

**Minutes:** Minutes of the Meeting of the Maules Creek Coal Community Consultative Committee held on **Wednesday 13 November 2024** at the Boggabri Golf Club commencing at 1.00 pm.

**Members Present:** Elizabeth O’Hara (EOH) – Community Representative, Robyn Grover (RG) – Community Representative, Libby Laird (LL) – Maules Creek Community Representative, Steve Eather (SE) – Community Representative, Jabin de Keizer (JdeK) – WHC, Emma Bulkeley (EB) – WHC.

**Apologies:** Darren Swain (DS) – WHC, Cr Darrell Tiemens (DT) – Narrabri Shire Council, Cr Brett Dickinson (BD) – Narrabri Shire Council,

**Observers:** Nil

**Independent Chair:** Michael J. Silver OAM (MJS)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/By Whom
1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b> – MJS welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.	<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> - The Chair acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land on which the meeting is being held and their continuing connection to land, water, and culture, paying respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.	
3.	<b>Declaration of Pecuniary or Other Interests</b> - EOH has a small bundle of WHC shares. RG has a family member working at Maules Creek Coal Mine. MJS expenses as chair are borne by the proponent.	
4.	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b> – The minutes of the meeting of 28 August 2024 were approved on 30 September 2024.	
5.	<b>Business Arising from the Previous Minutes</b> Nil	
6.	<b>Actions</b> Nil	
7.	<p><b>Chair's Minute</b></p> <p>The Chair expressed concern that some matters raised by community members during previous CCC meetings did not relate to the operation of the project or necessarily the role of the CCC. MJS indicated that he did not wish to limit debate on matters raised by Community members, but it was important that the issues have relevance to the CCC's function and the representatives of the Proponent at the meeting have the capability to respond to the matters raised. He noted some matters sought speculative comment or were subject to judicial consideration with the final judgement not handed down. Other matters, such as the Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) are processes under the control and direction of the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). Whilst the CCC was invited to make comment on matters of concern and did, the process is a statutory audit to determine compliance with project conditions of approval.</p> <p>EOH held a different view suggesting that the CCC meeting provided a forum for investigation and questioning of policy and potential legal issues which may from time to time have implications for the mining project. LL supported these comments indicating that the questioning and highlighting of broader issues, which may have significant implications for the mining operation was an important aspect of the CCC operation. If the Proponent's representatives cannot respond to the issue at the meeting, they can take it on notice and provide a response at the next meeting. Further, LL suggested that the Regulator needs to be in the room and requested the Chair request regular attendance.</p> <p>LL said that the Maules Creek Coal representatives do an excellent job and that the community do not expect them to have knowledge of all the issues of a multinational mine operation as they impact on the community and that asking questions for the community were an important aspect of the CCC operation. LL suggested that the</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> MJS to advise DPHI of concerns raised in the CCC meeting regarding the IEA process.</p>

	<p>Proponent’s representatives ‘taking the questions on notice,’ as has previously happened, so that the appropriate person in the organisation can provide a written response for inclusion in the minutes.</p> <p>MJS noted the comments from the Community members and advised that the DPHI is aware of the issues raised. MJS will however formally notify the DPHI of the areas of concern.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p><b>8.1 Complaints:</b> The Chair noted that the CCC had been copied on emails regarding two complaints to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) relating to the Community Consultative Committee not having a person with an environmental interest and a representative of the Aboriginal community as members of the Committee as well as concerns regarding the consultation process associated with the development of a new Biodiversity Management Plan for the Maules Creek Coal Mine.</p> <p>EOH questioned whether the DPHI had been made formally aware of the membership issues by the CCC Chair and the Proponent. MJS responded that the matter had been raised and discussed several times with DPHI and repeated efforts have been made to secure an Aboriginal representative as well as a person with environmental interests on the Committee. Nevertheless, EOH and LL suggested that formal correspondence should be forwarded by the CCC to DPHI detailing a potential breach of the conditions of consent regarding the current Committee membership. The Chair agreed to forward correspondence on the matter to DPHI.</p> <p><i>Chair’s note: Post the meeting, correspondence has been received from DPHI Compliance dated 22 November 2024 containing its response to the complaints and indicating it has assessed the breach relating to CCC membership in accordance with its Compliance Policy (October 2020) and determined to Record the Breach with no formal enforcement action warranted.</i></p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> MJS to write to DPHI detailing the potential breach of the conditions of consent in respect of membership of the CCC.</p>
9.	<p><b>Environmental Monitoring Report</b></p> <p><i>A copy of the Monitoring Report is attached to the minutes.</i></p> <p>The Environmental Monitoring Report was distributed to members prior to the meeting. There were no questions raised in relation to the report.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Proponent’s Presentation</b></p> <p><i>JdeK introduced the Proponent’s Presentation. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.</i></p> <p><b>Health and Safety</b></p> <p>The Committee noted the Health and Safety Performance data – Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) of 1.7.</p> <p><b>Environmental Monitoring</b></p> <p><b>Depositional Dust</b></p>	

	<p>EB stepped the Committee through the dust deposition table.</p> <p><b>HVAS</b></p> <p>EB highlighted that the Rolling Annual Average was recorded at 13.3 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which is below the Annual Average Guideline of 30 µg/m with no exceedances recorded during the 24-hour average of 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p>LL questioned the data, and the dust management processes at the mine. She enquired what the Trigger Action Response Plans included where incidents occurred. EM responded that there were a variety of measures including the application of sprays to reduce dust. LL highlighted a dust incident on Sunday, 10 November 2024 – she noted it was not windy but there was a significant pall of dust across the area. She stated, “This was not harvest dust – having lived here for a long time, this is not what harvest dust looks like”. LL indicated people in the community are concerned – this is a problem. EB was unable to speak to dust levels on the day in question.</p> <p><b>TEOM (PM10)</b></p> <p>EB explained the tapered element oscillating microbalance tables with the annual rolling averages below the 30µg/m<sup>3</sup> criteria. LL quested whether the monitors need to be moved.</p> <p>LL enquired whether the level of dust being emitted can be reduced. LL questioned whether the monitoring data for 10 November 2024 could be made available to the CCC. JdeK indicated that the information will be made available. He noted that the monitoring standards are dictated by the DPHI. LL commented that Whitehaven could water-down dust on site, especially with plans for expansion closer to settlements.</p> <p>The location of the TEOM monitors was further discussed, it being noted that the TEOM 3 monitor is located on Harparary Road.</p> <p><i>Chair’s note: Current locations of TEOM monitors to be confirmed.</i></p> <p>The meeting examined the Regional Air Quality PM10 Comparison graph noting that the thick dark blue line represents the Maules Creek PM10 24-hour average.</p> <p><b>Environmental Monitoring</b></p> <p><b>Groundwater</b></p> <p>The meeting noted the groundwater bore locations on the map.</p> <p>EOH enquired as to the data that had been set to Ms R. Druce in respect of the bore at ‘Wongalea’. EB responded that data from the wrong bore had been sent to Ms Druce, but this has since been corrected with the correct data forwarded to her.</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> JdeK to table dust monitoring data for 10 November 2024 at the next CCC meeting.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> EB to confirm current locations of TEOM monitors</p>
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The Committee examined the groundwater levels with particular attention to the 10-year comparative graph as well as the standing water levels noting a transcription error in the July 2024 recording.

#### **Tyre Disposal**

EB advised that 400 tyres were disposed of in August 2024 in accordance with the Environment Protect Licence. In response to a question from EOH, EB advised that the Environment Protect Licence 20221 anniversary date in May 2025.

#### **Biodiversity Management**

EB reported that the Whitehaven Biodiversity Feral Animal Control program have returned meaningful results. Over 4000 feral pigs had been removed. EB noted that 'Hoggone' was used to bait pigs.

EB stepped the Committee through the various fauna surveys, biodiversity projects and works being undertaken or to be undertaken up to the end of 2024.

#### **Maules Creek Continuation Project EIS Update**

##### **Project Description**

JdeK provided an overview of the continuation project that will result in open cut mining operations and the workforce beyond 2034 to approximately 2045. He outlined the geographical location, noting that the mine will progress east with the final void to be located in the south-east, away from Back Creek.

LL sought clarification on the location of the proposed pit. JdeK identified the area on the map indicating an area south of Back Creek noting the site is largely to the east of the existing mine, south of Harparary Road, and therefore south of some of the properties on Harparary Road. JdeK advised that it is proposed to produce 14 Mt per annum ROM coal between 2034 and 2045. This represents an increase of 1 Mt annually.

JdeK indicated that the portion of Authorisation 346 planned to be mined will have to be converted into a mining lease. The mine can gain planning approval, then a mining lease or vice versa, however it cannot mine without both. He advised that it is anticipated that the EIS will be lodged with DPHI in the first quarter of 2025. LL noted that the area for the Continuation Project appeared to include the property 'Wollondilly', which is offset land – "there is no approval to mine it."

JdeK explained the pipeline proposal to connect Tarrawonga and Vickery mines. EOH expressed concern that water from Whitehaven's high security water licence could find its way into this pipeline. She expressed concern for other water users in the Boggabri area. EB responded that Whitehaven own the water licence and as such, like any owner, could transfer that water from time to time to any entity. EB also noted that water licence owners are encouraged to undertake water sharing by WaterNSW to make best use of the resource.

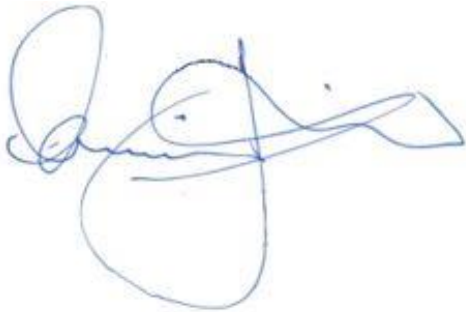
	<p>EOH suggested that Maules Creek Coal is not transparent regarding its use and management of water. There is community concern and anxiety over water management. JdeK advised that licence holders must comply with the requirements of the licence and the directions of WaterNSW. EOH responded that there is community scepticism over what is happening with water. JdeK noted that the Continuation Project and its primary elements had been outlined over a year ago – no major changes to the project have occurred since it was first raised.</p> <p><b>Environmental Assessments</b></p> <p>JdeK stepped the Committee through the various environmental assessment actions to be undertaken and their status. LL enquired as the trees to be planted as part of the rehabilitation. JdeK advised White Box Gum will be planted, that is native woodland will be established over the rehabilitated mine landforms. In terms of the final landform, JdeK indicated that geomorphic design principles will be incorporated into the overburden emplacement design to achieve a landform that is safe, stable, non-polluting, and sympathetic with surrounding landforms.</p> <p>JdeK advised that it is planned that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be lodged with DPHI in the first quarter of 2025.</p> <p><b>Management Plans</b></p> <p>JdeK advised that the format of Management Plans is being amended to align all plans across WHC. Current Maules Creek Coal plans being reviewed relate to Traffic and Noise.</p> <p><b>Community</b></p> <p>JdeK advised that advertisements continue to run in the Gunnedah Times and Narrabri Courier as well as the Maules Creek Coal website inviting nominations for an Aboriginal representative on the CCC, however no applications have been received.</p> <p>EOH reminded the meeting that Condition 7 of the consent states that an Aboriginal representative must be appointed to the Committee. She also noted that there is no person with environmental interests on the CCC. She suggested that alternatives such as involvement via video conferencing should be considered to permit involvement. EOH again suggested that the DPHI should be formally advised that there is no Aboriginal representative or environmental interest representative currently on the CCC. <i>Chair's Note: Refer to note at 8. Correspondence.</i></p> <p>JdeK reported that \$217,566.43 in grant funding had been provided to community projects by WHC this year.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Other Agenda Items</b></p> <p>LL sought responses to the following matters:</p> <p><b>11.1 Methane Emissions:</b> The Superpower Institute's Open Methane project questions official estimates of methane emissions from open cut coal mines. They have used satellite data and ground-based verification to identify 20 "sites of concern", one of which is Maules Creek Coal mine.</p>	

	<p>Their observation of emissions from Maules Creek from January to June 2023 is that 51,404 tonnes of methane was likely emitted. I say "likely" because the website says that the Maules Creek finding is "under review".</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Questions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What tonnage of methane emissions has WHC reported to the Clean Energy Regulator for the six-month period from Jan 2023 to June 2023?</li> <li>▪ How was this calculated?</li> <li>▪ Does WHC believe that Open Methane's initial data for Maules Creek is accurate (or in the ballpark)? If not, why not?</li> <li>▪ Has WHC commissioned independent, ground-based monitoring of methane emissions at Maules Creek to investigate the discrepancy between Open Methane's data and the data reported to the Clean Energy Regulator? If not, why not?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>11.2 Methane Abatement:</b> I understand that a 2022 methane abatement study commissioned by the NSW Government identified opportunities for abating fugitive emissions at open-cut mines. After considering cost, technology readiness, scalability, emissions reduction potential, viability and lead times for implementation, the study recommended the consideration of pre-drainage and gas flaring (2-year horizon) and gas utilisation (5-year horizon) at open-cut mines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Question:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is WHC intending to pre-drain and flare gas at Maules Creek? if yes, when will this begin and what level of abatement would likely be achieved? If not, why not?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>JdeK took these matters on notice.</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> JdeK to provide responses to questions on Methane Emissions and Methane Abatement.</p>
12.	<p><b>General Business</b></p> <p><b>12.1 Land Clearing</b> – LL enquired whether there will be forest land clearing undertaken during February 2025. Question taken on notice.</p> <p><b>12.2 Fauna Euthanasia</b> – LL requested advice as the number and genus of fauna euthanised as part of land clearing processes during 2024. She also sought clarification as to where future land clearing is to occur. Question taken on notice.</p> <p><b>12.3 Employment Transfers</b> – LL enquired as to how many workers have moved from the closed Werris Creek Coal Mine to the Maules Creek Coal Mine. JdeK advised that the majority have gone to the Vickery mine. Only a small number have transferred to the Maules Creek mine. Question taken on notice.</p> <p><b>12.4 Biodiversity Management Plan Consultation</b> – LL expressed concern regarding the consultation process associated with the new Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP), in particularly the consultation being undertaken between</p>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> EB to advise whether there will be forest land clearing in February 2025</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> EB to provide numbers and genus of euthanised fauna during 2024</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> EB to confirm employee transfer numbers</p>

	<p>regular CCC meetings. She suggested there needs to be a better and more organised process, with detailed presentations made at scheduled meetings. She indicated her dissatisfaction at being consulted outside of the regular meeting schedule. LL had advised the Chair that the timing of the Special Meeting did not suit her and requested alternative days and time. MJS noted no other members had requested a change of date and two had confirmed attendance on the proposed meeting date. MJS advised he was unable to meet the individual requirements of every member.</p> <p>EOH also expressed concern at the lack of consultation and that the document had been labelled 'confidential'. EOH indicated that the Chair had advised her that the document was for the CCC membership to review only. MJS stood corrected if there was any confusion regarding confidentiality and community accessibility to the draft document. MJS indicated he would highlight the concerns raised regarding the BMP consultation process with the DPHI.</p> <p>The Chair noted the comments and indicated he would advise DPHI of the concerns expressed by Committee members.</p>	<p>from WCC mine to MCC mine.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> MJS to highlight the CCC concerns regarding the BMP consultation process with DPHI.</p>
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Next meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for 12 February 2025.</p>	

Meeting Closed: 3.09 pm.

