

Annual Review

Sunnyside Coal Mine


Name of operation	Sunnyside Coal Mine
Name of operator	Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Ltd
Development consent/project approval number	PA 06_0308
Name of holder of development consent/project approval	Namoi Mining Pty Ltd
Mining lease number	ML 1624
Name of holder of mining lease	Namoi Mining Pty Ltd
Water licence number	WAL 29537
Name of holder of water licence	Namoi Mining Pty Ltd
MOP start date	06-05-2016
MOP end date	03-11-2017
Annual review start date ¹	01-12-2015
Annual review end date	30-11-2016
<p>I, Nigel Wood, certify that this audit report is a true and accurate record of the compliance status of Sunnyside Coal Mine for the period December 1st 2015 until November 30th 2016, and that I am authorised to make this statement on behalf of Namoi Mining Pty Ltd.</p> <p><i>Note. a) The Annual Review is an 'environmental audit' for the purposes of section 122B (2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Section 122E provides that a person must not include false or misleading information (or provide information for inclusion in) an audit report produced to the Minister in connection with an environmental audit if the person knows that the information is false or misleading in a material respect. The maximum penalty is, in the case of a corporation, \$1 million and for an individual, \$250,000.</i></p> <p><i>b) The Crimes Act 1900 contains other offences relating to false and misleading information: section 192G (Intention to defraud by false or misleading statement—maximum penalty 5 years imprisonment); sections 307A, 307B and 307C (False or misleading applications/information/documents—maximum penalty 2 years imprisonment or \$22,000, or both).</i></p>	
Name of authorised reporting officer	NIGEL WOOD
Title of authorised reporting officer	G.M. OPEN CUTS
Signature of authorised reporting officer	
Date	8.3.2017
¹ NSW Annual Review Guideline was released in October 2015	

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1 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The compliance status of the Sunnyside Coal Mine as at 30th November 2016 is summarised in Table 1. Table 2 notes non-compliances that occurred during the reporting period, and non-compliances from previous reporting periods that still require management action.

Table 1 - Statement of Compliance

Were all conditions of the relevant approval(s) complied with?	
PA 06_0308 Consolidated	No
EPL 12957	Yes
ML 1624	Yes
WAL 29537	Yes

Table 2 - Non-compliances

Relevant Approval	Schedule (Condition) Number	Condition Description (summary)	Compliance status	Comment	Where Addressed in Annual Review
PA 06_0308	2(2)	Carry out project generally in accordance.	Non-compliant	Refer following conditions.	n/a
PA 06_0308	3(20)	Meteorological station on site.	Non-compliant	No meteorological station located on Sunnyside Coal Mine.	Section 11.2
PA 06_0308	3(23)	Site water balance must be reviewed and recalculated each year.	Non-compliant	Site water balance not reviewed during the reporting period.	Section 11.2
PA 06_0308	3(26)	Impact assessment criteria clearly defined in the Water Management Plan (WMP).	Non-compliant	Impact assessment criteria are not clearly defined within the WMP.	Sections 7.2.4, 7.2.5 11.2
PA 06_0308	3(27)	Trigger values clearly defined in WMP.	Non-compliant	Trigger values are not clearly defined in the WMP.	Section 11.2
PA 06_0308	3(28)	Implement koala habitat management and enhancement actions	Non-compliant	Koala habitat management and enhancement actions have not all been completed during reporting period.	Sections 8.2, 11.2
PA 06_0308	3(40)	Minimise visual impacts to the satisfaction of the Secretary	Non-compliant	Secretary satisfaction not received on visual impact	Section 11.2

				minimisation.	
PA 06_0308	5(2)	Prepare and implement an Environmental Monitoring Program	Non-compliant	Environmental Monitoring Program has not been revised since 2011.	Section 11.2
PA 06_0308	5(5A)	Proponent shall review, and if necessary revise, the strategies, plans and programmes required under this approval to the satisfaction of the Secretary	Non-compliant	Not all strategies, plans and programmes required under approval were reviewed during the reporting period.	Section 11.2

Note: Non-compliances identified within the Independent Environmental Audit undertaken during the reporting period are listed in Table 12.

Compliance status key for Table 2

Risk level	Colour code	Description
High	Non-compliant	Non-compliance with potential for significant environmental consequences, regardless of the likelihood of occurrence
Medium	Non-compliant	Non-compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> potential for serious environmental consequences, but is unlikely to occur; or potential for moderate environmental consequences, but is likely to occur
Low	Non-compliant	Non-compliance with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> potential for moderate environmental consequences, but is unlikely to occur; or potential for low environmental consequences, but is likely to occur
Administrative non-compliance	Non-compliant	Only to be applied where the non-compliance does not result in any risk of environmental harm (e.g. submitting a report to government later than required under approval conditions)

2 INTRODUCTION

This is the eighth Annual Review (AR), formerly Annual Environmental Management Report, produced for the Sunnyside Coal Mine (SCM), and it has been prepared in accordance with Conditions 4 and 5 of Mining Lease (ML 1624) (Mining Act 1992) and Condition 5 (Schedule 5) of PA 06_0308 MOD 1. The AR follows the format required by the NSW Government Annual Review Guideline (October, 2015).

Though primarily covering the period from 1st December 2015 to 30th November 2016 (the reporting period), where relevant the AR provides information on historical aspects of the operation and longer term trends in environmental monitoring results.

The Sunnyside Coal Mine is located within the Gunnedah Shire, approximately 15 km west of Gunnedah (Figure 1). The mine is owned by Namoi Mining Pty Ltd (NMPL) and operated by Whitehaven Coal Mining Pty Ltd. Both companies are wholly owned subsidiaries of Whitehaven Coal Limited (WCL).

On the 25th October 2012, Whitehaven announced that mining operations would be suspended at Sunnyside and the mine would be placed into a care and maintenance phase. Mining operations ceased in November 2012, with the remaining ROM coal stockpiled at site crushed and transported to the CHPP until stockpiles were exhausted in May 2013.

2.1 Mine Contacts

The management personnel responsible for operational and environmental performance at the SCM and their relevant contact details are as follows:

- Mr Blair Meyers, Manager Mining Engineering - retains statutory responsibility for mining activities at the site. Contact: (02) 6740 7000.
- Mr Nigel Wood, General Manager, Open Cut Operations - oversees Open Cut Operations for the Whitehaven Group. Contact: (02) 6741 9309.
- Mrs Madeline Whitten, Graduate - Environment – oversees day to day environmental and rehabilitation performance across the site. Contact: (02) 6741 9324.

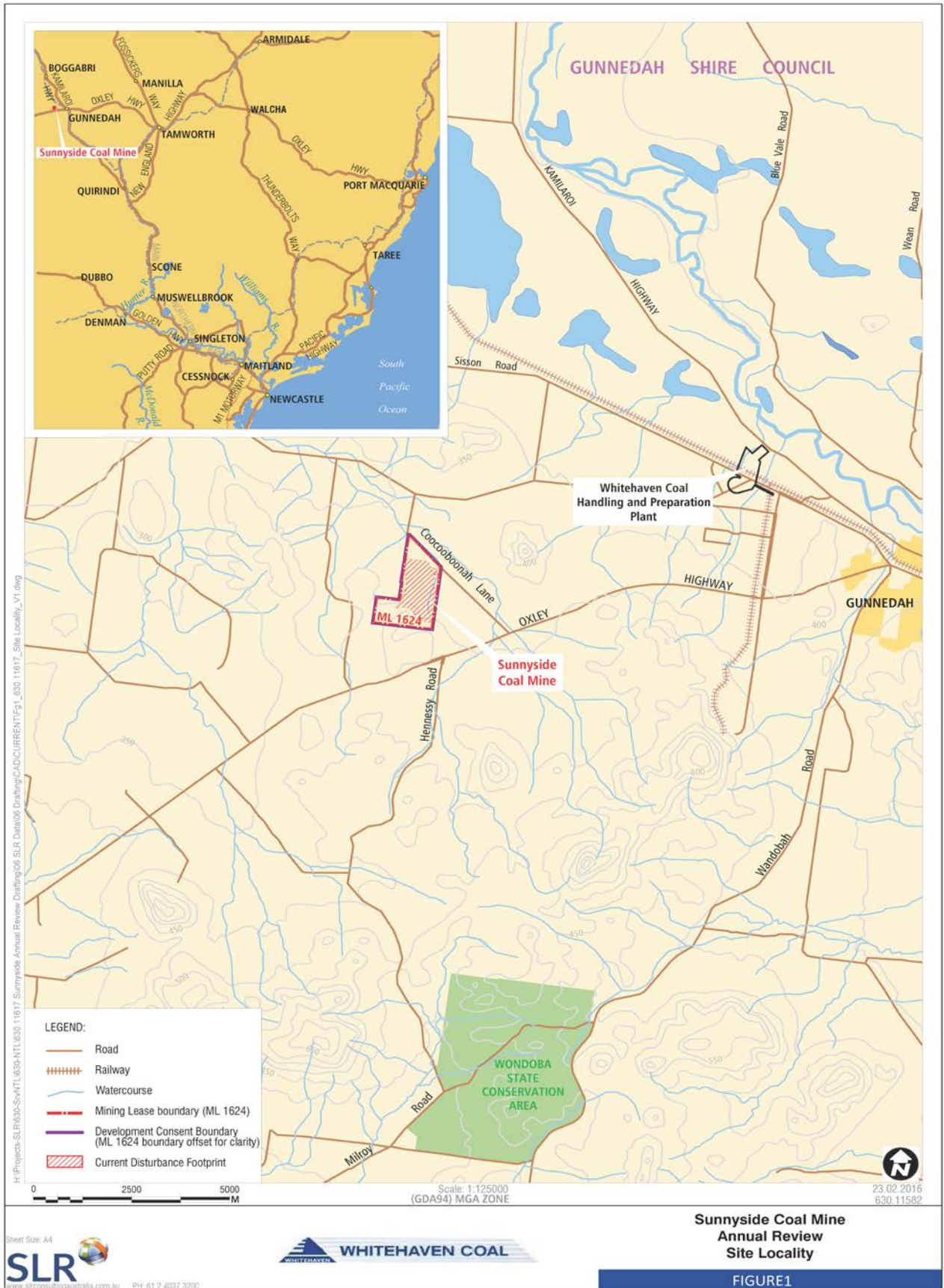


Figure 1 Locality Plan

3 APPROVALS

3.1 Tenements, Licences, and Approvals

Table 3 identifies the approvals in place for SCM at the end of the reporting period, the issuing / responsible Authority, dates of issue, expiry date and relevant comments.

