

**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING #60
Thursday 17 October 2019
ASHTON COAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

Attendees

Margaret MacDonald-Hill	(MMH) Chairperson
John McInerney	(JM) Community Representative
Debbie Richards	(DR) Community Representative
Michael Bestic	(MB) Community Representative
Clr. Godfrey Adamthwaite	(GA) Singleton Shire Council (SSC)
Aaron McGuigan	(AM) Company Rep (Operations Manager)
Lachlan Crawford	(LC) Company Rep (Environment & Community Coordinator (contract))
Phillip Brown	(PB) Company Rep (Environment & Community Superintendent)

1. Opening and Welcome

- Chairperson opened the meeting at 1:06pm.

2. Apologies

- Nil

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by Community Representatives

- No change to Committee Members' pecuniary interests previously declared.

4. Minutes from Previous Meeting

- Minutes from the meeting held 13 June 2019 were accepted as a true and accurate record:
Moved: John McInerney Secoded: Debbie Richards

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Refer to Correspondence and presentation

6. Correspondence

- 14/6/19 - PB email to CCC previous meeting draft minutes and links to Chair's Annual Report to DPE.
- 11/10/19 - PB email to CCC notice for upcoming Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue (UHMD) annual meeting.
- 16/10/19 - MMH email to CCC notice for upcoming EPA air quality community drop-in session.

7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities

7.1 Ashton Operations Update

Refer to presentation

7.2 Monitoring and Environmental Performance

Refer to handout

7.3 Community Complaints and response to complaints

Refer to presentation

7.4 Environmental Activities Update

Refer to presentation

JM requested that notification be provided at commencement of kangaroo cull. PB advised this will happen.

7.5 Camberwell Update

Refer to presentation.

- PB stated that existing agistment agreements would expire 31/12/19 and be re-leased following a tender process. DR enquired about possible spelling period before re-lease. PB to enquire with corporate properties team.
- PB outlined Camberwell houses being considered for demolition.

8. General Business

- MB enquired about rehabilitation of mine voids (industry-wide, not specific to Ashton). PB advised that void management plans are developed, but regulatory requirements for mine void rehabilitation were still evolving.
- MB enquired whether Ashton has any application before the Independent Planning Commission (IPC). PB advised Ashton currently has no planning applications outstanding.
- MMH mentioned that an email would be distributed shortly asking for feedback on the operation of the Ashton CCC for the Chairperson's annual report to DPIE, and any suggestions for improvement.

9. Actions

- Notice to be provided to CCC members at commencement of kangaroo culling program. (LC)
- Enquire with Yancoal properties team as to possibility of allowing lease land to recover condition before re-leasing. (PB)

10. Date for Next Meeting

- Proposed 2020 CCC meetings: 1pm start on Thursdays of 13th February, 11th June and 15th October 2020.

MEETING CLOSED 2:04pm



Community
Consultative
Committee

17 October 2019



Action List

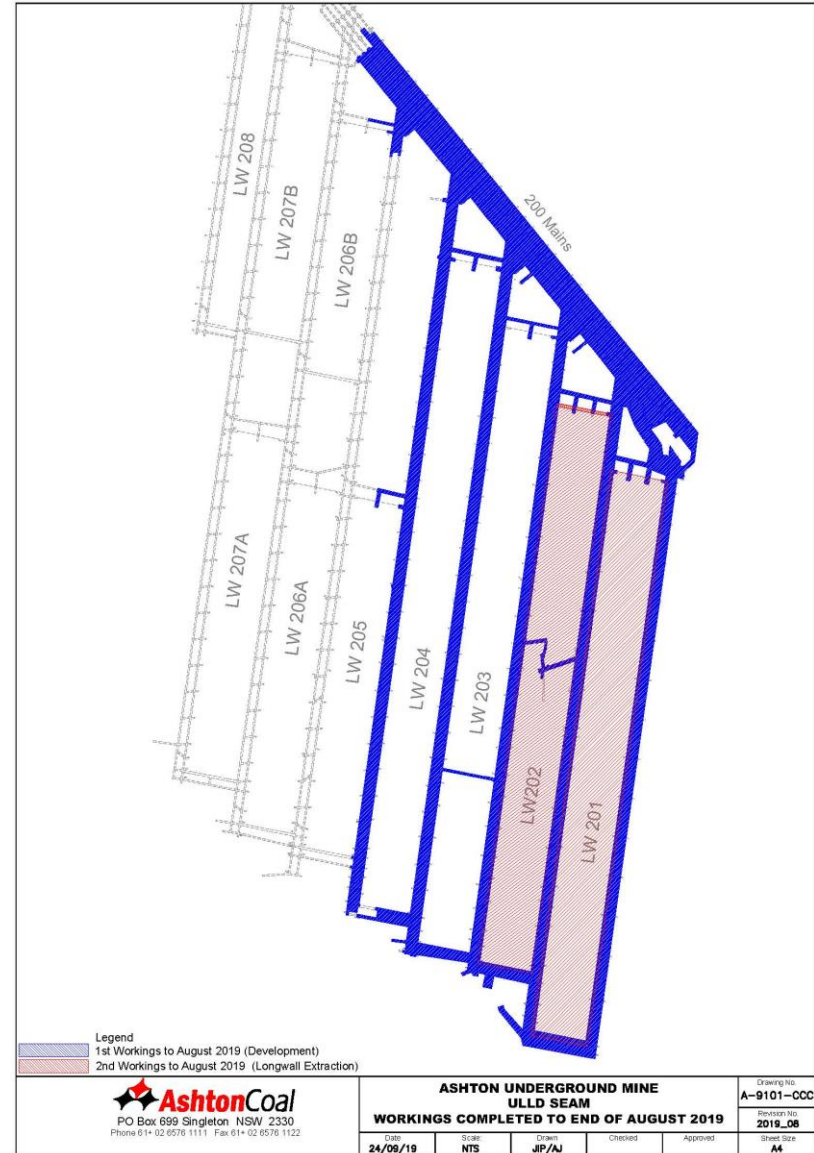
ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS UPDATE
Link to the 2019 Ashton CCC Chair's Annual Report to be provided before next meeting	PB	Provided by email on 14/6/2019
When presenting complaint statistics, account for number of individual complainants	PB	Included in October meeting presentation
Report to next CCC meeting on any proposed Camberwell house demolition activities	PB	Included in October meeting presentation
Video on Bowman's Creek Diversion construction (as previously presented for NSWMC awards) will be presented at the next CCC meeting	PB	Included in October meeting presentation

Ashton Mine Production CY2018

Ashton Coal Key Statistics

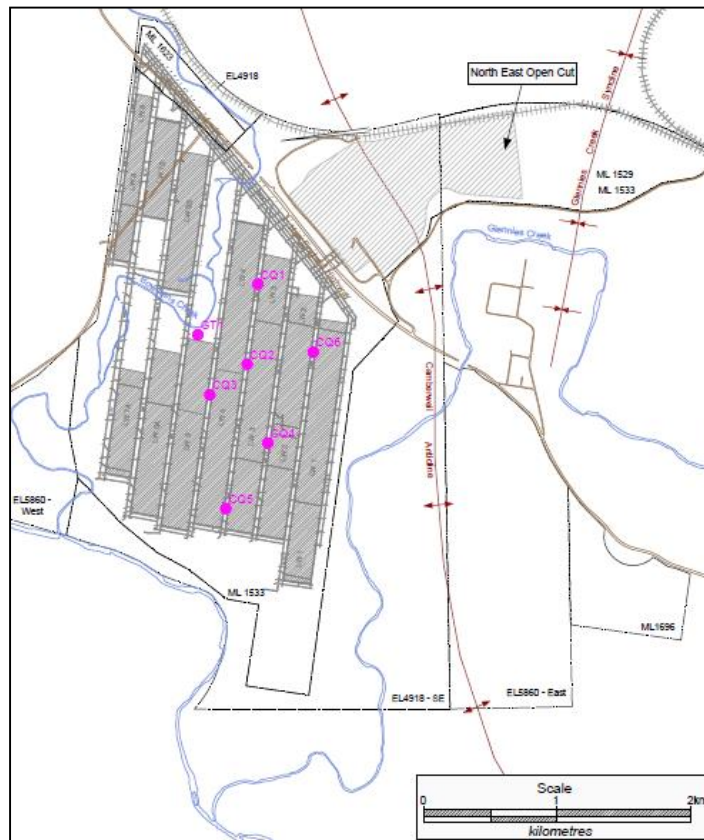
	2019 Budget (ytd)	2019 Actual (ytd)
ROM (Mt)	1.72	1.47
Product Coal (Mt)	0.61	0.798
Total Coal Sales (Mt)	0.60	0.82
Total Recordable Injuries (TRIFR)	27.00	26.99
Total Employees (FTE)	264	264
Complaints	0	3
Environmental Incidents	0	0

Current Mining Area



Exploration

- Drill program (seven drill holes), has commenced in underground mining area (within existing mining lease ML1533) for resource definition / coal quality purposes.
- As at end of September, 4 holes had been completed.



Environment Monitoring Data

- Refer to monitoring data attachment
- Issues of note:
 - Marginally low pH in Hunter River. Independent investigation indicated not Ashton mine impact. Possibly lower pH alluvial aquifer contribution.
 - Elevated Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in Hunter River (June-August) triggered independent investigation. **Investigation ongoing at time of CCC.**
 - Continuing falling groundwater levels in WMPL 311, 323 & 328. Independent investigation indicated drought related.
 - Air quality (TEOM) monitoring no longer required statutorily at D2 (highway), has been functionally replaced by D10 (church)

Any questions relating to the Monitoring Data?

Complaints & Incidents

Complaints

- One noise complaint since the last CCC meeting:
 - **29/06/2019** - Camberwell resident re: very loud truck noise.
 - Ashton operations, noise levels, met conditions and audio files were reviewed, and response provided to complainant.
 - One Ashton rear dump truck (on 15-20 minute cycle), front-end loader and two dozers operating at time of complaint. Audio indicated mining continuum.
- As requested at June meeting:
 - 2019 (YTD) - all 3 noise complaints from same Camberwell resident.
 - 2018 – 2 noise complaints from same resident, with 3rd from same residence.
 - 2017 – 1 noise complaint from same residence, with 2nd anonymous via DPE.

Incidents

- No reportable environmental incidents
- 2 small roadside fire on Glennies Creek Road, opposite NEOC rehab (9/9/19 & 11/10/19)

Environmental Update

Government

- Submission of 2018/19 reports under National Greenhouse Energy Reporting (NGER) and National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) schemes.
 - NGER audit – scrutinised measurement and calculation methods.
 - Variations from 2017/18 consistent with change in production.
- Annual test of Pollution Incident Response Management Plan
 - Field service vehicle rollover with release of 600 L of diesel (simulated)
- EPA inspection of site (31/7/19):
 - No significant findings / follow up actions
 - Query re: temporary storage of vehicle batteries awaiting recycling
 - Ashton provision of spatial data (u/g & surface features, monitoring site locations) to amend EPL 11879.

Environmental Update

Monitoring (non-routine)

- Legionella testing in potable water (August) all below detectable limits.

Heritage

- Next ACCF meeting in December 2019.
- Awaiting OEH meeting re: re-burial of artefacts.
- Due diligence inspections of gas drainage drill holes (LW 203).

Property

- Weed control undertaken across VCA & Creek lines in September.
- Feral (and overabundant native) animal control program
 - Autumn dog and fox baiting (8 dog; 33 fox takes). Spring program running currently.
 - Kangaroo culling (250 tags from NPWS) planned for late October / early November.

Community Support Program

- Single round of funding for 2020 Community Support Program
- Joint support with MTW available for larger projects
- Applications now open (closing on 4th November 2019)
- Access application form at:
https://www.ashtoncoal.com.au/icms_docs/299657_ashton-coal-community-support-program-application-form.pdf



**NEED FUNDING
TO HELP IMPROVE
OUR LOCAL
COMMUNITY?**

**Yancoal Community Support Program
Now Open for Applications**

Ashton Coal Mine is a proud and active member of the local community. Yancoal's Community Support Program offers community groups the opportunity to apply for funding to support projects, events and initiatives that help make a genuine positive difference to the Upper Hunter Valley region.

If you have a project or idea with the potential to benefit others across the areas of health, community, environment, education or training, please visit www.ashtoncoal.com.au

Applications close on 31 January 2019.



