

**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING #57
Thursday 18 October 2018
ASHTON COAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

Attendees

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	(MMH) Chairperson
Godfrey Adamthwaite	(GA) Singleton Shire Council (SSC)
Debbie Richards	(DR) Community Representative
Michael Bestic	(MB) Community Representative
Phil Brown	(PB) Company Rep (Environment & Community Superintendent)
Lachlan Crawford	(LC) Company Rep (Environment & Community Coordinator (contract))
Craig Milton (Guest)	(CM) Mining NSW

1. Opening and Welcome

- Chairperson opened the meeting at 1:01pm.
- Welcome Craig Milton from Mining NSW (MNSW) to present to Committee on Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (UHMD).

2. Apologies

- John McInerney (Community Representative)
- Aaron McGuigan Company Rep (Operations Manager)

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by Community Representatives

- MMH advised no change in her previous declarations.
- No change to community representatives' pecuniary interests previously declared.

4. The Chairperson suspended business to allow the UHMD Presentation

- CM presented to committee on overview of UHMD (presentation slides attached)
- PB enquired what action MNSW is taking to provide positive message about mining industry in NSW.
- CM outlined various activities including the collation and dissemination of data on benefits from mining to communities and state, publicising case studies of best practice initiatives being implemented by mines, UHMD and Hunter Coal Festival.
- MB re-emphasised the general lack of publicity regarding good news stories from mining industry to balance the predominantly negative coverage of mining industry in media.
- CM acknowledged more could be done to publicise good news, which is role of MNSW, but publicity is not function of UHMD, which is to facilitate flow of information between industry and community.

5. Minutes from Previous Meeting

- Minutes from the meeting held 28 June 2018 were accepted as a true and accurate record:
Moved: Godfrey Adamthwaite **Seconded:** Debbie Richards

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Refer to presentation

7. Correspondence

As listed in the agenda - no further discussion

8. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

8.1 Ashton Operations Update

Refer to presentation

8.2 Monitoring and Environmental Performance

Refer to handout

8.3 Community Complaints and response to complaints

Refer to presentation

8.4 Environmental Activities Update

Refer to presentation

8.5 Camberwell Update

Refer to presentation.

9. General Business

- Nil

10. Actions

- A site inspection will be arranged to immediately precede the February CCC meeting (PB)

11. Date for Next Meeting

- Next Meeting: Thursday 14 February 2019, 1:00pm (mine site inspection, followed by CCC meeting).
- Other CCC meetings proposed for 2019: 1pm, 13th June and 1pm, 17th October

MEETING CLOSED 2:25pm



Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

18 October 2018

Ashton Coal CCC Meeting

The origin of the Dialogue

- In 2010, a high concentration of mining activity in the Upper Hunter emerged.
- There was growing concern within the community about the cumulative impacts of mining on the region.
- The ABC Four Corners Report 'A Dirty Business' highlighted some negative industry impacts in the region.
- A whole of industry approach was needed to address this common issue.



The origin of the Dialogue



- A NSWMC community perception survey found that industry was viewed poorly by a wide range of stakeholders.
- A series of public forums were held in 2010 to better assess and understand community sentiment.
- The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (the Dialogue) was established in 2011 to address key issues identified through the forums and engage in meaningful and respectful discussions with various community members.

Initial UHMD structure

- As a result of issues identified at the 2010 public forums, the Dialogue was initially based around four thematic groups:
 - Emissions & Health
 - Land Management
 - Water Quality
 - Social Impacts and Infrastructure



Key UHMD projects since 2011



Dialogue projects



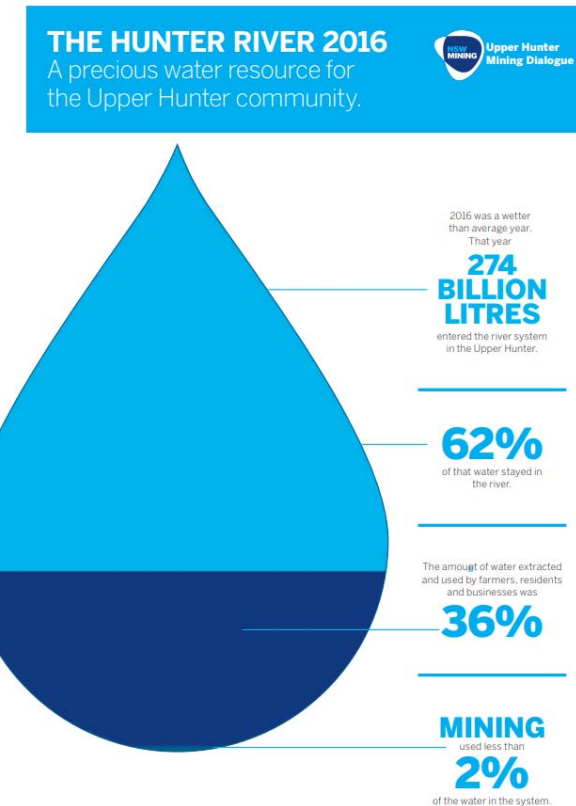
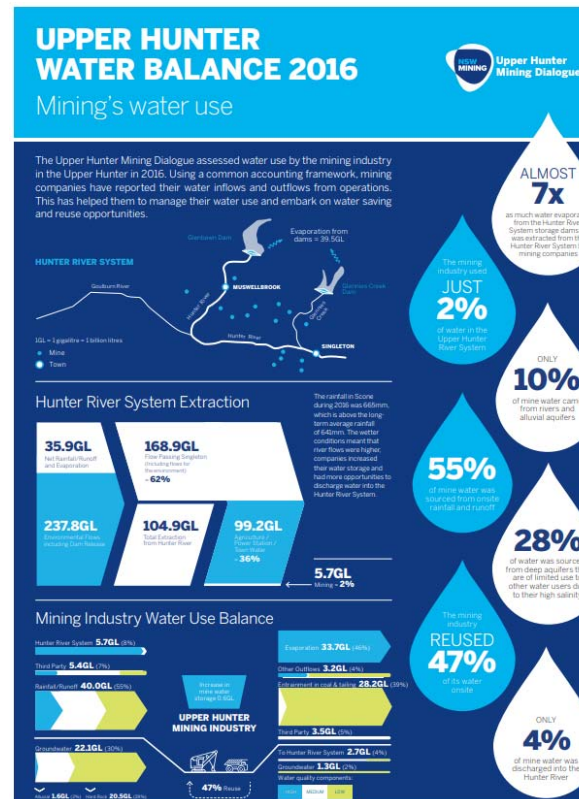
Land Management

- **Beneficial reuse of voids project** – A series of reports identified a range of potential post-mining land uses for Upper Hunter mine voids.
- **Cattle grazing trials study** – An ACARP study examining the sustainability and profitability of grazing cattle on rehabilitated mine land produced positive results and generated significant local media opportunities.
- **Annual rehabilitation principles and reporting project** – A yearly review of industry's rehabilitation progress has improved transparency and community awareness.
- **Mine rehabilitation booklet** – This booklet is a collaborative effort with DRG to highlighting the regulatory framework, case studies from industry and future directions regarding rehabilitation in NSW.

Dialogue projects

Water

- **Annual MCA Water Accounting Framework** – A yearly review of water use by Dialogue members in the context of total water use in the Upper Hunter community.
- **Hunter River Water Quality Study** – A voluntary study by industry to quantify the potential for heavy metals concentration at discharge sites in the Hunter River. Report is being finalised.



Dialogue projects



Emissions and Health

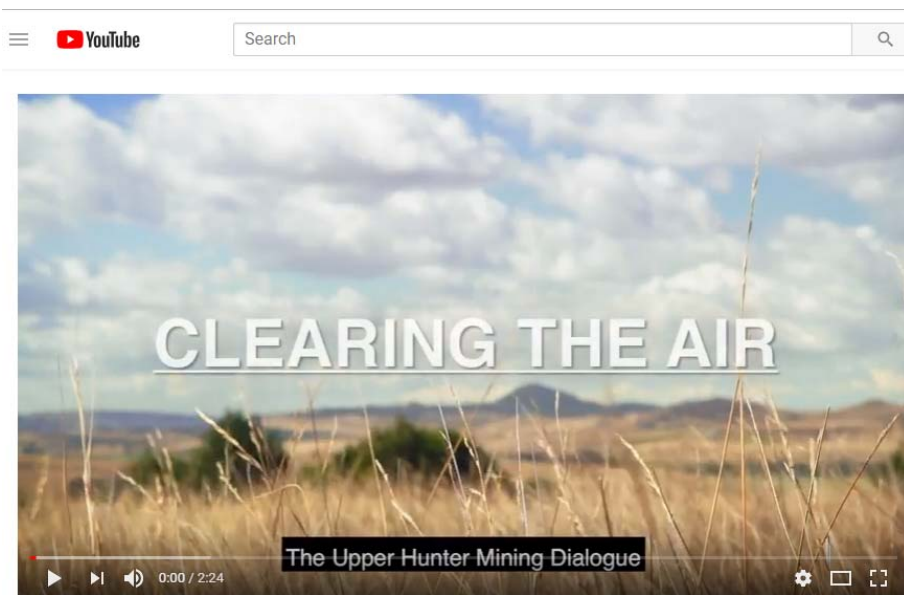
- **Weather Forecasting Project** – Each Dialogue member manages an extensive network of air quality monitoring providing current data supported by the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network.
- **Clearing the Air video** – A video has been produced to demonstrate to community the steps taken by industry to minimise dust impacts during adverse weather events.’
- **Air Quality community information sessions**



Dialogue projects



Clearing The Air – Education Video



Clearing The Air - An Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue Air Quality Resource

109 views

👍 0 👎 0 ➦ SHARE ⌵ ⋮

<https://youtu.be/q4TojwxKVRQ>

UH Air Quality Fact Sheets



WHAT IS PARTICULATE MATTER AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Introduction

Dust emissions from mining activities can be a serious issue if not closely monitored and effectively controlled. The NSW mining industry works very hard to meet the consistently high air quality standard that the NSW Government sets to preserve the health and safety of the communities in which mining operates.

Various government and industry initiatives contribute to NSW having air quality that is considered good by world standards and is generally comparable with other Australian jurisdictions.

This fact sheet contains information regarding air quality in the Upper Hunter and outlines what particulate matter is and why it is important that it be managed effectively.

