# Water Monitoring



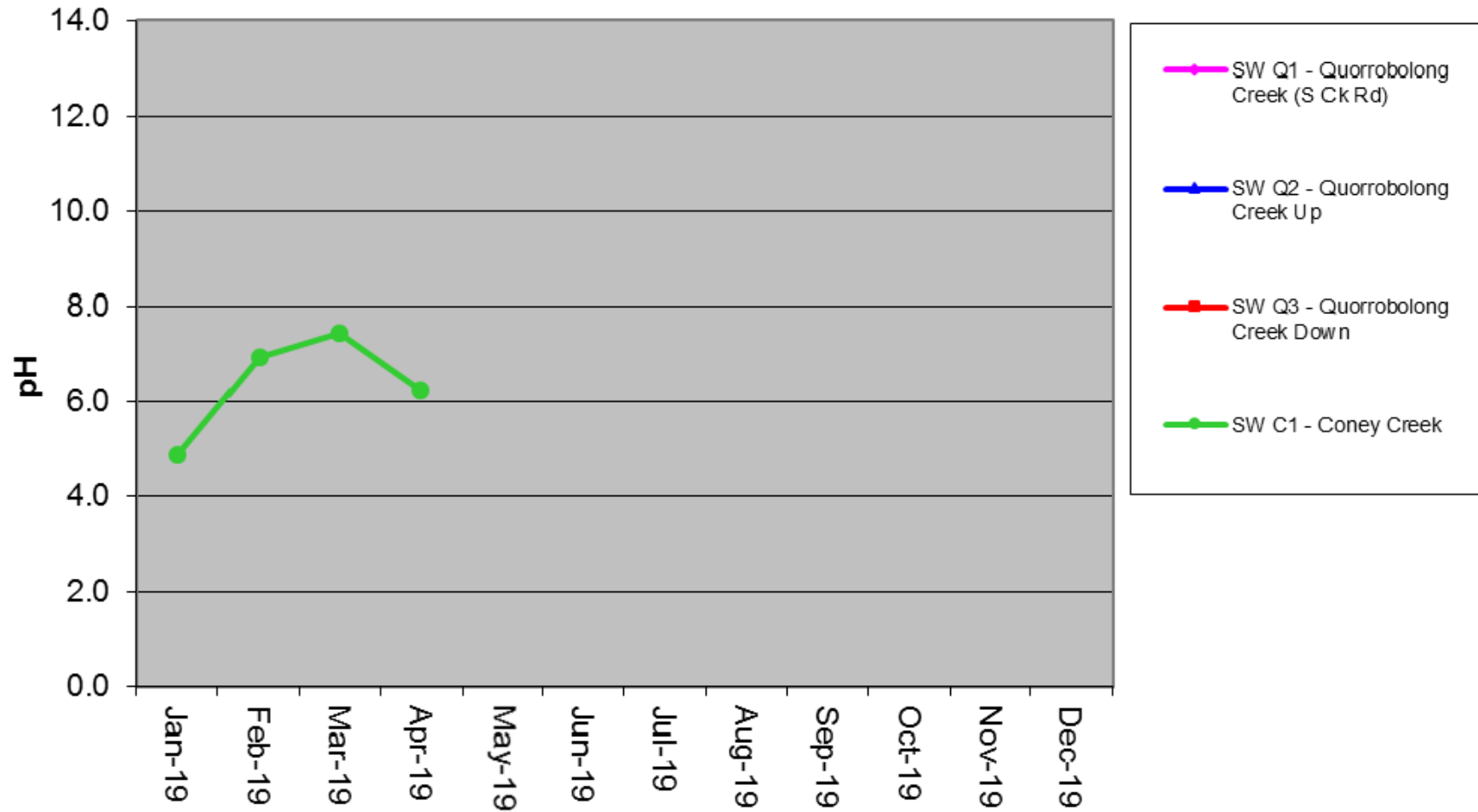
# Water Monitoring

Surface Water Sites  
CHPP and Bellbird Creek



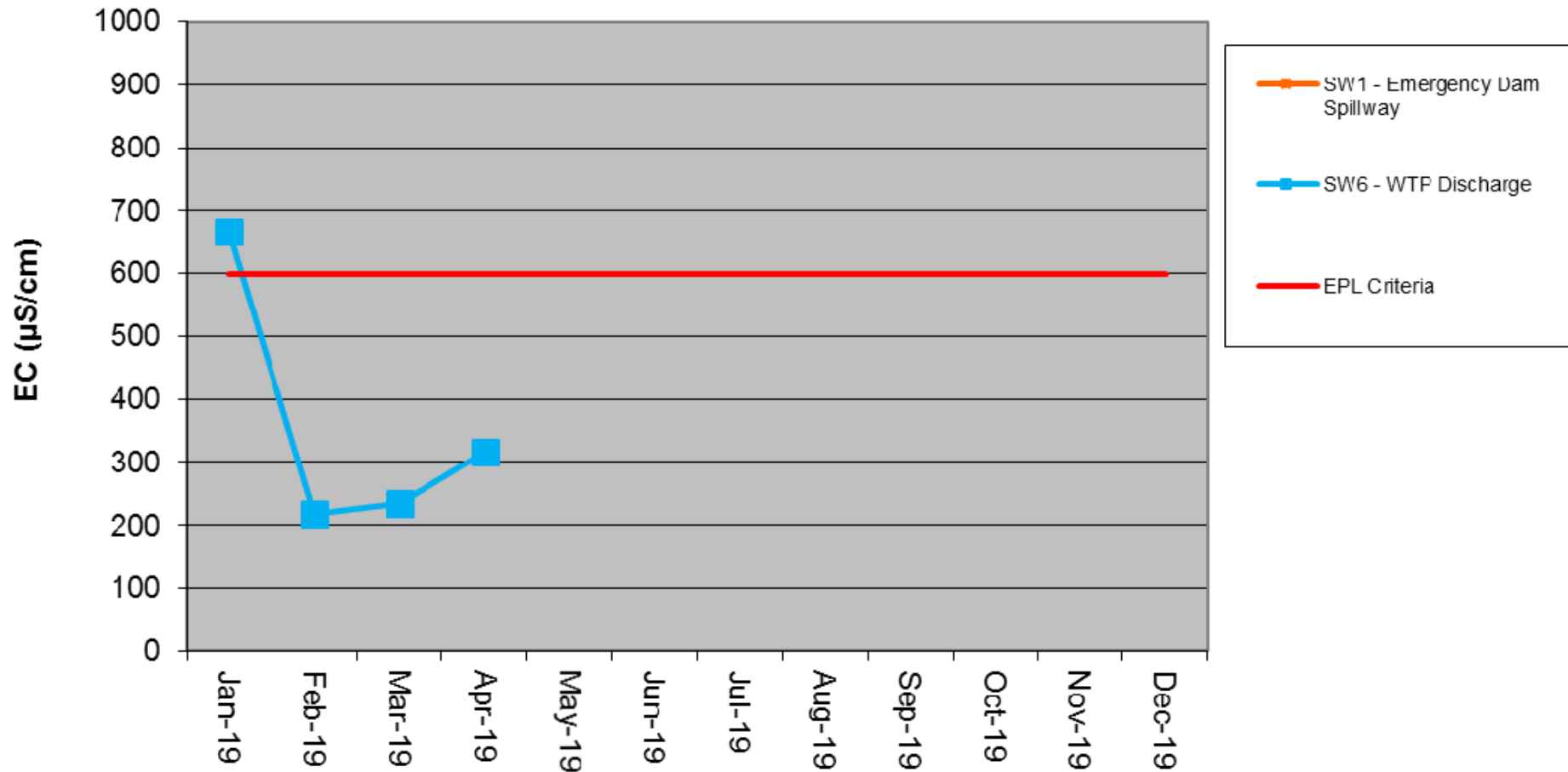