Camberwell update

■ Camberwell property

- Coordinated by Yancoal corporate properties team
- Local agent is Bailey Real Estate
- **32** homes tenanted; **2** homes vacant
- Demolition works
 - initial 4 houses completed in May 2019

OCCUPANCY STATUS				
Residential				
	3 Mth	2 Mth	Last Mth	This Mth
Occupied	32	33	33	33
Ready to be occupied	1	0	0	0
Not ready to be occupied	0	0	0	0
Sub Total Residential	33	33	33	33

OCCUPANCY STATUS				
Rural				
	3 Mth	2 Mth	Last Mth	This Mth
Occupied	3	3	3	3
Ready to be occupied	0	0	0	0
Not ready to be occupied	0	0	0	0
Sub Total Rural	3	3	3	3

OCCUPANCY STATUS				
Commercial				
	3 Mth	2 Mth	Last Mth	This Mth
Occupied	1	1	1	1
Ready to be occupied				
Not ready to be occupied				
Sub Total Commercial	1	1	1	1
TOTAL:	37	37	37	37

Bowmans Creek Diversion Video

[K:\28 ADMINISTRATION\19 Conferences\2016 NSW Minerals Council HSEC Awards\08 Award video\NMC0133](#)

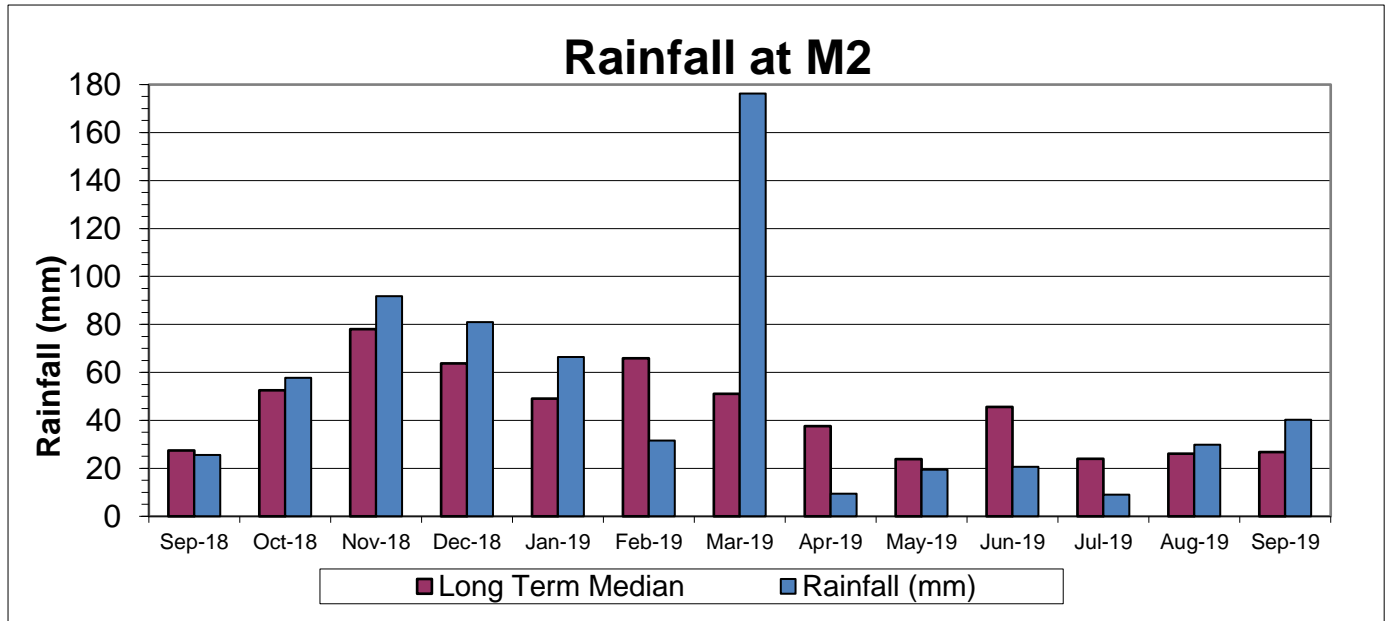
[Ashton Coal - Recreating Nature v3-HD.mp4](#)

Any Questions?

ASHTON COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – 17th OCTOBER 2019

