

**MOOLARBEN COAL OPERATIONS - COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING No. 63**

**Date:** Tuesday 29th November 2022  
**Time:** 4:06 pm  
**Location:** Moolarben Coal Training Centre  
**Attendance:** Independent Chairperson  
Lisa Andrews (LA)

Community Members

Dr Julia Imrie (JI)  
Bev Smiles (BS)  
Helen Ungaro (HU)  
Cr Katie Dicker (KD) – MWRC Delegate  
Aleshia Lonsdale (AL)  
David Stokes (DS)

Moolarben Coal Operations

Brian Wesley (BW)  
Trent Cini (TC)  
Rebecca Shanks (RS)  
Morgan Yeatman (MY) {Minute taker}  
Natalia Gardiner (NG)

Apologies

David Lowe (DL)  
Mayor MWRC - Cr Des Kennedy (DK)

***Meeting 63 Agenda and Presentation and Meeting 62 Minutes were provided to all meeting attendees.***

## 1. Introduction and Welcome

Lisa Andrews (LA) opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees to the Moolarben Coal Operations (MCO) Community Consultative Committee (CCC).

LA advised there are no changes to the declarations by the CCC members. All MCO staff have provided updated declarations (Action item 1 from the CCC meeting 62)

## 2. Apologies

David Lowe (DL)

Mayor MWRC - Cr Des Kennedy (DK), noting Cr Dicker as alternate.

## 3. Business Arising from Previous Finalised Minutes

LA confirmed previous meeting minutes finalised and distributed on 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

LA welcomed back BW as MCO General Manager.

TC informed the members that the previous action items would be addressed during the presentation.

*Actions from Meeting 62:*

1. Provide MCO with governance forms for completion and return. *Complete.*
2. Distribute MCO's response to the MDEG letter tabled at CCC Meeting 61. *Complete.*
3. Provide number of exploration holes drilled in ML1605 in 2022. *Complete - 14 sites.*

### Correspondence as sent with the Meeting Notice on 15/11/22 with 5 additional items:

- 7/9/22 – Email to members with the water data requested by JI.
- 19/9/22 – Email to members with draft minutes for review.
- 5/10/22 – Email to members with revised final minutes, following comments received.
- 5/10/22 – Email from DL advising of trial regarding St Johns Wort. DL will raise at next CCC.
- 13/10/22 – Email to members with the amended final minutes.
- 24/10/22 – Email from BS asking if mine had been closed due to rain events and whether sediment dams were coping. Forwarded to MCO for response.
- 25/10/22 – Email from MCO advising that no closures and all storage was managed on site.
- 9/11/22 – Email from MCO advising that Moolarben OC3 Extension Project has been lodged with the Department of Planning. This information forwarded on to members the same day.
- 15/11/22 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice & Agenda for this CCC.
- 18/11/22 – Email from TC advising of advertising period for OC 3 commencing and attaching EPA licence variation.
- 17/11/22 – Email from JI with request for information. Forwarded to MCO the same day.
- 22/11/22 – Email from DL with the information on the Chrysolina Beetles.
- 25/11/22 – Email from MCO with completed governance forms from all MCO staff attending this CCC on a regular basis.
- 26/11/22 – Email to members with reminder for this meeting and the COVID pre-screening form for completion.

### CCC Update Presentation

RS welcomed CCC members and provided an update on COVID-19 management actions.

RS provided an update on the 2022 Community Support Program (CSP) and Community Events since the last meeting.

RS provided an operations update and general comments on current mine progress. RS gave information regarding the EPL variation for water discharge. JI queried what structures or dams MCO was discharging from for the new

discharge location EPA #53 and EPA #54. TC confirmed that dam 209 and 302 were the emergency release dams for EPA #53 and dam 401 for EPA #54.

Jl asked whether MCO was discharging directly to the creek. TC confirmed MCO were discharging through established structures; into the existing designed culverts located in Moolarben Creek for EPA #53 and into the existing clean water diversion system for EPA #54 to dissipate flows prior to them entering the receiving environment. Jl asked TC to confirm EPA #54 was in OC4. TC confirmed EPA #54 was discharging to Wilpinjong creek.

Jl asked why MCO were so far behind in managing excess onsite water. TC stated rainfall/runoff was being stored onsite with MCO receiving between the 90th and 95th percentile rainfall in the last few years. Jl queried why mine modelling had not accounted for the higher rainfall/runoff. TC stated the most recent model included the need for MCO to release at 20 ML a day which was conditionally approved at the time. Jl stated modelling should capture rainfall extremes and site should have been prepared for managing this high rainfall scenario and not require emergency discharge of water.

BS asked whether MCO were releasing via temporary emergency discharge in addition to discharging water via the WTP. TC confirmed water was being released from the temporary emergency discharge locations and the WTP. BS asked what consideration was given to receiving waters being discharged into, e.g. erosion. TC confirmed aspects such as erosion had been considered and to date no impacts had been observed. BS stated a permanent flow was now being seen above O'Briens crossing.

TC discussed and stated the alternative long-term investigations undertaken by MCO including the construction of further water storage structures and evaporative systems, these were considered as part of the application to vary the EPL with EPA and stated the release is only intended to be short term.

BS asked what sort of climate change risk management plan is in place, and how this considered the community being impacted. TC restated MCO were investigating increasing water storage capacity as well as looking at other options such as irrigation, and evaporative systems.

Jl stated MCO approvals were originally NIL discharge based on mine modelling predictions at that time. Jl asked about downstream monitoring of the Goulburn River as banks are being undercut and trees falling. TC replied MCO have existing monitoring programs that will continue including channel stability and stream health monitoring programs. KD asked if discharging from EPA #54 was coordinated with Wilpinjong Coal Mine in regard to their discharges. TC stated that there is ongoing communication with Wilpinjong Coal Mine, and releases were being undertaken simultaneously.

RS provided information on WTP incident. Jl asked how long Chlorine release went for. TC stated approximate dates for release including approximately 90ML released during that period with Chlorine levels similar to drinking water guidelines. TC stated the incident was reported to the DPE, EPA and Resources Regulator. TC discussed the WTP process. Jl asked whether an early warning detection system had been installed as a learning from incident. TC confirmed that systems associated with the WTP were revised and process updated as a result of the incident.

RS stated longwall mining in LW401 which is in UG4 was due to be completed this week. Jl asked for an update on the subsidence in LW401 against predictions. TC stated he didn't have results at the meeting but they have been generally within predictions. Jl stated subsidence causes surface cracking which increasing permeability and rain infiltration. TC stated MCO were seeing approximately 20ML/day from UG operations, including water supply, inflows, and recirculation, with an increase in recirculation as a result of the increased water stored in pit.

Jl asked if SW22 was accessed by MCO via the National Park. TC confirmed the monitoring location is accessed via the National Park and sampled monthly. Jl recommended MCO speak with her regarding the monitoring location. TC confirmed that consultation with Jl regarding the monitoring site will be part of the process for installation.

RS provided an exploration update. RS closed out Action item 3 from CCC meeting 62 stating 14 sites had been drilled in ML1715 during 2022.

RS provided an update on environmental monitoring.

RS advised the monitoring results for discharge water were generally consistent and in compliance. JI asked about the WTP. TC discussed the WTP process detailing each type of the process. BS asked what was happening with brine now that site dams were full. TC confirmed brine was being stored onsite in MCO's brine water dams and being used in dust suppression in the Open Cut.

JI asked what water quality monitoring was required and whether maximum levels had been set for the emergency water discharge. TC confirmed the three parameters shown in the presentation were required to be tested. JI asked it be noted her objection to the absence of maximum discharge limits on EC (salinity), metals, grease and other parameters on emergency discharge water monitoring. TC confirmed EC of the emergency release water was generally within the range of 1000-2500 $\mu$ S/cm.

RS provided an update on surface water results. JI and BS asked whether the data presented was prior to the temporary emergency release commencing. TC confirmed that the presented results were prior to the temporary emergency release commencing.

RS advised all noise monitoring was completed and compliant with the relevant approved noise management plan.

RS provided an update on air quality with current levels reflective of climatic conditions. KD asked whether there were any adjustments to noise monitoring programs based on access issues as a result of weather conditions being experienced (e.g. bogged cars). RS confirmed that for some monitoring programs access had been impacted due to the wet ground conditions but not for noise.

RS provided an update on complaints.

RS provided a rehabilitation and offset management update.

TC provided information on the proposed Underground 2 Modification. BS asked if response to submissions was still in circulation or if the report was available on the web. TC stated he did not know if the report was on the DPE website. LA stated she would check the website (**Action 1**).

TC provided an update on the Open Cut 3 Extension Project. JI asked what biodiversity offsets were being proposed for the 624<sup>1</sup> ha of critically endangered ecosystems being cleared, including impacts to seven threatened fauna species. TC provided a brief update on the requirements for offsets.

JI asked why stygofauna testing was only from bores in the current Stage 2 area and not from the Extension project area. TC stated he would take the question on notice. JI also stated the tests did not include the alluvium aquifer (**Action 2**). JI discussed the importance of the fresh springs that ringed the valley and said they contributed fresh water reducing salinity levels in the creeks. TC said surface water drainage would be reinstated following operations. JI stated her concern that fresh groundwater flow across the valley floor would be intercepted and contaminated by the disturbed mined areas before it reached the Moolarben creek. DS commented that the seeps themselves were not being impacted so the water would still be there after mining.

JI asked if infrastructure and roads were being placed in the 200m buffer of the Open Cut 3 Extension area and how much vegetation would be impacted. TC confirmed disturbance not including open cut mining would be occurring in the buffer. JI stated the buffer was a riparian zone and suggested MCO should revegetate the riparian zone along Moolarben and Murdering creek now to provide genuine biodiversity offsets and that proposed haul roads and mine

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<sup>1</sup> The OC3 Extension Project would result in the clearance of approximately 825.8 ha including approximately 624.4 ha of native vegetation and approximately 201.4 ha of non-native vegetation and infrastructure.

infrastructure should be excluded from this zone. BS asked how sediment flow from hauls roads was managed. TC confirmed sediment drains, and dams would manage runoff similar to the existing operation.

TC provided details on key project benefits for the OC3 extension project. BS asked in relation to blast criteria that considering she observing blasts how was modelling showing no impact in Wollar and surrounds. TC stated modelling showed blasting would not exceed limits in those areas. JI asked to confirm which day BS made a blasting complaint in the last week. MY confirmed the complaint was received by MCO on Tuesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

TC provided an update on the OC3 extension project community newsletter (**Action 3**) and community information session to be held on 7 December. TC discussed the mapped areas over future time periods for the life of the OC3 extension project. BS asked how the highwall would be stabilised. TC confirmed geotechnical studies would be undertaken to ensure walls were safe and stable.

RS provided an employment update. LA asked what trades mainly contributed to the displayed numbers. RS stated trades were in several fields. BS asked if there were still vacancies which TC confirmed. BS stated new information in the EIS and approvals process was rewriting existing information which showed MCO was understating impacts.

#### 4. General Business

JI asked TC to confirm if 20ML a day was being pumped out from underground. TC confirmed approximately 20ML/day from UG operations, including water supply, inflows, and recirculation.

DS stated mine modelling was completed during dry times and would not pick up wet conditions appropriately.

LA confirmed that an email received by members contained the emergency release information queried earlier in the meeting.

LA provided information from DL regarding Chrysolina beetles. TC stated MCO have been in consultation with the LLS and MWRC regarding access to the beetle.

#### 5. Next Meetings: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023, on site at 1:00pm. Subsequent 2023 meetings proposed for 6<sup>th</sup> June, 5<sup>th</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Meeting closed at 5:21pm with LA thanking members for their attendance and participation for the 2022 year. TC also thanked members for their 2022 participation and provided members with Christmas hampers in appreciation of their contributions to the CCC during 2022 on behalf of MCO.

#### Action Items:

Item	Action	Responsibility
1	Check website for response to submissions for proposed UG 2 Modification	LA
2	Confirm stygofauna sampling locations for OC3 extension project	TC
3	Provide electronic copy of community newsletter to CCC members	TC



# Community Consultative Committee Update

November 2022

Moolarben Coal Operations



# COVID – 19 Update

- Yancoal continues to proactively manage and monitor the situation.
- Site access requirements including;
  - Temperature screening,
  - Pre-Screening forms or ‘App’ prior to attending the site, and
  - Continued enhanced cleaning.



# 2022 Community Support Program (CSP)

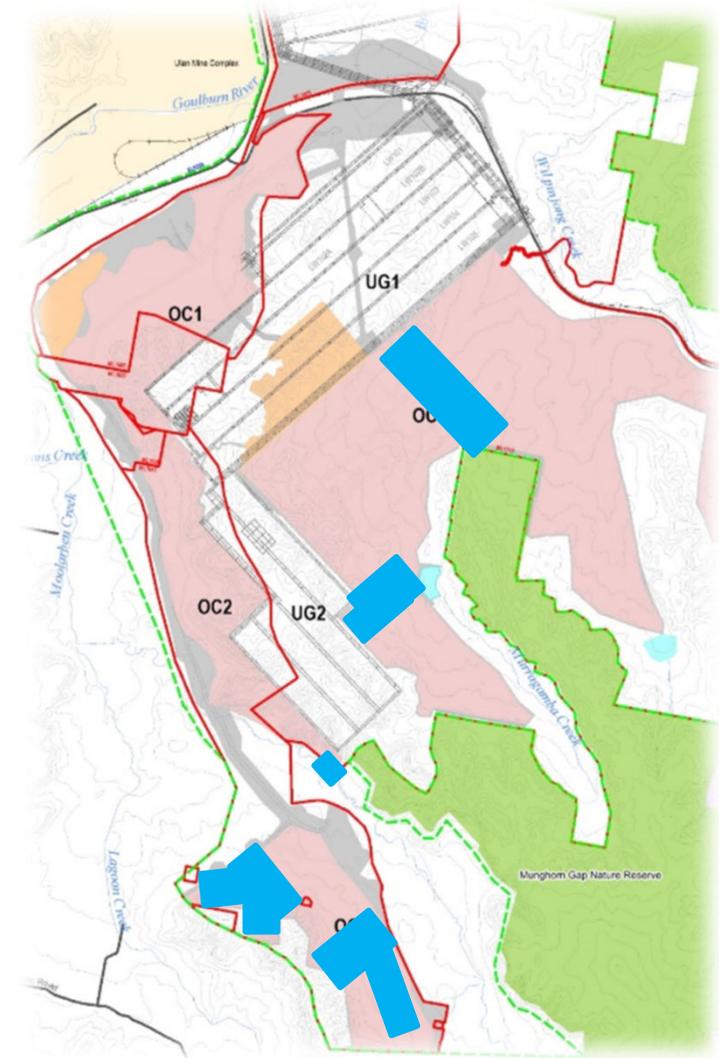
Yancoal-Moolarben Coal CSP Events Support during 2022 include;