**Approved:**



**Michael J. Silver**  
Independent Chair

17 December 2024

## Appendix 1: Actions

Action No.	Description	Date Raised	Page No.	Status
1	MJS to review February 2024 minutes.	15.05.24	2	COMPLETED 24.06.24
2	MJS to respond to R. Druce that the matter needs to be taken up with NSC and the RFS	15.05.24	2	COMPLETED 24.06.24
3	MJS to respond to Mr Laird that there are fundamental issues that need to be addressed.	15.05.24	2	COMPLETED 24.06.24
4	EM to advise how groundwater data is sourced.	15.05.24	3	COMPLETED 26.08.24
5	MJS to contact UNSW regarding availability of ground water data.	15.05.24	3	COMPLETED 16.08.24
6	DS to provide locations of monitoring bores.	15.05.24	4	COMPLETED 26.08.24
7	MJS to discuss environmental representative on the CCC with DPIE	15.05.24	4	COMPLETED 08.08.24
8	MJS to advise DPHI of concerns raised by CCC members regarding the IEA process.	13.11.24	2	
8	MJS to write to DPHI detailing the potential breach of the conditions of consent in respect of membership of the CCC.	13.11.24	3	
9	JdeK to table dust monitoring data for 10 November 2024 at the next CCC meeting.	13.11.24	4	
10	EB to confirm current locations of TEOM monitors	13.11.24	4	
11	JdeK to provide responses to questions on Methane Emissions and Methane Abatement.	13.11.24	6	
12	EB to advise whether there will be forest land clearing in February 2025	13.11.24	7	
13	EB to provide numbers and genus of euthanised fauna during 2024	13.11.24	7	
14	EB to confirm employee transfer numbers from WCC mine to MCC mine	13.11.24	7	
15	MJS to highlight the CCC concerns regarding the BMP consultation process with DPHI.	13.11.24	8	

## Appendix 2: Input from CCC Members for Future Meetings (from October 2023)

Description
Future site tour options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leard Forest Site Tour and presentation.</li><li>• Tour of bores with hydrologist</li></ul>
Provision of Bush Fire Management Plans once revised.
Management of roads and access for fire management
Results of bird surveys
Experts for noise, dust, and water to attend if interest is there
When do the water models get updated?

# Maules Creek Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee Meeting #48

## Environmental Monitoring Report For the Q3 period, July - September 2024

### Attended Noise Monitoring

Maules Creek Coal (MCC) engaged an independent acoustic consultant to conduct LAeq (15minutes) and LA1 (1 minute) attended noise monitoring at six monitoring locations on site.

#### **A. NOISE GENERATED BY MCCM AGAINST OPERATIONAL DAY & NIGHT NOISE CRITERIA; July - September 2024 .**

The results show that MCCM is within EPL 20221 compliance limits, that operations did not exceed the applicable; LAeq (15minute) 35dB Criteria, LA1 (1Minute) 45dB Criteria and the EPA's Noise Policy for Industry compliance guidelines.

**Table 1 –July Noise Monitoring**

Location	Start date and time	Wind		Stability class	Very enhancing? <sup>1</sup>	Limits, dB <sup>1</sup>		Site levels, dB <sup>2</sup>		Exceedances, dB	
		Speed m/s	Direction <sup>3</sup>			L <sub>Aeq,15minute</sub>	L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq,15minute</sub>	L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq,15minute</sub>	L <sub>Amax</sub>
NM1	24/07/2024 22:30	0.3	75	F	No	35	45	<20	25	Nil	Nil
NM2	24/07/2024 23:30	0.3	331	F	No	39	45	<20	<20	Nil	Nil
NM3	25/07/2024 00:21	0.5	136	F	No	35	45	1A	1A	Nil	Nil
NM4	24/07/2024 23:00	0.1	226	F	No	35	45	1A	1A	Nil	Nil
NM5	24/07/2024 22:01	0.5	68	F	No	35	45	25	30	Nil	Nil
NM6	24/07/2024 23:56	0.4	317	F	No	35	45	1A	1A	Nil	Nil

**Table 2 – August Noise Monitoring**

Location	Start date and time	Wind		Stability class	Very enhancing? <sup>1</sup>	Limits, dB <sup>1</sup>		Site levels, dB <sup>2</sup>		Exceedances, dB	
		Speed m/s	Direction <sup>3</sup>			L <sub>Aeq,15minute</sub>	L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq,15minute</sub>	L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq,15minute</sub>	L <sub>Amax</sub>
NM1	21/08/2024 22:30	0.3	316	F	No	35	45	<30	32	Nil	Nil
NM2	21/08/2024 23:00	0.6	242	F	No	39	45	<25	<25	Nil	Nil
NM3	21/08/2024 23:20	0.7	217	F	No	35	45	1A	1A	Nil	Nil
NM4	21/08/2024 23:47	0.6	33	F	No	35	45	1A	1A	Nil	Nil
NM5	21/08/2024 22:00	0.3	59	F	No	35	45	<25	27	Nil	Nil
NM6	21/08/2024 23:25	0.7	210	F	No	35	45	1A	1A	Nil	Nil

**Table 3 – September Noise Monitoring**

Location	Start date and time	Wind		Stability class	Very enhancing? <sup>1</sup>	Limits, dB <sup>1</sup>		Site levels, dB <sup>2</sup>		Exceedances, dB	
		Speed m/s	Direction <sup>3</sup>			L <sub>Aeq,15minute</sub>	L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq,15minute</sub>	L <sub>Amax</sub>	L <sub>Aeq,15minute</sub>	L <sub>Amax</sub>
NM1	23/09/2024 22:30	0.3	4	F	No	35	45	<20	<20	Nil	Nil
NM2	23/09/2024 23:30	0.3	194	F	No	39	45	<20	<20	Nil	Nil
NM3	23/09/2024 23:45	0.3	85	F	No	35	45	1A	1A	Nil	Nil
NM4	23/09/2024 23:00	0.5	218	F	No	35	45	1A	1A	Nil	Nil
NM5	23/09/2024 22:00	0.2	36	F	No	35	45	<20	<20	Nil	Nil
NM6	23/09/2024 23:57	0.3	166	F	No	35	45	1A	1A	Nil	Nil

### **Wind Direction during Attended Monitoring**

Wind direction data is collected from the Maule’s Creek Coal Mine (MCCM) Automated Weather Station (AWS). Wind data for the duration of the attended monitoring assessment, recorded at the MCCM AWS is presented in the table below.

**Table 4 - Prevailing Wind Direction**

Monitoring Date	Prevailing Wind Direction
July	SSW
August	SE
September	SE



**Blast Monitoring**

There was 25 blasts at MCCM during Q3 2024. All blast monitoring results recorded within the reporting period have complied with applicable overpressure and ground vibration limits specified in the respective approvals.

**Table 5 – Blast Results Summary**

Parameter	Units	Frequency	Number	Average	Max	100% Limit	Exceedance (Yes / No)
Noise	dB	All	25	95.186	113.3	120	No
Vibration	mm/s		25	0.1441	1.86	10	No

## Air Quality

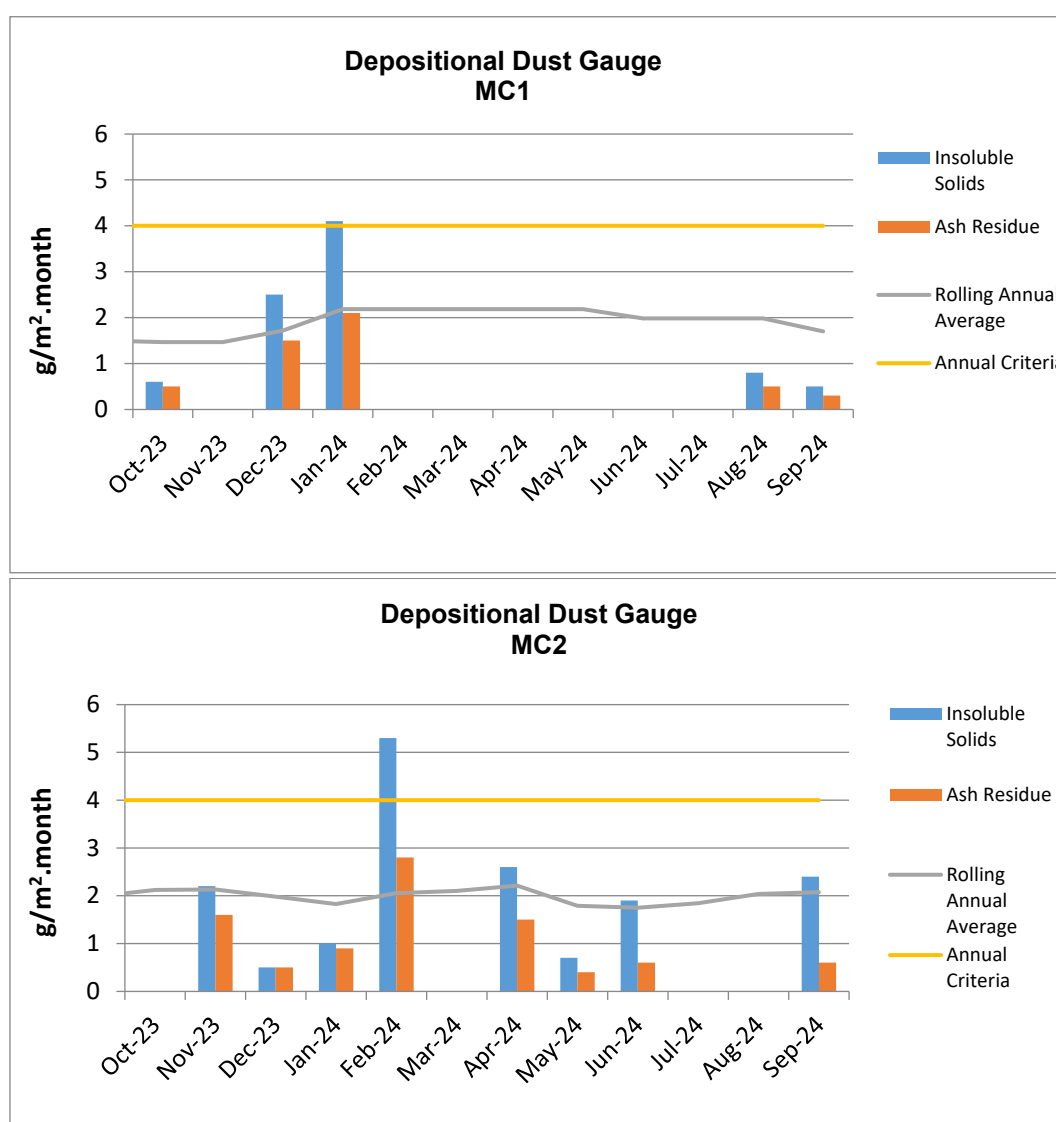
### A. Total Depositional Dust

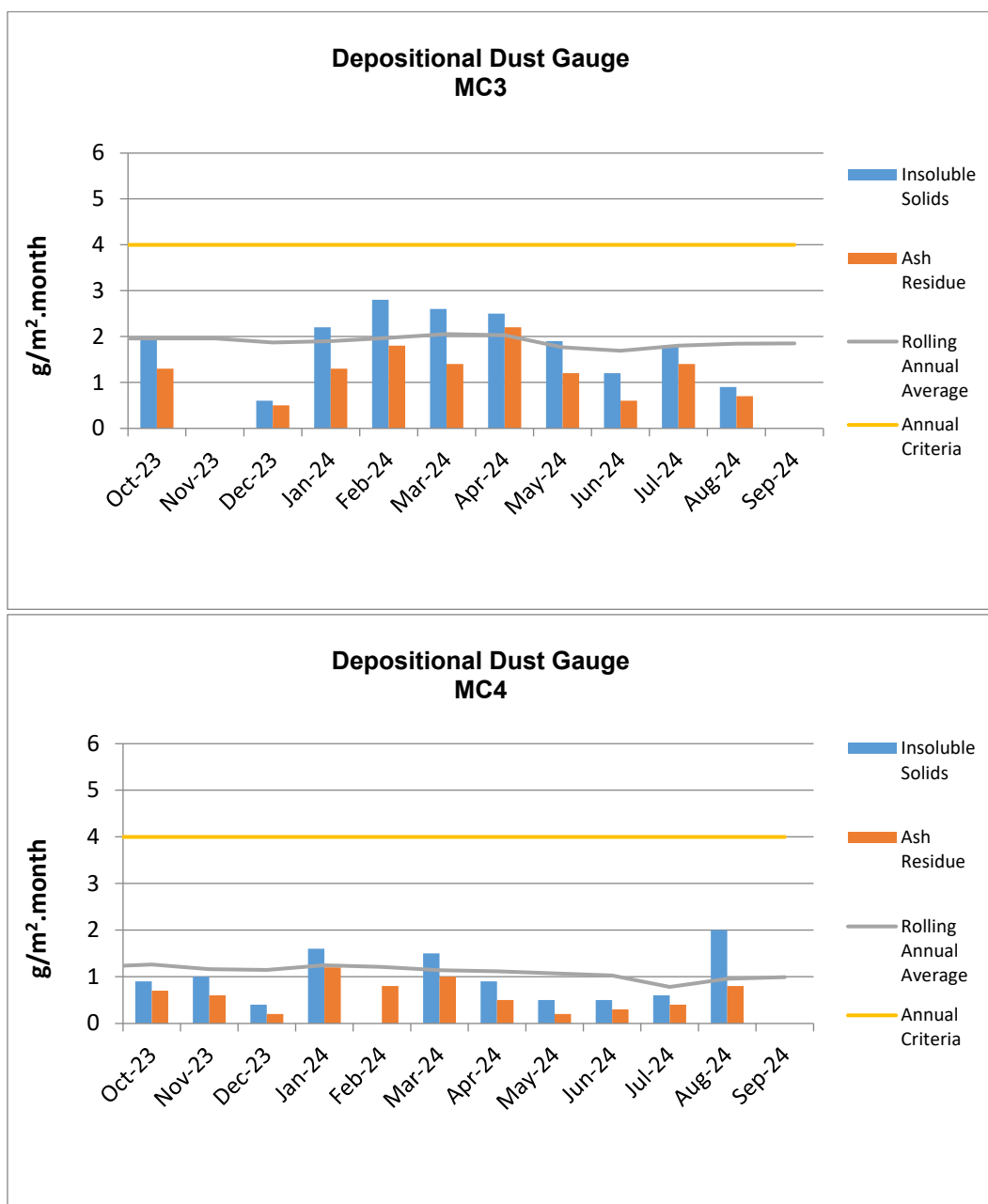
The 12 monthly rolling annual average remains below the relevant Project Approval (PA 10\_0138) criteria of 4g/m<sup>2</sup>/month for the respective monitoring points.

**Table 6 – Deposited Dust Gauge Results [g/m<sup>2</sup>/month]**

MONTH	MC1	MC2	MC3	MC4
July	38.0c	6.8c	1.8	0.6
August	0.8	8.1c	0.9	2.0
September	0.5	2.4	4.5c	4.1c
<b>12 MONTH ROLLING AVERAGE</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>

<sup>c</sup> samples contaminated by bird dropping, decomposed insects or vegetable matter.



