

Austar Coal Mine

Community Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes

Location: CHPP Meeting Room – Austar CHPP, Wollombi Road, Pelton.
 Time: 10:00am – 10:31am
 Date: 27 November 2024

Name	Representative
Margaret MacDonald-Hill (MMH)	Independent Chairperson
Craig Reiss (CR)	Austar Coal Mine
Carly McCormack (CM)	Austar Coal Mine
Julie McNaughton (JM)	Austar Coal Mine
William Farnworth (WF)	Austar Coal Mine
Maddison Stojcevski (MS)	Austar Coal Mine
Quintin King (QK)	Cessnock Council Representative
Alan Smith (AS)	Community Representative
Peter Sturrock (PS) by videoconference	Community Representative
Apologies	
Jay Suvaal (JS)	Cessnock Council Representative
Ashlee Baker (AB)	Community Representative
John Rayner (JR)	Community Representative
Justin Cornes (JS)	NSW Police Representative

1	Welcome/Introductions
	MMH – Opened the meeting 10:00am and welcomed the CCC. Apologies are noted above.
2	Declaration of Interests
	MMH asked for any changes to previous declarations of interest. Declarations of interests remain current for all members.
3	Confirmation of Previous Minutes
	The minutes of the previous meeting were considered representative of that meeting. AS moved, PS seconded.
4	Business Arising from Previous Minutes
	Nil
5	Correspondence
	MMH noted correspondence as per agenda: 29 th of August 2024 – MMH/Cessnock Council 2025 meeting schedule and TOR. 24 th of October 2024 – Cessnock Council/MMH Council representation.
6	Mine Closure Update

a.	Closure Project Status
	<p>CR discussed incident that occurred on 17th September 2024.</p> <p>Detail in Presentation – presented by CR.</p> <p>MMH – did no one want to purchase the CHPP? CR – there has been no interest in the CHPP.</p>
b.	Early Works
	<p>Detail in Presentation – presented by CR.</p> <p>AS – what items are heritage items? CR and CM – 33 items around the site that includes administration buildings, the concrete coal bin and other structures.</p> <p>AS – what will happen to the Memorial at Pit Top? CM – we have commenced consultation with the families regarding moving the Memorial to the CHPP. Will sit just outside the main gate and be publicly accessible at any time.</p>
7	Environmental Monitoring Update, Incidents and Complaints
	Detail in Presentation – presented by MS.
8	General Business
	<p>Details in Presentation – presented by MS.</p> <p>MMH - In relation to the Terms of Reference (TOR) that we accepted last year, it must be confirmed annually – if there is any change, it needs to be updated and confirmed in minutes. With new people on the CCC, it needs to be amended and it is proposed we move to annual meetings rather than 6 monthly. MMH asked for any comments from the committee.</p> <p>AS and PS both supported the move to annual meetings.</p> <p>MMH will check with members not present and if no concerns, update the TOR accordingly.</p> <p>AS – what will happen to the Heritage railway owned by Austar? CM – the current plan is to recover rail line, sleepers and ballast and leave the formation in situ. That area has lots of interest and a final landuse has not been decided at this time.</p>
9	Next Meeting
	Next proposed meeting date 15 October 2025 at 10am. Venue to be confirmed. Next meeting will include a site visit.
10	Meeting Closed
	MMH – Thanked the CCC and declared the meeting closed at 10:31am.

Recorded: Julie McNaughton 27 November 2024

AUSTAR COAL MINE

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

27 November 2024

Carly McCormack
ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY MANAGER

Agenda

1. Welcome / Introductions
2. Apologies
3. Declaration of interests
4. Confirmation of previous minutes
5. Business arising from previous minutes
6. Correspondence
7. Mine Closure Planning Update
8. Environmental Monitoring Update
9. Environmental Incidents / Community Complaints
10. General Business
11. Next meeting / Meeting close



Mine Closure Planning Update


Closure Project Status


Incident at Astar


- On 17th September 2024 there was an incident at Astar Coal Mine in which a man lost his life. A former longstanding Yancoal employee was working as a contractor at Astar during closure operations when the incident occurred.
- Yancoal has offered full support to family, friends and colleagues and continues to work closely with relevant authorities and regulators in ongoing investigations.

Closure Management Areas


LEGEND


 Colliery Holding Boundary


 Relevant Mining Titles


 Disturbance Footprint


CMA Boundaries


 CMA 1 - Austar Pit Top Facilities


 CMA 2 - Pelton CHPP


 CMA 3 - No.1 Shaft


 CMA 4 - No.2 Shaft

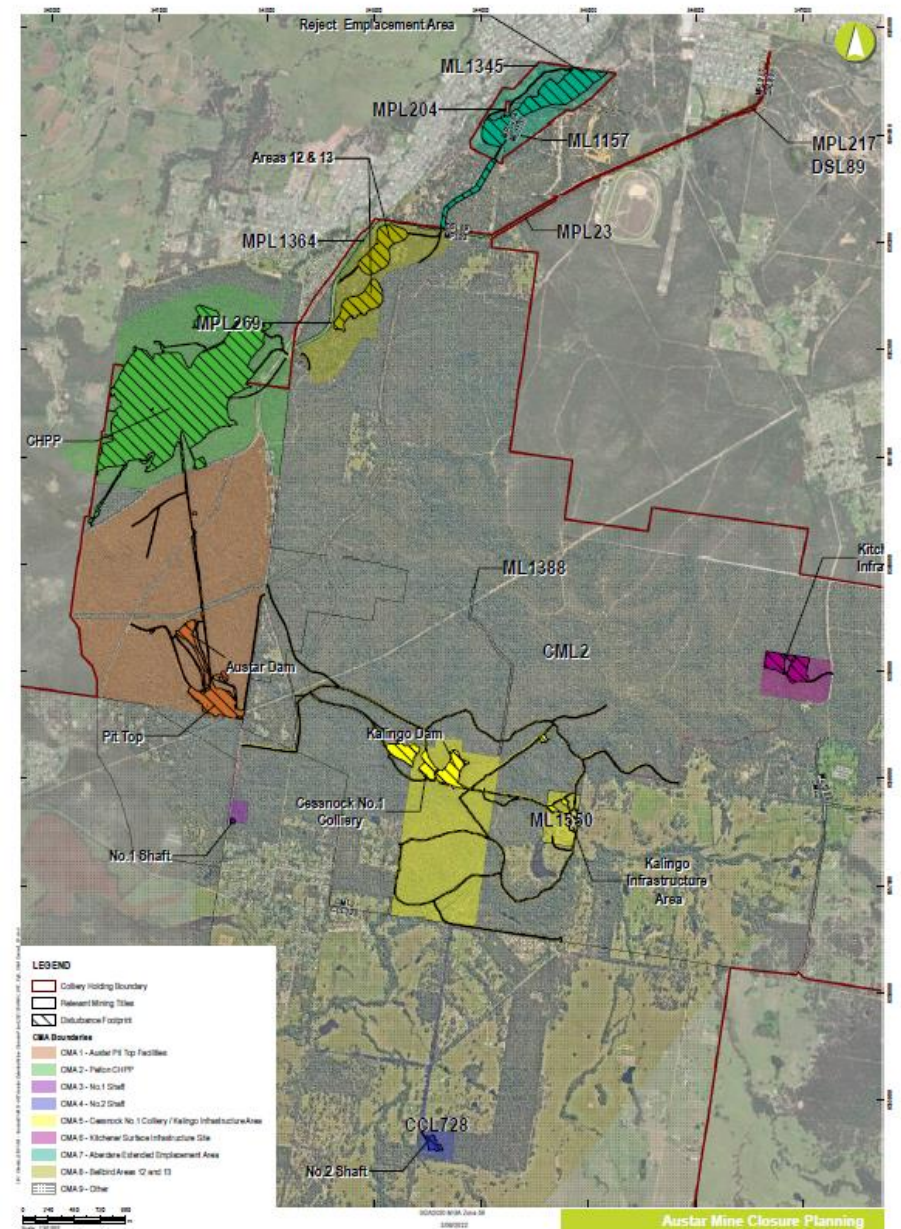
 CMA 5 - Cessnock No.1 Colliery / Kalingo Infrastructure Area

 CMA 6 - Kitchener Surface Infrastructure Site

 CMA 7 - Aberdare Extended Emplacement Area

 CMA 8 - Bellbird Areas 12 and 13

 CMA 9 - Other



Indicative Timeline & Current Status

Feasibility Study/Detailed Mine Closure Plan: 2024-Mid 2025

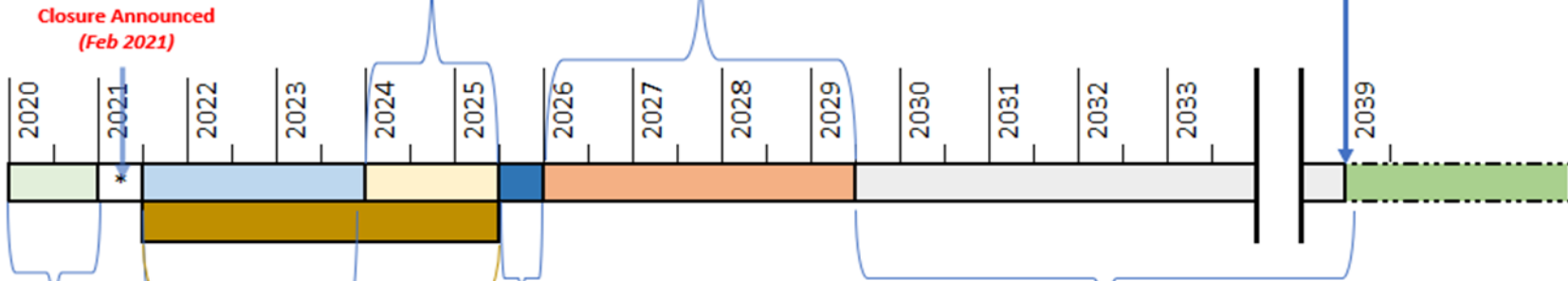
- Undertake detailed investigations and design to prove the single "Go Forward" rehabilitation case.
- Confirm rehabilitation/closure performance criteria with regulators and Yancoal internal stakeholders.