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING DATA

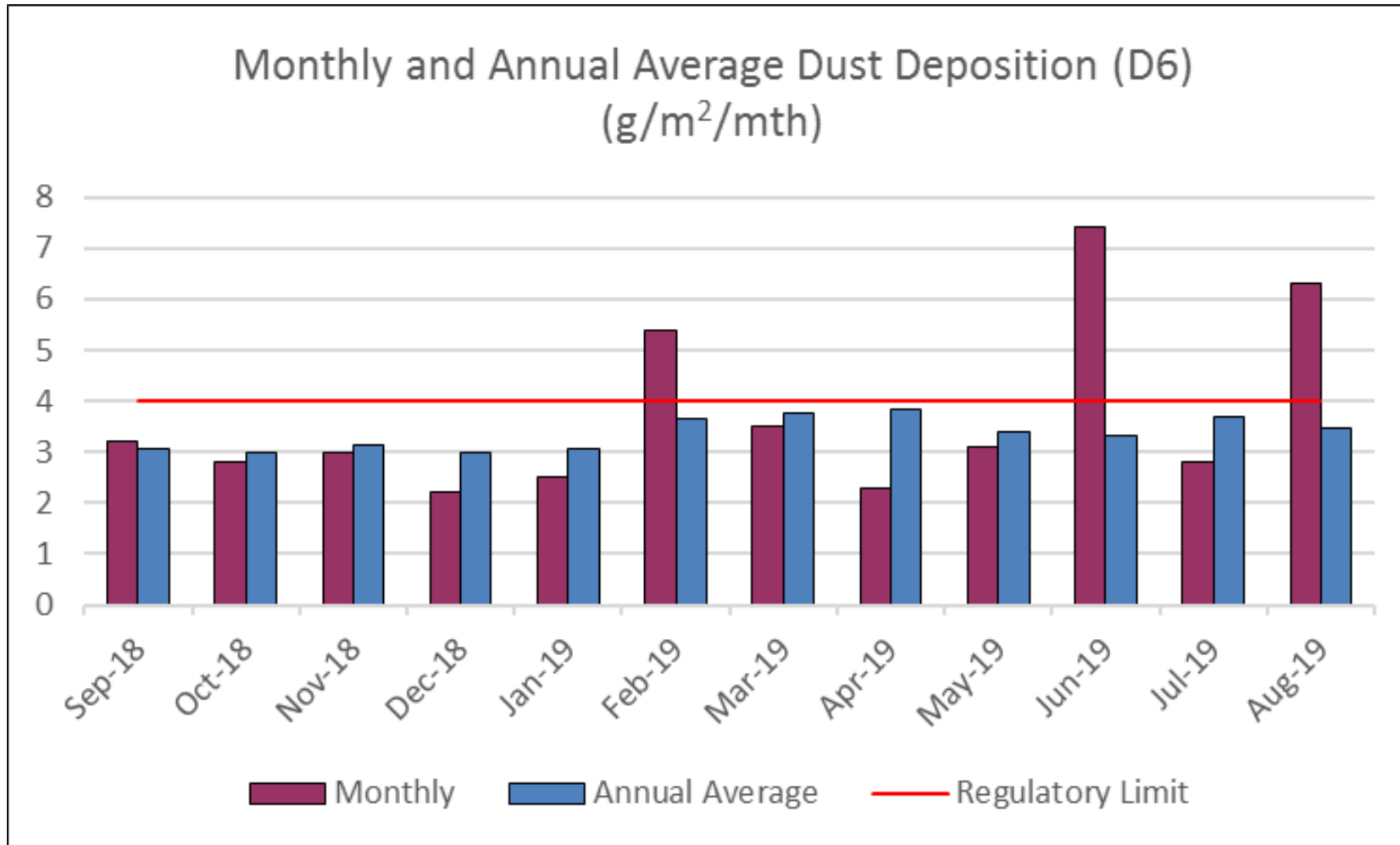
Rainfall



2019 Total Rainfall YTD (11/10/19): 402.8mm

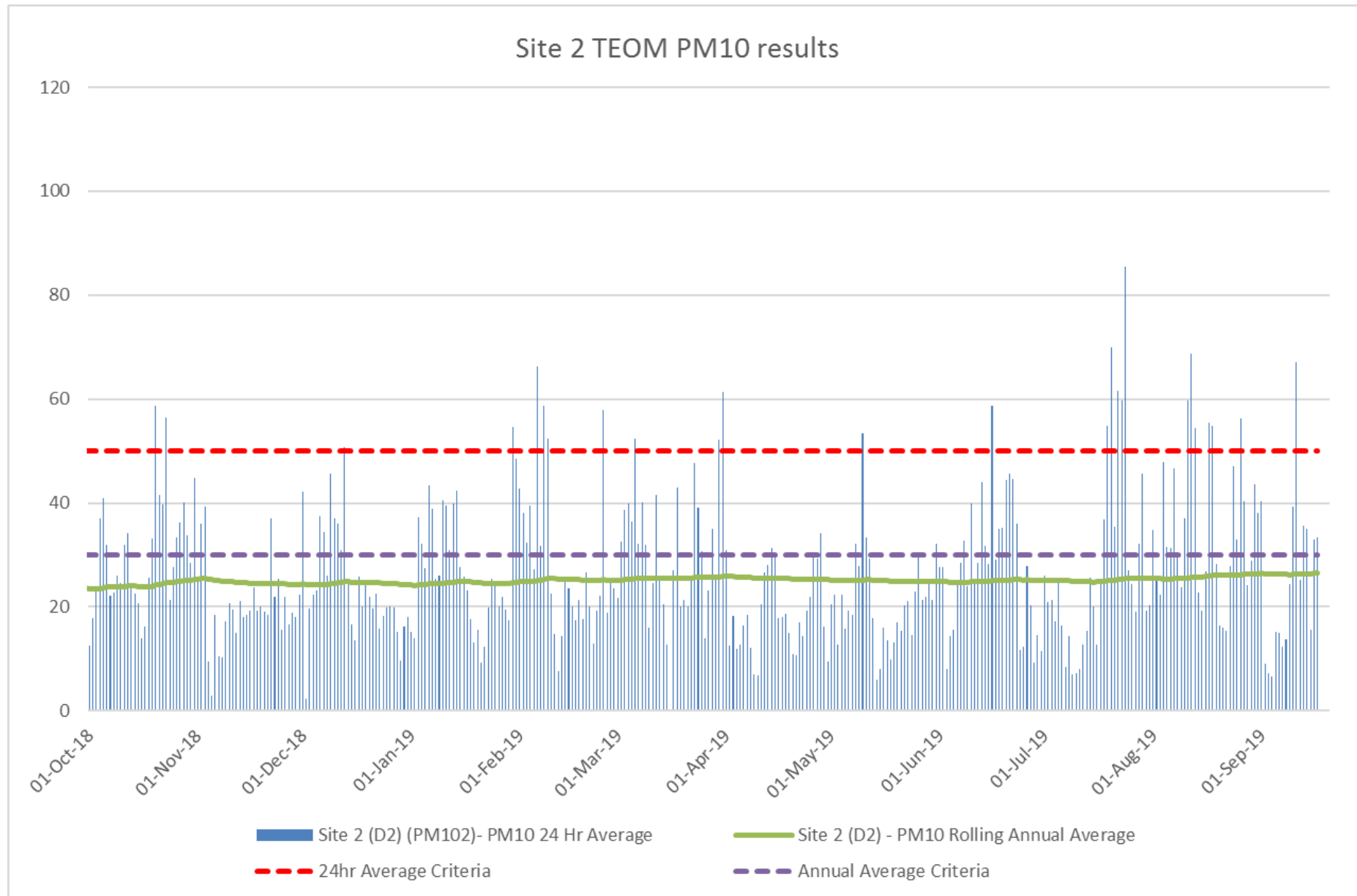
Air Quality

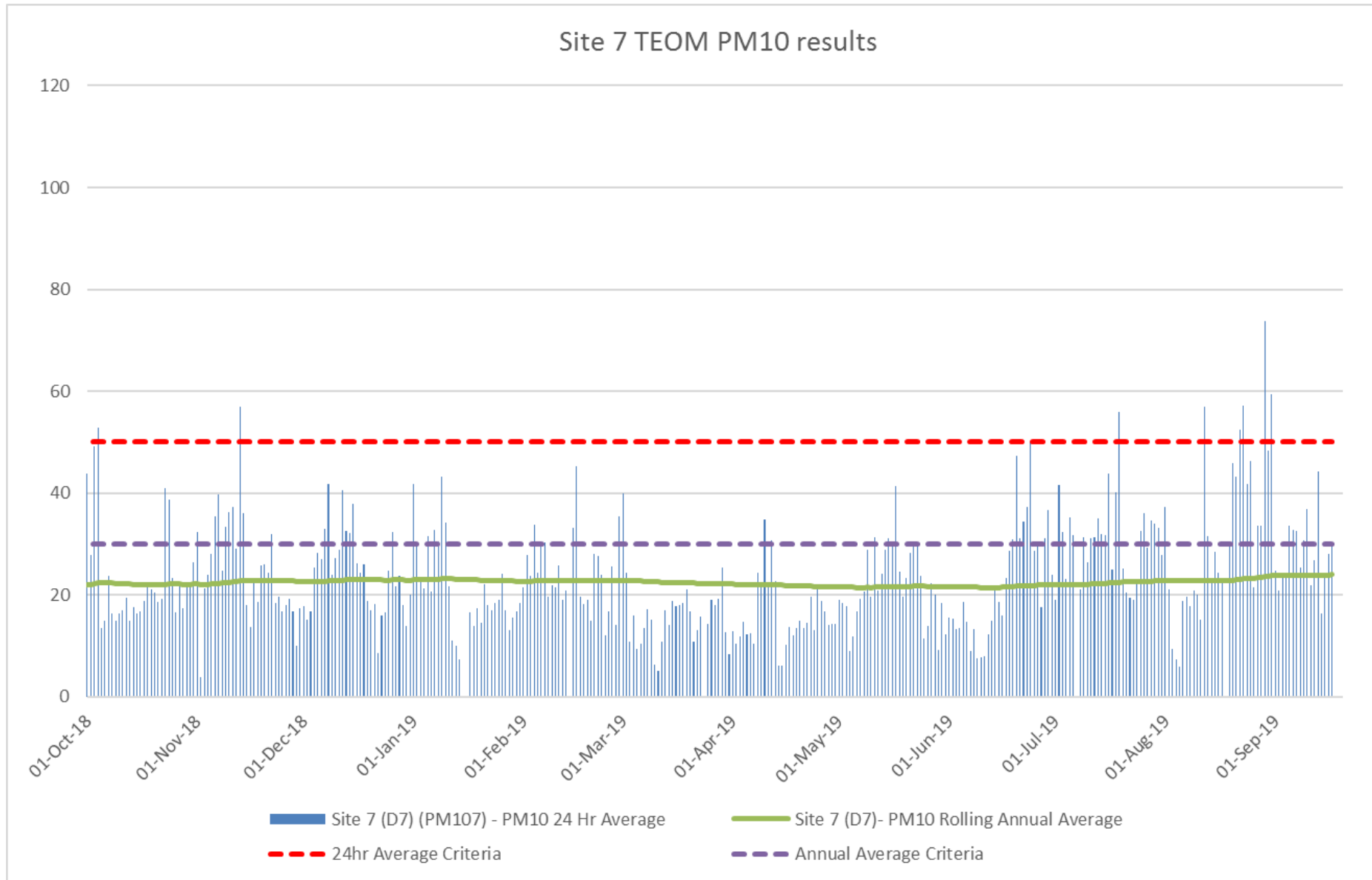
Depositional Dust Gauge

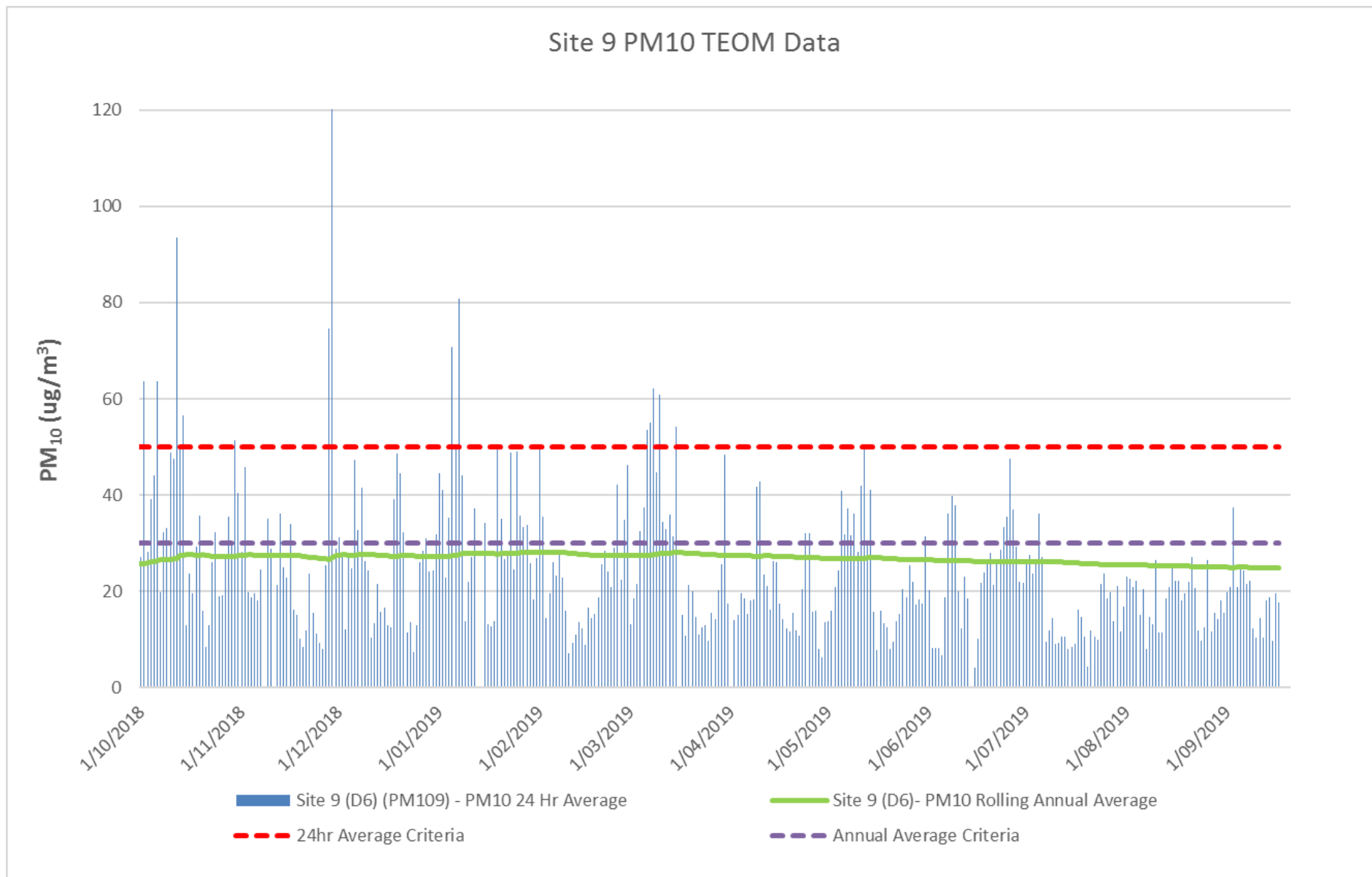


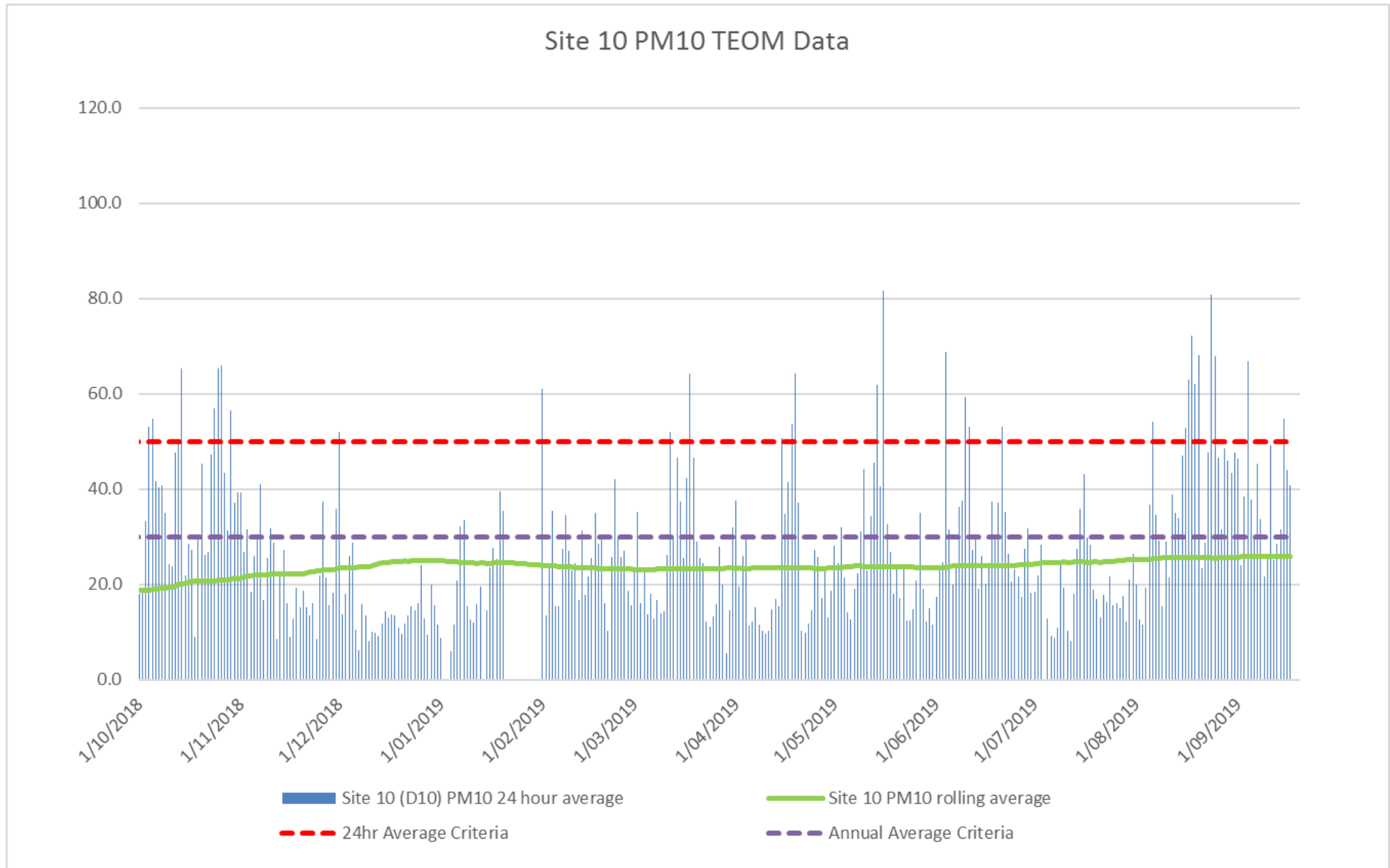
*February, June & August 18 - CONTAMINATED - bird droppings, turbid/grey

TEOM PM10









Noise (attended noise results June to September 2019)
EPL 11879 Night period noise limit 36 dB (LAeq 15 minute)