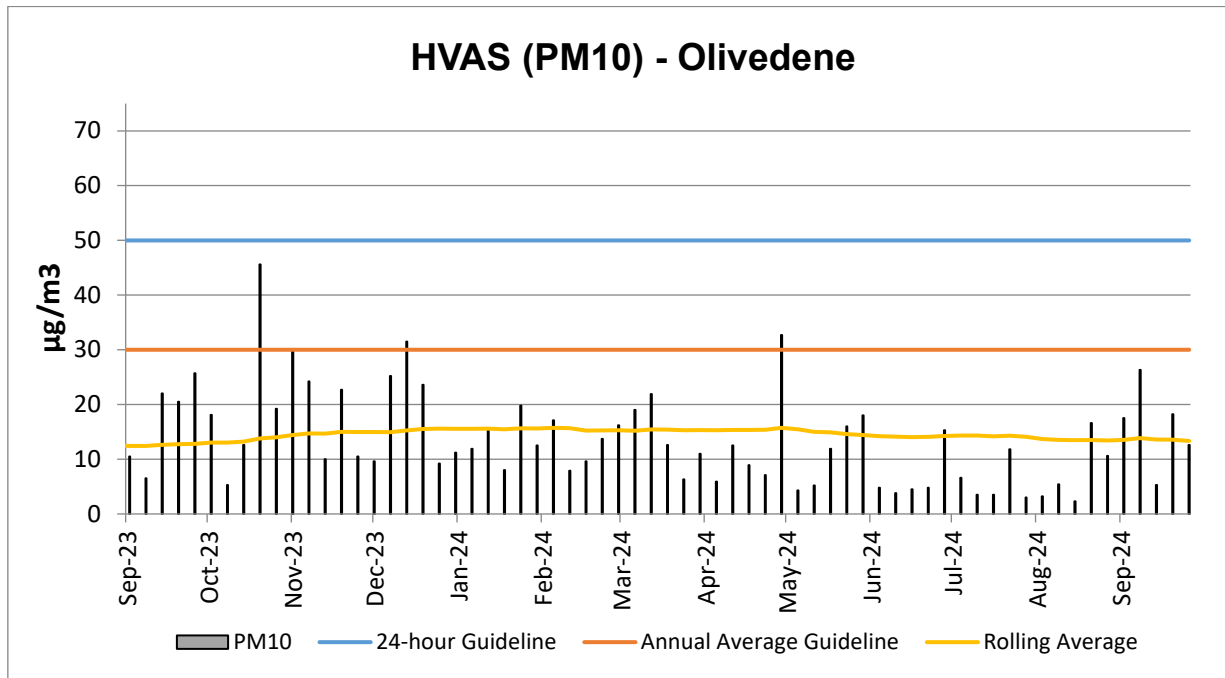


\* Blank cells indicate sample periods where the sample has been contaminated and excluded from the results tables due to contaminated material (insect larvae, bird droppings, vegetation etc.).

## B. High Volume Air Sampling (HVAS)

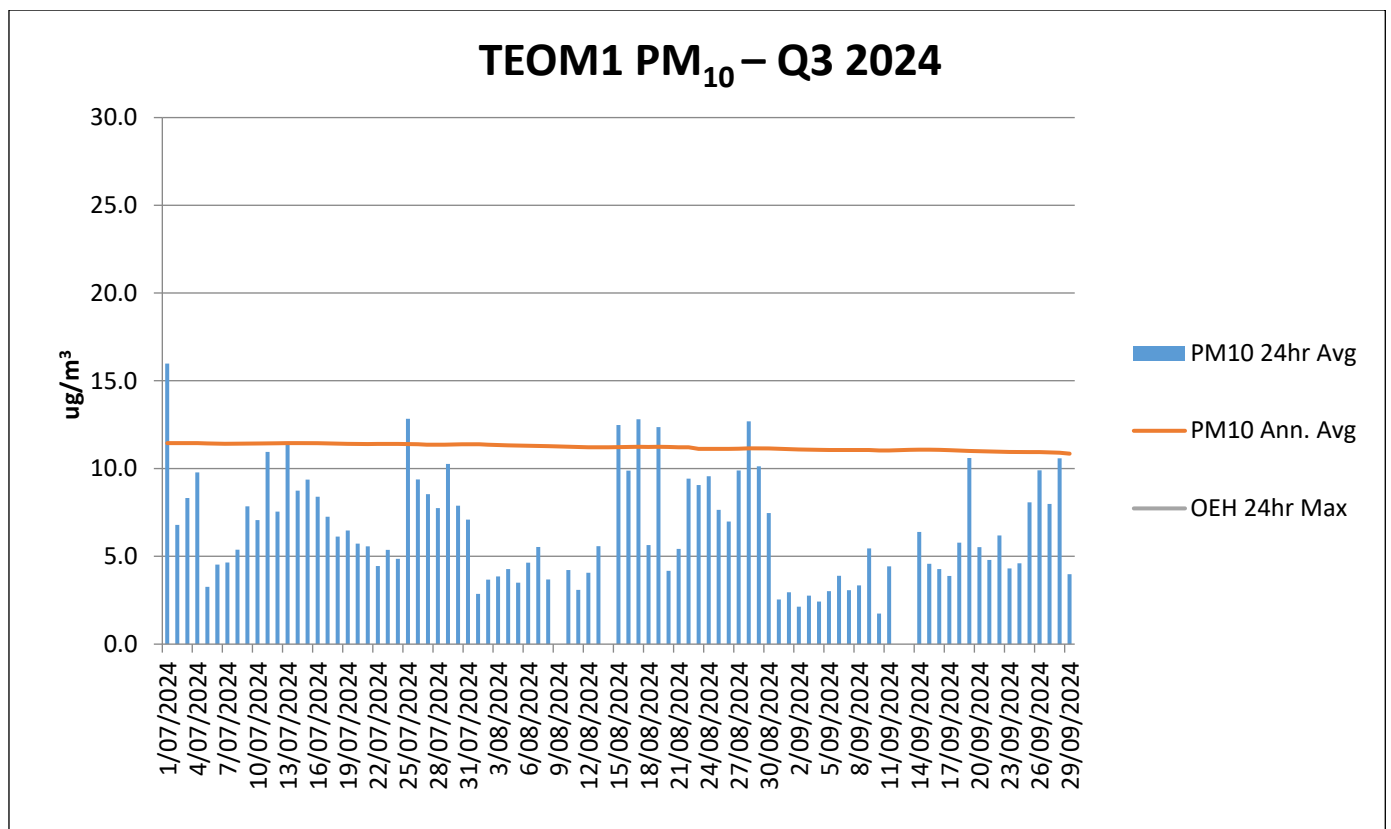
The HVAS monitor is located on the property 'Olivedene,' a mine owned property on Therribri Road. During past 12 months, there have been no exceedances of the 24-hour average of 50  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

HVAS  $\text{PM}_{10}$  Rolling Annual Average as of September was **13.3  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** , which is below the Annual Average Guideline of 30  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .



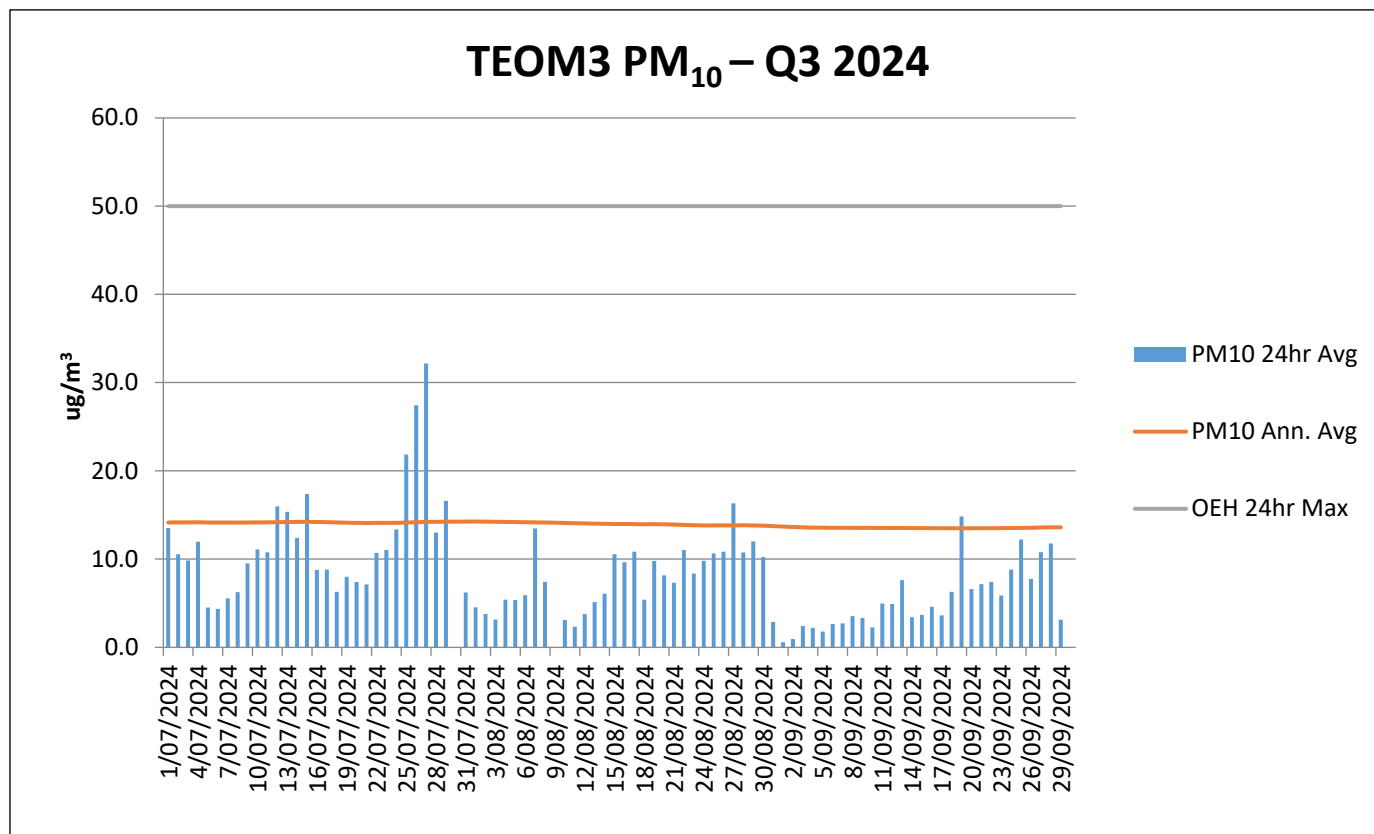
#### C. TEOM - PM10 Results

The annual rolling average for PM10 at the Maules Creek Coal for TEOM1 was **10.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$**  and at TEOM3 was **12.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$**  these are both below the Project Approval annual average criteria of 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  as shown in the following figure. There have been no exceedances of the 24-hour average for Q3.



**Figure 1 - TEOM Result – Particulate Matter PM<sub>10</sub> $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$**

\* Blank columns indicate sample periods where there was either power outage, maintenance or other related causes.



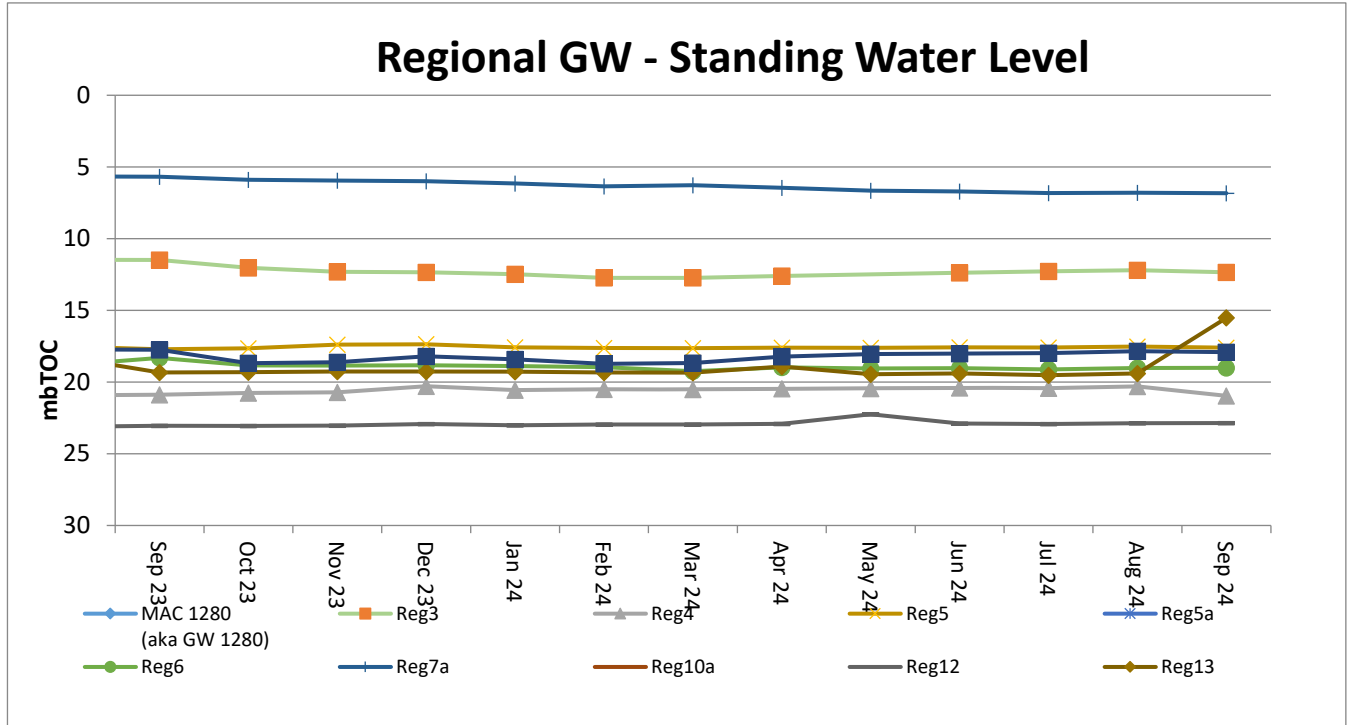
**Figure 2 - TEOM Result – Particulate Matter PM<sub>10</sub>µg/m<sup>3</sup>**

\* Blank columns indicate sample periods where there was either power outage, maintenance or other related causes.