Execution: 2026 - Mid 2029

- Execute demolition works, mine sealing, and surface rehabilitation.
- Earthworks to construct final landforms, engineered caps and surface water management structures.

Lease Relinquishment: 2039 Onward

Demonstrate all regulatory obligations have been met to surrender consents, mining leases and licences.



Base Case Study: 2020-2021

- Confirm Closure Obligations.
- Assess Closure Risks.
- Scope PFS Technical Studies.

Executable Plan: Mid 2025 - 2026

- Detailed engineering packages for tender.
- Issue Contracts.

Post execution works, monitoring and validation: 2029 - 2039

- Undertake inspections and maintenance activities.
- Monitor rehabilitation progression and development of vegetation to approved performance criteria.
- Remove sedimentation dams
- Verify final landform / engineered cap performance.
- Verify groundwater model predictions.

Prefeasibility Study: Mid 2021 - 3rd Qtr 2023

- Undertake technical studies/site investigations to address closure knowledge base gaps.
- Scope detailed investigations for the prefeasibility study.
- Approvals review/planning advice.
- Identify preferred rehabilitation/final landform options.

Early Works

- Mine Sealing - bore holes & shaft filling
- UG and Surface Equipment Recovery.
- Relocation of admin. from Pit Top to CHPP.
- Demolition of non-heritage items
- Desilting and removal of Kalingo Dam

Closure Planning Status

- **Pre-feasibility Study (PFS)** completed in 2023 and identified the go-forward options for:
 - Preferred final land uses
 - Conceptual final landforms
 - Demolition strategy with consideration to heritage values
- **Feasibility Study (FS)** commenced including:
 - Development of Sampling Analysis Quality Management Plan (SAQMP) scope site investigations to address knowledge gaps identified in PFS
 - FS Site Investigation Program in accordance with SAQMP
 - Commencement of studies, assessments and designs to prove up the preferred rehabilitation and closure options
 - Technical outcomes used to develop and refine final landform design

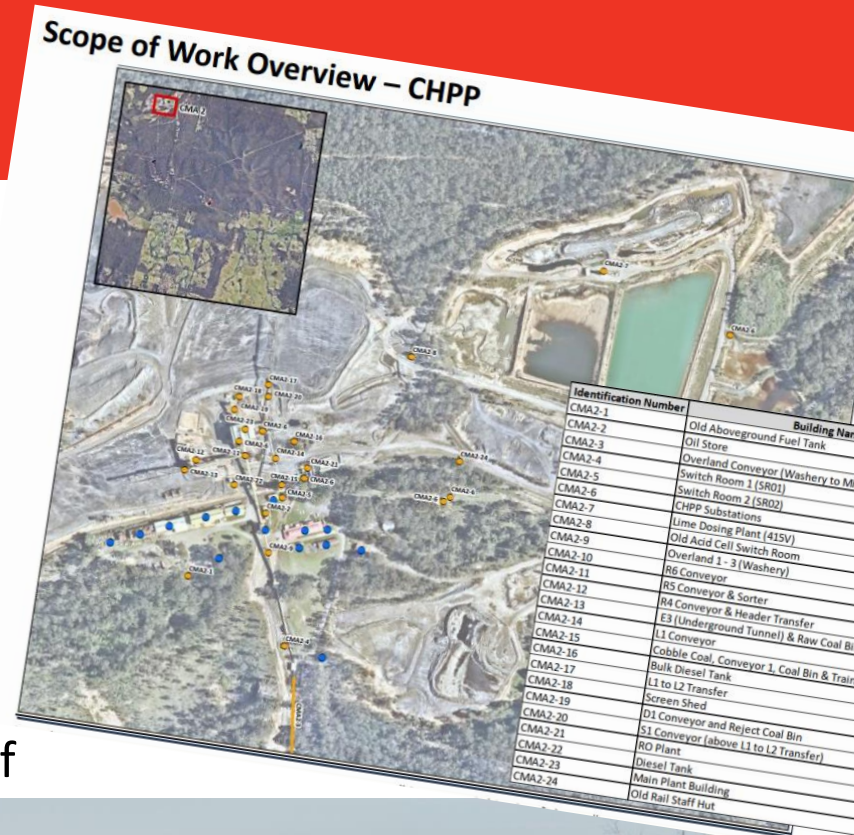


Mine Closure Planning Update

Early Works

Early Works Demolition

- Early Works demolition of non-heritage structures scheduled to commence in March 2025
- Scope includes:
 - CMA 5 (No. 3 Shaft)
 - CMA 1 (Pit Top)
 - CMA 2 (CHPP)
 - CMA 4 (No. 2 Shaft)
- Scope excludes any structure within the curtilage of a local heritage item that has been assessed to contribute to the heritage values
- Tender awarded
- Risk assessment completed
- Environmental due diligence commenced
- Demolition plans have been developed
- Demolition scheduled for completion mid 2026



Kalingo Dam Decommissioning

- Kalingo Dam is being cleared of sediment ahead of dam wall removal
- Approx 75% of the sediment in the dam floor has been removed
- Dam Safety NSW are regularly briefed on Kalingo Dam decommissioning progress
- Dam wall removal is planned to commence in Q1 2025
- Following completion of sediment removal and decommissioning activities, the dam will be rehabilitated to final landform and revegetated