Table 3 - Tenements, Licences and Approvals

Issuing / Responsible Authority	Type of Lease, Licence, Approval	Date of Issue	Expiry	Comments
Department of Planning and Environment	Project Approval (PA) 06_0308 MOD 1	3 rd November 2015	5 th November 2020	PA modified to extend expiry date
Environment Protection Authority	Environment Protection Licence No. 12957	1 st November 2016	N/A	EPL varied November 2016 to update location descriptions for premises, and meteorological blast and water monitoring, with other changes consistent with the care and maintenance status of the site.
Department of Primary Industry – Division of Resources and Energy	ML 1624	5 th November 2008	5 th November 2029	
Division of Resources and Energy (DRE)	Care and Maintenance MOP	6 th May 2016	3 November 2017	A Closure MOP is required during the next reporting period.
Department of Primary Industry - Water	WAL 29537 (90WA822534) 90BL253767 90BL253768 90BL253769 90BL254686 90BL254687 90BL254688 90BL254689 90BL254690	27 th April 2009 9 th Feb 2007 9 th Feb 2007 9 th Feb 2007 26 th Mar 2008 26 th Mar 2008 26 th Mar 2008 26 th Mar 2008 26 th Mar 2008	17 th January 2025 Perpetuity Perpetuity Perpetuity Perpetuity Perpetuity Perpetuity Perpetuity Perpetuity	Mining Test Test Test Monitoring Monitoring Monitoring Monitoring Monitoring

4 OPERATIONS SUMMARY

4.1 Mining Operations

Mining operations during the period were limited to minor rehabilitation maintenance earth works, and the reestablishment of windrows around the crest of the pit. Table 4 presents the Production Summary at the end of the reporting period.

Table 4 – Production Summary

Material	Approved Limit	Previous Reporting Period (actual)	This Reporting Period (actual)	Next Reporting Period (forecast)
Waste Rock/Overburden	4.9 M m ³ ¹	0	0	0
ROM Coal/Ore	1 Mtpa ² 0.5 Mtpa ³	0	0	0
Coarse Reject	n/a	0	0	0
Fine Reject (Tailings)	n/a	0	0	0
Saleable Product	n/a	0	0	0

¹ Environmental Assessment

² PA 06_0308 MOD 1

³ EPL 12957

4.2 Other Operations

4.2.1 Hours of Operations

Some minor works associated with demobilisation of mining equipment, road maintenance, and rehabilitation maintenance were undertaken during the reporting period within permitted operating times, i.e. 7:00am to 10:00pm Monday to Friday and 7:00am to 6:00pm on Saturdays, and not on public holidays.

No coal production (including blasting), processing or transport was undertaken during the reporting period.

4.2.2 Infrastructure Management

Management of infrastructure (e.g. buildings, roads, generators and pumps) and other facilities not specified elsewhere within this AR is undertaken on an as-needs basis or in accordance with statutory requirements in order to maintain them in an operationally efficient, safe, neat and tidy condition, and one which does not result in the direct or indirect generation of unacceptable environmental impacts.

4.3 Next Reporting Period

Operations forecast for the next reporting period are expected to be limited to the following:-

- Environmental monitoring,
- Maintenance earthworks (as required), and
- Equipment maintenance (as required).

5 ACTIONS REQUIRED FROM PREVIOUS ANNUAL REVIEW

Actions from the previous Annual Review are noted in Table 5.

Table 5 - Actions Required from the Previous Annual Review

Action Required from Previous Annual Review	Requested By	Action Taken by the Operator	Where Discussed in Annual Review
Remedial work on areas of rill erosion observable on the rehabilitated waste rock emplacement outer batter and within the drainage alignment along the eastern toe of the waste rock emplacement area.	DRE	Remedial works undertaken, and areas seeded.	Section 8 Rehabilitation
Results of monitoring undertaken against the rehabilitation completion criteria as presented in the Mining Operations Plan, to be reported in the rehabilitation section of future ARs.	DRE	Included in this document.	Section 8 Rehabilitation

6 ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

The following sub-sections document the implementation and effectiveness of the various control strategies adopted at the SCM, together with monitoring data for the reporting period. Existing monitoring sites are shown in Figure 2. Life of mine monitoring data is included as Appendices in this AR, where relevant, to allow for discussion on longer-term trends.

6.1 Air Quality

6.1.1 Criteria

The air quality criteria applicable to the SCM are specified in PA 06_0308 MOD 1 Schedule 3, Tables 7, 8 & 9, which are summarised below.

- Acceptable mean annual increase in deposited dust – 2 g/m²/month.
- Mean annual dust deposition (all sources) – 4 g/m²/month.
- Mean annual Total Suspended Particulate (TSP) matter (all sources) concentration – 90 µg/m³.

- Mean annual PM₁₀ particulate level – 30 µg/m³.
- 24 hour average PM₁₀ particulate level – 50 µg/m³.

Monitoring of deposited dust is undertaken on a monthly basis whilst PM₁₀ levels are monitored every 6 days.

6.1.2 Environmental Management Measures

In order to satisfy the criteria identified above, SCM has ensured that revegetation of disturbed areas has progressed as far as practicable and been maintained.

6.1.3 Dust Monitoring

Table 6 presents a summary of the deposited dust monitoring data. Figure 2 identifies the locations of the various deposited dust gauges maintained during the reporting period.

Table 6 - Deposited Dust Monitoring Data Summary (December 2015 to November 2016)

Site (see Error! Reference source not found.)	EPL ID no.	Property Name	Annual Mean Total Insoluble Solids (g/m ² /month)	Annual Mean Ash (g/m ² /month)
SD1	1	Ferndale	0.7	0.4
SD3	2	Plainview	1.5	1.0
SD4		Lilydale	1.4	0.7
SD5	4	Ivanhoe	2.1	1.0
SD6	5	Illili	1.1	0.5
SD7	6	Innisvale	0.6	0.4
SD8		Woodlawn	1.1	0.5

A review of Table 6 shows that the annual average limit for deposited dust was not exceeded at any location during the reporting period.

SCM has one High Volume Air Sampler (HVAS - PM₁₀) located at the property Illili (EPL ID 7), to the north-west of the mine site (refer Figure 2).

The PM₁₀ results for the reporting period show compliance with the 24hr criteria, and the annual average criteria. Results have remained relatively stable, with the annual average

rising only slightly to $12.74\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at the end of the reporting period. This is below the EA annual prediction of $22.1\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

6.1.4 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

No key environmental performance/management issues were identified during the reporting period.

6.1.5 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

No improvements are proposed within the next reporting period.

