

**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING #61  
Thursday 13 February 2020  
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 1:01pm.

**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 17 October 2019 were accepted as a true and accurate record:  
*Moved: Godfrey Adamthwaite Secinded: Debbie Richards*

**5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

*Refer to Correspondence and presentation*

**6. Correspondence**

- 23/10/19 - PB email to CCC advising of Independent Environmental Audit
- 5/11/19 - LC email update to CCC regarding recent Ashton roadside fires
- 21/11/19 - LC email notification to CCC regarding Native Wildlife monitoring

**7. Company Reports and Overview of Activities**

**7.1 Ashton Operations Update**

*Refer to presentation*

- MB asked reason for increased production (relative to 2019 figures).  
AM stated increased production due to multiple factors including improved geological conditions and improvements to mining and maintenance processes.

**7.2 Monitoring and Environmental Performance**

*Refer to handout*

- MB asked what the ramifications were of reporting high dust event to Regulators and what would have been likely regulatory follow up action or outcomes if event had proven to be an exceedance?  
PB stated that initial notification to Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) was that a PM<sub>10</sub> exceedance was suspected, but final Ashton investigation report indicated the event was not an exceedance. No further regulatory action was taken. Both DPIE and EPA have the authority to issue Penalty Infringement Notices, or further investigate and prosecute where they deem appropriate.
- JM asked what was date of D10 TEOM outage due to air conditioner failure.  
PB will follow-up and report date of D10 outage.
- JM asked why PM<sub>10</sub> results were so high from November to December 2019.
- LC explained that strong, hot, dry winds were prevalent during that period, which resulted in high dust monitoring results. Some of this dust resulted from mining, but some was also regional dust due to ongoing dry weather conditions and bushfires. Ashton's contribution is estimated from downwind dust-minus-

upwind dust for prevailing wind direction during the 24 hour measurement period. TEOM D7 (upwind monitor) was generally equal to or higher than D10 (downwind monitor) for prevailing northwesterly hot, dry winds.

### **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 that this will happen.

### **7.5 Camberwell Update**

*Refer to presentation.*

- JM asked what was happening with nursery building / property in Camberwell. PB said the nursery property is still under lease, and lease owners were negotiating with Yancoal Corporate Properties Management Team to extend lease.

## **8. General Business**

Nil.

## **9. Actions**

- Notice to be provided to CCC members at commencement of kangaroo culling program. (LC)
- Follow-up date of D10 TEOM outage due to air conditioning failure. (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)

## **10. Date for Next Meeting**

- Next CCC meeting: 1pm, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

**MEETING CLOSED 1:45pm**



Community  
Consultative  
Committee

13<sup>th</sup> February 2020



# Action List

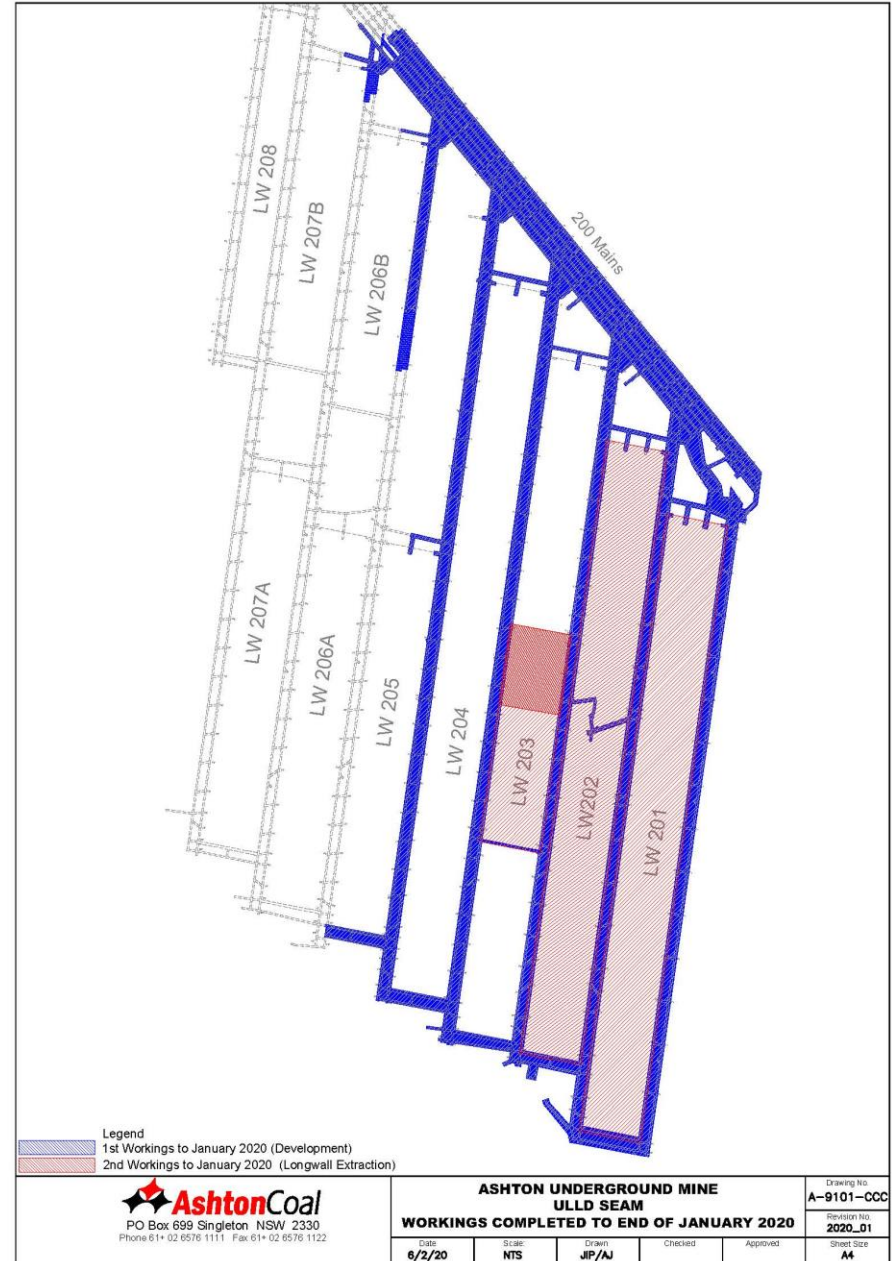
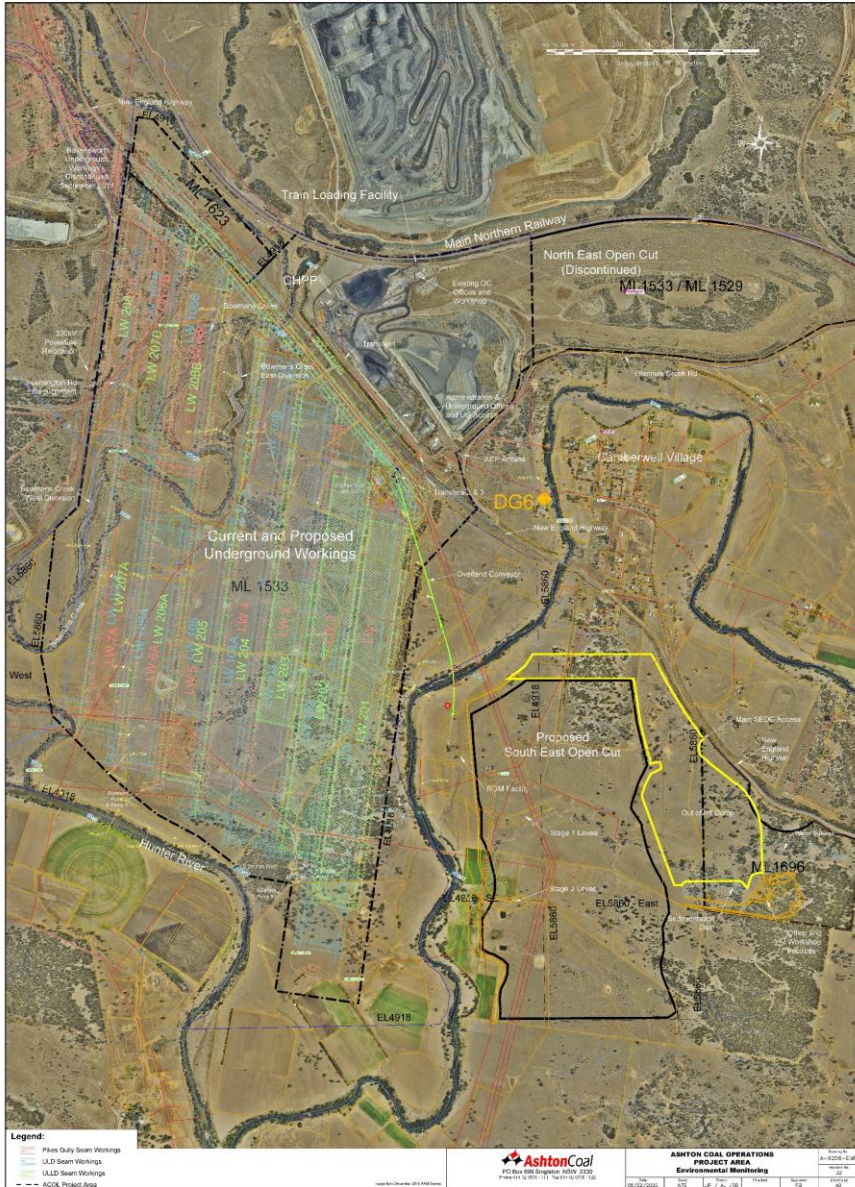
ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS UPDATE
notice to CCC of kangaroo culling program	PB	Culling is proposed for 2020
spelling period between agistment leases	PB	No spelling of land proposed.

# Ashton Mine Statistics CY 2020

## Ashton Coal Key Statistics

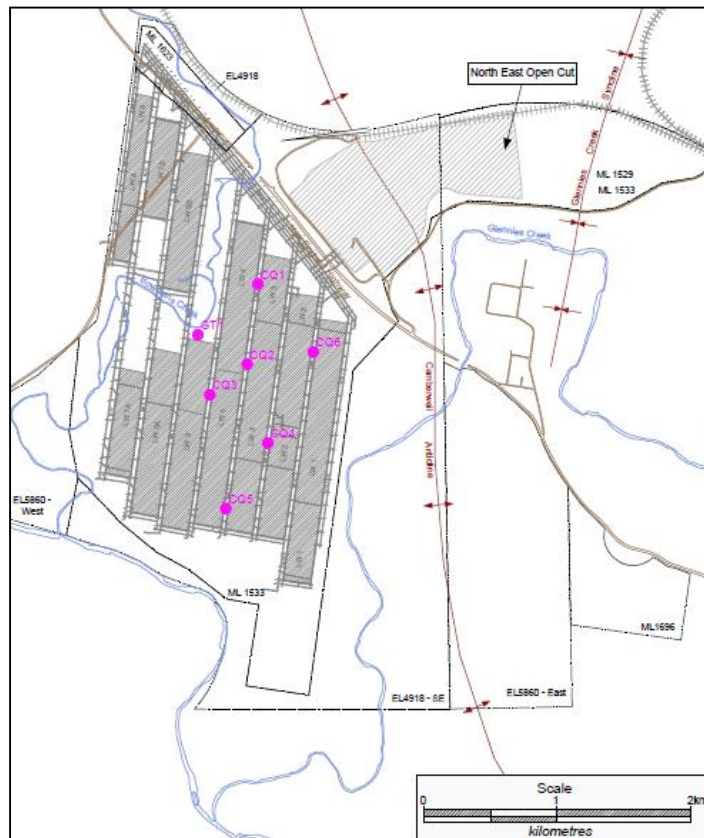
	2020 Budget (ytd)	2020 Actual (ytd)
ROM (Mt)	262,992	321,905
Product Coal (Mt)	108,923	111,851
Total Coal Sales (Mt)	38,710	158,805
Total Recordable Injuries (TRIFR)	27	33.45
Total Employees (FTE)	283	261
Complaints	0	0
Environmental Incidents	0	0

# 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 2019, 6 holes had been completed.



# Environment Monitoring Data

- Refer to monitoring data attachment
- Item of note:
  - PM10 146 ug/m<sup>3</sup> (24 hr average) at Site 9 on 17 October 2019. Limit at nearest residence (4.2km downwind of Site 9) is 50 ug/m<sup>3</sup>.
  - Preliminary investigation, based on wind direction and hourly downwind-minus-upwind, results inferred 52 ug/m<sup>3</sup> from Ashton.
  - Reported to DPIE and full investigation completed.
  - Investigation findings indicated cause was very high winds. Water carts were operational throughout the day. No exceedance of 50ug/m<sup>3</sup> limit at nearest residence (4.2km downwind of Site 9). Watering cart circuit modified.

*Any questions relating to the Monitoring Data?*



# Complaints & Incidents

## Complaints

- No complaints received since last CCC meeting

## Incidents

- One environmental incident occurred when one of the air monitoring stations failed due to high temperature within the cabinet. Air Conditioning unit was serviced and the unit was restarted.

# Environmental Update

## Government

- Updated Ashton Environment Protection Licence received from EPA.
- Report provided to Department of Planning following elevated dust result on 17th October, 2019. Dept acknowledged report, with no further action required.
- Meeting and field inspection with Local Land Services and Soil Conservation Service regarding proposed repair program for two areas of eroded creek bank caused by 1950's government flood mitigation works.
- Independent Environmental Audit (as required by Development Consent) undertaken 5th & 6th December. Final Report to be submitted by 21st February 2020.