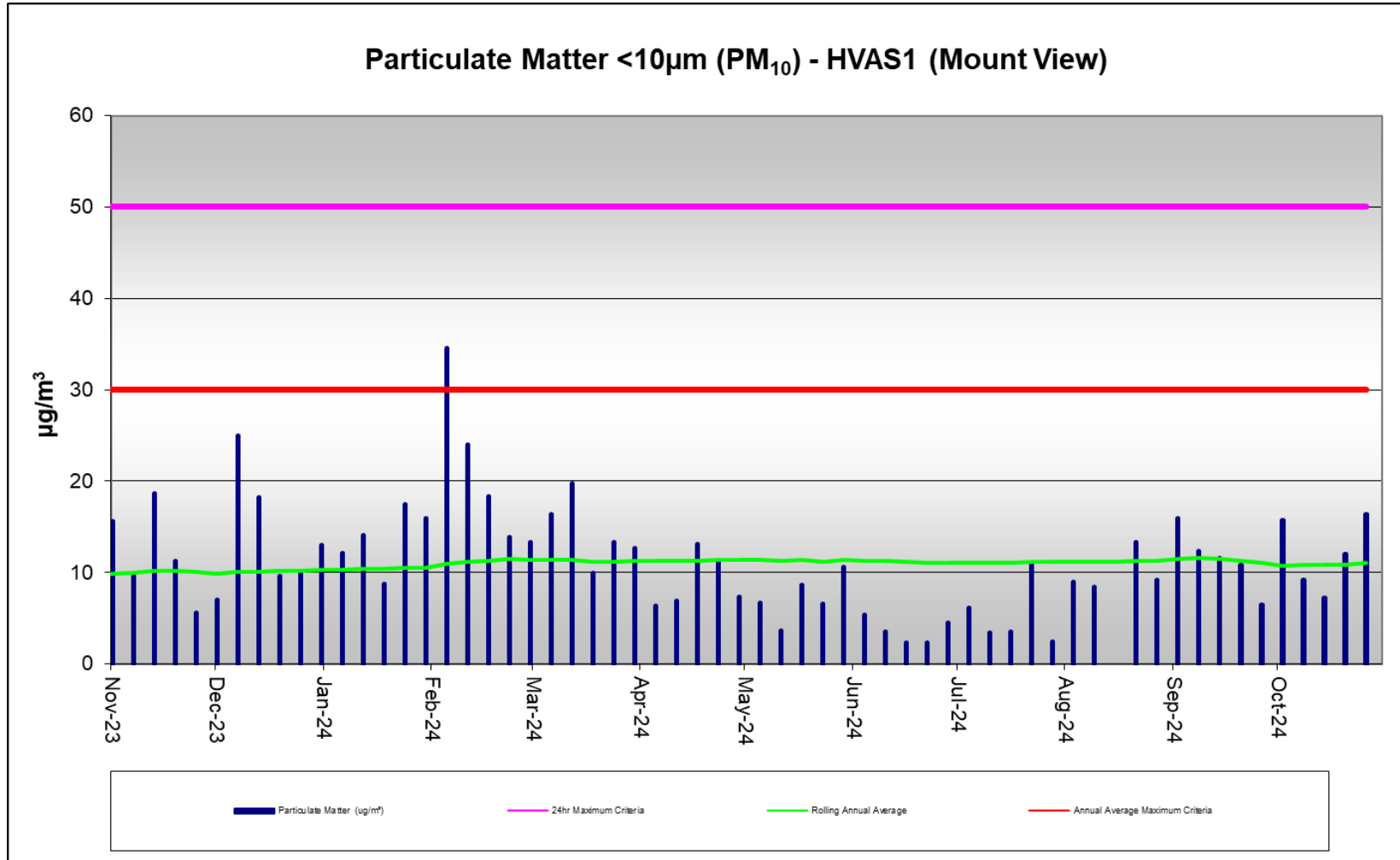


Historic Borehole Rehabilitation Project

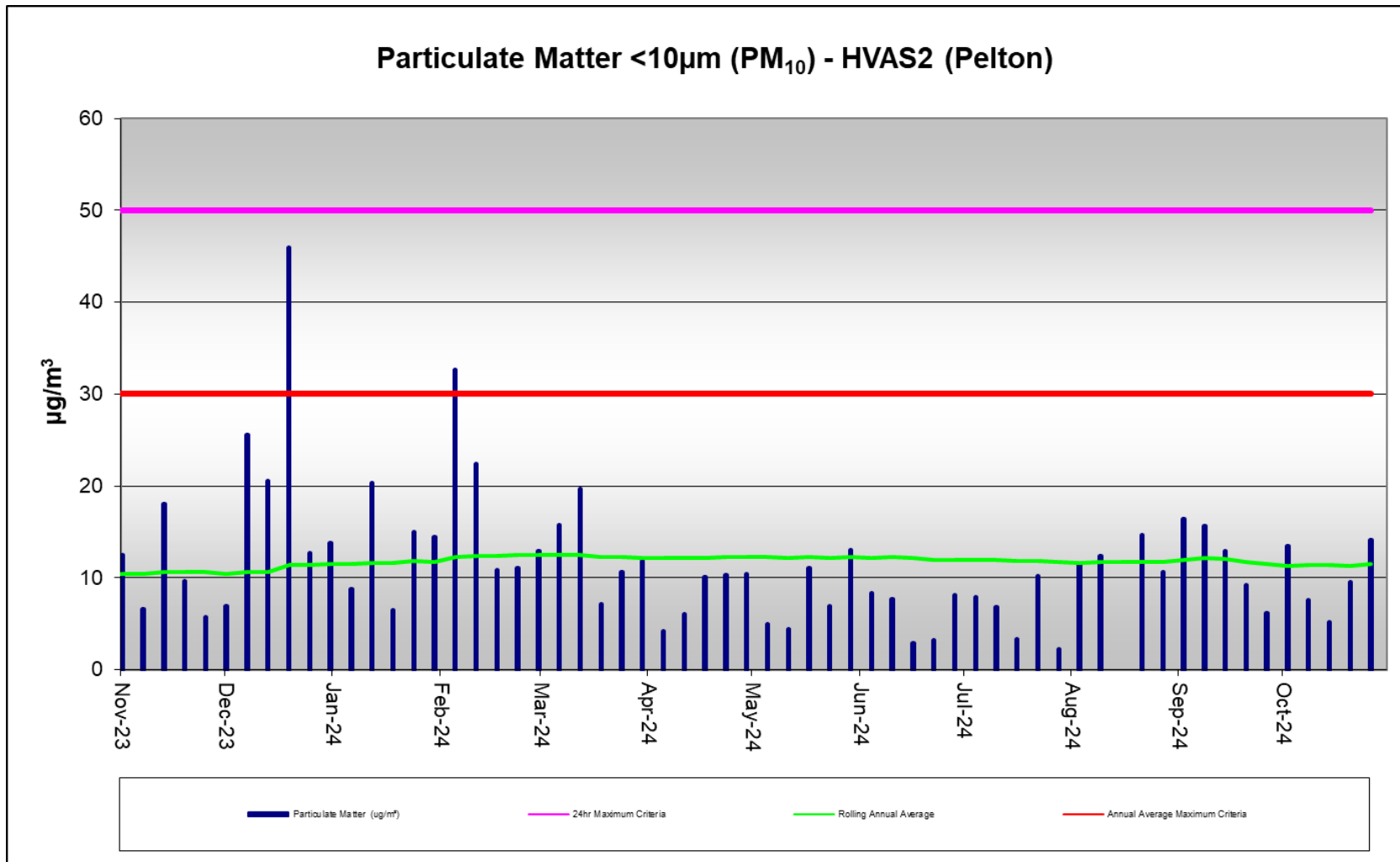
- 373 boreholes on consolidated borehole register.
- Most boreholes have been rehabilitated, 42 boreholes have been approved as adequately rehabilitated by the Resources Regulator
- Some boreholes require landholder signoff prior to lodgement with the Regulator
- Some boreholes require sealing and / or minor surface works to adequately rehabilitate the site prior to signoff by landholders and the Resources Regulator.