# Water Monitoring

## Surface Water Sites Quorrobolong Creek and Coney Creek



# Water Monitoring

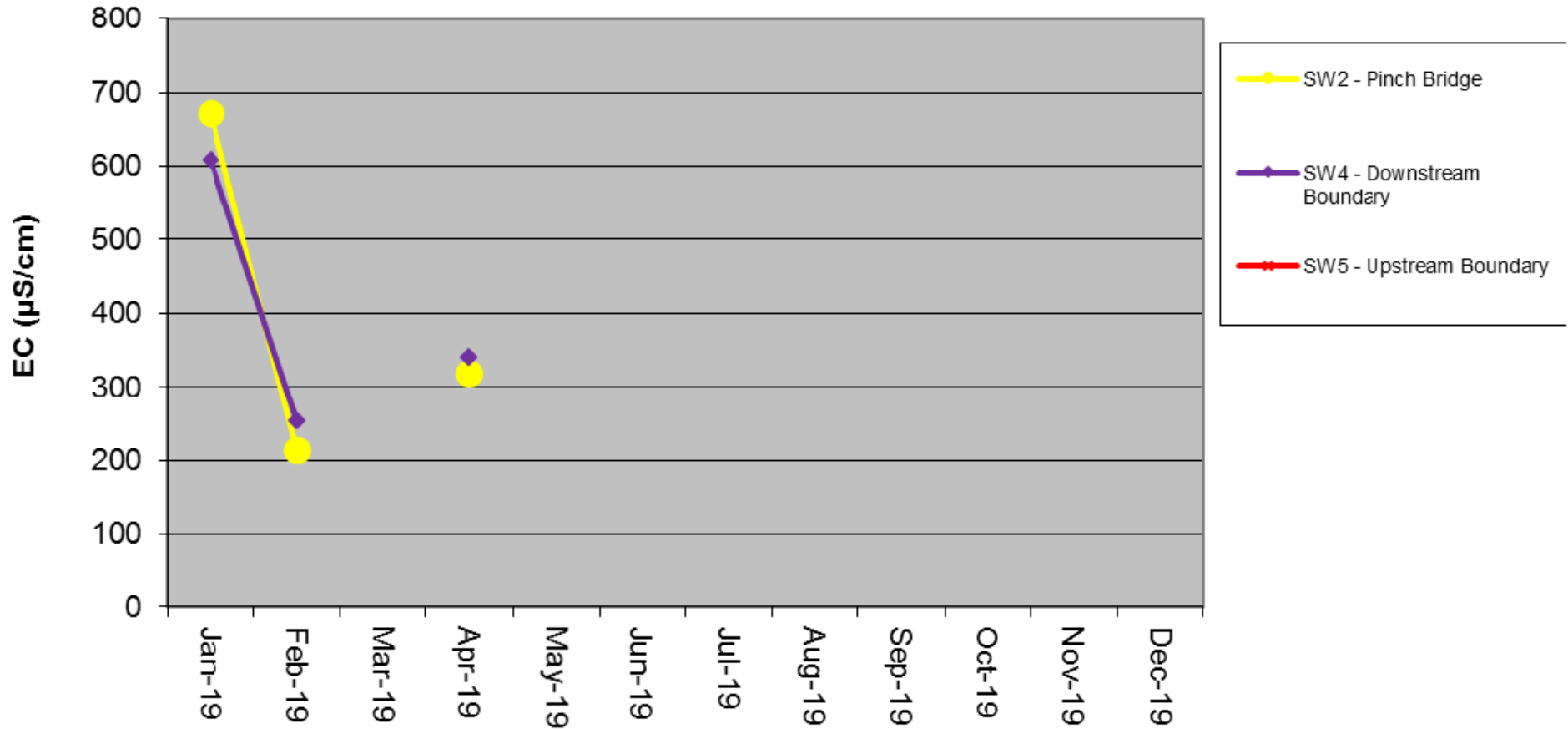
## Surface Water Sites CHPP and Bellbird Creek