## Water Monitoring

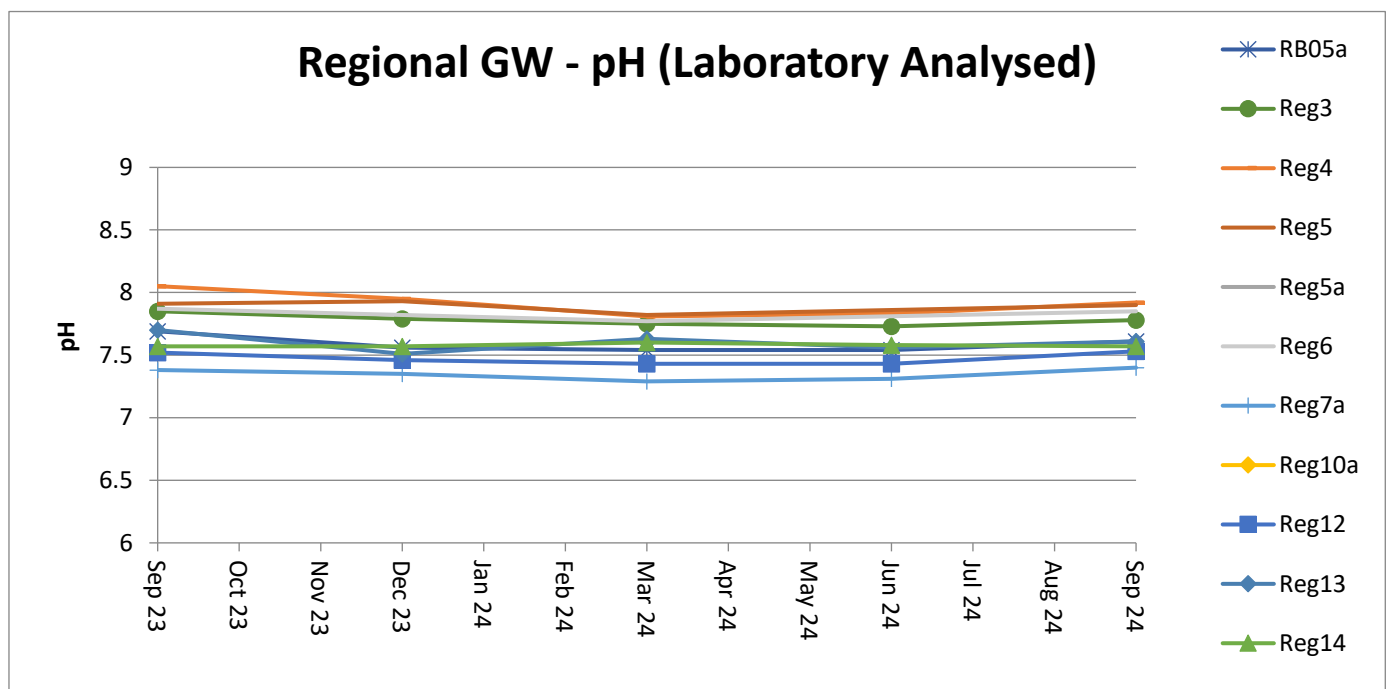
### A. Groundwater

Groundwater monitoring results in open standpipe piezometers show levels to be relatively stable. The Regional bores were installed between Q4, 2013 and Q1, 2014. BCM01, BCM03, Reg10 are shallow bores which have remained dry since construction in 2013.



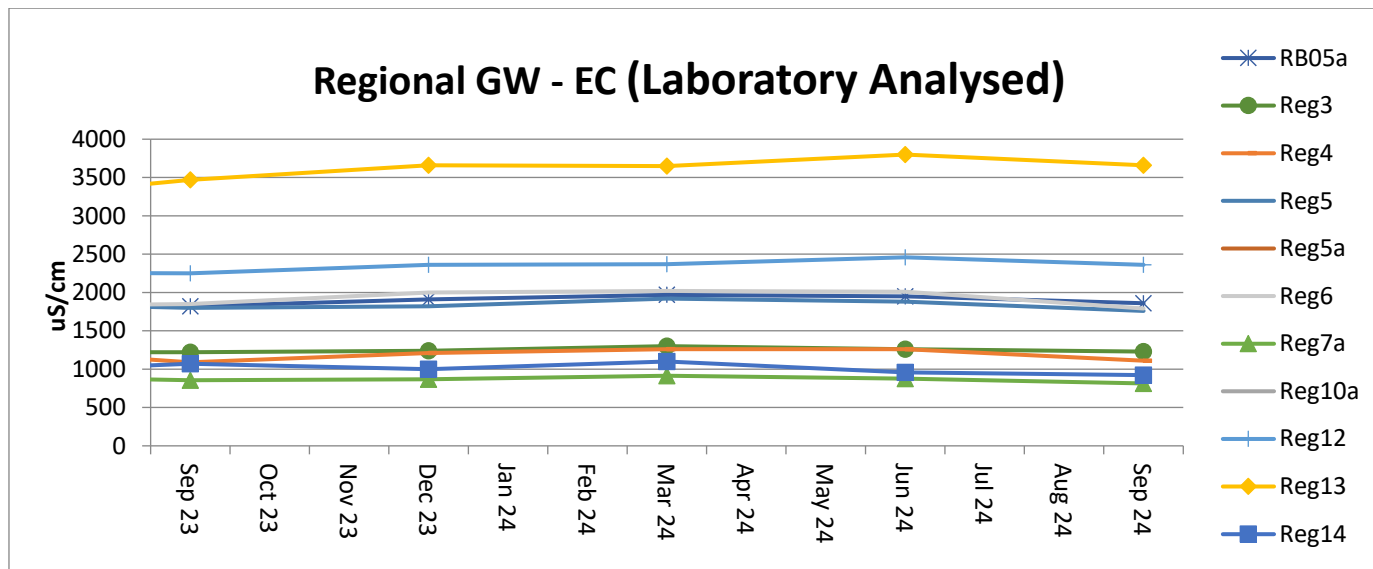
### Acidity / Alkalinity (pH)

Over the past twelve months pH readings across the regional bores have remained static with very little fluctuation.



## Electrical Conductivity

Laboratory Electrical Conductivity (EC) levels are all within historic groundwater EC range of 500<sub>µS/cm</sub> to 2,500<sub>µS/cm</sub>, with the exception of monitoring bore Reg13 which has a historic groundwater EC range of 2,500<sub>µS/cm</sub> to 4,100<sub>µS/cm</sub>. Within the last twelve months EC has remained static.

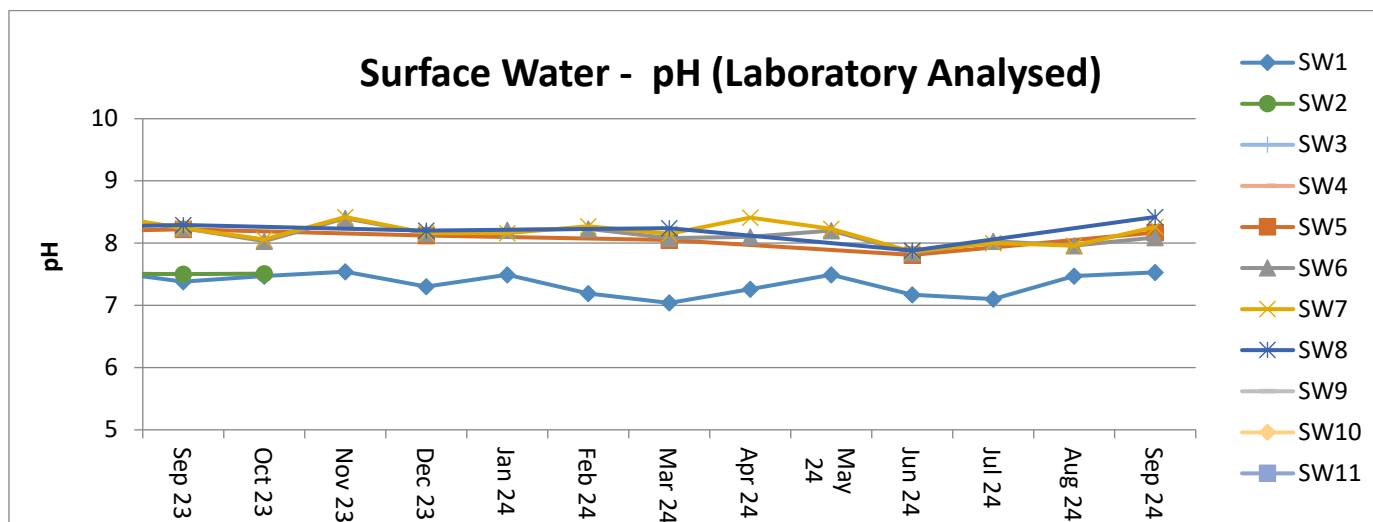


## B. Surface Water – Creeks and Rivers

Routine surface water monitoring is conducted in surrounding creeks and rivers on a monthly basis. Results for parameters including pH, EC and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) are shown in the figures below.

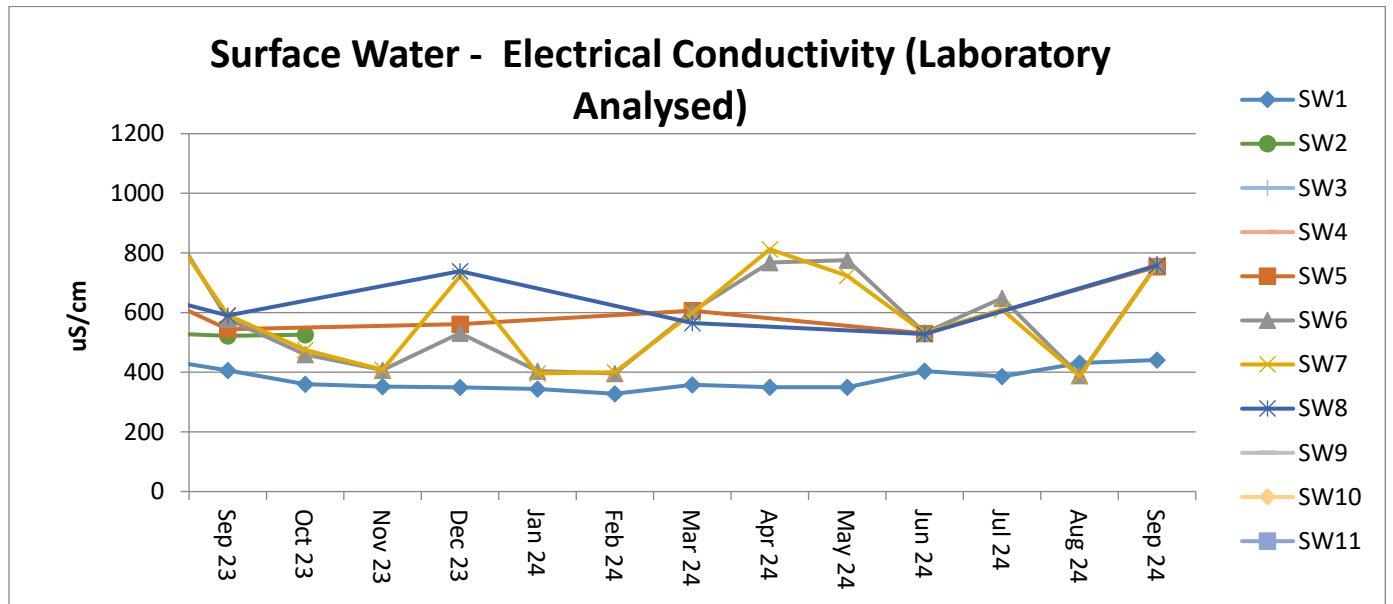
## Acidity / Alkalinity (pH)

Monitoring results for pH in creeks and rivers surrounding MCCM are all trending within the ANZECC range for Irrigation, Ecosystem Health and Recreation.



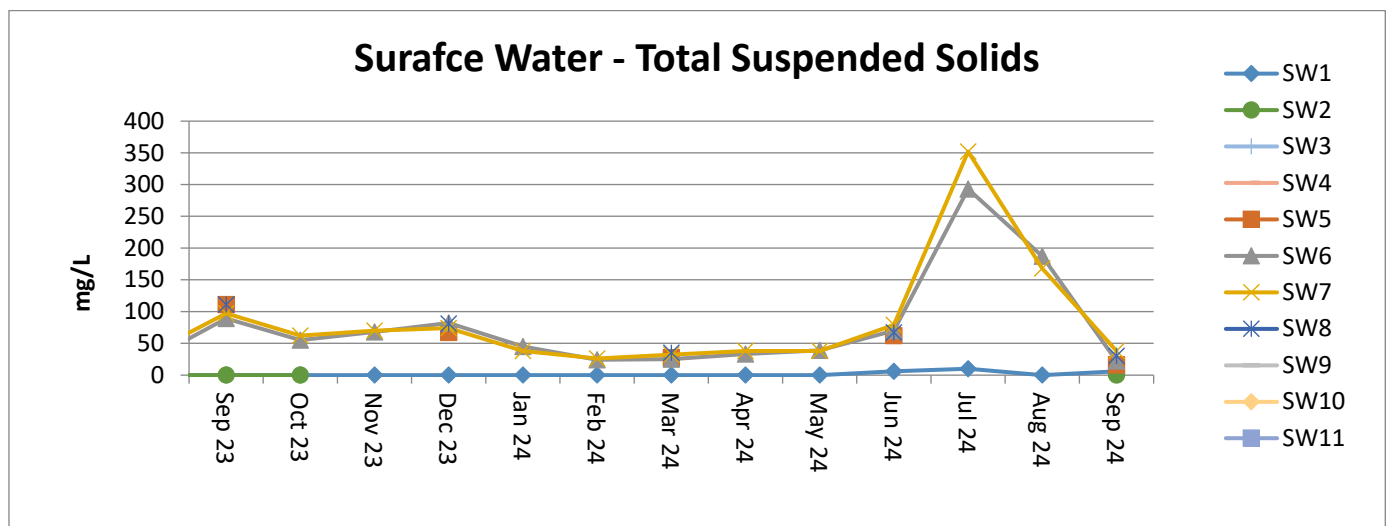
## Electrical Conductivity

Surface water EC trends have remained consistent with SW5, SW6, SW7 and SW8 all historically variable. SW5, SW6, SW7 and SW8 are points along the Namoi River which are subject to regulated and variable flow regimes.