Air quality and particulate matter

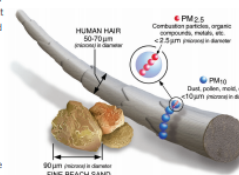
Air quality relates to the level of pollution that is in the air that we breathe. One component of air quality is the amount and size of particulate matter suspended in the air, known as PM. PM is the primary air pollutant associated with mining activities.

PM particles may be classified on the basis of their size as either:

- PM₁₀: Inhalable particles measuring less than 10 microns in diameter; or
- PM_{2.5}: Fine inhalable particles measuring less than 2.5 microns in diameter.

The following infographic demonstrates the size of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} particles compared to an average human hair, which can be up to 30 times larger than the largest fine PM_{2.5} particle.

Figure 1: Comparison of particulate matter with other fine particles such as beach sand and human hair. (Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2016)



There are a number of emissions sources that generate fine particles. These include dust from mining operations, power stations, on-road vehicles, non-road diesel equipment, wood heaters, bushfires and hazard reduction burns, sea salt and biogenic sources, which may have varying impacts on air quality.

It is important that air quality is managed effectively as particle pollution can be harmful to human health. A 2015 report from the NSW Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and NSW Health found that fine particles (PM_{2.5}) are more detrimental to health and have a wider range of health effects than larger particles.

Meteorological conditions may also slow down the removal of pollutants, which can impact visibility or



ACTIONS TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY AND MANAGE IMPACTS

Introduction

Dust emissions from mining activities can be a serious issue if not closely monitored and effectively controlled. The NSW mining industry works very hard to meet the consistently high air quality standard that the NSW Government sets to preserve the health and safety of the communities in which mining operates.

Various government and industry initiatives contribute to NSW having air quality that is considered good by world standards and is generally comparable with other Australian jurisdictions.

This fact sheet contains information on the key actions that the NSW Government and mining operations in the Upper Hunter are undertaking to ensure that emissions are minimised wherever possible, and should air quality issues arise, that they are effectively managed.

The Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network

The Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network is an industry funded and government managed real time ambient air quality monitoring network, operated independently by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), and administered by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

The Upper Hunter is the most densely monitored region in NSW relative to its size. The network includes fourteen air quality monitoring stations in strategic locations around Upper Hunter mining areas and populated centres, including Maxwellbrook and Singleton, that provide publicly available, real-time information about air quality across the region, helping to inform air quality management strategies. Each mine operates an extensive network of monitoring stations in and around each operation that provides up to date data in real time.

OEH has produced a map of the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network sites, which displays a rolling 24-hour average for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} results, while numbers for Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), Sulfur dioxide (SO₂), wind speed and wind direction values are hourly averaged data. All readings are updated hourly. The Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network map can be viewed here: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/agms/uhairqualitymap.htm>

OEH publishes regular seasonal updates of the results of the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network. Upper Hunter air quality has been classified as generally good over eleven successive reports from Autumn 2015 to Winter 2017. Detailed Air Quality Monitoring results and seasonal updates are available here: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/air/upper-hunter-air-quality-reports>

Upper Hunter Dust Risk Forecast Scheme

OEH and the EPA collaborated to develop a dust risk forecast scheme for the Upper Hunter to support actions by mines to reduce dust from operations in adverse weather conditions.

The scheme is designed to identify weather conditions that cause dust emissions from within the Upper Hunter Valley to be the dominant contributor to higher particle (PM₁₀) concentrations in major town centres such as in Singleton. A trial was undertaken with mining operations in the Upper Hunter in Spring 2012, and the results are being analysed to evaluate the skill of the forecast scheme.

Industry actions to reduce air quality impacts

Minimising dust is a part of daily work procedures at Upper Hunter mines and is the responsibility of all mine workers. Effective air quality management begins with the way a mine is designed, and continues into its operational management, right up to the end of its life through rehabilitation.

Dialogue priorities in 2018



The Dialogue's Joint Advisory and Industry Steering Committees met in February 2018 to discuss the outcomes of the 2017 Forum discussion sessions and feedback received through community surveys.

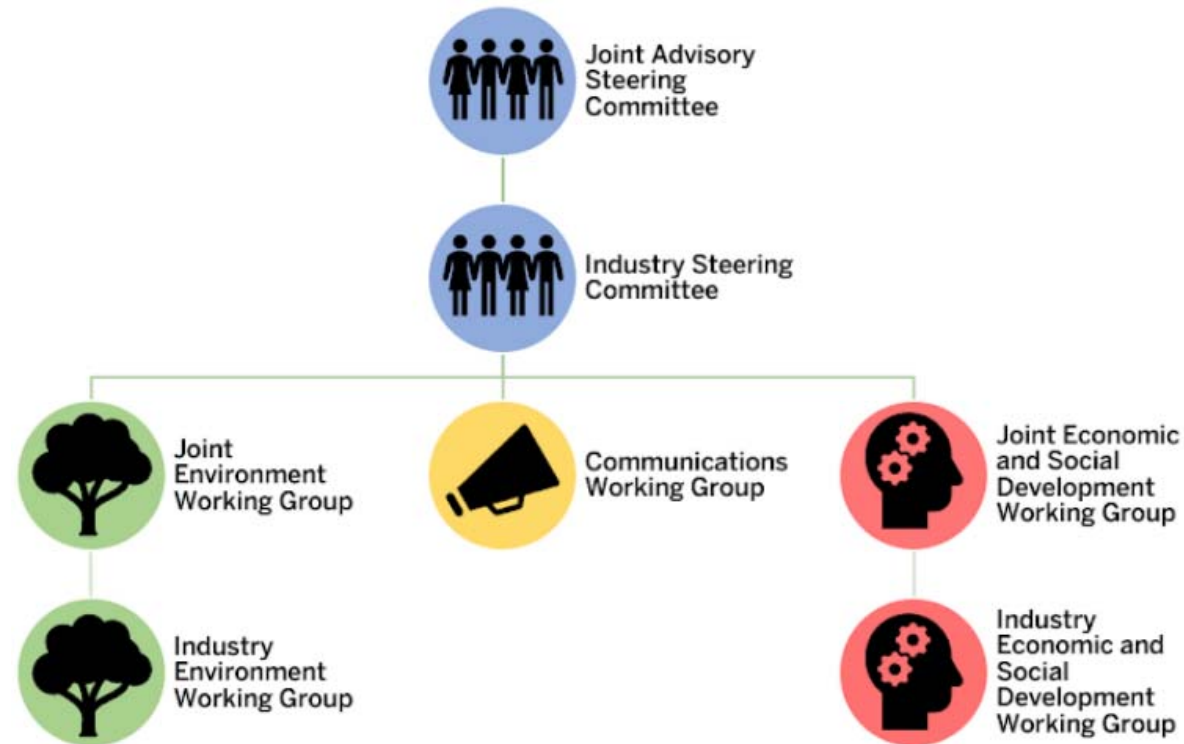
- Economic development and diversification
- The Upper Hunter Synoptic Plan
- School Mine Tours
- Dialogue projects communications
- Ongoing rehabilitation and water reporting projects
- Maintain physical presence



Dialogue priorities in 2018



- We felt it was time to realign the direction of the Dialogue commensurate with stakeholder feedback.
 - Community interest in economic development and diversification
 - Stronger focus on communicating the achievements and increasing awareness of the Dialogue
- Developed a targeted stakeholder engagement plan to seek to re-engage with historical and new stakeholders of the Dialogue.



The Dialogue

The Dialogue promotes collaboration between the industry, local government, research/educational institutions and the community and interest groups in addressing issues of local concern.

Over the past seven years we have seen:

- The development of respectful relationships
- The benefits of working together to develop meaningful projects
- The Dialogue evolve and develop into a genuine platform for engagement

It's important to acknowledge the commitment by all parties in making the dialogue work in particular the members of the community



More information

Visit the Dialogue website:

www.miningdialogue.com.au

2018 Annual Forum:

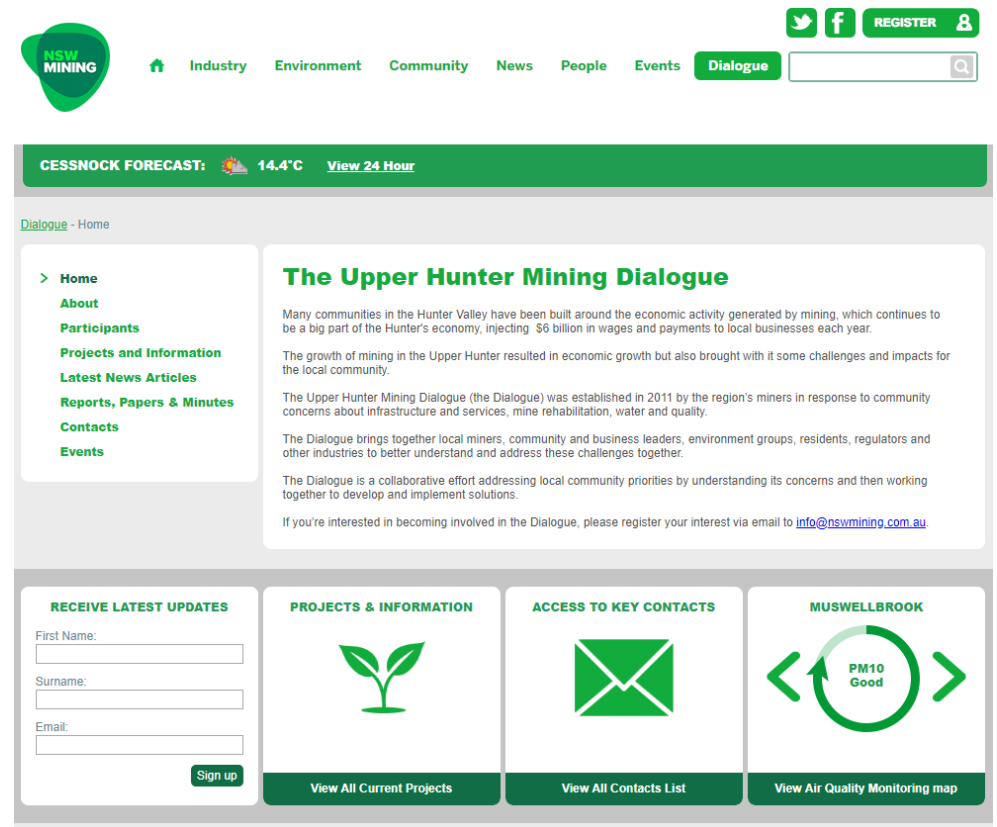
Tuesday 20 November 2018

8:30 am to 2:30 pm

Muswellbrook Race Club

Racecourse Rd, Muswellbrook, NSW

RSVP by email: info@nswmining.com.au





**Community
Consultative
Committee**
18 October 2018



Action List

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS UPDATE
Issue regarding lack of publicity for good-news stories (BCD) will be referred to Yancoal corporate	PB	Email sent to Corporate.
Weed treatment to upstream boundary (relative to Glennies Creek) of Ashton owned / managed land will be included in next weed control program	LC	Glennies Creek weeds (including Green Cestrum) targeted in July / August weed spraying (see presentation).
Ashton will arrange for slashing of Camberwell lots adjacent to New England	LC	Ashton owned Camberwell lots adjacent to NE highway slashed in June / July.
A site inspection will be incorporated into October CCC meeting .	PB	
Proposed water treatment plant sign still up in Camberwell village. Contact Singleton Council to remove sign	PB	Singleton Council was contacted and the sign removed.

