

**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING #62  
Thursday 9 July 2020  
ASHTON COAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

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**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 1:03pm.

**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 February 2019 were accepted as a true and accurate record (by email 10/7/20):

**Moved:** Godfrey Adamthwaite **Seconded:** Debbie Richards

**5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

*Refer to Correspondence and presentation*

**6. Correspondence**

- a) 18/02/2020 - PB email to CCC advising of TEOM D10 outage dates
- b) 25/03/2020 - MM email Chair's annual Report on CCC to DPIE
- c) 30/04/2020 - PB email to CCC advising of feral animal baiting

**Company Reports and Overview of Activities**

**6.1 Ashton Operations Update**

*Refer to presentation*

- AM explained the nature of the safety incidents that had resulted in the Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate of 35.13, and the initiatives being introduced to address this trend.
- AM stated LW204 started on Thursday 2/7/20, had since retreated 52m, and is scheduled for completion in April 2021.

**6.2 Monitoring and Environmental Performance**

*Refer to handout*

**6.3 Community Complaints and response to complaints**

*Refer to presentation*

**6.4 Environmental Activities Update**

*Refer to presentation*

- JM asked for further clarification of proposed change in selected post-mining land use on North East Open Cut (NEOC), as he thought the existing NEOC rehabilitation was more than adequate.  
LC / PB provided explanation of the intended change from the current proposed post-mining land use (mix of grazing and woodland), to mixed-use-woodland (and removal of proposed grazing land use), and the need to have this approved in an amended Mining Operations Plan (MOP) as per original EIS statement.

#### **6.5 Camberwell Update**

*Refer to presentation.*

- JM enquired why no movement on further demolition of derelict Camberwell houses.  
PB responded that Ashton were still in the process of obtaining quotes for the demolition works.
- JM stated that the growth of long grass on Ashton-owned unused lots since last CCC meeting is now creating a fire and weed-spread hazard.  
PB will arrange for slashing of lots in question.

#### **7. General Business**

Nil.

#### **8. Actions**

- Notice to be provided to CCC members at commencement of kangaroo culling program. (PB)
- Slashing of unused Ashton-owned Camberwell lots. (PB)
- If Bowman's Creek Diversion is flowing at time of next CCC meeting, notify committee members and incorporate an inspection into next meeting. (PB)

#### **9. Date for Next Meeting**

Next CCC meeting: 1pm, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

**MEETING CLOSED 1:50pm**



Community  
Consultative  
Committee  
9<sup>th</sup> July 2020



# Action List

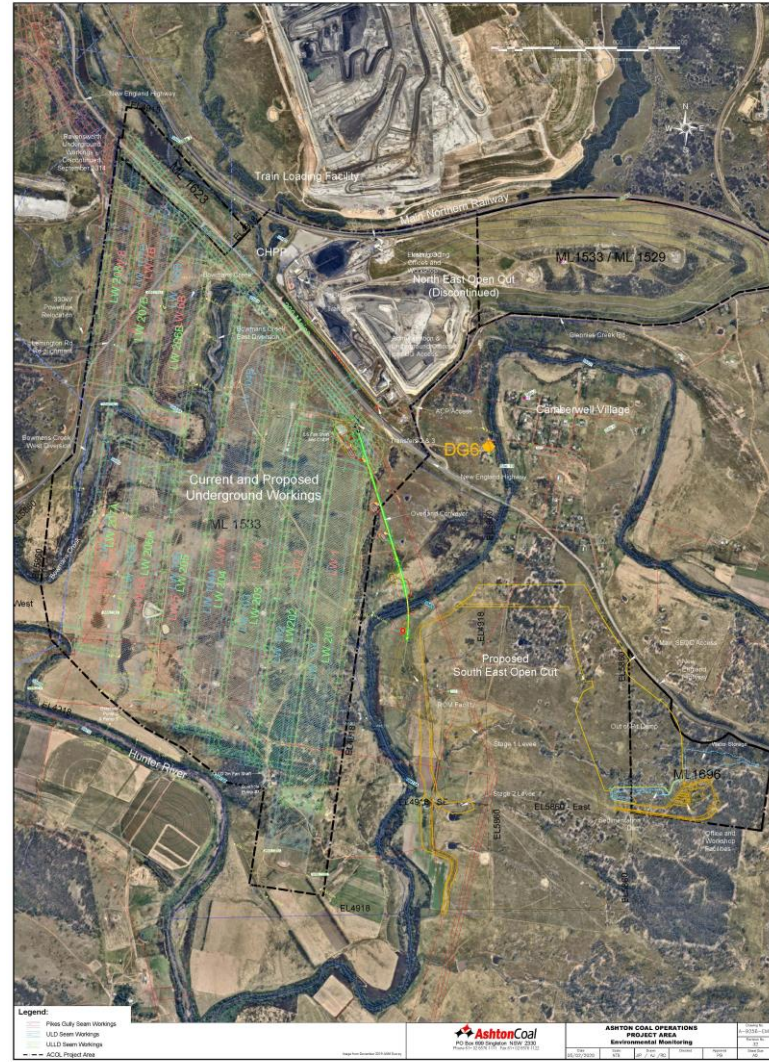
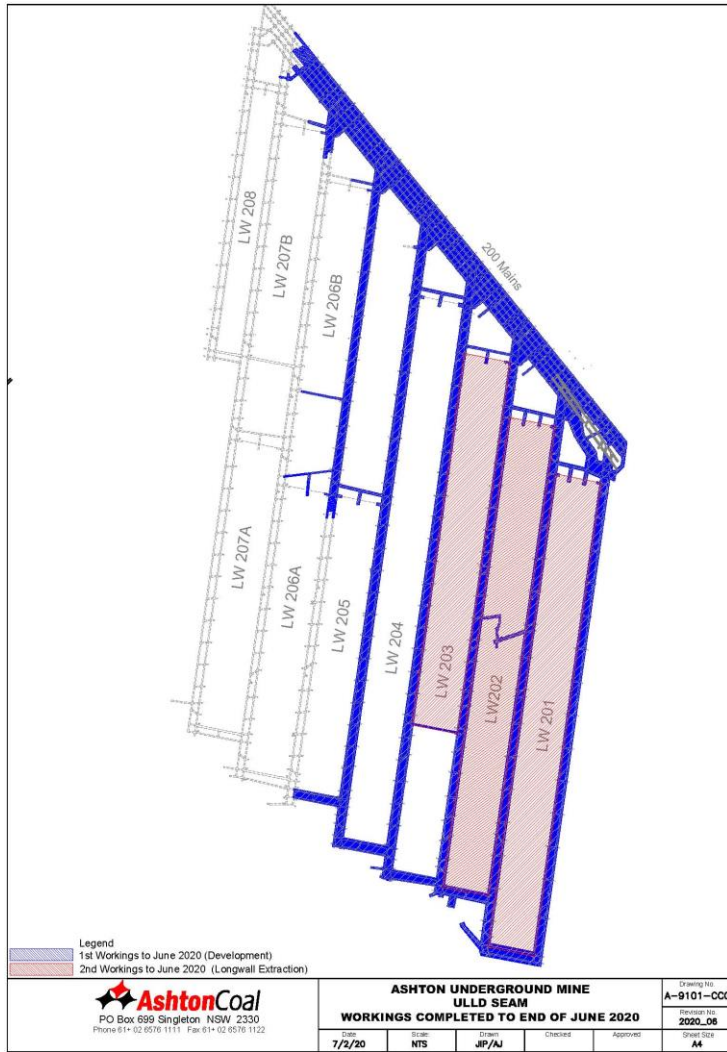
ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS UPDATE
Date of TEOM D10 outage	PB	Outage was 1:10-3:40 pm, 19/12/19 (advised by email 18/2/20)
notice to CCC of kangaroo culling program	PB	Culling is proposed for Q3 2020
Bowmans Creek inspection	PB	Currently no flow

# Ashton Mine Statistics CY 2020

## Ashton Coal Key Statistics

	2020 Budget (ytd)	2020 Actual (ytd)
ROM (Mt)	1,352,595	1,466,298
Product Coal (Mt)	668,202	706,268
Total Coal Sales (Mt)	616,502	758,903
Total Recordable Injuries (TRIFR)	27	35.13
Total Employees (FTE)	283	269
Complaints	0	1
Environmental Incidents	0	0

# Current Mining Area



# Exploration

- No further exploration drilling has been undertaken since last CCC meeting.
- No (field) exploration activities are proposed for remainder of 2020.
- Only activities since last CCC meeting was continued rehabilitation of the drill pad sites.

# Environment Monitoring Data

- Refer to monitoring data attachment
- Items of note:
  - Groundwater monitoring WMLP 323 has exceeded the EC limit for three consecutive months, triggering an investigation. AGE have been asked to conduct the investigation, which is ongoing.
  - Four days of PM10 > 50 ug/m3 – all four investigated, with ACOL contributing minimal dust in first 3 cases, and no ACOL contribution for 6/6/2020.
  - Short Bowmans Creek flow in early April – pools replenished





# Complaints & Incidents

## Complaints

One complaint received since last CCC meeting (received since handout).

- Dust - Camberwell village (3.31pm, 3/7/20)
  - Westerly wind direction (towards resident), but no surface operations at time of complaint.
  - Downwind-minus-upwind results indicate dust being generated further west than Ashton.

## Incidents

Two non-reportable environmental incidents occurred since February meeting:

- Mine water release to ground due to polyline failure (9/4/2020)
  - U/G dewatering line leak detected, isolated and repaired.
  - Water contained on site (within DA / ML / EPL boundary) and away from watercourses.
  - Line inspection being included in works program.
- Flocculant release due to polyline failure (9/4/2020)
  - Flocculant is water with 0.3% FLOPAM (anionic polyacrylamide powder – non-toxic – used in soil conditioning, potting mix, water treatment).
  - Line isolated and repaired. Immediate area of release washed down.
  - Released flocculant mixture and wash down all drained to tailings dam.

# Environmental Update

## Government

- Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) final report submitted to DPIE on 6/3/2020.
- EPL Annual Return submitted to EPA on 31/3/2020.
- Annual Review submitted to DPIE and DPIE-RR on 31/3/2020.
- Management Plans revised. No material change in management / control actions proposed. Administrative revision following IEA and Annual Review. Revised plans submitted to DPIE on 5/6/2020 (waiting for DPIE response), including:
  - Environmental Management Strategy
  - Water Management Plan
  - Heritage Management Plan
  - Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan
  - Flora and Fauna Management Plan
  - Noise Management Plan.

## Rehabilitation

- Application to amend Mining Operations Plan (MOP) is in preparation.
- Amendment is to modify proposed post-mining land use on NEOC overburden from “trees-over-grass” and “grazing” to only “mixed eucalypt woodland”.
- Better environmental outcome and more closely aligned with 2001 EIS commitment.
- Tree establishment will not cover whole landform, and will occur over next five years (subject to weather constraints).
- Rehabilitation / flora monitoring methods also being modified to compare results more closely with annual reference plot conditions.

# Environmental Update

## Rehabilitation (current vegetation cover)



# Environmental Update

## Rehabilitation (EIS commitment for wildlife corridors)



# Environmental Update

Rehabilitation (approx. area of tree establishment over next 5 years)



# Environmental Update

## Ecological Monitoring

- Autumn aquatic ecology, winter fauna and annual flora / rehabilitation monitoring completed. All three reports in preparation.
- Aquatic ecology: despite 5 day flow in early April, which replenished pools, Bowmans Creek still drought impacted.
- Fauna: brushtail possums in VCA nest boxes, brush-tailed phascogale (woodlands near church), squirrel glider (Glennies Creek), grey-crowned babbler, speckled warblers and wedge-tailed eagle building a nest at Bowmans Creek.
- Flora / rehab: vegetation is recovering from worst of drought impacts. Lots of annual weeds.



# Environmental Update

## Heritage

- ACCF meeting postponed (COVID risk) and will be in next month or so (TBC).
- Meeting with OEH/EES re-burial of artefacts procedure also postponed.
- Field surveys held over April / May to clear gas drainage drill pads and continue subsurface investigations in Oxbow site.

## Property

- Weed control undertaken over March / April across VCA, U/G surface and NEOC rehab. Winter weeds to be targeted over July / August.
- 1080 baiting completed 3/6/2020 concurrently with neighbouring operations.
  - 55 bait locations were established, and checked / replaced weekly for 4 weeks (total of 220 baits)
  - 53 takes by target species (19 dog, 33 fox), equating to 24.5% confirmed takes (up from 10% in 2019)
  - Next program in August / September
- Kangaroo culling (250 tags from NPWS) planned for 3rd Qtr 2020.