Date	Time	Ashton Sampling Point	Unit of Measure	Total	Ashton Coal Project (ACP) Contribution dB(A)	Wind Speed (m/s)	Wind Direction	Inversion °C/ 100m/ Stability Class	ACP Noise Sources
7/06/2019	5:20 AM	N2	dB(A) Leq	60	ACP Inaudible	1.4	298	5.6	n/a
7/06/2019	4:21 AM	N3	dB(A) Leq	54	ACP Inaudible	1.4	298	5.6	n/a
7/06/2019	5:45 AM	N4	dB(A) Leq	47	ACP Inaudible	1.1	338	3.2	n/a
7/06/2019	5:20 AM	N2	dB(A) L _{Amax} (for LA1, 1 minute)	68	ACP Inaudible	1.4	298	5.6	n/a
7/06/2019	4:21 AM	N3	dB(A) L _{Amax} (for LA1, 1 minute)	62	ACP Inaudible	1.4	298	5.6	n/a
7/06/2019	5:45 AM	N4	dB(A) L _{Amax} (for LA1, 1 minute)	60	ACP Inaudible	1.1	338	3.2	n/a
9/07/2019	11:38 PM	N2	dB(A) Leq	57	< 36	2.7	289	0.8	n/a
9/07/2019	11:38 PM	N3	dB(A) Leq	45	< 36	2.7	289	0.8	n/a
9/07/2019	12:07 AM	N4	dB(A) Leq	43	< 25	2.8	268	4.4	n/a
9/07/2019	11:38 PM	N2	dB(A) L _{Amax} (for LA1, 1 minute)	80	37	2.7	289	0.8	n/a
9/07/2019	11:38 PM	N3	dB(A) L _{Amax} (for LA1, 1 minute)	65	37	2.7	289	0.8	n/a
9/07/2019	12:07 AM	N4	dB(A) L _{Amax} (for LA1, 1 minute)	65	35	2.8	268	4.4	n/a
14/08/2019	10:07 PM	N2	dB(A) Leq	48	ACP Inaudible	0.9	293	11	n/a
14/08/2019	10:25 PM	N3	dB(A) Leq	45	ACP Inaudible	0.8	343	10	n/a
14/08/2019	10:47 PM	N4	dB(A) Leq	43	ACP Inaudible	1.1	157	1.1	n/a
14/08/2019	10:07 PM	N2	dB(A) L _{Amax} (for LA1, 1 minute)	64	ACP Inaudible	0.9	293	11	n/a
14/08/2019	10:25 PM	N3	dB(A) L _{Amax} (for LA1, 1 minute)	66	ACP Inaudible	0.8	343	10	n/a
14/08/2019	10:47 PM	N4	dB(A) L _{Amax} (for LA1, 1 minute)	57	ACP Inaudible	1.1	157	1.1	n/a
18/09/2019	10:01 PM	N2	dB(A) Leq	50	ACP Inaudible	2.8	155	-0.4	n/a
18/09/2019	10:19 PM	N3	dB(A) Leq	41	ACP Inaudible	2.3	155	-0.4	n/a
18/09/2019	10:41 PM	N4	dB(A) Leq	37	ACP Inaudible	2.4	150	-0.4	n/a
18/09/2019	10:01 PM	N2	dB(A) L _{Amax} (for LA1, 1 minute)	63	ACP Inaudible	2.8	155	-0.4	n/a
18/09/2019	10:19 PM	N3	dB(A) L _{Amax} (for LA1, 1 minute)	58	ACP Inaudible	2.3	155	-0.4	n/a
18/09/2019	10:41 PM	N4	dB(A) L _{Amax} (for LA1, 1 minute)	58	ACP Inaudible	2.4	150	-0.4	n/a

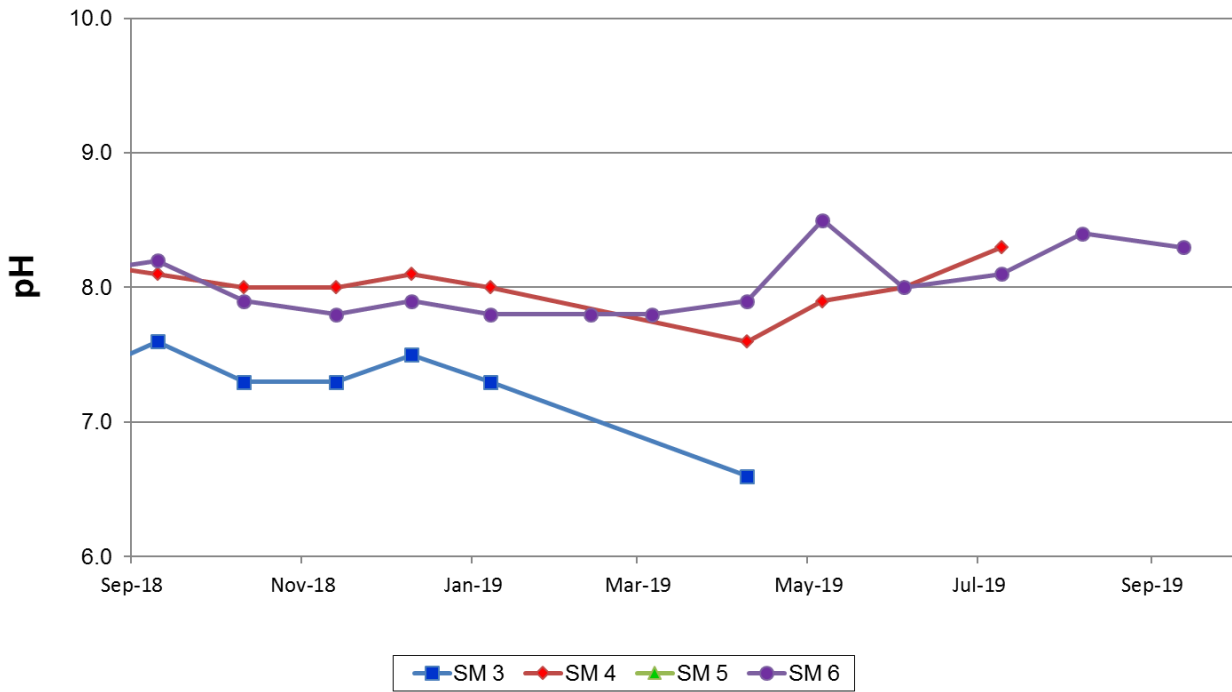
Surface Water



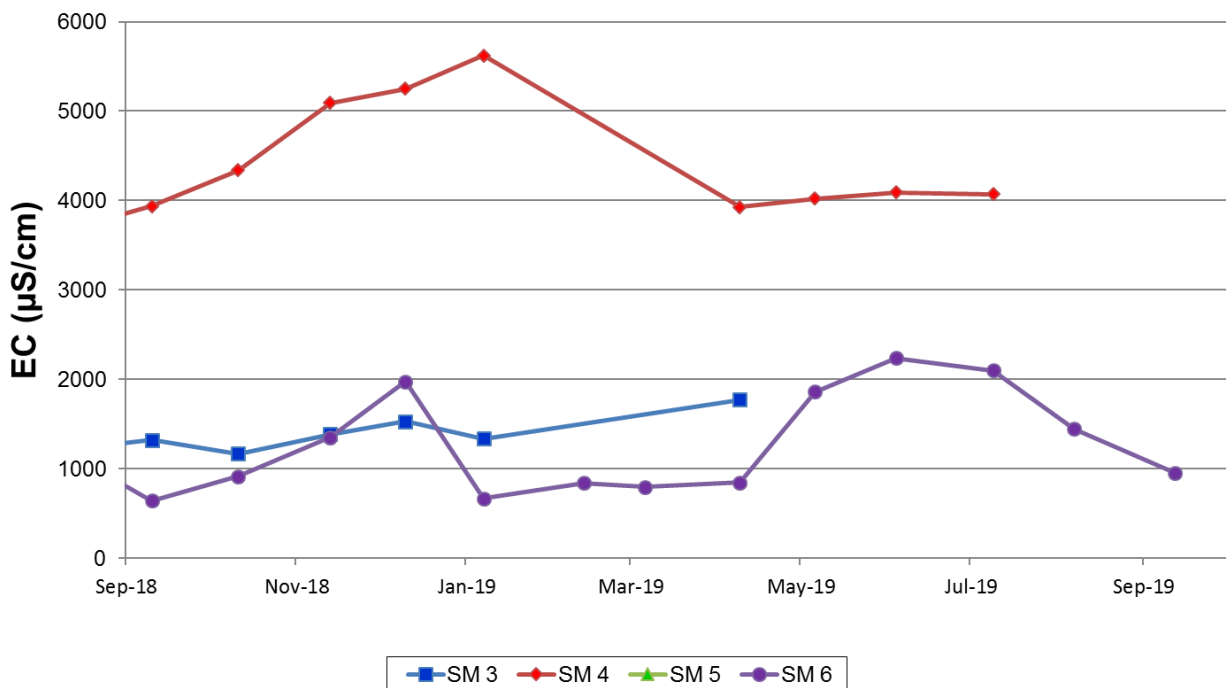
Note: The monitoring programs are current at the time of this strategy review, and are subject to change in-line with the EPL and approved management plans.

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

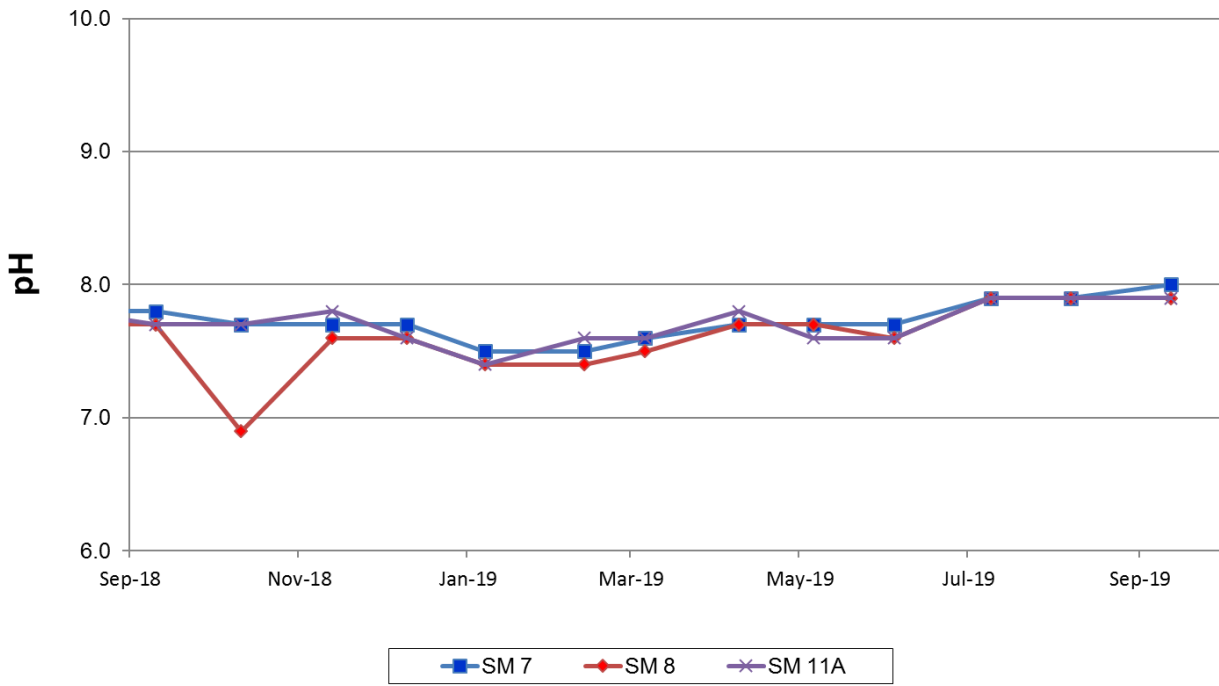
Bowmans Creek Monthly pH Levels 2018 - 2019



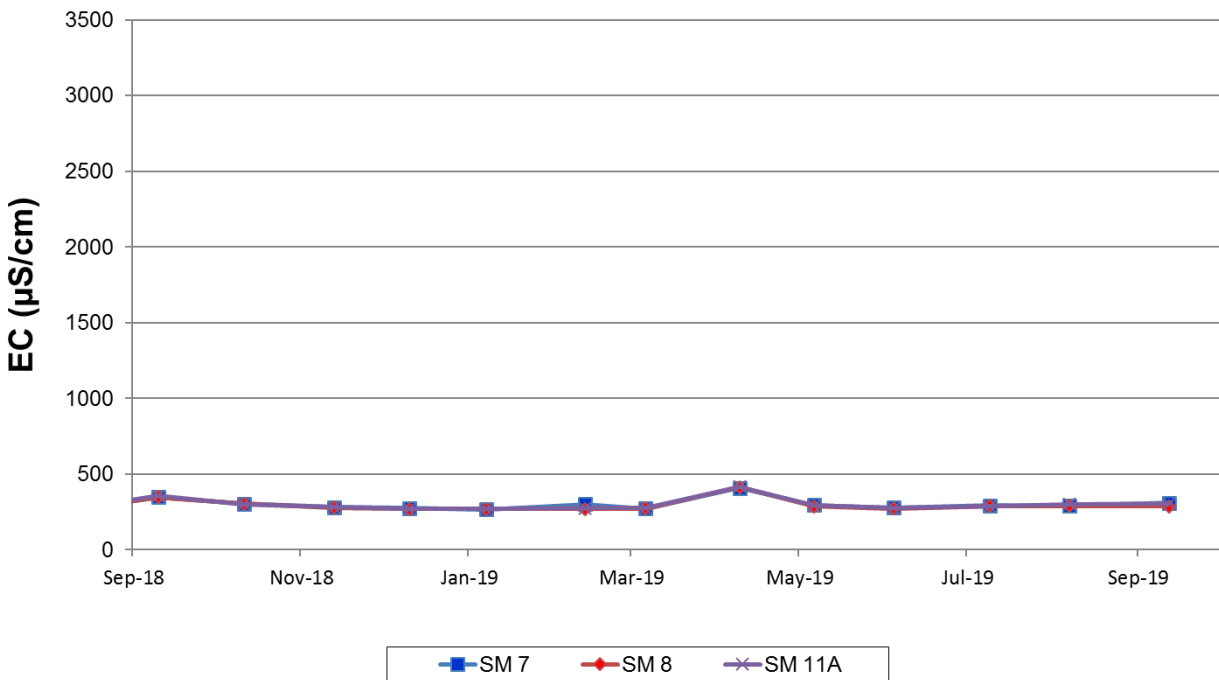
Bowmans Creek Monthly Electrical Conductivity Levels 2018 - 2019