- Sponsor of the Annual Sculptures in the Garden
- Dunedoo Tunes on the Turf
- McGrath Foundation – Pink up Mudgee
- Continued support for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter



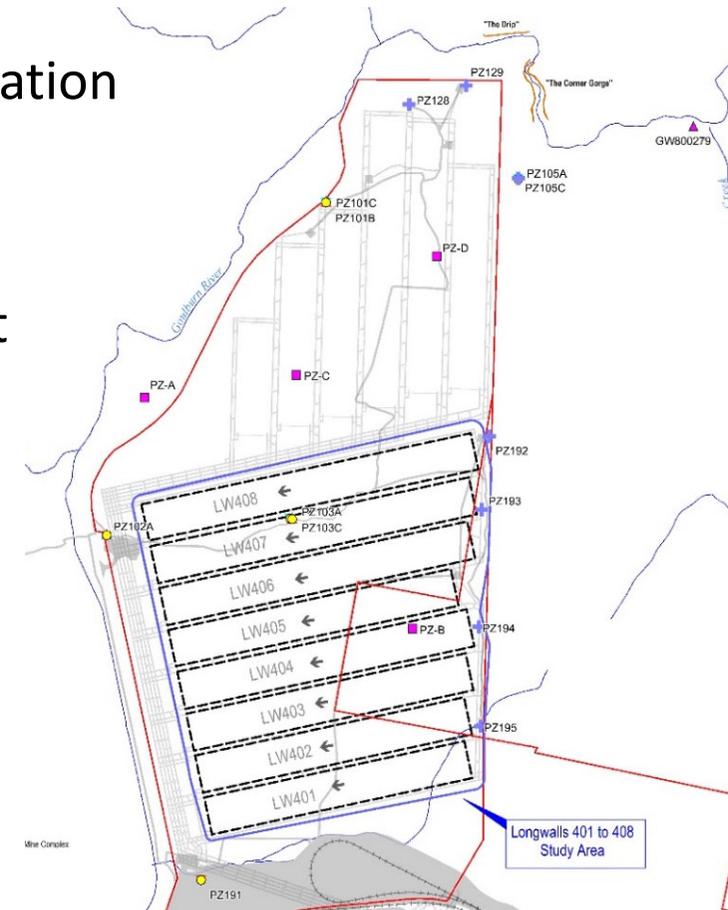
# Operational Update - Opencut

- Open cut operations in OC2, OC3 & OC4.
- IWQS subject to DPE approval.
- EPL Variation for Emergency Water Discharge up until 31 December 2022.
  - EPA-01 release up to 20 megalitres per day.
  - EPA-53 release up to 45 megalitres per day.
  - EPA-54 release up to 20 megalitres per day.
- Reverse Osmosis membrane failure within the WTP during October 2022 resulting in free chlorine within the release water.



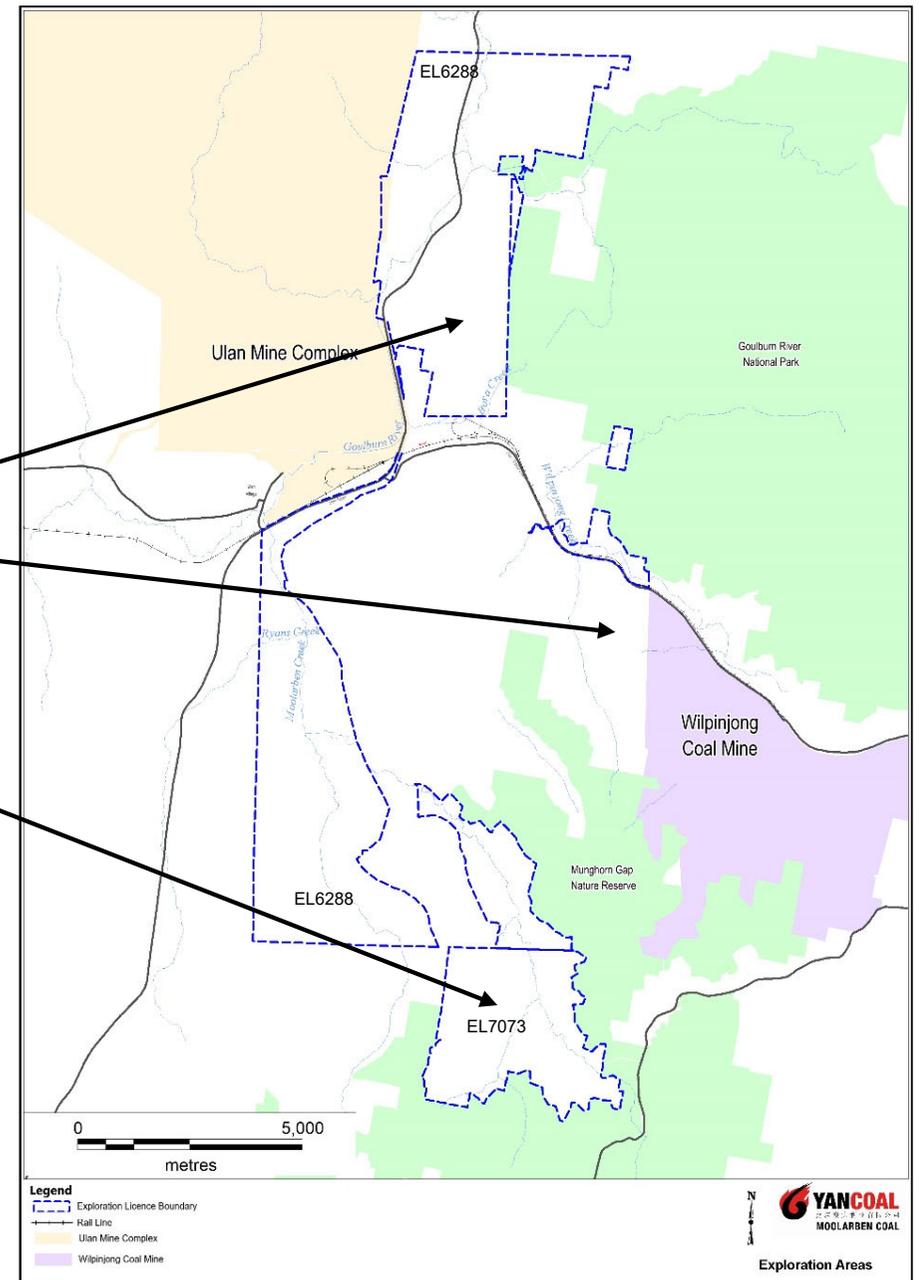
# Operational Update - Underground

- Longwall mining in UG4 due for completion in LW401 this week.
- Continued underground development in UG4.
- UG4 EP continued Implementation
  - Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Array installation on going
  - Monitoring commenced at SW22, SW23 and SW24. Establishment of a surface water monitoring station at SW22 under investigation.
  - Groundwater Monitoring
    - PZ194 and PZ195– complete
    - PZ – A – planned for 2023
    - PZ – B – complete
    - PZ – C – complete
    - PZ – D – complete
    - PZ – E – planned for 2023
    - PZ – F – planned for 2023



# Exploration Update

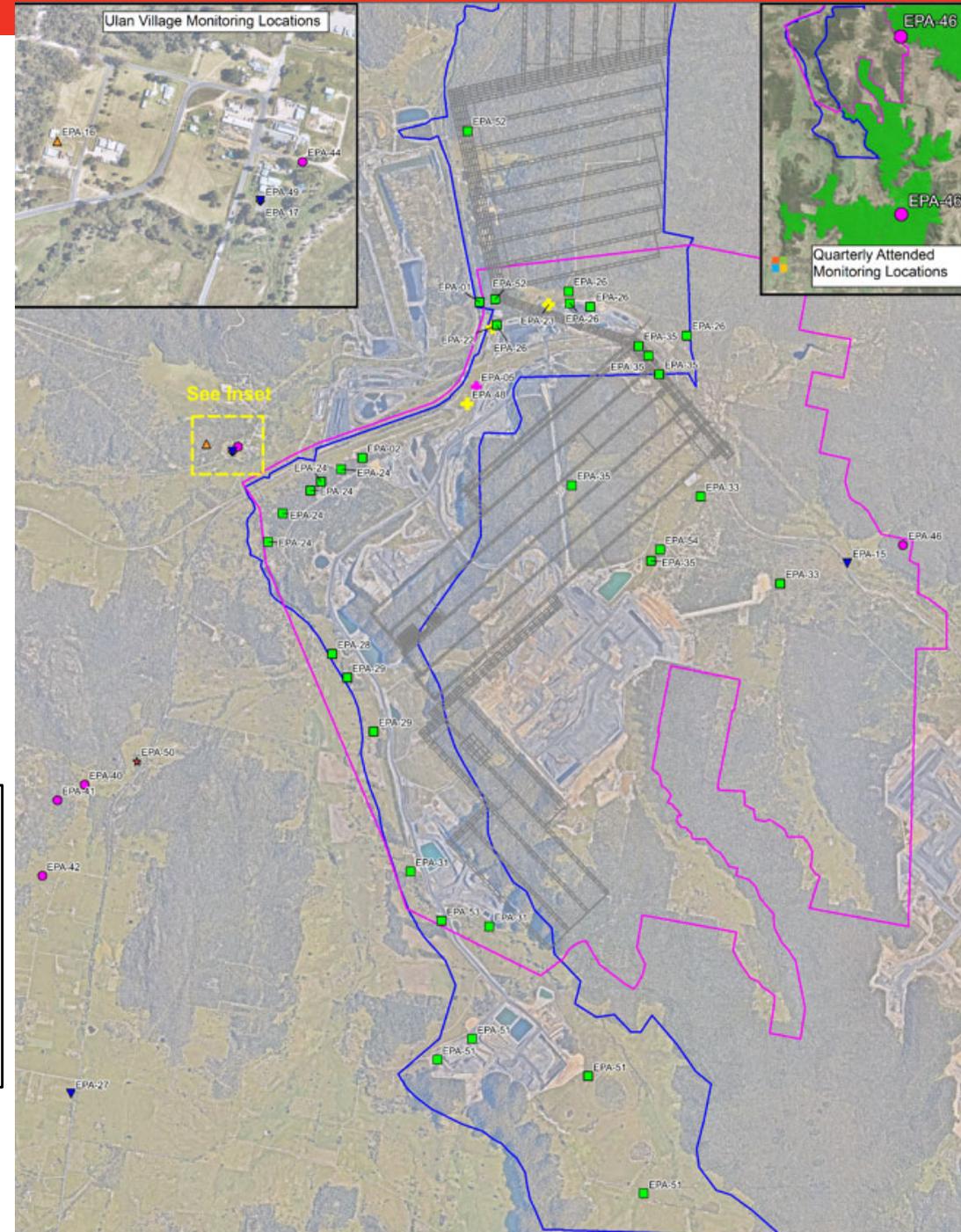
- Wet weather conditions have impacted access to exploration program
- Drilling – programs commenced in ML1605 and planned to commence ML1715
- Drilling is planned to continue in EL7073.
- Rehabilitation and monitoring activities have continued during the period.



# Environmental Monitoring

## Monitoring network

- Water;
- Air Quality;
- Blasting;
- Noise;
- Meteorology.



### Legend

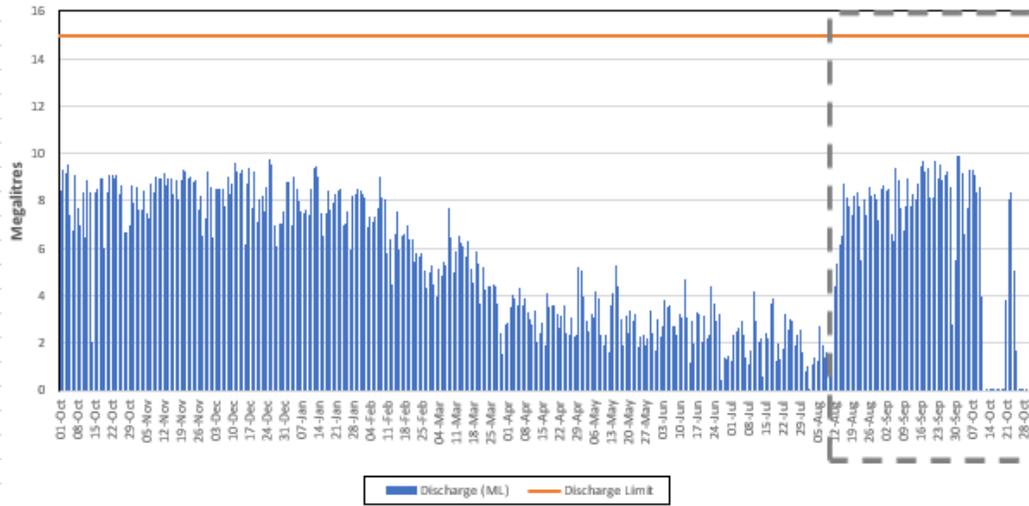
- Stage 1 DA Boundary
- Stage 2 DA Boundary
- Approved Underground Workings

### EPL Monitoring Locations

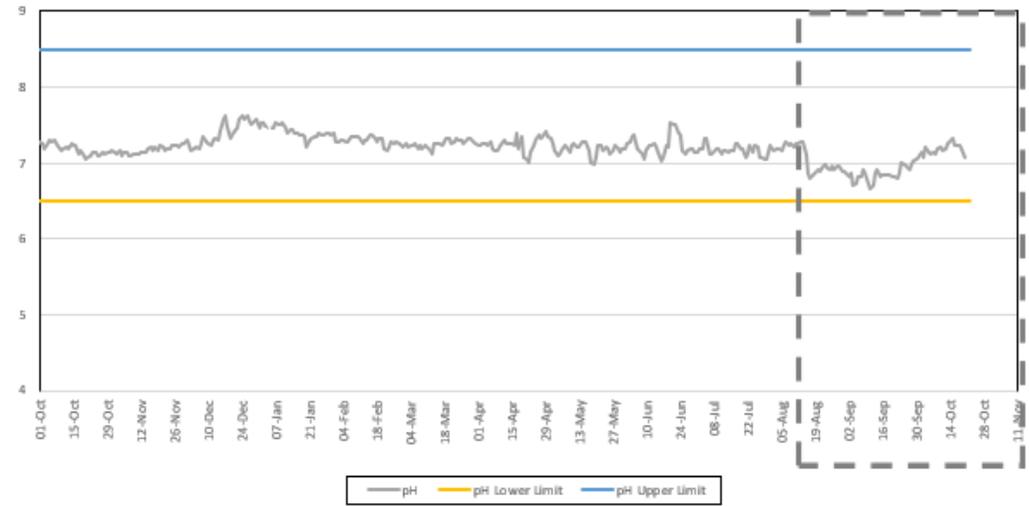
- Real-time TEOM
- Effluent Monitoring
- Water Discharge Point
- Attended Noise Monitor
- Effluent discharge and monitoring
- Blast Monitor
- Weather Station
- PM10 Monitor