# Environmental Update

## Heritage

- ACCF meeting held December 2019.
- Meeting to be held with OEH 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to discuss proposed re-burial of artefacts procedure

## Property

- Weed control undertaken across VCA, U/G surface, Bowmans Creek & SE properties.
- Feral (and overabundant native) animal control program completed 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.
  - During the Baiting Program, 55 Bait Locations were installed and monitored over the four (4) week baiting period. This amounts to 220 bait opportunities for target species. During the Program, there were 22 takes by target species – 5 Wild Dogs takes, and 17 Fox takes. This equates to an overall baiting efficiency of 10% confirmed takes by target species
- Kangaroo culling (250 tags from NPWS) planned for 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 2020.

# 2019 Fauna Report

- A total of 121 species were recorded at the ACP site, including two new vulnerable species - sea eagle and little parakeet.
- Although species diversity was down slightly from 2018, similarity between control (90) and impact (84) areas indicates mining is not adversely impacting on fauna species diversity.
- Fauna surveys were conducted in NEOC and Bowmans Creek diversion rehabilitation for second consecutive year. Total number of species in NEOC (23) down from 38 in 2018. In contrast, 42 species recorded at the Bowmans Creek Diversion in 2019 was up from the 36 species recorded in 2018.
- Continued drought identified as key impact on species numbers and diversity.



# Community Support Program

- Single round of funding for 2020 Community Support Program
- Joint support with MTW available for larger projects

# Camberwell update

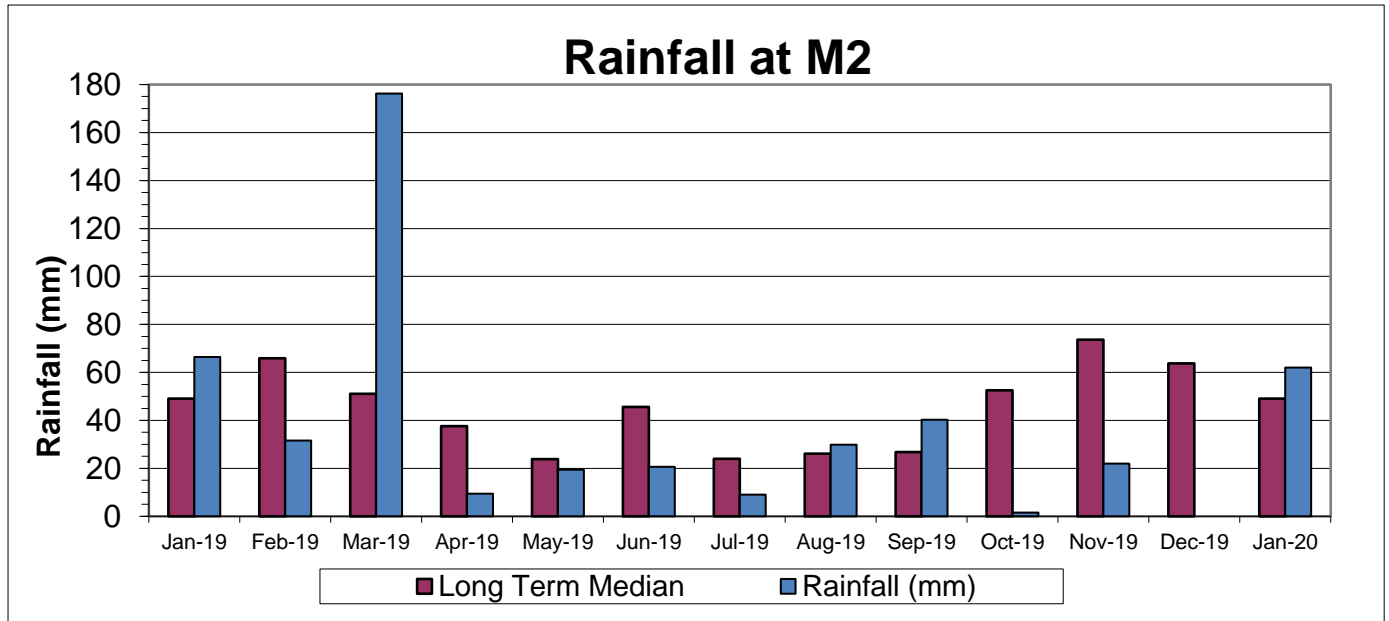
- Camberwell property
  - Coordinated by Yancoal corporate properties team
  - Local agent is Bailey Real Estate
  - 33 homes tenanted; 2 homes vacant
  - 5 rural areas occupied
  - Quotes being obtained for demolition works for 2 houses in Camberwell
  - Clean up of dumped rubbish at Camberwell property south of highway

# Any Questions?

ASHTON COAL COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE – 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING DATA