Environmental Monitoring Update

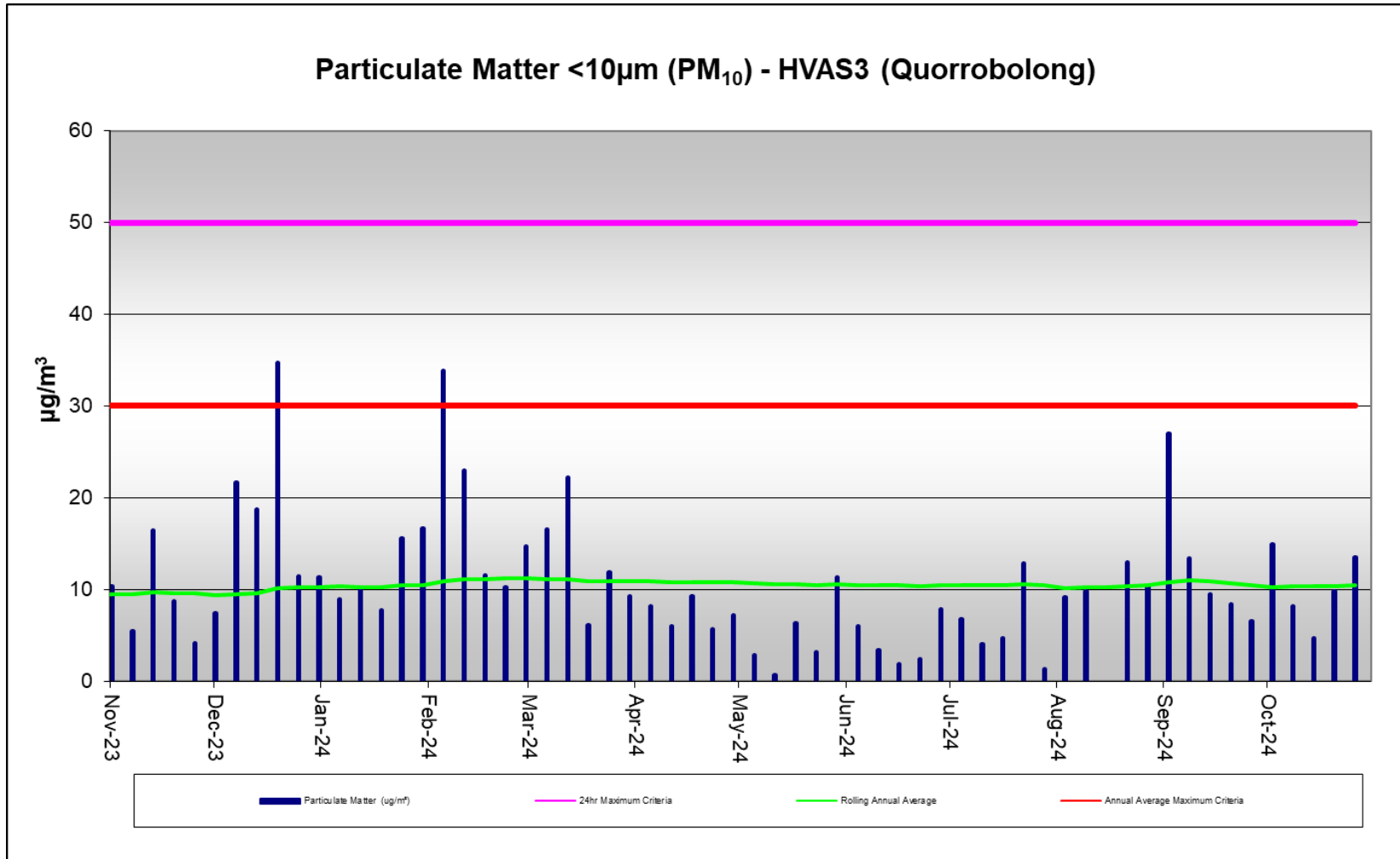
Air Quality



Air Quality

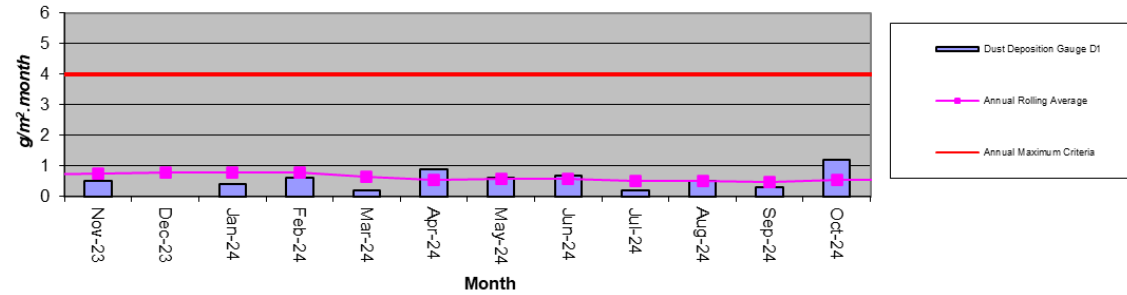


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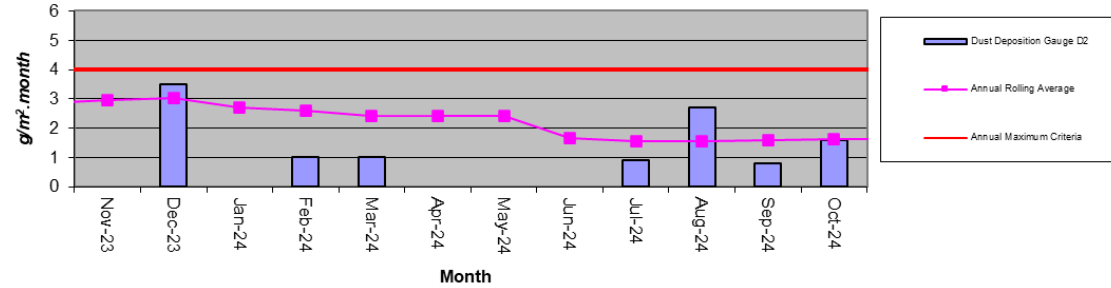


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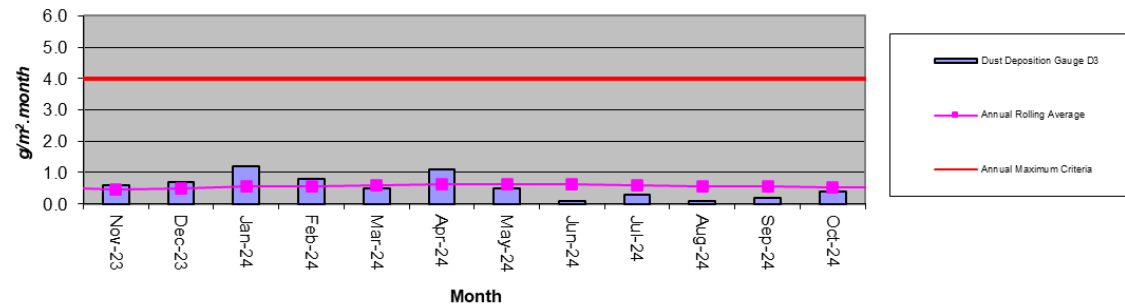