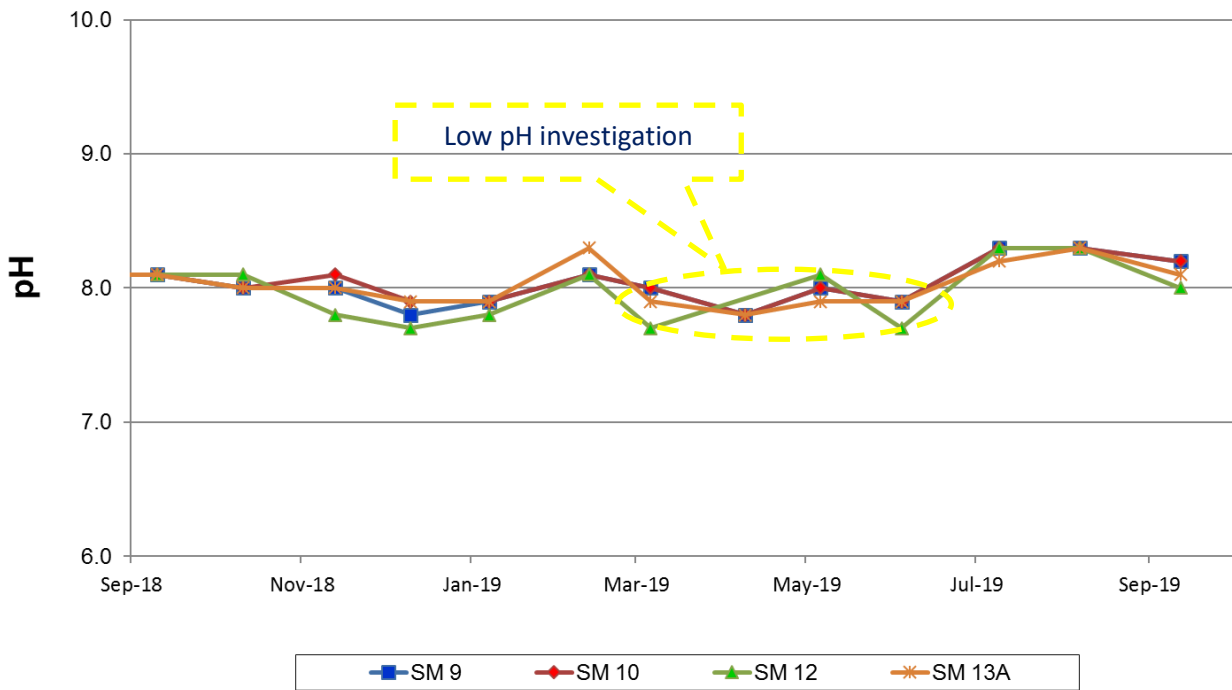
Glennies Creek Monthly pH Levels 2018 - 2019



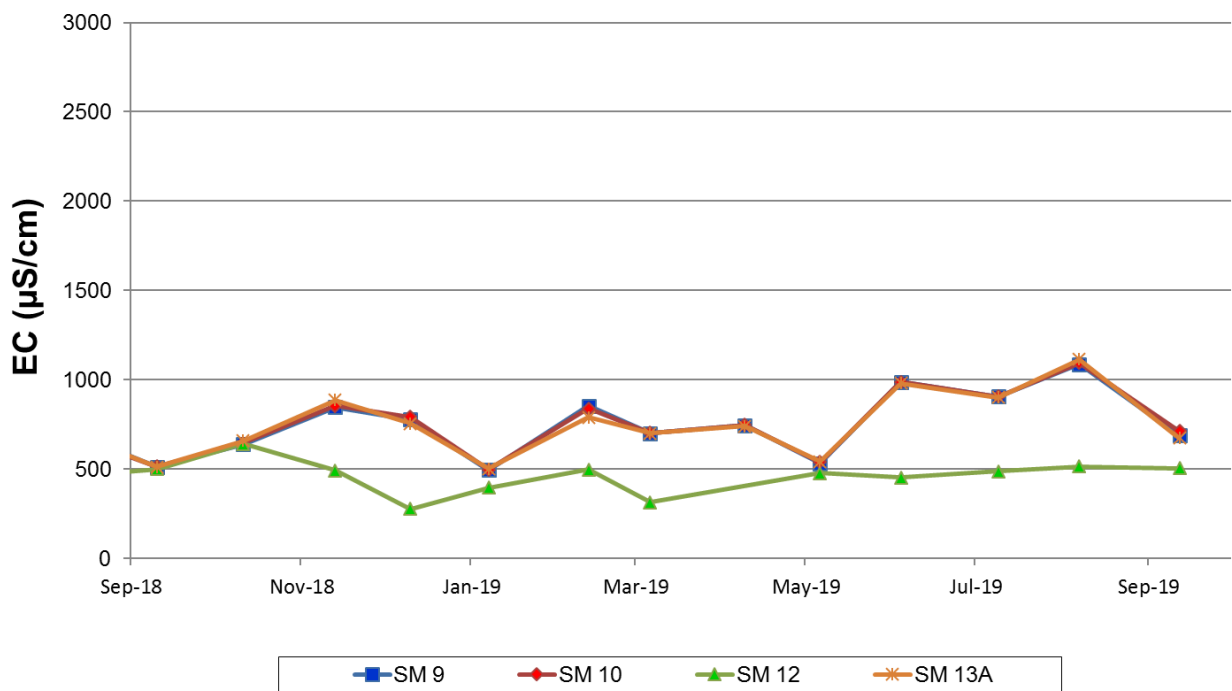
Glennies Creek Monthly Electrical Conductivity Levels 2018 - 2019



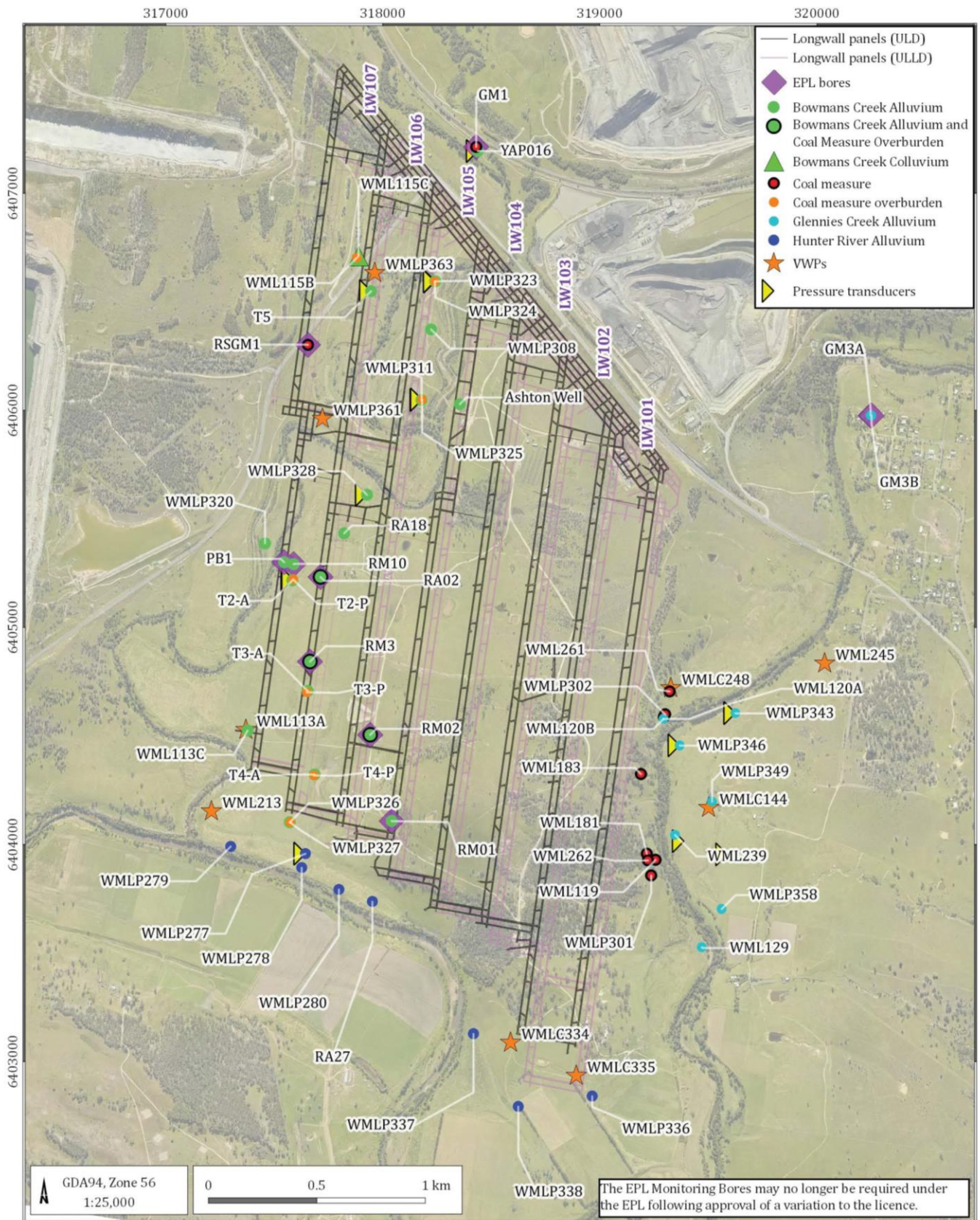
Hunter River Monthly pH Levels 2018 - 2019



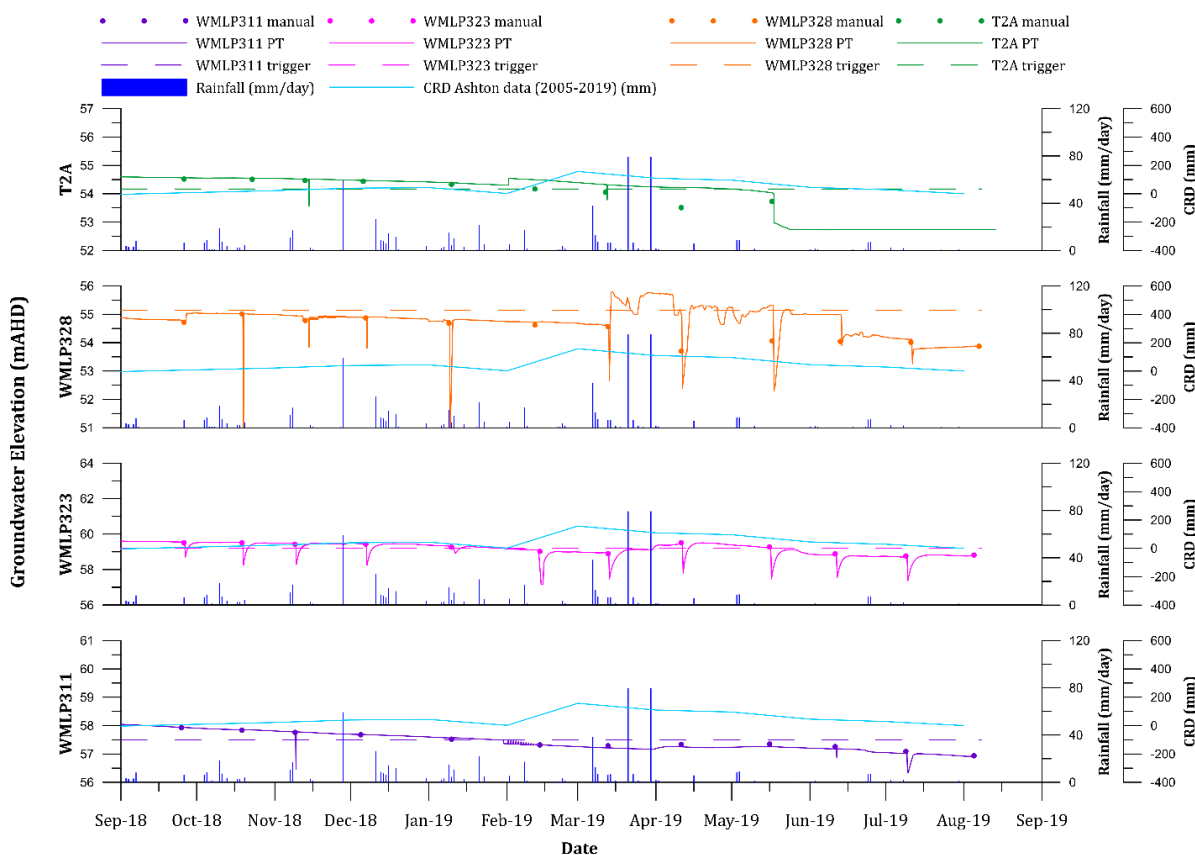
Hunter River Monthly Electrical Conductivity Levels 2018 - 2019