# Community Support Program

- Single round of funding for 2021 Community Support Program.
- CSP aims to support initiatives over four specific categories:
  1. Health
  2. Social and Community
  3. Environment
  4. Education and Training
- Applications accepted up until 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020.
- Scope for joint support with MTW available for larger projects
- For more detail, see Ashton Coal website, at <https://www.ashtoncoal.com.au/page/sustainability/community/community-support-program/>

# Camberwell update

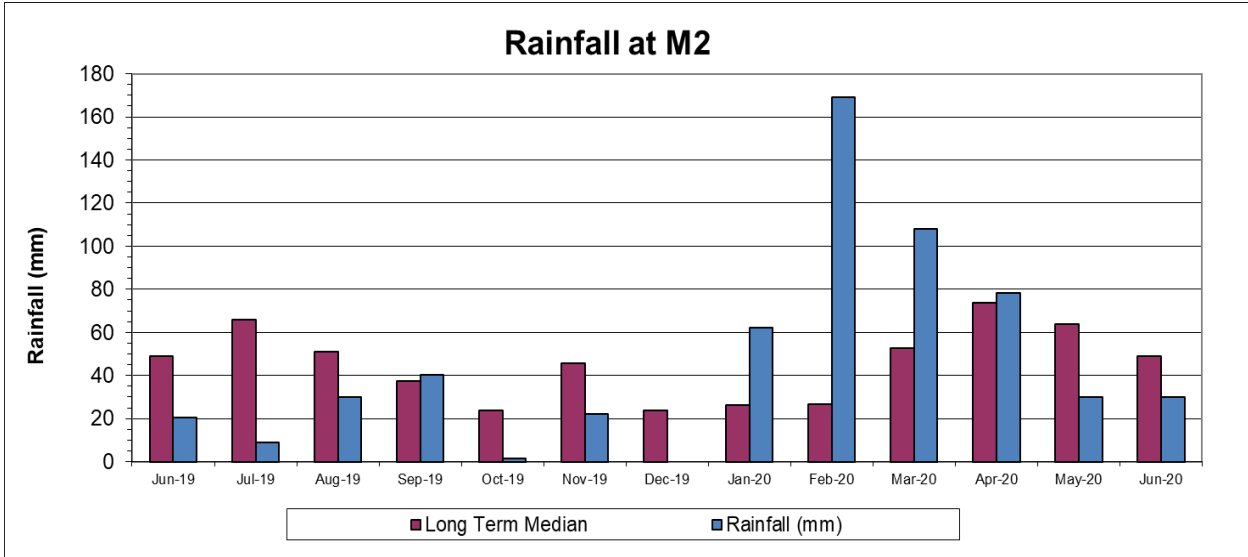
- **Camberwell property**
  - Coordinated by Yancoal corporate properties team
  - Local agent is Bailey Real Estate
  - 32 residential tenancy agreements; no homes vacant
  - 1 commercial agreement
  - 4 rural properties occupied; 1 ready to be leased
  - 12 properties on Asset Maintenance Program
  - Quotes being obtained for demolition works for 2 houses in Camberwell
  - Rural lease agreement timeframe – call for Expressions of Interest in July, select successful applicant in August and new licence agreements commence in September