Dust Deposition Gauge D1 - Insoluble Solids



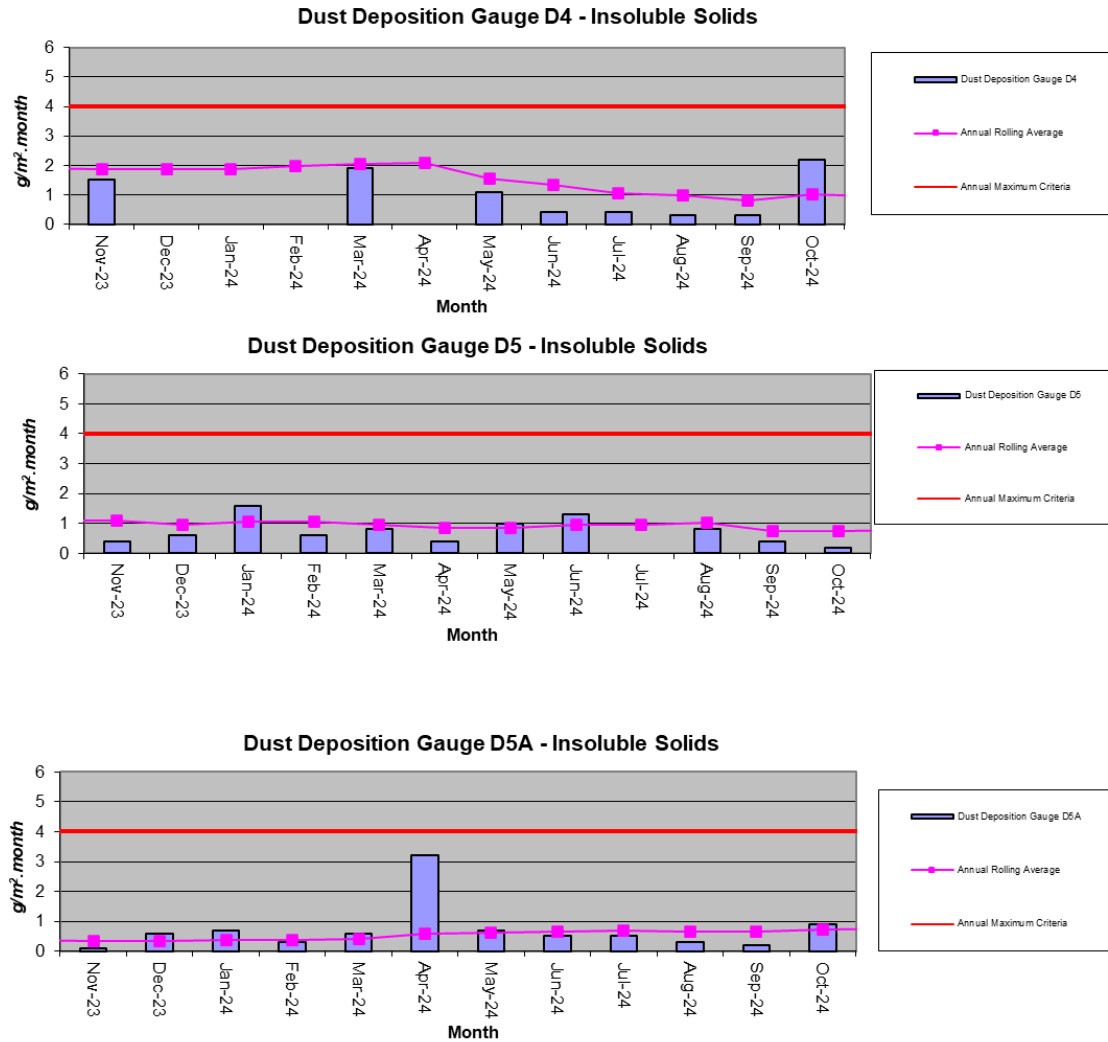
Dust Deposition Gauge D2 - Insoluble Solids



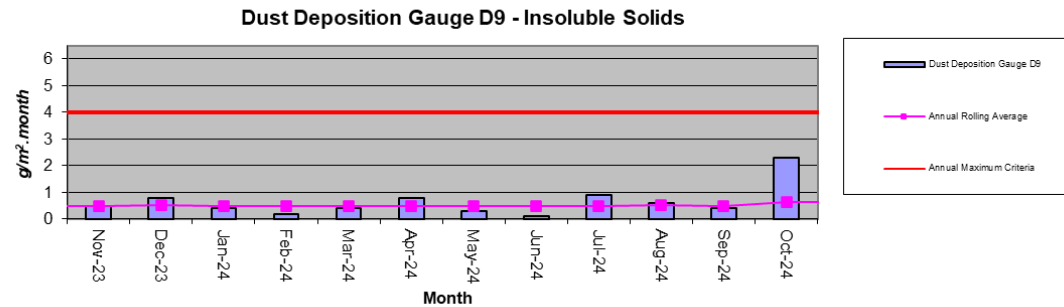
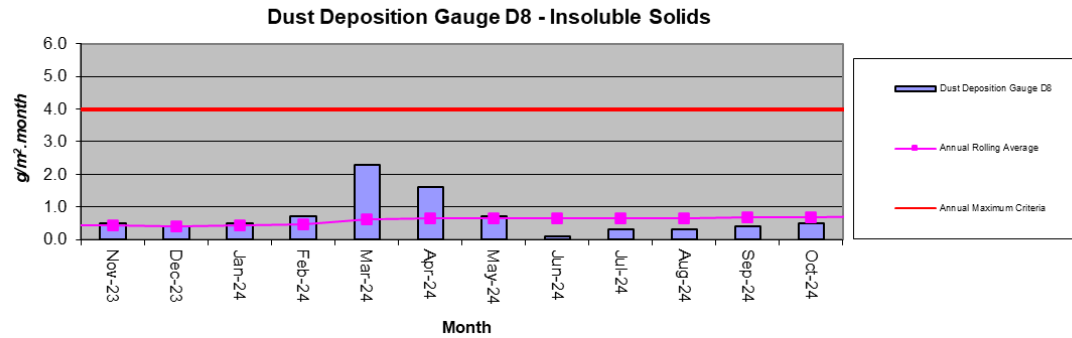
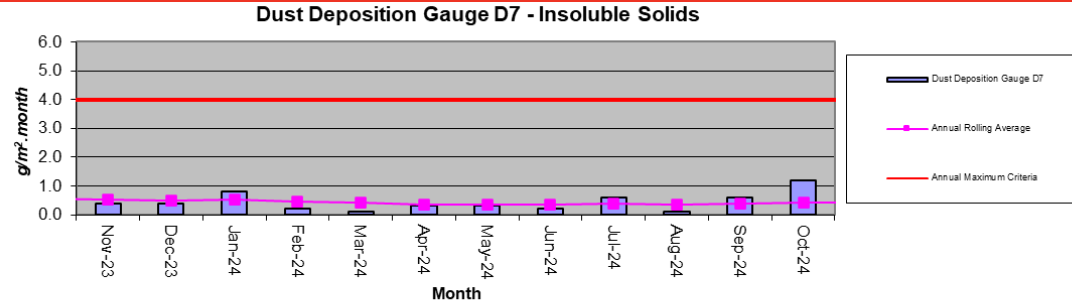
Dust Deposition Gauge D3 - Insoluble Solids