Rainfall



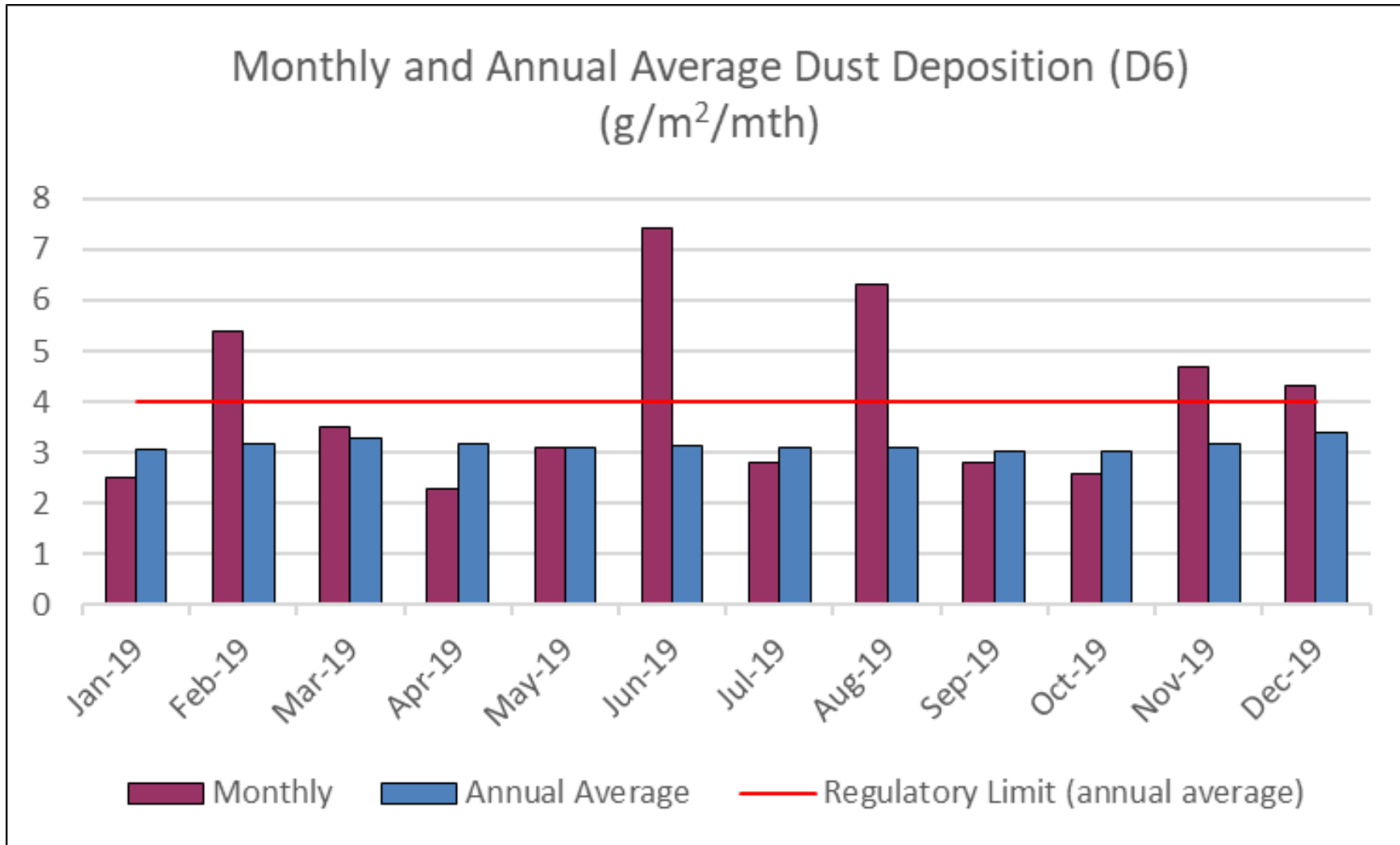
2019 Total Rainfall: 540 mm

2020 Rainfall YTD (06/02/20): 202.4mm



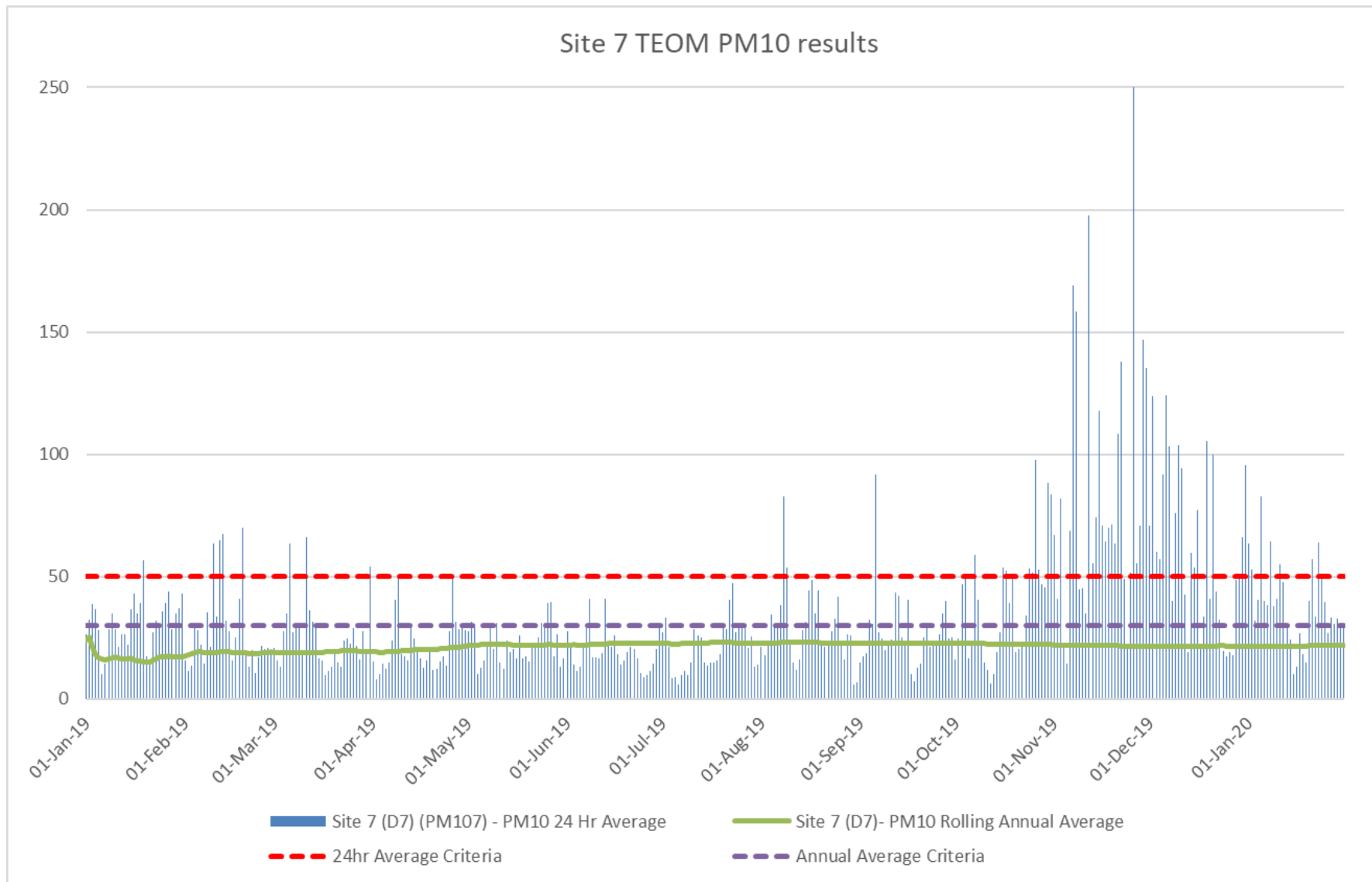
Air Quality

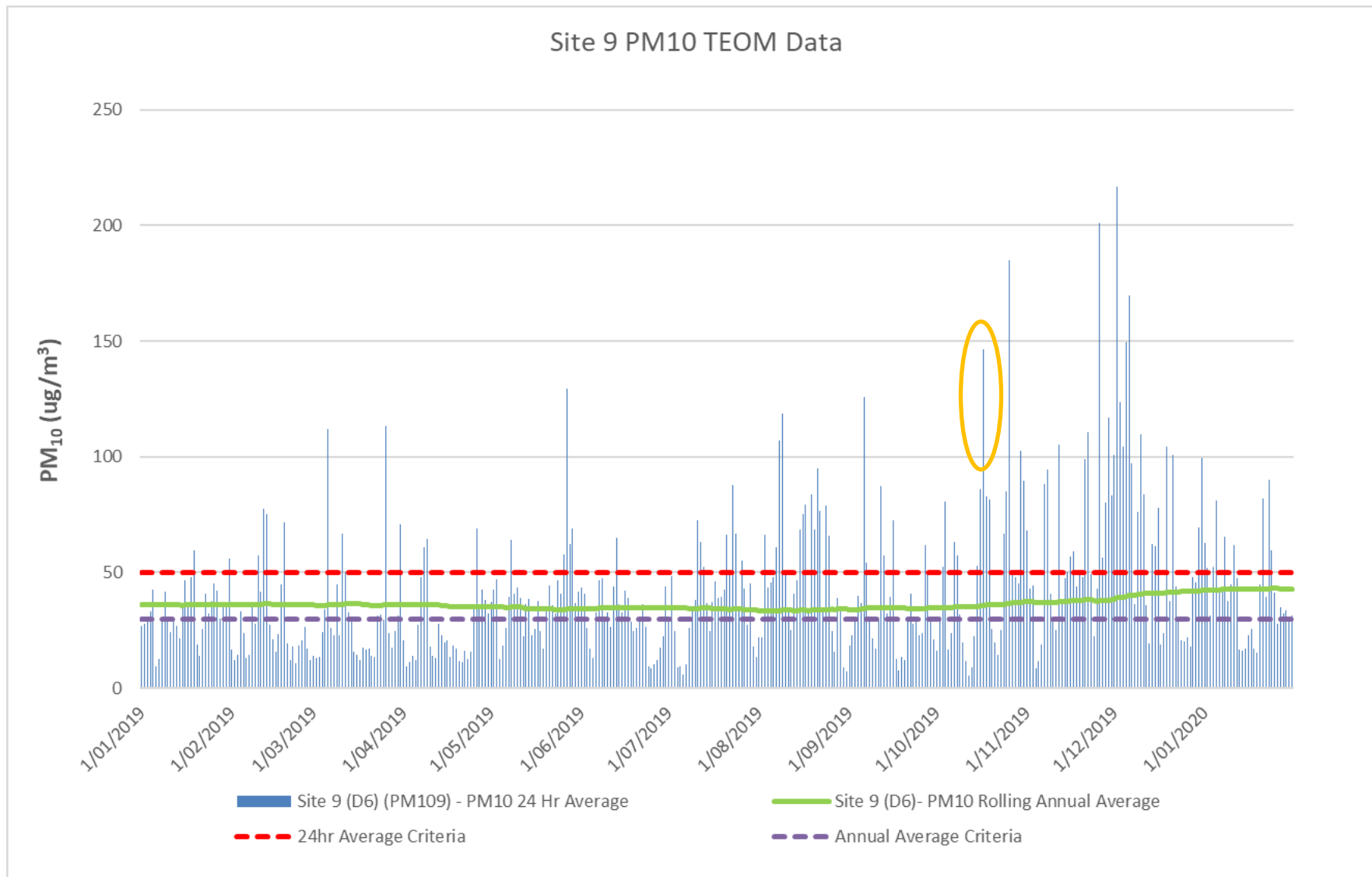
Depositional Dust Gauge

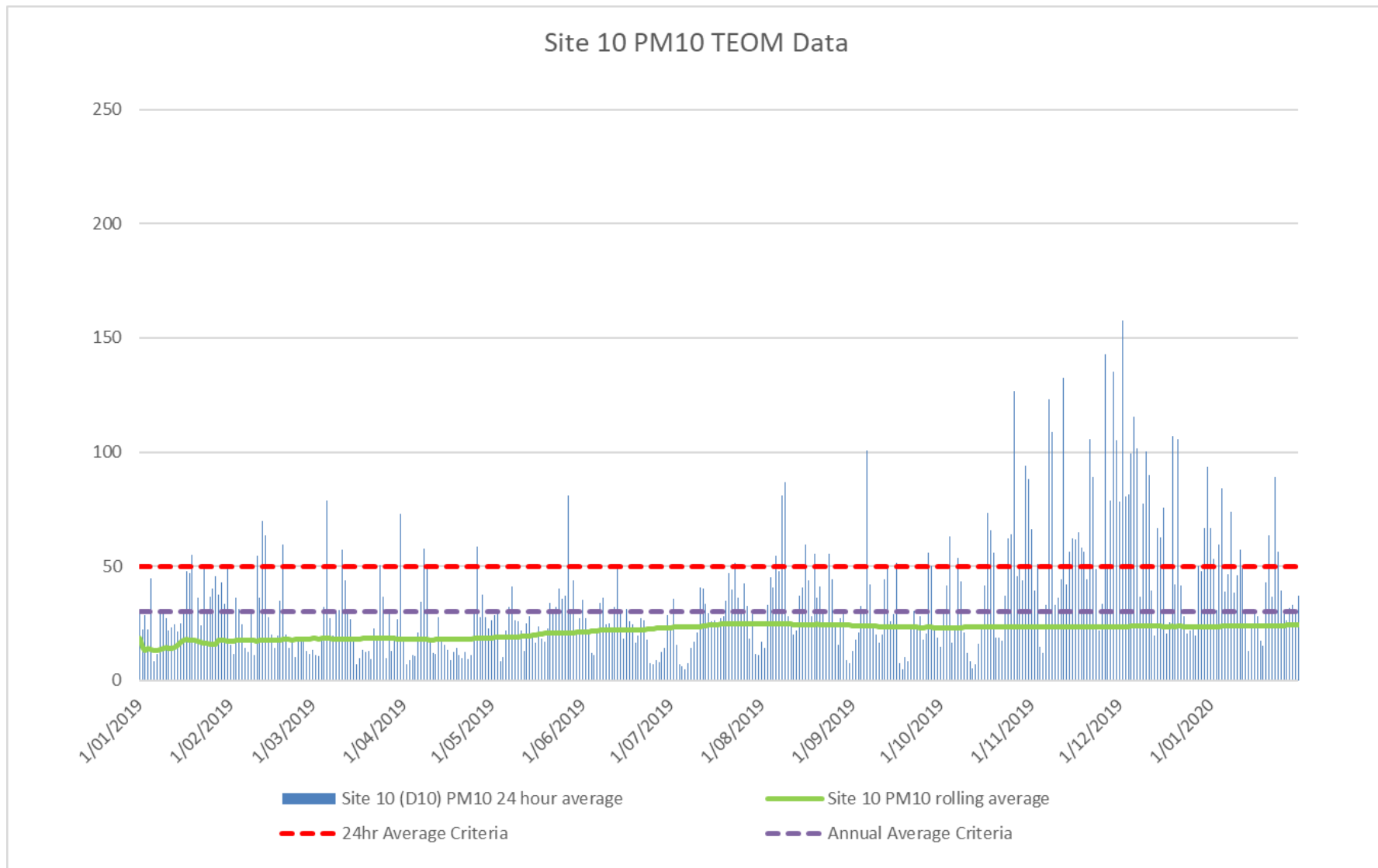


\* June & August 2019 - CONTAMINATED - bird droppings, turbid/grey

# 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
21/10/2019	10:04 PM	N2	dB(A) Leq	45	ACP Inaudible	3.2	136	-0.4	n/a
21/10/2019	10:21 PM	N3	dB(A) Leq	39	ACP Inaudible	2.5	132	-0.4	n/a
21/10/2019	10:42 PM	N4	dB(A) Leq	43	ACP Inaudible	1.9	147	-0.4	n/a
21/10/2019	10:04 PM	N2	dB(A) LAmax (for LA1, 1 minute)	59	ACP Inaudible	3.2	136	-0.4	n/a
21/10/2019	10:21 PM	N3	dB(A) LAmax (for LA1, 1 minute)	55	ACP Inaudible	2.5	132	-0.4	n/a
21/10/2019	10:42 PM	N4	dB(A) LAmax (for LA1, 1 minute)	62	ACP Inaudible	1.9	147	-0.4	n/a
7/11/2019	10:01 PM	N2	dB(A) Leq	51	35	3.3	276	-1.1	Mine hum
7/11/2019	10:19 PM	N3	dB(A) Leq	44	36	4.4	265	-1.1	Mine hum. Occasional engine revs.
7/11/2019	10:40 PM	N4	dB(A) Leq	38	29	3.3	281	-1	Mine hum
7/11/2019	10:01 PM	N2	dB(A) LAmax (for LA1, 1 minute)	66	36	3.3	276	-1.1	Mine hum
7/11/2019	10:19 PM	N3	dB(A) LAmax (for LA1, 1 minute)	65	42	4.4	265	-1.1	Mine hum. Occasional engine revs.
7/11/2019	10:40 PM	N4	dB(A) LAmax (for LA1, 1 minute)	64	30	3.3	281	-1	Mine hum
5/12/2019	10:00 PM	N2	dB(A) Leq	49	<36	2.2	247	1.2	Mine hum. Occasional engine revs.
5/12/2019	10:17 PM	N3	dB(A) Leq	43	<35	2.1	257	2.2	Mine hum. Occasional engine revs.
5/12/2019	10:39 PM	N4	dB(A) Leq	34	<23	2.6	280	2.6	Mine hum
5/12/2019	10:00 PM	N2	dB(A) LAmax (for LA1, 1 minute)	60	42	2.2	247	1.2	Mine hum. Occasional engine revs.
5/12/2019	10:17 PM	N3	dB(A) LAmax (for LA1, 1 minute)	61	38	2.1	257	2.2	Mine hum. Occasional engine revs.
5/12/2019	10:39 PM	N4	dB(A) LAmax (for LA1, 1 minute)	61	23	2.6	280	2.6	Mine hum
20/01/2020	10:01 PM	N2	dB(A) Leq	49	35	2.8	263	-0.4	Mine hum. Occasional engine revs / dozer tracks.
20/01/2020	10:19 PM	N3	dB(A) Leq	43	36	1.4	294	-0.1	Mine hum. Occasional engine revs / dozer tracks.
20/01/2020	10:40 PM	N4	dB(A) Leq	37	ACP Inaudible	1.3	312	-0.4	n/a
20/01/2020	10:01 PM	N2	dB(A) LAmax (for LA1, 1 minute)	66	44	2.8	263	-0.4	Mine hum. Occasional engine revs / dozer tracks.
20/01/2020	10:19 PM	N3	dB(A) LAmax (for LA1, 1 minute)	59	45	1.4	294	-0.1	Mine hum. Occasional engine revs / dozer tracks.
20/01/2020	10:40 PM	N4	dB(A) LAmax (for LA1, 1 minute)	64	ACP Inaudible	1.3	312	-0.4	n/a