#### Total Suspended Solids (TSS)

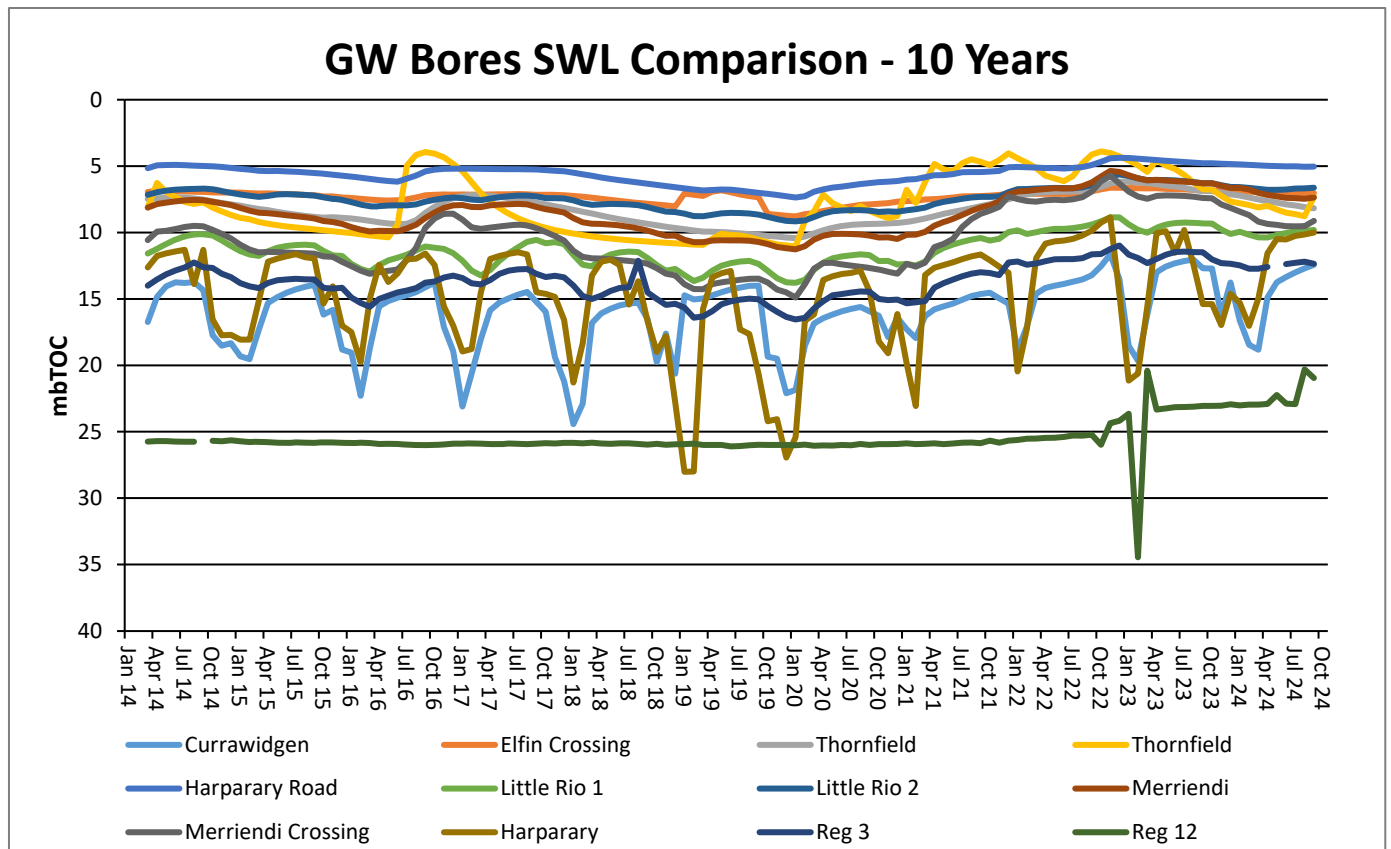
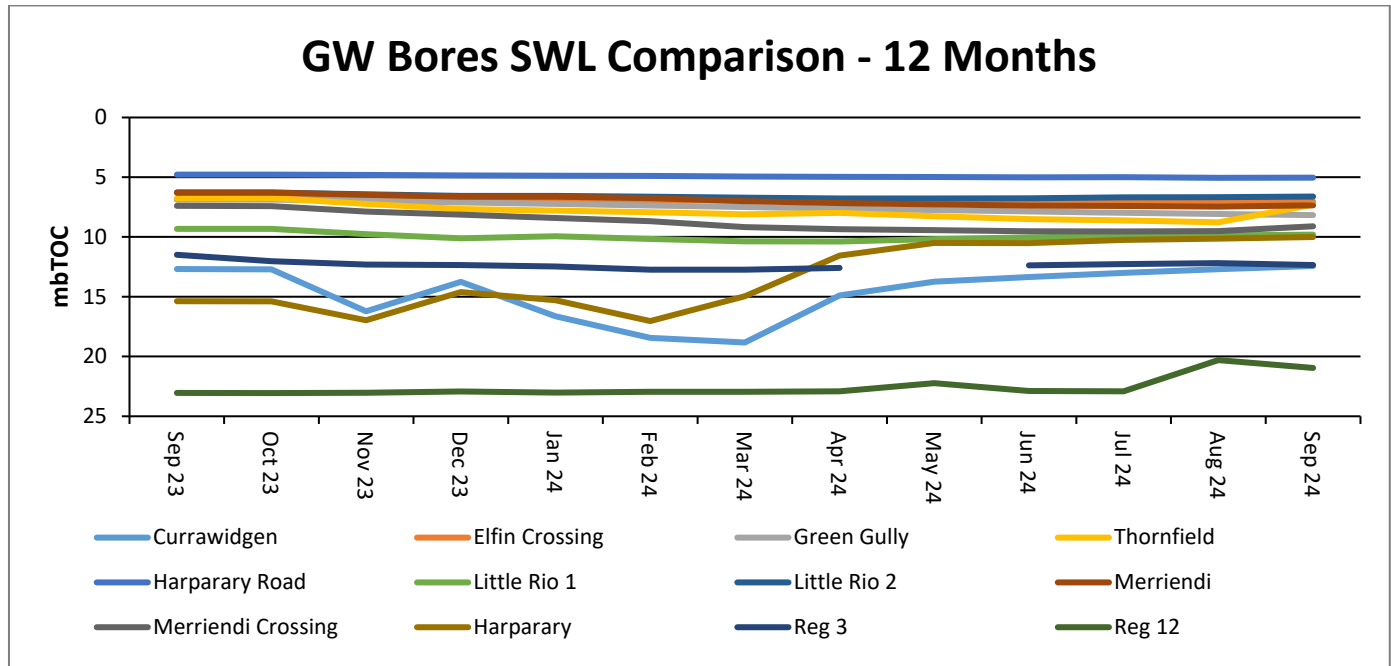
Surface water TSS trends have remained generally consistent with historical results. SW5, SW6, SW7 and SW8 are historically variable as they are located along the Namoi River which is subject to regulated and variable flow regimes.





## Regional Groundwater monitoring

Maules Creek Coal Mine monitors regional bores across the region.



## **Rehabilitation**

Progressive rehabilitation works are ongoing. MCC is on track to complete CY24 rehabilitation in accordance with the Forward Plan.

## **Feral Animal Management**

Most recent routine Whitehaven Biodiversity Feral Animal Control program (July to September 2024) results were:

- 1,911 out of total 4,081 feral pigs removed were from the Maules Biodiversity properties;
- 647 out of the total 957 feral goats removed were from the Maules Biodiversity properties;
- 85 out of total 213 Canid Pest Ejectors (1080) triggered were from the Maules Biodiversity properties;
- 11 Deer were removed from the Maules Biodiversity properties.

## **Weed Control**

During July to September 2024 the following weed control was undertaken via spot spraying/jetting on the Maules Biodiversity Properties:

- 33ha of Broadleaf weeds such as General Broadleaf, Marshmallow, Saffron Thistle, Patterson's Curse, Turnip and Variegated Thistle were sprayed.
- 35ha of Woody Weeds such as Boxthorn, Prickly Pear, Red Berry Bush were sprayed.
- 163ha of tracks sprayed as part of the track maintenance.

## **2024 Annual Fauna Monitoring Bird Surveys**

The 2024 Spring Bird Survey program so far undertaken monitoring of 155 sites with 608 surveys completed for interim species richness total of 139 and 13 threatened species detected. Interim results indicate that species richness in 2024 is on track to be higher than 2022 and 2023.

## **Upcoming Biodiversity Projects and Works**

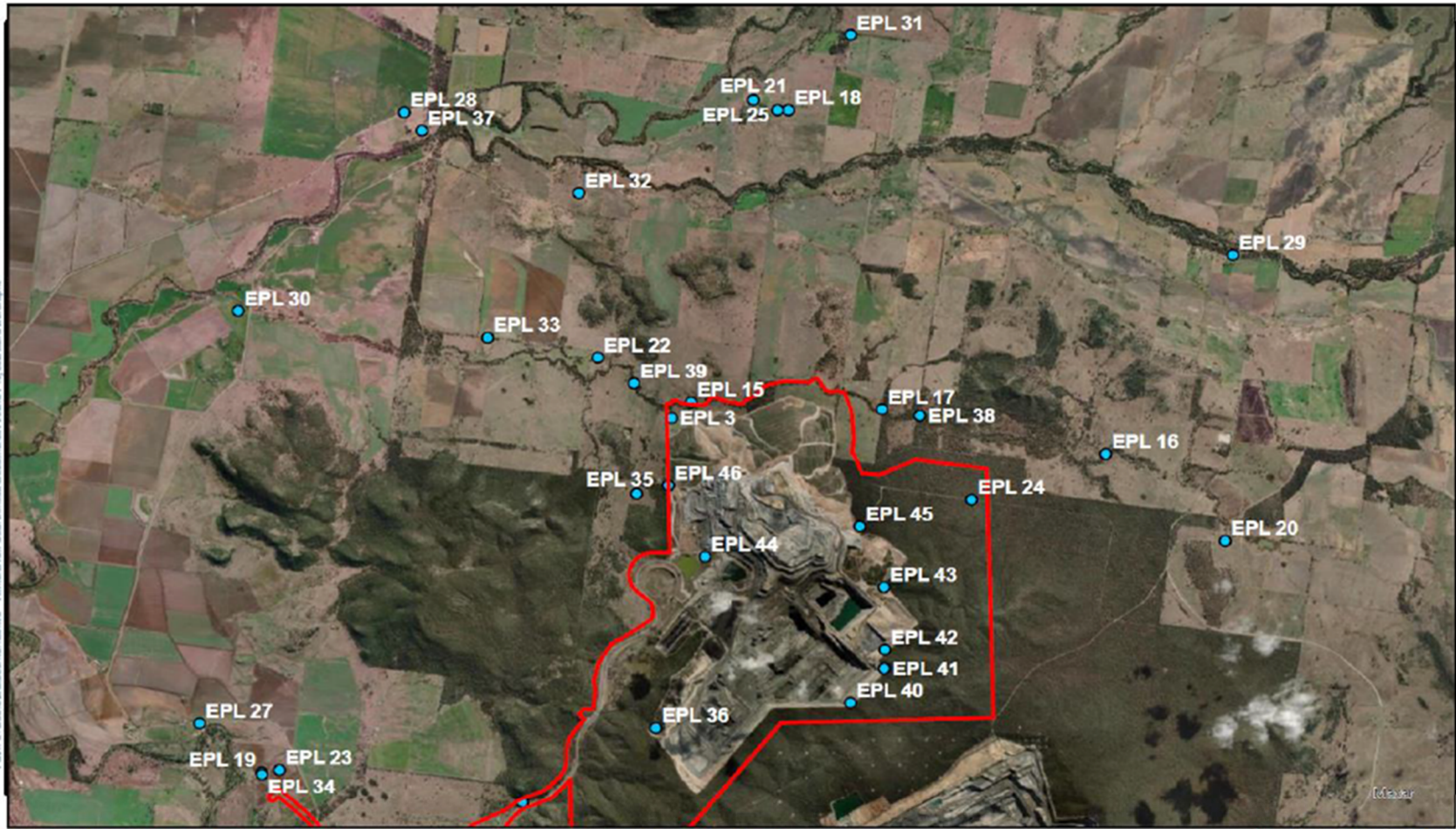
- Continue Pest Animal Management Program October to December 2024.
- Complete 2024 Revegetation Program and continue Tree Watering Program.
- Continue Seasonal Weed Control Programs.
- Continue Fire Break Track Maintenance Program.
- Continue and completed 2024 Spring Flora Monitoring.
- Continue other Annual Fauna Monitoring Programs.
- Commence 2024 / 2025 Bushfire preparation and Fuel Load Assessments

## **Community Complaints**



There was one community complaint registered during the quarter, all community complaints are available on the company website at <https://whitehavencoal.com.au/our-business/our-assets/maules-creek-mine/>

Date received	Category	Nature of Complaint	MCCM Response
8/07/2024	Groundwater	Concerns from a local landholder regarding groundwater levels in their stock and domestic bore	MCC have been in contact with the landholder and have commissioned an independent review into the water levels. A letter has been provided reiterating MCC's compliance with relevant criteria.

12/07/2024	Groundwater	Complainant provided an email stating that they act as executor for the late owner of a nearby property. The complainant noted that they seek compensation because an alleged lack of water impacted the recent sale price of the property.	MCC have provide advice to the complainant.
24/07/2024	Weeds and Groundwater	Complaint received regarding weeds growing in a Whitehaven owned property and complainant also asking for a guarantee that exploration drilling in the area will not adversely impact the groundwater.	MCC have informed complainant of the extensive weed management conducted on the property. MCC has also provided advice that exploration boreholes are managed in line with the regulators code of practice.
3/08/2024	Traffic	Worker's bus was parking in complainant's front driveway of a morning resulting in members of the household being woken up.	MCC has altered the bus route, removing the need to park in this location.
30/08/2024	CCC	The DPHI received a complaint regarding inadequate consultation on the MCC BMP through the CCC process. The complaint also enquired about the lack of Aboriginal representation on the committee	MCC compiled the appropriate information and replied to the DPHI.



**EPL 20221 Monitoring Locations - 16/05/2024**

-  EPL Monitoring Locations
-  MCCM Project Boundary MOD 9

Scale: 1:33,944,657,333  
Author: EGleason  
Date Printed: 26/03/2021  
Spatial Reference  
Name: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary  
Sphere

Maules Creek Coal



Disclaimer: Map for reference only and subject to survey. MCC makes no guarantee of the accuracy of this map and data within. MCC shall have no liability for any decisions made or actions taken based upon this map.



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# Maules Creek Coal Mine

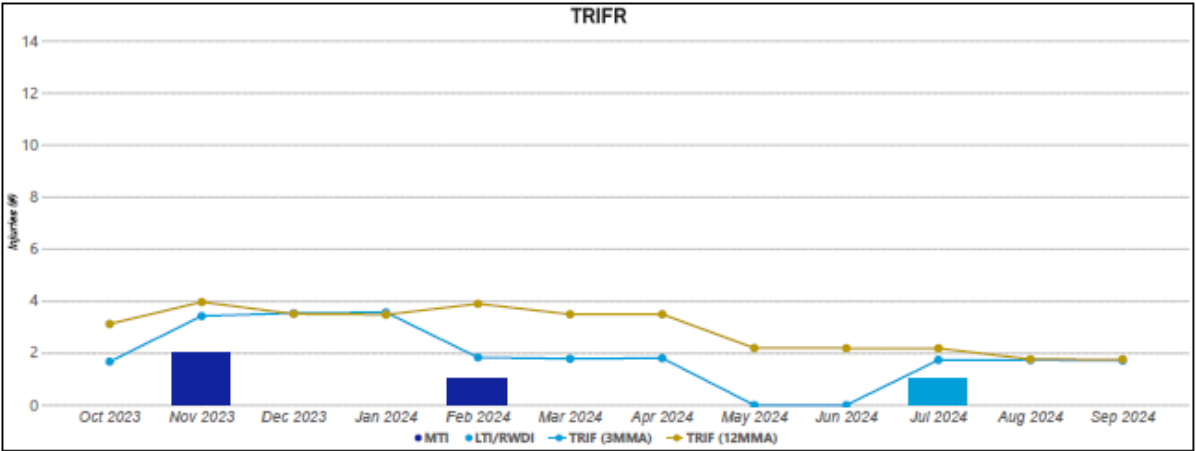
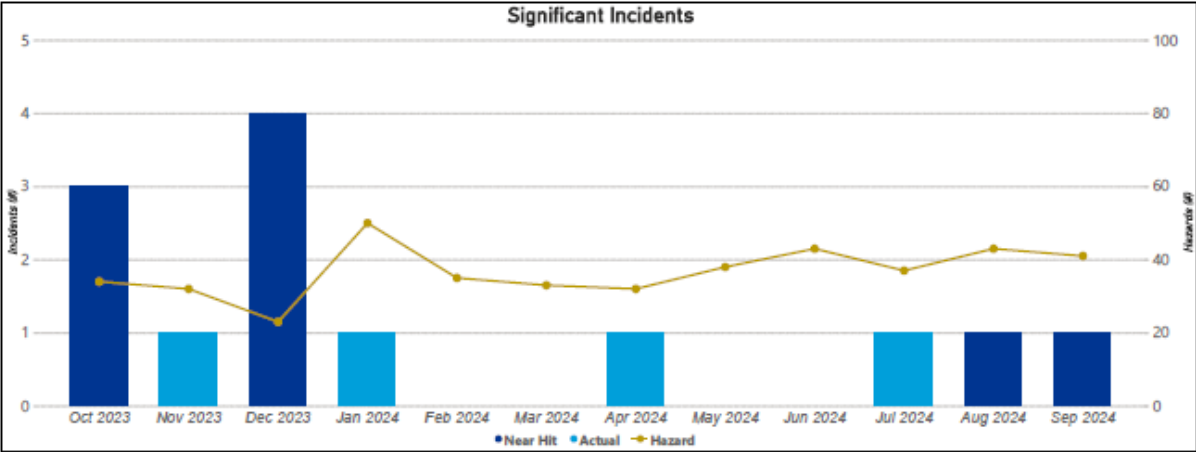
CCC MEETING  
Q3 2024

Maules Creek Coal Mine  
October 2024



# MCC Health and Safety Performance

- Total Recordable Injury Frequency Rate (TRIFR) 1.71
- Potential Level 4+ Hazards = 125 Q1 FY
- Critical controls verified 100%



# Environmental Monitoring

**Summarised for Q3.  
Full detail in the Monitoring Report  
supplied**

Maules Creek Coal Mine  
October 2024



**WHITEHAVEN COAL**



# Environmental Monitoring

Q3 2024 - Air Quality Monitoring

Maules Creek Coal Mine  
October 2024



WHITEHAVEN COAL



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# Depositional Dust

The annual reporting period (12 monthly rolling annual average) remained below the relevant Project Approval (PA 10\_0138) criteria of 4g/m<sup>2</sup>/month for the respective monitoring points.