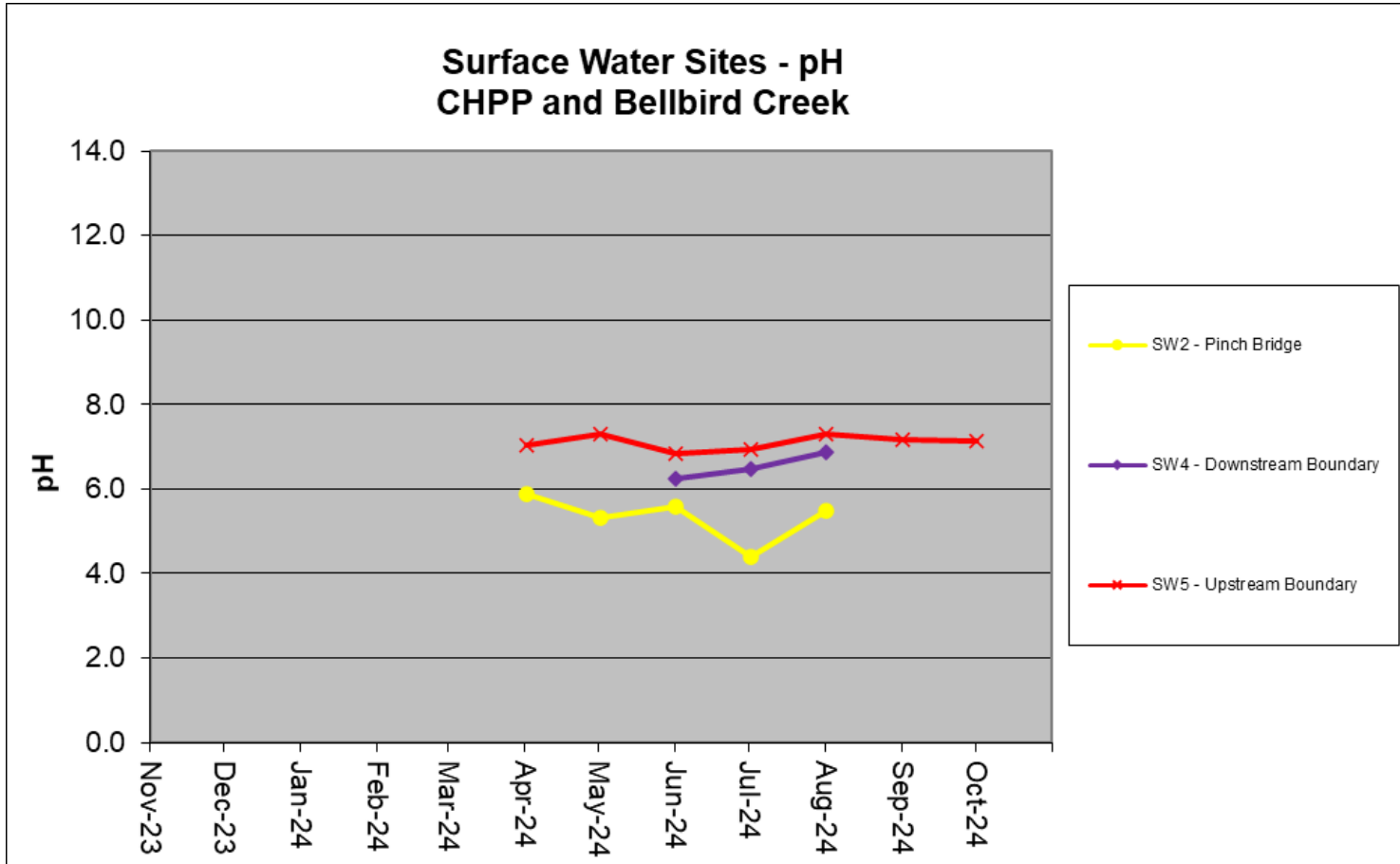
Air Quality



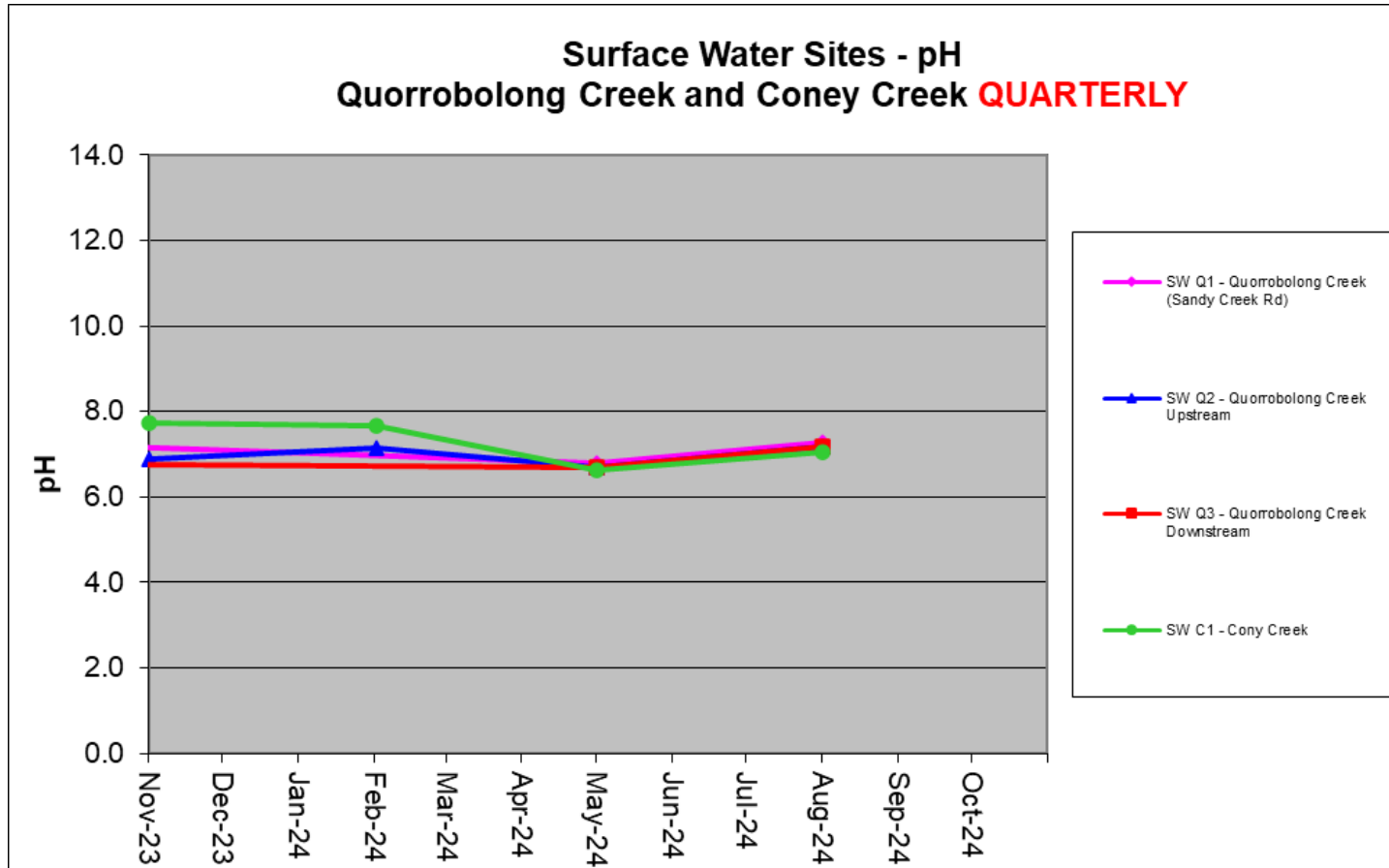
Air Quality



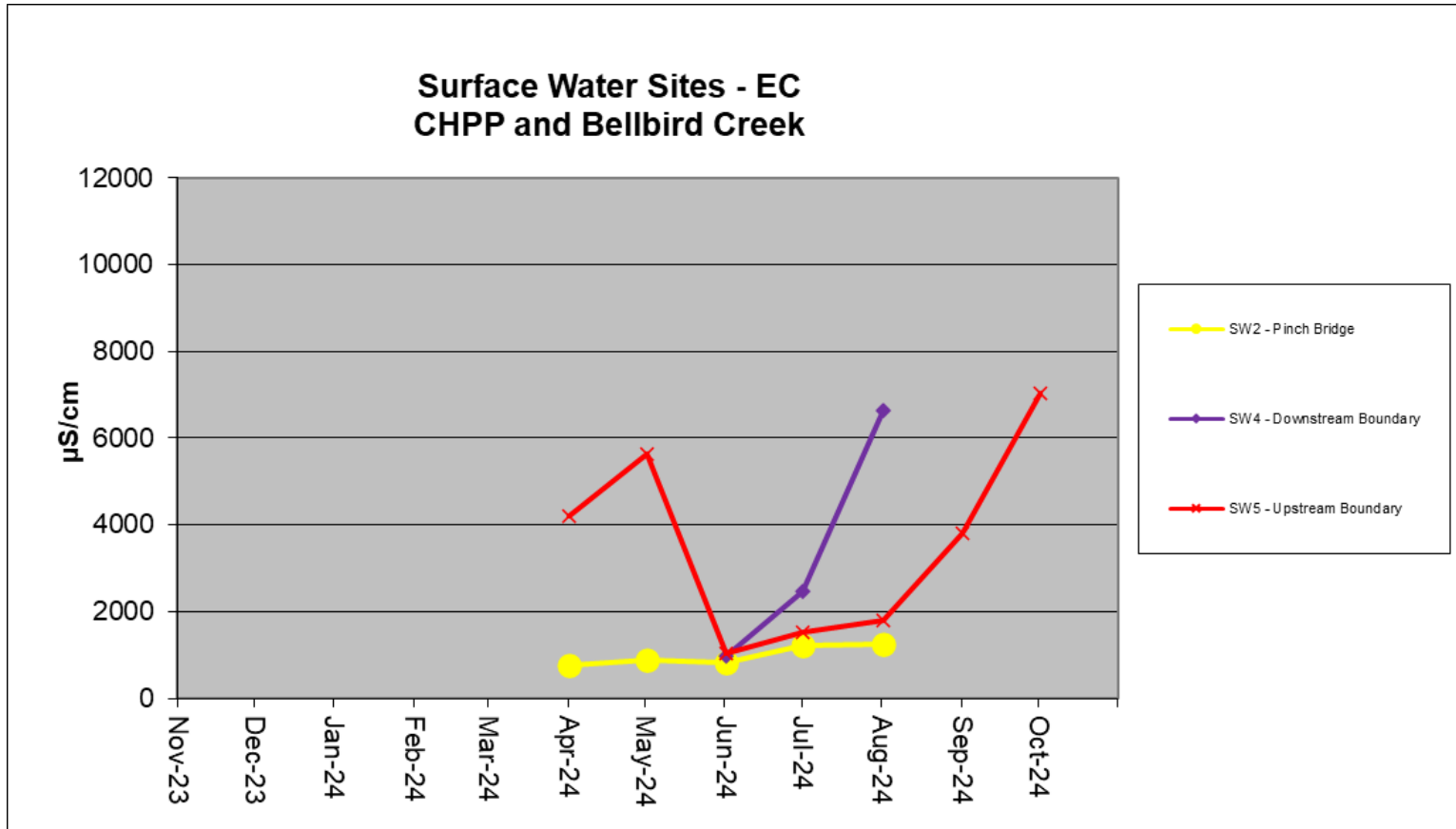
Water Monitoring



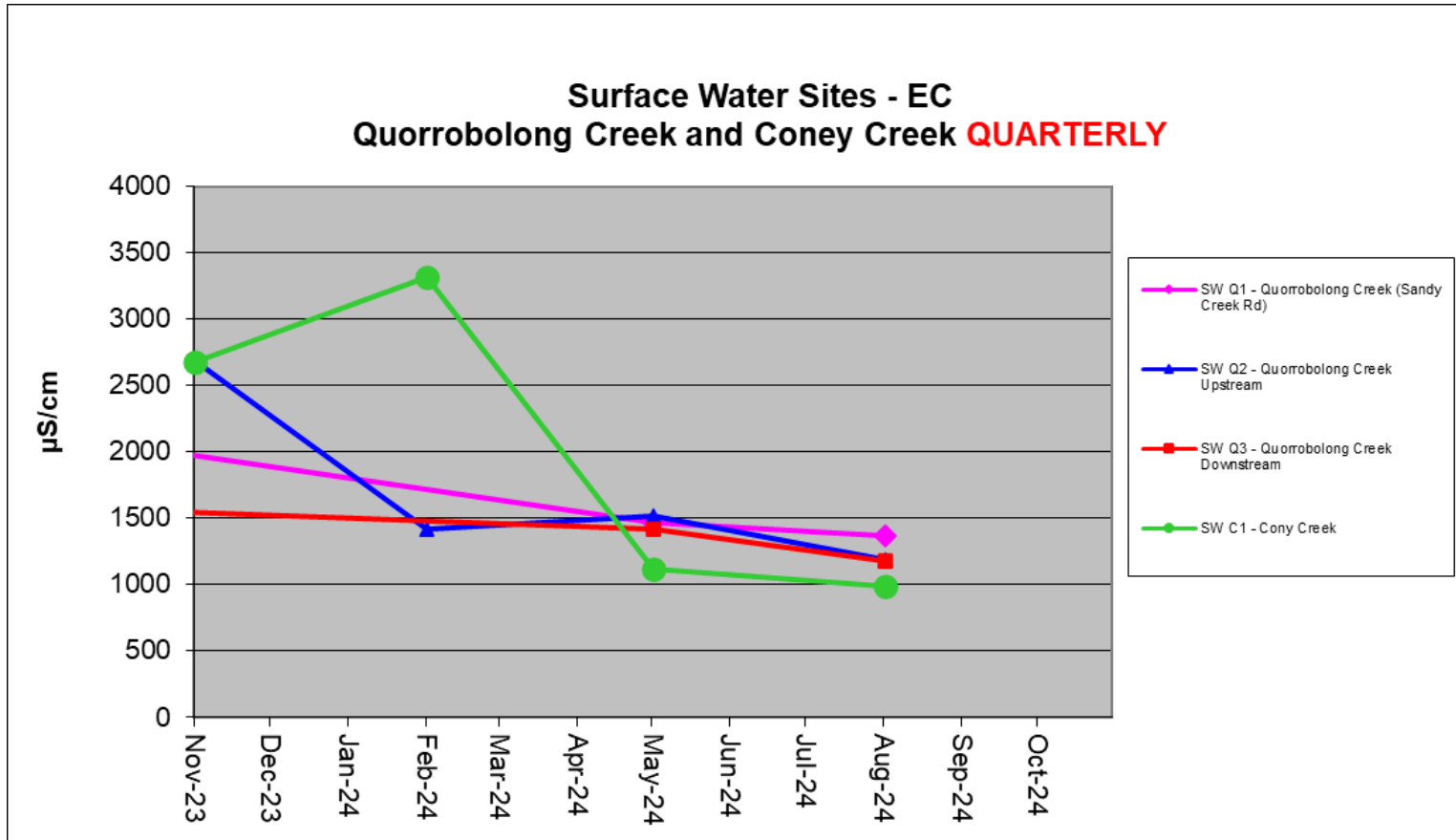
Water Monitoring



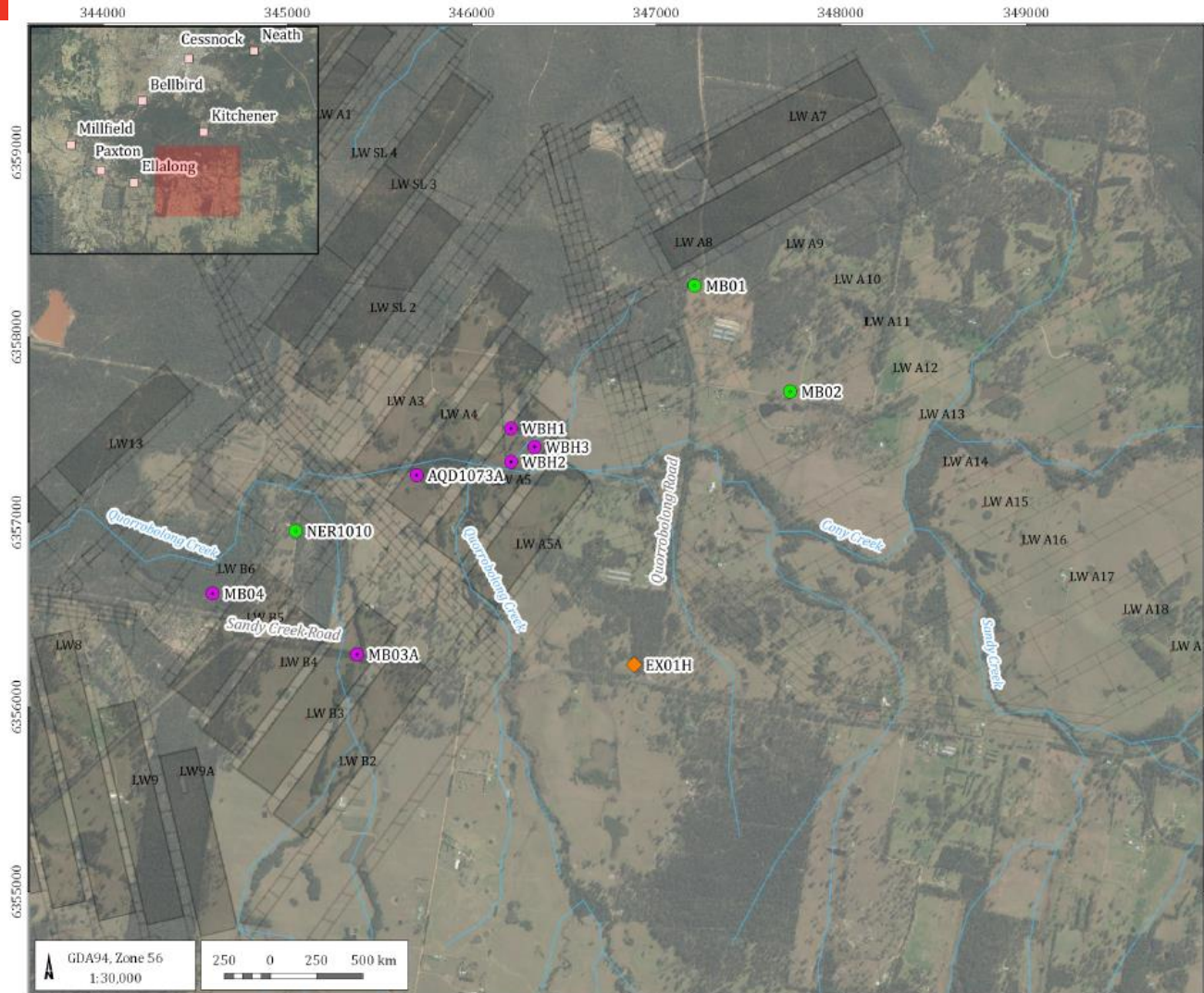
Water Monitoring



Water Monitoring



Groundwater Monitoring



- LEGEND
- Populated place
 - Monitoring locations**
 - Alluvium
 - Branxton Formation