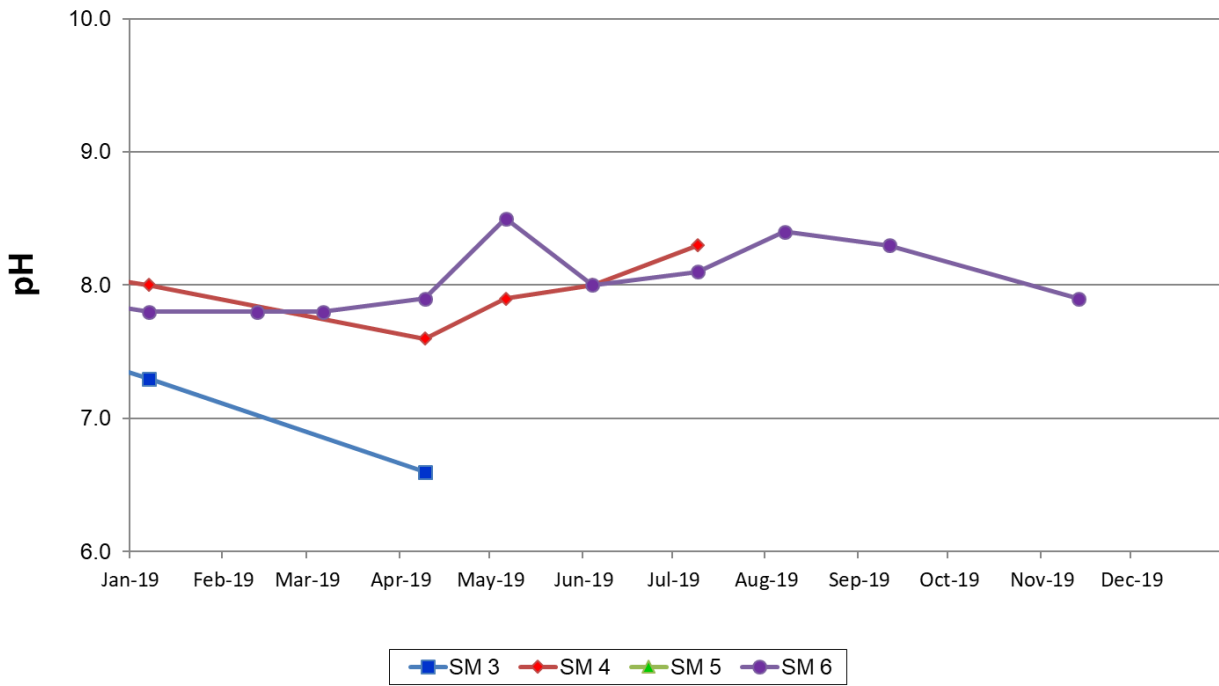
Surface Water



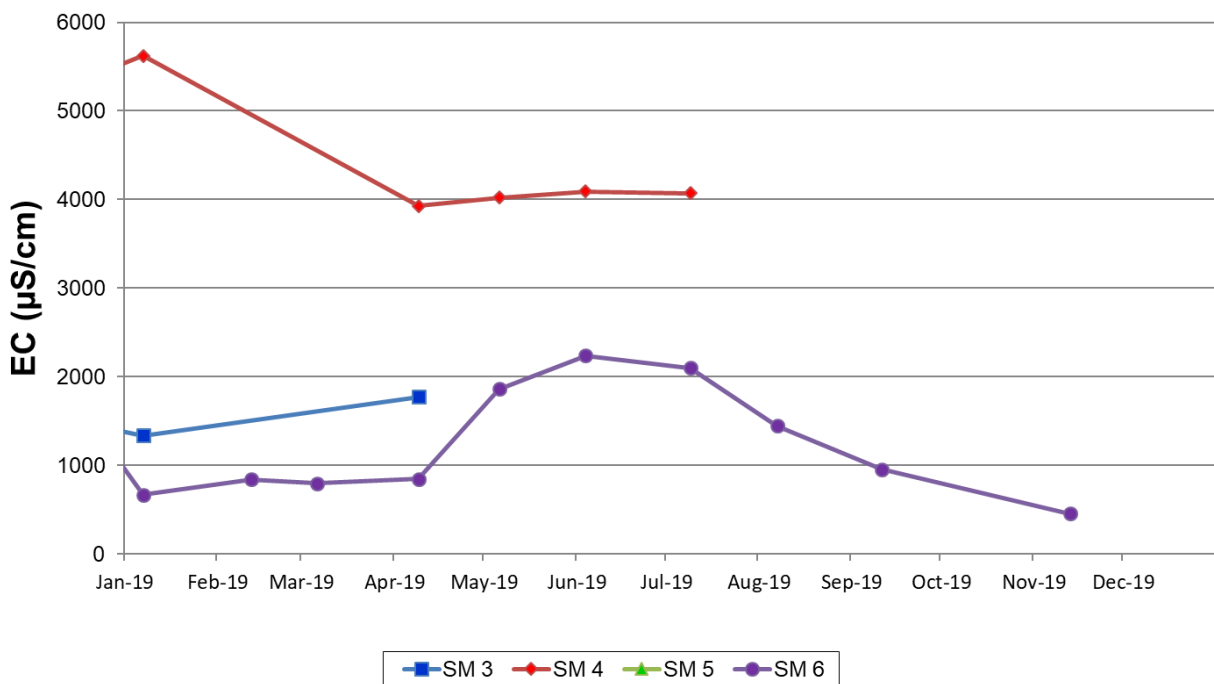
Note: The monitoring programs are current at the time of this strategy review, and are subject to change in-line with the EPL and approved management plans.

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

### Bowmans Creek Monthly pH Levels 2019

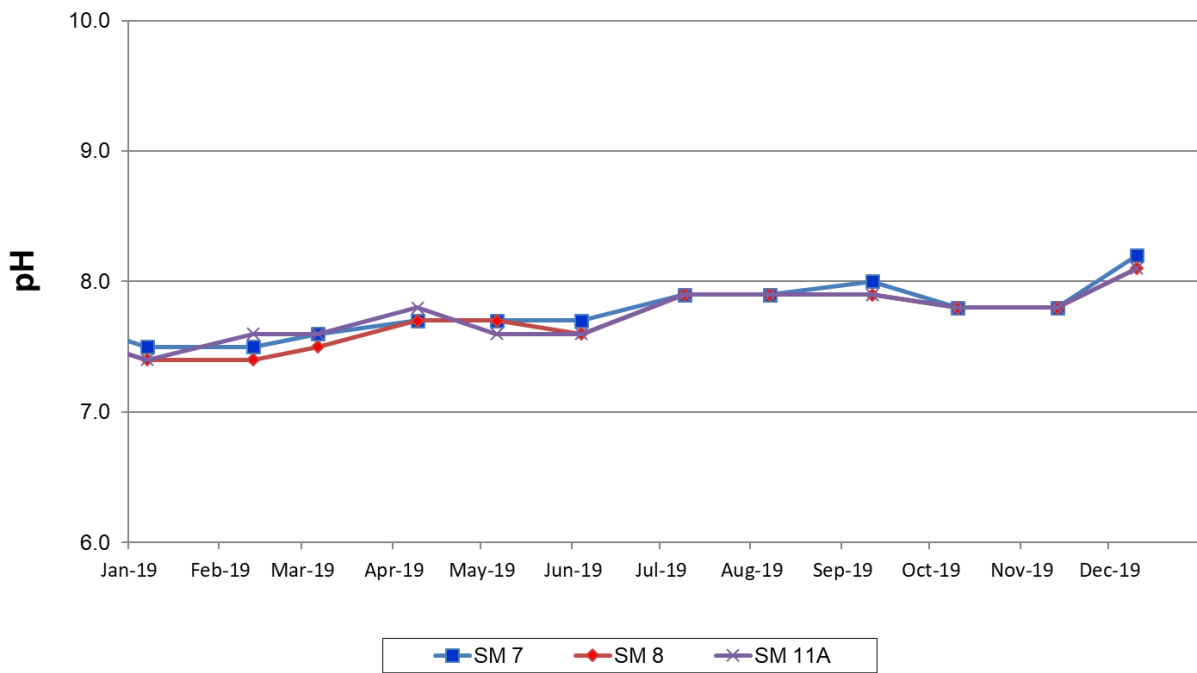


### Bowmans Creek Monthly Electrical Conductivity Levels 2019

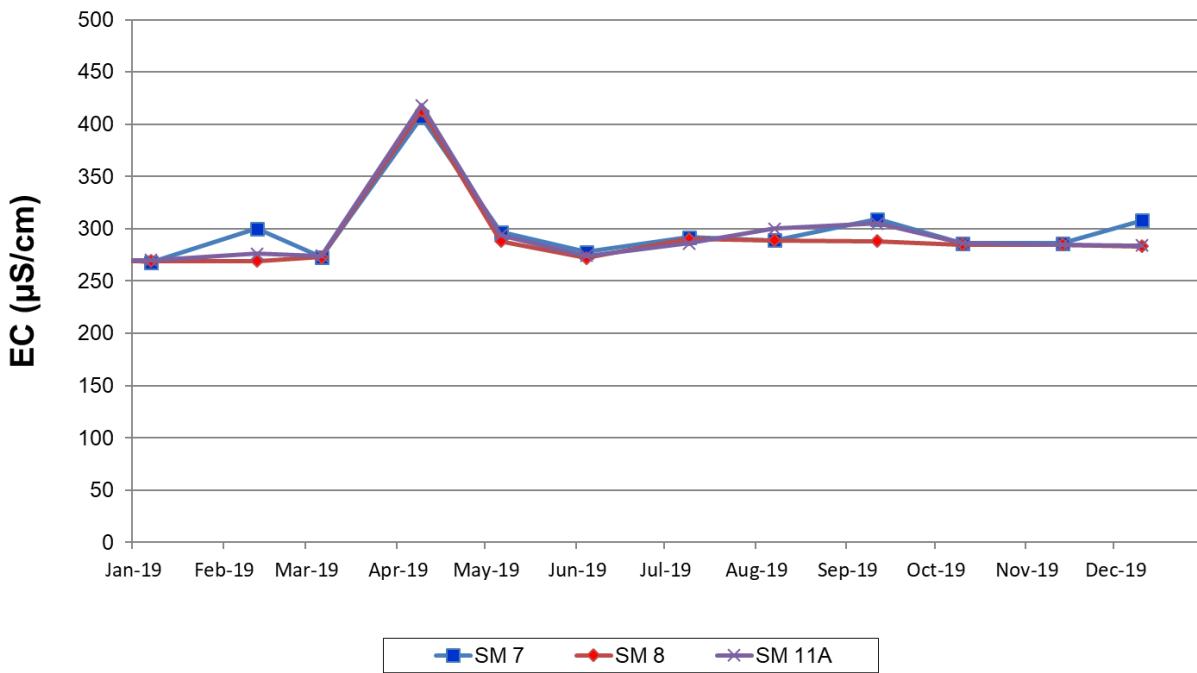


Note: No monthly results indicate sampling location was dry.