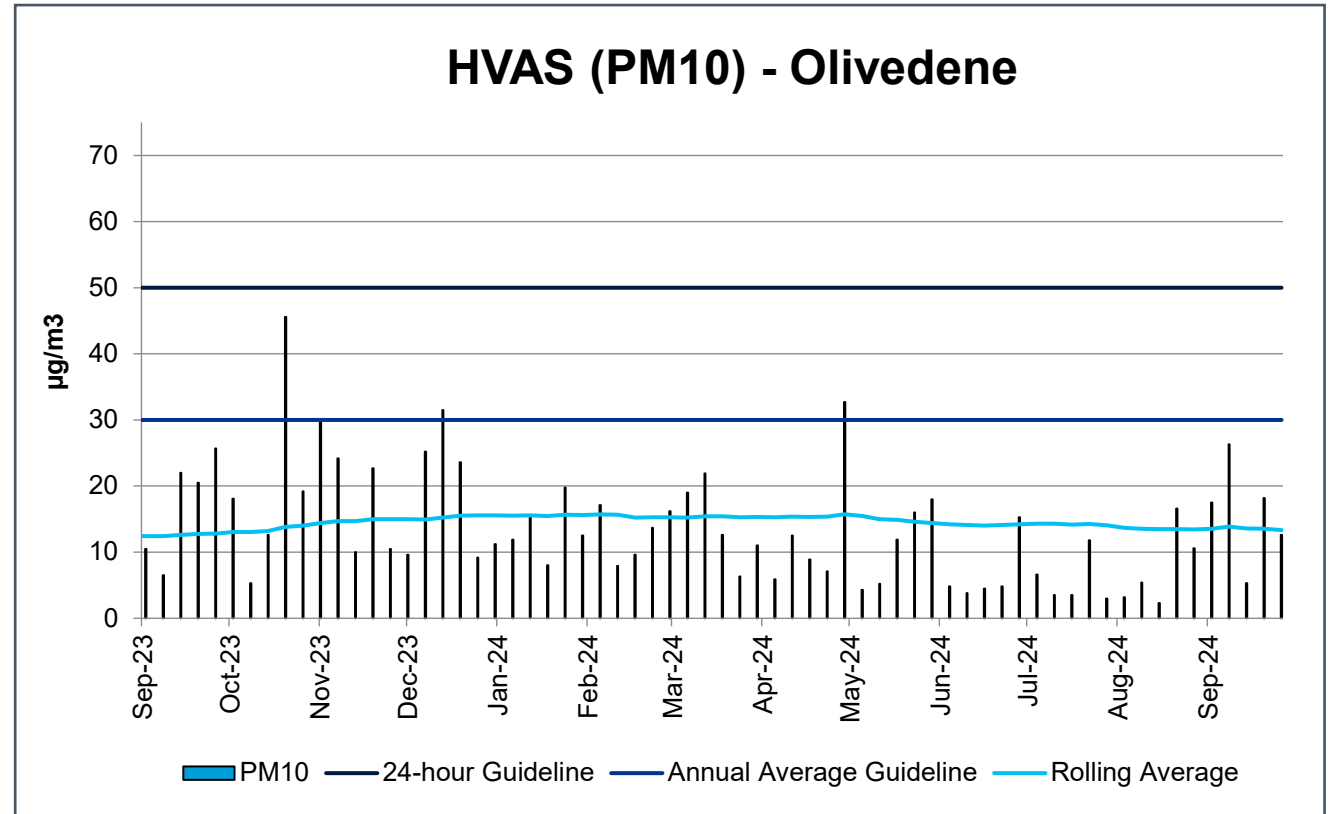
MONTH	MC1	MC2	MC3	MC4
July	38.0c	6.8c	1.8	0.6
August	0.8	8.1c	0.9	2.0
September	0.5	2.4	4.5c	4.1c
12 MONTH ROLLING AVERAGE	1.7	2.1	1.9	1.0

<sup>c</sup> samples contaminated by bird dropping, decomposed insects or vegetable matter.

# HVAS

## High Volume Air Sampler

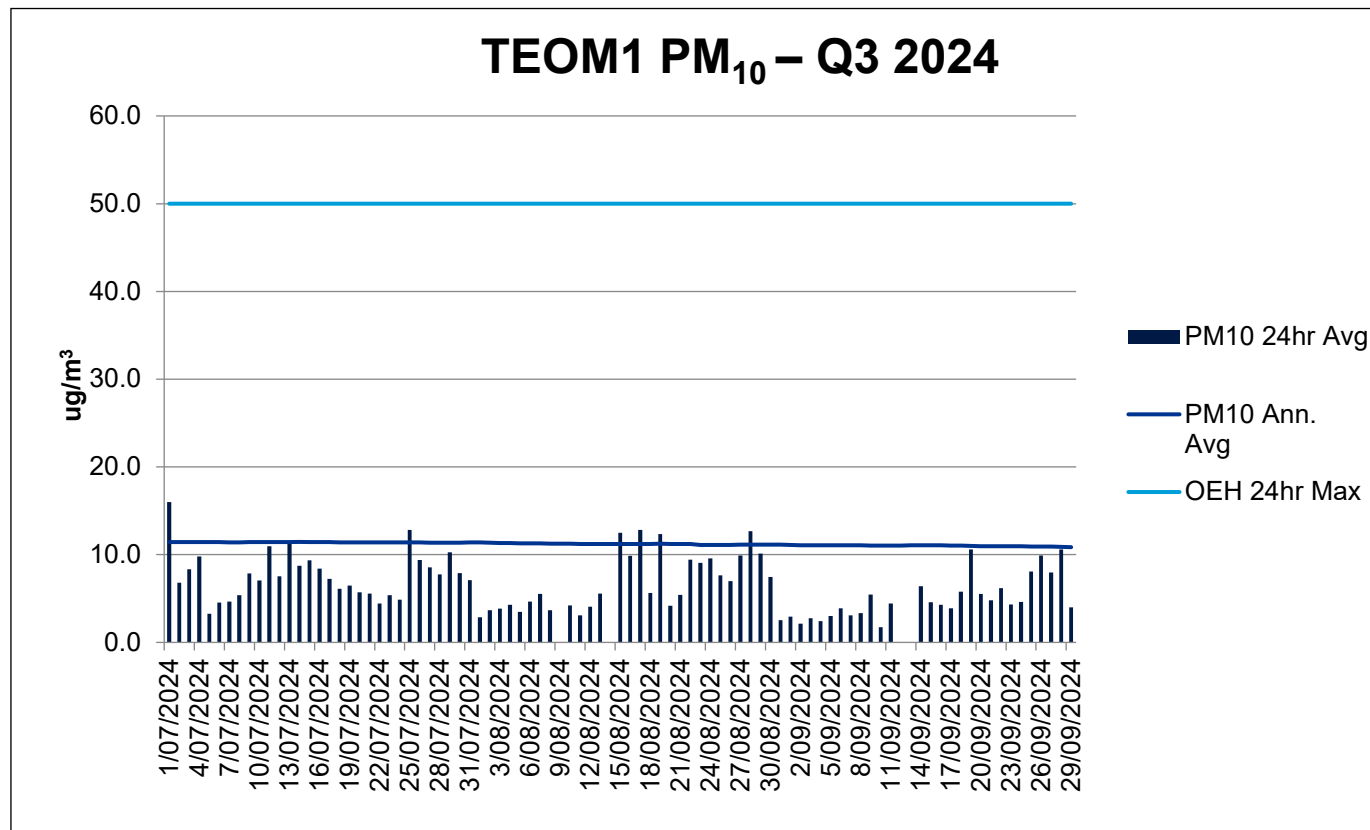
- The HVAS monitor is located on 'Olivedene'
- Data is publically available
- No exceedances recorded during the 24-hour average of  $50 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
- The Rolling Annual Average was recorded at  **$13.3 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$** , which is below the Annual Average Guideline of  $30 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .



# TEOM (PM10)

## Tapered element oscillating microbalance

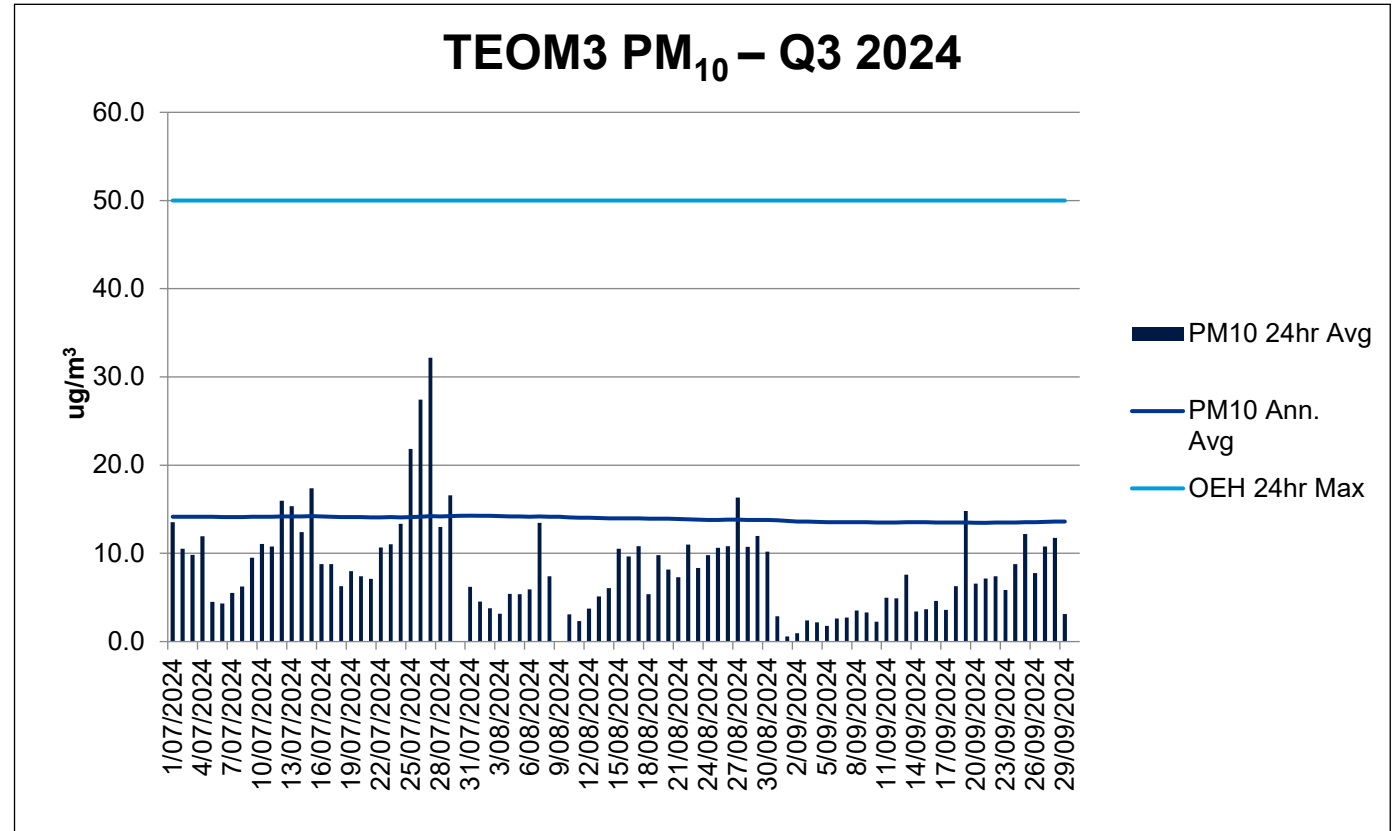
- Publicly available results of TEOM1 available on the EPA website.
- Annual rolling average for TEOM 1 is 10.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  at the 30 September 2024 (criteria 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ).



# TEOM (PM10)

## Tapered element oscillating microbalance

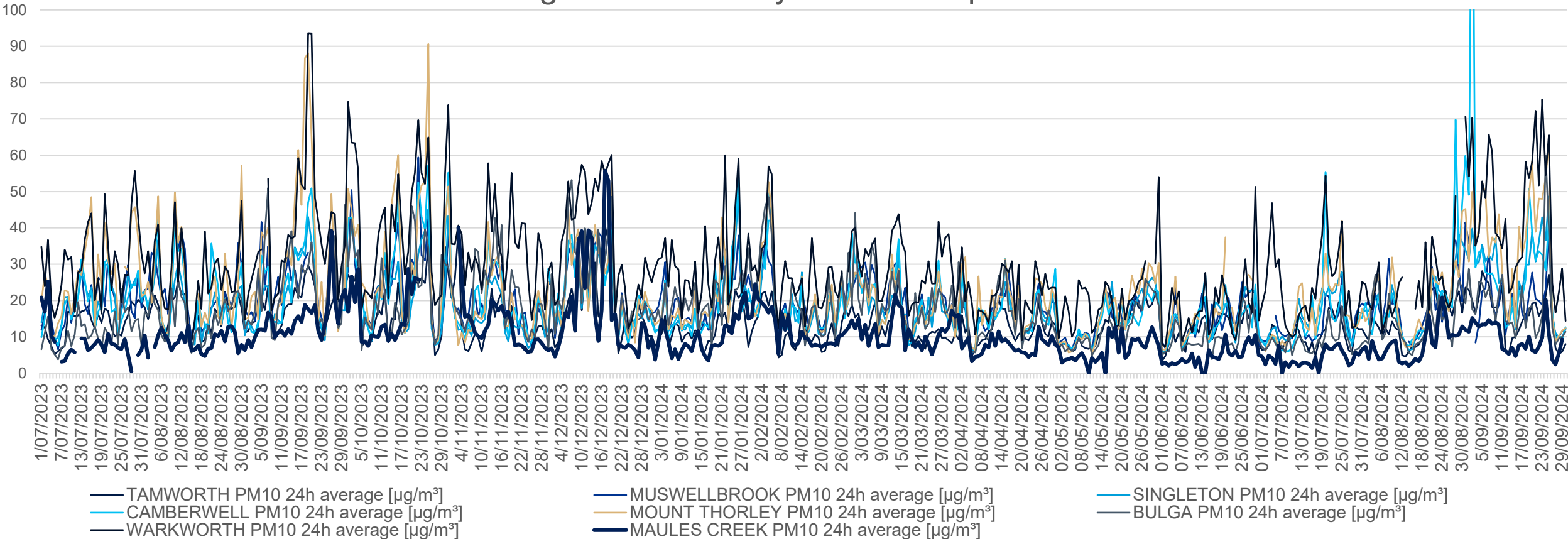
- Annual rolling average for TEOM 3 is 12.5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  at 30 September 2024 (criteria 30 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ).