# Water Release – EPA01

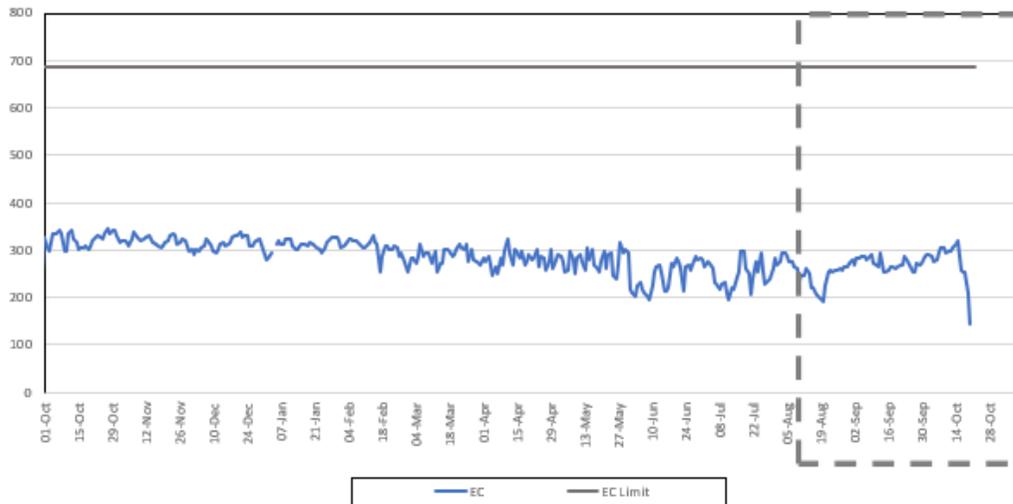
EPA 1 Daily Discharge Volumes  
October 2021 - October 2022



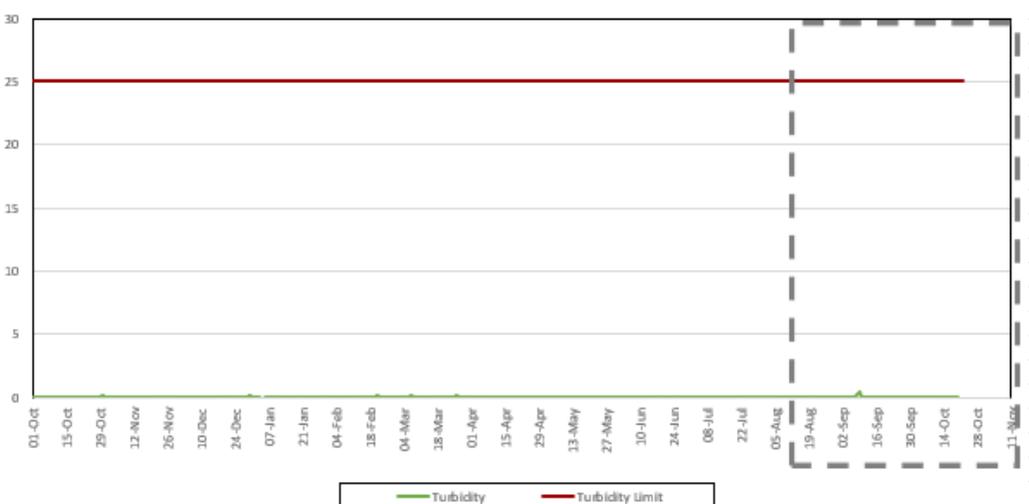
EPA 1 Daily Average pH  
October 2021 - October 2022



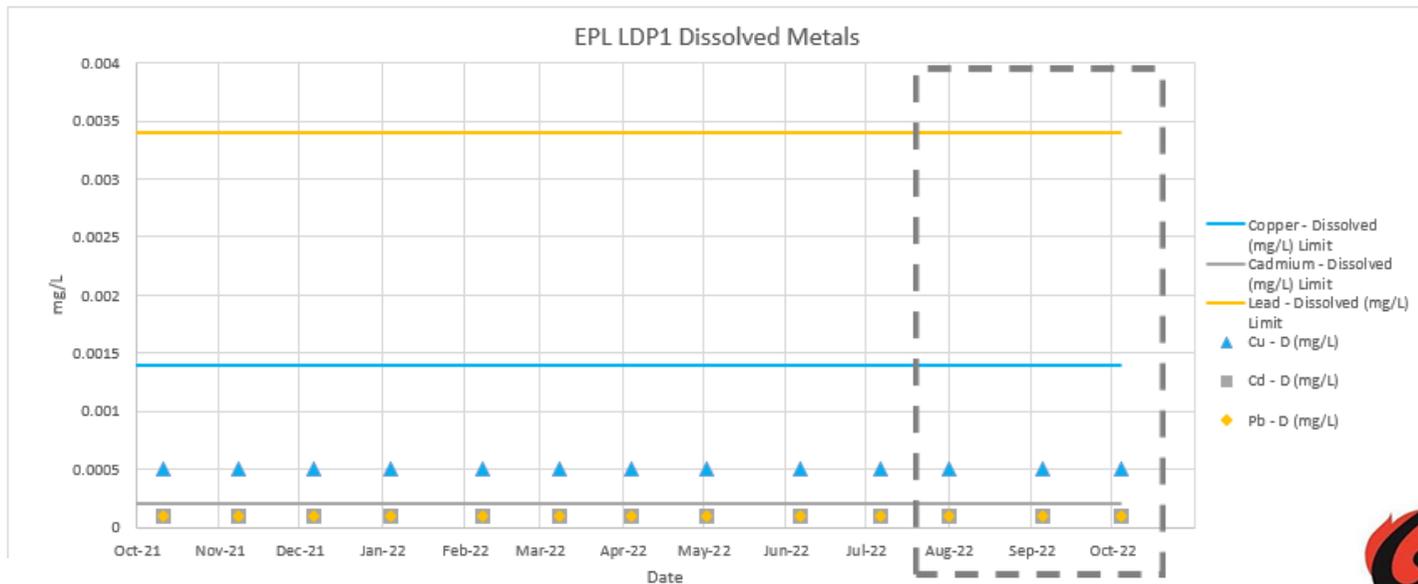
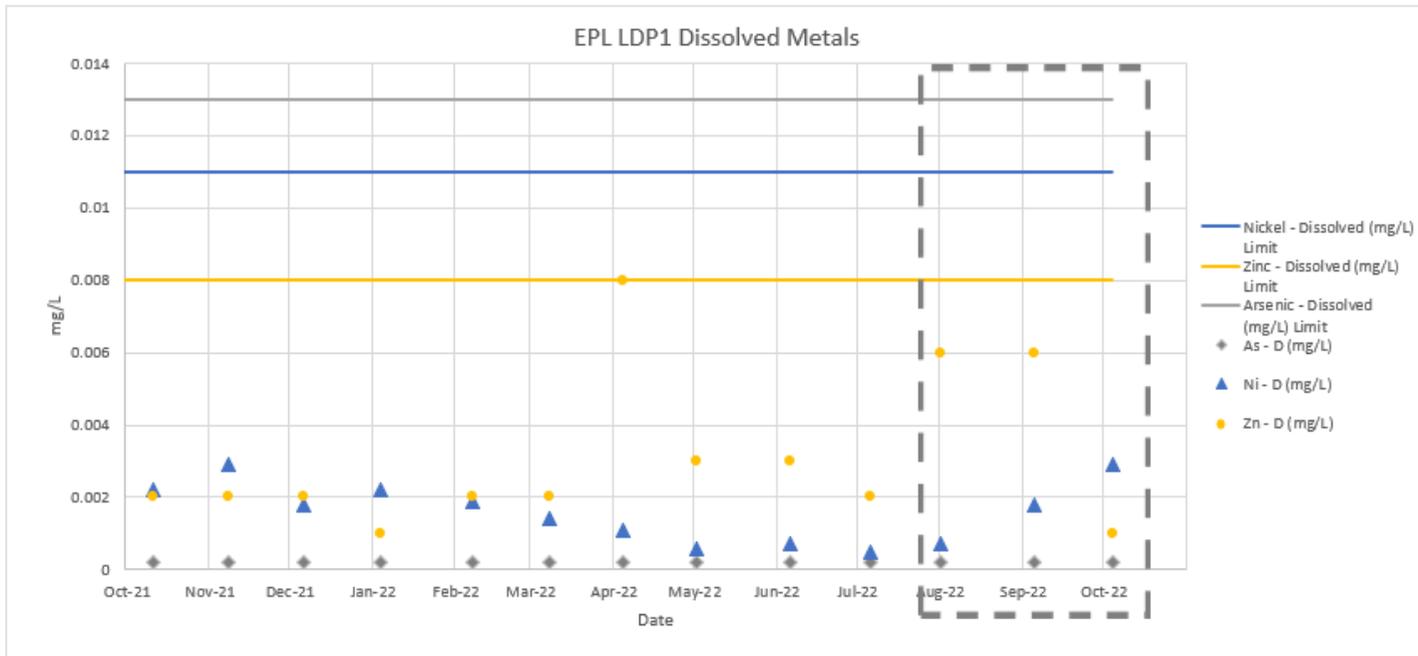
EPA 1 Daily Average EC  
October 2021 - October 2022



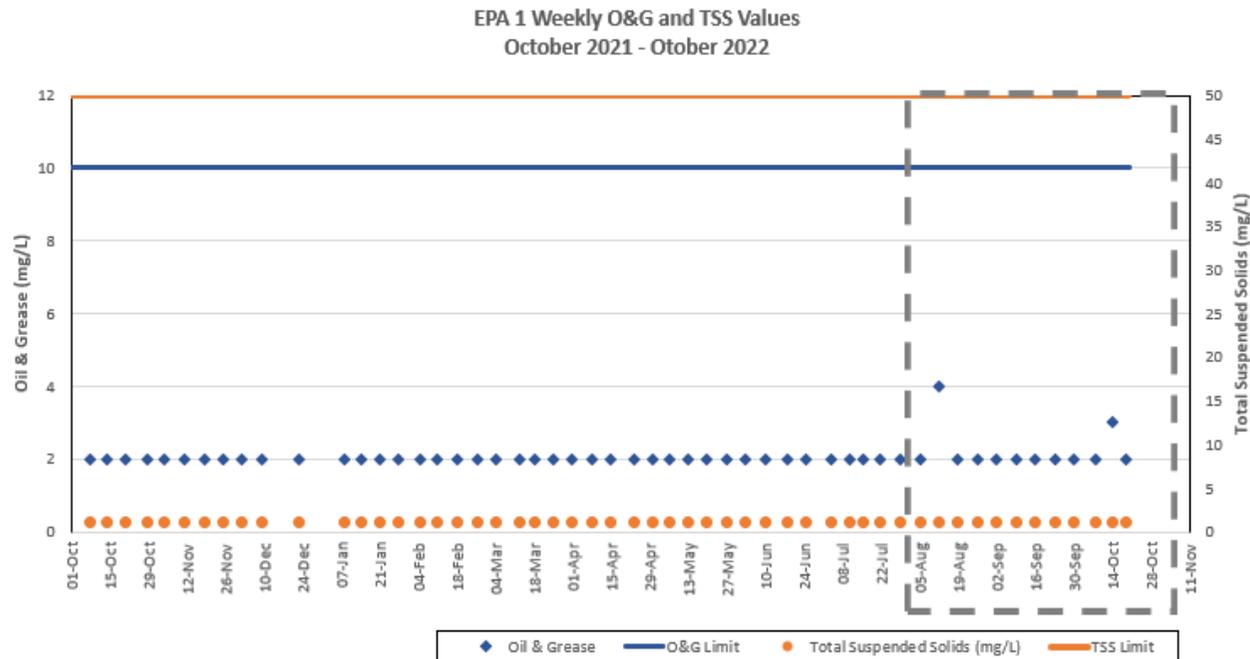
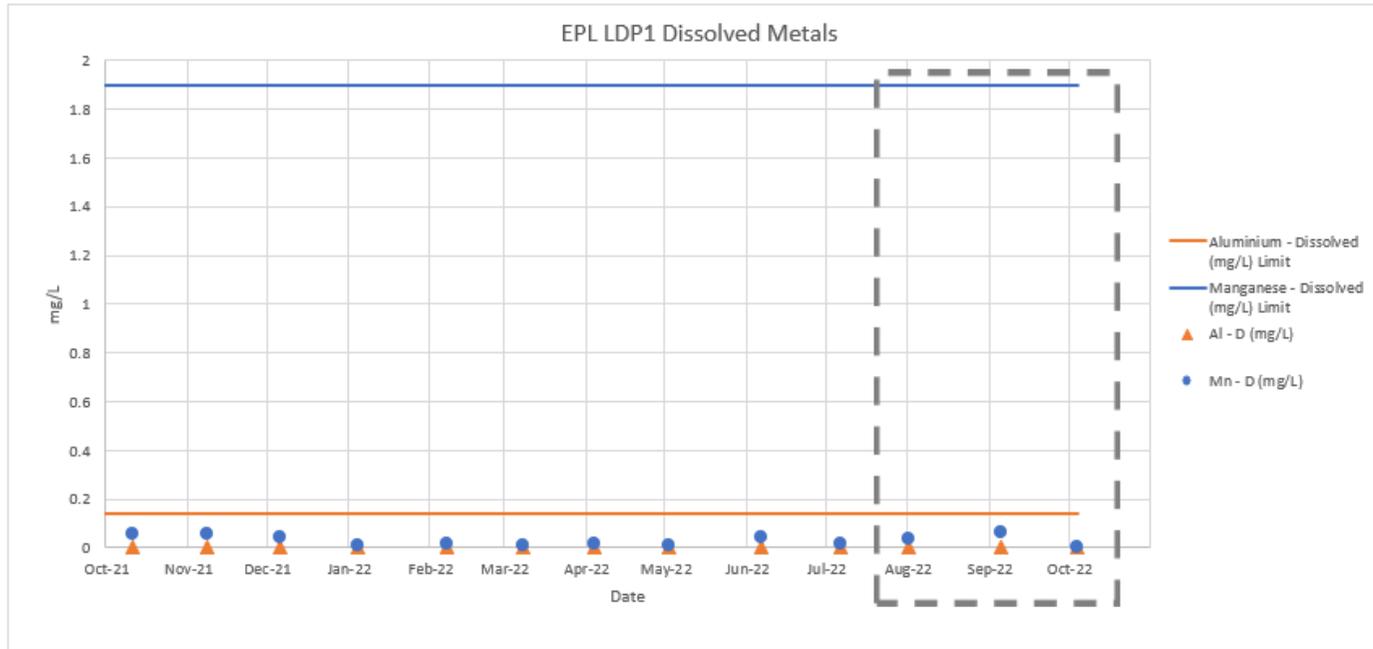
EPA 1 Daily Average Turbidity  
October 2021 - October 2022