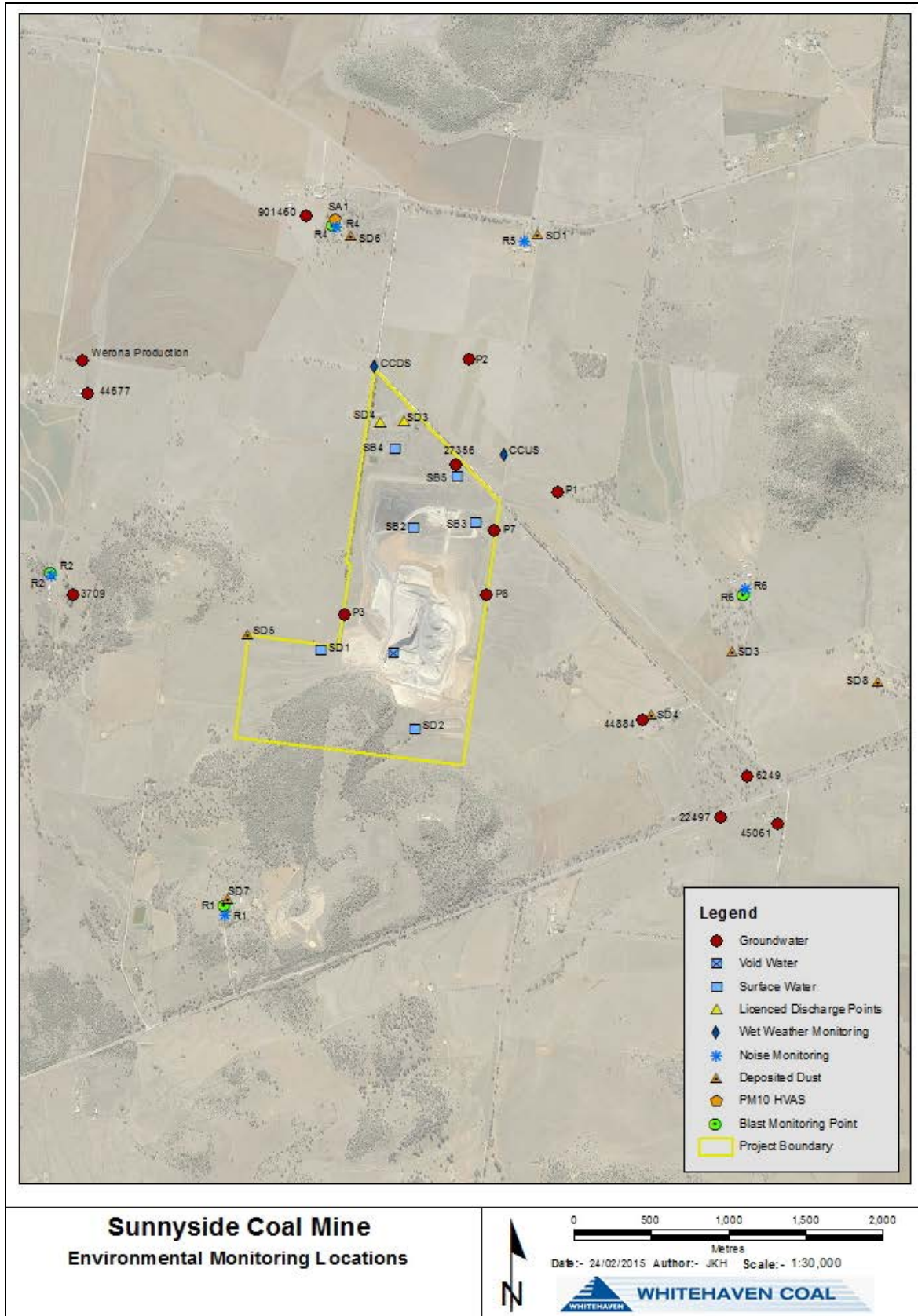


Figure 2 Environmental Monitoring Locations

6.2 Biodiversity

6.2.1 Threatened Flora

Investigations into the occurrence of threatened flora within the Project Approval Area were undertaken as part of the Environmental Assessment by Geoff Cunningham Natural Resource Consultants Pty Ltd in 2007, following field surveys in October and December 2006. The investigation identified no significant impact on threatened flora species, endangered ecological communities, endangered flora populations or critical habitat as a consequence of the development, either because they do not exist in the area or avoidance is possible due to project design.

Investigations identified a remnant of the White Box Yellow Box Blakely's Red Gum Woodland endangered ecological community within the study area but concluded that it would not be affected in any significant manner by the mine.

A remnant of the Native Vegetation on Cracking Clay Soils of the Liverpool Plains endangered ecological community was also identified within the study area. It was noted that a small section of this community would be temporarily affected by the Coochoonah Lane re-alignment but the community would be rehabilitated and enhanced following rehabilitation after mining ceases. It was assessed that this action, due to its temporary impact and final environmental enhancement, would not require approval under the Commonwealth EPBC Act.

Much of the area has been cleared in the past and most of this cleared area has been cultivated. The vegetation on the cleared areas has been invaded by introduced species. The establishment of the mine site did not involve clearing of native vegetation and as such no biodiversity offsets were required.

6.2.2 Threatened Fauna

Investigations into the occurrence of threatened fauna within the Project Approval Area were undertaken by Kevin Mills and Associates as part of the Environmental Assessment, following surveys conducted in September 2006. These investigations identified that the proposed development was unlikely to significantly affect any of the threatened species, fauna populations or communities listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, or their habitats.

It was also concluded that development of the mine was not likely to have a significant impact on any matter of national environmental significance listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. Referral to the Commonwealth Minister for the Environment for assessment and approval was therefore not warranted.

The area surrounding the mine site supports a viable koala population. NMPL has undertaken a number of measures to minimise the impacts on this population, including:

- Relocating the southern section of Coochooboonah Lane to avoid disturbing remnant koala habitat;
- Erecting a koala-proof fence around the active mine area;
- Minimising clearing and utilising local tree species for revegetation with an emphasis on koala feed trees. This has continued since the last reporting period with koala feed trees planted in koala corridor.

Fauna quadrat establishment was undertaken in November 2010 by Dr Leong Lim (Countrywide Ecological Services), where two grassland monitoring plots were established. Since establishment, roof tiles have been scattered throughout the quadrats to enhance the ground habitat structure and provide refuges for the ground fauna. The establishment of two woodland plots to the south of the active mining area occurred in February 2011, during a monitoring campaign. These plots are placed in open woodland, and open woodland with grassy understory communities.

Monitoring undertaken in September 2012 identified seven new bird species and the reoccurrence of a family group of Grey-crowned Babblers. The previously identified koala population was noted as not having been impacted by mining operations, and up to 10 species of micro bats were noted as being active in the vicinity of the mine, including the listed Yellow-bellied Sheathtail Bat.

No monitoring was conducted during the reporting period.

6.2.3 Weeds

Weed management within the project area involves targeted monthly inspections to determine levels of weed infestation. Weed control is undertaken by Whitehaven's own qualified personnel. All persons involved with weed control hold required chemical handling certificates. Coolatai grass (*Hyparrhenia hirta*) was found on the site during the reporting period, with spraying undertaken.

A number of other weed infestations occurred on site following several months of frequent rain during the reporting period. These included Star thistle (*Centaurea calcitrapa*), St Barnaby's thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), and Milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*). Minor ongoing weed management of these infestations comprised general weed spraying on three occasions during the reporting period, once in May, and twice in July 2016.

6.2.4 Feral Animal Control

Feral animal control for the SCM consisted of targeted trapping of pigs, with 10 captured and disposed of during the reporting period.

In view of the low frequency of occurrence, and in the absence of an extensive programme by all surrounding landowners, no other broad scale feral animal control programmes were considered warranted during the reporting period. In accordance with prior commitments, mine personnel will continue to monitor feral animal occurrences and implement further necessary control programmes if and when necessary.

6.2.5 Koala Management

During the reporting period no koalas were recorded onsite. The koala fence was inspected each month during the environmental inspections, and remains in functional condition. Additional tree plantings in the koala corridor are planned to be undertaken during the next reporting period.

6.2.6 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

No key environmental performance/management issues were identified during the reporting period.

6.2.7 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

No improvements are proposed within the next reporting period.

6.3 Blasting

6.3.1 Criteria

Blasting criteria for the SCM are noted in PA 06_0308, and Condition L5 of EPL 12957, however they are not relevant for this reporting period, as no blasting has been undertaken onsite.

6.3.2 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

No blasts were undertaken during the reporting period.

6.3.3 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

No blasting is proposed within the next reporting period.

6.4 Operational Noise

6.4.1 Criteria

The Project Approval and EPL detail the noise criteria for site operations and coal haulage, however there is no requirement for noise monitoring whilst the site is in care and maintenance.

6.4.2 Environmental Management Measures

Given the care and maintenance status of the site the environmental management measures for noise are limited to ensuring that any minor mechanical and earthwork maintenance is restricted to the approved hours of operation.

6.4.3 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

No key environmental performance/management issues were identified during the reporting period.

6.4.4 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

No improvements are proposed within the next reporting period.

6.5 Aboriginal Heritage Management

6.5.1 Environmental Management Measures

An assessment of the cultural heritage of the mine site was conducted by Archaeological Surveys and Reports Pty Ltd (ASR). Prior to the investigation, ASR contacted the Red Chief Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) and Bigundi Biame Gunnedarr Traditional People to arrange for site officers to assist in the survey. A representative from each group was present for the site survey conducted on the 12th September 2006 and the coal transport route survey on the 7th December 2006. The ASR assessment was used in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment for the mine, undertaken by R.W. Corkery & Co. Pty Ltd on behalf of Namoi Mining Pty.

Four sites were recorded during the investigation, as detailed in Table 7. Only one site (AGG1) was recorded within the mine site while the three isolated artefact sites were identified to the south of the mine site.

All Aboriginal Heritage sites are managed in accordance with the Sunnyside Coal Mine Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan, prepared in accordance with Schedule 3 Condition 32 of PA 06_0308 MOD 1.

6.5.2 Consultation

On the basis of the mine being in care and maintenance, no soil stripping took place during the reporting period. No additional Aboriginal cultural heritage items have been discovered during the reporting period and no consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders was conducted.

Table 7 - Aboriginal Artefacts

Site Name	Site Type	Site Description/Comments
Sunnyside AGG1	Axe Grinding Groove	Axe grinding groove at the rim of a cliff-like scarp (beside a small water-filled natural depression in the rock). Dimensions: 28cm (L) x 6cm (W) x 2cm (D). Located approximately 150m from the southern side of the open cut area.
Sunnyside ISO1	Isolated Artefact	Flake with possible retouch to one margin located on the bank beside the upper reaches of a dry creek (on a vehicle track). Dimensions: 21 x 12 x 3mm
Sunnyside ISO2	Isolated Artefact	Proximal fragment of a flake located on the bank beside the upper reaches of a dry creek. Dimensions: 22 x 22 x 5mm.
Sunnyside OS1	Artefact Scatter	Artefact scatter of at least ten artefacts in a lozenge-shaped area of 30 x 8m, on the upper slopes down slope of a contour bank down slope of a saddle. Artefact types: flakes and flaked pieces, including a backed blade.
Source: Modified after ASR (2007) – EA SCSC Part 7		

6.5.1 Environmental Management Measures

Given the care and maintenance status of the site the environmental management measures for Aboriginal Heritage are limited to ensuring that any identified heritage sites remain protected.

6.5.2 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

No key environmental performance/management issues were identified during the reporting period.