Groundwater (up to August 2019)

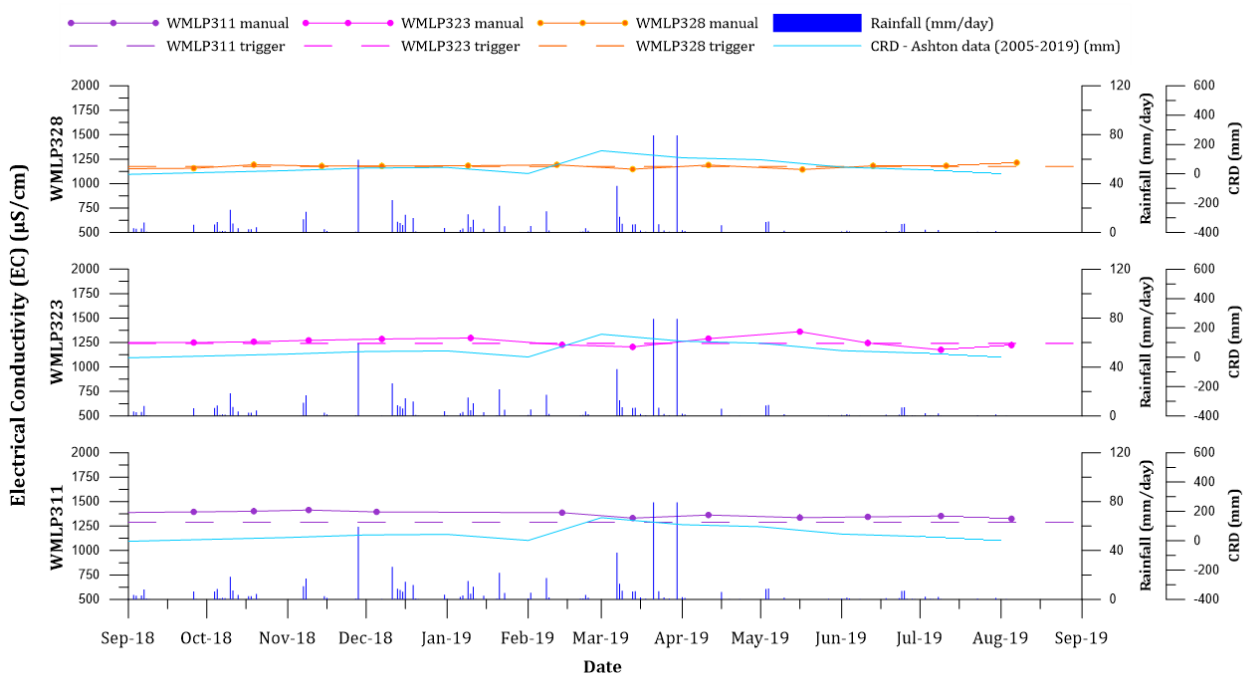


Bowmans Creek alluvial groundwater levels

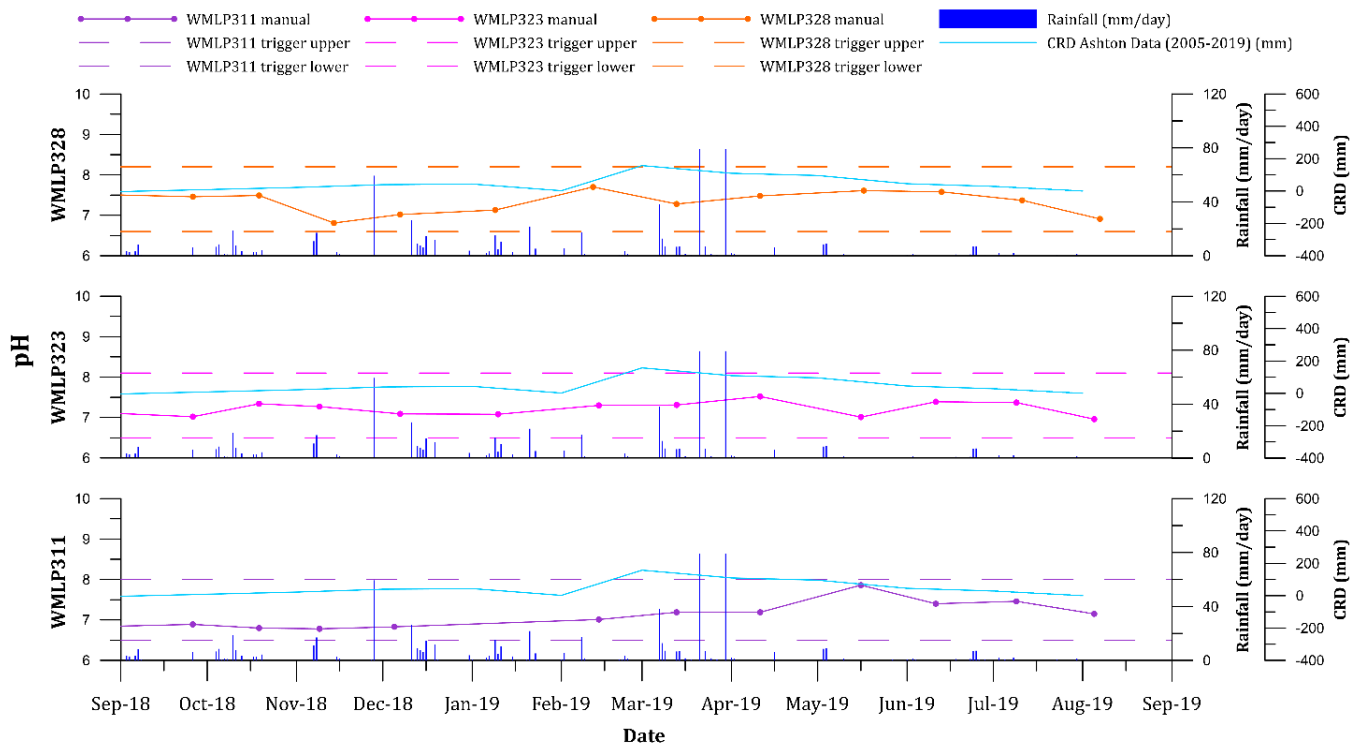


WMLP328/323/311 investigation (July 2018) indicated decreasing water levels and rising EC are due to reduced alluvial water due to extended dry weather, not mining impacts.

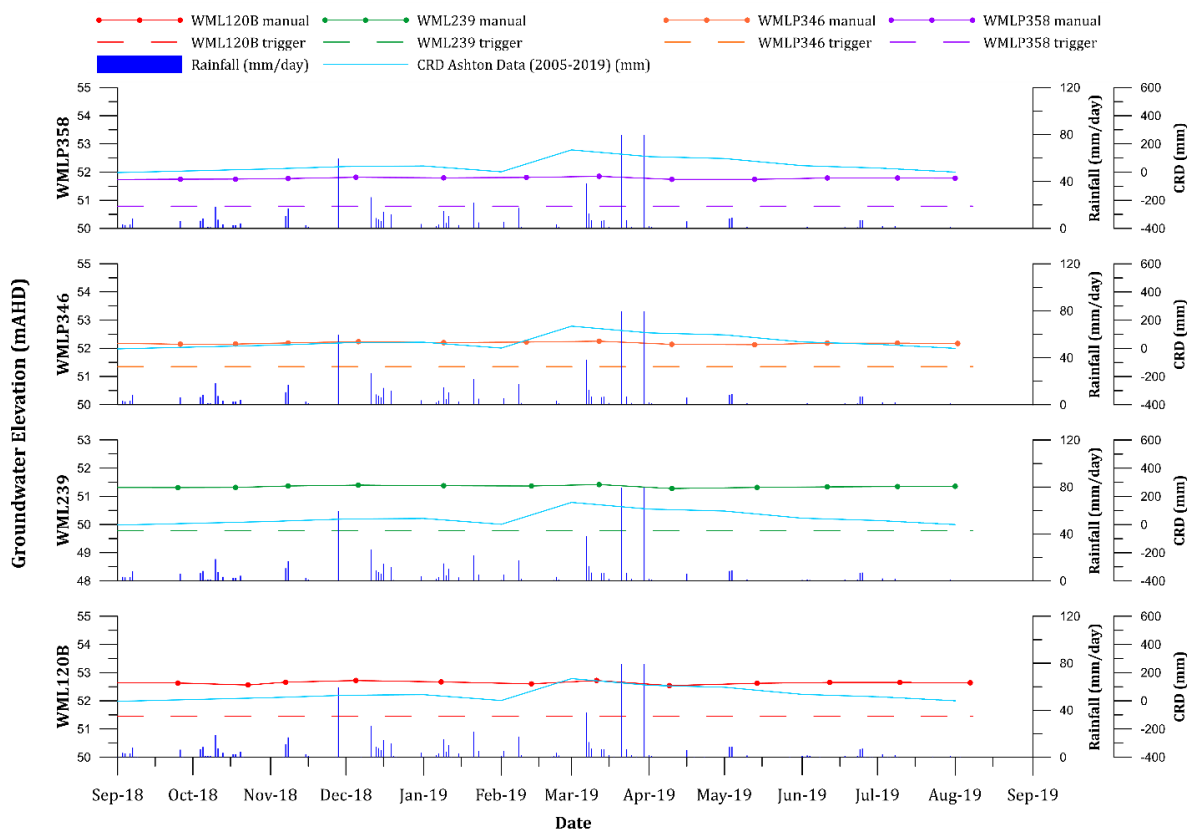
Bowmans Creek alluvial electrical conductivity