# Air Quality Monitoring Rolling 12 Months

Annual Reporting Data 1 July 2023 – 30 September 2024

## Regional Air Quality PM10 Comparison



12 monthly	TAMWORTH PM10	MUSWELLBROOK PM10	SINGLETON PM10	CAMBERWELL PM10	MOUNT THORLEY PM10	BULGA PM10	WARKWORTH PM10	MAULES CREEK PM10
Annual Average	14.29977925	19.821875	18.71714922	20.04473684	22.85159091	17.41211454	30.20555556	10.17836414
Max 24hr Ave	40.4	59.4	50.6	166	90.6	59.9	93.6	55.74

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# Environmental Monitoring

Q3 2024 - Groundwater

Maules Creek Coal Mine  
October 2024

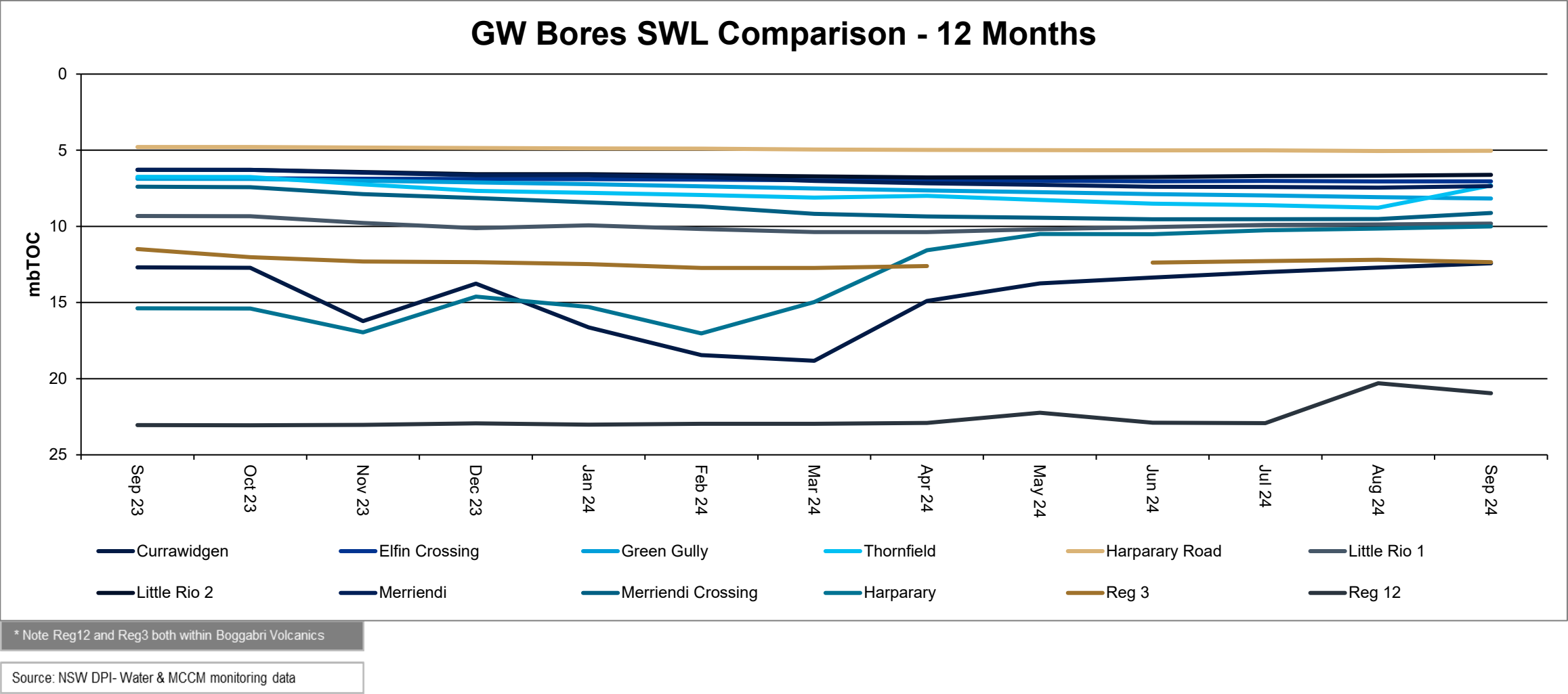




# Monitoring Locations



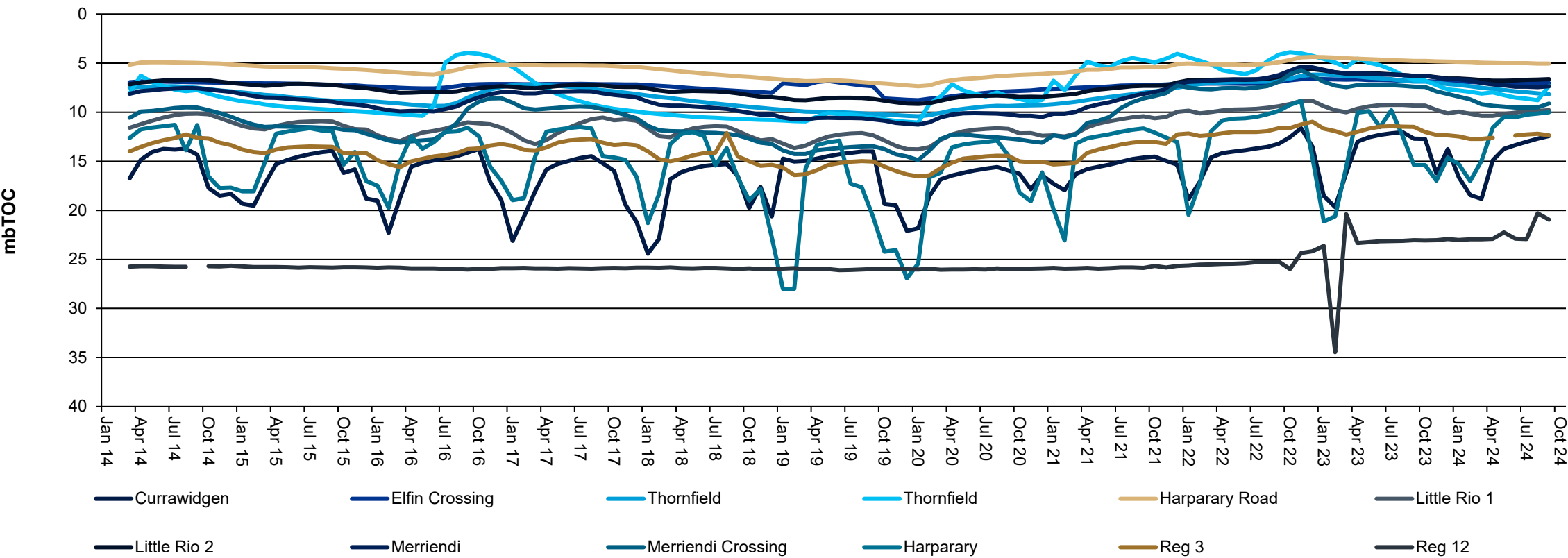
# Groundwater Levels





# Groundwater Levels

GW Bores SWL Comparison - 10 Years



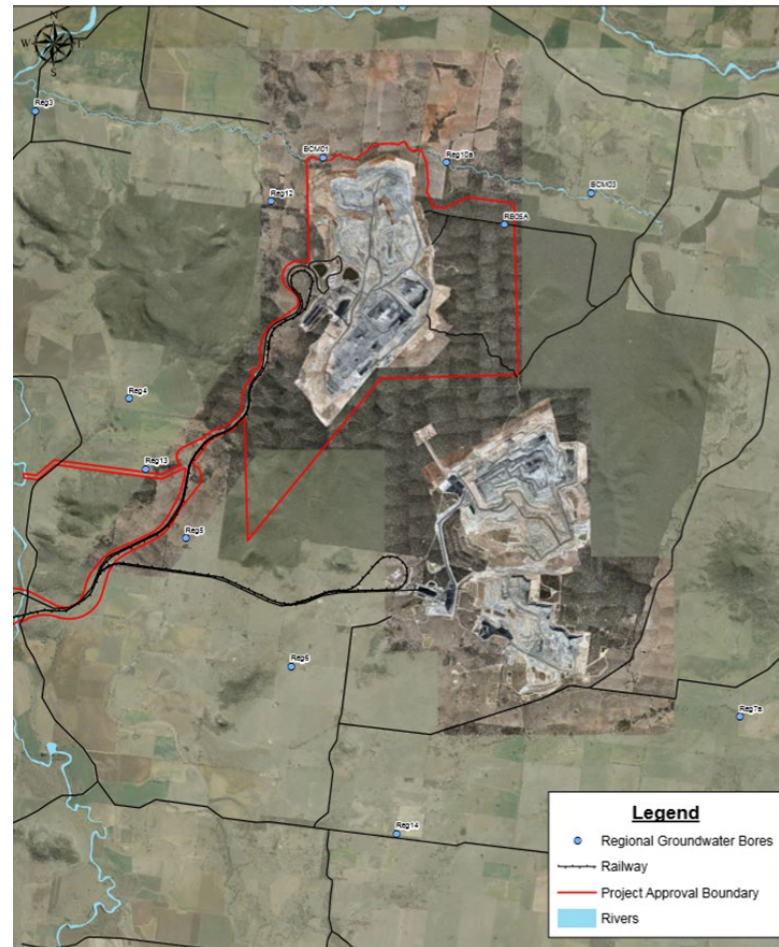
Source: NSW DPI- Water & MCCM monitoring data

\* Note Reg12 and Reg3 both within Boggabri Volcanics

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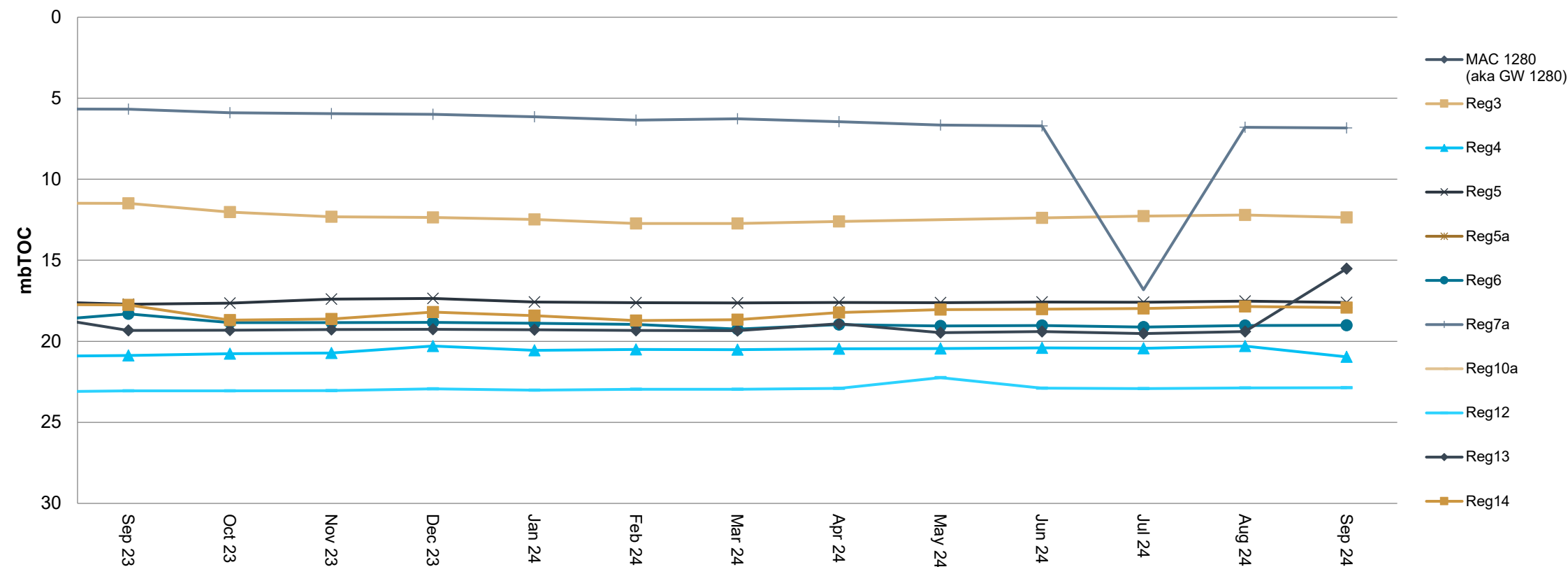
# Standing Water Levels

## Regional Groundwater Bores



# Standing Water Levels

Regional GW - Standing Water Level Q3 2023 - 2024



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# Tyre Disposal 2024

- 400 tyres were disposed of in August 2024
- All tyres were disposed of in accordance with EPL 20221

## **O4 Waste management**

O4.1 The licensee is authorised to dispose of heavy plant tyre waste generated on the premises, in the waste rock/overburden emplacements.

The licensee must:

- a) ensure that heavy plant waste tyres are re-used on the premises as much as practical;
- b) ensure that any surplus heavy plant waste tyres can be emplaced by being spread out within the waste rock/overburden emplacements and buried as deep as practical, but, covered by at least 20 metres of inert material beneath any final rehabilitated surface;
- c) place heavy plant waste tyres at least 15 metres away from coarse reject material or tailings emplacement areas;
- d) not emplace any heavy plant waste tyres directly on the pit floor, or in a location that is likely to impede or contaminate saturated aquifers;
- e) not emplace any heavy plant waste tyres in a position that compromises the stability of the final rehabilitated landform;
- f) not place any heavy plant waste tyres within 15 metres of heated or potentially acid forming materials;
- g) not place any heavy plant waste tyres in an area likely to leach to any watercourse; and
- h) record the co-ordinates (easting, northing and elevation) of each disposal location.

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# Environmental Monitoring

**Q3 2024 - Biodiversity**

Maules Creek Coal Mine  
October 2024



# Biodiversity Management

## Feral Animal Management

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# Biodiversity Management

## 2024 Annual Fauna Monitoring Bird Surveys

The 2024 Spring Bird Survey program so far undertaken monitoring of 155 sites with 608 surveys completed for interim species richness total of 139 and 13 threatened species detected. Interim results indicate that species richness in 2024 is on track to be higher than 2022 and 2023.

## Upcoming Biodiversity Projects and Works

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Complete 2024 Revegetation Program and continue Tree Watering Program.

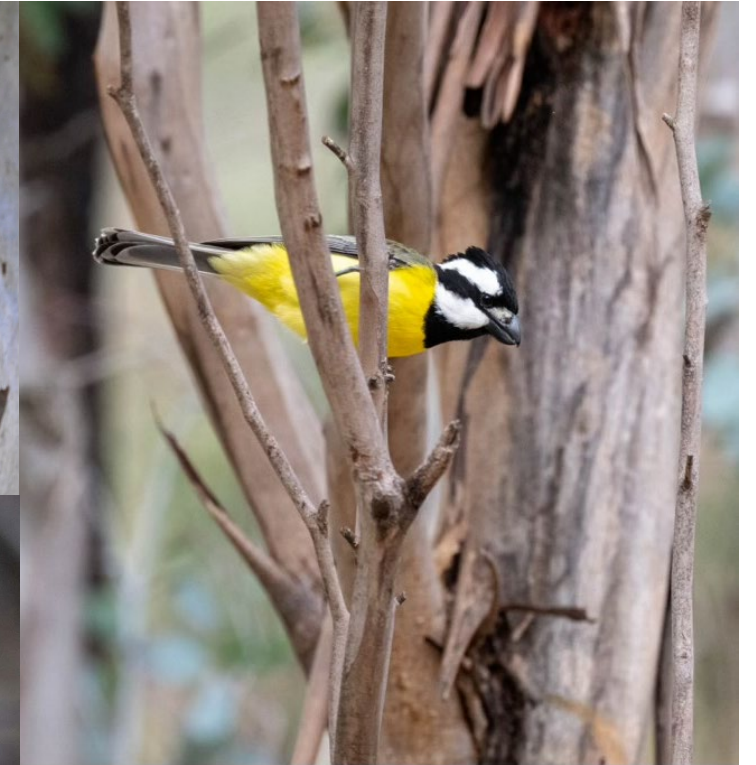
Continue Seasonal Weed Control Programs.