6.5.3 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

No improvements are proposed within the next reporting period.

6.6 Natural Heritage

There are no features of natural heritage within the Project Approval area and hence, no specific management procedures are required.

6.7 Spontaneous Combustion

6.7.1 Environmental Management Measures

SCM is located within the Hoskissons Coal Seam which has been mined for over 120 years with a number of reported outbreaks of spontaneous combustion. Tests confirmed that coal from the SCM has the potential to spontaneously combust and this has been evident during the care and maintenance phase. A Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan was developed when the mine was operational to prevent and manage spontaneous combustion issues.

Following spontaneous combustion management earthworks in previous reporting periods, weekly onsite inspections have occurred. No visible sign of spontaneous combustion has been observed during the regular onsite inspections, however, a sulphur odour was detected in spring 2016, within the previously affected area of the pit. Infrared imaging of the area was captured utilising a drone, and minor earth works found areas of heating within the previously affected areas.

Based on infrared imaging obtained, ongoing management will include monitoring of areas affected by spontaneous combustion, and other areas that may develop spontaneous

combustion, on a weekly basis throughout the next AR period, along with an additional drone flight, scheduled during the cooler weather for comparison and ongoing management.

6.7.2 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

Odour was detected within the pit during the reporting period, and earthworks confirmed areas of heating. Management will be undertaken as per Section 6.7.1.

6.7.3 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

Infrared imaging was captured of the area, and additional imaging will be collected via drone in the cooler months of the next reporting period, for comparison and ongoing management. Weekly spontaneous combustion inspections will continue to be undertaken.

6.8 Bushfire Management

6.8.1 Environmental Management Measures

SCM is located within an area of cleared agricultural land. Whitehaven Coal personnel liaise with the local (Coocoooonah) Rural Fire Service, as required.

There have been no bushfire incidents on, or adjacent, to the mine site since development commenced.

6.8.2 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

No key environmental performance/management issues were identified during the reporting period.

6.8.3 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

No improvements are proposed within the next reporting period.

6.9 Environmental Performance Summary

An environmental performance summary for SCM is presented in Table 8.

Table 8 - Environmental Performance

Aspect	Approval Criteria / EIS Prediction	Performance during the reporting period	Trend / Key Management Implications	Implemented / proposed management actions
Air Quality	Refer Section 6.1.1	Approval criteria met.	Nil	Nil
Biodiversity	EIS prediction of no impact on known koala population.	No recorded impact on koala population.	Nil	Ongoing maintenance of koala fence.
Heritage	EIS prediction of potential blast impact on a recorded site.	No recorded impact on site.	Nil	Nil
Spontaneous Combustion	EIS prediction of no material spontaneous combustion	Detection of heating in previously mitigated spontaneous combustion area.	Nil	Based on infrared imaging obtained management will include ongoing implementation of Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan, including weekly visual inspections of previously mitigated area, and scheduled drone flight for the cooler months.

7 WATER MANAGEMENT

The SCM lies within the catchment of the Namoi River. The majority of the surface water runoff flows northwards across the mine site. It then flows into Coochooboonah Creek which flows north-west within a constructed waterway paralleling Coochooboonah Lane. From there, it flows into Rock Well Creek then into Native Cat Creek which continues to flow north-west for 6km. Runoff then flows northwards within Collygra Creek where it flows across a floodplain area before flowing into the Namoi River some 25km north of the Mine Site. The remainder of the mine's surface water flows south into Coochooboonah Creek ultimately flowing into the Namoi River to the north.

The design of sediment detention basins within the disturbed area of the mine limits the opportunity for discharge of runoff from mine-disturbed area, i.e. after appropriate detention time to satisfy licensed discharge criteria.

Two wet weather discharge points are nominated in the current EPL 12957. These are Storage Dam 3 (EPL ID No. 9) and Storage Dam 4 (EPL ID No. 10) (refer Figure 2). Two additional monitoring points are nominated on the EPL for water quality monitoring during discharge events. These are Coochooboonah Creek Upstream (CCUS – EPL ID No. 11) and Coochooboonah Creek Downstream (CCDS – EPL ID No. 12) (refer Figure 2).

7.1.1 Surface Water Management

All sediment basins, storage dams and associated banks and drains have been designed and constructed in accordance with the *Managing Urban Stormwater: Soils and Construction Vol 2E Mines and Quarries* (DECC, 2008) in conjunction with the references to Volume 1 (Landcom, 2004).

As directed by the EPA (EPA letter dated 21st August 2015), where runoff from coal contact areas is captured in storage dams designed for sediment control, Sunnyside Coal Mine will need to establish whether the discharge from these structures contains pollutants that pose a risk of non-trivial harm to human health and/or the environment. Whitehaven is working with the EPA to determine appropriate licencing measures to address coal contact water requirements.

7.1.2 Surface Water Monitoring Results

SCM has a requirement to undertake surface water monitoring on a quarterly basis in addition to the monitoring of any wet weather discharge event. Due to below average

rainfall for much of the year, several dams were dry and unable to be sampled at each quarterly monitoring event.

Water quality monitoring locations are shown on Figure 2, and complete surface water quality monitoring results are provided in Appendix 1.

The quarterly monitoring results show that water quality within onsite storages was generally consistent with results from previous years. Total Suspended Solids have dropped for SB2, SB4, and SB5. Electrical conductivity (EC) has also dropped for SD1 and SB2. Results of Total Organic Carbon remain generally consistent with previous years. Void water results were largely consistent with previous reporting periods with the exception of a slight decrease in EC to 5390 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, still remaining well below the previous maximum of 7270 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$. The November 2016 results for the Void EC have dropped just below the range predicted within the Project's Environmental Assessment, being 5831 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ – 10999 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$. The water in all sediment basins and storage dams can be described as fresh, neutral to slightly alkaline, and well within the discharge limits for oil and grease.

There were no wet weather discharges during the reporting period.

7.1.3 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

No key environmental performance/management issues were identified during the reporting period.

7.1.4 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

No improvements are proposed within the next reporting period.

7.1.5 Water Take

During the reporting period no water was used on site. The water taken by the operation is summarised in Table 9.

Table 9 - Water Take

Water Licence Number	Water Sharing Plan, Source and Management Zone (as applicable)	Entitlement	Passive take/ inflows	Active Pumping	TOTAL
WAL 29537	Gunnedah - Oxley Basin Mdb Groundwater Source	120 units	0	0	0

7.2 Groundwater Management

7.2.1 Environmental Performance/Management

The mine's performance with respect to groundwater performance/management, the prevention of pollution, and the assessment of impacts on groundwater availability to other surrounding users, has been assessed through groundwater level and chemistry monitoring undertaken at a series of piezometers and bores within the Project Area and adjacent properties.

7.2.2 Groundwater Monitoring

The details of groundwater monitoring throughout the reporting period are listed in Table 10. Monitoring sites are shown in Figure 2 and complete monitoring datasets are provided in Appendix 2.

Groundwater sampling and analysis was undertaken by ALS Acirl Pty Ltd during the reporting period. Below are some points to note regarding monitoring locations and frequencies:

- Bore 27356 has not been monitored since June 2012, as there is a windmill over the bore which no longer functions.
- Standing Water Level (SWL) data is unavailable for bores 27356, 44884, 3709, and Werona due to pumps in place over the bores.

Table 10 - Groundwater Monitoring Points

Site ID (see Error! Reference source not found.)	Registered Bore No. & Licence No	Property/ Location	Frequency		Purpose
			SWL* ² , EC* ³ and pH	Representative Metals and Ions	
P1* ¹	GW968386 90BL253767	"Plainview"	Quarterly	Six monthly	To determine existing status and any impacts
P2* ¹	GW968387 90BL253768	"Ferndale"	Quarterly	Six monthly	
P3	GW968388 90BL253769	"Sunnyside"	Quarterly	Six monthly	
P7	GW968392 90BL254689	"Sunnyside"	Quarterly	Six monthly	To determine existing status and any impacts
P8	GW968393 90BL254690	"Sunnyside"	Quarterly	Six monthly	

3709* ¹	N/A	"Ivanhoe"	Quarterly	Six monthly* ⁵	
22497* ¹	N/A	"Coocooboonah"	Quarterly	Six monthly	
44677* ¹	N/A	"Werona"	Quarterly* ⁵	Six monthly	
44884* ¹	N/A	"Lilydale"	Quarterly	Six monthly	
6249* ¹	N/A	"Lilydale"	Quarterly	Six monthly	
901460	GW901460 90BL249138	"Illili"	Quarterly	Six monthly* ⁵	To determine existing status and any impacts
27356	GW027356 90BL020042	"Sunnyside"	Quarterly	Six monthly* ⁵	
45061	N/A	"Coocooboonah"	Quarterly	Six monthly* ⁵	
Werona Production	90BL255246	"Werona"	Quarterly	Six monthly* ⁵	
<p>*¹ Non-Company owned bore *² SWL – Standing Water Level *³ EC = Electrical Conductivity</p> <p>*⁴ Company production bore *⁵ – Not available this reporting period due to lack of access</p>					

Groundwater levels

Groundwater levels have remained relatively consistent at all locations monitored during the reporting period.

Groundwater quality

Analysis of samples taken during the reporting period has shown that groundwater quality has remained generally in line with historical data at all locations monitored. Water quality has been compared to the Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality (2000) (ANZECC) guidelines for stock watering (cattle). P3 continues to show Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) levels above the guidelines, (greater than 4000mg/L), finishing the period with a reading of 9270mg/L, while P2 showed a spike in aluminium of 5.54mg/L above the guideline limit of 5mg/L early in the period, before returning to a normal level during the next quarterly testing.