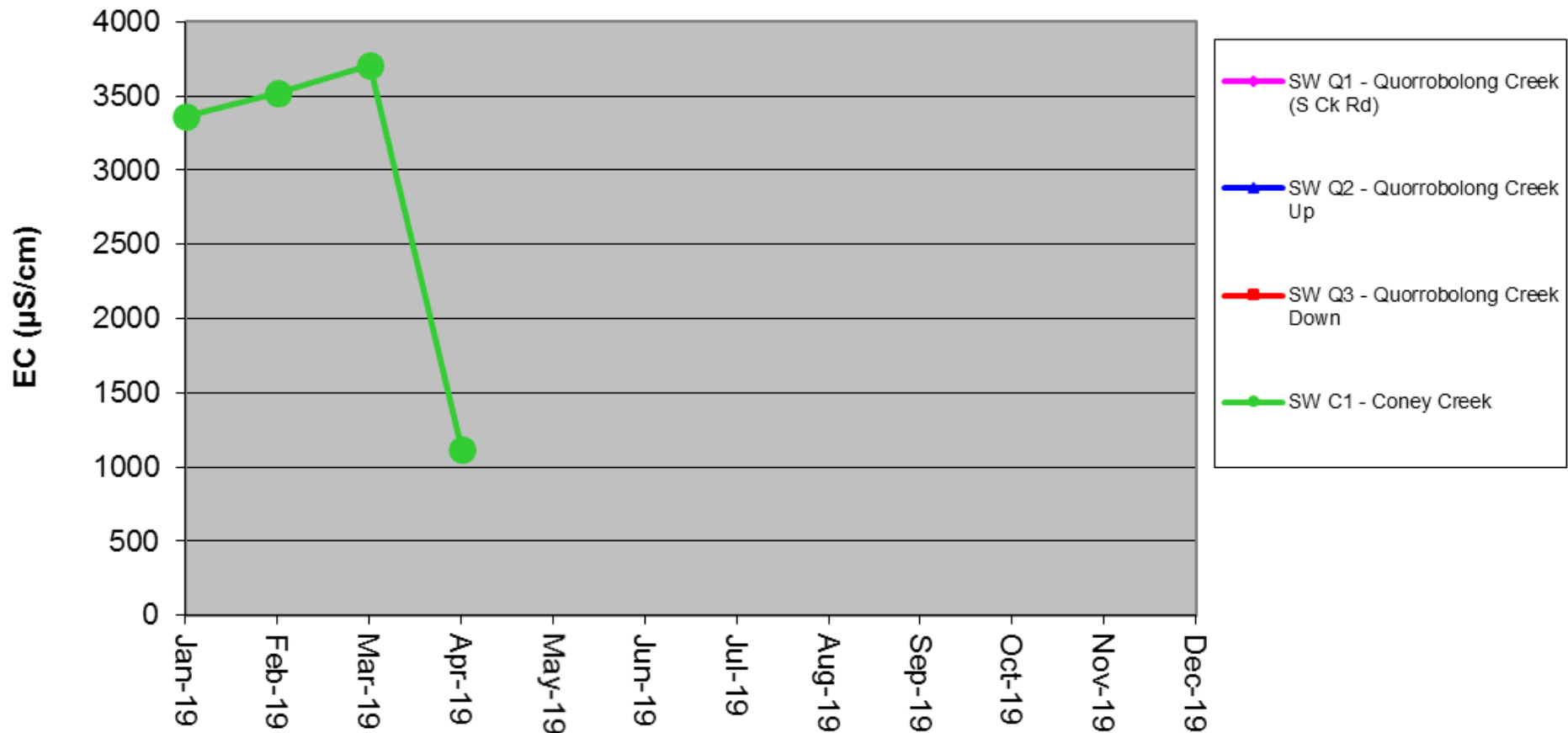
# Water Monitoring

Surface Water Sites  
CHPP and Bellbird Creek



# Water Monitoring

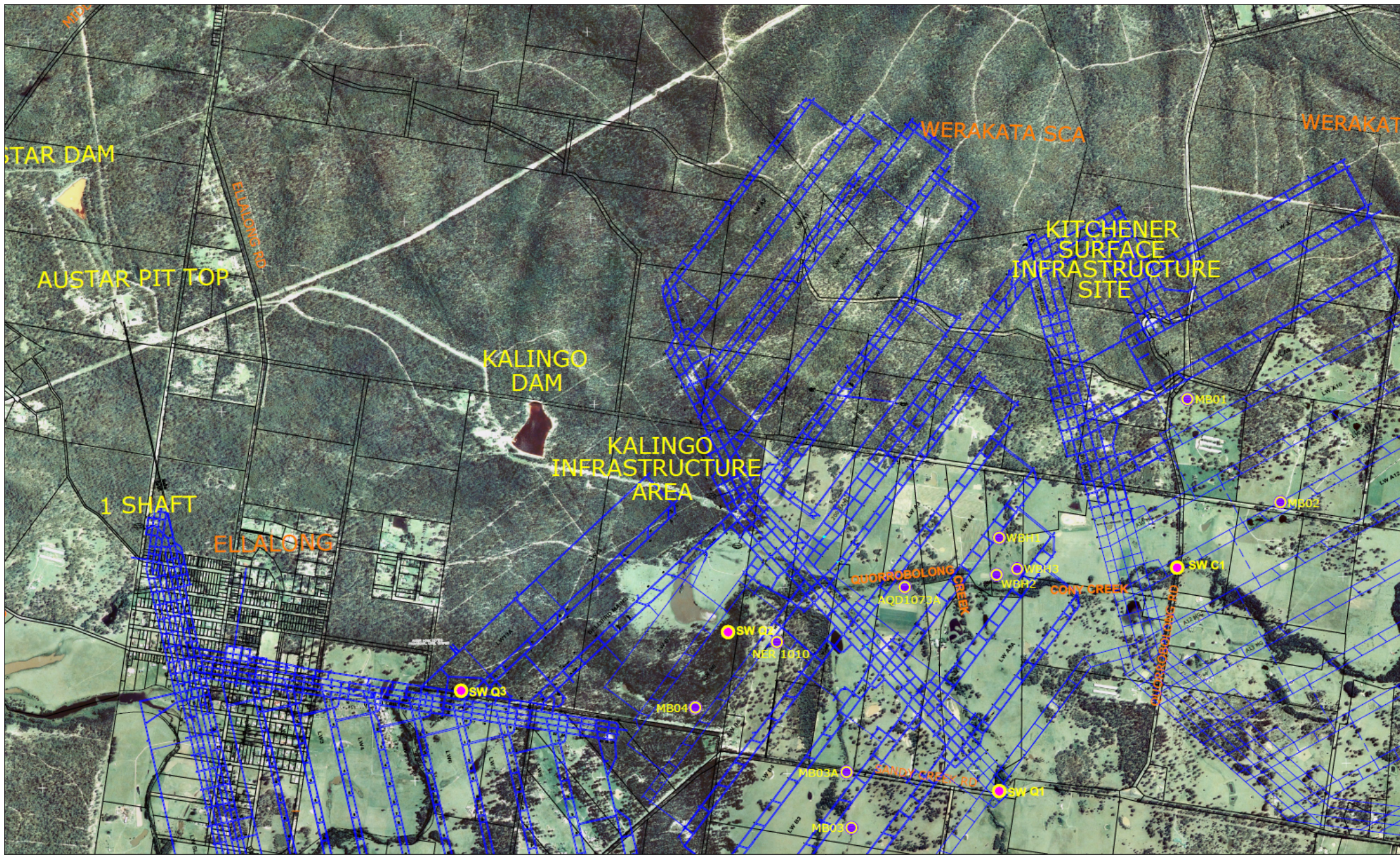
Surface Water Sites  
Quorrobolong Creek and Coney Creek



# Groundwater Monitoring

- Overall groundwater level has remained stable or is in minor decline attributable to current prolonged dry conditions
- No changes to existing trends in groundwater quality or water levels since previously reported





- NER1010 ..... Ground Water Monitor
- SW 2 ..... Surface Water EPL Sample Points
- SW C1 ..... Coney Creek Sample Points
- SW Q1 ..... Quorrobolong Creek Sample Points