 - VWP, Branxton Formation and Greta Coal Measures
 - Mine plan
 - Longwall panels
 - Watercourse

Yancoal - Auster Coal Mine
Groundwater Monitoring (G1828I)

Auster monitoring bore and VWP locations

DATE
24/09/2019

FIGURE No.
2.1

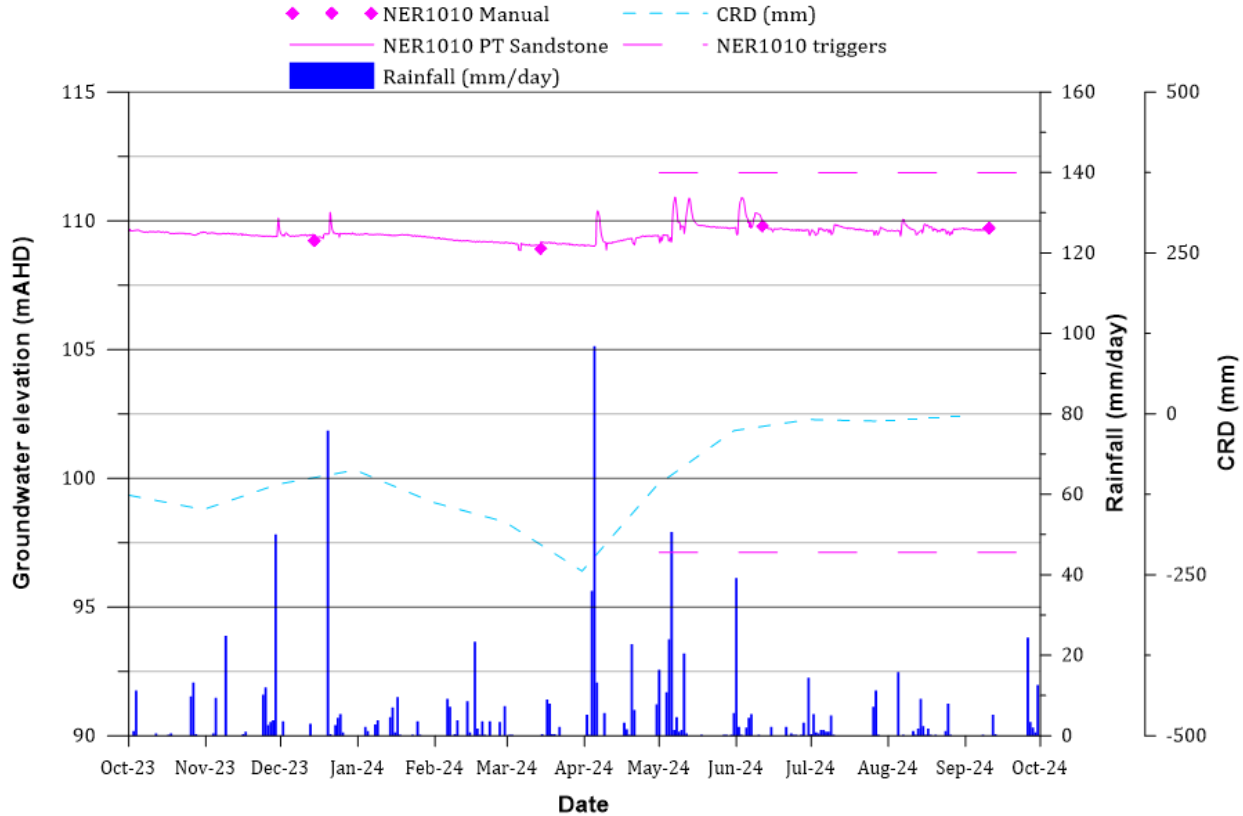


GDA94, Zone 56
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Note: longwall panel background georeferenced accuracy - 10 m.