All other parameters remained stable during the reporting period.

7.2.3 Groundwater Management

Inflows into the open cut result from a combination of:

- Direct rainfall runoff and infiltration through the emplaced overburden which flows down-dip to the open cut sump(s); and

- Inflows from the exposed coal seam.

At the end of the reporting period an estimated 23.9 ML of water was held in the pit from rainfall and groundwater seepage.

Contamination of groundwater is controlled by the management of chemical, oil and grease spills and storage, with:

- Vehicle maintenance carried out in designated areas;
- Any spills being cleaned up; and
- Fuels, oil and grease being stored within a bunded area, constructed in accordance with AS 1940-2004 and/or EPA requirements.

Groundwater from surrounding bores, as well as the mine production bore, is monitored on a regular basis to detect and assess any changes in groundwater quality or level that may be attributable to the mine. The mine production bore is not currently operating as the generator supplying power to the pump was removed. As such the water meter has not been read to assess usage in comparison to the allocation.

7.2.4 Key Environmental Performance/Management Issues

The 2016 Independent Environmental Audit identified that the suite of water quality parameters currently analysed does not fully align with those described in the SCM EA and/or SCM Water Management Plan.

7.2.5 Proposed Improvements to Environmental Management

SCM will undertake a review of water quality data to determine appropriate parameters to be assessed and apply for variations to approval documents as required.

8 REHABILITATION

8.1 Rehabilitation Performance during the Reporting Period

8.1.1 Status of Mining and Rehabilitation

The status of mining and rehabilitation at the completion of the reporting period is presented in Table 11 and Figure 3.

Table 11 - Rehabilitation Status

Mine Area Type ¹	Previous Reporting Period	This Reporting Period (Actual)	Next Reporting Period (Forecast)
	2014/15 (ha)	2015/16 (ha)	2016/17 (ha)
A. Total Mine Footprint	136.7	136.7	136.7
B. Total Active Disturbance	118.9	118.9	118.9
C. Land Being Prepared for Rehabilitation	0	0	0
D. Land Under Active Rehabilitation	17.8	17.8	17.8
E. Completed Rehabilitation	0	0	0

¹ Refer Annual Review Guideline (p.11) for description of mine area types.

8.1.2 Post Rehabilitation Land Uses

Two final rehabilitation land uses are to be established at Sunnyside, being Pasture and Woodland. The eastern, northern and western slopes of the out of pit emplacement area will be planted with locally occurring tree and shrub species, with the objective of re-establishing woodland areas and providing habitat and food trees for the local koala population. The plateau on top of the waste emplacement and the flatter areas around the base of the emplacement area will be returned to pasture.

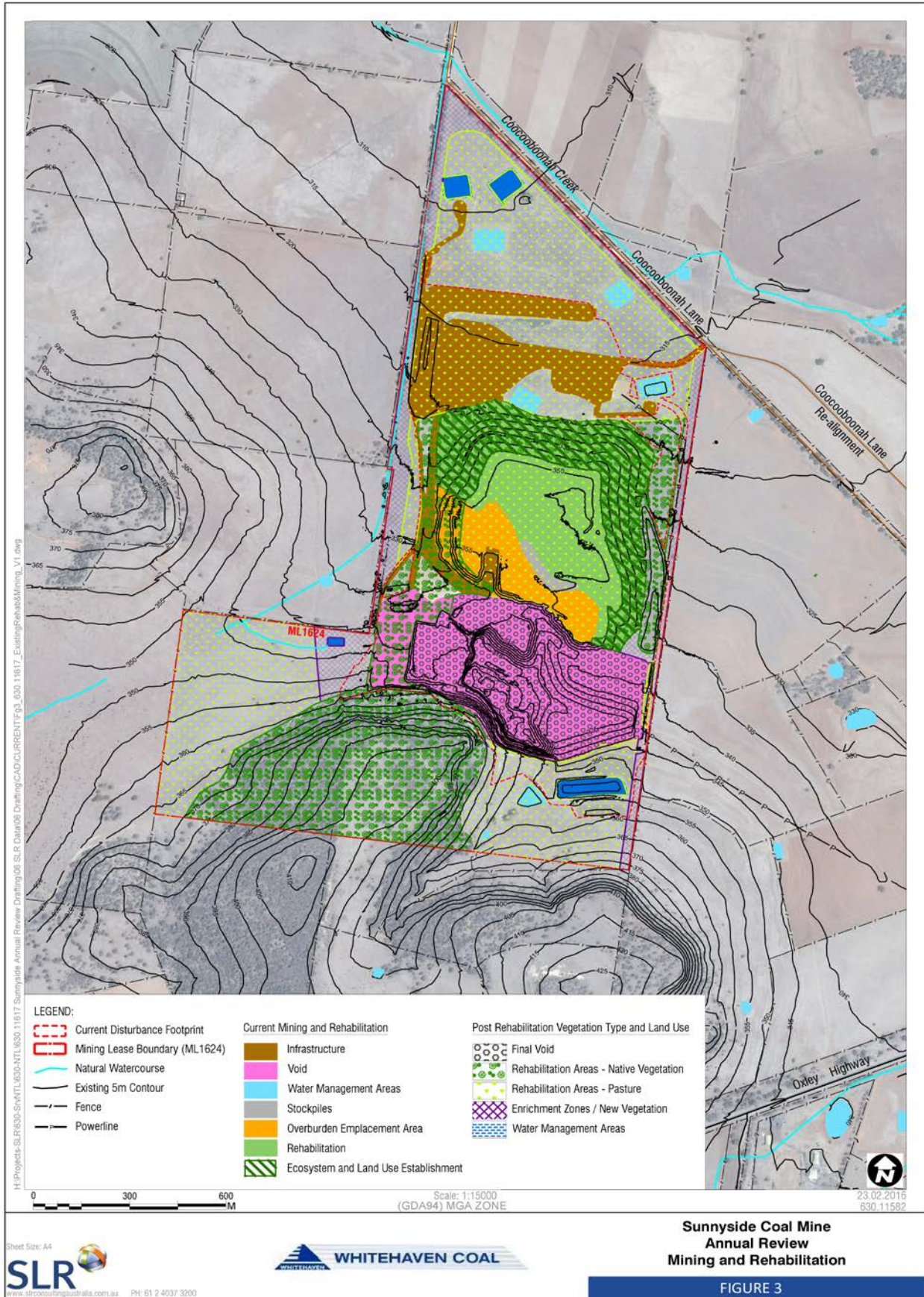


Figure 3 - Status of Mining and Rehabilitation

8.1.3 Rehabilitation Undertaken

There was no additional rehabilitation undertaken on site during the reporting period, although maintenance works were carried out on two areas of previously rehabilitated land in accordance with a request made from the DRE, following the site inspection for the 2014/2015 AR. Minor earth works were undertaken on the rehabilitated waste rock emplacement area, and within the drainage alignment along the eastern toe of the waste rock emplacement area to address instances of rill erosion. Following maintenance, both areas were seeded with a cover crop.

8.1.4 Rehabilitation Monitoring

Winter and spring monitoring programmes were historically undertaken on site in accordance with the then Rehabilitation Management Plan. Part of this monitoring provided an annual snapshot of the habitats available in these areas and habitat utilisation by fauna. This was then compared to baseline data collected from adjacent unaffected land surrounding the mine to determine its success and progression in regards to habitat value for native and threatened species. No rehabilitation monitoring was undertaken during the reporting period.

Rehabilitation condition is monitored through monthly environmental inspections. The monitoring of rehabilitation condition involves the regular inspections of ground cover, trees and the presence of erosion and weeds.

A formal rehabilitation monitoring program will commence during the next reporting period in accordance with the approved 2016 MOP.

8.1.5 Weeds Management

Monthly inspections of rehabilitation areas, as well as periodic general observations of the site, are undertaken in order to identify the presence of noxious weeds. No noxious weed infestations were identified within rehabilitated areas during the reporting period. As detailed in Section 6.2.3 there were occurrences of non-noxious weeds across the site, with spraying undertaken on three occasions during the reporting period, once in May, and twice in July 2016.

Weed spraying is scheduled to be undertaken again early in the next reporting period, dry weather permitting.

8.1.6 Renovation or Removal of Buildings

No renovation or removal of buildings occurred during the reporting period.

8.1.7 Other Rehabilitation Undertaken

No additional rehabilitation of explorations areas, infrastructure, shafts, adits, dams, fence lines or bunds occurred during the reporting period.

8.1.8 Departmental Sign-off of Rehabilitated Areas

Departmental sign-off has not been requested for any rehabilitated areas.

8.1.9 Variations in Activities against MOP/RMP

A Care and Maintenance MOP was approved by the DRE in May 2016. A Closure MOP is due for submission within the next reporting period.

8.1.10 Trials, Research Projects and Initiatives

No rehabilitation trials, research projects or other initiatives were undertaken during the reporting period.

8.1.11 Key Issues to Achieving Successful Rehabilitation

Two key issues to achieving successful rehabilitation are:-

- Landform stability (Final Void), and
- Spontaneous combustion.

Ongoing management of spontaneous combustion will continue to be undertaken on site, as per the Spontaneous Combustion Management Plan. Management measures to address the issues of landform instability will be described in the site Closure MOP to be developed in consultation with DRE.

8.2 Actions for Next Reporting Period

The submission and approval of the Closure MOP will provide the strategies to achieve agreed final rehabilitation outcomes.

Additional tree plantings within the koala corridor will be undertaken during the next reporting period.