# Any Questions?

**ASHTON COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2020**

**ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING DATA**

**Rainfall**

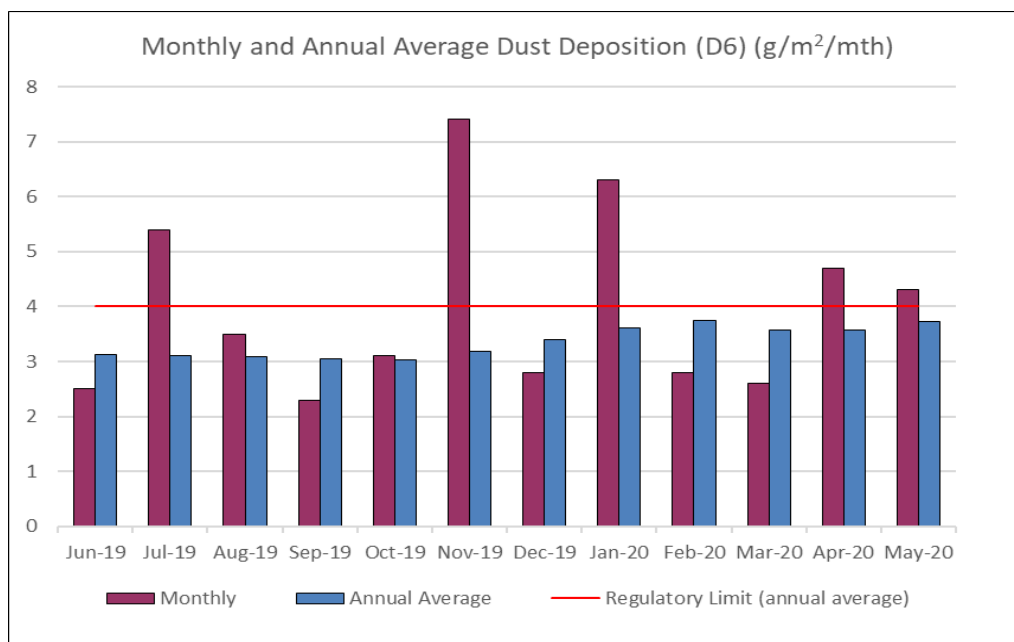


2019 Total Rainfall: 540 mm

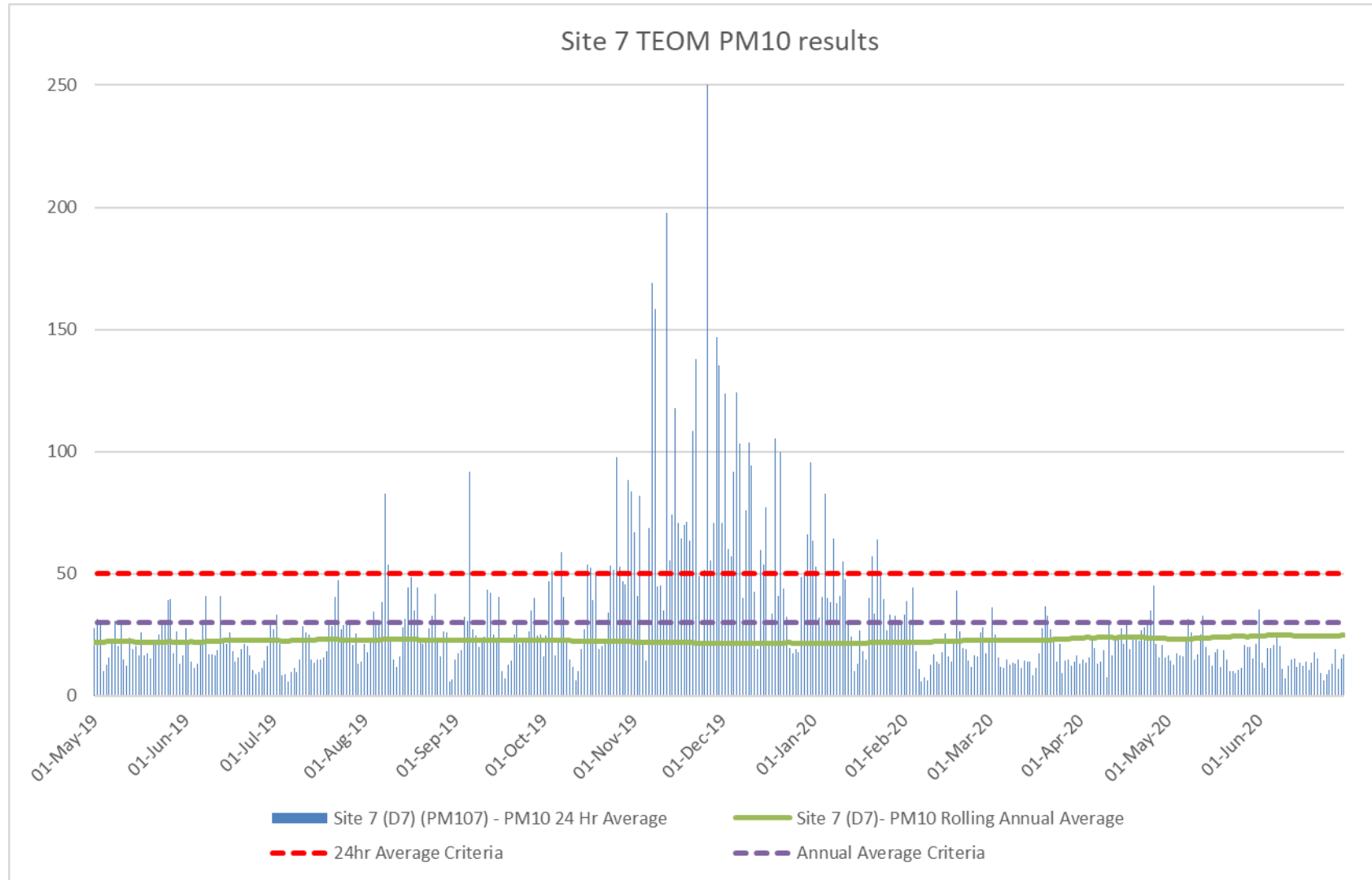
2020 Rainfall YTD (02/07/20): 477 mm

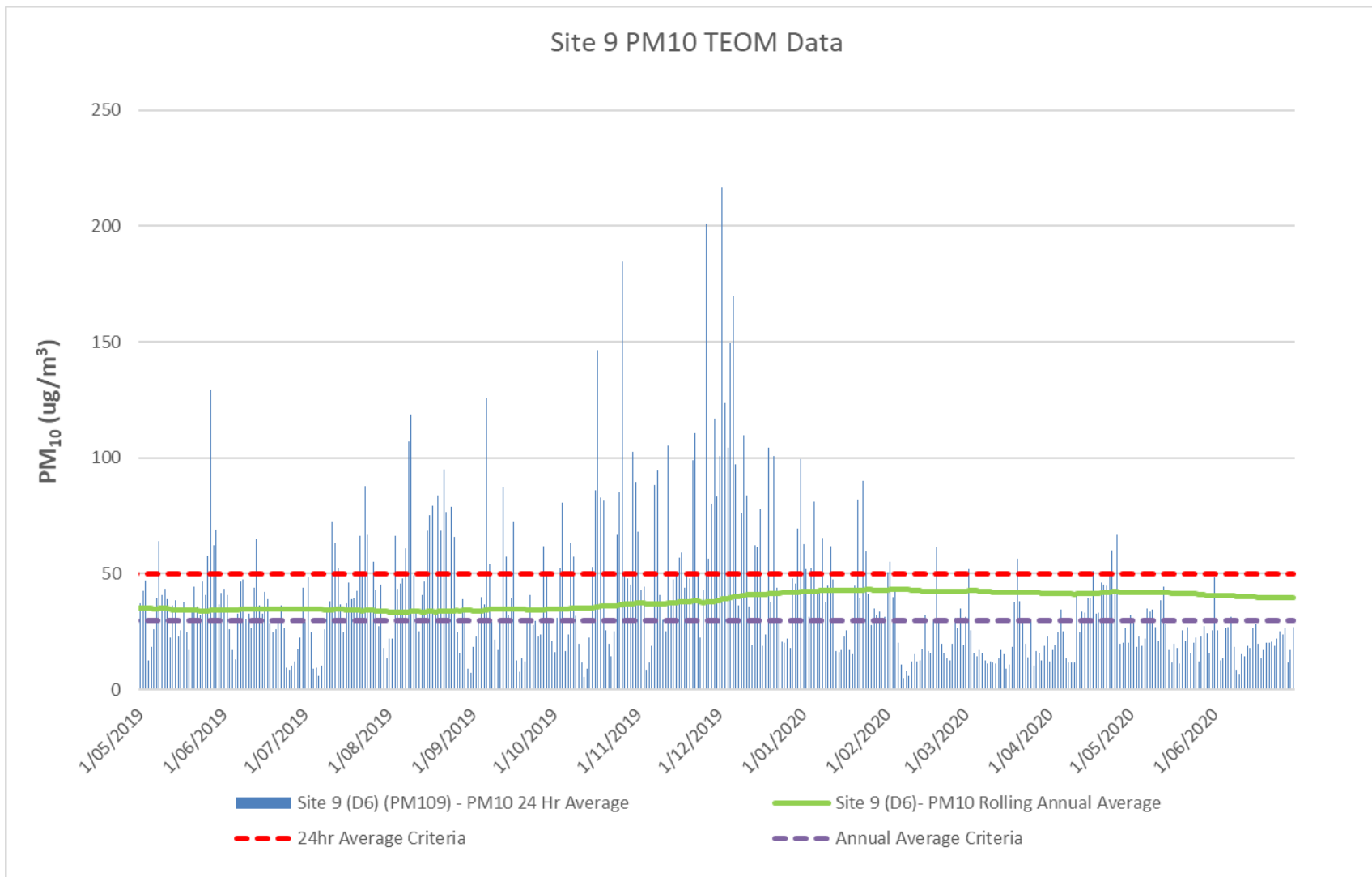
**Air Quality**

**Depositional Dust Gauge**

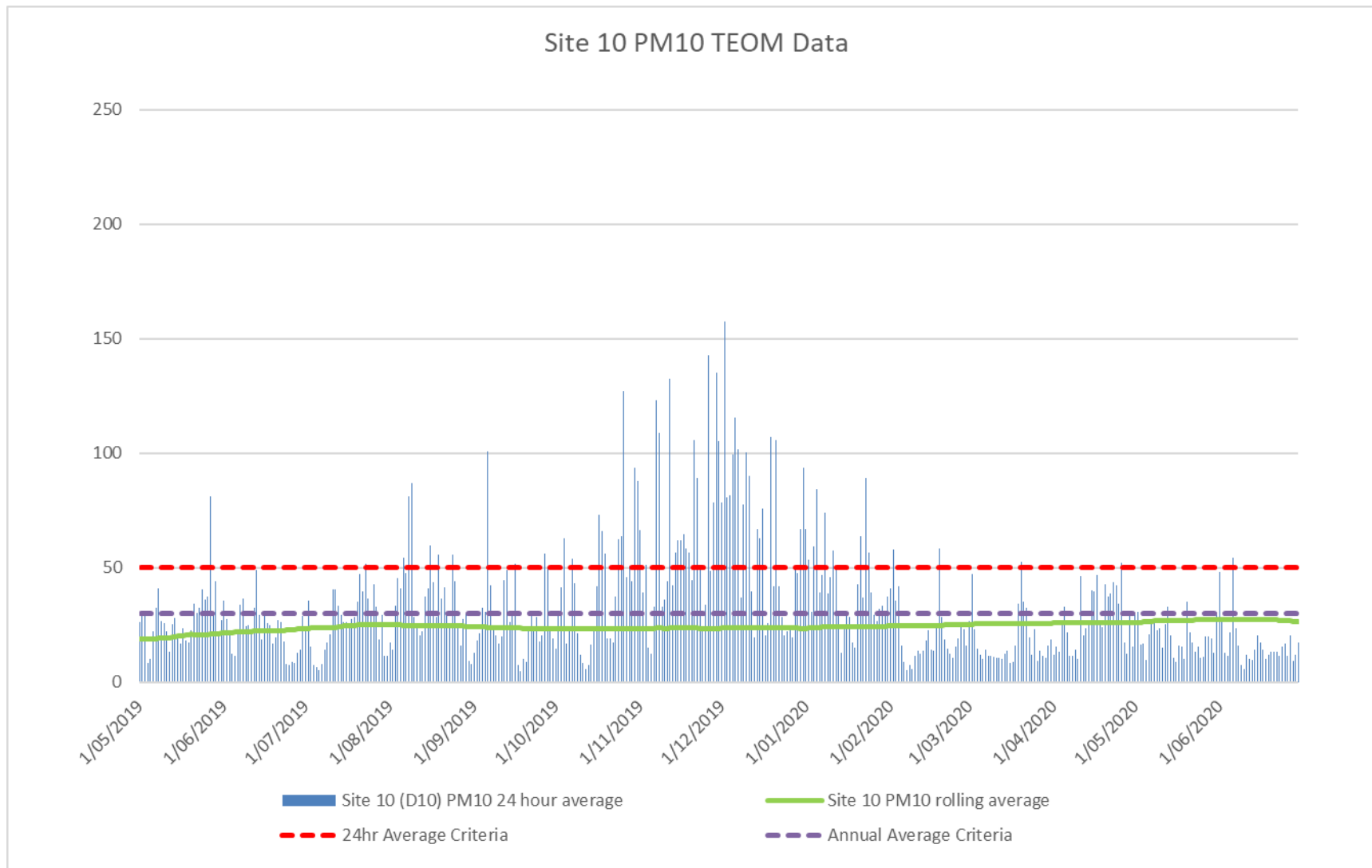


\* August 2019, April 2020 and May 2020 - CONTAMINATED - bird droppings, turbid/grey





\* 19 Feb, 02 Mar, 20 Mar, 17 Apr, 23 Apr, 24 Apr, 26 Apr 2020 investigated, with inferred ACOL contribution well below 50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$



\* 19 Feb, 20 Mar, 06 Jun 2020 investigated, with inferred ACOL contribution well below 50 ug/m<sup>3</sup>

**Noise (attended noise results June to September 2019)**

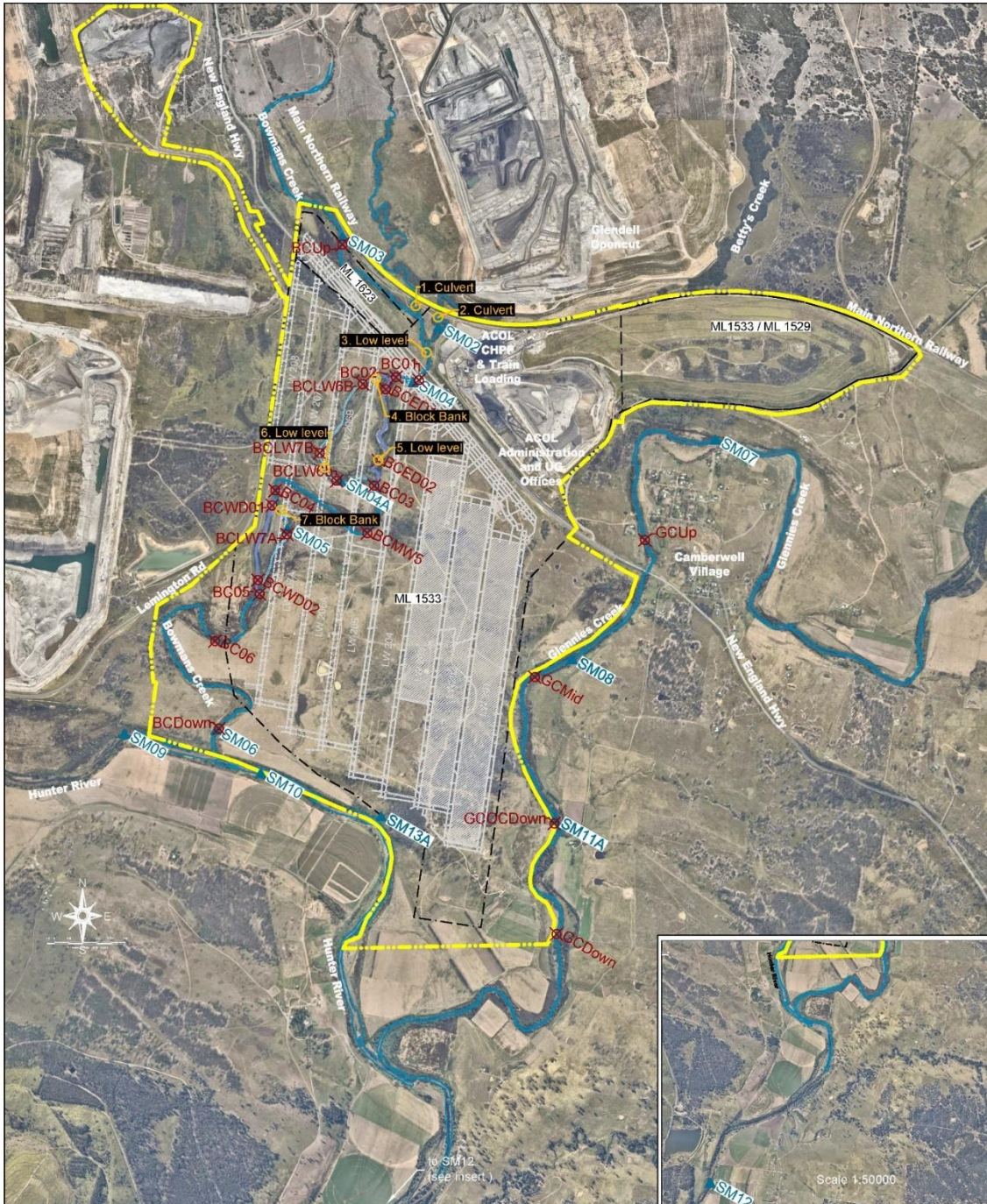
**EPL 11879 Night period noise limit 36 dB (LAeq 15 minute)**

Date	Time	Ashton Sampling Point	LAeq (15 minute)		LAeq (1 minute)		Wind Speed (m/s)	Wind Direction	Inversion °C/ 100m/ Stability Class	ACP Noise Sources	Comments		
			Unit of Measure	Total	Ashton Coal Project (ACP) Contribution	Unit of Measure						Total	Ashton Coal Project (ACP) Contribution
25/02/2020	10:04 PM	N2	dB(A) LAeq	49	ACP Inaudible	dB(A) LAmax	64	ACP Inaudible	1.6	115	1.1	n/a	
25/02/2020	10:22 PM	N3	dB(A) LAeq	38	ACP Inaudible	dB(A) LAmax	52	ACP Inaudible	1.8	126	1.1	n/a	
25/02/2020	10:44 PM	N4	dB(A) LAeq	40	ACP Inaudible	dB(A) LAmax	52	ACP Inaudible	1.9	179	-0.3	n/a	
12/03/2020	10:00 PM	N2	dB(A) LAeq	41	ACP Inaudible	dB(A) LAmax	56	ACP Inaudible	2.9	89	1	n/a	
12/03/2020	10:17 PM	N3	dB(A) LAeq	36	ACP Inaudible	dB(A) LAmax	62	ACP Inaudible	2.8	96	0.7	n/a	
12/03/2020	10:38 PM	N4	dB(A) LAeq	40	ACP Inaudible	dB(A) LAmax	55	ACP Inaudible	2.7	112	1.5	n/a	
14/04/2020	10:02 PM	N2	dB(A) LAeq	51	35	dB(A) LAmax	65	35	0	344	6.6	Consistent mine hum	M1 wind data
14/04/2020	10:19 PM	N3	dB(A) LAeq	45	34	dB(A) LAmax	70	34	0.2	343	6.3	Consistent mine hum	M1 wind data
14/04/2020	10:41 PM	N4	dB(A) LAeq	43	31	dB(A) LAmax	62	31	0	343	5.3	Consistent mine hum	M1 wind data
27/05/2020	10:03 PM	N2	dB(A) LAeq	48	<33	dB(A) LAmax	55	<33	1	194	3.6	ACOL engine revs heard occasionally	
27/05/2020	10:21 PM	N3	dB(A) LAeq	46	<35	dB(A) LAmax	52	40	1	219	3	ACOL engine revs and dozer tracks heard occasionally	
27/05/2020	10:43 PM	N4	dB(A) LAeq	39	ACP Inaudible	dB(A) LAmax	45	ACP Inaudible	1	205	3	n/a	
17/06/2020	10:03 PM	N2	dB(A) LAeq	48	ACP Inaudible	dB(A) LAmax	61	ACP Inaudible	2.3	139	-0.3	n/a	
17/06/2020	10:20 PM	N3	dB(A) LAeq	44	ACP Inaudible	dB(A) LAmax	63	ACP Inaudible	2	137	-0.4	n/a	
17/06/2020	10:42 PM	N4	dB(A) LAeq	39	ACP Inaudible	dB(A) LAmax	49	ACP Inaudible	2	128	-0.3	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.