# Water Release – EPA01

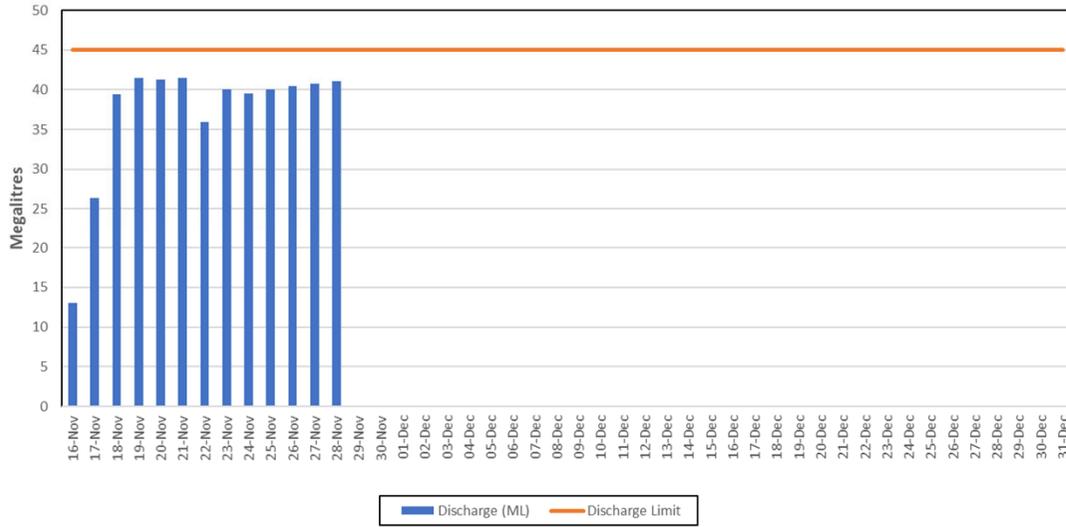


# Water Release – EPA01

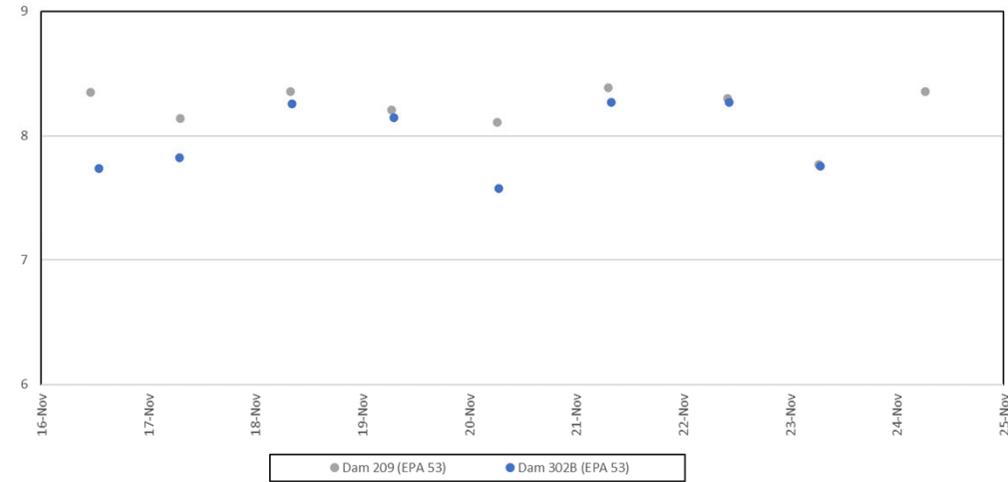


# Water Release – EPA53

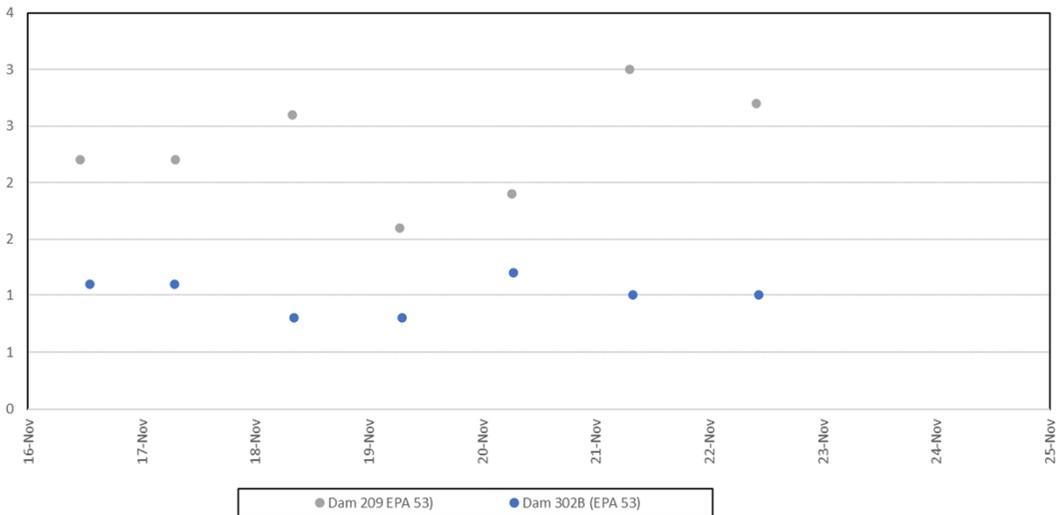
EPA 53 Daily Discharge Volumes  
November 2022



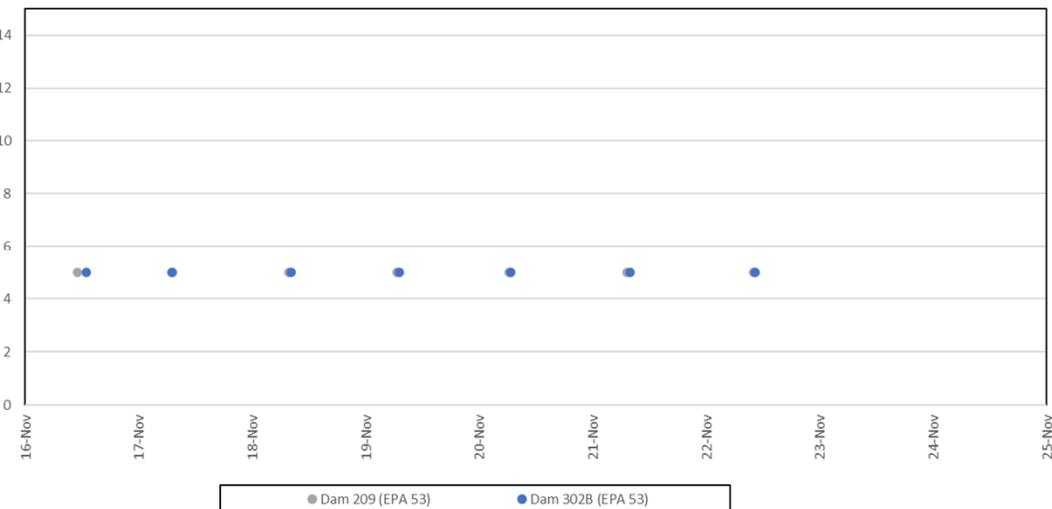
Daily Emergency Release pH (field)



Daily Emergency Release Turbidity (lab)

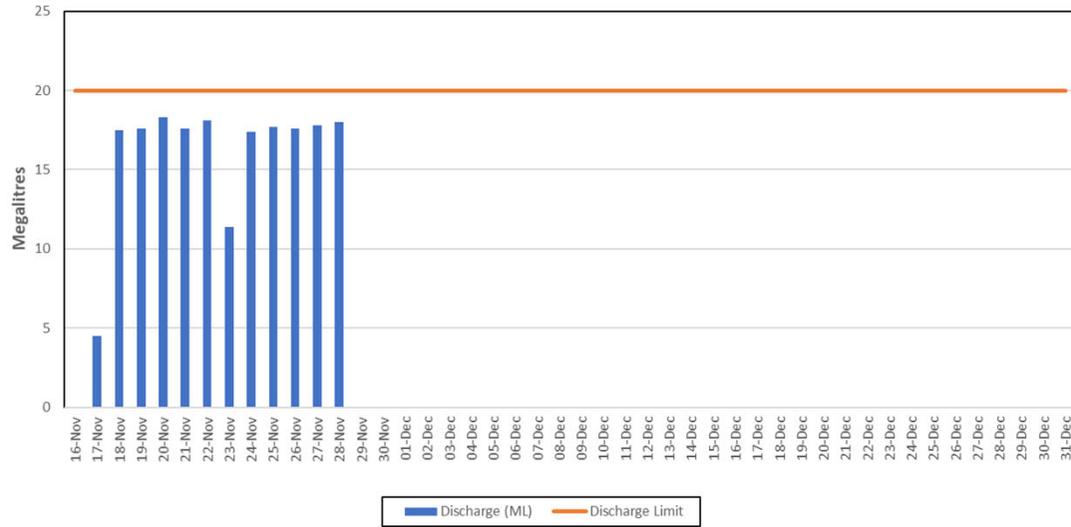


Daily Emergency Release TSS (lab)

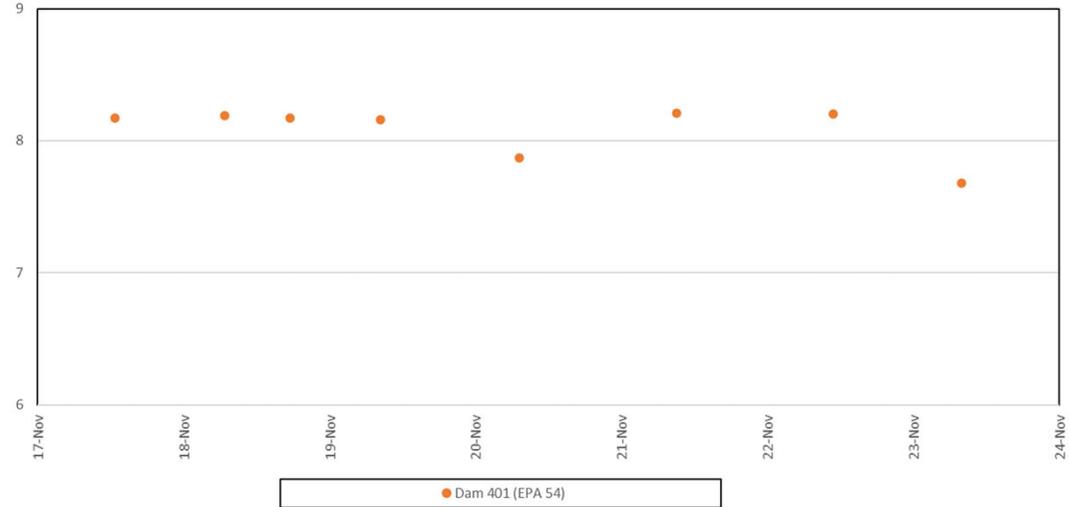


# Water Release – EPA54

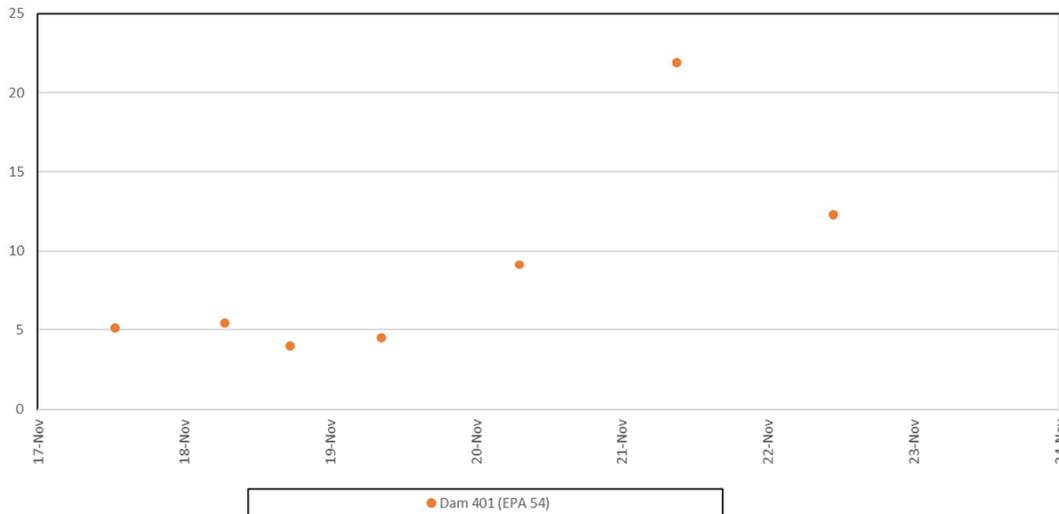
EPA 54 Daily Discharge Volumes  
November 2022