Rehabilitation condition is monitored through monthly environmental inspections. The monitoring of rehabilitation condition involves the regular inspections of ground cover, trees and the presence of erosion and weeds.

9 COMMUNITY

SCM maintains a designated complaints line and, in the event of a complaint, details pertaining to the complainant, complaint and action taken are recorded.

One complaint concerning odour was received during the reporting period, with a report containing all requested information submitted to the EPA, which illustrated that there was no indication that SCM was the source of the odour. The five year period of records indicate a low steady trend of complaints, with 0 complaints in 2014/15, 1 in 2013/14, 7 in 2012/13, 2 in 2011/12 and 4 in 2010/11.

Any complaints that are made are reported to the Community Consultative Committee and documented in the AR. A complaints register is also maintained on Whitehaven's website.

Community contributions are managed in accordance the Whitehaven Coal Donations and Sponsorship Policy.

10 INDEPENDENT AUDIT

An Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) was undertaken by ERM during the reporting period.

Non-compliances with project approvals identified by the IEA were risk ranked by the auditor in accordance with the compliance status key for Table 3, and SCM subsequently developed an Audit Action Plan for these non-compliances. The Audit Action Plan is available on the Whitehaven Coal website and the individual non-compliances have not been replicated in Table 3.

Outstanding items from the 2016 Audit Action Plan, and how they are being addressed, are summarised in Table 12 below.

Table 12- 2016 IEA Outstanding Action Table

Condition/Plan	IEA Proposed Action	IEA Action Plan Timing
PA 06_0308 Condition		
3.26, 3.27	Water Management Plan to be updated in accordance with Schedule 5 Condition 5.	22 nd March 2017
3.28	Undertake additional tree plantings to fill identified gaps in koala corridor.	30 th June 2017
3.40	Seek DP&E satisfaction of condition to minimise the visual impacts of the project	31 st March 2017
5.2	Revised EMP to be submitted in accordance with Schedule 5 Condition 5.	22 nd March 2017
5.5A	Develop document and record tracking system.	30 th June 2017
Statement of Commitments		
7.5	Ensure that the potentially contaminated wash down water can be collected and treated from all workshop areas if operational in future.	Prior to recommencement of mining operations.
7.7	Review the need for a second dam for operational purposes and construct as may be required.	Prior to recommencement of mining operations.
9.3	Review of the existing koala proof fence to confirm alignment with requirements of the EA.	When active mining recommences.
9.4	Incorporate speed requirement into site specific induction	Prior to recommencement of mining operations.
9.11	Incorporate on site weed monitoring and control into WHC group programs.	31 st March 2017
9.12	Corridors will require enhancement plantings to improve connectivity linkages especially the eastern boundary corridor. Future work towards mine closure and relinquishment will require significant renewed rehabilitation efforts to improve the currently poor native non-tree species presence (e.g. ground and shrub layers).	30 th June 2017 As per Mining Operations Plan
9.13, 9.19	Corridors will require enhancement plantings to improve connectivity linkages especially the eastern boundary corridor.	30 th June 2017
9.20	Activities described in the Rehabilitation and Landscape Management Plan were not undertaken in the 2013/2014 or 2014/2015 AEMR periods because of low feral species prevalence. Pig trapping is ongoing.	31 st March 2017
10.3	Ensure that the potentially contaminated wash down water can be collected and treated from all workshop areas if operational in future	Prior to recommencement of mining operations.
11.1	Identify areas suitable for fencing to encourage natural regeneration in those boundary corridors as stated.	30 th June 2017

11.29, 11.34	WHC to seek DP&E agreement that current EPL 12957 weather monitoring location (Gunnedah BOM Station) satisfies this condition.	31 st March 2017
14.3	No evidence of SMU segregation aside from topsoil emplacement.	Review currently stockpiled material prior to recommencement of mining activity.
14.4	Recommended that soil pH is recorded during soil management and emplacement.	As required
14.5	If mining is recommenced in future, recommendation for sediment fencing around bare stockpiles.	As required upon recommencement of mining operations.
14.6	Topsoil stockpiles exceed committed height.	Review currently stockpiled material prior to recommencement of mining activity.
14.8	Soil stockpile segregation should be improved.	Soil resource audit to be undertaken prior to commencement of final rehabilitation activities.
14.12	Review monthly inspection procedure to include follow up actions.	31 st March 2017
17.5	Future tree planting should be done with a more random planting.	Incorporate into final revegetation works.
EPL 12957		
L5.1, L5.2	A Blast Management Plan will be prepared and implemented in accordance with Schedule 3 Condition 17B	Prior to recommencement of ROM coal mining operations.
R2.1	Ensure decision making process, records of receipt or telephone communications are recorded and maintained in relation to incident notifications.	Ongoing.
Mining Lease 1624		
15.b	A Blast Management Plan will be prepared and implemented in accordance with Schedule 3 Condition 17B	Prior to recommencement of ROM coal mining operations.

11 INCIDENTS AND NON-COMPLIANCES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

11.1 Reportable Incidents

No environmental incidents occurred at SCM during the reporting period.

11.2 Non-compliances

All of the non-compliances with PA 06_0308 have been ranked as either administrative or low, with very limited potential for significant environmental harm, and are addressed below.

- Schedule 3 Condition 20 requires a suitable continuously operating meteorological station on site. EPL 12957 has been varied to allow the Gunnedah BOM station to satisfy this condition, and DP&E agreement will be sought during the next reporting period.
- Schedule 3 Condition 23 requires that the site water balance be reviewed and recalculated each year, however with no operations occurring and the site placed in Care and Maintenance it was not undertaken during the reporting period. A site water balance will be reviewed upon recommencement of mining operations.
- Schedule 3 Conditions 26 and 27 both relate to requirements within the WMP. 3(26) concerns a lack of clearly defined impact assessment criteria, while 3(27) concerns a lack of clearly defined trigger values. The WMP is scheduled to be updated to address both conditions during the next reporting period.
- Schedule 3 Condition 28 requires the proponent to implement the koala habitat management and enhancement actions described in the EA in consultation with the OEH and to the satisfaction of the Secretary. This condition was found to be non-compliant in the IEA, and SCM have agreed to undertake additional planting within the koala corridor during the next reporting period.
- Schedule 3 Condition 40 requires the Proponent to minimise the visual impacts of the project to the satisfaction of the Secretary. SCM shall seek satisfaction from DP&E during the next reporting period.
- Schedule 5 Condition 2 required the proponent to prepare and implement an Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) for the project to the satisfaction of the Secretary. The most recent approval for the EMP is dated October 2011. A revised EMP is to be submitted in the next reporting period.
- Schedule 5 Condition 5A requires that review and any necessary revision of strategies, plans and programs be undertaken within 3 months of the submission of an AEMR/AR, an incident report, an audit, and/or any modification to the conditions of this approval. As Whitehaven do not have a document and record tracking system it therefore has a limited ability to track the need to update or revise documents. A

document and record tracking system will be developed and implemented during the next reporting period.

11.3 Regulatory Actions

No regulatory actions (official cautions or warning letters, penalty notices or prosecution proceedings) were undertaken with respect to the Sunnyside Coal Mine during the reporting period.

12 ACTIONS TO BE COMPLETED IN THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

The following measures will be continued, or implemented, in the next reporting period to improve the environmental or community performance of the operation:-