DRAWN  
J. Chadwick

DATE  
21/11/2018

CHECKED  
C. McCormack

APPROVED  
C. McCormack

## AUSTAR COAL MINE

TITLE  
**Austar Surface & Groundwater  
Monitoring Locations**

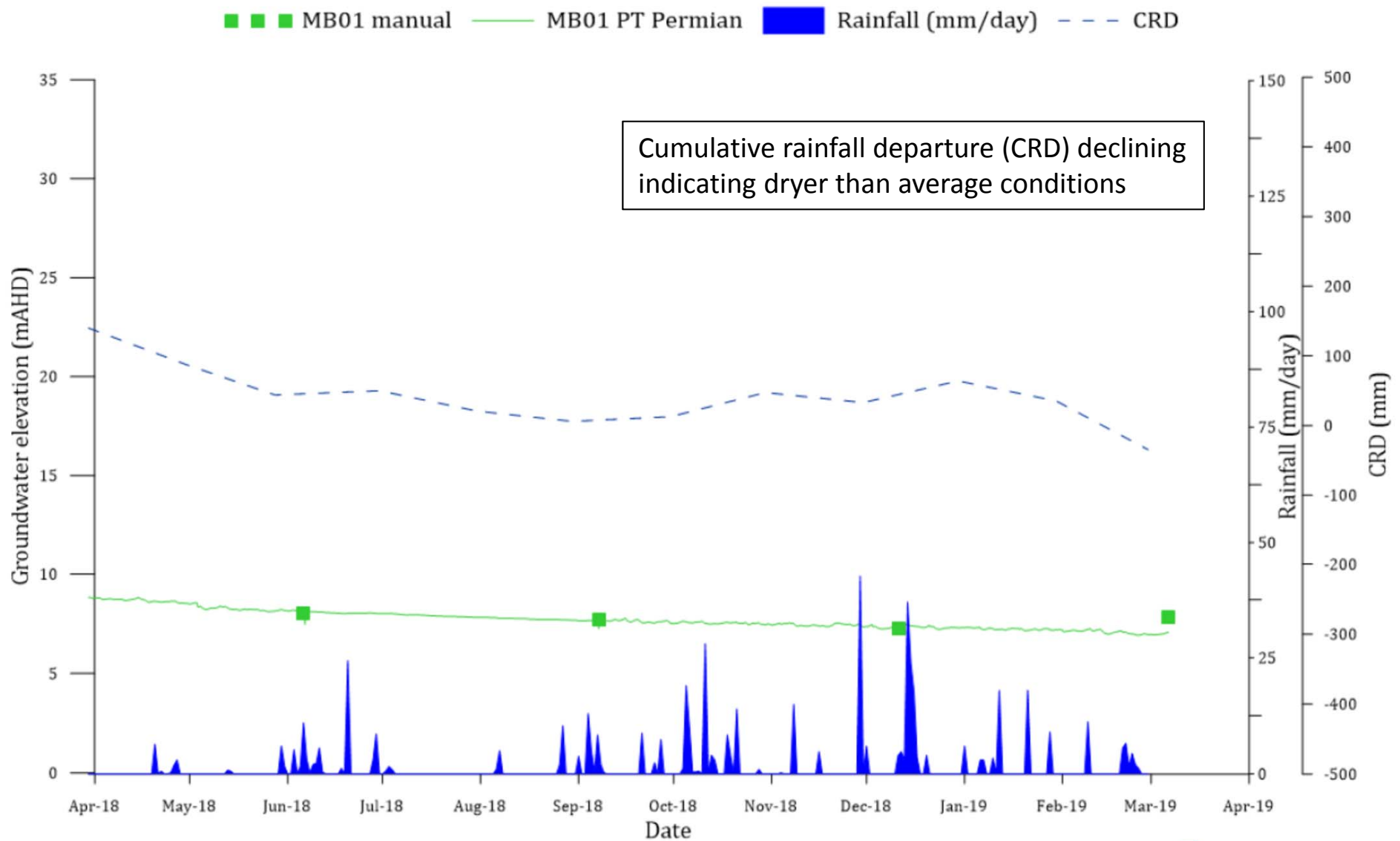
SCALE  
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DRAWING No.  
Environmental/ Monitoring Plan A3