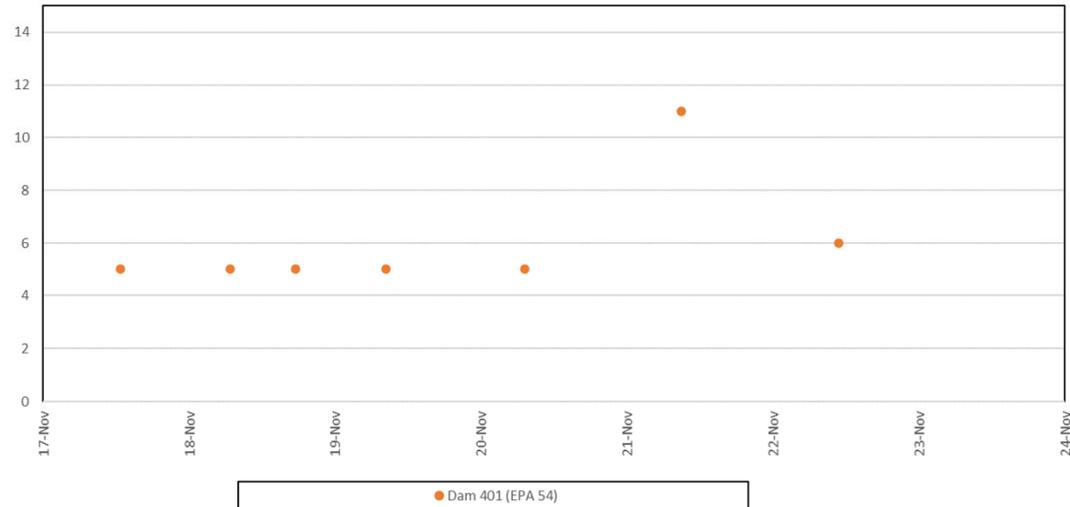
Daily Emergency Release pH (field)



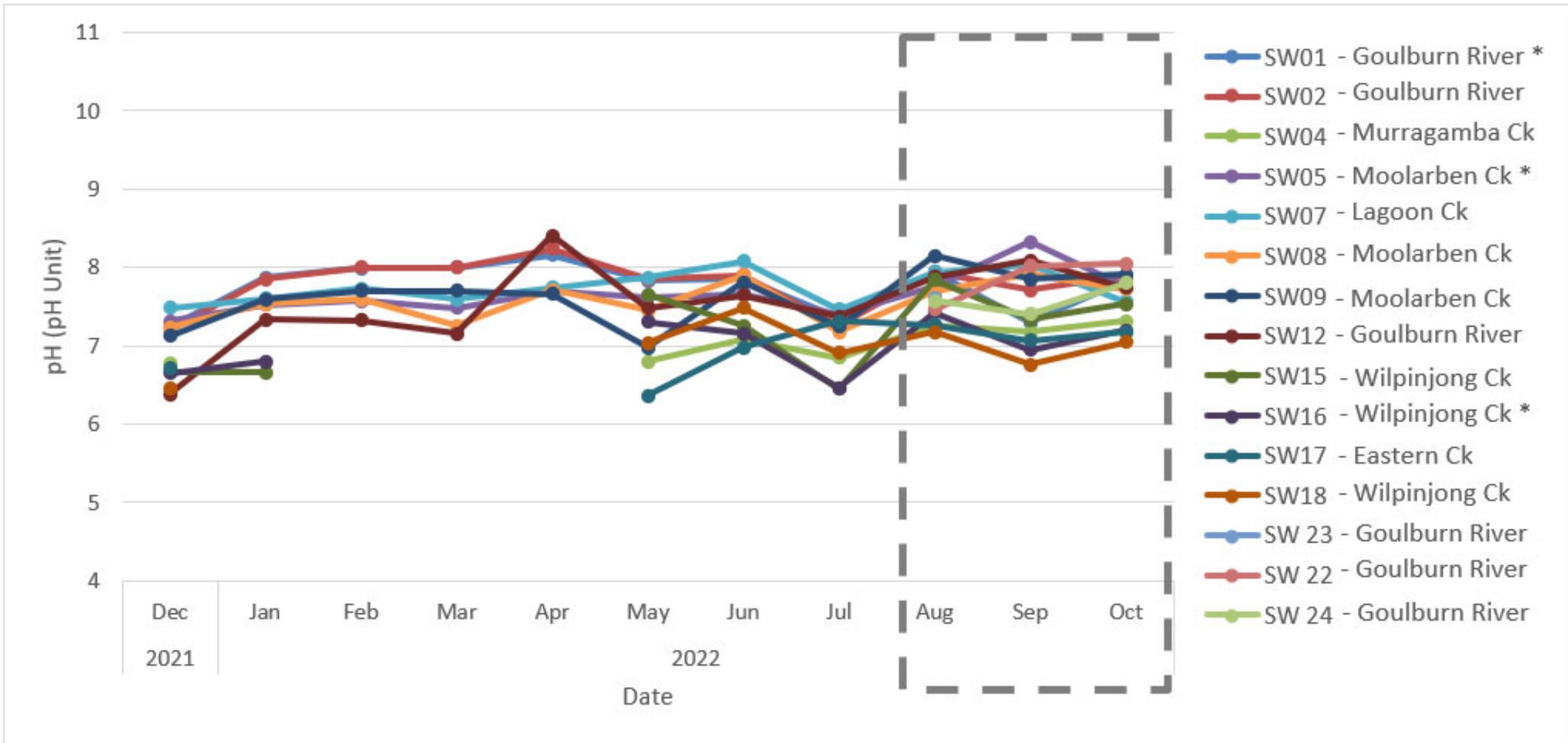
Daily Emergency Release Turbidity (lab)



Daily Emergency Release TSS (lab)

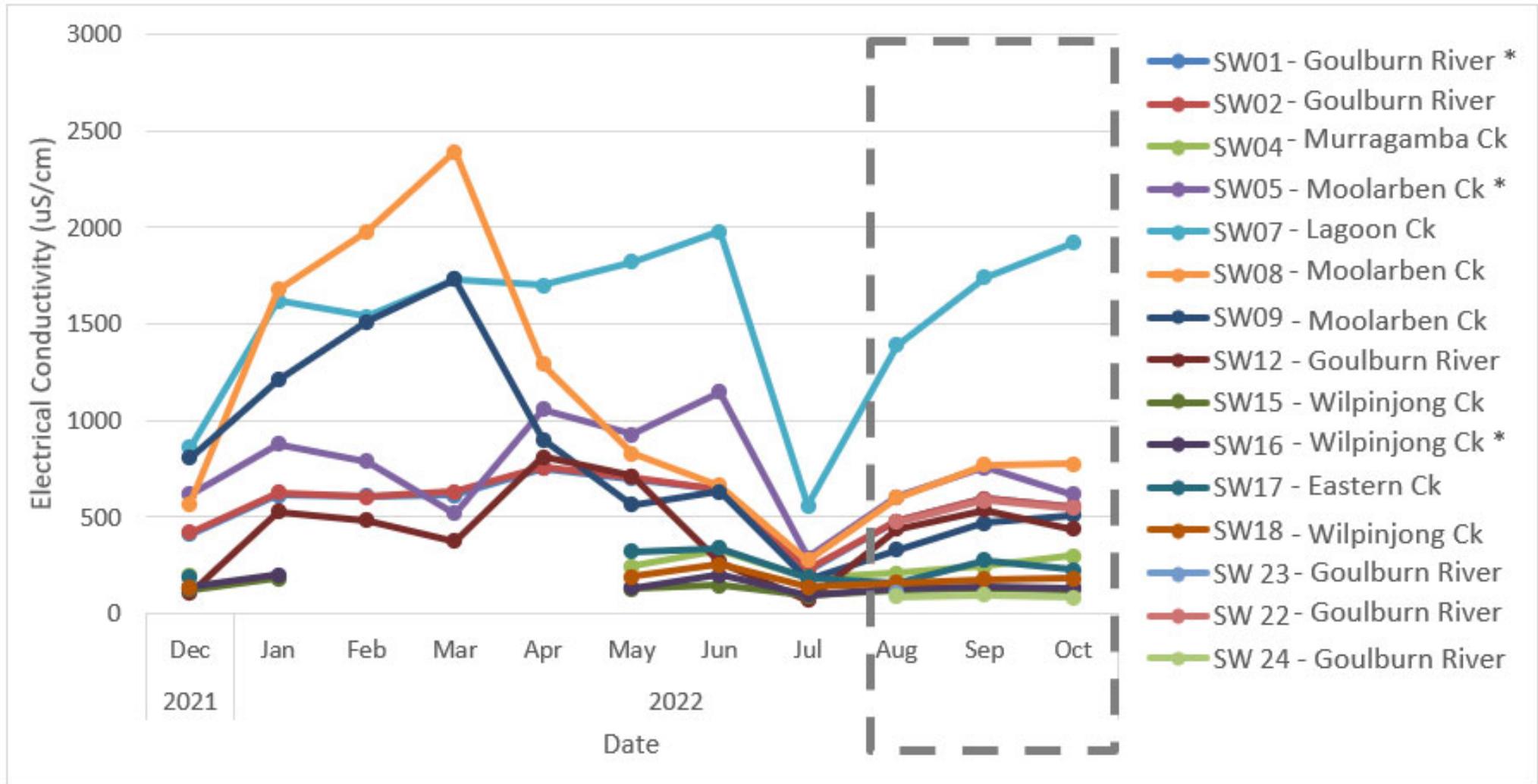


# Water Quality - pH



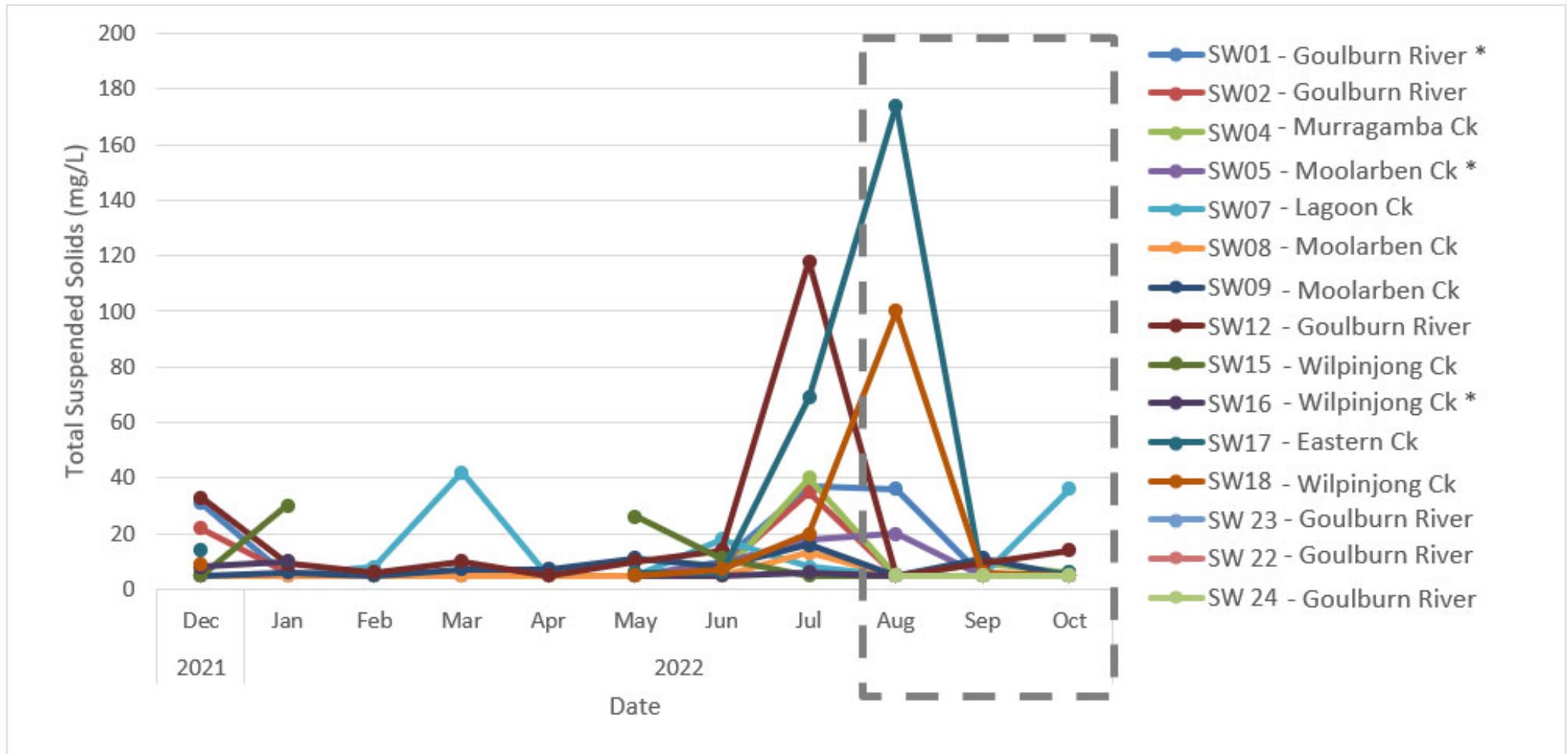
\* Monitoring Locations with associated trigger investigation levels as per the Surface Water Management Plan

# Water Quality - EC



\* Monitoring Locations with associated trigger investigation levels as per the Surface Water Management Plan

# Water Quality - TSS



\* Monitoring Locations with associated trigger investigation levels as per the Surface Water Management Plan

# Air Quality

Site	October 2021 PM10 Annual Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	October 2022 PM10 Annual Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Air Quality PM10 Annual Average Criteria ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
TEOM 01	12.9	11.3	25.0
TEOM 07	9.2	6.7	25.0
TEOM 04	12.0	10.6	25.0