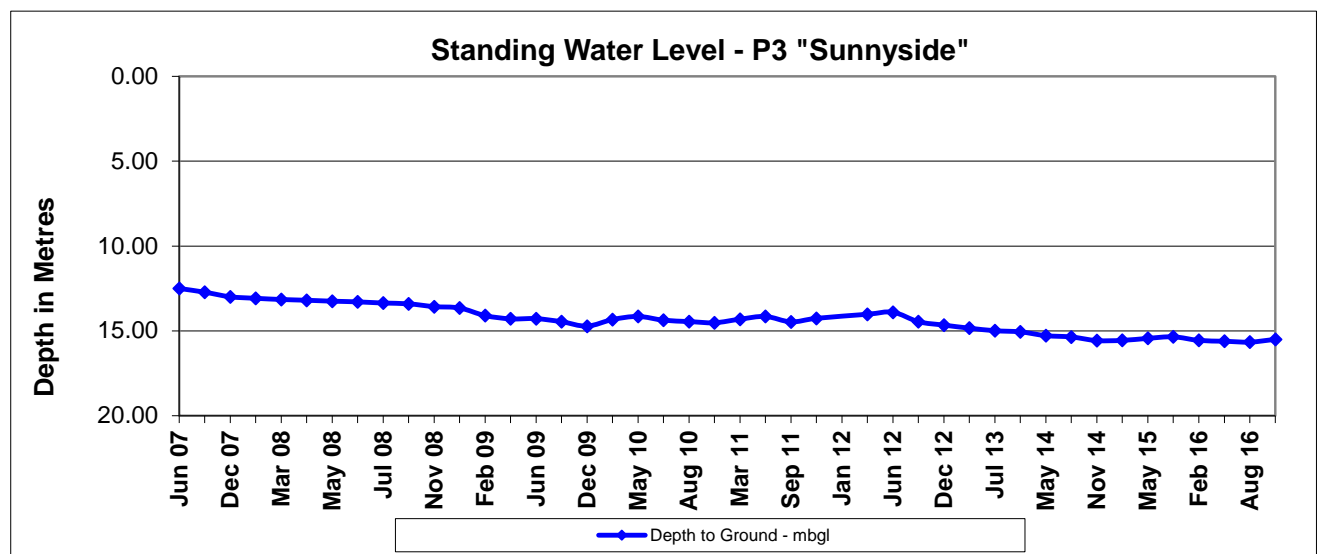
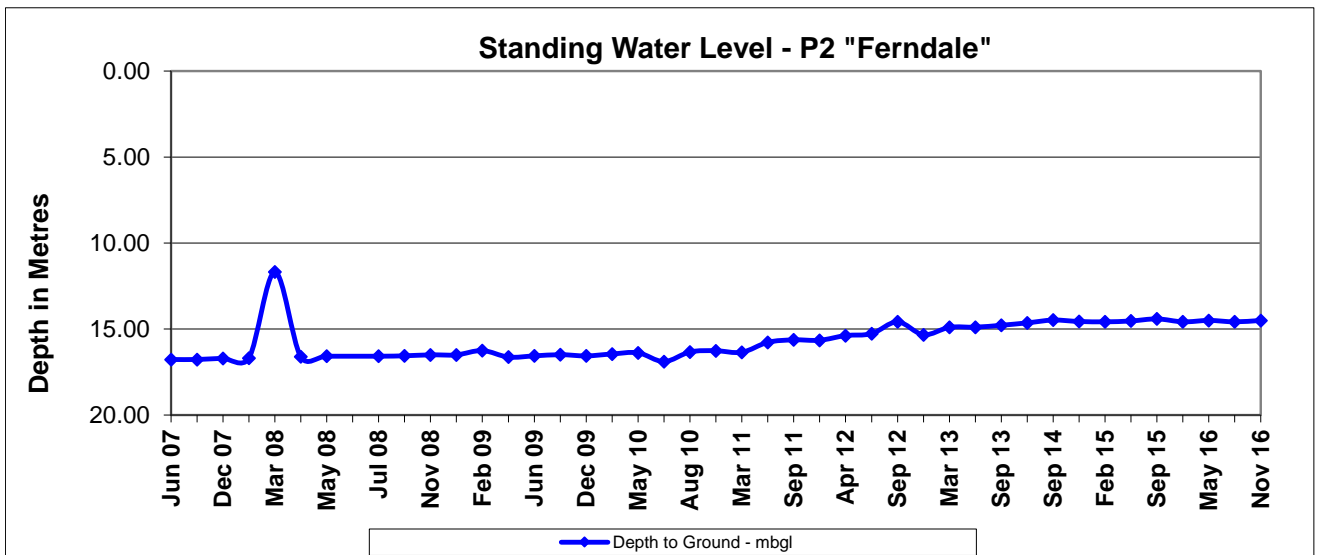
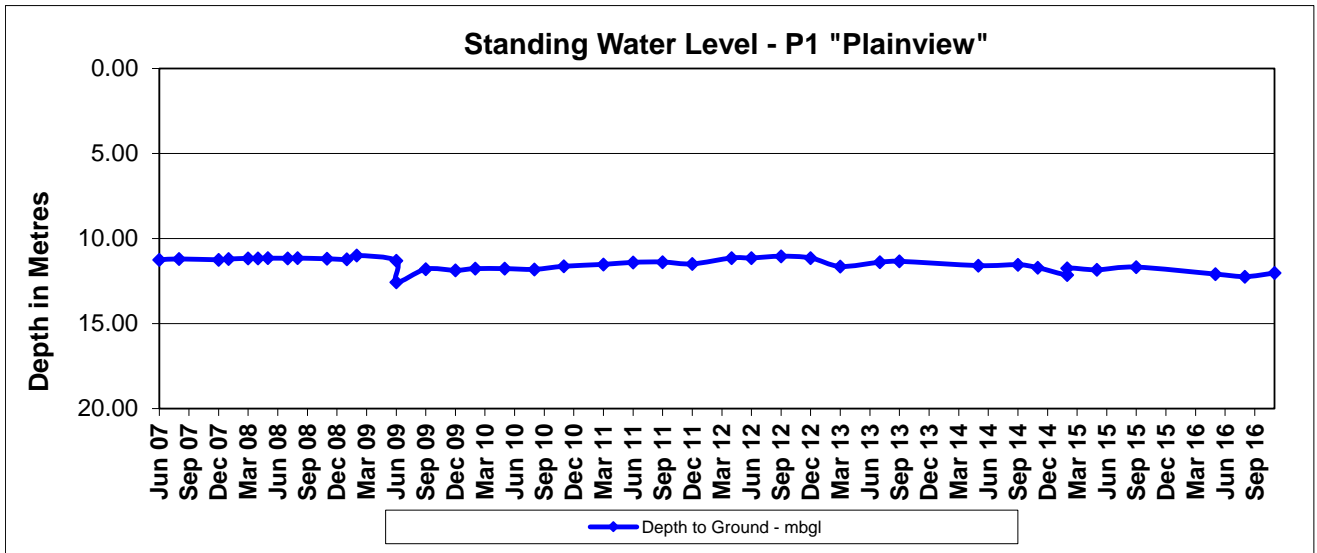
- Undertake activities in accordance with the MOP;
- The continuation of environmental monitoring and management;
- Completion of outstanding IEA actions;
- Review and revision of various Environmental Management Plans; and
- Continued community liaison and engagement with local stakeholders.

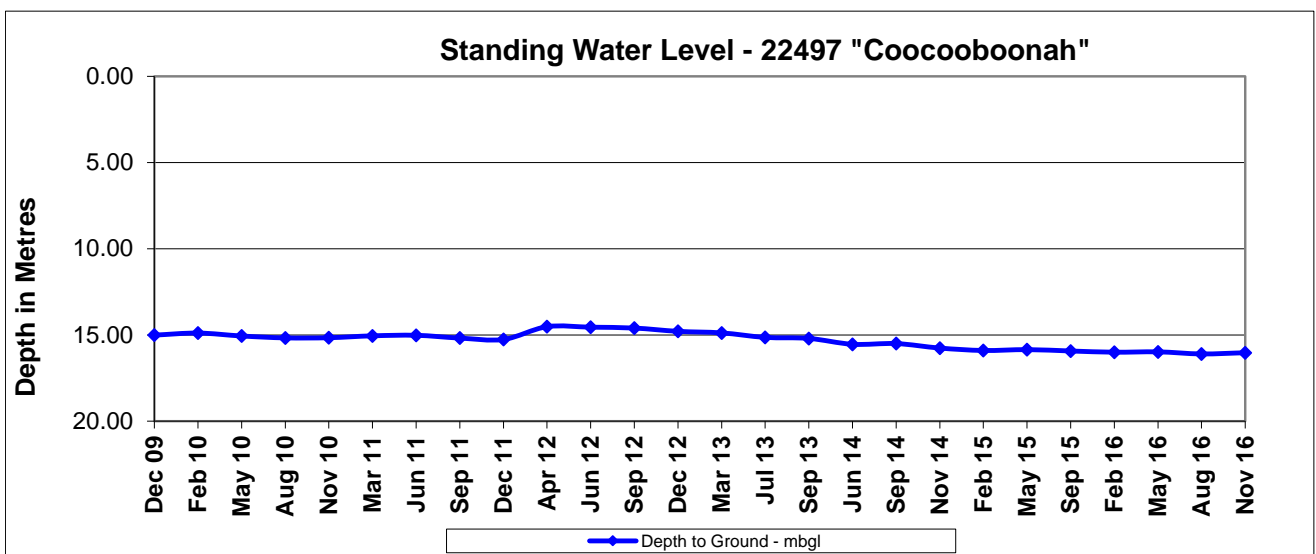
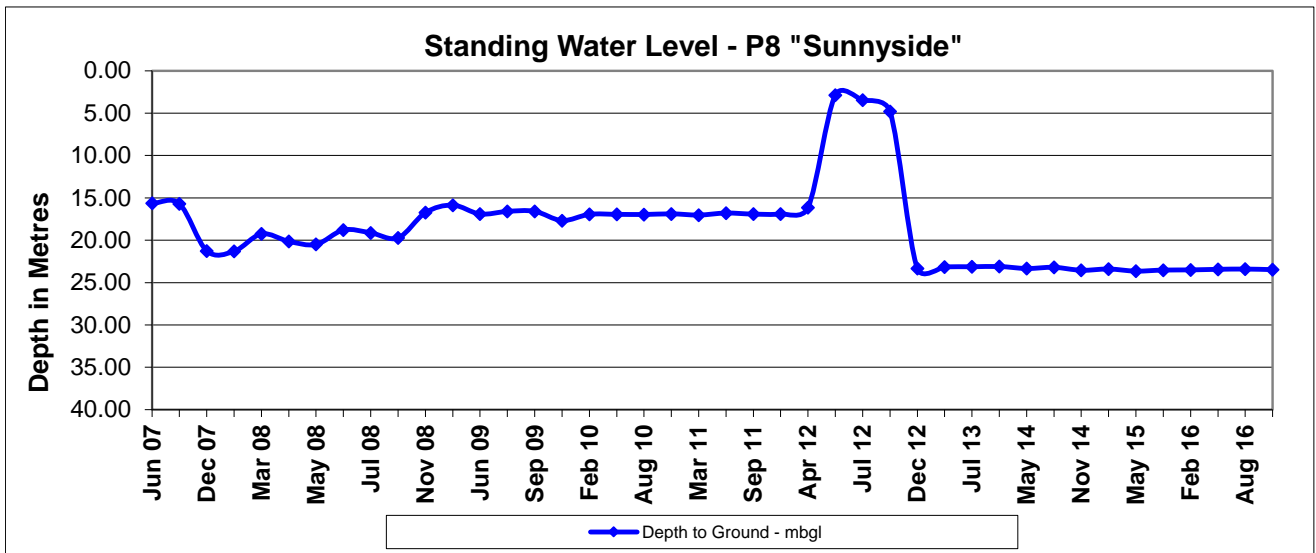
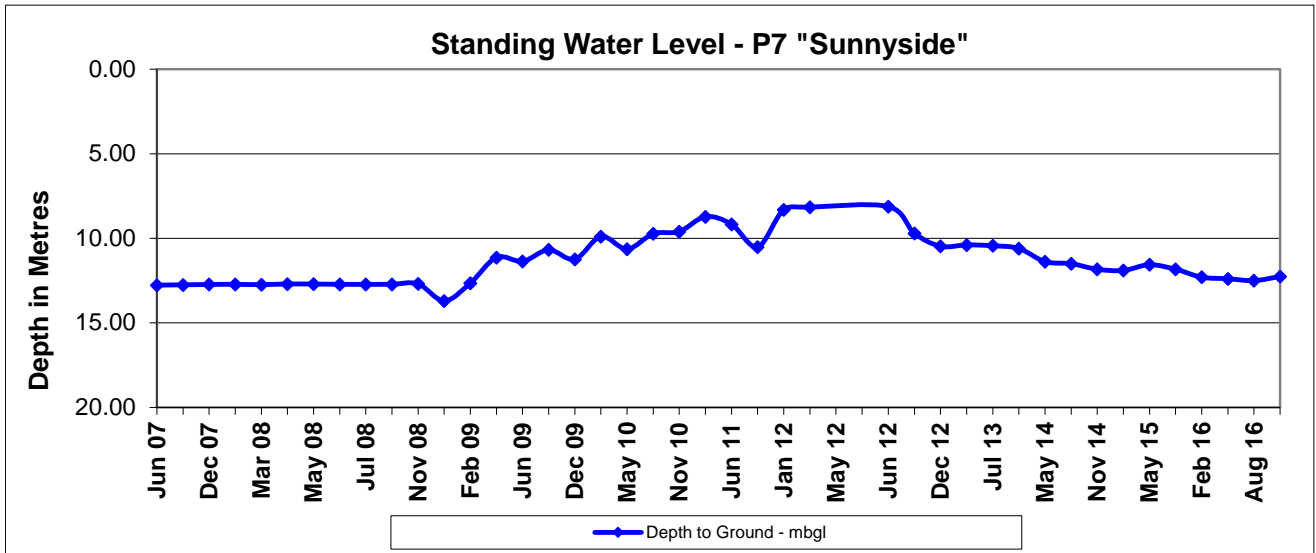
Appendix 1