Ashton Mine Production CY2018

Ashton Coal Key Statistics

	2018 Budget (ytd)	2018 Actual (ytd)
ROM (Mt)	2.47	1.66
Product Coal (Mt)	1.14	0.69
Total Coal Sales (Mt)	0.81	0.71
Lost Time Injury (LTIFR)	No target	18.29
Total Recordable Injuries (TRIFR)	29.74	27.44
Total Employees (FTE)	264	257
Complaints	0	3
Environmental Incidents	0	0

b. Environment Monitoring Data

- Refer to attachment to Agenda
 - Any questions relating to the Monitoring Data?

Complaints

There were three complaints since the last CCC meeting:

- Two relating to noise from a resident in Camberwell village. Investigations revealed ACOL not responsible.
- One from a community member relating to community comments in the AEMR.

Environmental Update

Incidents

- Nil incidents

Government

- Revised 2018 Mining Operations Plan (MOP) approved by DPE Resources Regulator to 2021.
- National Pollutant Inventory Report submitted to EPA.
- National Greenhouse Energy Report submitted to corporate.
- Independent Planning Commissions approval of Ashton SEOC Administrative Modification 1.

Heritage

- Surveys undertaken above LW 203 for aboriginal artefacts.

Environmental Update

Monitoring (non-routine)

- Initial water sampling for presence of PFAS .
- Monthly attended noise monitoring undertaken. No issues identified.
- Notice received for commencement of EPA Operation Dust Patrol Spring 2018.

Property

- Weed poisoning undertaken along Glennies Creek (see airphoto).
- Feral (and overabundant native) animal control program
 - Feral animal trapping undertaken (July / August) – 25 pigs
 - Kangaroo (plus opportunistic feral animal) culling program (August) – 100 NPWS permit tags used (plus one pig)
 - Spring dog and fox baiting currently under way (baits laid 10/10/18)



Community Support Program

Over \$25,000 was presented to the various groups for their following projects:

- Singleton Public School P&C who are fund raising for new playground equipment for their school.
- Singleton PCYC who are providing air conditioning for their premises.
- Mt Olive Community Hall for an awning and storage area. Their hall gets used a lot by the local community.
- Singleton Neighbourhood Centre for training program for their volunteers. They open their centre for the locals, aged and veterans to come and do washing, meals etc.
- Team McInerney who are fund raising for Cancer Council. The McInerney's are the Singleton Relay For Life Ambassadors.



Camberwell update

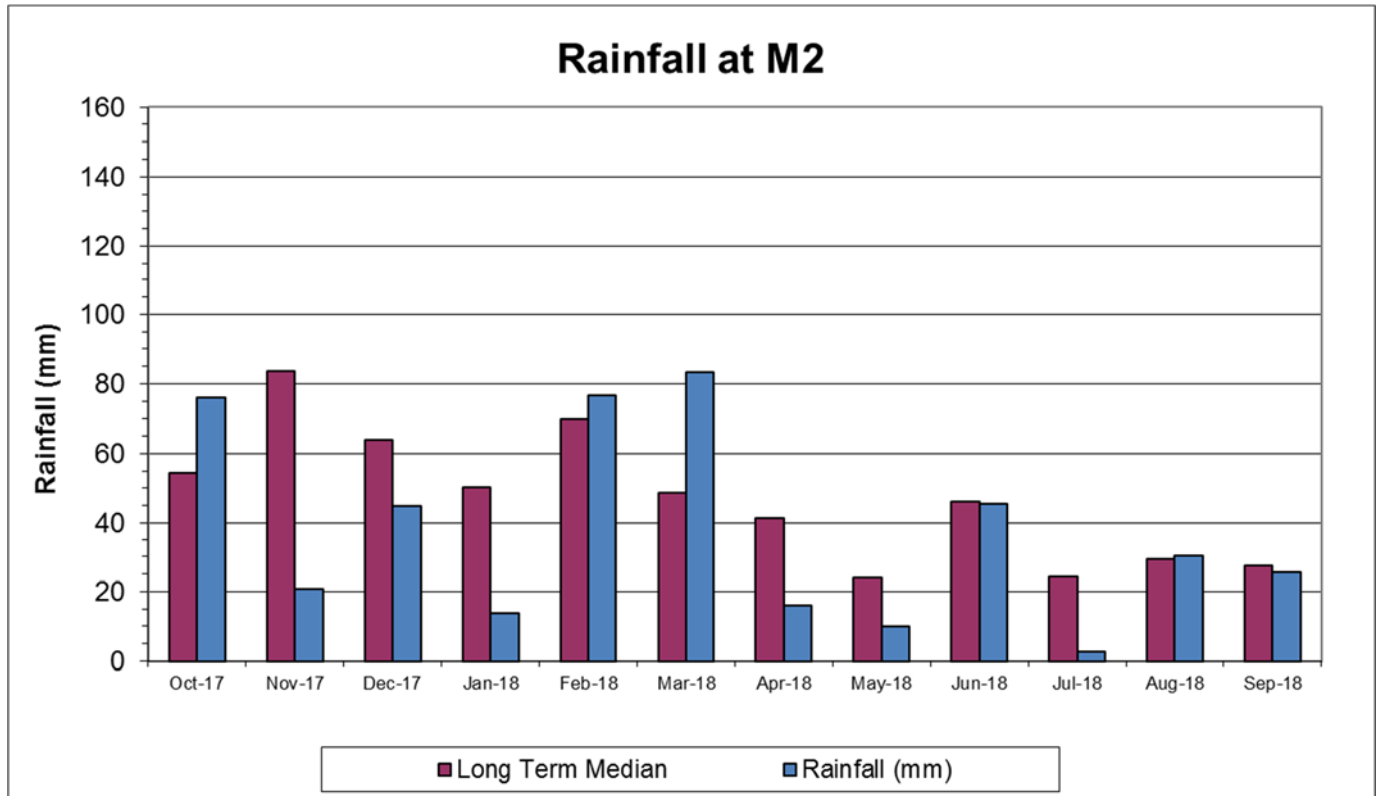
- Camberwell property
 - 38 homes tenanted
 - 3 homes vacant; 1 land only vacant
 - Demolition works - completion by end of 2018.

Any Questions?

ASHTON COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING DATA: OCTOBER 2018