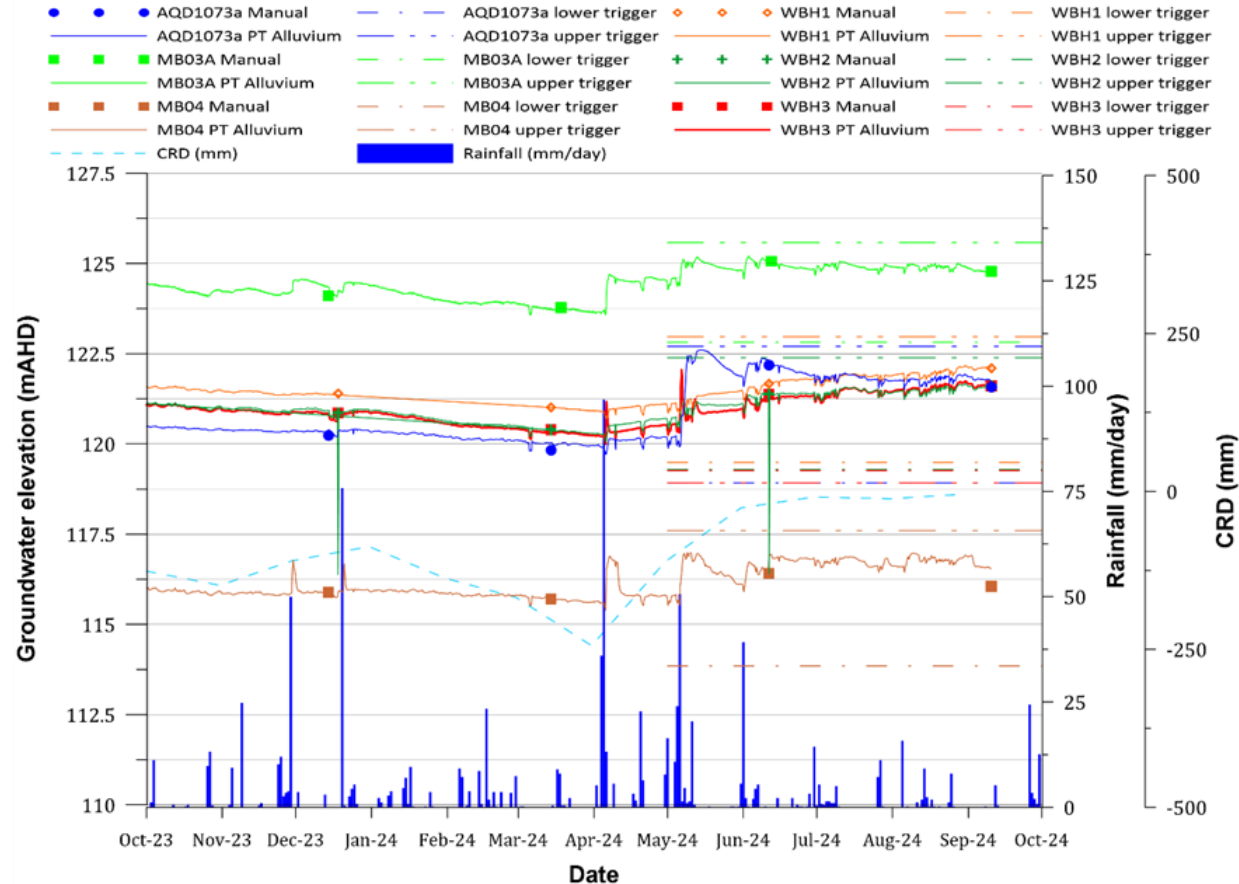


Groundwater Monitoring



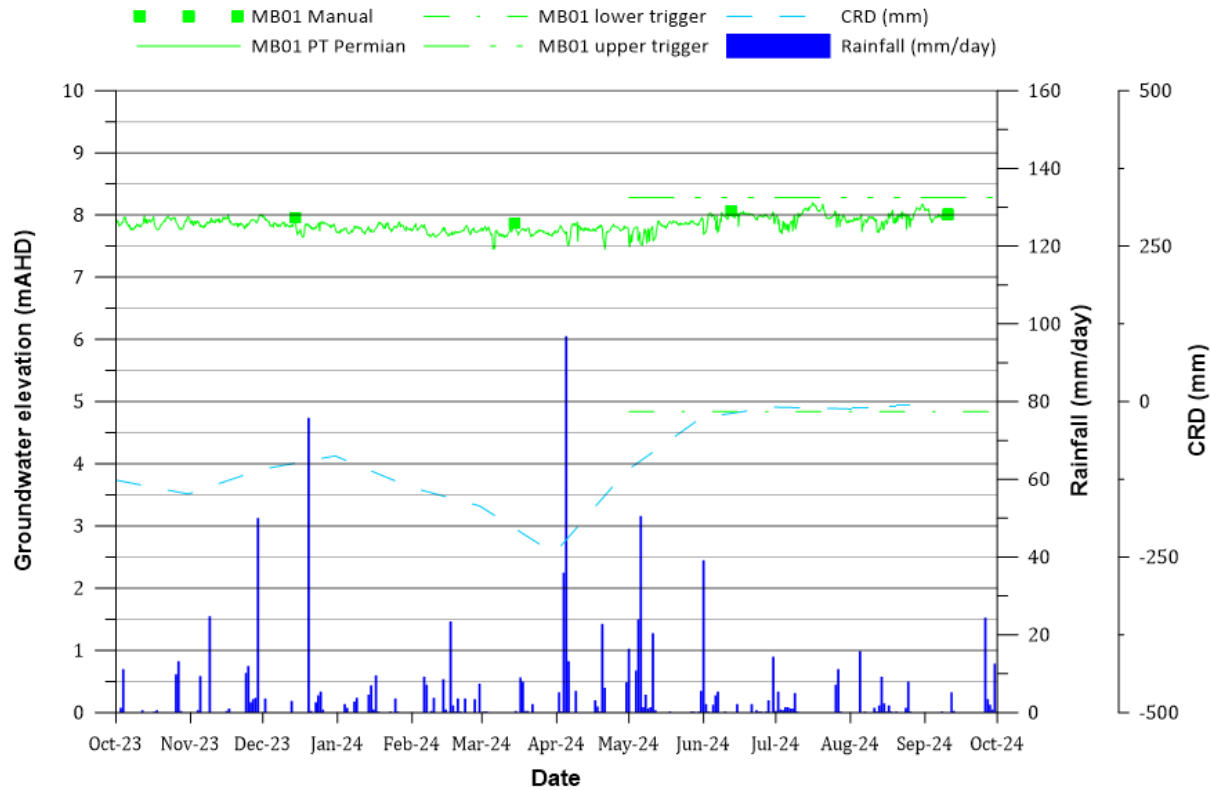
5-year NER1010 groundwater level hydrograph

Groundwater Monitoring



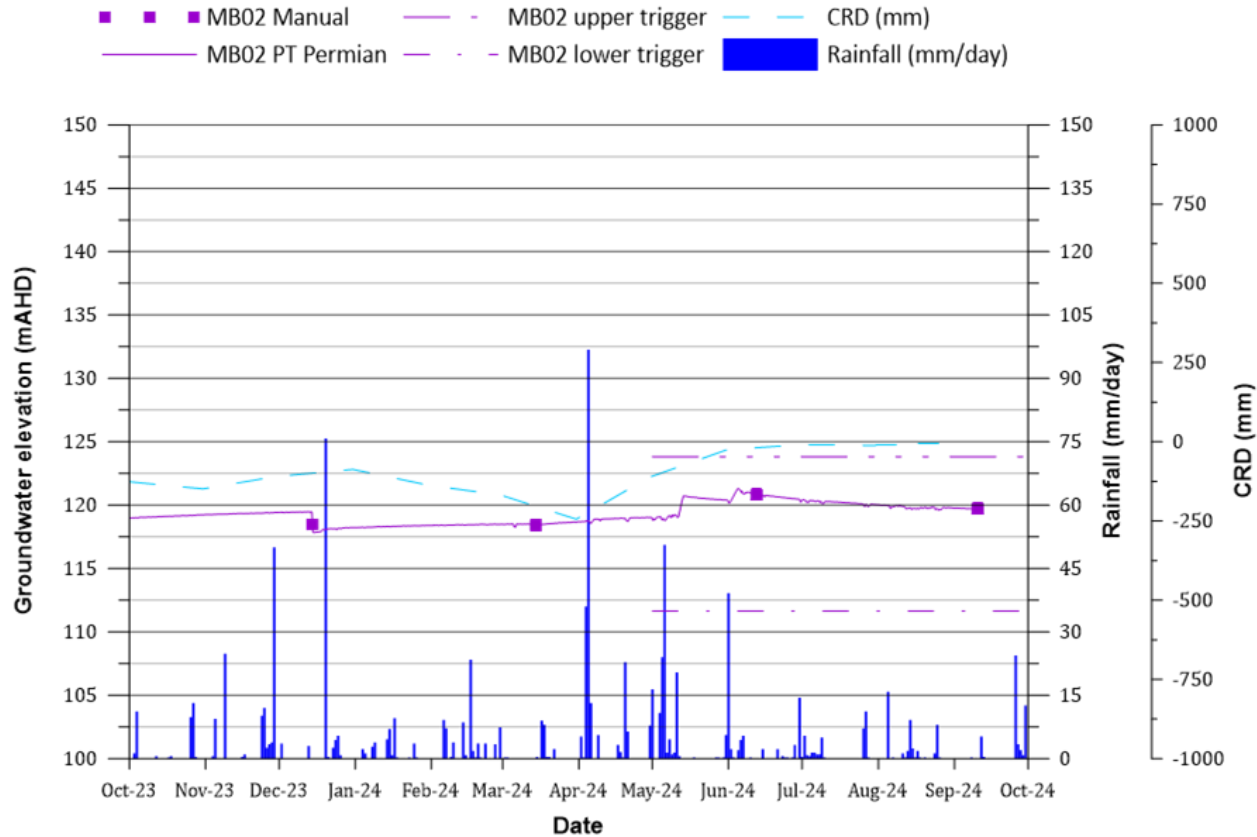
5-year stage 2 and Bellbird South alluvium and WaterNSW groundwater level hydrographs

Groundwater Monitoring



5-year stage 3 MB01 sandstone aquifer groundwater level hydrograph

Groundwater Monitoring



5-year Stage 3 MB02 sandstone aquifer groundwater level hydrograph

Since last CCC meeting (20 March 2024 – 27 November 2024)

Noise Monitoring

- No noise exceedances recorded during attended noise monitoring, no noise complaints

Operations

- CHPP and associated infrastructure remain non-operational
- Decommissioning works at CMA 1 – Pit Top, CMA 2 – Pelton CHPP, CMA 4 – No.2 Shaft and CMA 5 - Kalingo Infrastructure Area



Environmental Incidents and Community Complaints

Environmental Incidents and Complaints

- There have been no reportable incidents or community complaints since the last CCC meeting on 20 March 2024

Environmental Incidents

On-going Drainage Line Investigation – CHPP (since 6 June 2017)

- Reported to NSW EPA in monthly status reports required by EPL
- Some historic orange staining observed during all monitoring events since previous meeting
- Notable actions completed to manage the issue:
 - Additional pumping to prevent ponding and seepage in open drains
 - Desilting of the Precipitate Dam, July 2021 (potential contamination source)
 - Inclusion of acid mine drainage analysis during the Site Investigations program, June 2022 and February 2024
 - Desilting mine water drains close to the drainage line under investigation, construction of drains on Product stockpile to relocate mine water flows
 - Geochemical assessments as part of closure planning
 - Channel erosion repaired in creek line in February 2024

General Business



General Business – Bushfire Management

- Management of fire breaks with slashing was completed during September and October 2024.
- Quarterly Fire trail maintenance inspections completed during 2024.
- Bushfire Management Plan was updated in November 2023. Plan has been forwarded to RFS.



General Business – Community Support Program

Austar is currently supporting the CRLFC and the Cessnock Council Mayoral Scholarships in 2024.

Applications are now open for the Austar Community Support Program 2025.

General Business – Reporting

Published on Austar website:

- Noise and Vibration Management Plan (Approved 23/08/2024)
- Site water Management Plan (Approved 04/06/2024)

Additional reporting:

- NGERs reporting to be lodged October 2023
- Annual Review to be lodged September 2024
- EPL Annual return was lodged February 2024

Yancoal Austar's new website:

- Yancoal has transitioned to a new website.
- <https://www.yancoal.com.au/our-sites/austar/>

Other Business –

2025 Meeting Schedule

- Proposed 2025 meeting schedule to be reduced from bi-annually to annually.
- Thoughts?

Next Meeting /
Close