**Glennies Creek Monthly pH Levels  
2019**

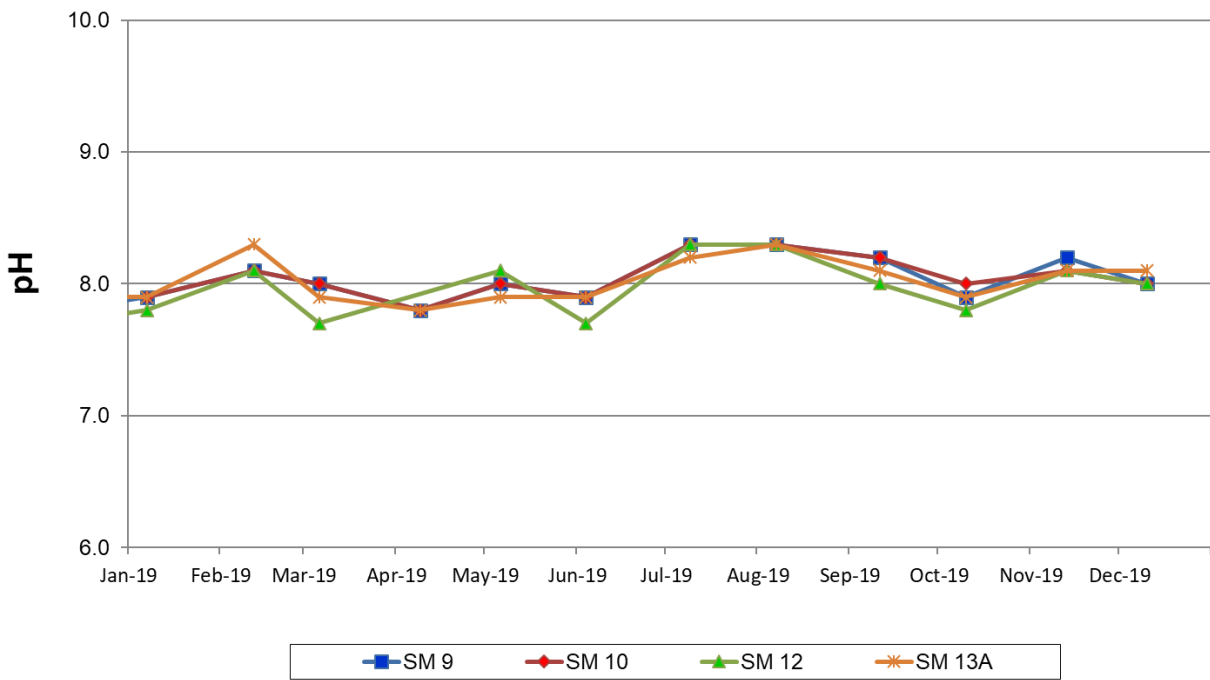


**Glennies Creek Monthly Electrical Conductivity Levels  
2019**

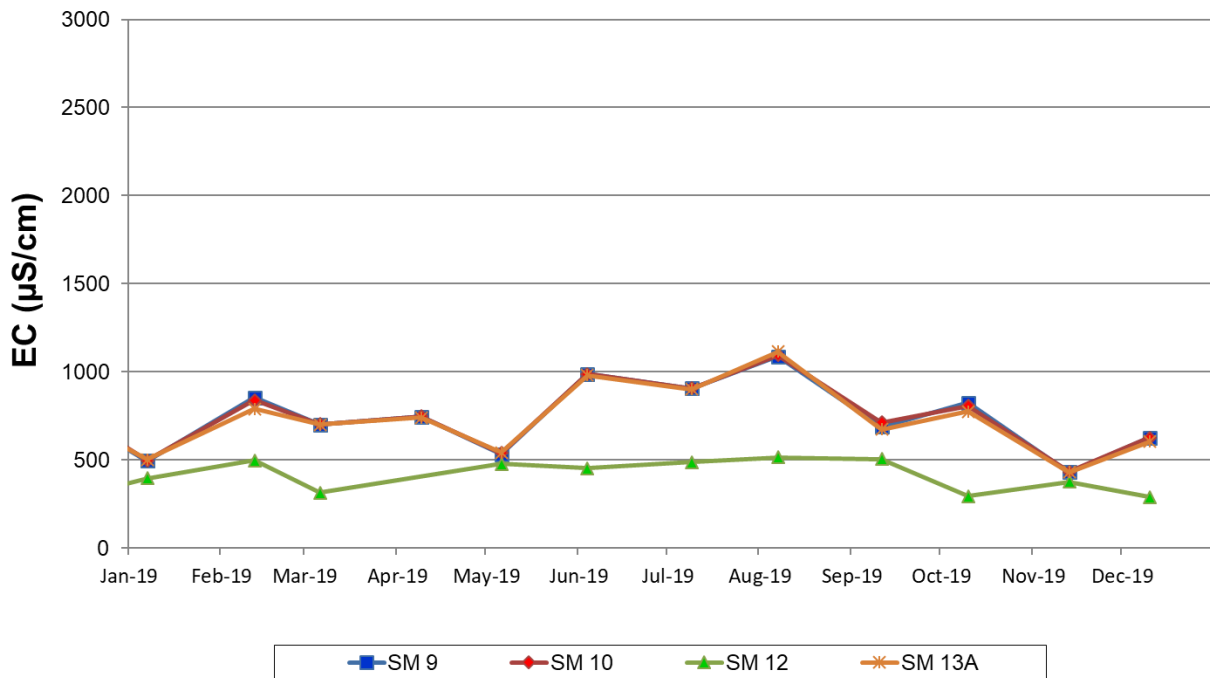


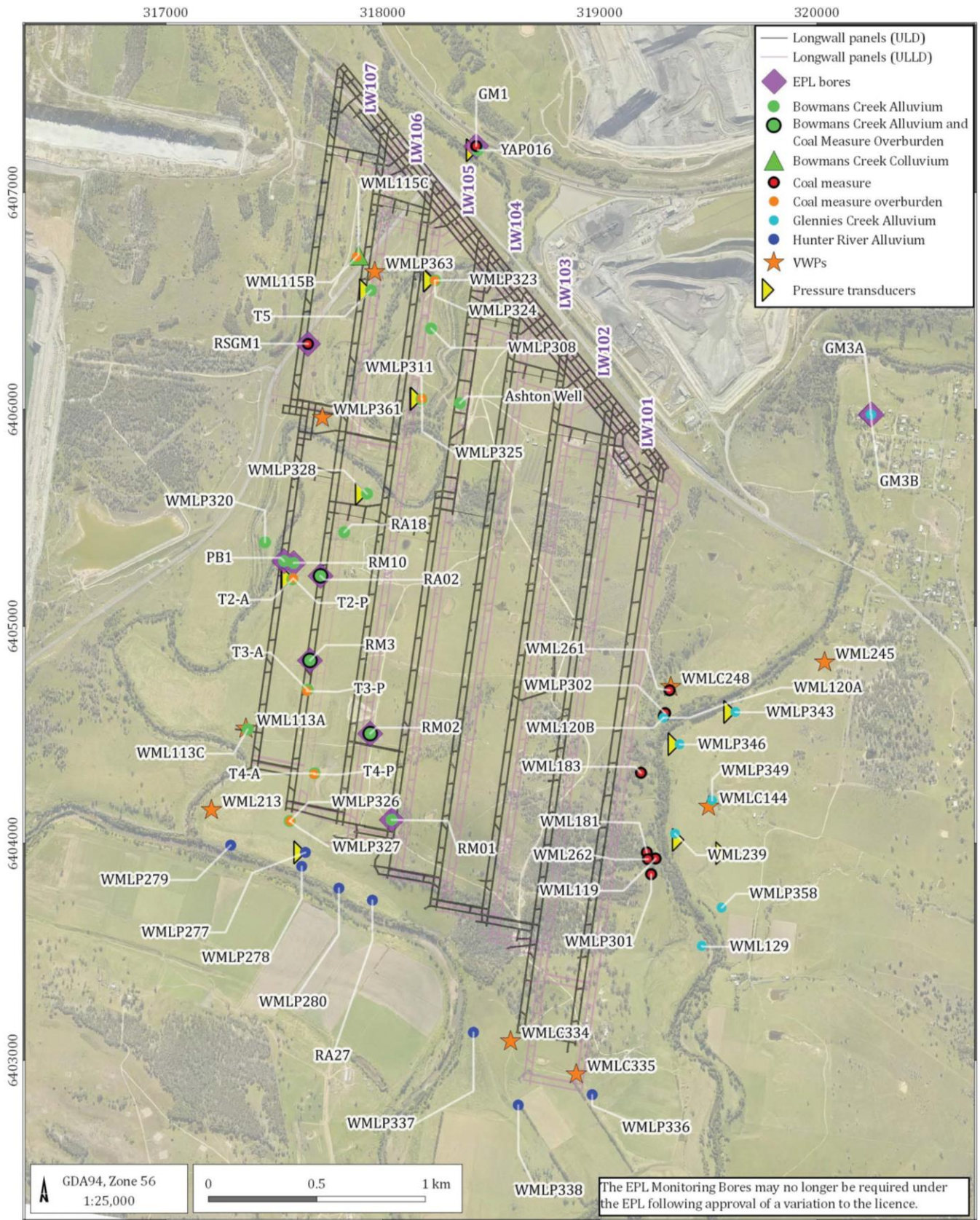


### Hunter River Monthly pH Levels 2019

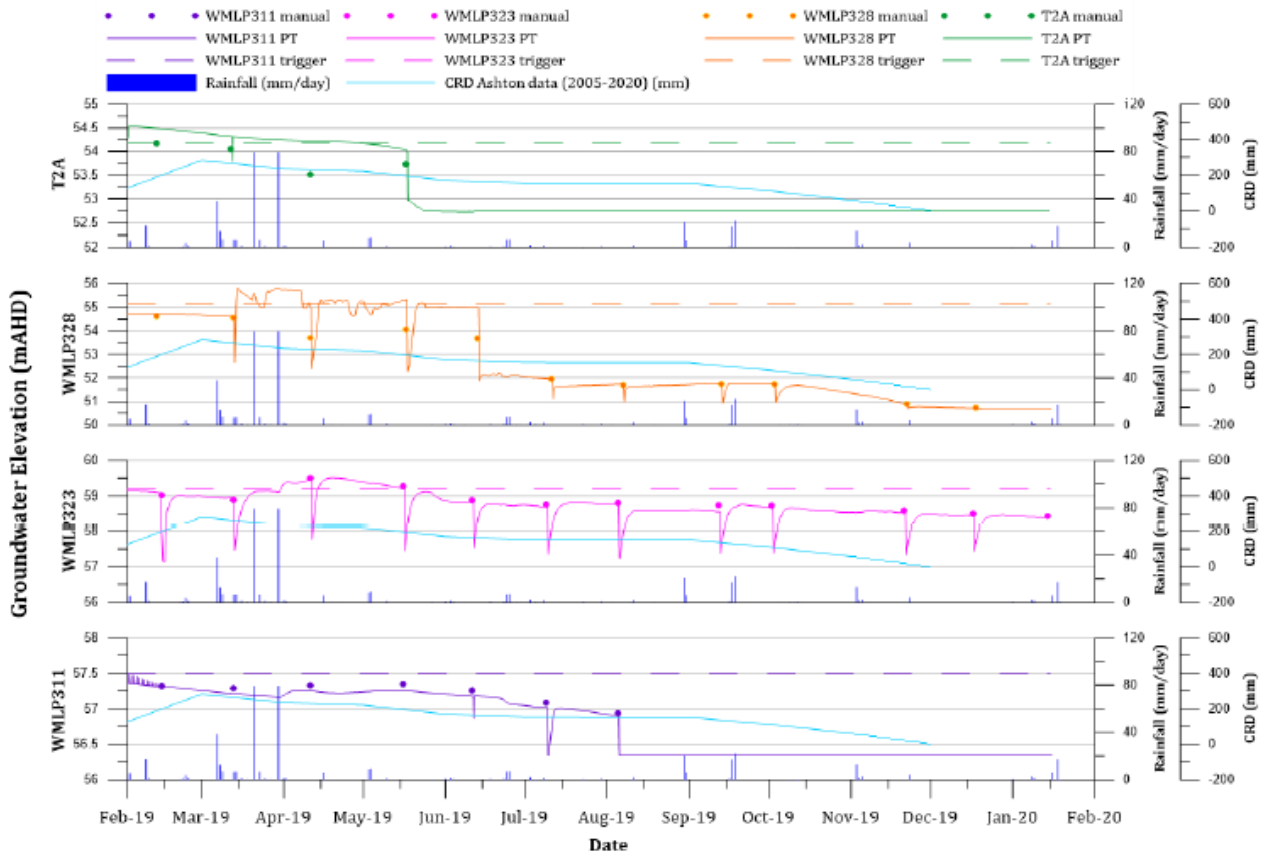


### Hunter River Monthly Electrical Conductivity Levels 2019



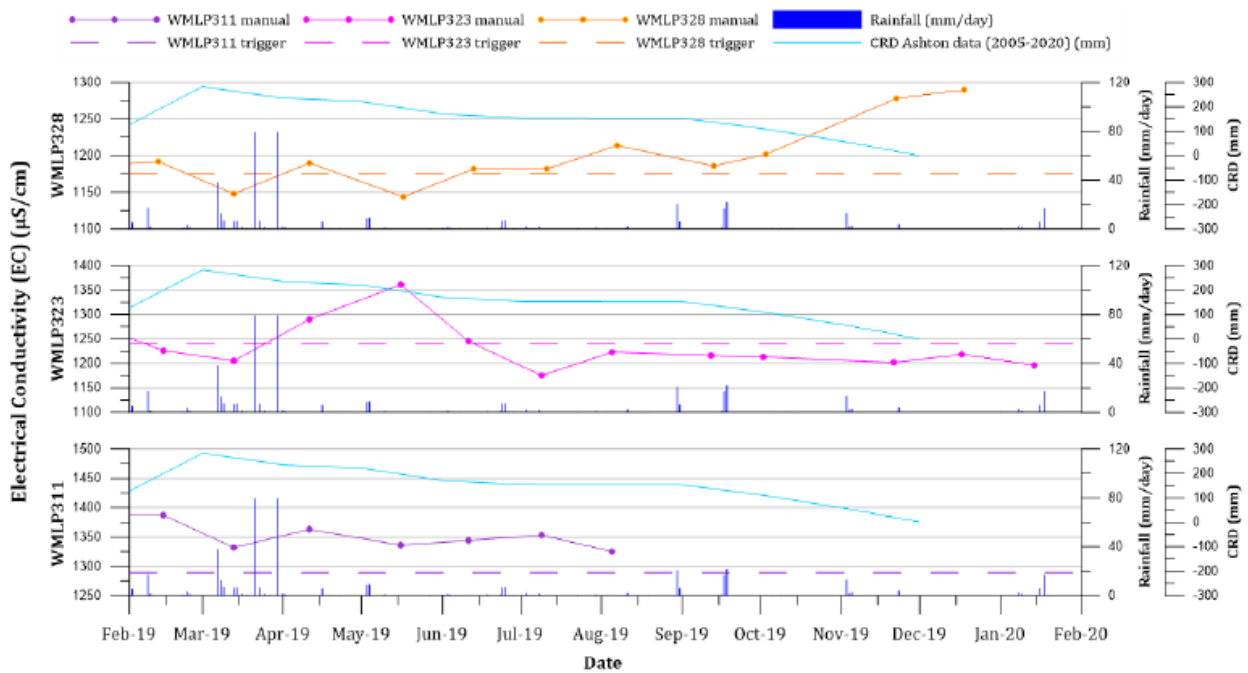


Bowmans Creek alluvial groundwater levels

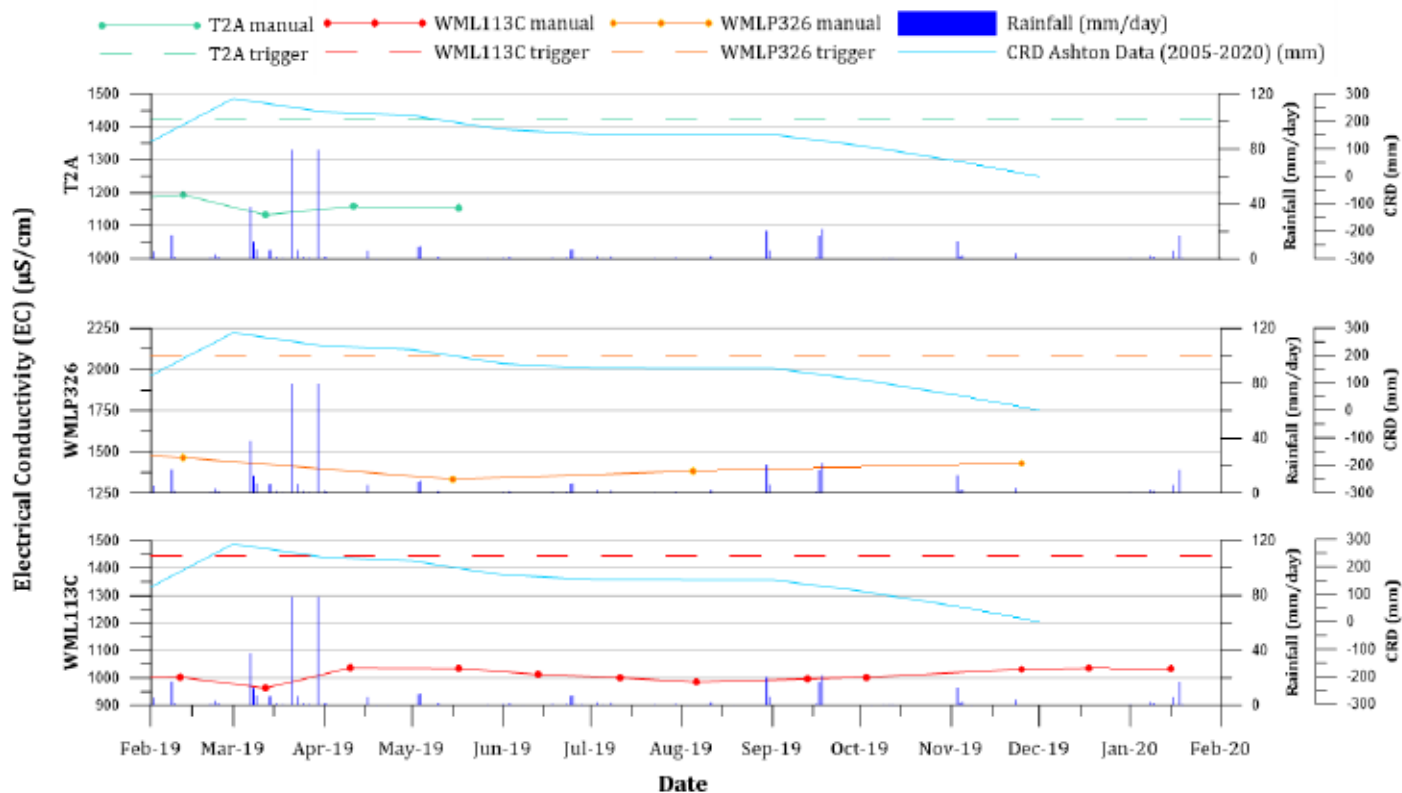


**WMLP328/323/311 investigation (July 2018) indicated decreasing water levels and rising EC are due to reduced alluvial water due to extended dry weather, not mining impacts.**