- Key**
- Ashton Development Consent Boundary
  - Existing Lease Boundaries

- Monitoring Sites**
- ▲ SM7 - Surface Water Monitoring location
  - ⊗ GC04 - Stream Health / Aquatic Ecology Monitoring location
  - Low level - Creek Crossing



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**ASHTON COAL OPERATIONS LIMITED**  
**Surface Water Monitoring Network**  
**FIGURE 7**

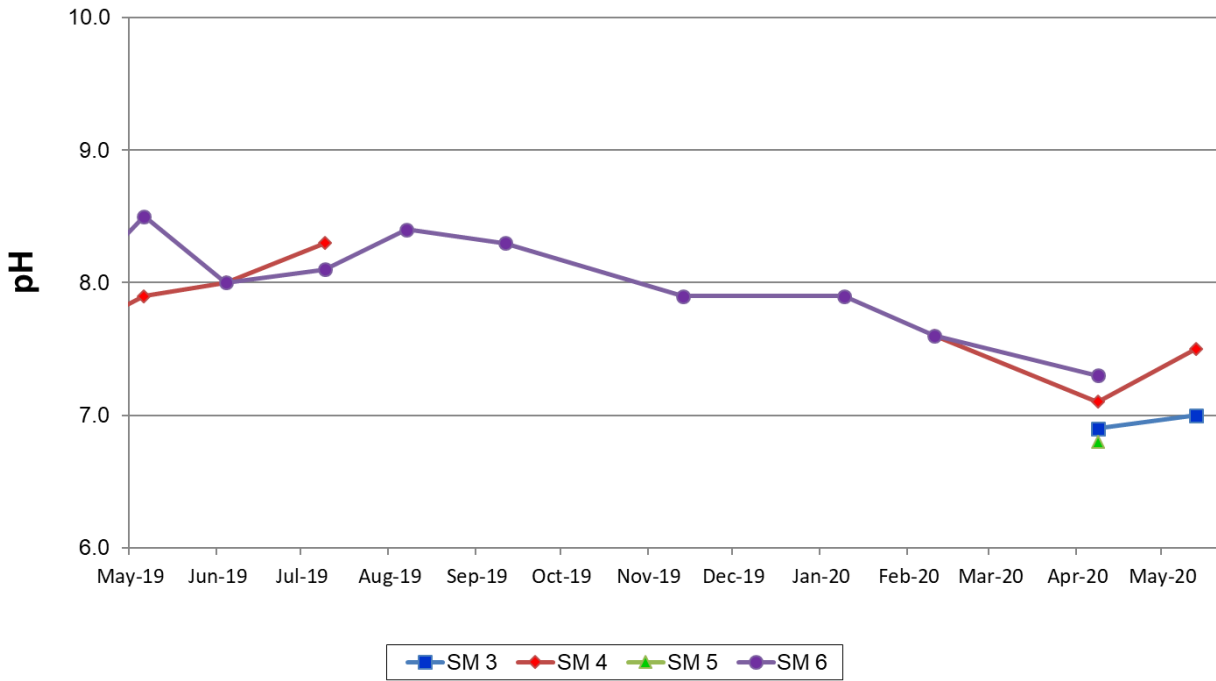
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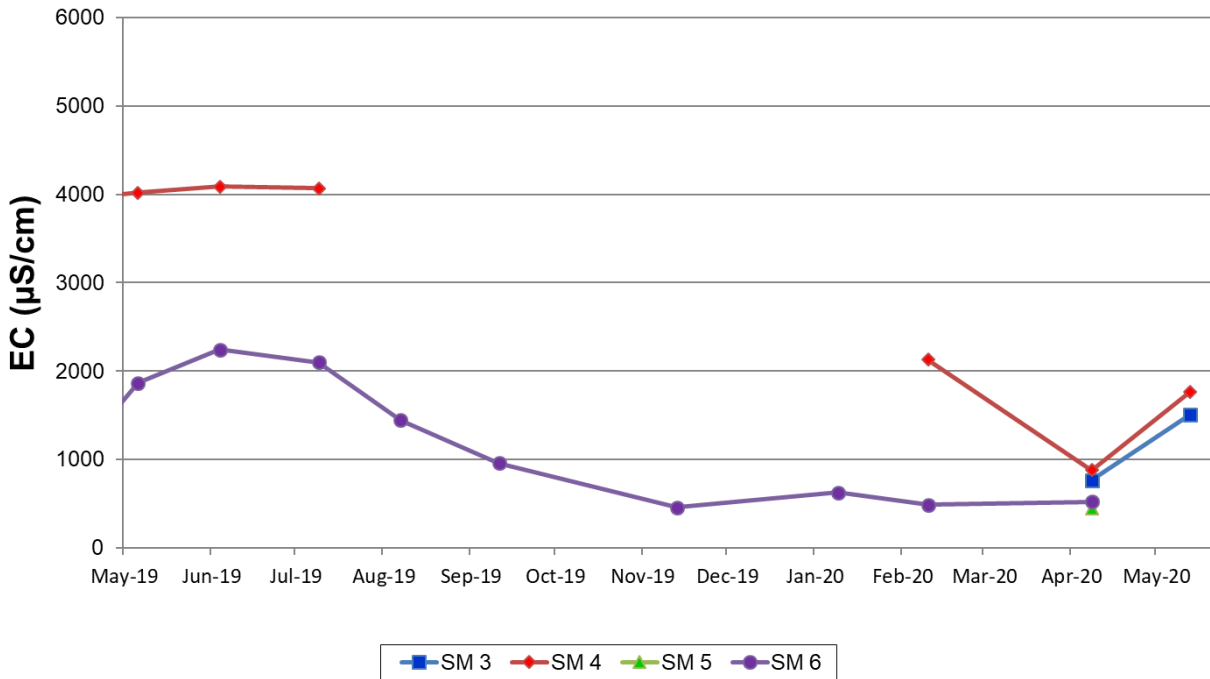
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Date 25/05/2020	Scale 1:25000	Drawn JIP	Checked LC	Approved
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### Bowmans Creek Monthly pH Levels 2020

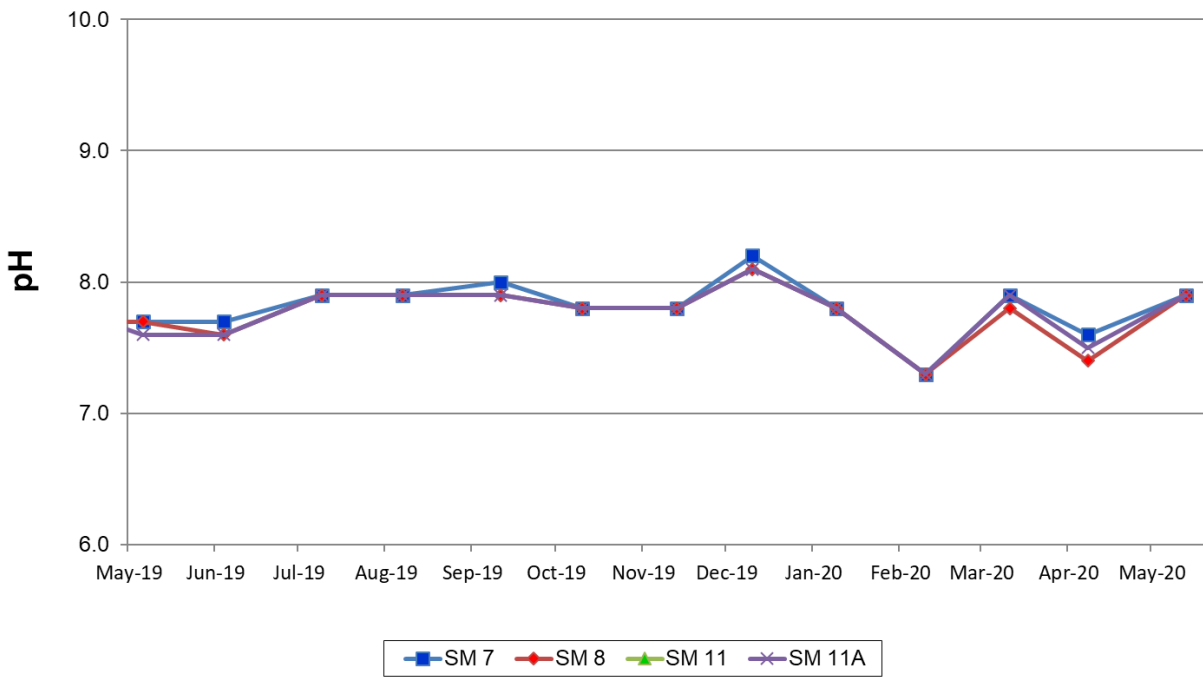


### Bowmans Creek Monthly Electrical Conductivity Levels 2020

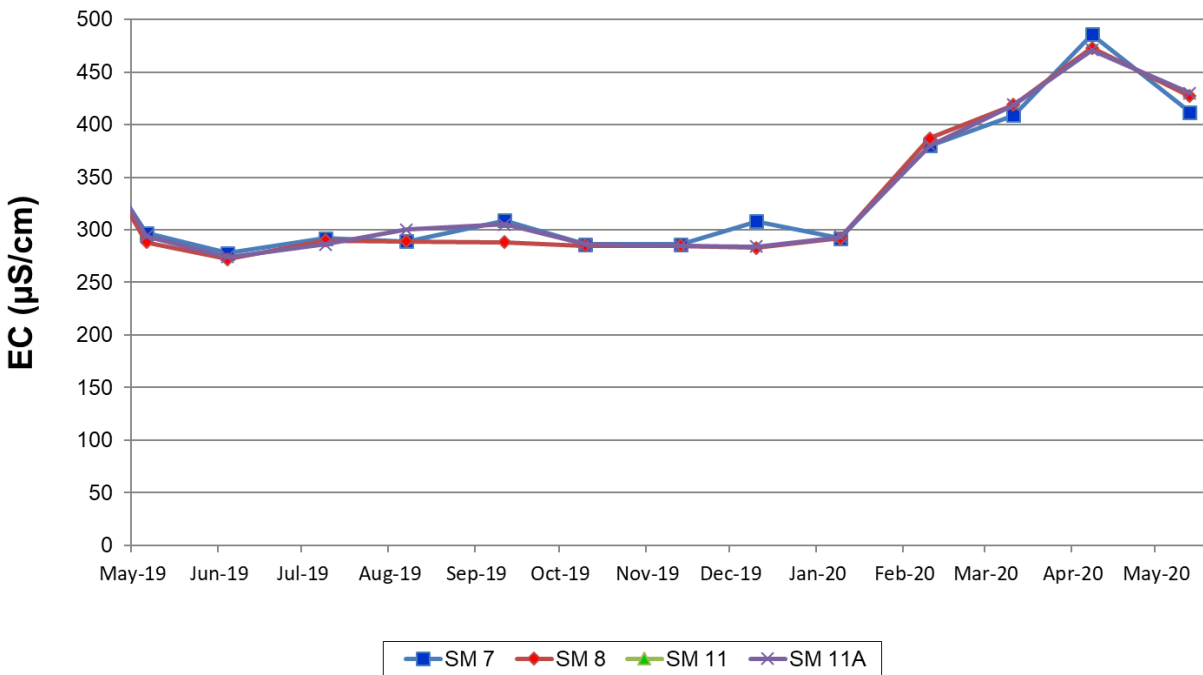


Note: No monthly results indicate sampling location was dry.

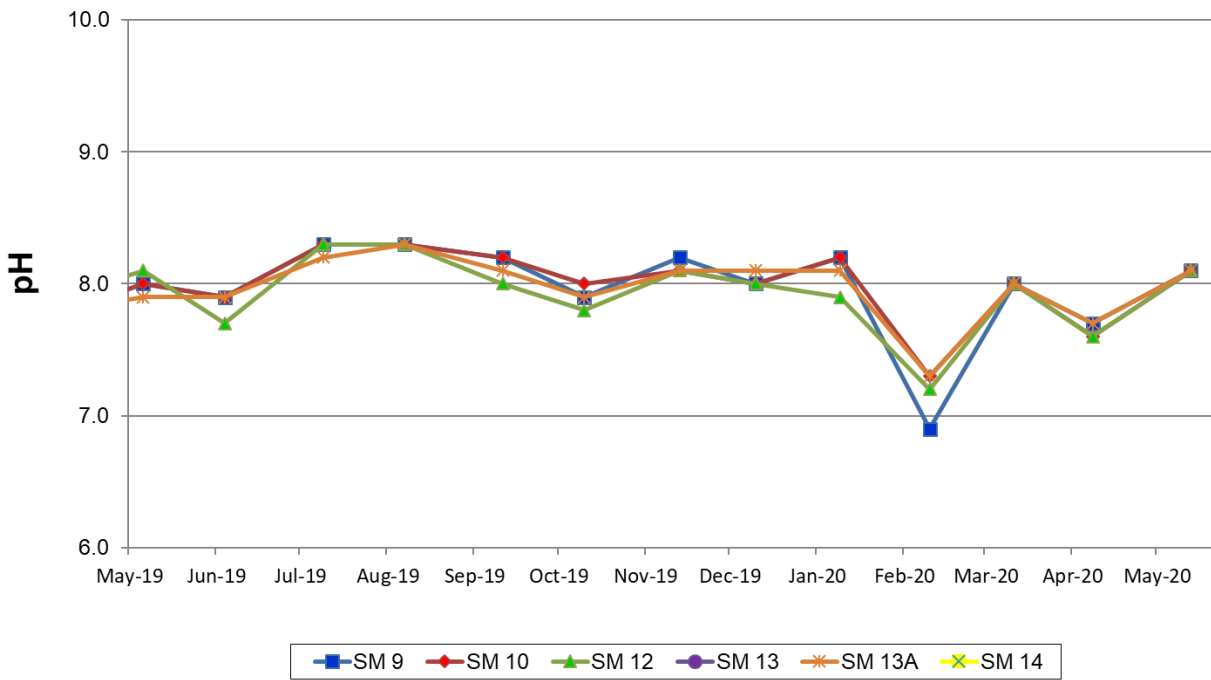
### Glennies Creek Monthly pH Levels 2020