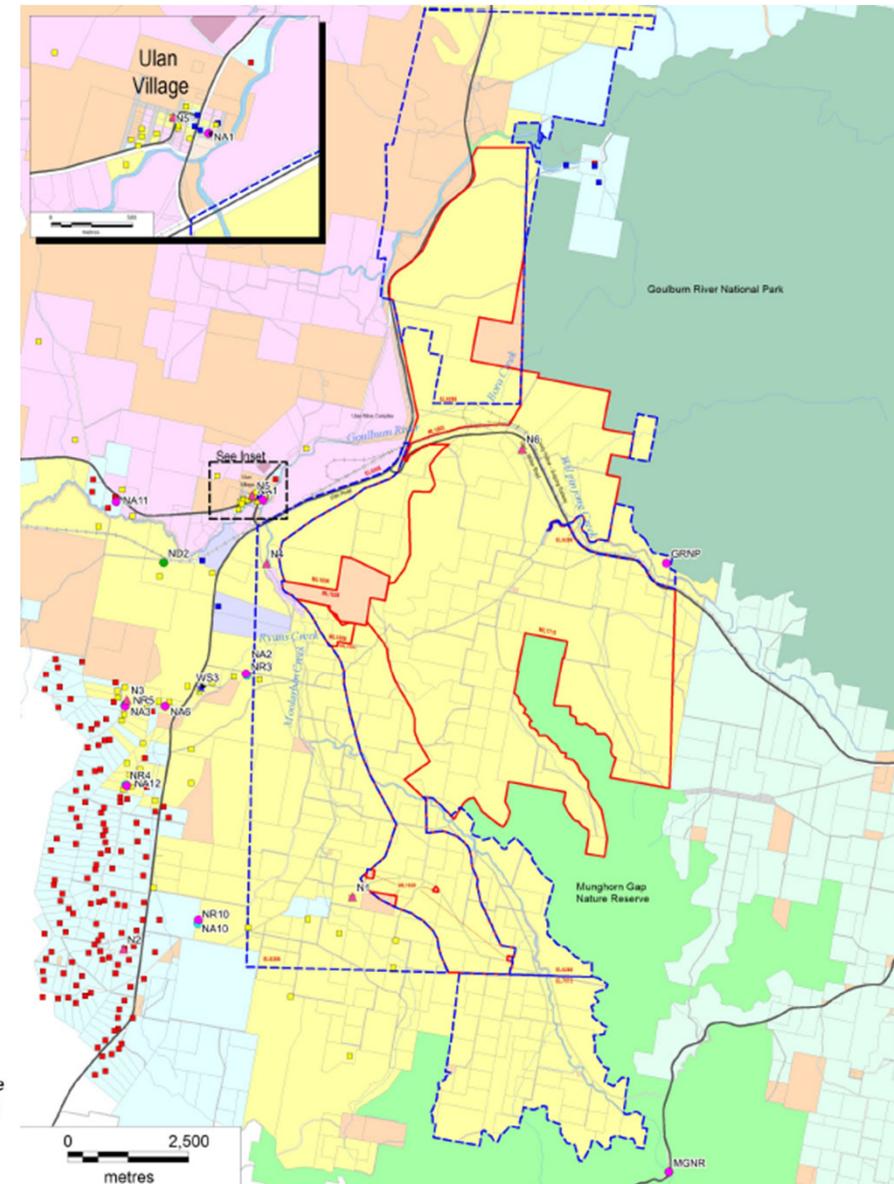
Site	October 2021 PM2.5 Annual Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	October 2022 PM2.5 Annual Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Air Quality PM2.5 Annual Average Criteria ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
TEOM 07	5.0	3.5	8.0

Monthly monitoring reports are available on our website:

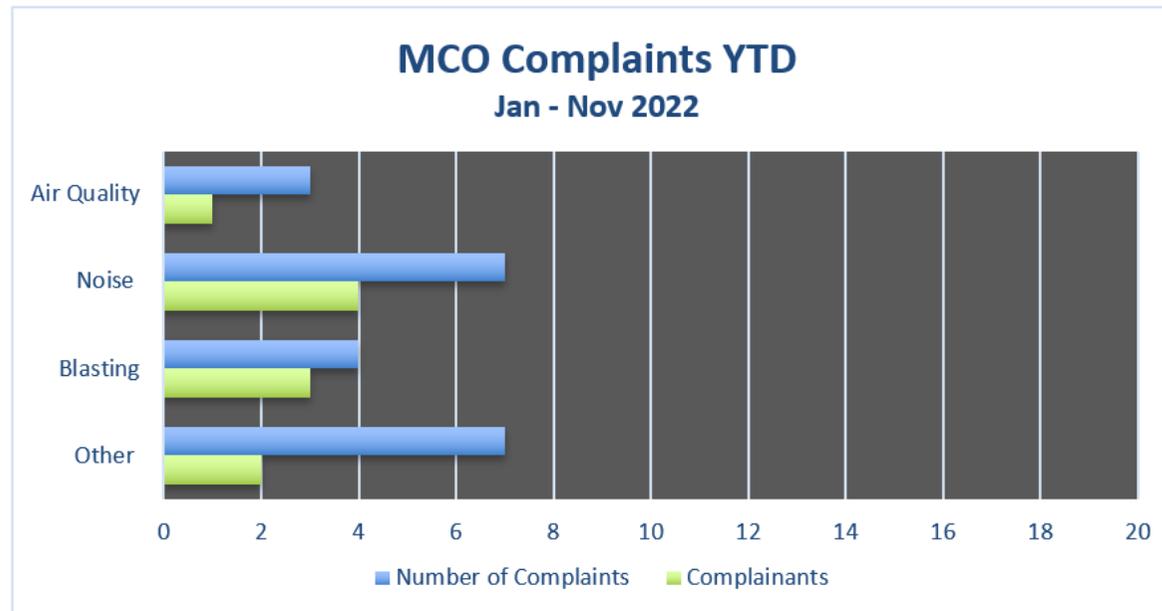
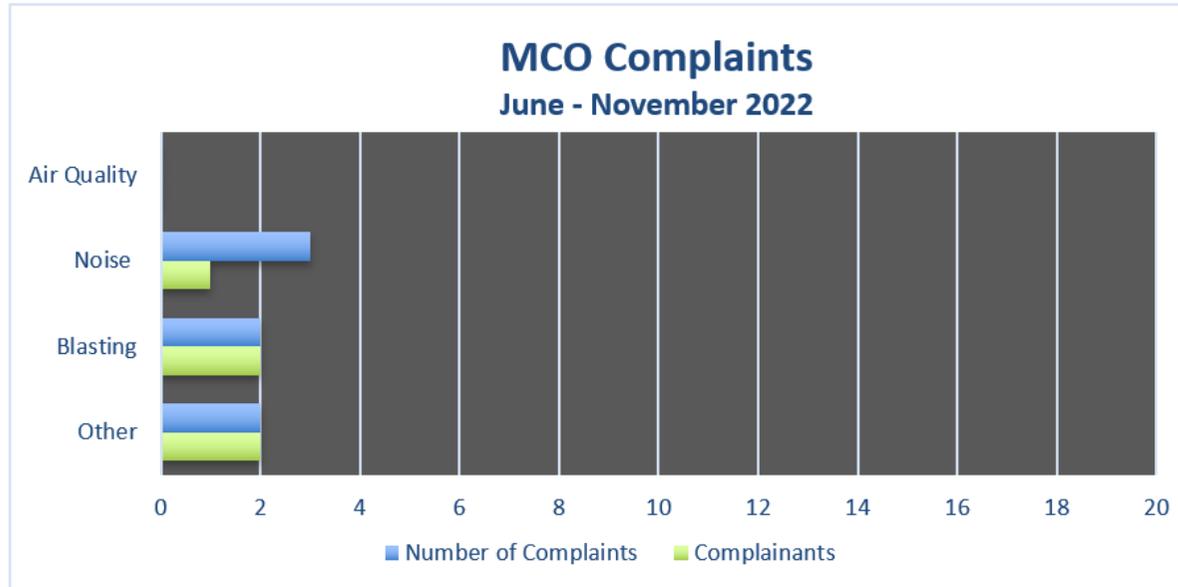
[www.moolarbencoal.com.au/page/environment/environmental-monitoring/](http://www.moolarbencoal.com.au/page/environment/environmental-monitoring/)

# Noise Monitoring

- All monthly & quarterly attended noise monitoring within criteria.
- Continued implementation of:
  - Planning controls - scheduling
  - Engineering controls - attenuation
  - Operational controls - bunds/screens
  - Real-time monitoring triggers
  - Real-time response protocols



# Community Complaints



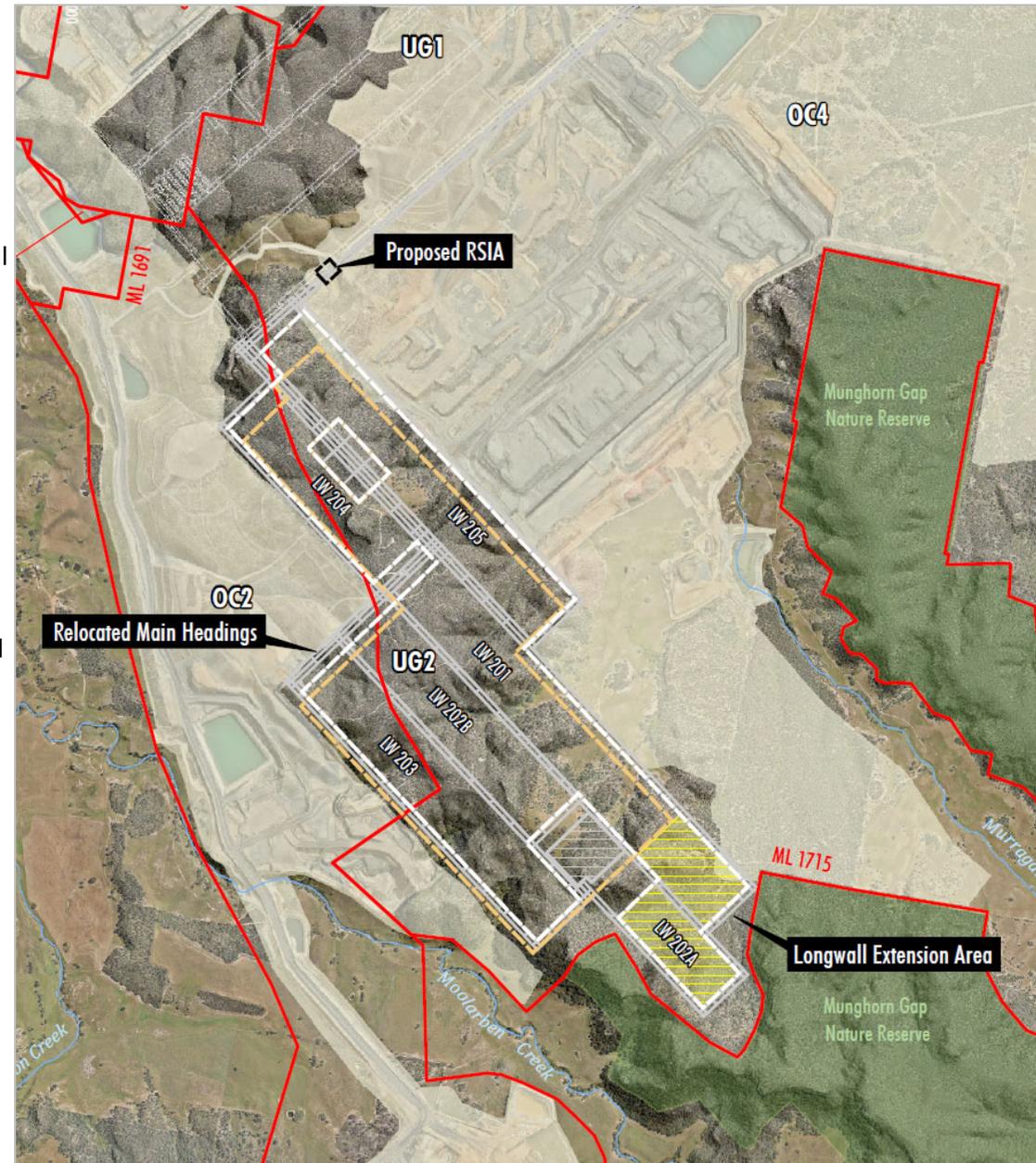
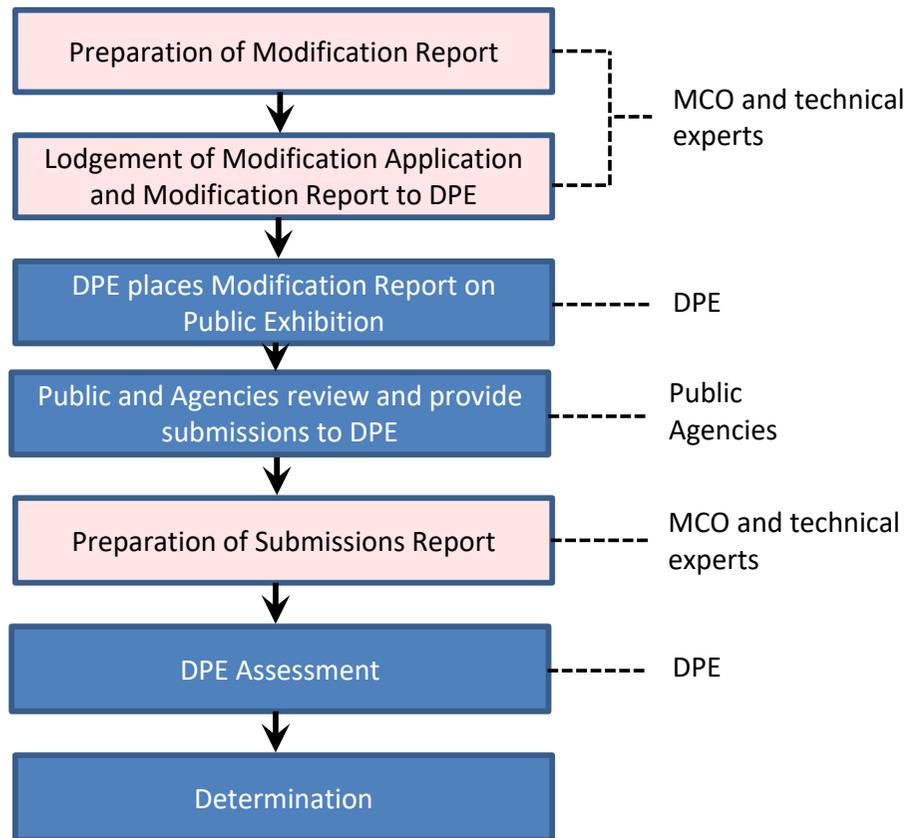
# Rehabilitation Update

- Rehabilitation maintenance works are continuing.
- Spring monitoring completed.
- Wet weather delays impacting 2022 Landform establishment.