Rainfall

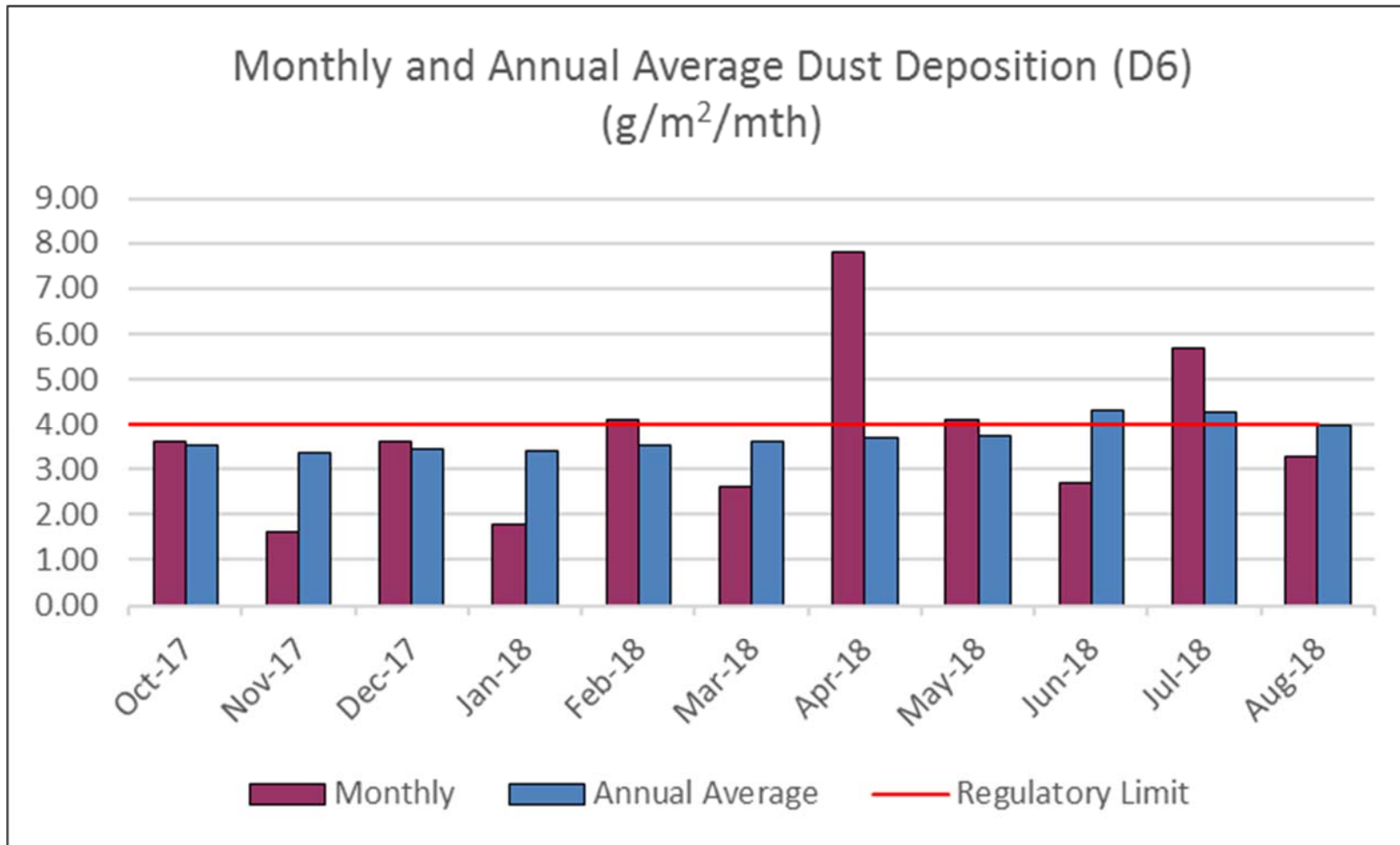


2017 Total Rainfall: 519mm

2018 Total Rainfall YTD (09/10/18): 321mm

Air Quality

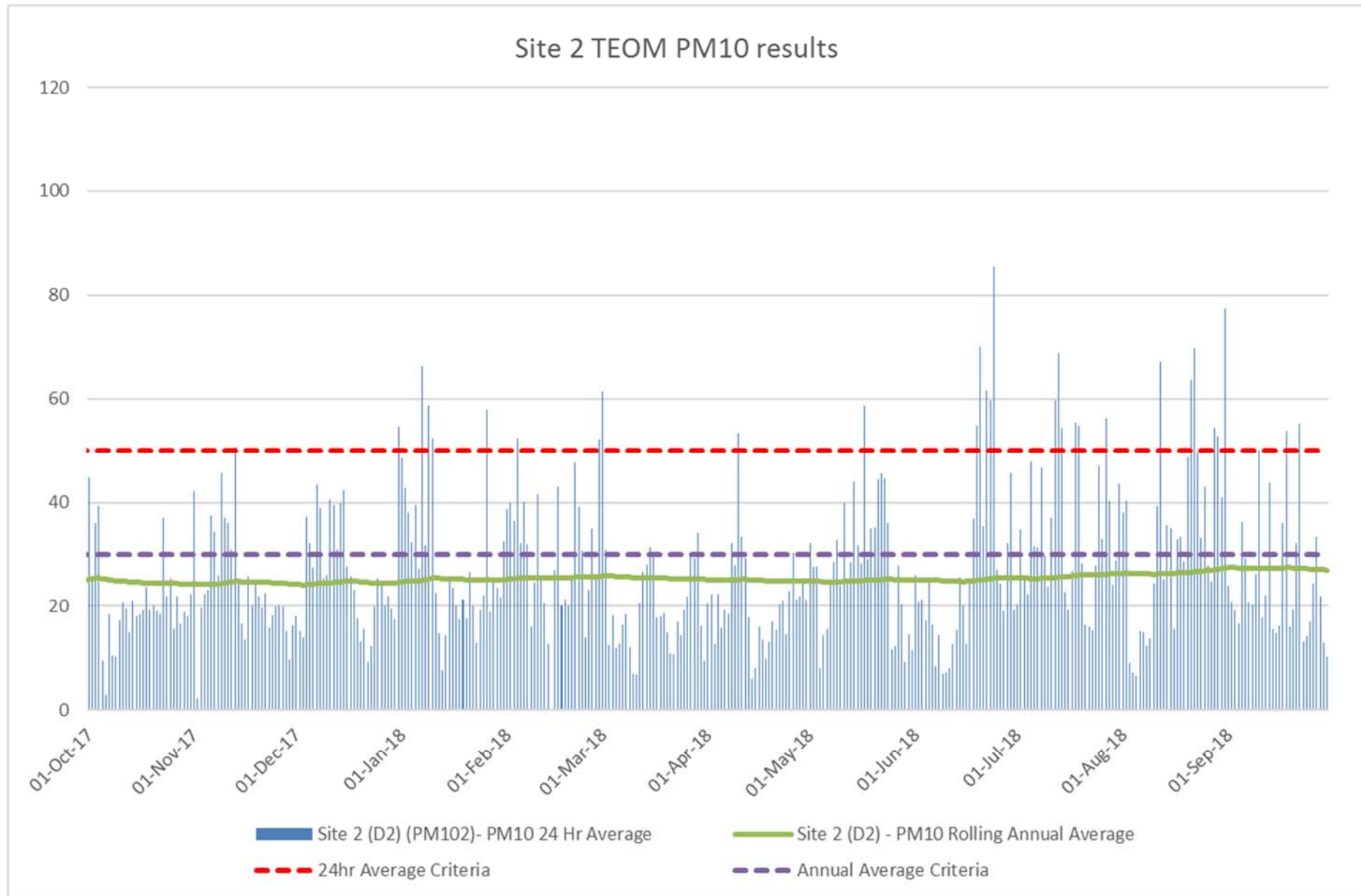
Depositional Dust Gauge

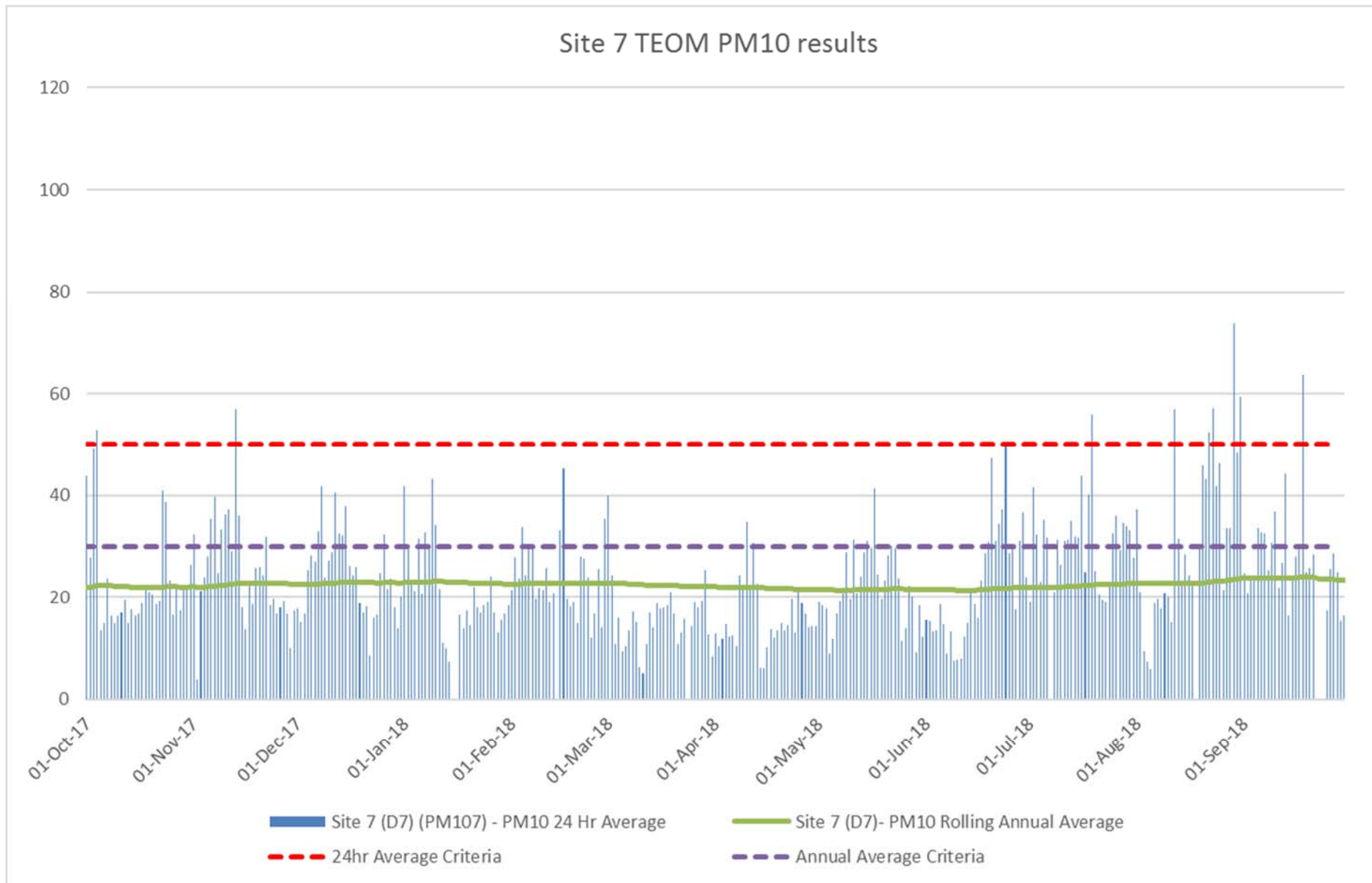


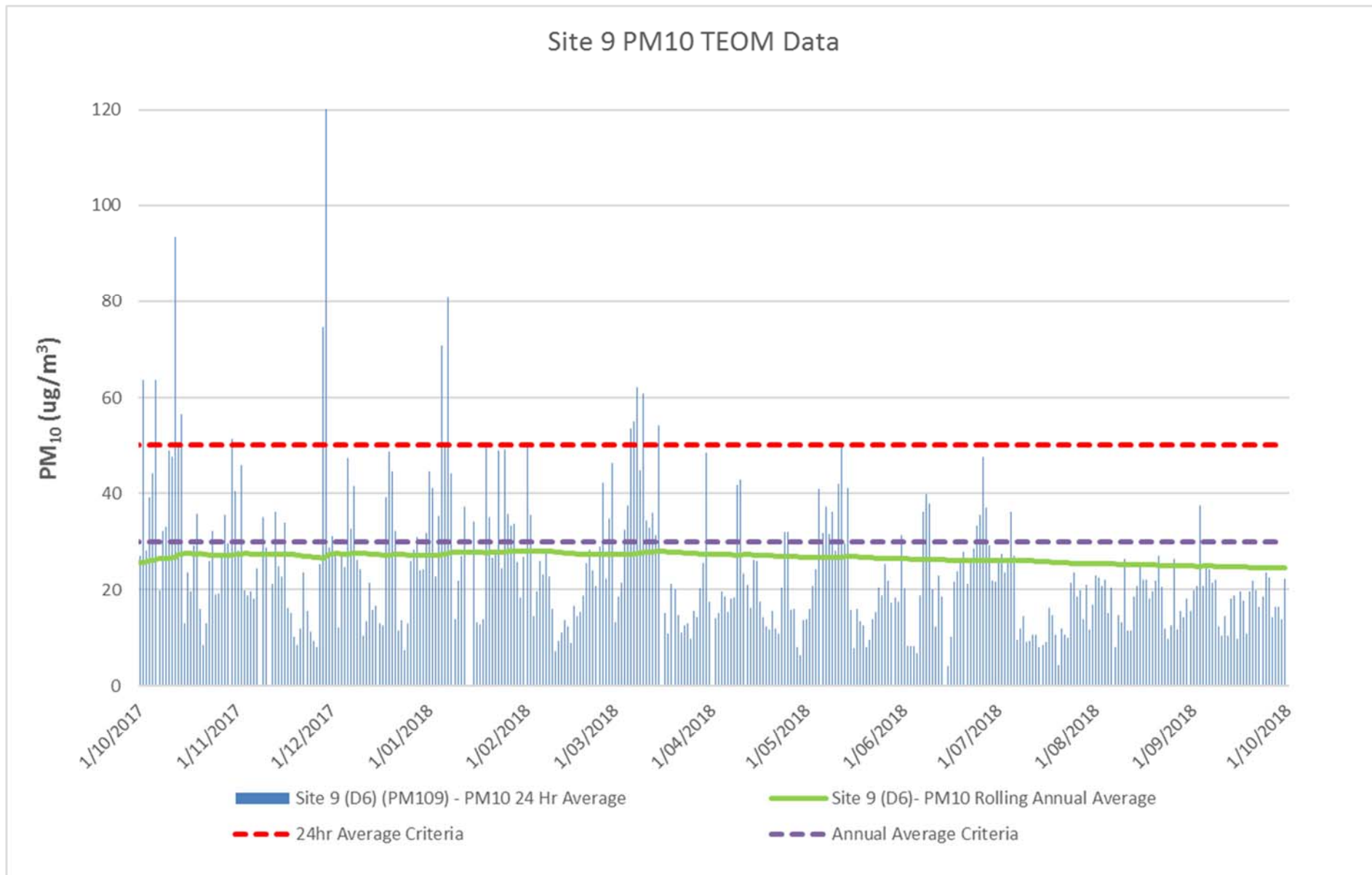
*April 18 - CONTAMINATED - with bird droppings

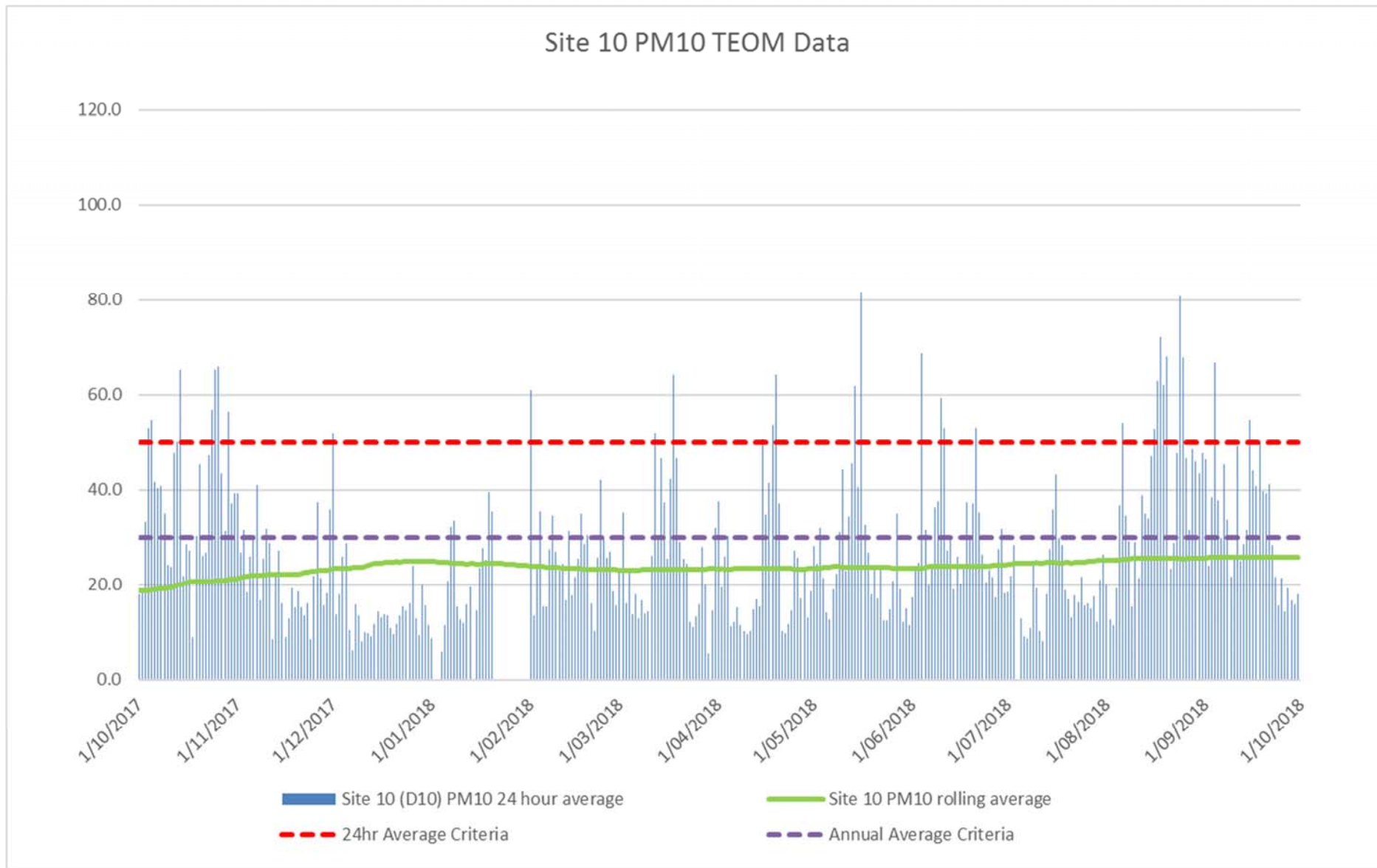
**July 18 - CONTAMINATED - bird droppings, turbid/grey

TEOM PM10









Noise

Date	Time	Ashton Sampling Point	Unit of Measure	Total dB(A) Leq	Ashton Coal Project (ACP) Contribution dB(A)	Wind Speed (m/s)	Wind Direction	Inversion °C/ 100m/ Stability Class	ACP Noise Sources	Comments
14/06/2018	10:50 PM	N2	dB(A) Leq	52	ACP Inaudible	0	-	3.8	n/a	
14/06/2018	11:10 PM	N3	dB(A) Leq	46	ACP Inaudible	0	-	4.5	n/a	
14/06/2018	10:27 PM	N4	dB(A) Leq	43	ACP Inaudible	1.4	350	1.8	n/a	
14/06/2018	10:50 PM	N2	dB(A) LA1, 1 minute	-	ACP Inaudible	0	-	3.8	n/a	
14/06/2018	11:10 PM	N3	dB(A) LA1, 1 minute	-	ACP Inaudible	0	-	4.5	n/a	
14/06/2018	10:27 PM	N4	dB(A) LA1, 1 minute	-	ACP Inaudible	1.4	350	1.8	n/a	
12/07/2018	10:57 PM	N2	dB(A) Leq	48	Not Measurable	0	-	1.1	n/a	