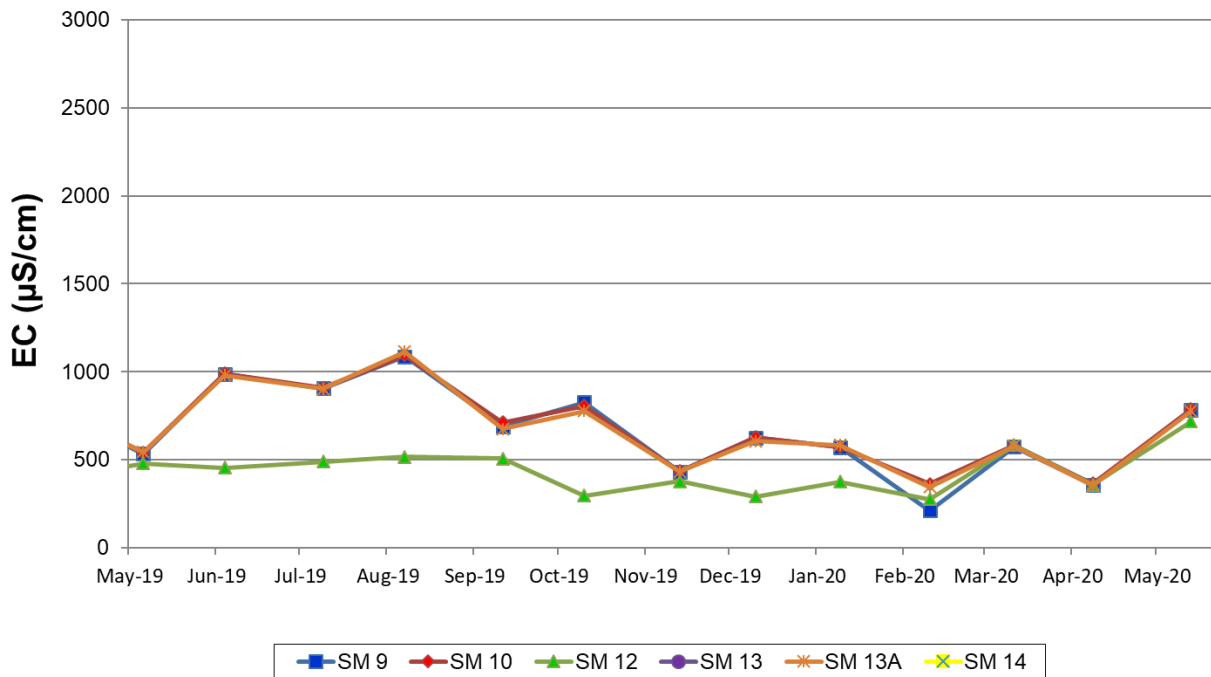
### Glennies Creek Monthly Electrical Conductivity Levels 2020