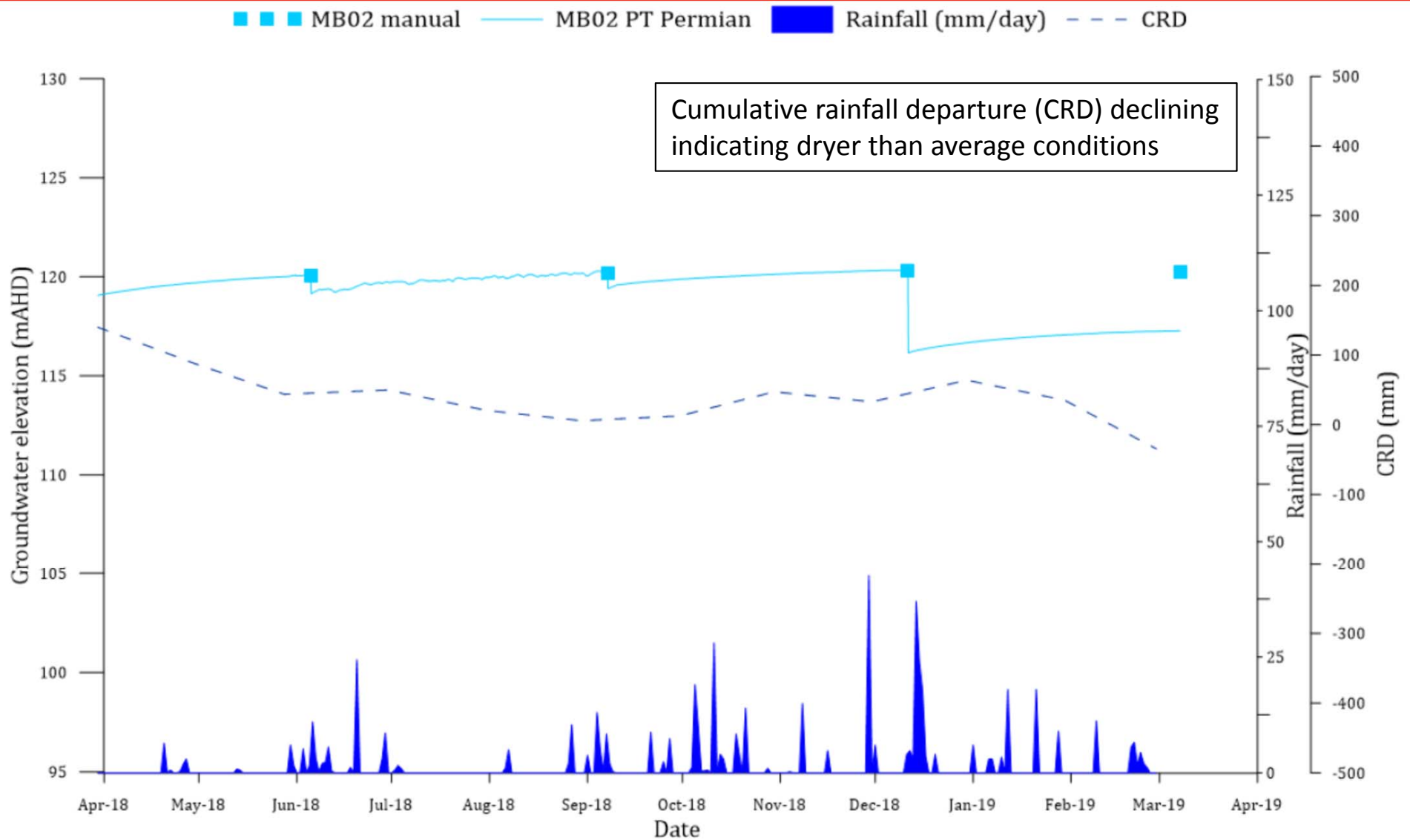


# Groundwater Monitoring



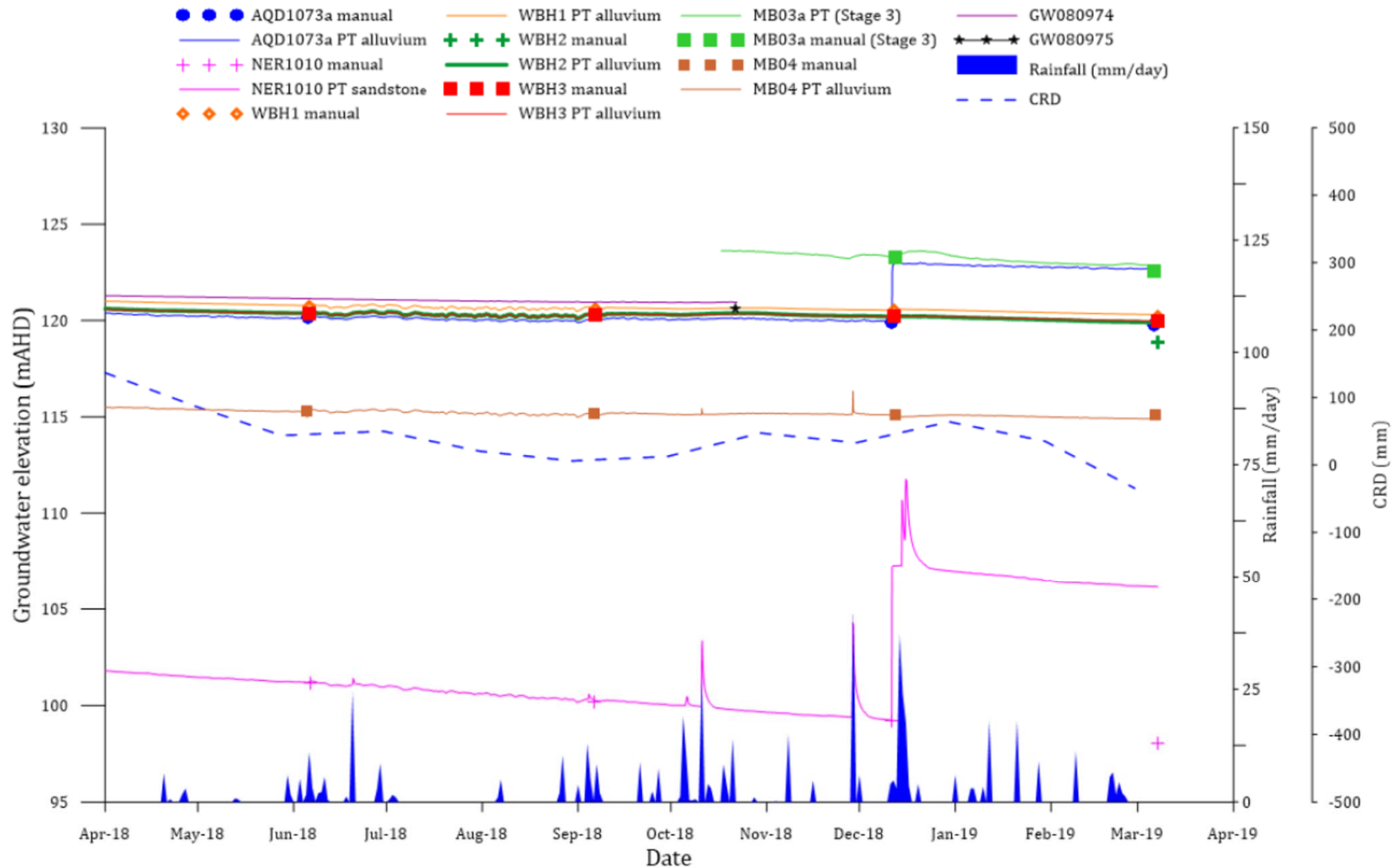
Stage 3 MB01 sandstone aquifer groundwater level hydrograph