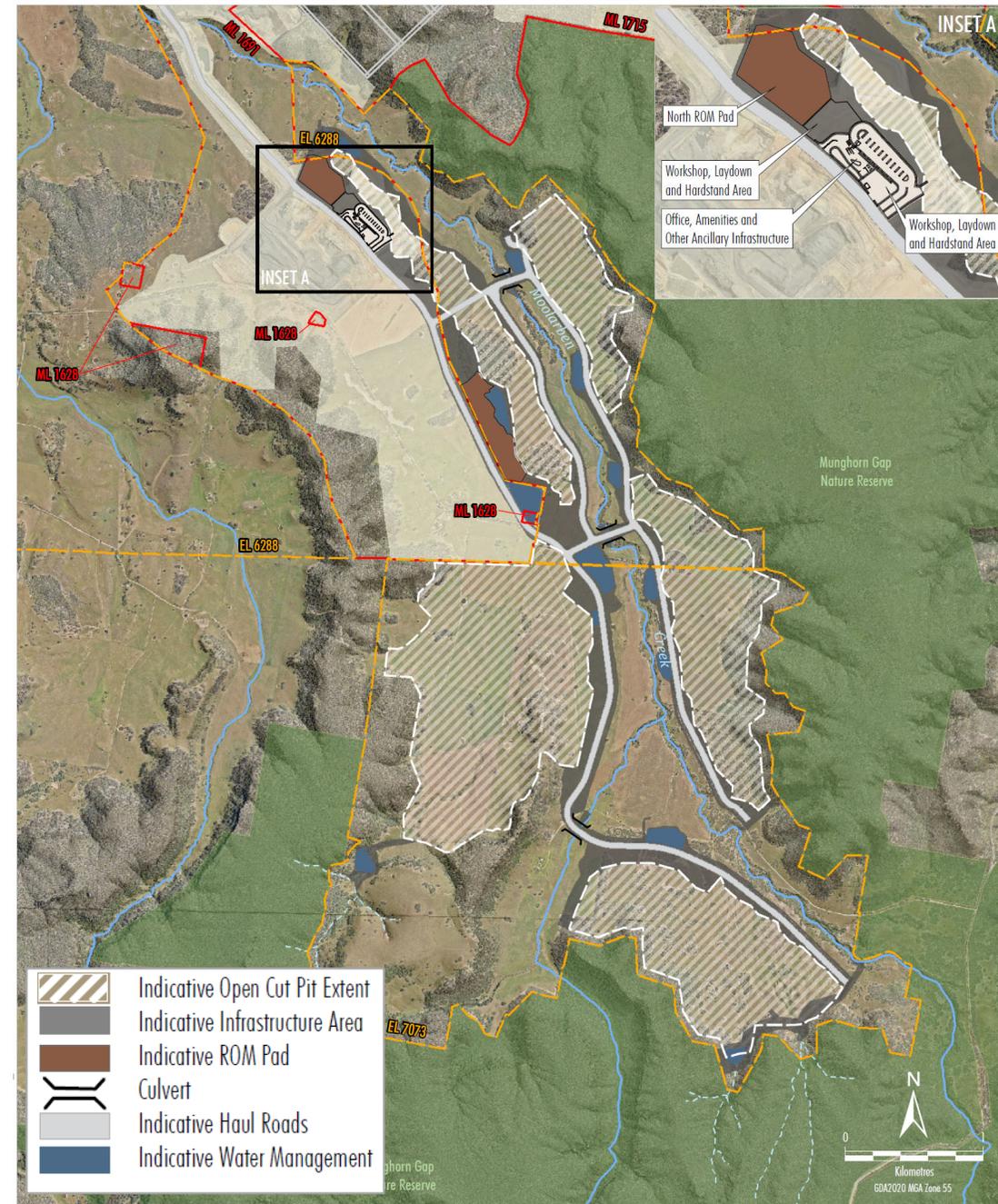
# UG2 Modification



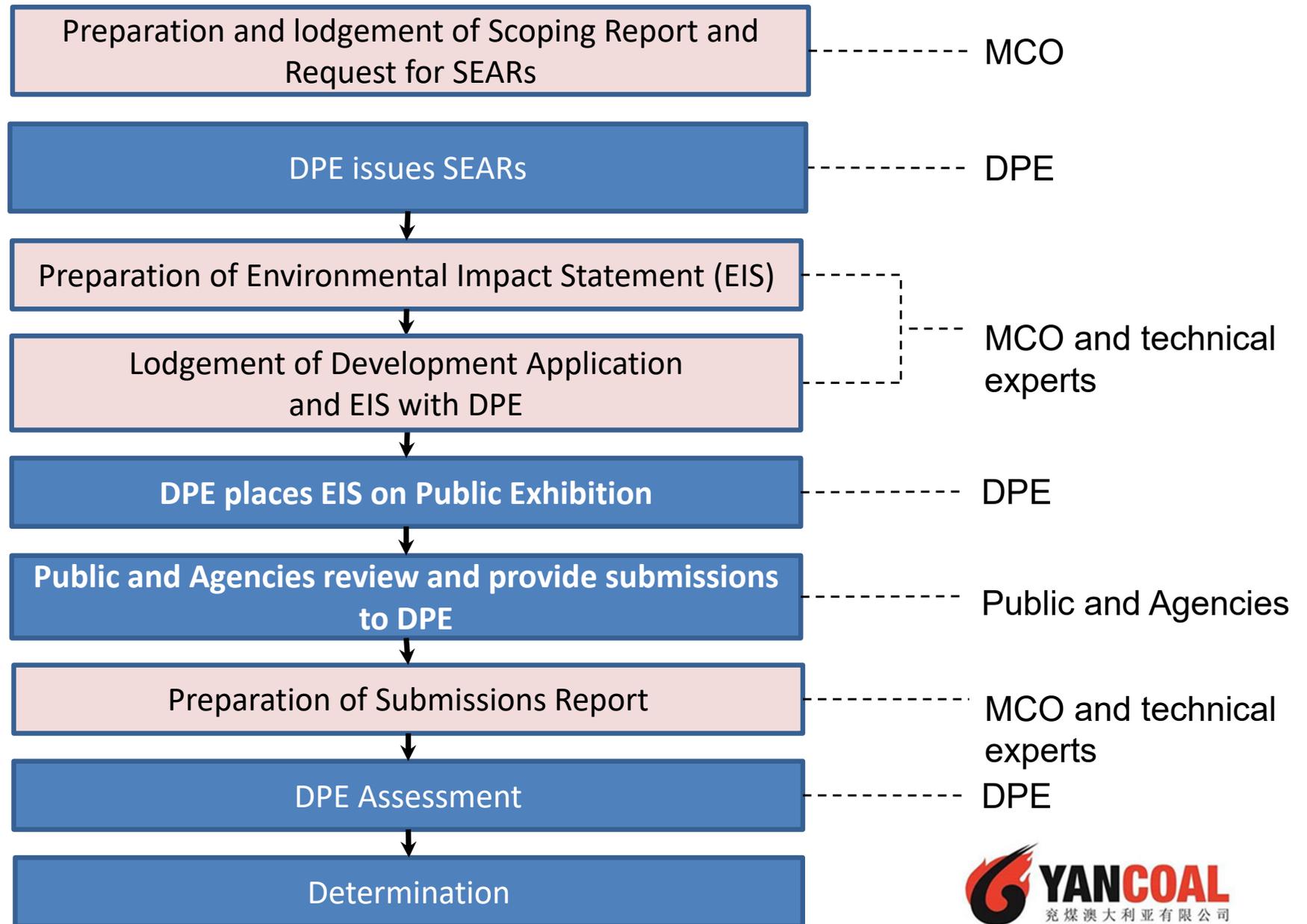
# OC3 Extension Project

## Project Description Overview

- Extension of open cut operations within ML 1691, EL 6288, and EL 7073.
- Extraction of up to 9 Mtpa of ROM coal (which is less than the approved OC3 extraction rate of 10 Mtpa), with a total of approx. 40 Mt over the life of the Project.
- Mining operations between 2025 to 2034.
- Extension of employment of existing open cut workforce.
- Construction and operation of new ancillary and water management infrastructure.
- Construction of haul road creek crossings.



# OC3 Extension Project



**Current Status** →

# OC3 Extension Project

## Stakeholder Engagement

- Updated community newsletter to be distributed later this week (also available on MCO website).
- Community Information Session to be held at the Cooyal Community Hall on Wed 7 Dec.
- Comments on EIS can be provided to DPE via their website until Wed 14 Dec.



### MOOLARBEN COAL COMPLEX OPEN CUT EXTENSION PROJECT **COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER** NOVEMBER 2022

*This newsletter is the fourth in a series that provides an update on the proposed Open Cut 3 (OC3) Extension Project, including details on the upcoming community information session for the Project.*

#### ■ ABOUT THE OC3 EXTENSION PROJECT

The Project proposes to extend open cut operations to the south and east of its existing OC3 mining area. This will allow Moolarben to recover additional resources (approximately 40 million tonnes of run-of-mine coal) over a ten year period (from approximately 2025 to 2034). The Project would be integrated with the existing Moolarben Coal Complex and will not change the approved duration or intensity of mining at the Complex.

Moolarben has prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Project which comprehensively assesses the environmental, social and economic impacts of the Project. The Project EIS was lodged with the NSW Dept. of Planning on 10 November 2022 and is now on public exhibition.

#### ■ KEY PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Undertake a logical extension of the Moolarben Coal Complex
- Avoid sensitive environmental features within the Moolarben Valley
- Develop the Project within existing Moolarben Coal Complex amenity criteria
- Facilitate an improved final landform and enable suitable post-mining land uses

#### ■ CURRENT STATUS

##### EIS Exhibition

The NSW Dept. of Planning is publicly exhibiting the EIS until 14 December 2022. You are invited to submit feedback on the EIS during this exhibition period. Submissions can be made via the NSW Dept. of Planning's website [www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/mine-projects](http://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/mine-projects). You can find the Project by searching for "Moolarben OC3 Extension Project" or "580-33083364".

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

### Community Information Drop-in Session

If you'd like to find out more about the proposed Project and the EIS findings, join us at Moolarben's next community information drop-in session.

**Venue:** Cooyal Community Hall  
Wollar Road, Cooyal, NSW

**Date:** Wednesday 7 December (4 – 6 pm)

If you cannot attend this session, we are happy to arrange a separate time to discuss the Project with you. Contact us by emailing [moolarben.feedback@yancoal.com.au](mailto:moolarben.feedback@yancoal.com.au) or phoning 1800 625 622.

# OC3 Extension Project

## Key Assessment Outcomes

- Amenity impacts minimised by position of the Project within Moolarben Valley, which is surrounded by steep slopes and ridgelines that act as a natural barrier.
- No predicted exceedances of relevant air, noise and blast criteria at private residences.
- Negligible impact to downstream water quality and flows, and unlikely to be discernible.
- Predicted compliance with “minimal impact” criteria of NSW Aquifer Interference Policy.
- Project design incorporates avoidance of key threatened species habitat.
- Residual potential impacts on biodiversity would be offset in accordance with *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.
- Negligible impacts to ag land outside of the Project area.
- Impacts to ag land within the Project area would be temporary as proposed post-mining land uses for the Project include areas of ag land consistent with the pre-mining land use.
- The Project has a low Scope 1 emissions intensity compared to other NSW mining operations including a very low fugitive emissions intensity (for both methane and carbon dioxide) from open cut mining.

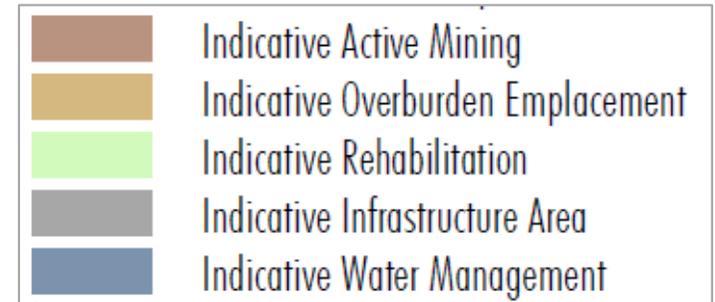
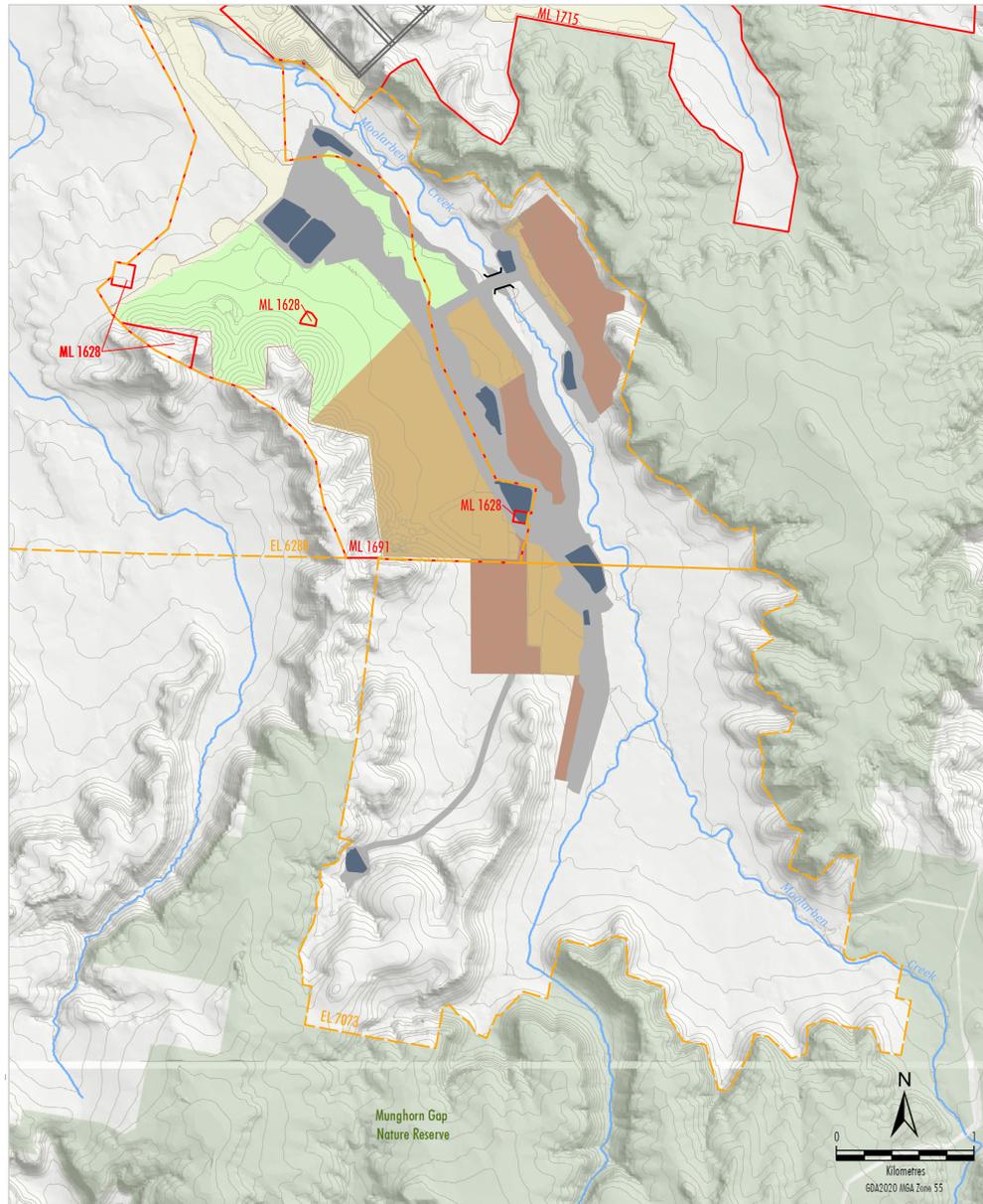
# OC3 Extension Project

## Key Project Benefits

- Existing open cut workforce would be employed for the Project, providing continuity and security of employment.
- No additional demand for community services and infrastructure in the region.
- Estimated Project net benefit of \$182 million in net present value terms to NSW.
- Overall improved final landform, including use of waste rock from the Project to backfill approved OC3 final void, resulting in no final voids in the Moolarben Valley.
- Final landform would enable development of suitable post-mining land uses across the entire Project disturbance area, including combination of native vegetation and agriculture.
- Proposed post-mining land use aligns with pre-mining land uses and stakeholder feedback, and allows for integration with approved OC3 final land use (largely agriculture) and Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve.