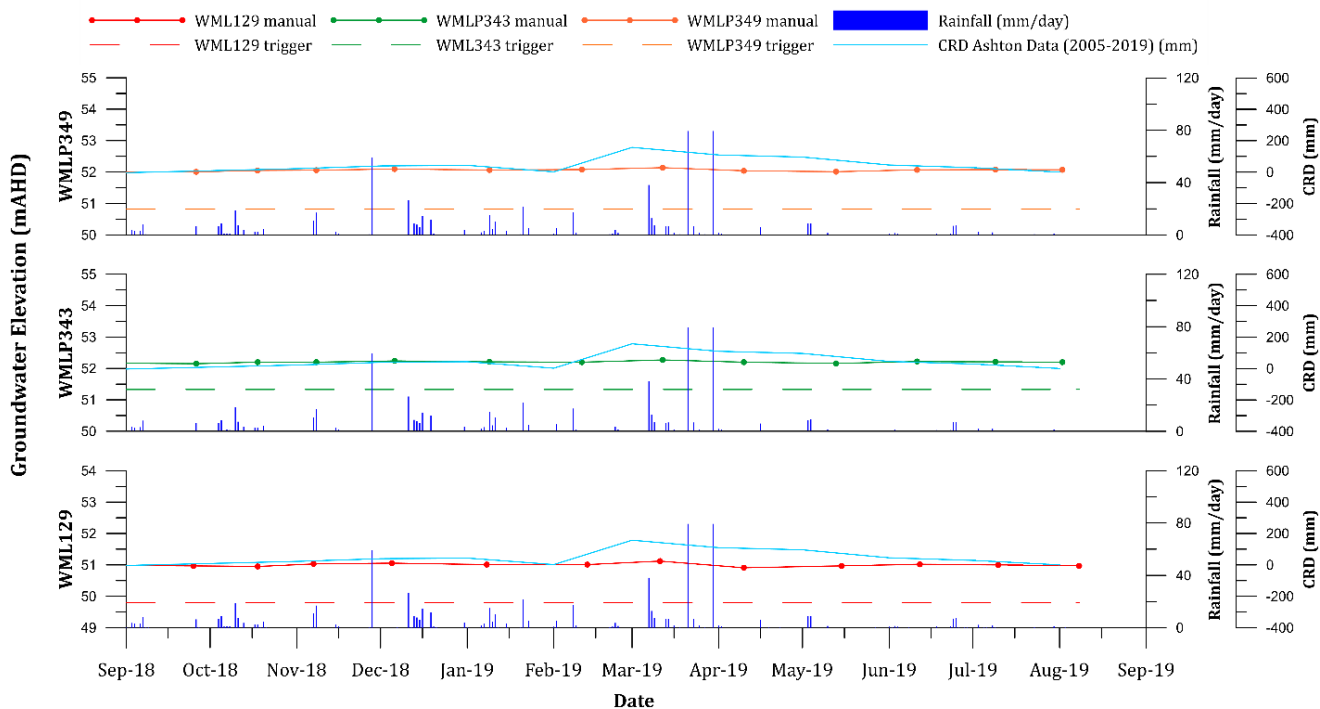
Bowmans Creek alluvial pH



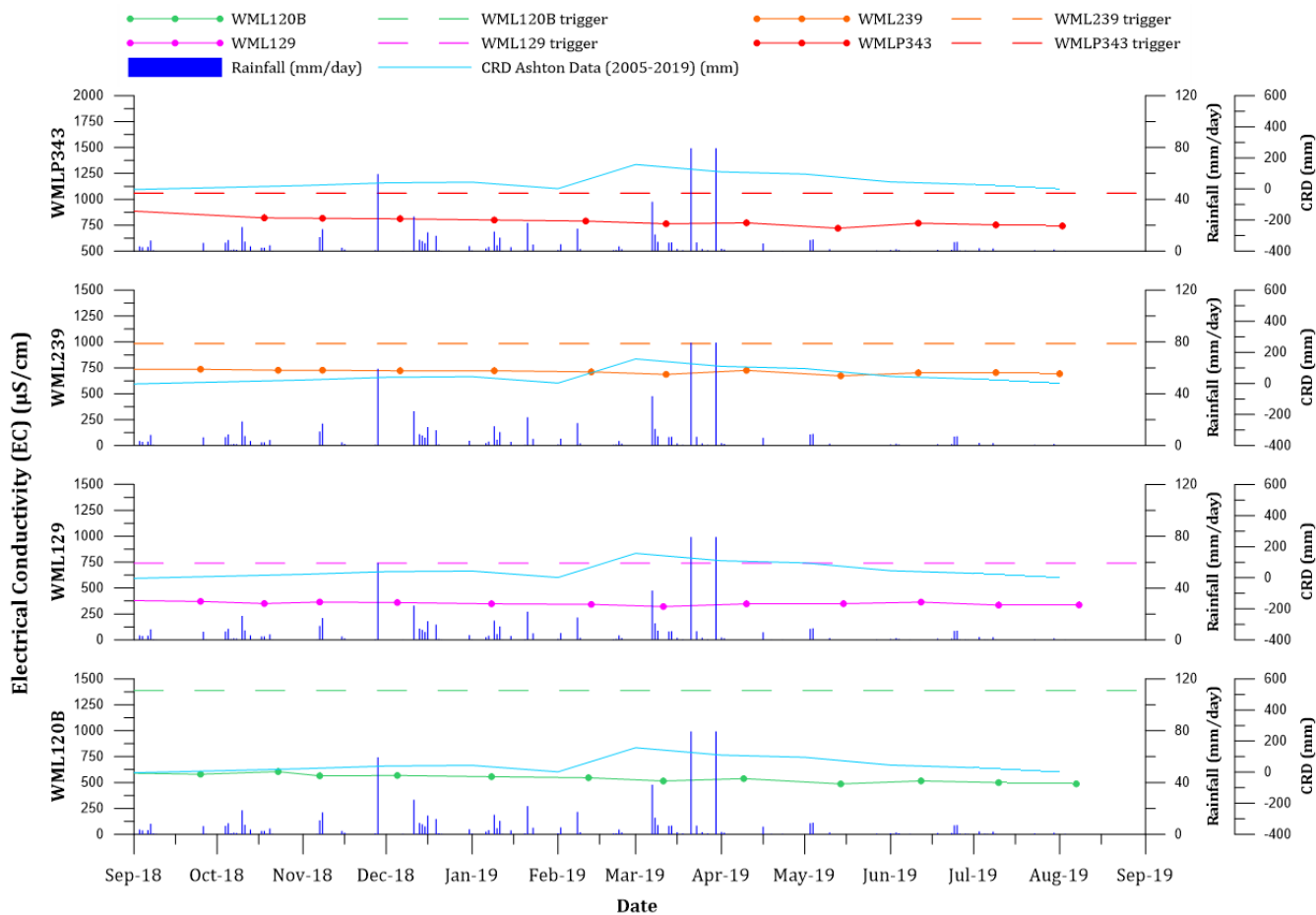
Glennies Creek alluvial groundwater levels (1)



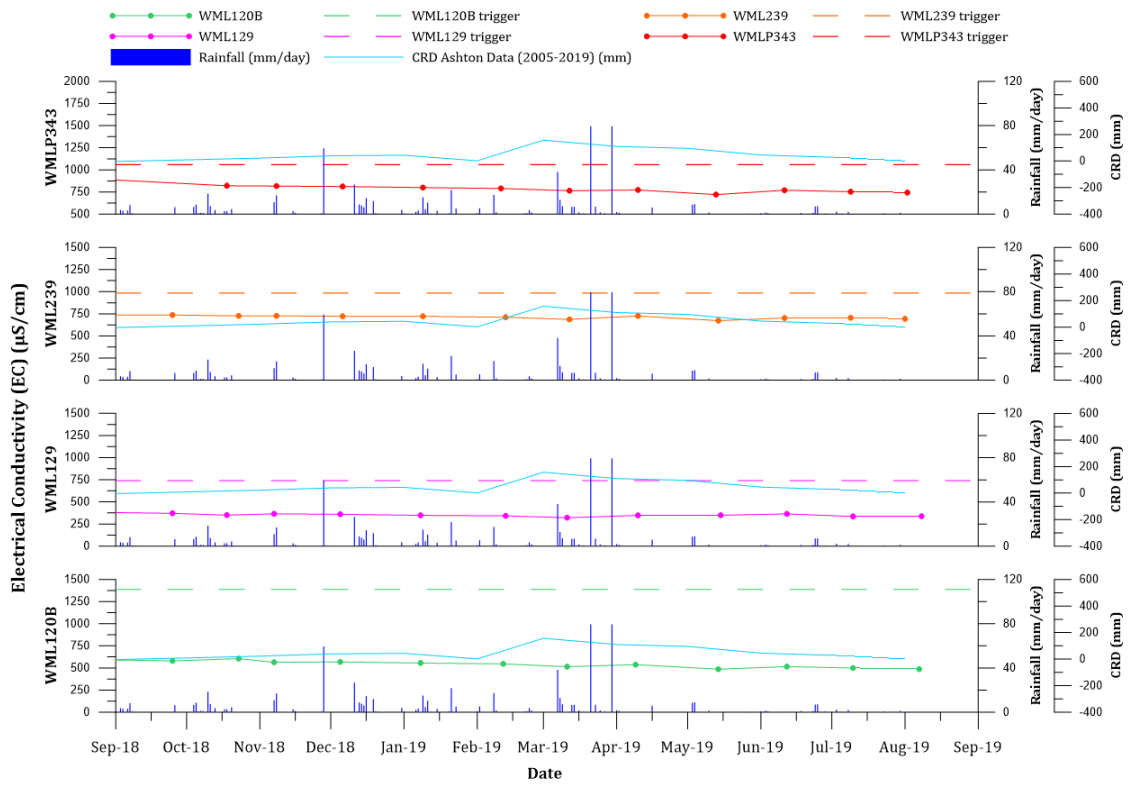
Glennies Creek alluvial groundwater levels (2)



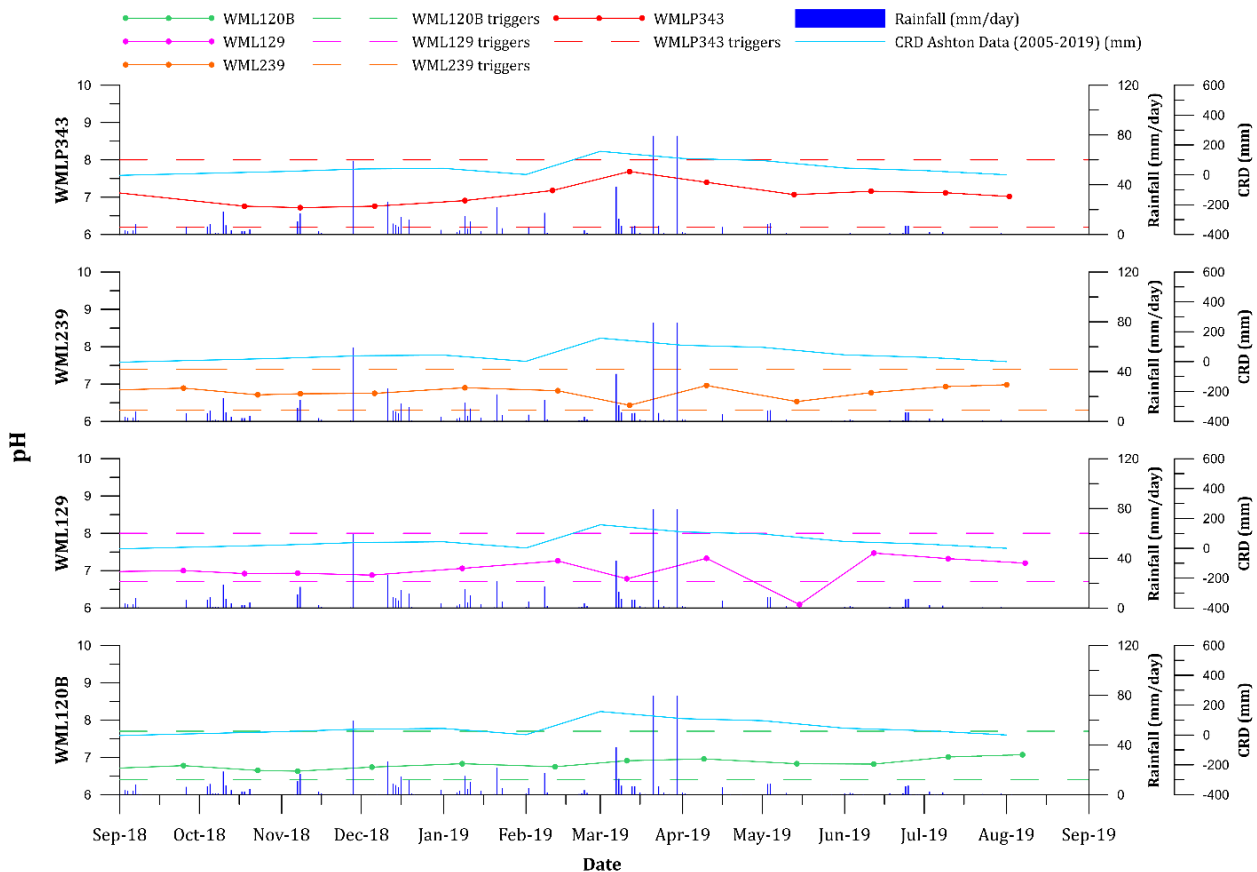
Glennies Creek alluvial electrical conductivity (1)