12/07/2018	10:30 PM	N3	dB(A) Leq	46	Not Measurable	0.9	285	1.6	n/a	
12/07/2018	10:00 PM	N4	dB(A) Leq	41	35	0	-	0.3	mine continuum	
12/07/2018	10:57 PM	N2	dB(A) LA1, 1 minute	-	Not Measurable	0	-	1.1	n/a	
12/07/2018	10:30 PM	N3	dB(A) LA1, 1 minute	-	Not Measurable	0.9	285	1.6	n/a	
12/07/2018	10:00 PM	N4	dB(A) LA1, 1 minute	41	41	0	-	0.3	dozer track slap	
1/08/2018	10:57 PM	N2	dB(A) Leq	50	31	0	-	9.6	n/a	
1/08/2018	10:30 PM	N3	dB(A) Leq	45	Not Measurable	0	-	10.1	n/a	
1/08/2018	10:00 PM	N4	dB(A) Leq	45	ACP Inaudible	0.7	60	7.5	n/a	
1/08/2018	10:57 PM	N2	dB(A) LA1, 1 minute	34	34	0	-	9.6	n/a	
1/08/2018	10:30 PM	N3	dB(A) LA1, 1 minute	-	Not Measurable	0	-	10.1	n/a	
1/08/2018	10:00 PM	N4	dB(A) LA1, 1 minute	-	ACP Inaudible	0.7	60	7.5	n/a	
20/09/2018	11:37 PM	N2	dB(A) Leq	49	ACP Inaudible	0	-	4.1	n/a	
20/09/2018	10:55 PM	N3	dB(A) Leq	51	ACP Inaudible	0	-	3.4	n/a	
20/09/2018	10:42 PM	N4	dB(A) Leq	41	ACP Inaudible	0.6	95	2.9	n/a	
20/09/2018	11:37 PM	N2	dB(A) LA1, 1 minute	-	ACP Inaudible	0	-	4.1	n/a	
20/09/2018	10:55 PM	N3	dB(A) LA1, 1 minute	-	ACP Inaudible	0	-	3.4	n/a	
20/09/2018	10:42 PM	N4	dB(A) LA1, 1 minute	-	ACP Inaudible	0.6	95	2.9	n/a	