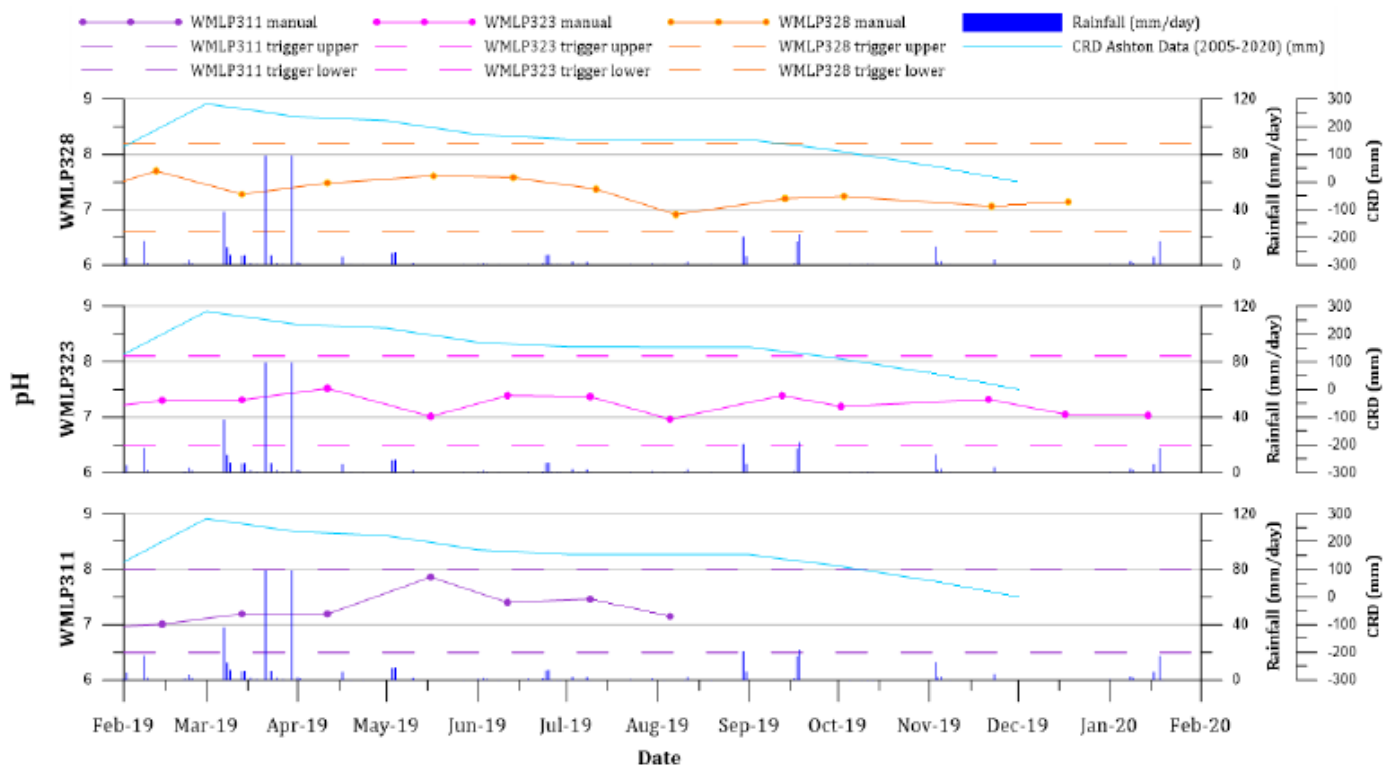
*Bowmans Creek alluvial electrical conductivity (1)*



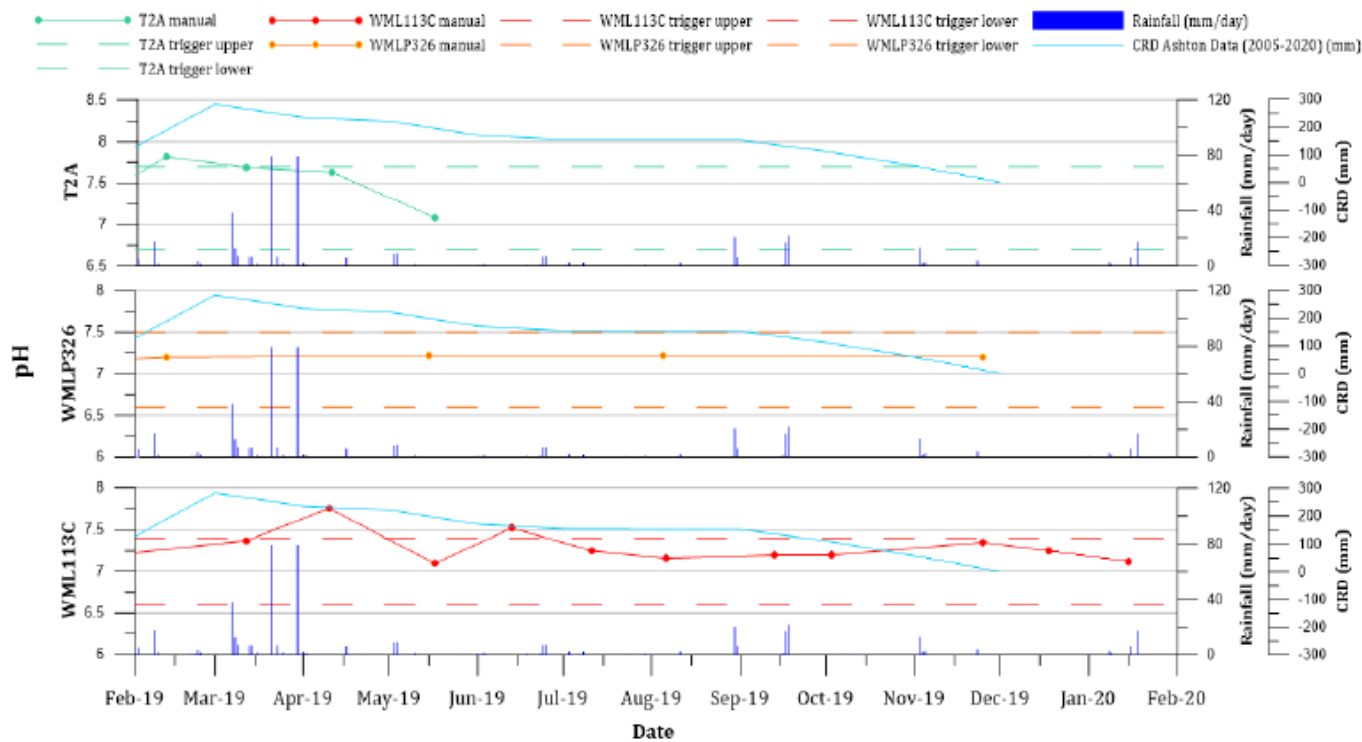
*Bowmans Creek alluvial electrical conductivity (2)*