# Groundwater Monitoring



Stage 3 MB02 sandstone aquifer groundwater level hydrograph

# Groundwater Monitoring



**Stage 2 & Bellbird South alluvium and sandstone aquifer, and NOW groundwater level hydrographs**

# Noise Monitoring

**Since last CCC meeting (20 February 2019 to 28 May 2019)**

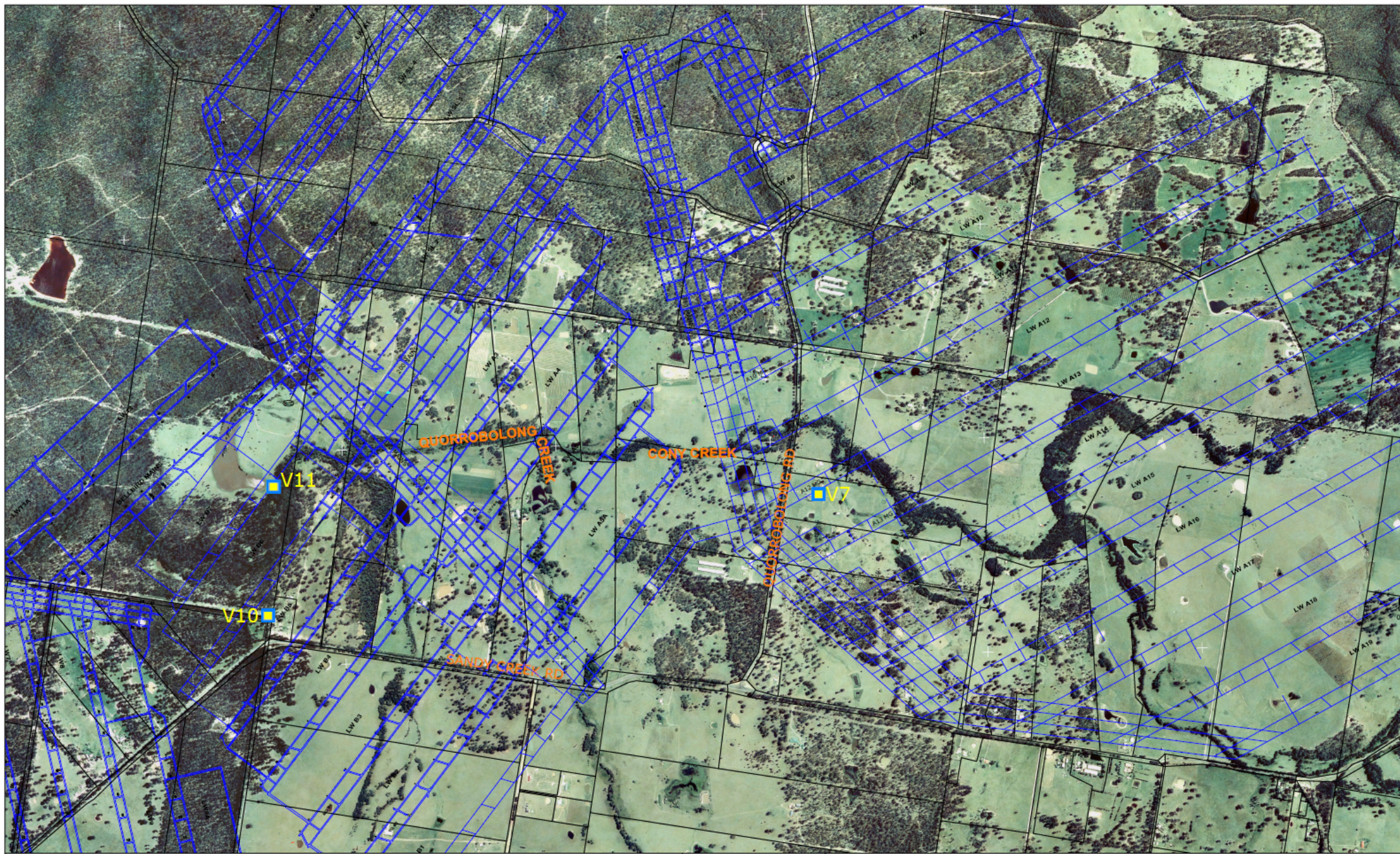
- No noise exceedances recorded



## Since last CCC meeting (20 February 2019 to 28 May 2019)

- **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
  - 2 new vibration events recorded greater than 1mm/s on any axis
  - 1.24 mm/s & 3.87 mm/s peak vibration
  