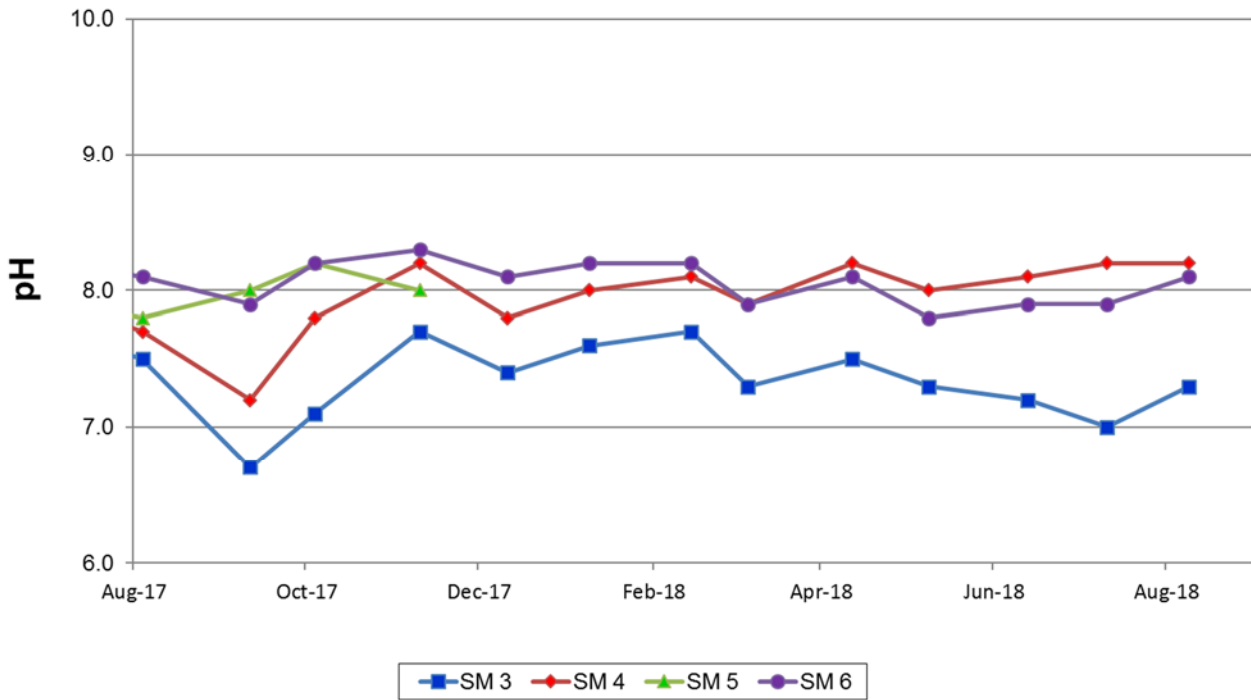
Surface Water



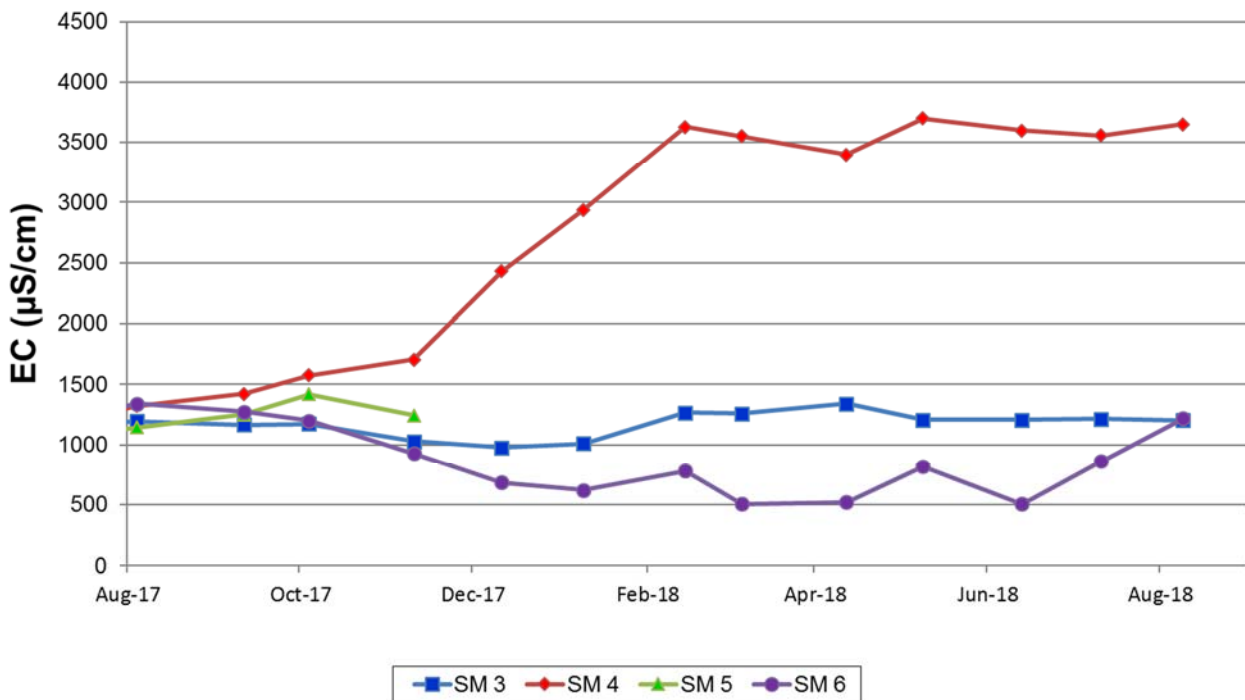
Note: The monitoring programs are current at the time of this strategy review, and are subject to change in-line with the EPL and approved management plans.

- ▲ SM7 - Surface Water Monitoring location
- ⊗ GC04 - Stream Health Monitoring location
- Low level - Creek Crossing

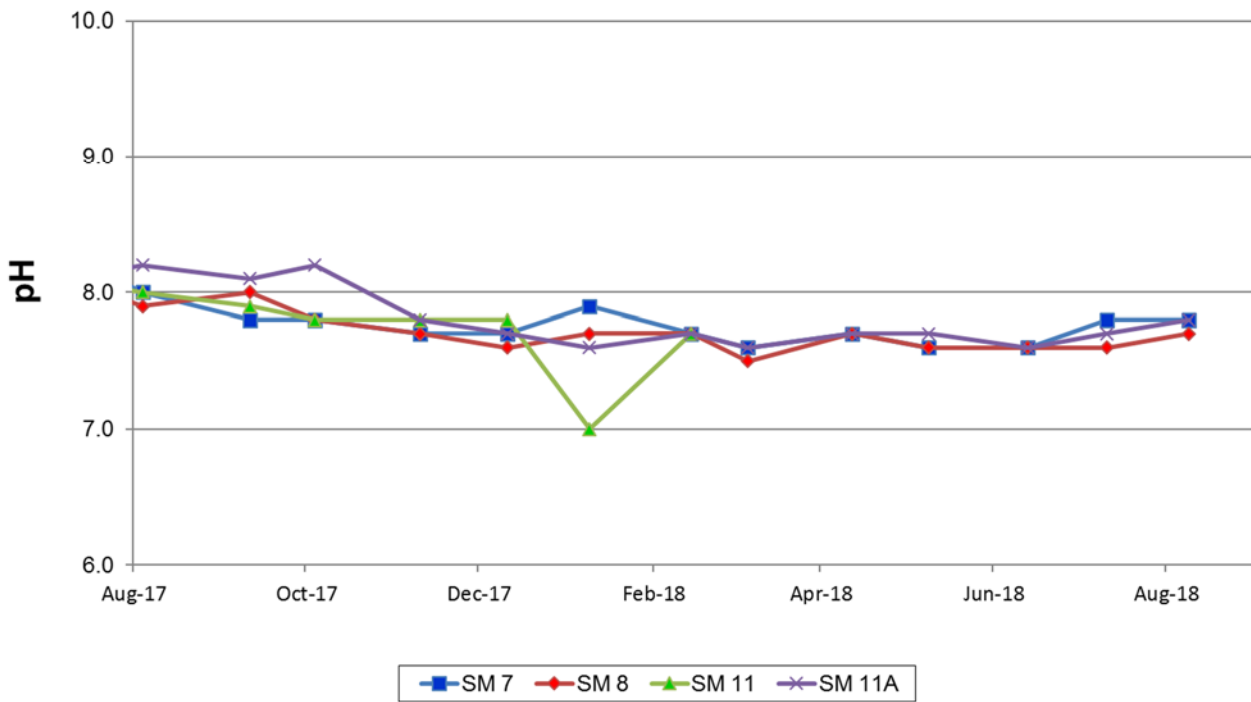
**Bowmans Creek Monthly pH Levels
2017 - 2018**



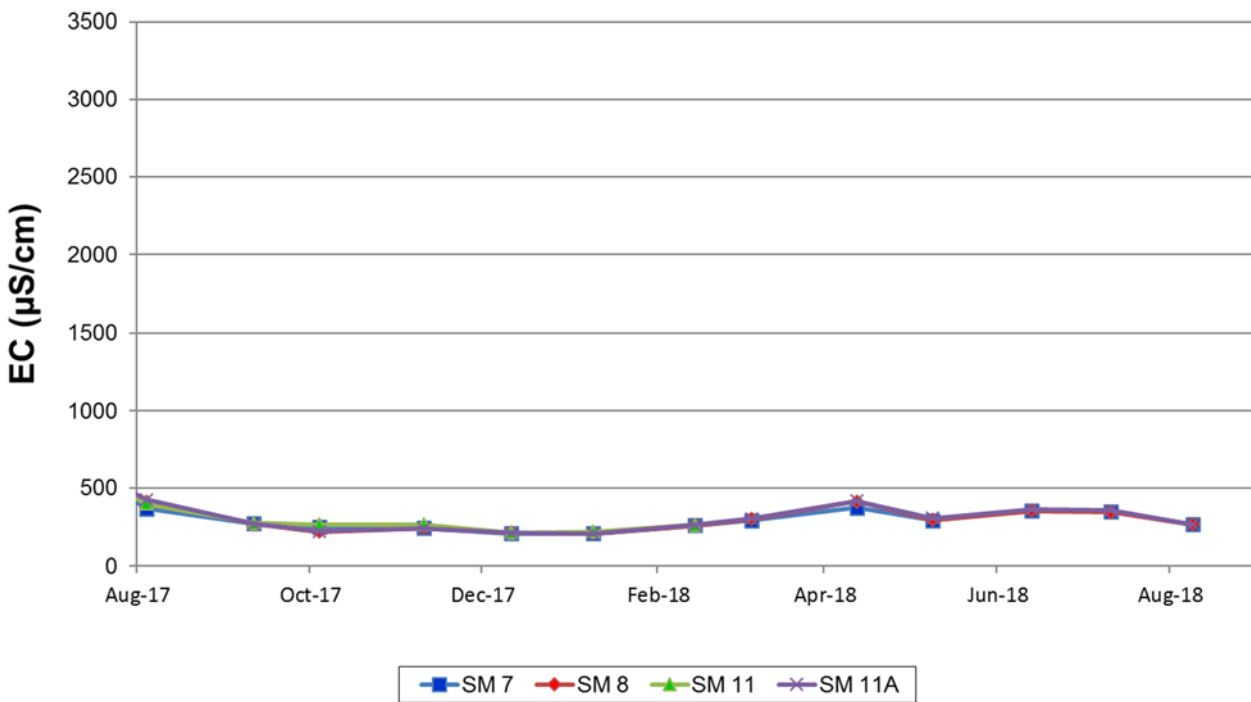
**Bowmans Creek Monthly Electrical Conductivity Levels
2017 - 2018**