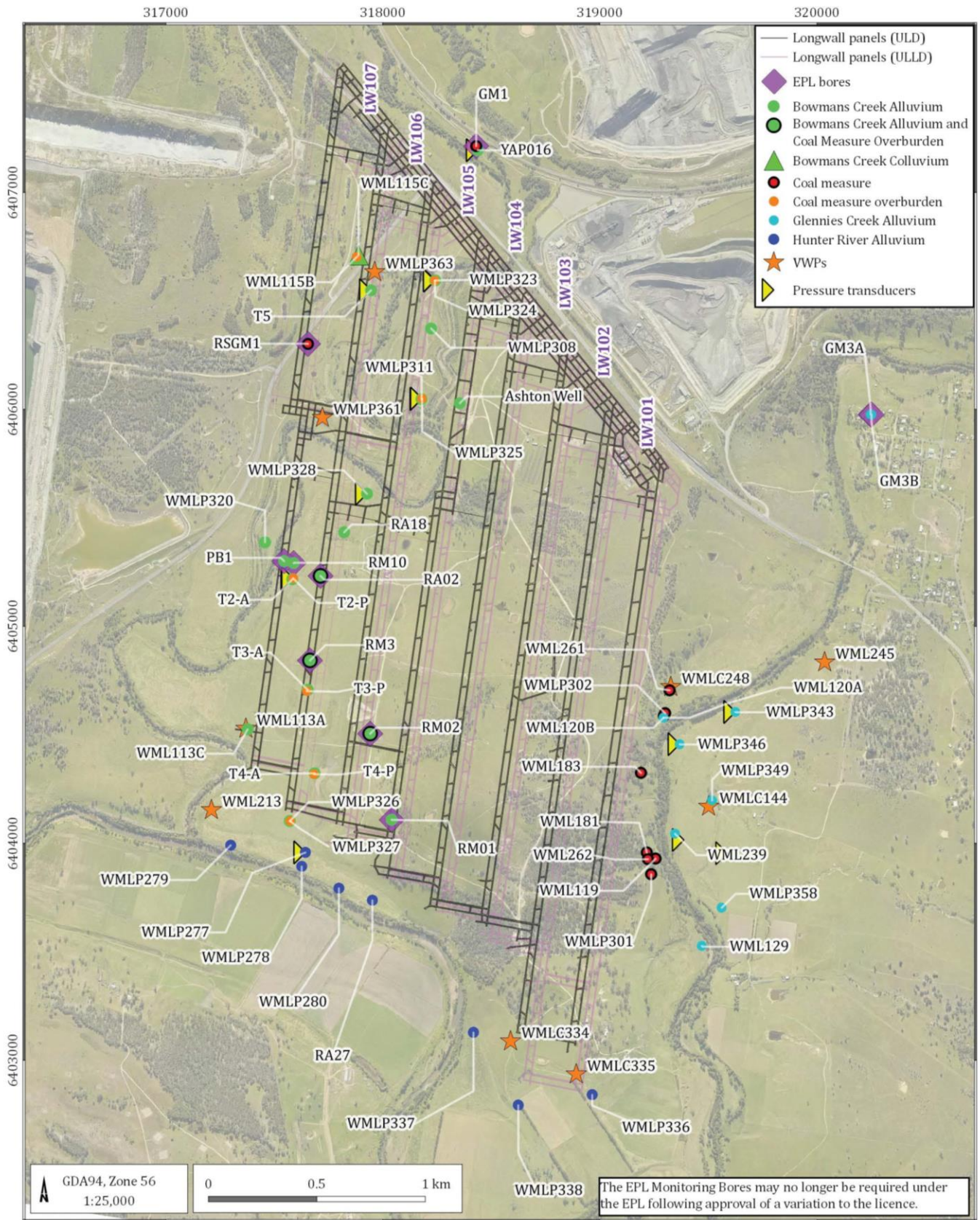


**Hunter River Monthly pH Levels  
2020**

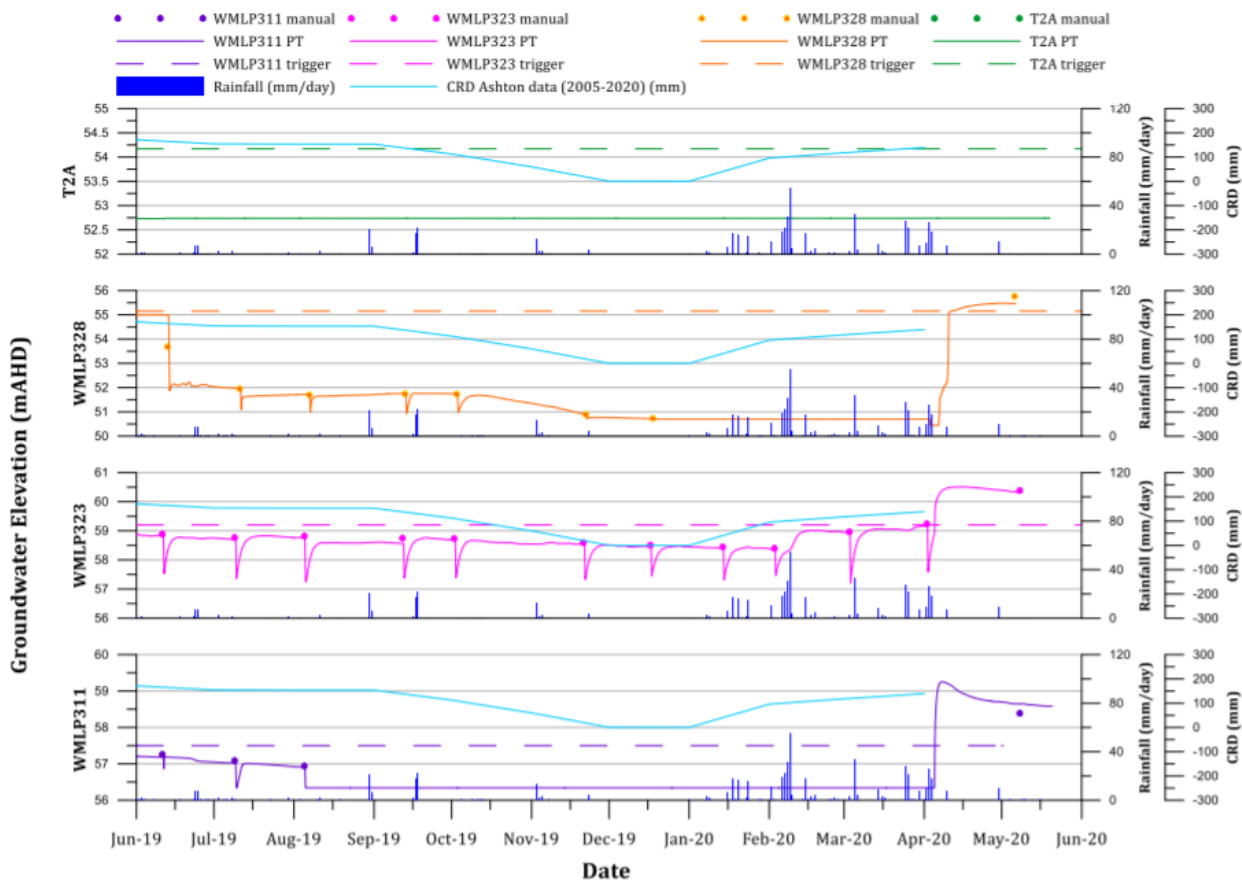


**Hunter River Monthly Electrical Conductivity Levels  
2020**

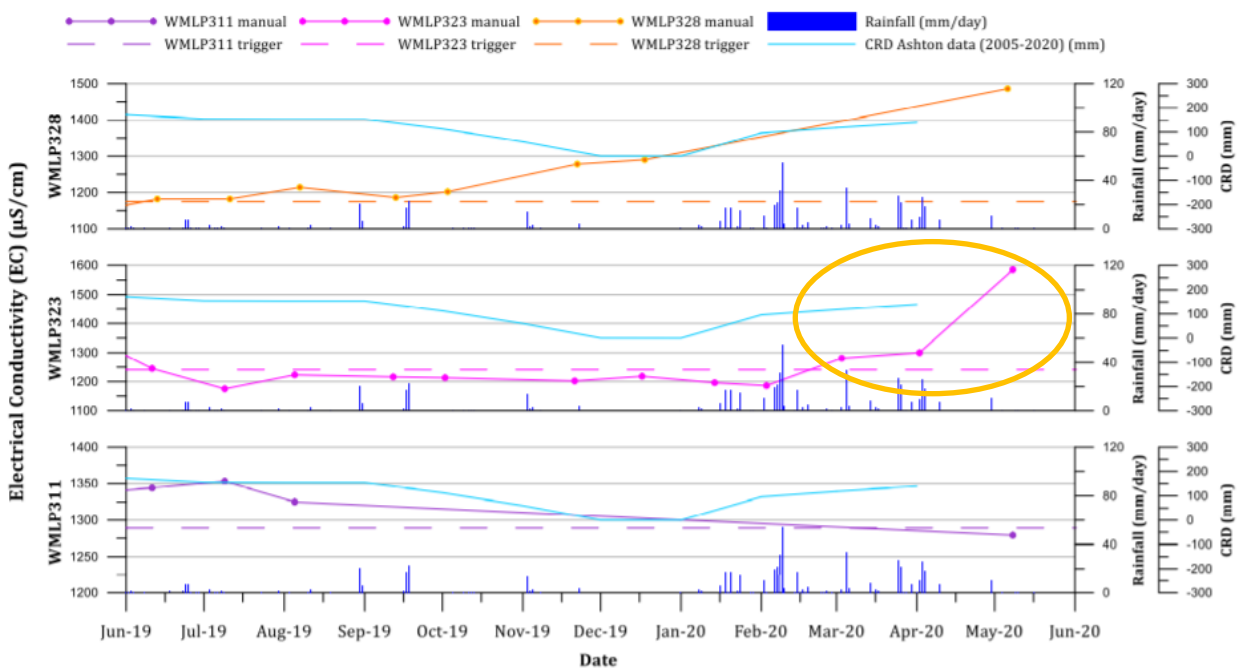




Bowmans Creek alluvial groundwater levels

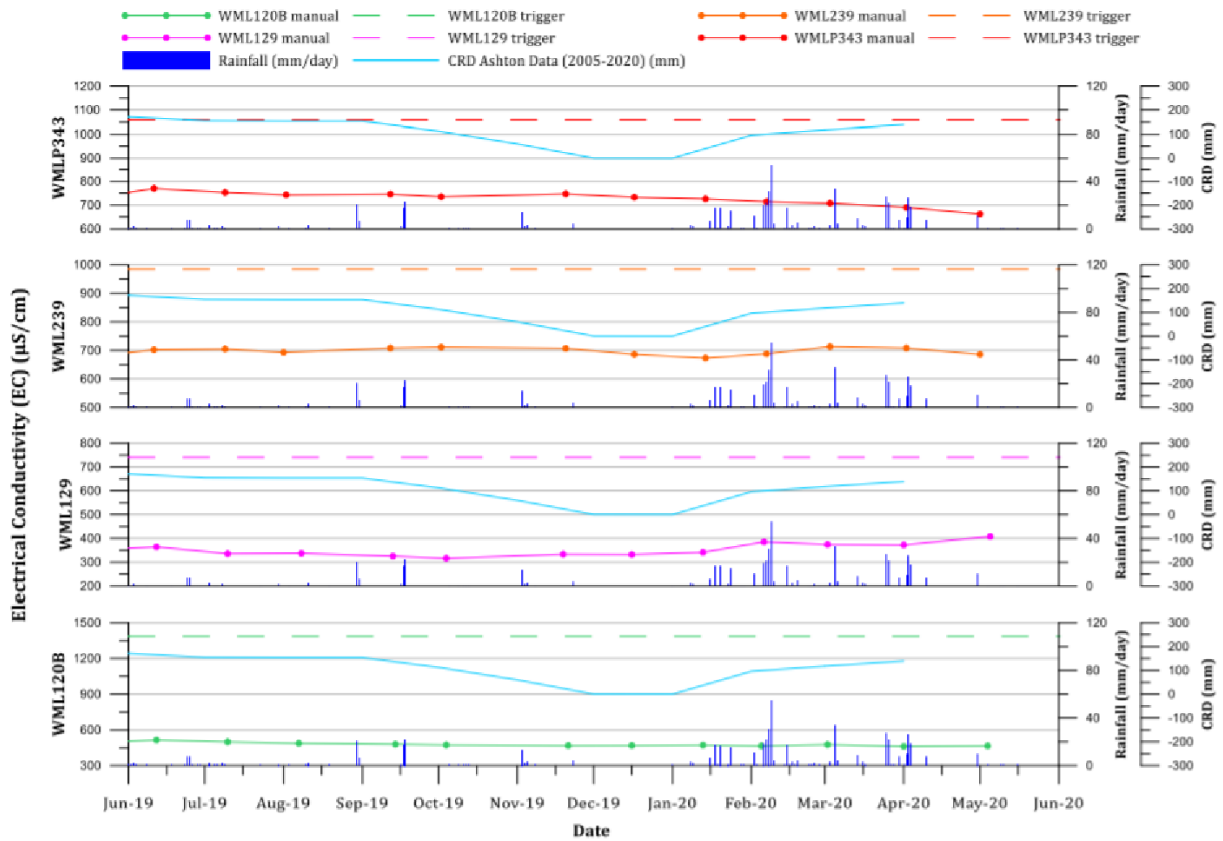


Bowmans Creek alluvial electrical conductivity (1)

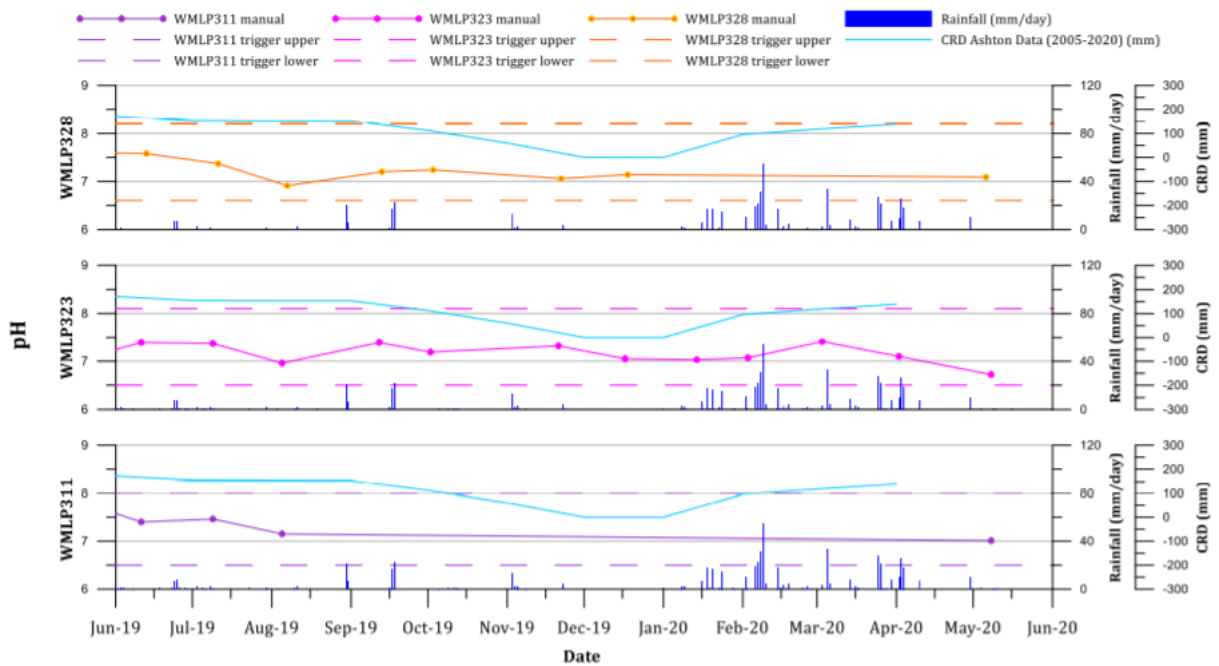


\* WMLP 323 – three consecutive EC results above limit has triggered independent investigation. Investigation ongoing.

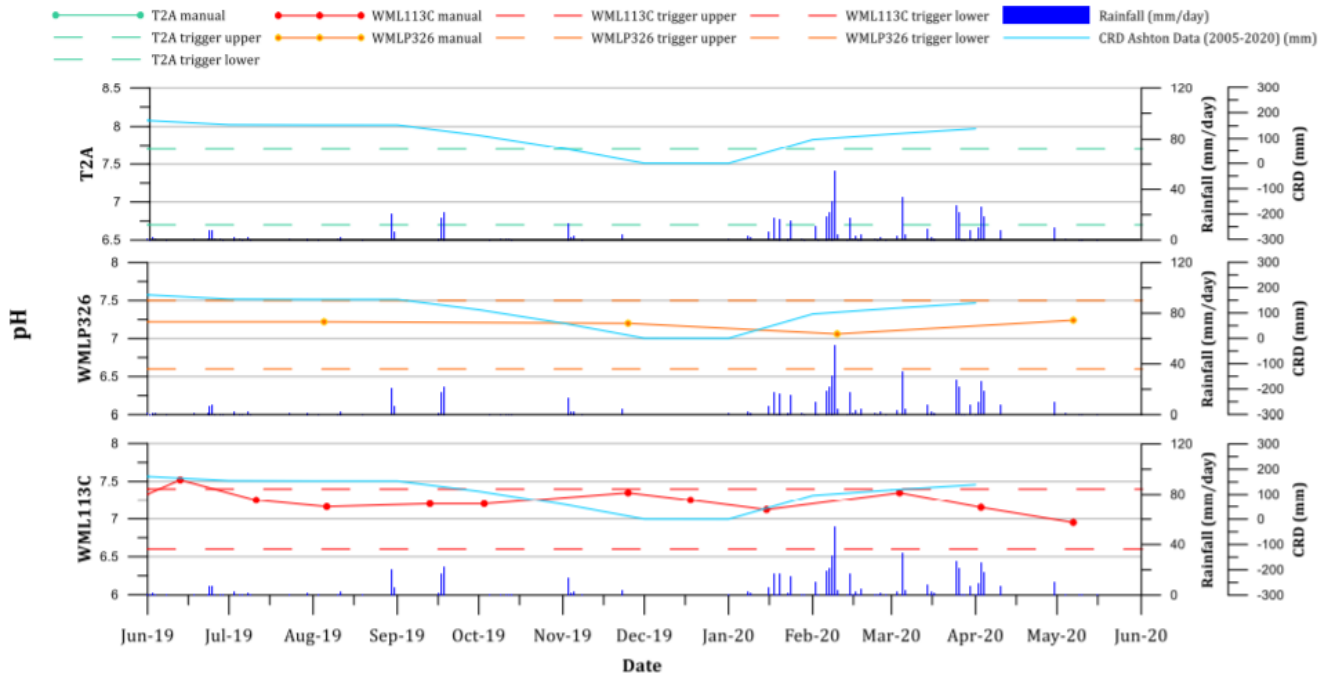
Bowmans Creek alluvial electrical conductivity (2)



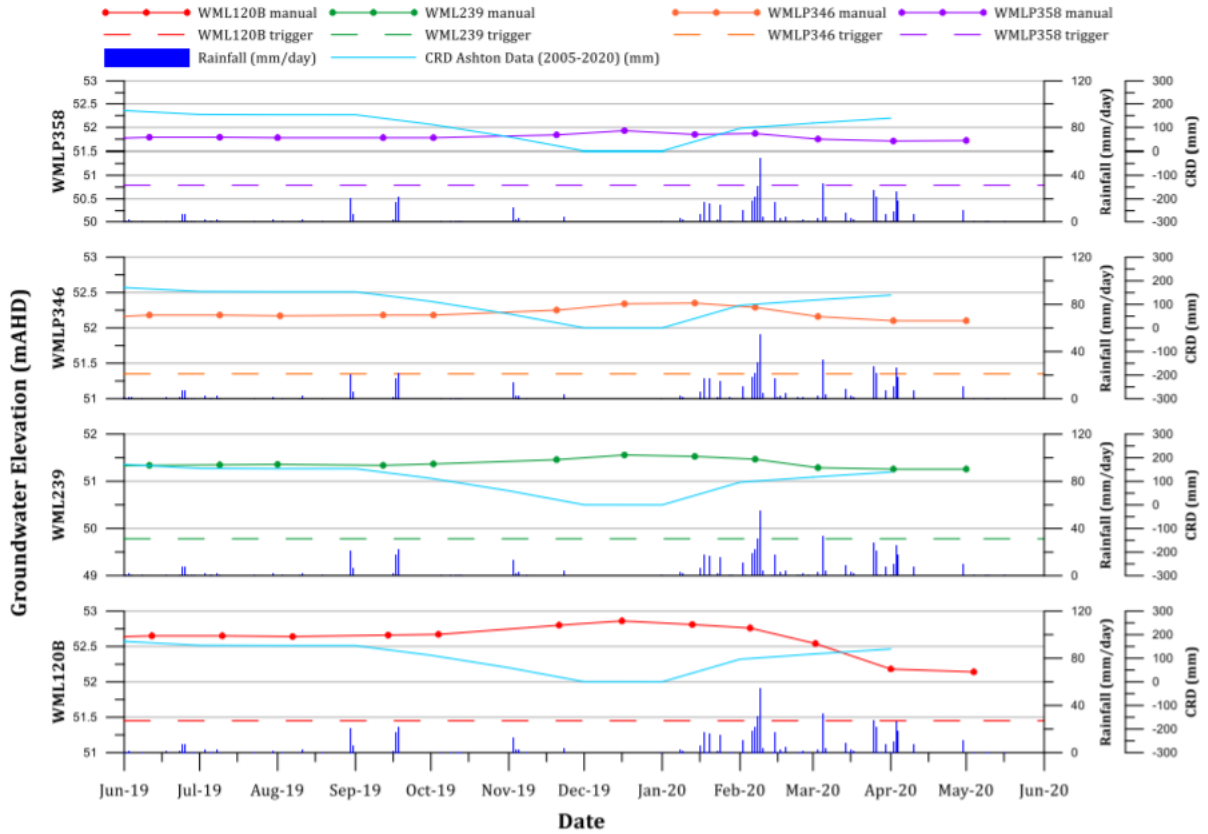
Bowmans Creek alluvial pH (1)



Bowmans Creek alluvial pH (2)