- **Monitor V10 – above LWB5**
  - Monitoring commenced 28 August 2017
  - 16 new vibration events recorded greater than 1mm/s on any axis
  - Ranging between 1.03-3.58 mm/s peak vibration
  - Currently mining in LWB5
  
- **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







# Community Complaints

**Since last CCC meeting (20 February 2019 to 28 May 2019)**

- NIL Community Complaints



# General Business





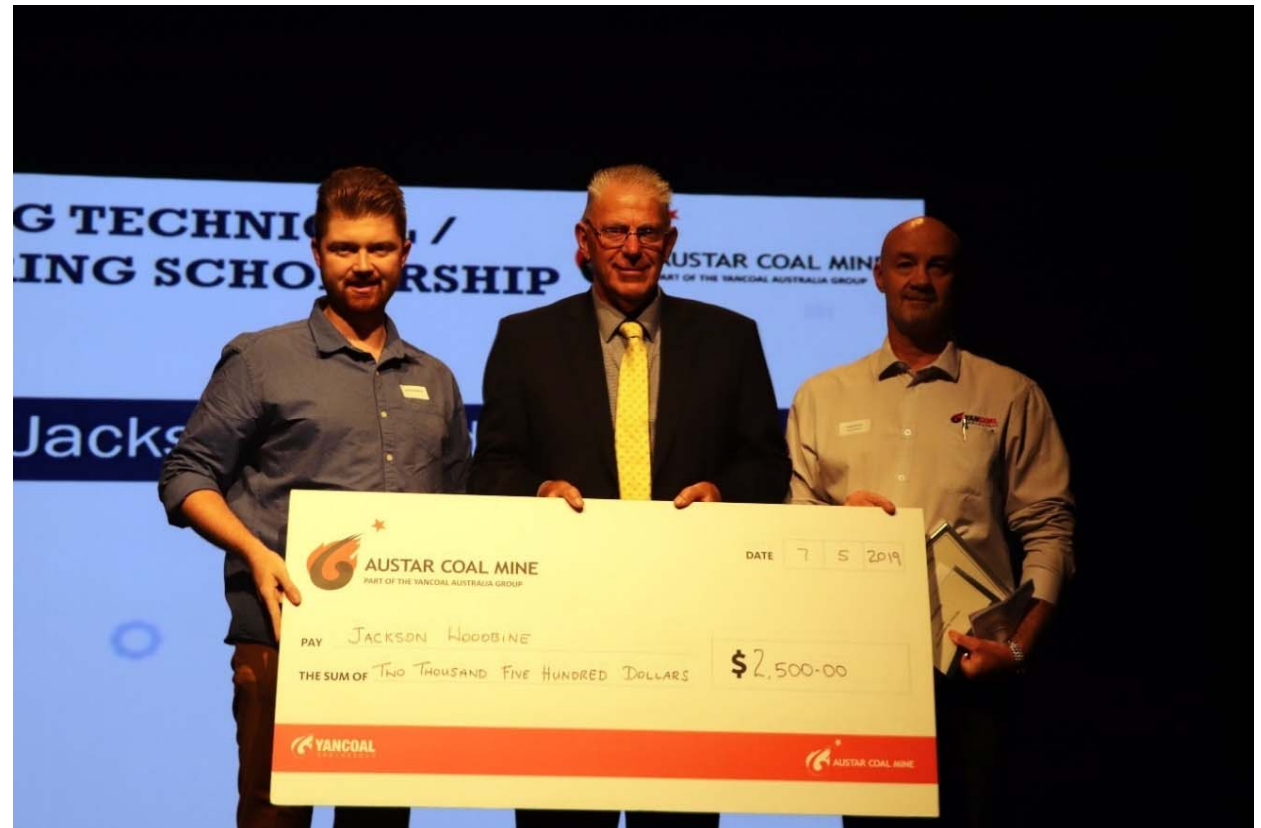
## Community Sponsorship and Donations

### ■ Community Support Program 2019

- Successful applicants of the 2019 Community Support Program included:
  - Cessnock Chamber of Commerce – Mining Lane Project
  - Cessnock Chamber of Commerce – STOMP Festival
  - Cessnock City Council – Our Bushland Bioblitz 2019
  - Kiray Putjung Aboriginal Corporation – Kiray Putjung Art Trail and Workshops
  - Kitchener Public School – Head and Heart Mindfulness Program
  - Millfield Public School – Community Garden
  - Richmond Vale Railway Museum – Canteen Upgrade

## Community Sponsorship and Donations

- **2019 Mayoral Academic Scholarship**
  - Austar Coal Mine Mining/Technical Engineering Scholarship awarded to a Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering student from University of Newcastle



# General Business

## Underground Tour

- Tour of Austar's underground mine held on 10 April 2019
- Attendees included Cessnock City Council GM and Councillors





## Completed Reports and Studies

- Mining Lease Group Exploration Report submitted to Division of Resources & Geoscience

## Other Business –



# Next Meeting / Close