Continue Fire Break Track Maintenance Program.

Continue and completed 2024 Spring Flora Monitoring.

Continue other Annual Fauna Monitoring Programs.

Commence 2024 / 2025 Bushfire preparation and Fuel Load Assessments





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# MCC CCC meeting

## Maules Creek Continuation Project EIS Update

November 2024

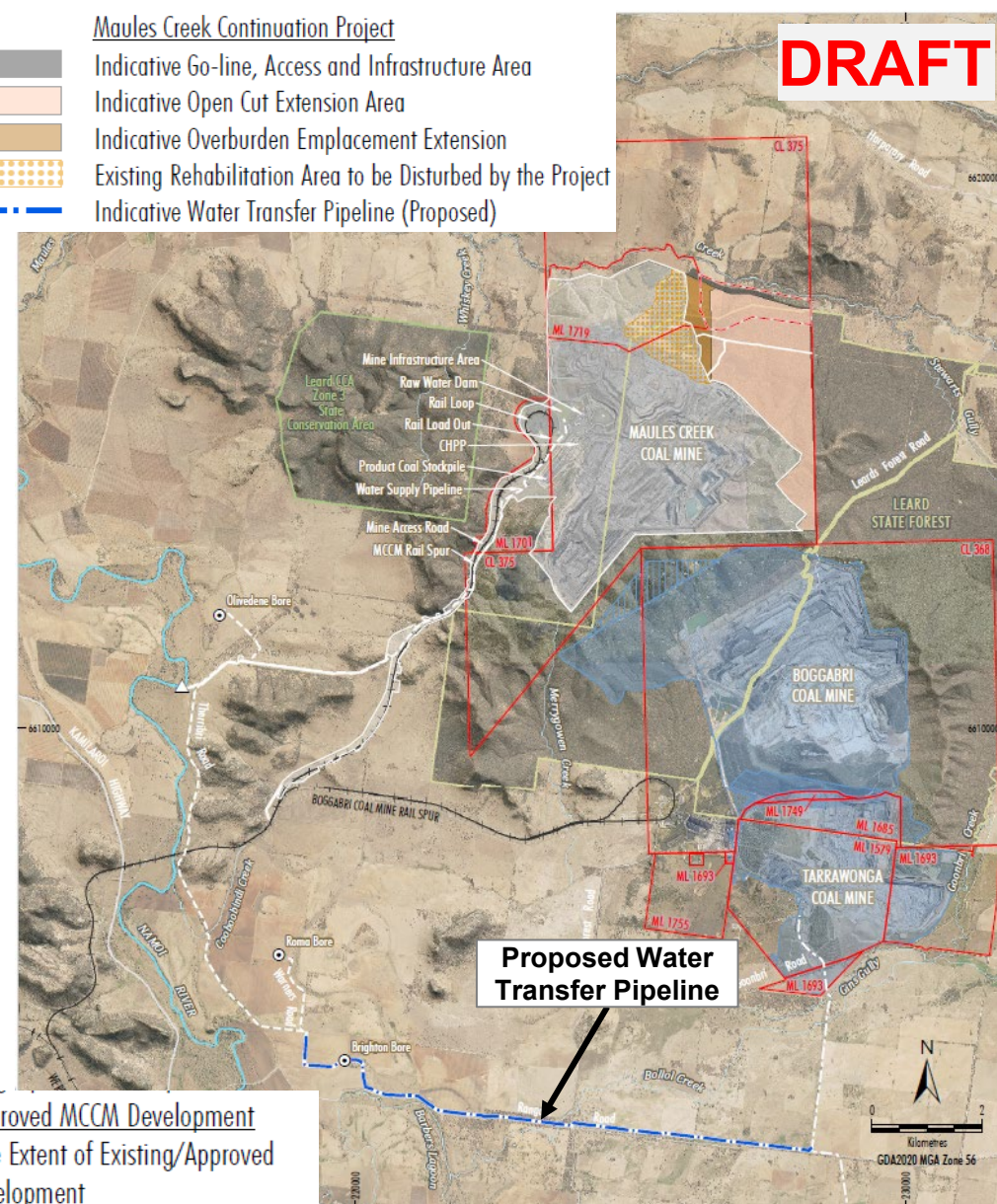
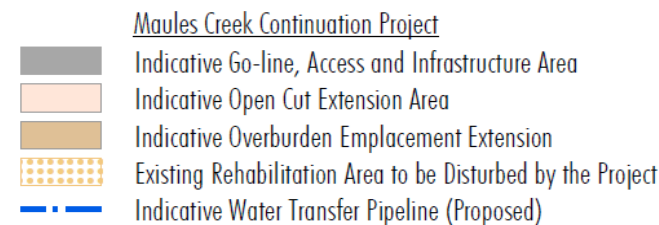
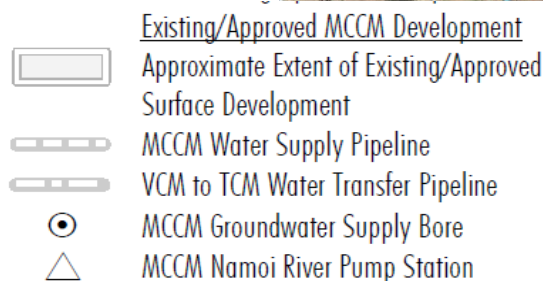


*Revegetation works in the Maules Creek Offset Areas*



# MCCP Project Description

- Continuation of open cut mining operations and workforce beyond 2034 to approximately 2045
- Up to 14 Mtpa of ROM coal (1 Mtpa increase to approved maximum ROM)
- Transport of up to 12.4 Mtpa of product coal (no change to approved maximum rail limit)
- Continued operation of the existing CHPP, rail and other MCCM infrastructure (with upgrades as required) until 2045
- Final void to be located in the south-east away from Back Creek
- Surface-rights mining lease to be sought in the north of extension area
- Water transfer pipeline to be constructed between MCCM water transfer pipeline network and approved Tarrawonga Coal Mine/Vickery Extension Project
- Pipeline design aims to minimise impact to woodland areas



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# Environmental Assessment Updates

- Updates on the social impact assessment, groundwater, surface water, biodiversity, noise and air quality assessments were provided in the August 2024 CCC meeting

## ACHA

- Draft ACHA report sent to Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) with an information session for invited RAPs at the Boggabri Golf Club and site visit planned on 18 November 2024

## Land Contamination

- Based on the site inspection and information reviewed as part of the preliminary site investigations, there is low potential for land within the Project footprint to be contaminated

## Soil Resources Assessment

- Soil disturbance management and mitigation measures during construction and operational phases of the Project, would ensure that the rehabilitation of the MCCM is capable of facilitating the intended post mining land uses



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# Environmental Assessment Updates - Continued



## Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage

- No historic heritage sites found in the Project footprint

## Visual Assessment

- Visual Assessment to include simulations of the final landform from public vantage points including Maules Creek

## Final Landform and Final Land-use Concept

- Geomorphic design principles to be incorporated into the overburden emplacement design to achieve a landform that is safe, stable, non-polluting and sympathetic with surrounding landforms
- Single final void to be located away from Back Creek
- Native woodland to be established over the rehabilitated mine landforms – rehabilitation of site to promote woodland connectivity with surrounding conservation areas and Leard State Forest
- Final void size and reporting catchment area to be minimised as far as reasonable and feasible consistent with existing Project Approval conditions

# EIS Approval Process

- Scoping Report lodgment - Complete
- Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) issued by DPHI on 26 October 2023 - Complete
- Site Verification Certificate granted over the proposed Mining Lease Application area - Complete
- EPBC Referral lodged on 15 July 2024 - Complete
- EIS planned to be lodged end of Q1 2025

## APPROVAL TIMELINE

Preparation of Scoping Report



Lodgement of Scoping Report



SEARs issued from the DPHI



EIS development

WE ARE  
HERE

Development Application, including the EIS, lodged with DPHI

DPHI reviews the EIS and prepares for public exhibition

EIS placed on public exhibition for comment

Whitehaven responds to submissions

DPHI assesses the EIS, submissions and Whitehaven responses

The NSW Minister for Planning directs IPC to undertake an Independent Assessment

The IPC makes a determination



# MCC CCC Meeting Management Plans

Maules Creek Coal Mine  
October 2024

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# MCC Management Plans

## Main Changes

- Change to the format to align Management Plans across WHC
- No additional information or changes to the current information, WHC taking a streamline approach to the Management Plans.
- Current Plans being prepared for submission:
  - Traffic Management Plan
  - Noise Management Plan



### Maules Creek Traffic Management Plan

October 2024

Whitehaven Coal Limited  
ABN 68 124 425 396  
Level 28, 259 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000  
PO Box R1113, Royal Exchange NSW 1225  
62 8222 1100  
info@whitehavencoal.com.au  
www.whitehavencoal.com.au





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# Community

Maules Creek Coal Mine  
October 2024

# Aboriginal Representative on the CCC

- Advertisements continue to run in the Gunnedah Times and Narrabri Courier
- Advertisements continue to be displayed on the MCC website
- No applications have been forthcoming
- Please direct anyone who is interested to apply through the website or through application to the Chair.

## Community

[MAULES CREEK CCC MEMBER DETAILS AND CONTACTS](#) →

### Community Consultative Committee applications

The Maules Creek Community Consultative Committee (CCC) is looking for a mix of people who live locally or are members of a local community or stakeholder group (eg social, environment, Aboriginal or industry) to contribute constructively to committee discussions, attend around four meetings a year, and communicate information about the mine's social and environmental operations between the committee and the broader community. Committee membership is voluntary. Whitehaven employees and contractors are not eligible for appointment to the committee as a community representative.

To make an Expression of Interest to join the Maules Creek CCC, please review the criteria, complete an application form and return it to the independent chairperson of the CCC at [maulescreekcoalccc@gmail.com](mailto:maulescreekcoalccc@gmail.com).

↓ [COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATION FORM](#)

↓ [OTHER STAKEHOLDER GROUP REPRESENTATIVE NOMINATION FORM](#)

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

**NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN FOR APPOINTMENT OF TWO COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO THE MAULES CREEK COAL MINE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

We are seeking nominations from people who live locally, or are members of local community or stakeholder groups having environmental interests or who are Aboriginal to fill two positions on our Maules Creek Coal Community Consultative Committee.

Community consultative committees play an important role in ensuring proponents engage with the community and stakeholder groups on approved state significant projects.

These committees provide a forum for open dialogue between the proponent and representatives of the local community, stakeholder groups and local councils on issues directly relating to the project.

Please note that employees of and contractors to Maules Creek Coal are not eligible for appointment to the committee as a community representative.

Your role as a committee member will be voluntary.

You will have the opportunity to contribute constructively to committee discussions, attend about four meetings a year, and communicate information about the mine's social and environmental operations between the committee and the broader community.

*If you would like to apply, please address the selection criteria that can be found in the nomination form at [whitehavencoal.com.au/our-business/our-assets/maules-creek-mine/](http://whitehavencoal.com.au/our-business/our-assets/maules-creek-mine/) under the Community tab. Nominations are open until the 19th September 2024.*

Contact the Independent Chair, Mike Silver 0427 723 747 for more information.

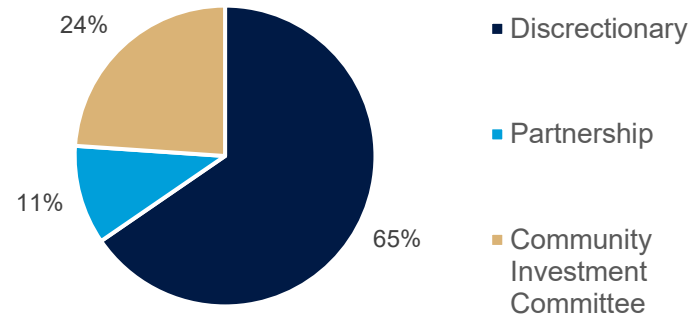
Completed nomination forms must be sent to the independent chairperson of the Community Consultative Committee at: [maulescreekcoalccc@gmail.com](mailto:maulescreekcoalccc@gmail.com) or PO Box 37 Gunnedah NSW 2380.



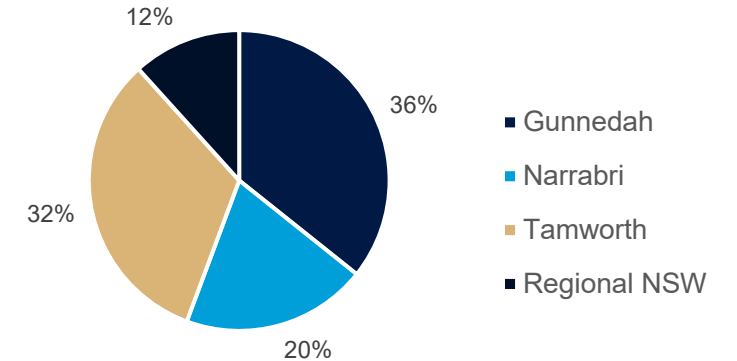
# Community Investment

- \$217,566.43 funded in Q1 FY25. Key areas of investment included Australian Bushman's Campdraft and Rodeo Association, Gunnedah PCYC, Walhallow Local Aboriginal Land Council, and the Goanna Academy (Greg Inglis associated Rugby League academy).
- Programs have been established to support Royal Far West and Dymocks Books in the Northwest NSW Region.

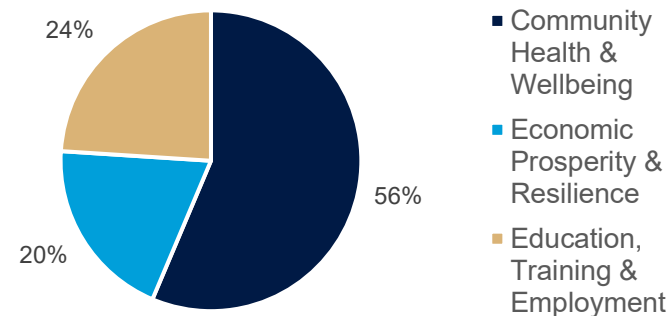
Source of funding



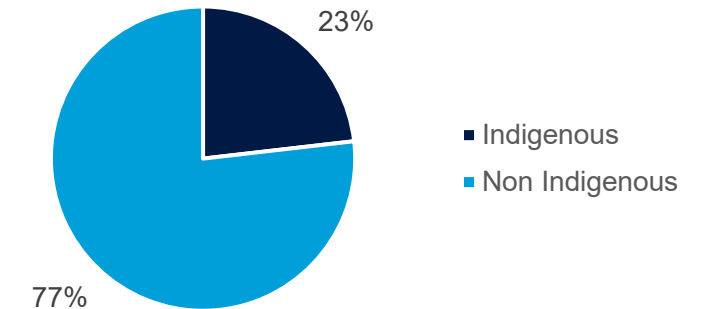
Region Benefited



Pillar



Orientation of Spend



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# Thank you

Maules Creek Coal Mine  
October 2024