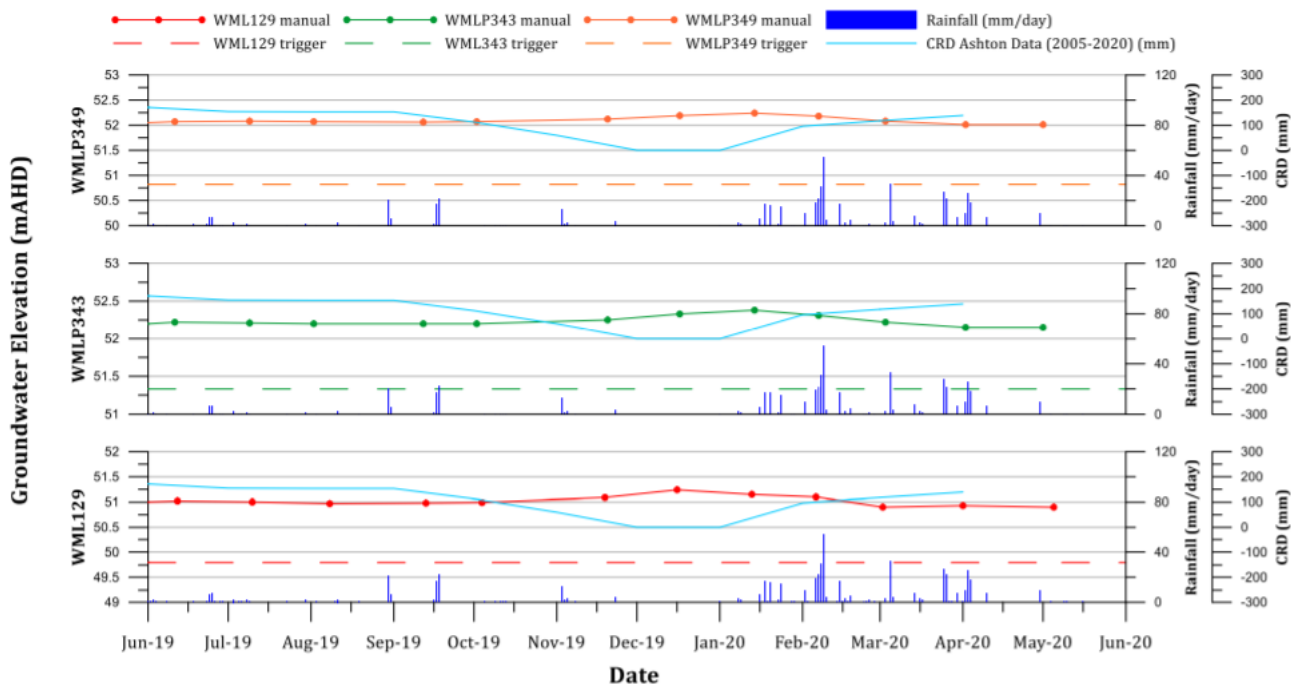


Glennies Creek alluvial groundwater levels (1)

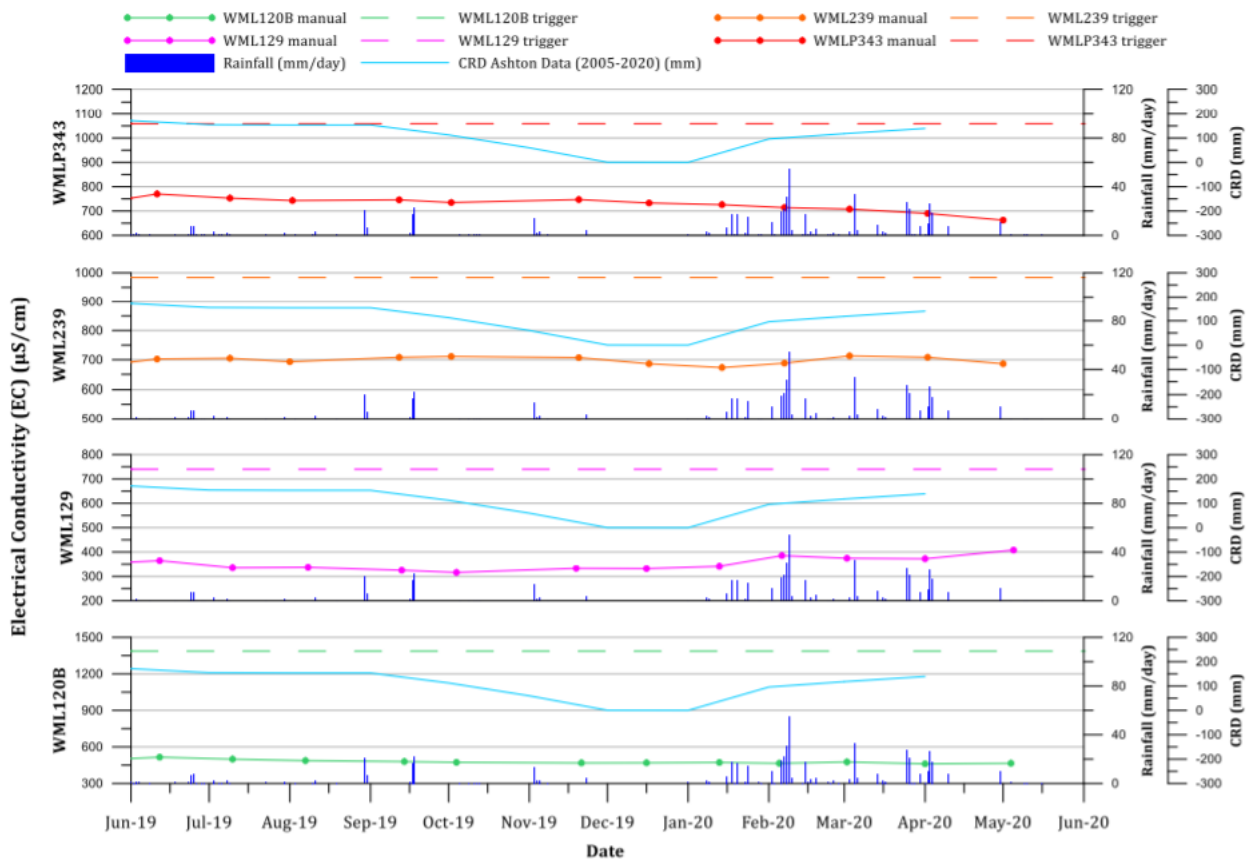




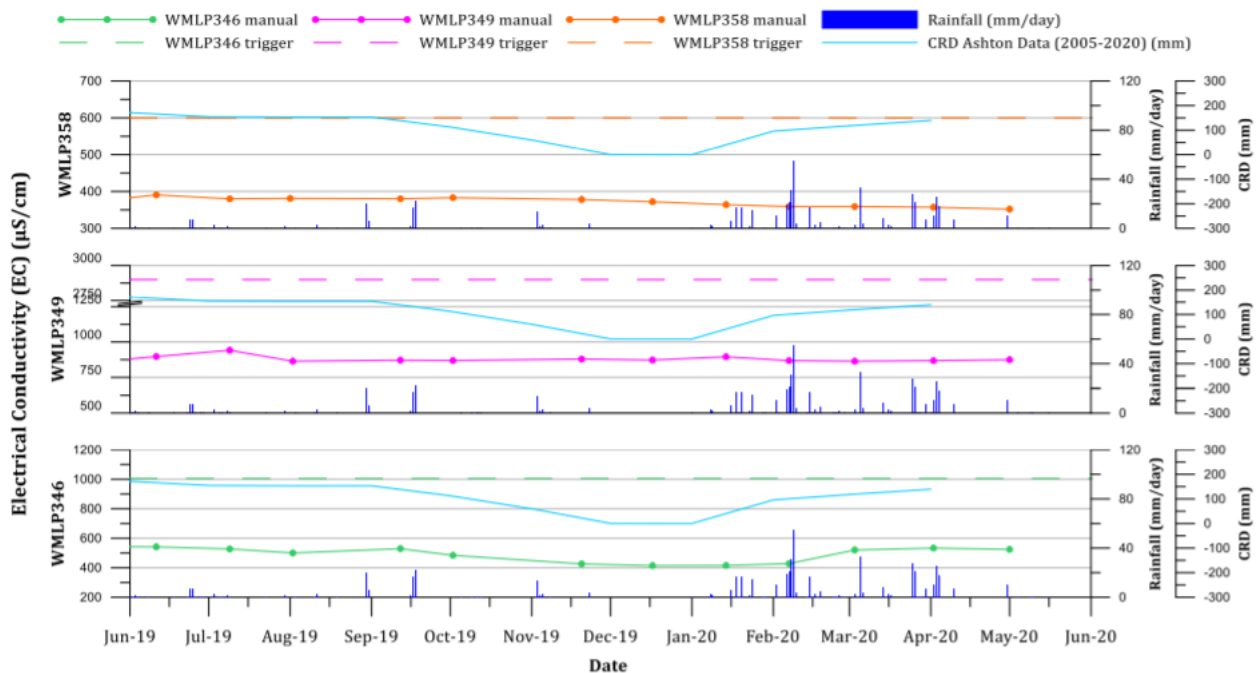
Glennies Creek alluvial groundwater levels (2)



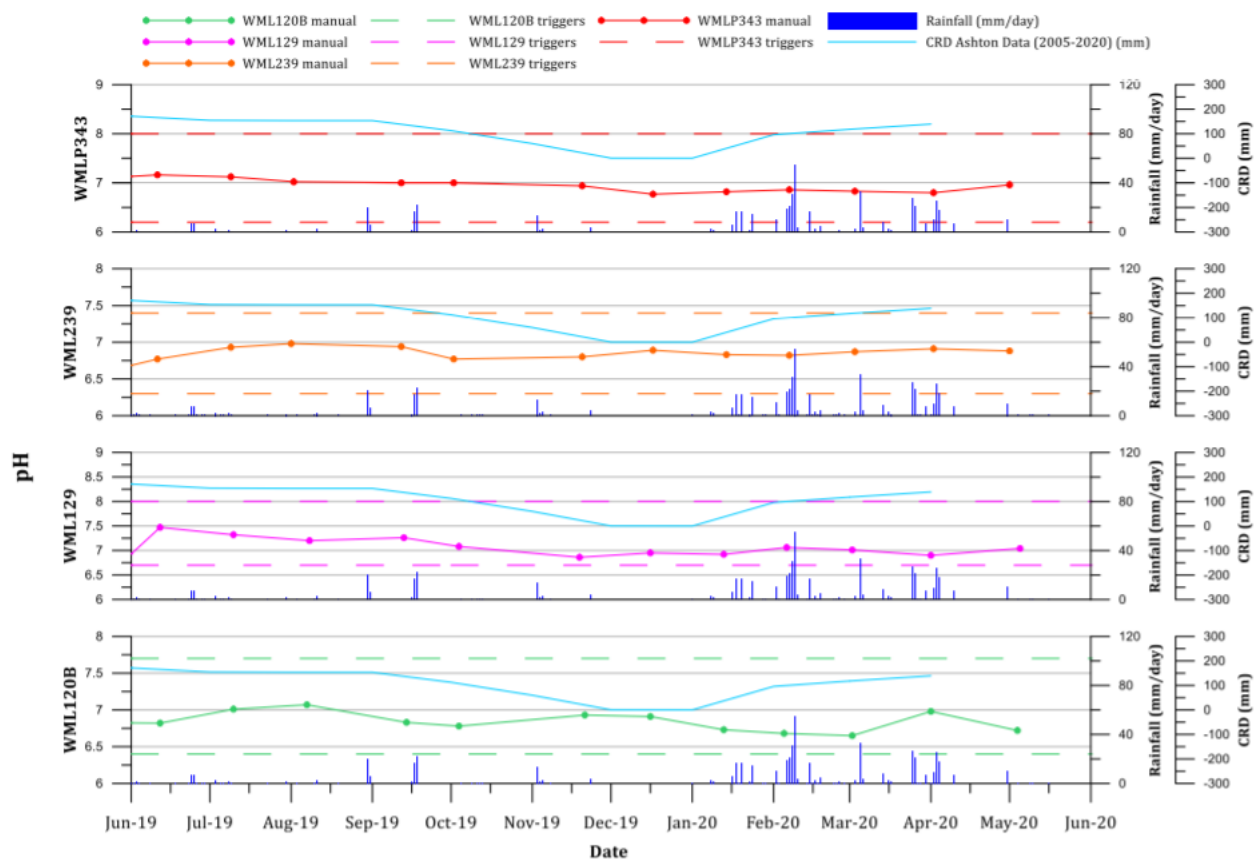
Glennies Creek alluvial electrical conductivity (1)