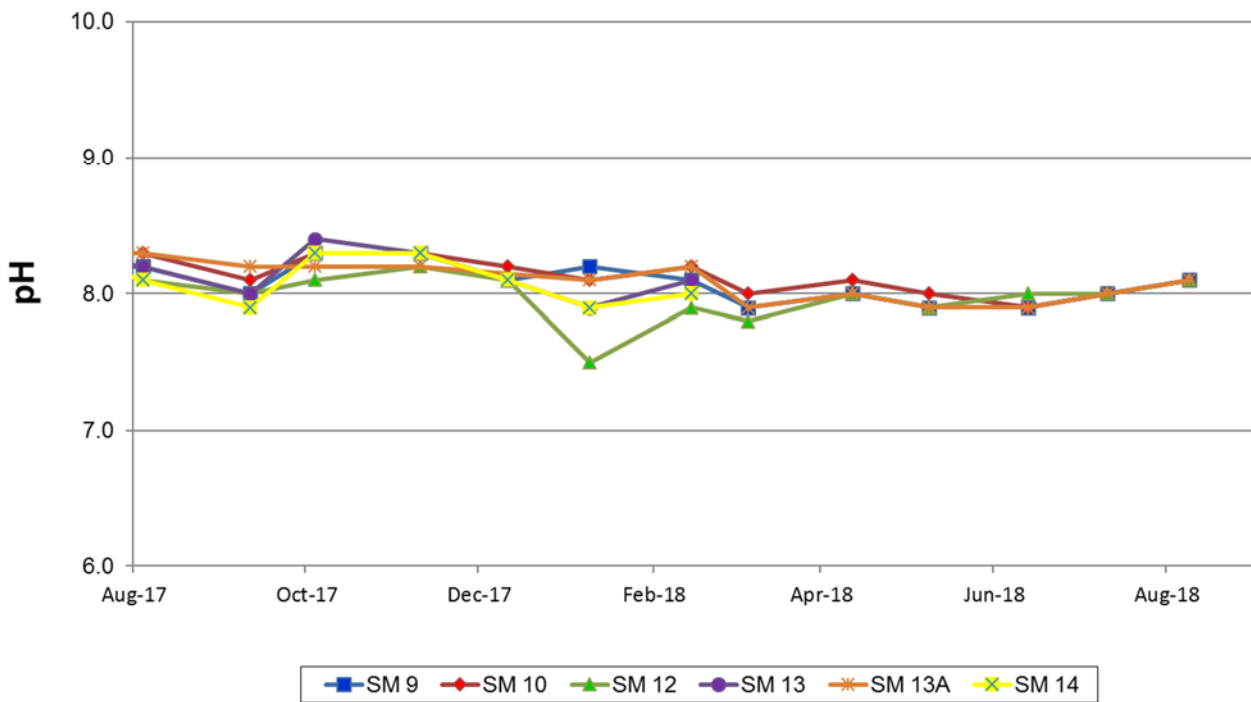
**Glennies Creek Monthly pH Levels
2017 - 2018**



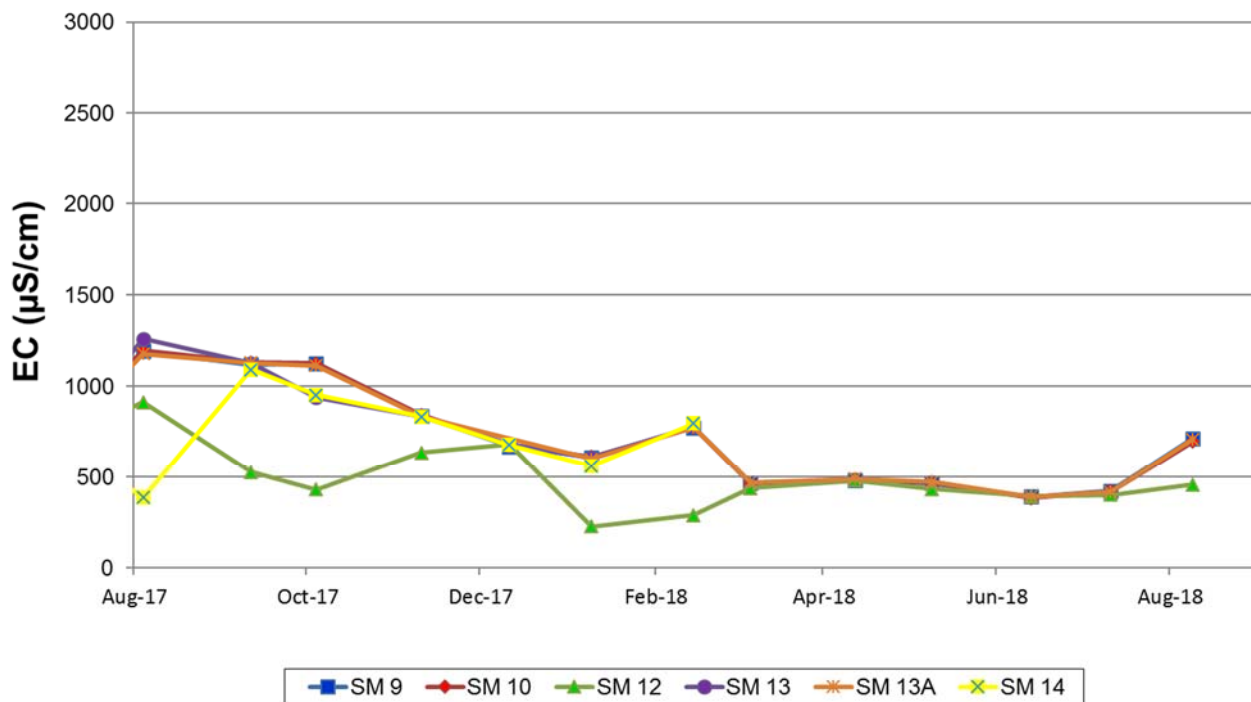
**Glennies Creek Monthly Electrical Conductivity Levels
2017 - 2018**



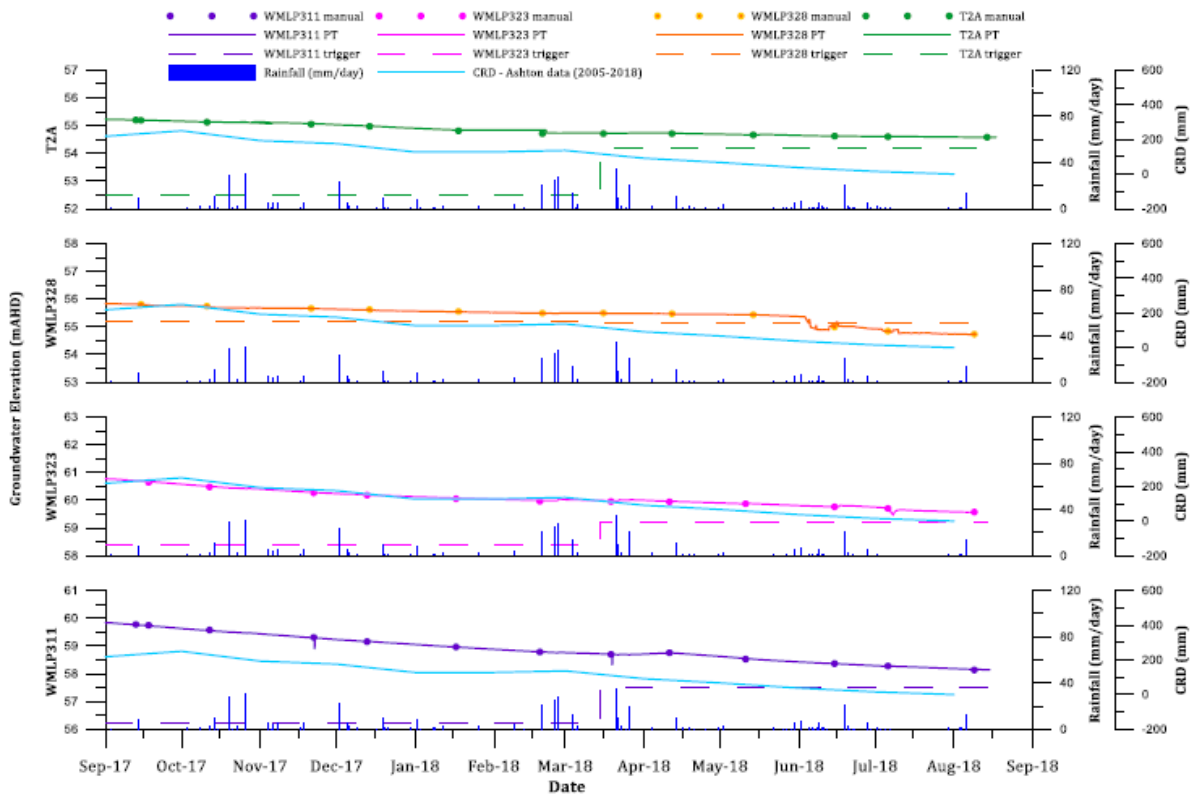
**Hunter River Monthly pH Levels
2017- 2018**