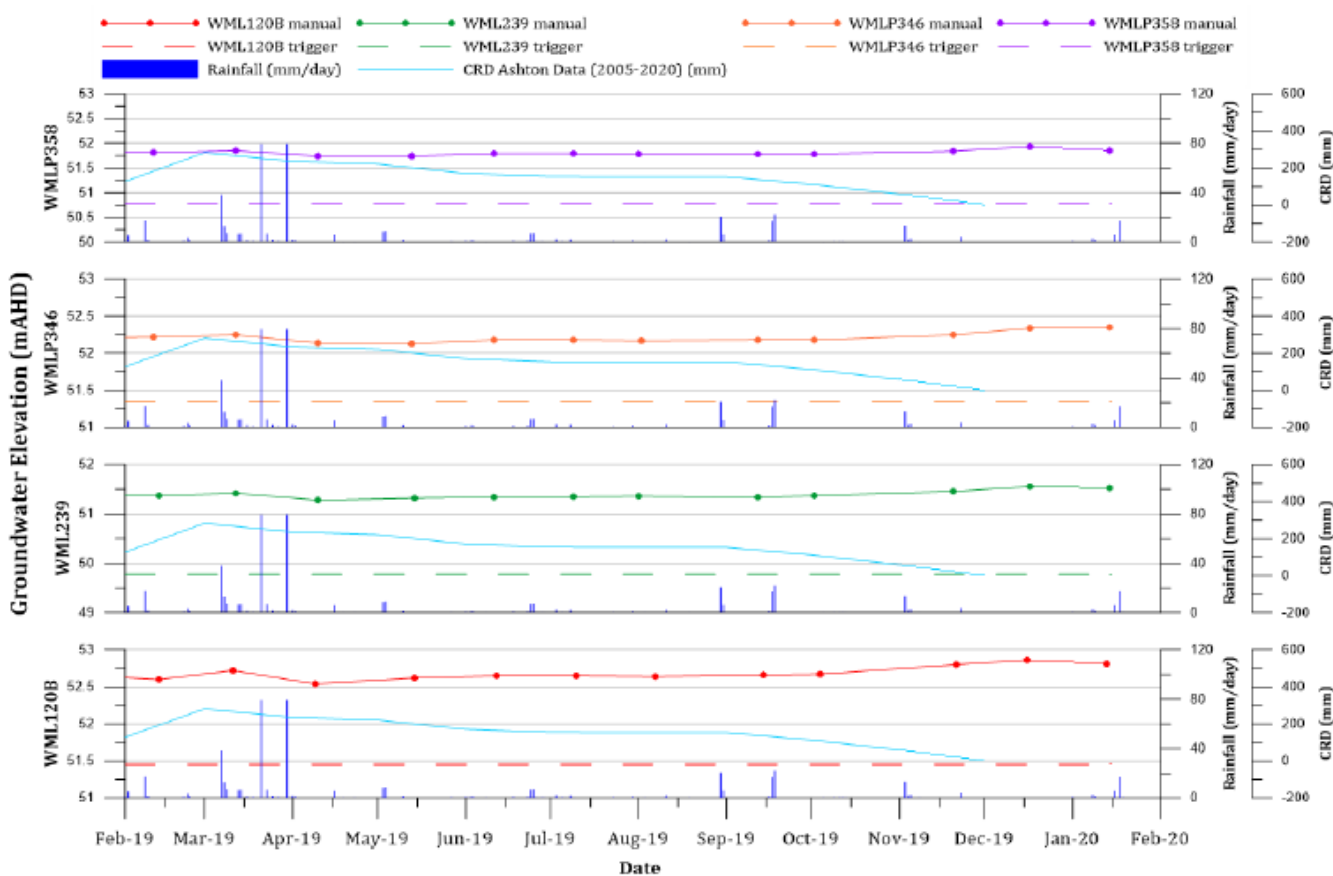
*Bowmans Creek alluvial pH (1)*



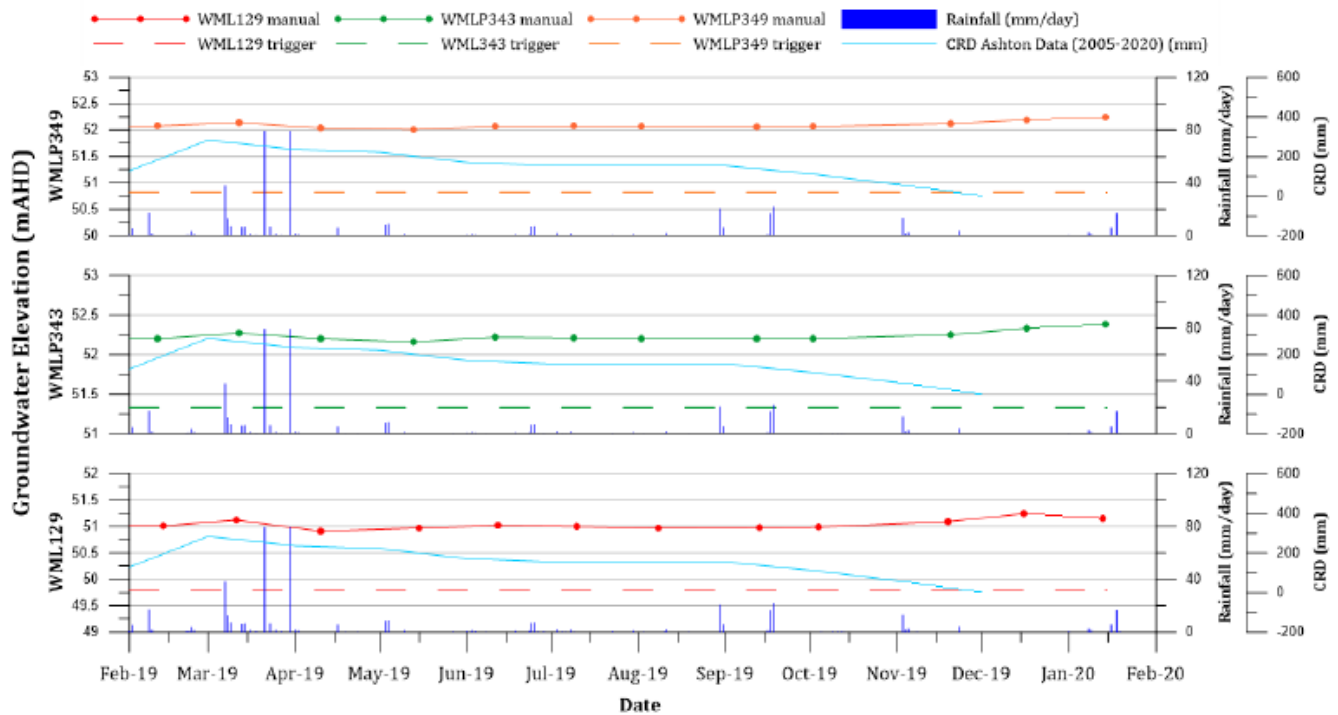
*Bowmans Creek alluvial pH (2)*



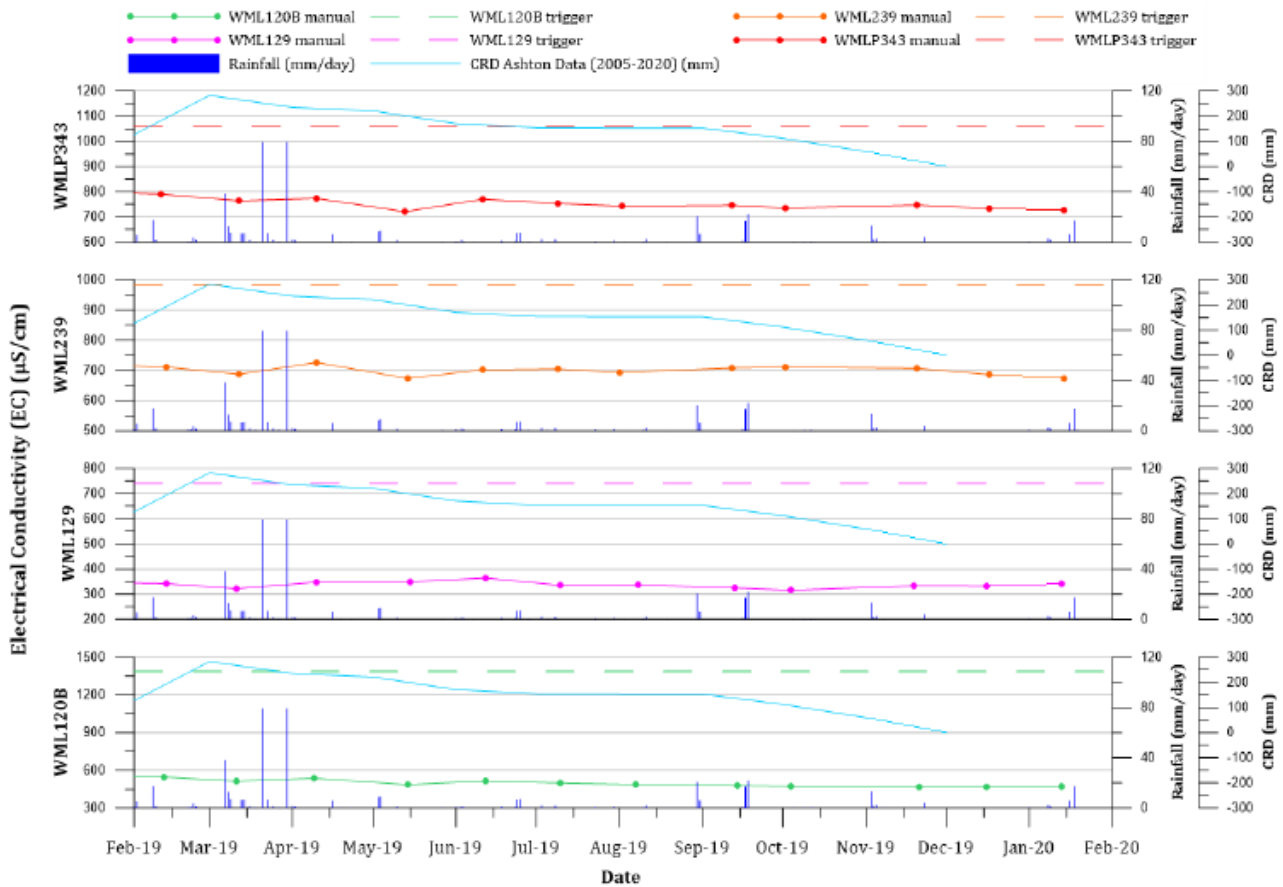
Glennies Creek alluvial groundwater levels (1)



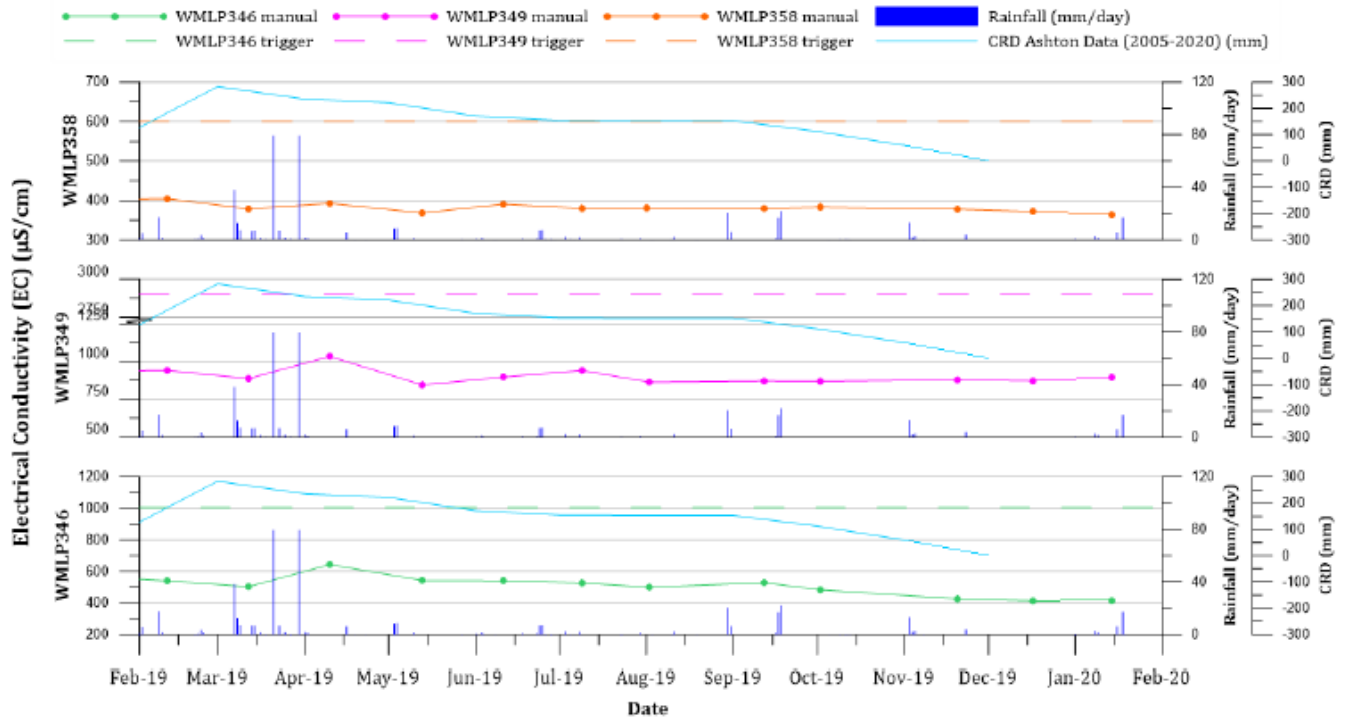
Glennies Creek alluvial groundwater levels (2)



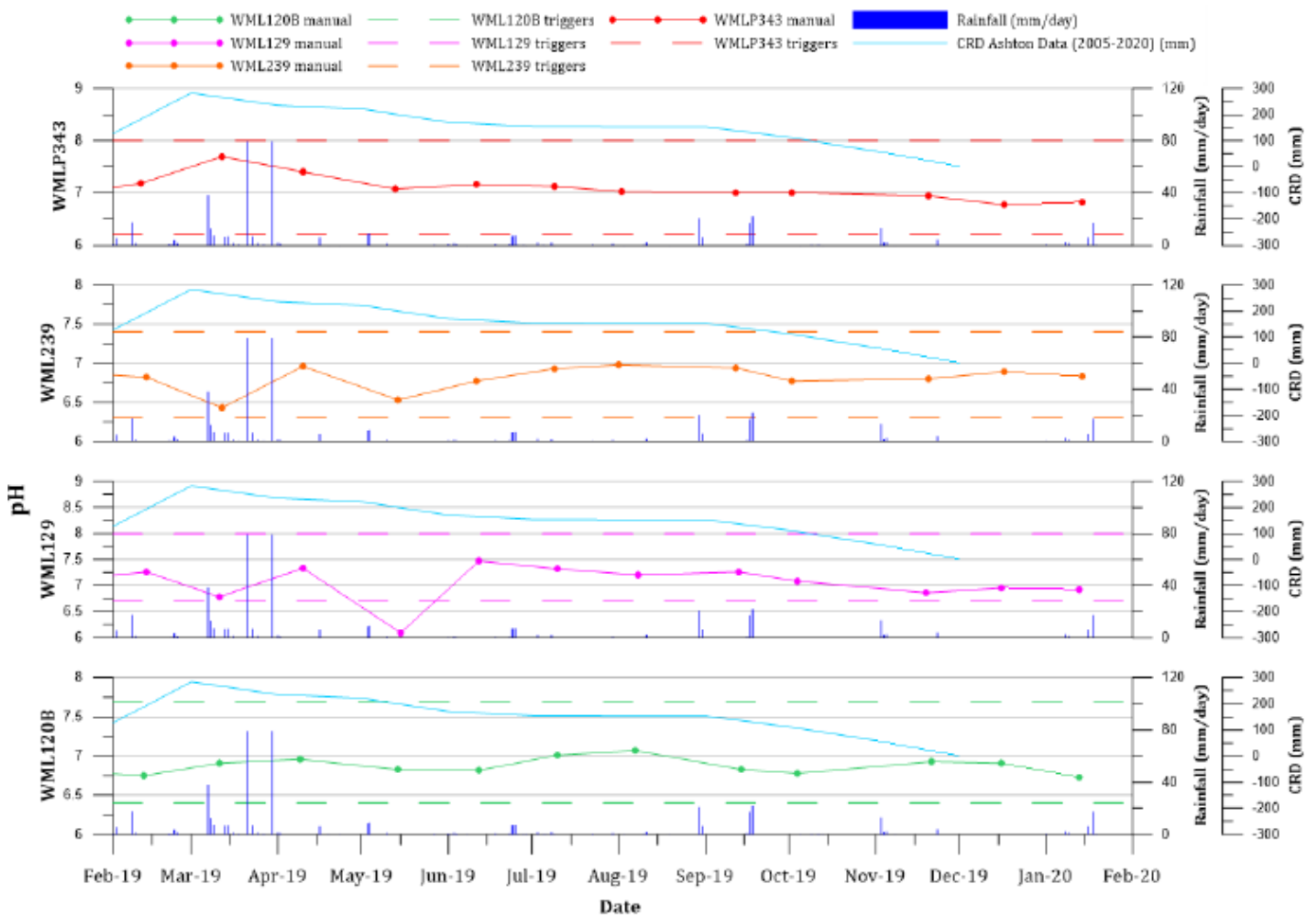
Glennies Creek alluvial electrical conductivity (1)