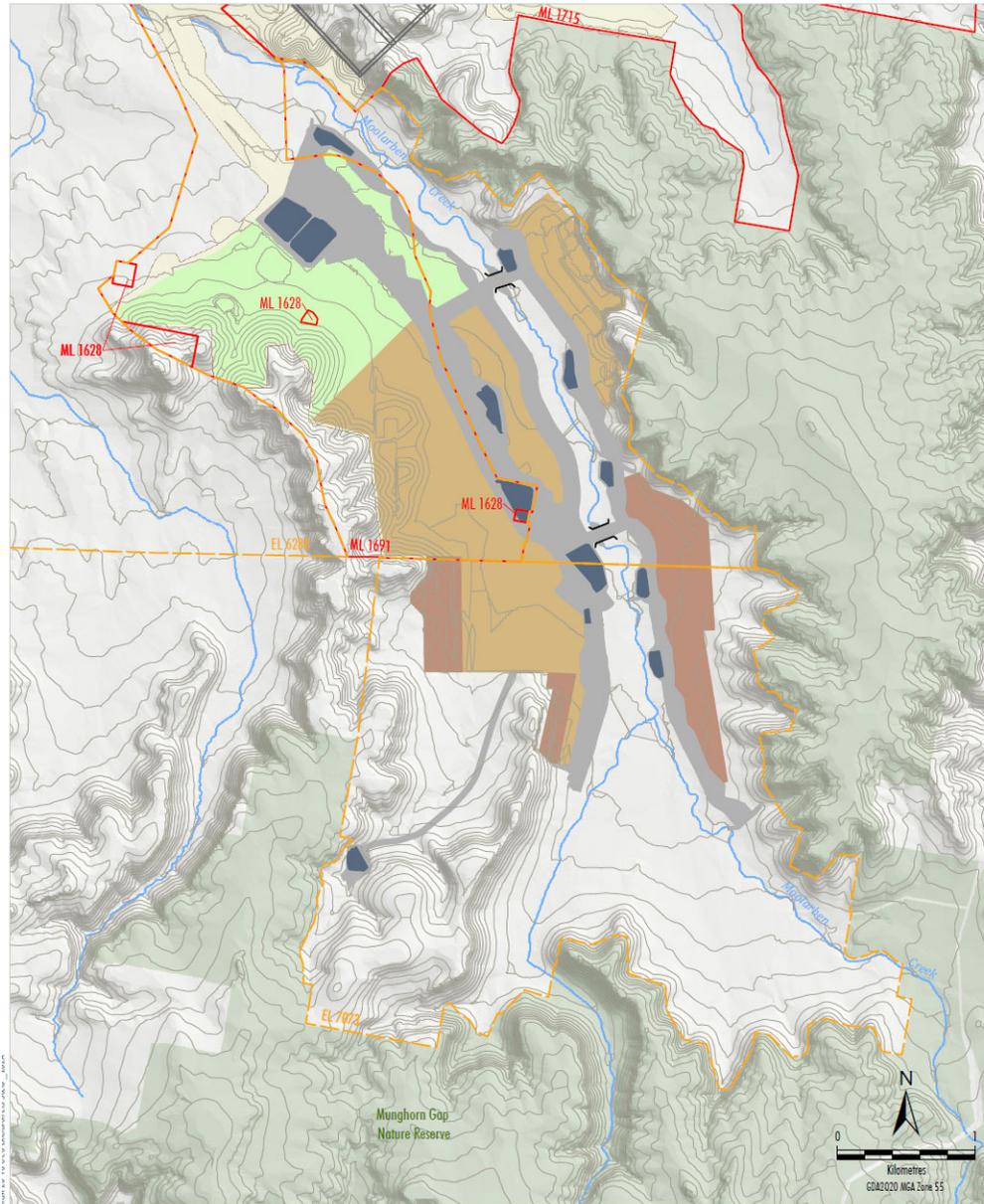
# OC3 Extension Project

## Mining Progression – 2028



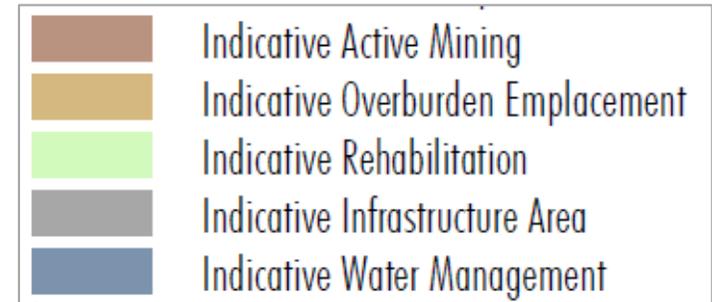
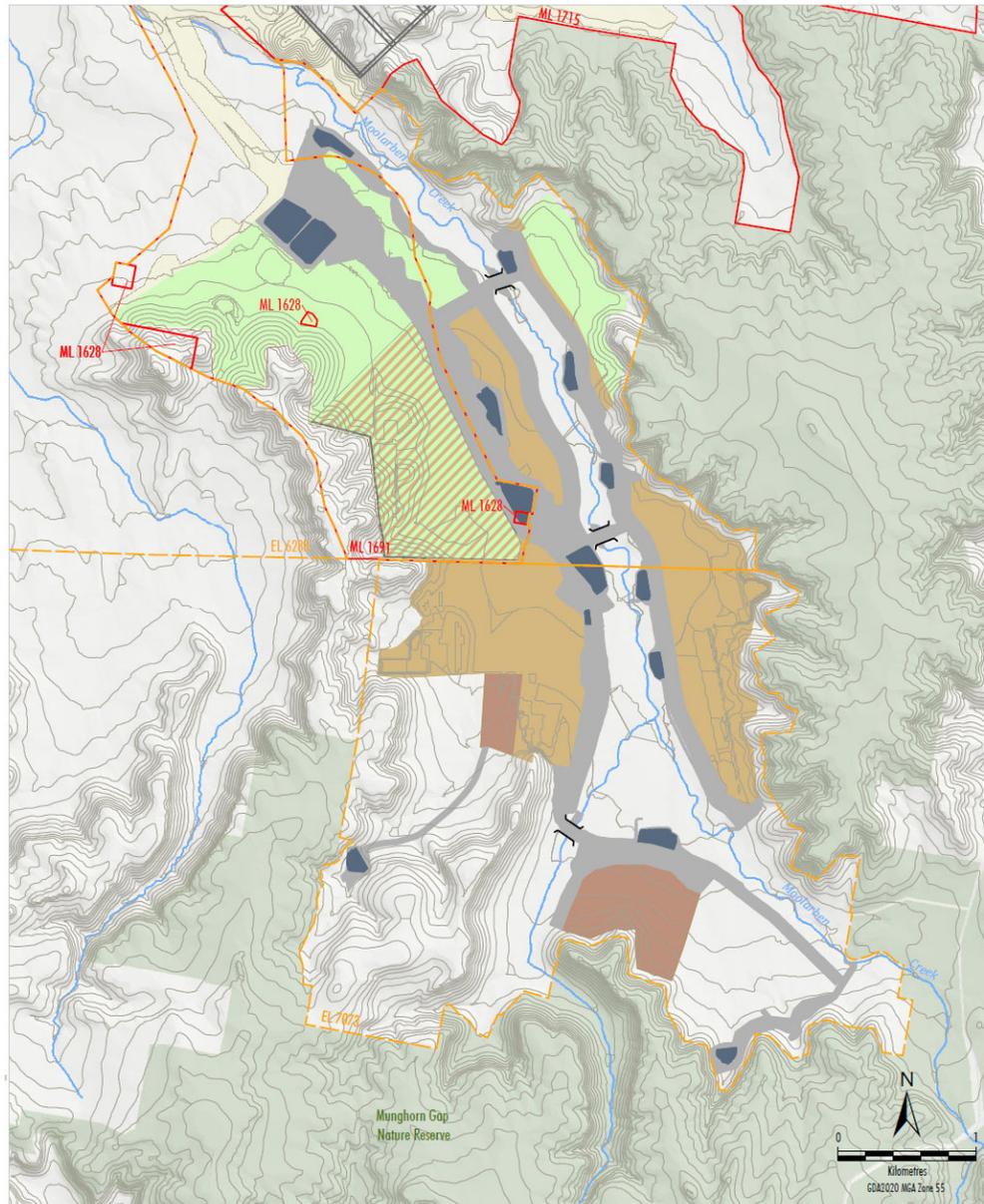
# OC3 Extension Project

## Mining Progression – 2029



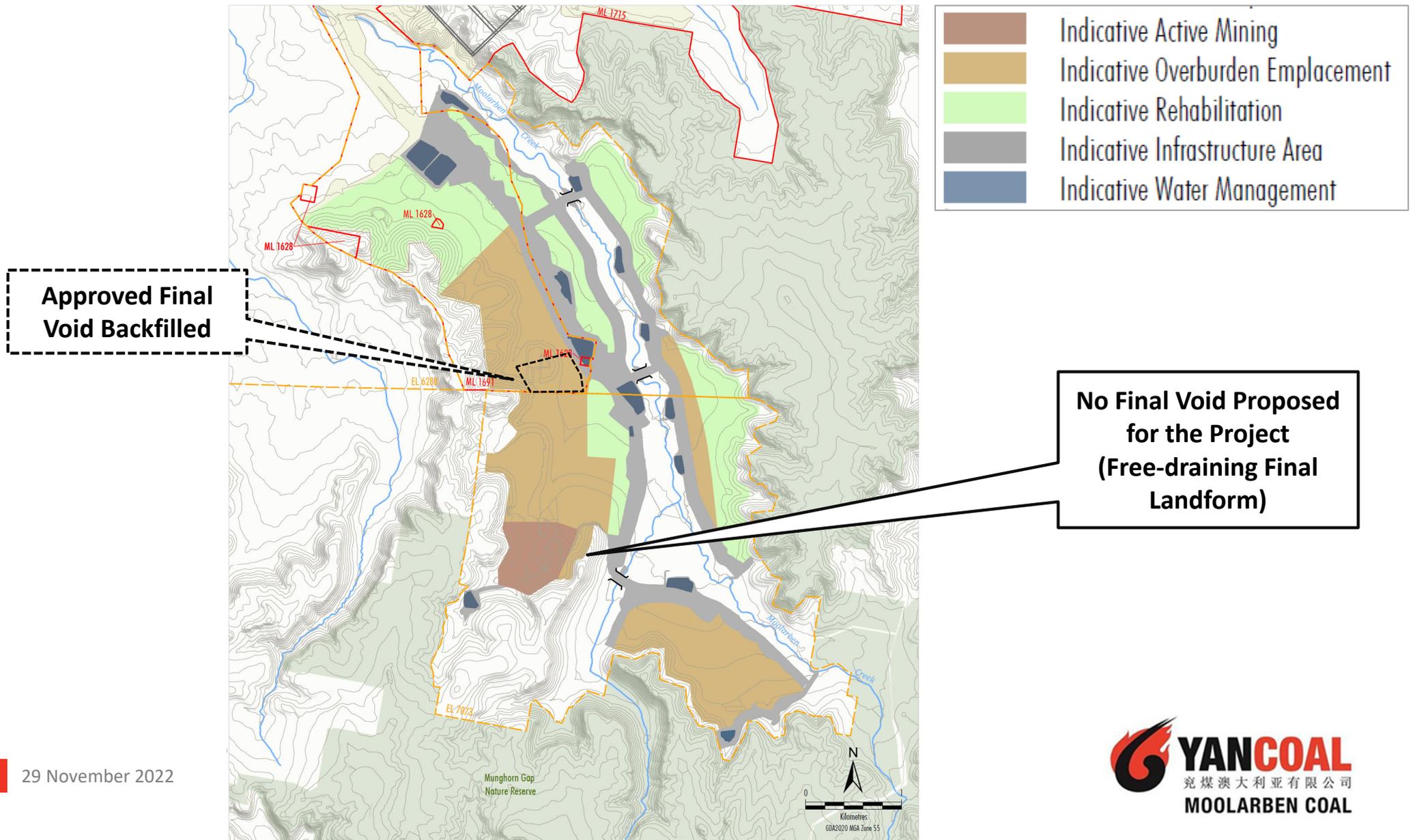
# OC3 Extension Project

## Mining Progression – 2031



# OC3 Extension Project

## Mining Progression – 2034



# Employment Update

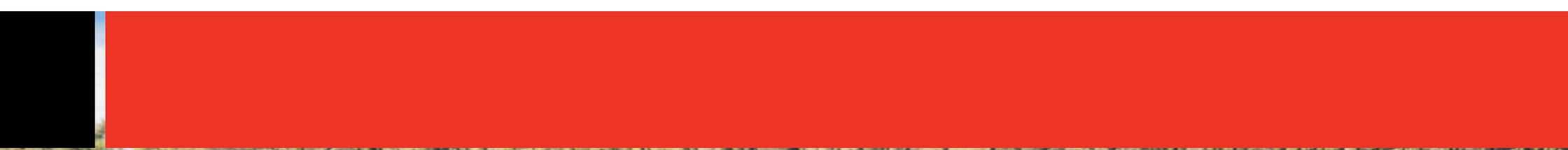
## Current Traineeships

- 35 Trainees currently onsite
  - 11 Underground trainee mineworker with 3 progressing to mineworkers.
  - 23 Open Cut trainee mineworker.
  - 1 Administration trainee at the Underground

## Apprentices

- 21 Apprentices - 3 Underground, 9 Open Cut and 9 CHPP apprentices.
- Currently advertising for 10 new apprenticeships to commence in 2023.





7 December 2022