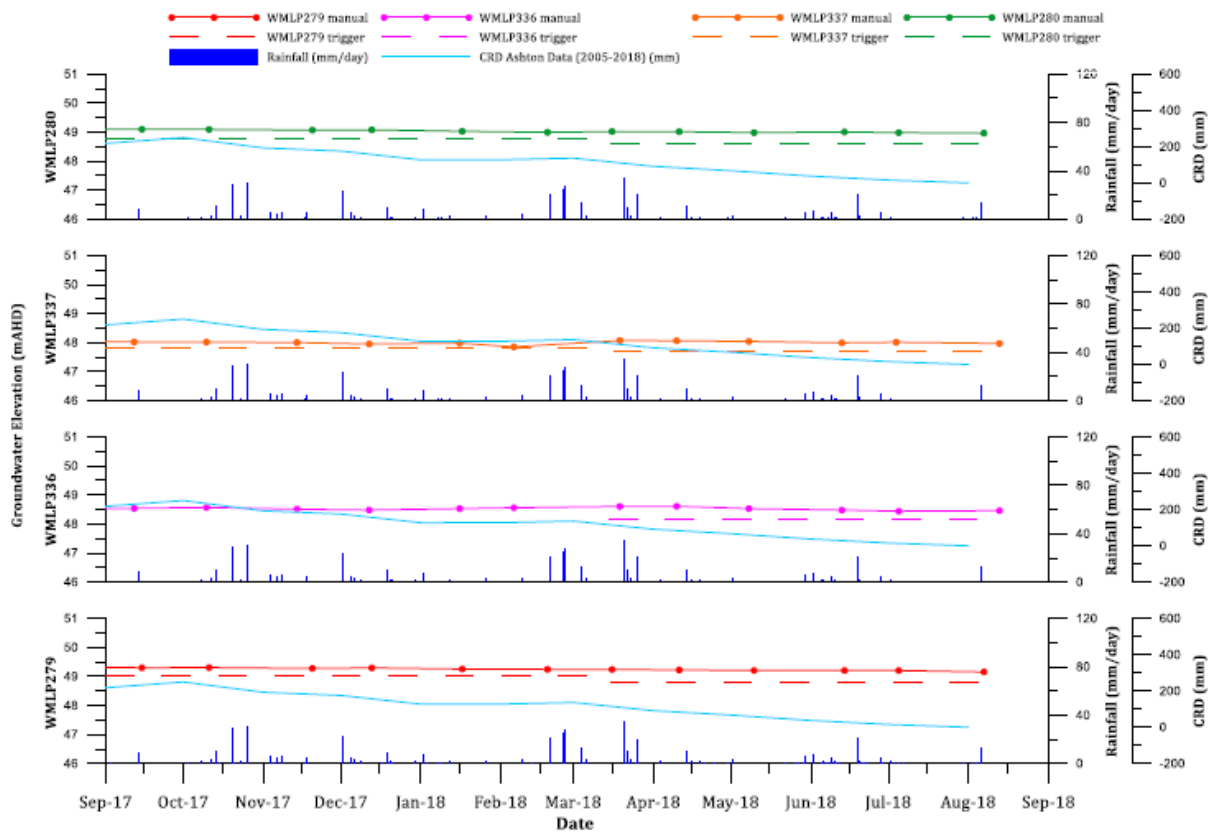
**Hunter River Monthly Electrical Conductivity Levels
2017 - 2018**



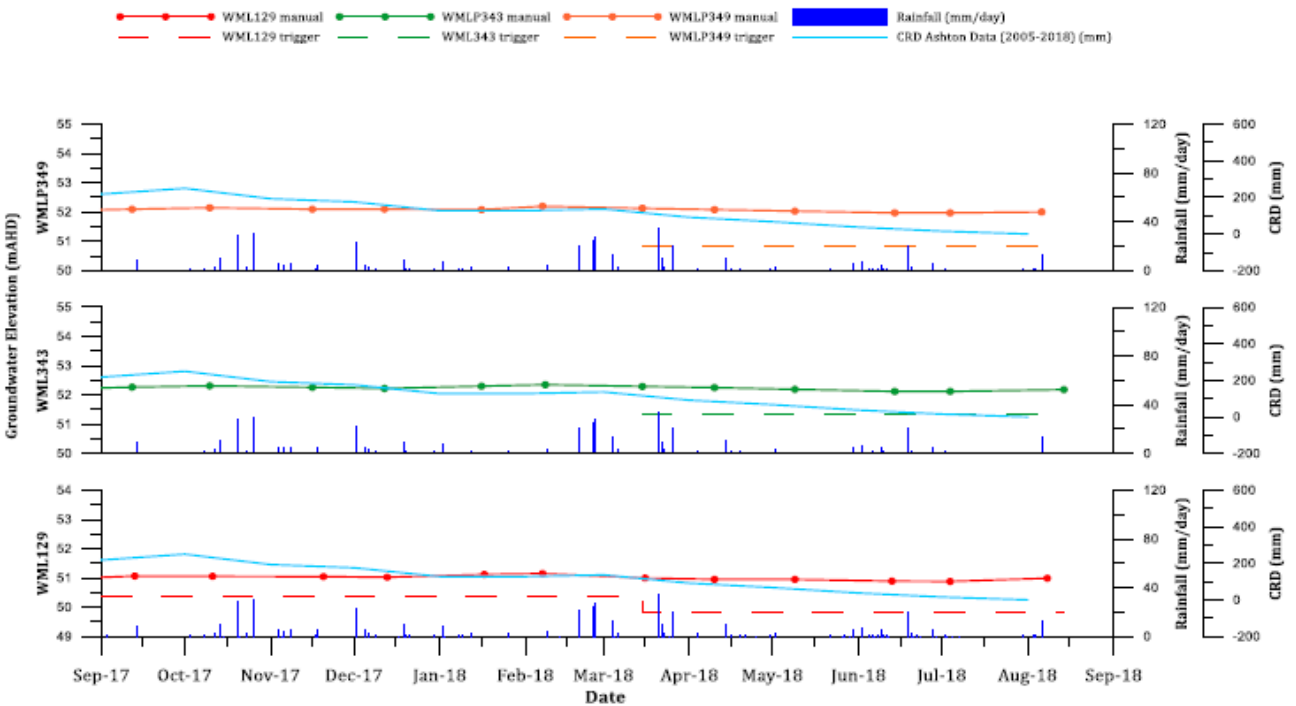
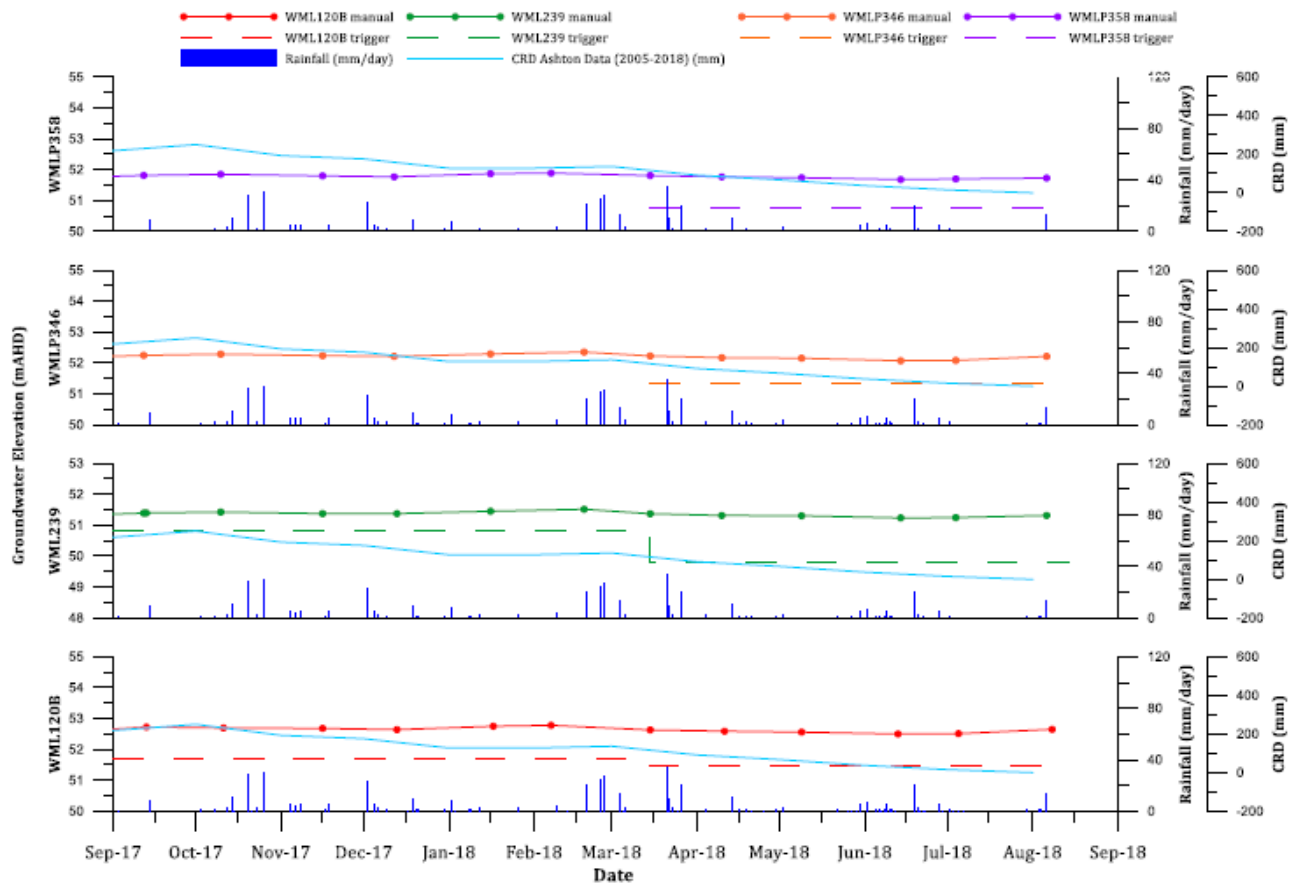
Bowmans Creek alluvial groundwater



Hunter River alluvial groundwater



Glennies Creek alluvial groundwater



Groundwater bores in vicinity of LW201