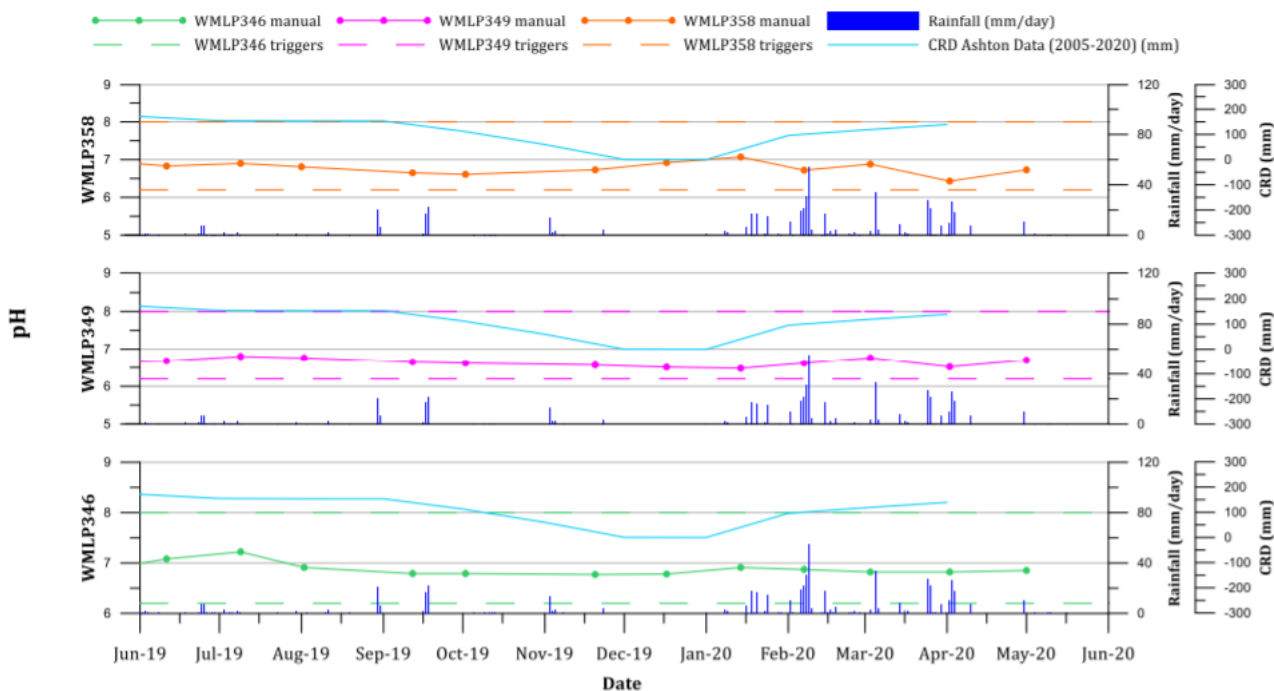
Glennies Creek alluvial electrical conductivity (2)



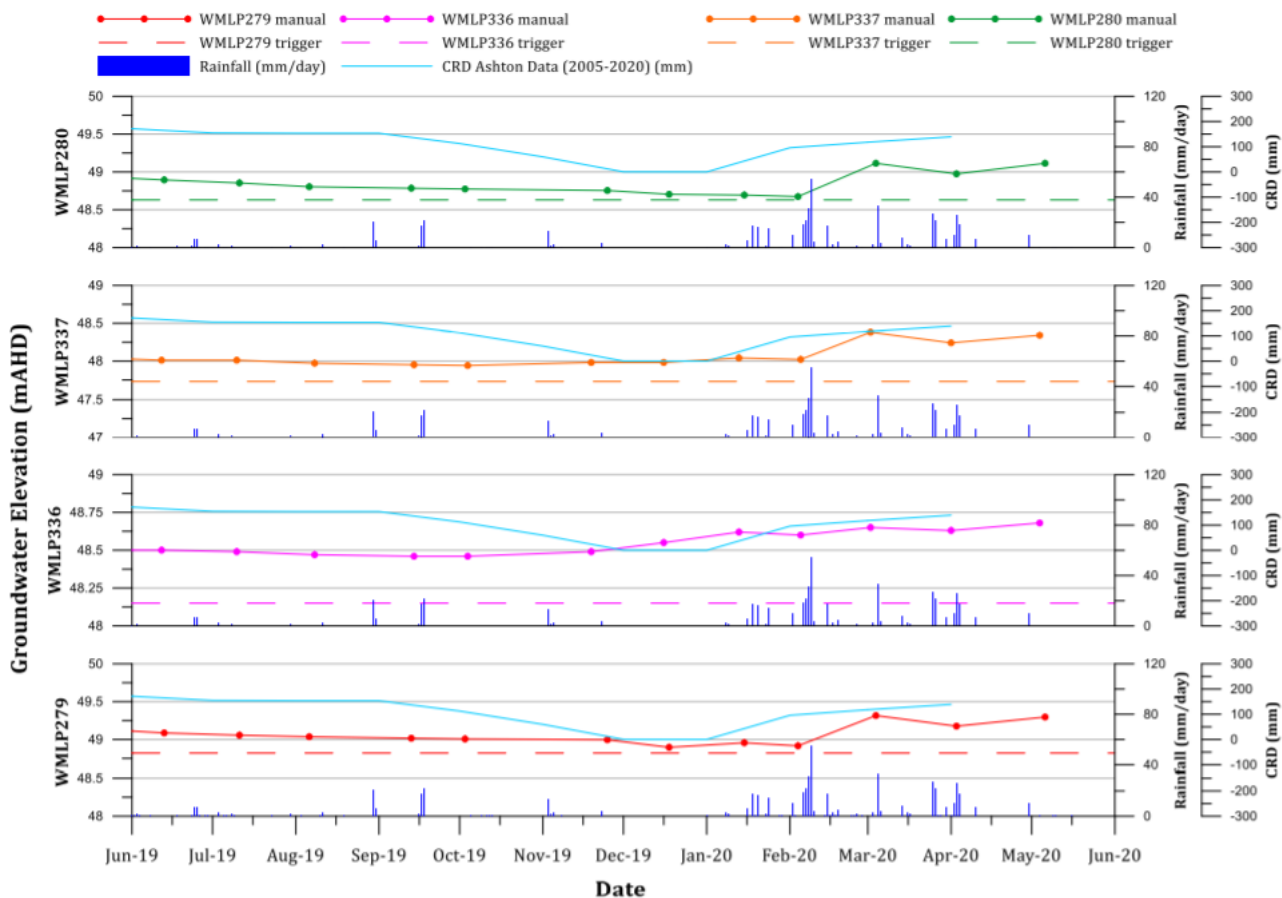
Glennies Creek alluvial pH (1)



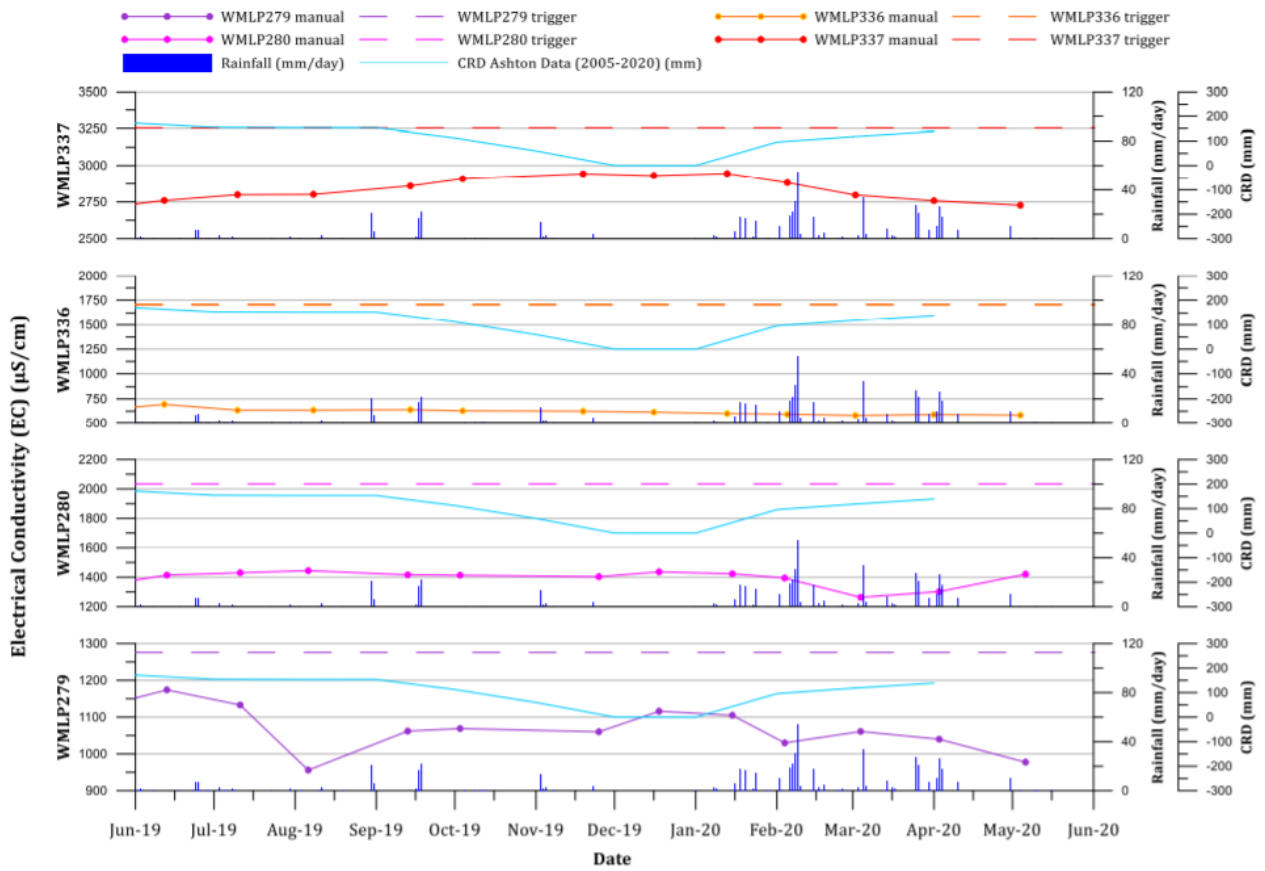
Glennies Creek alluvial pH (2)



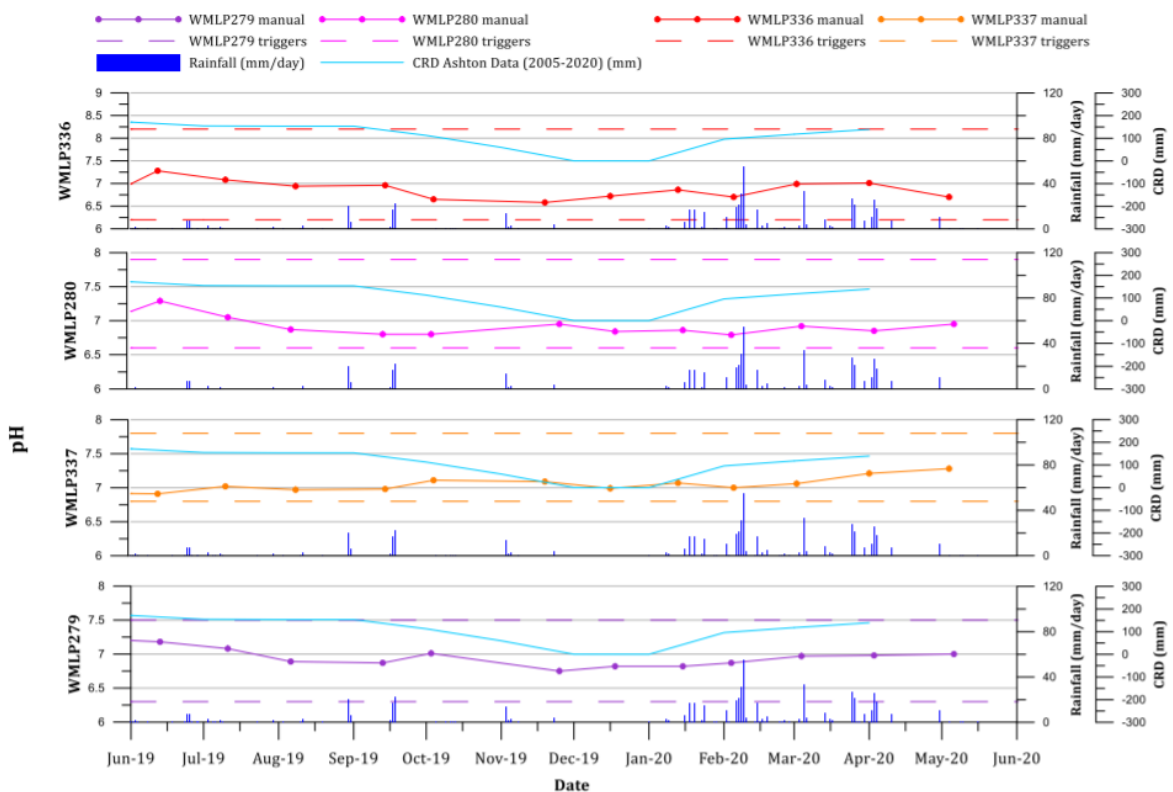
Hunter River alluvial groundwater levels



## Hunter River alluvial electrical conductivity



## Hunter River alluvial pH



Groundwater bores levels in vicinity of LW203