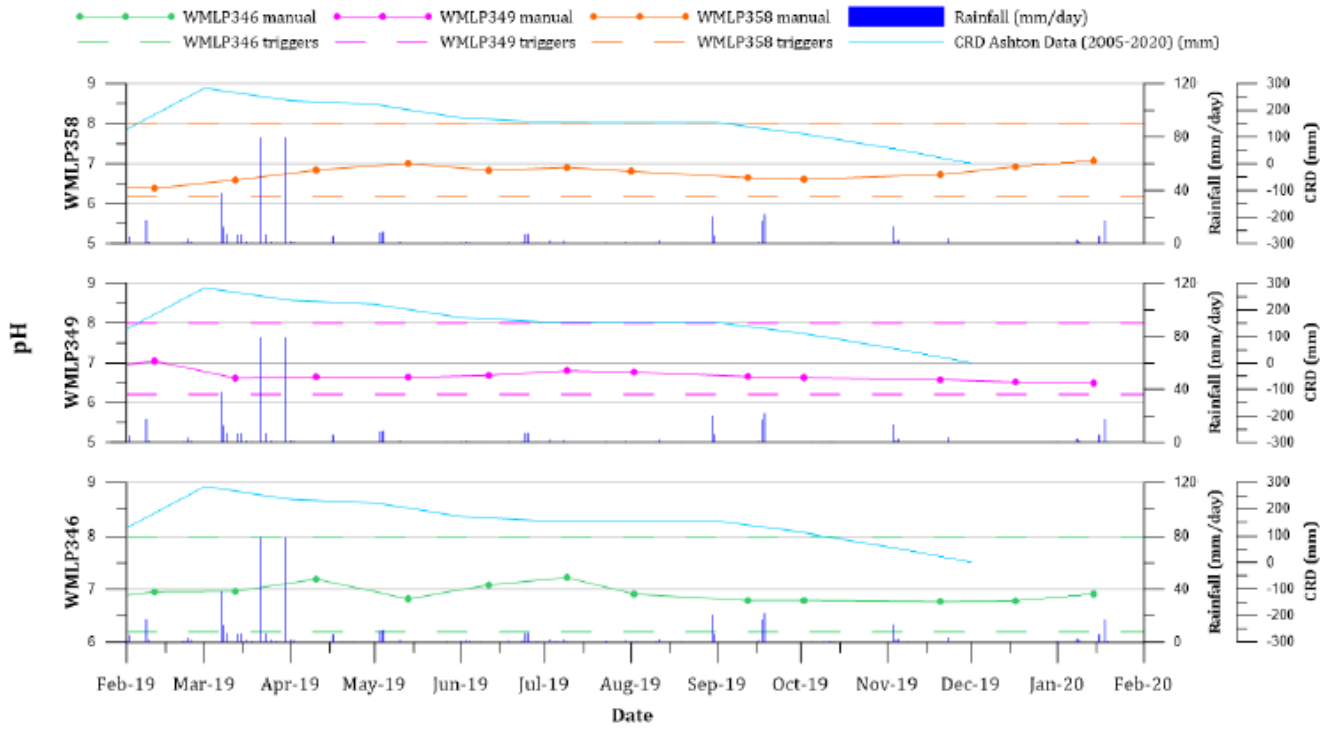
Glennies Creek alluvial electrical conductivity (2)



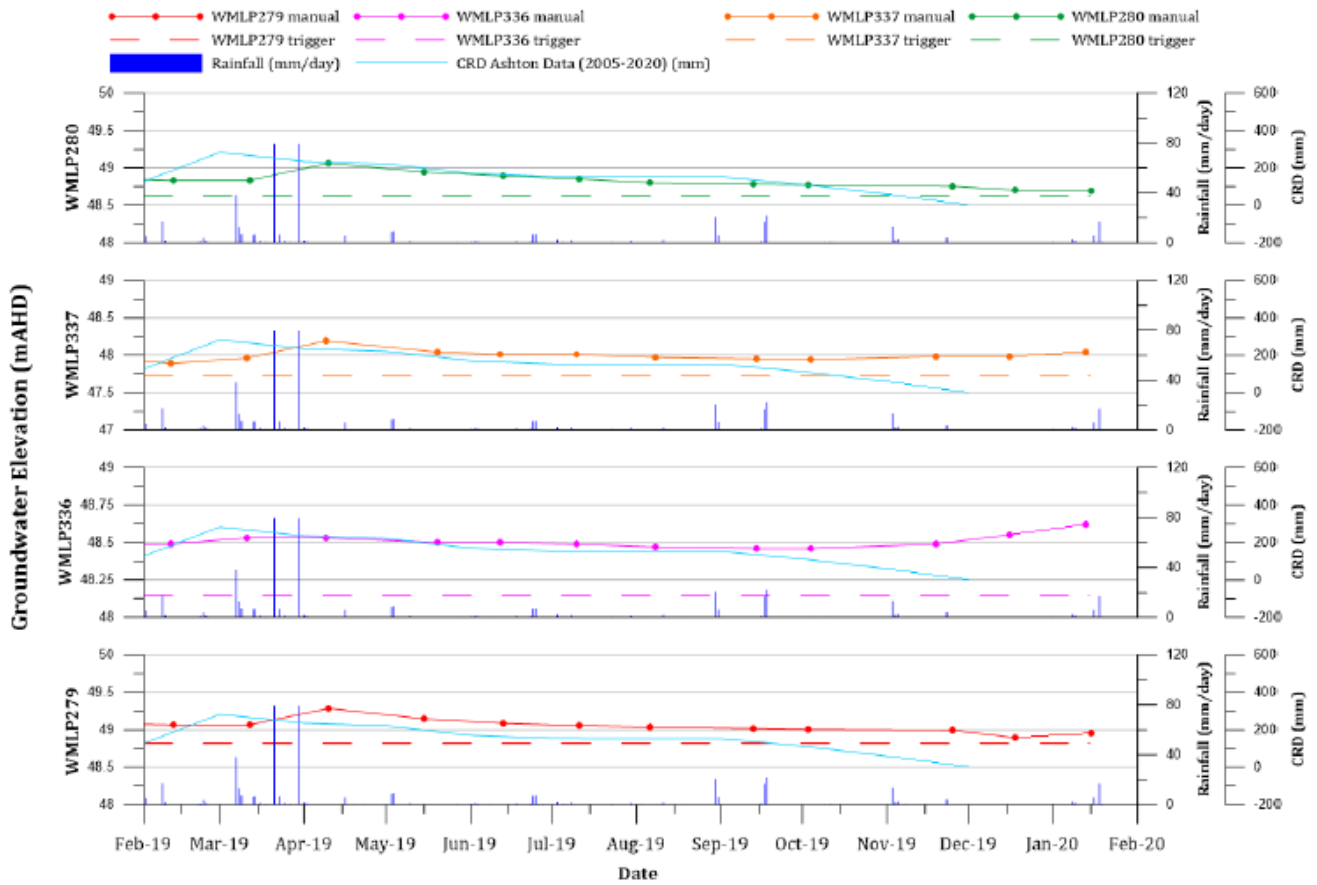
Glennies Creek alluvial pH (1)



Glennies Creek alluvial pH (2)

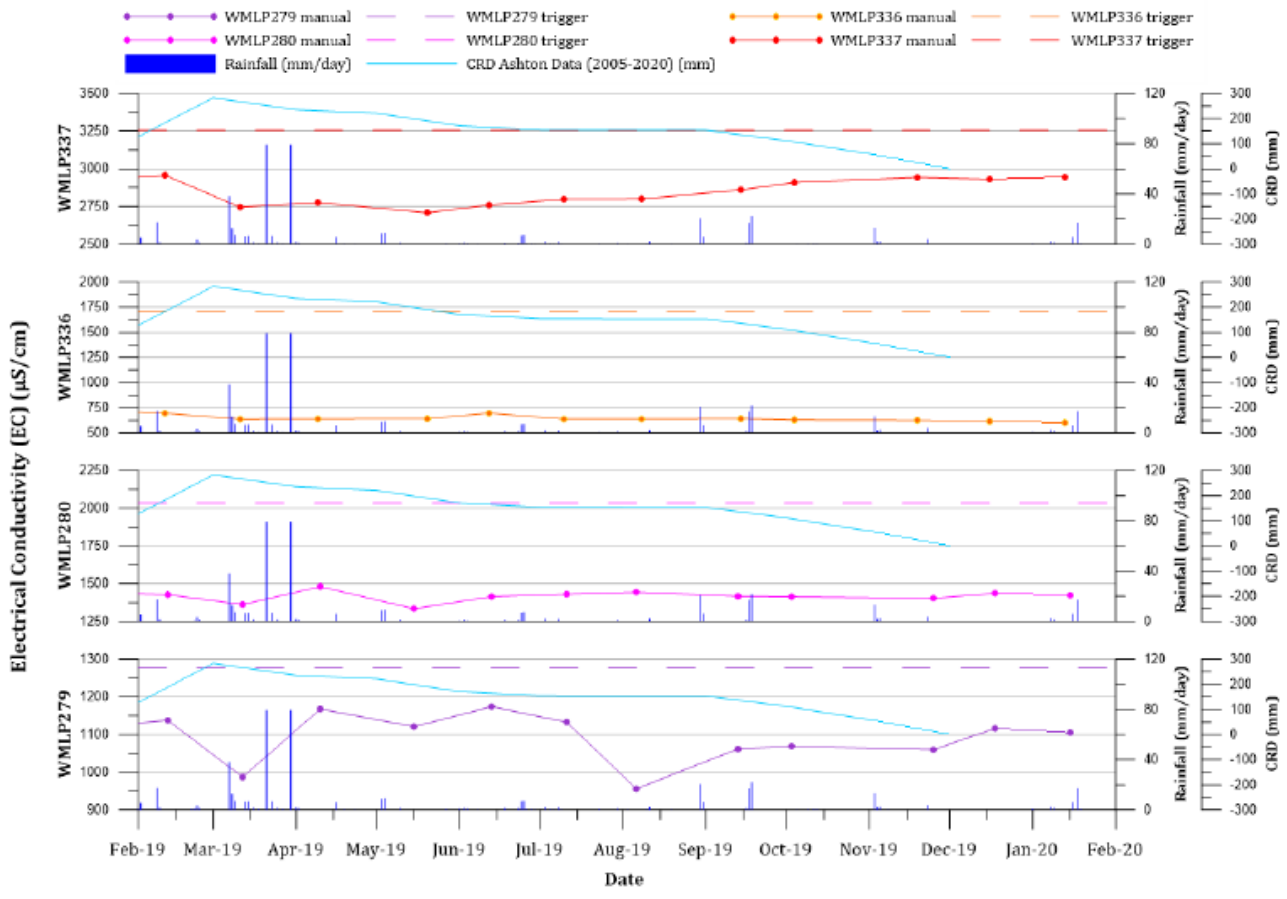


*Hunter River alluvial groundwater levels*

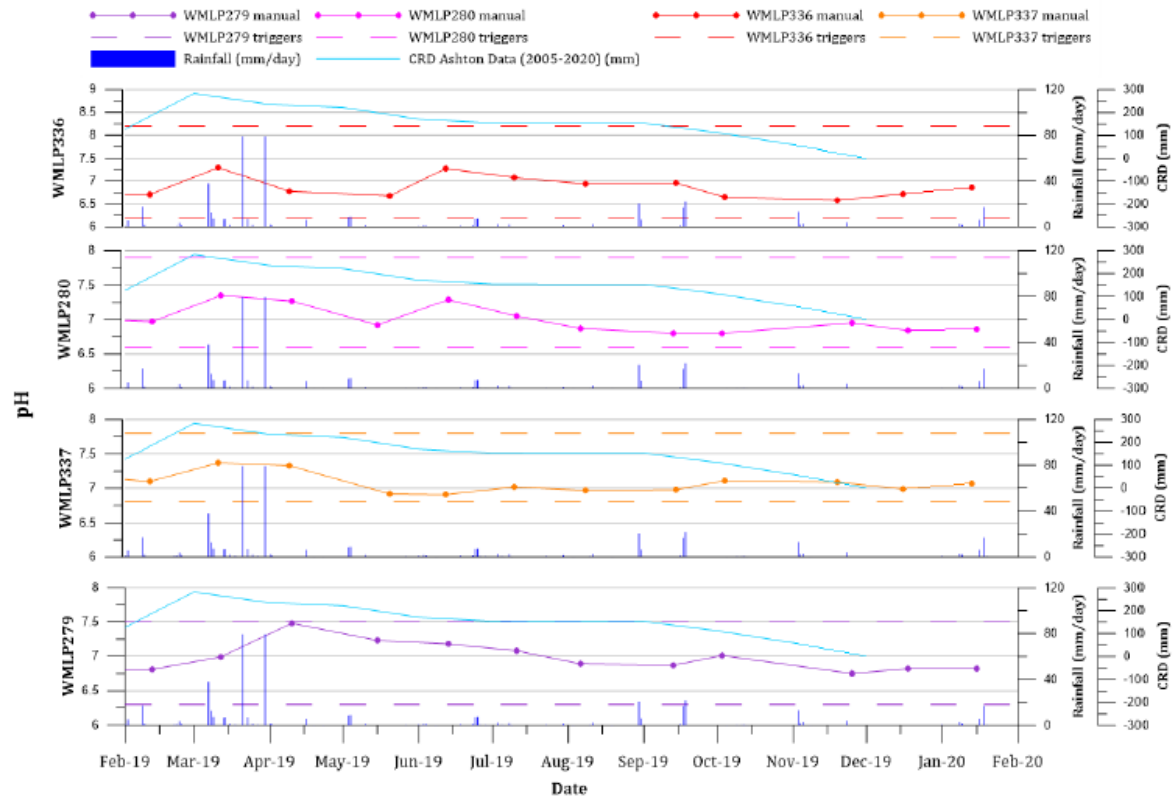


*Hunter River alluvial electrical conductivity*





Hunter River alluvial pH



Groundwater bores levels in vicinity of LW203