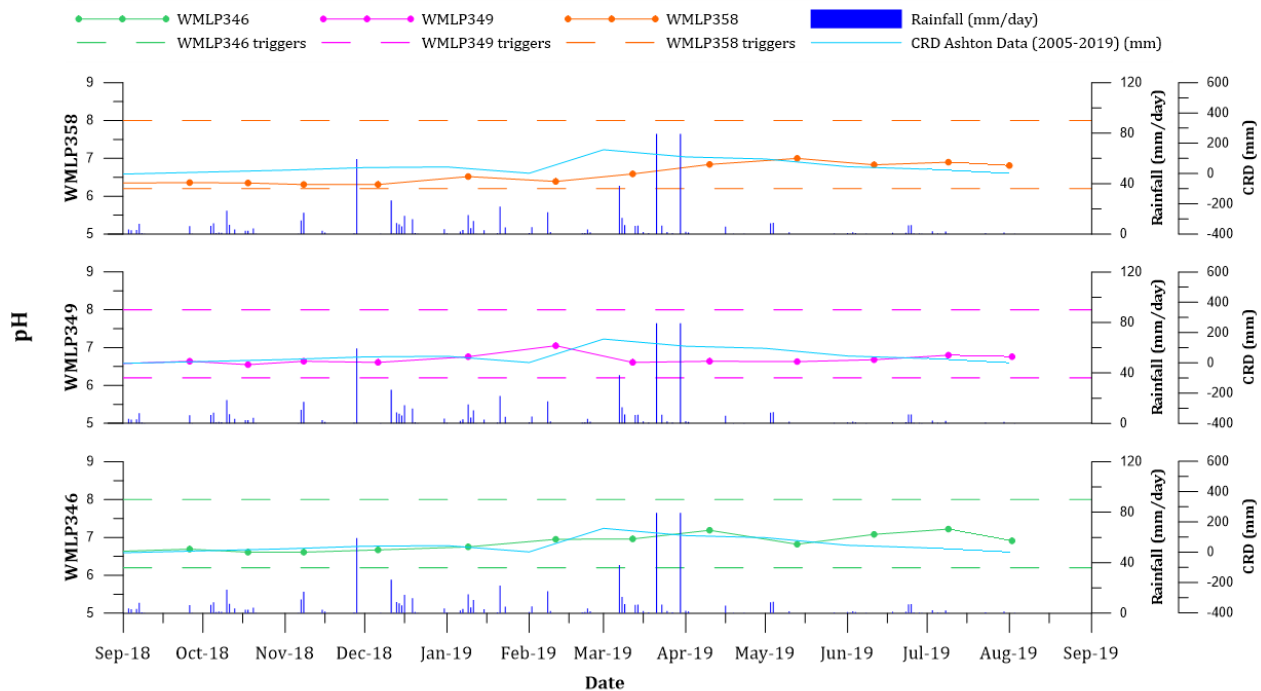
Glennies Creek alluvial electrical conductivity (2)



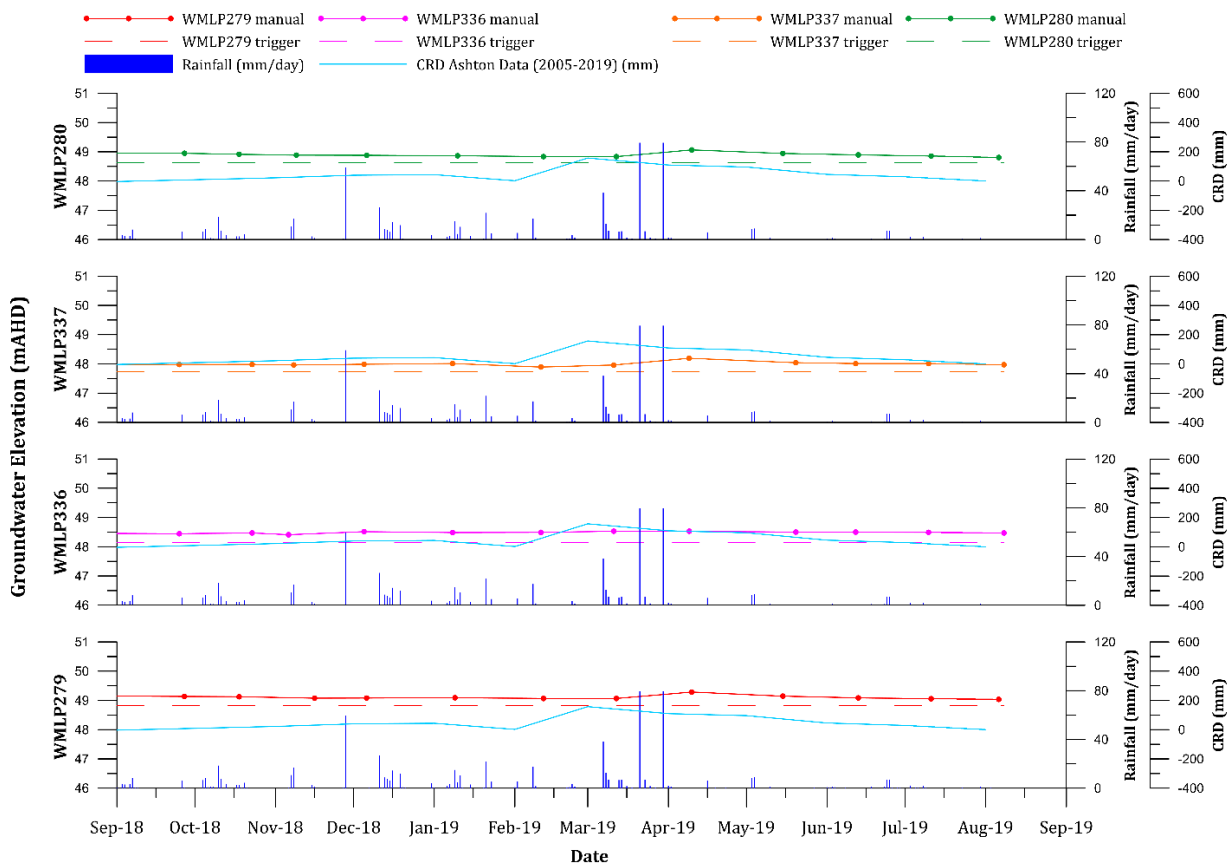
Glennies Creek alluvial pH (1)



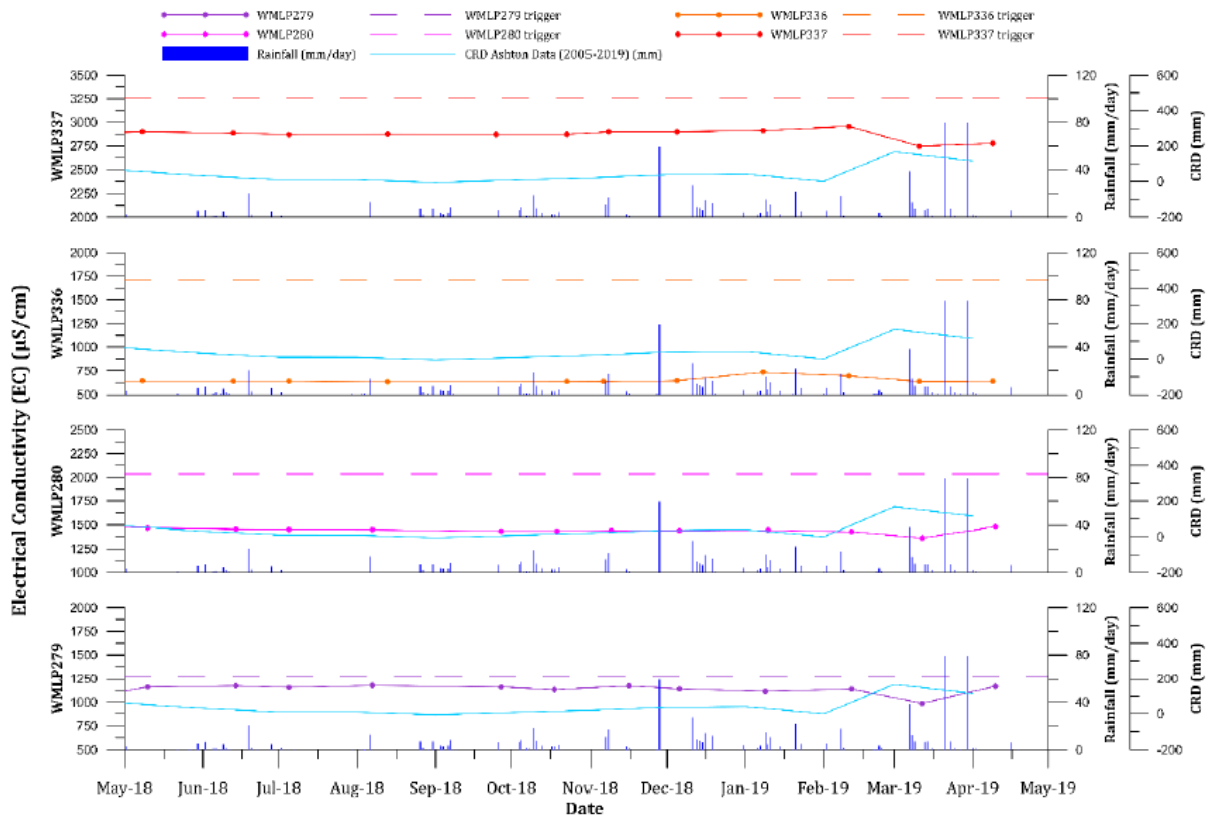
Glennies Creek alluvial pH (2)



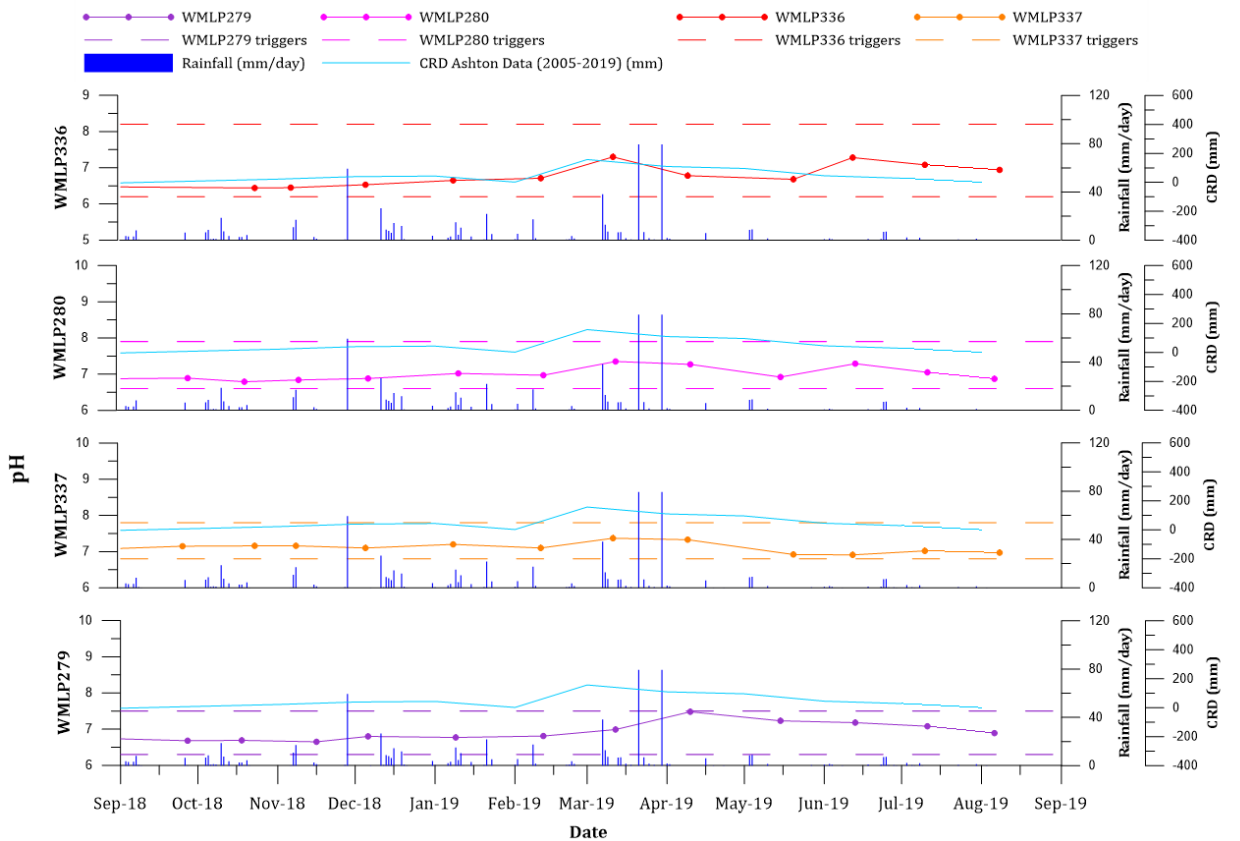
Hunter River alluvial groundwater levels



Hunter River alluvial electrical conductivity



Hunter River alluvial pH



Groundwater bores levels in vicinity of LW202