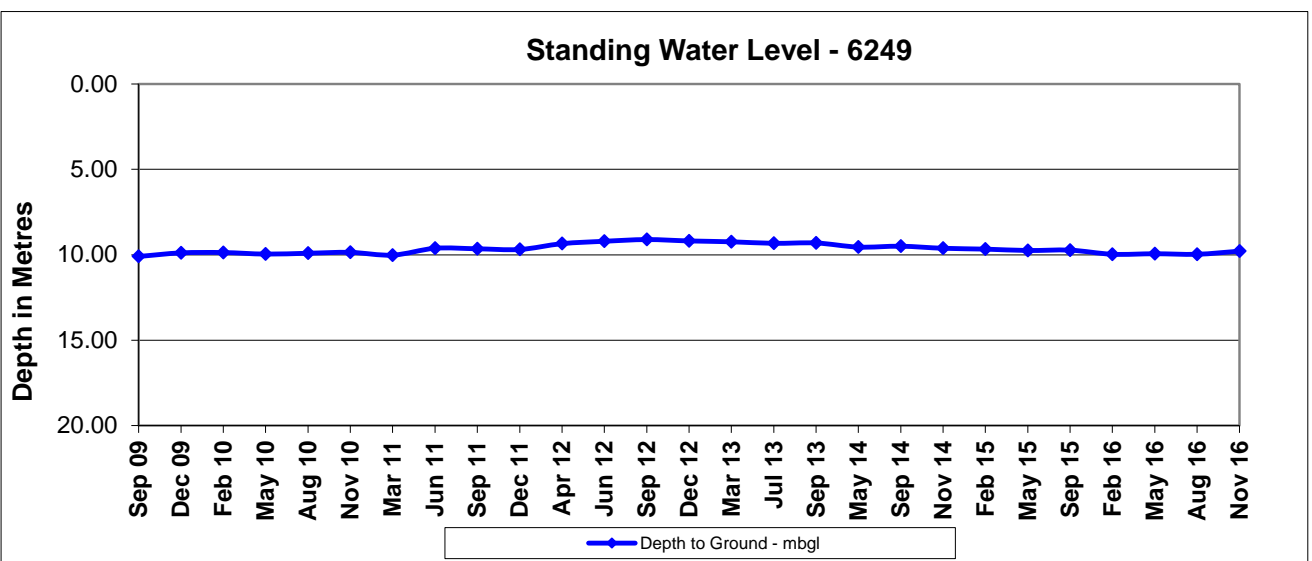
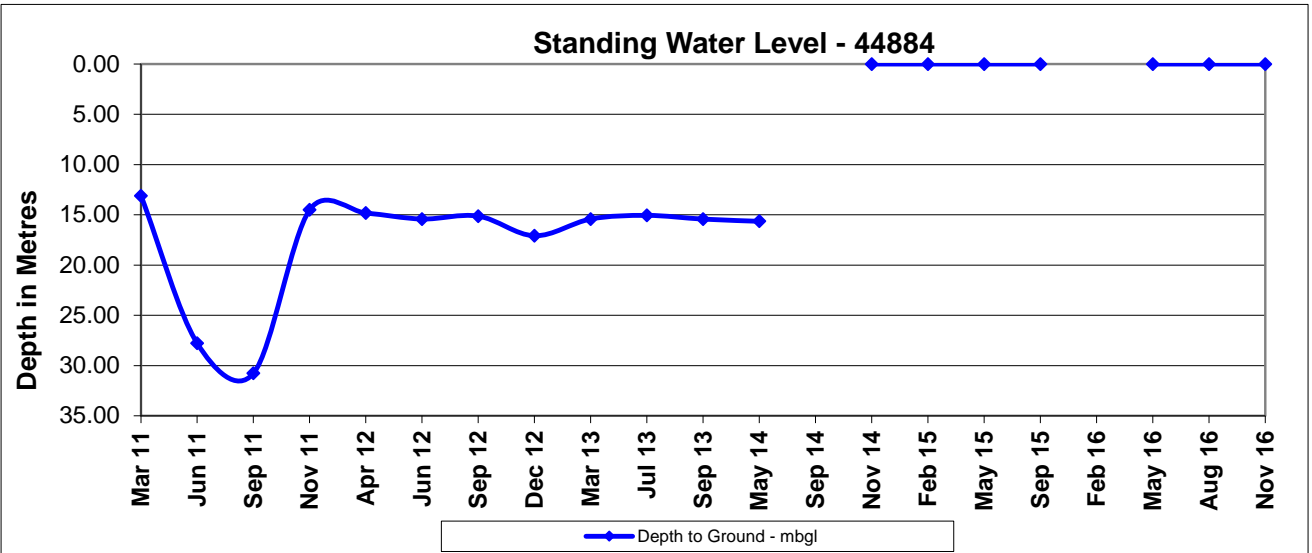
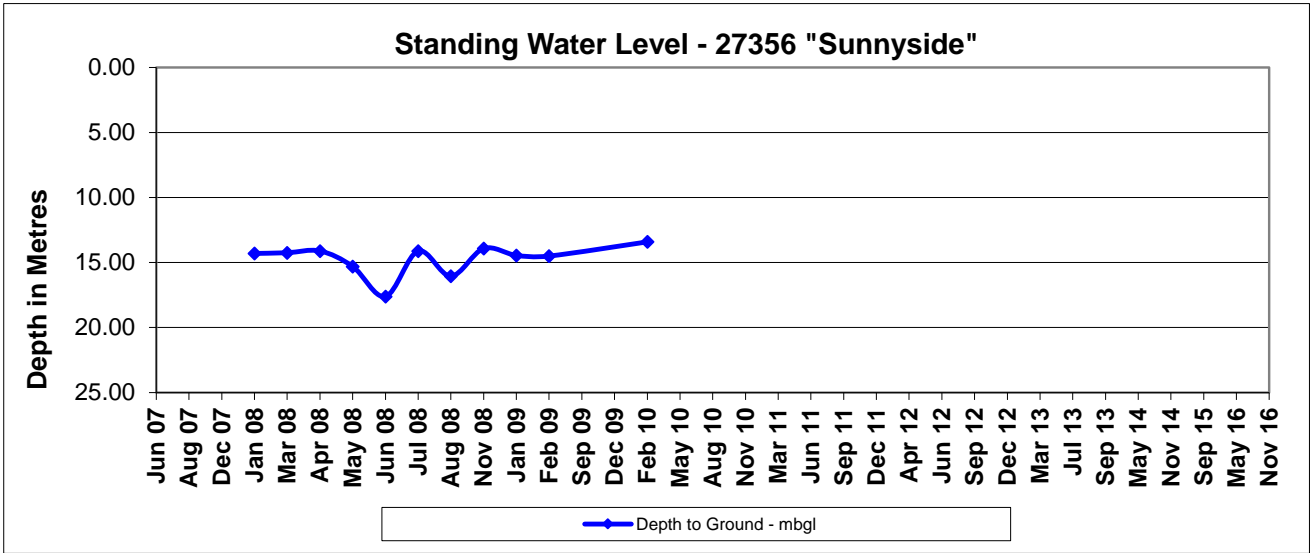
SURFACE WATER MONITORING DATA

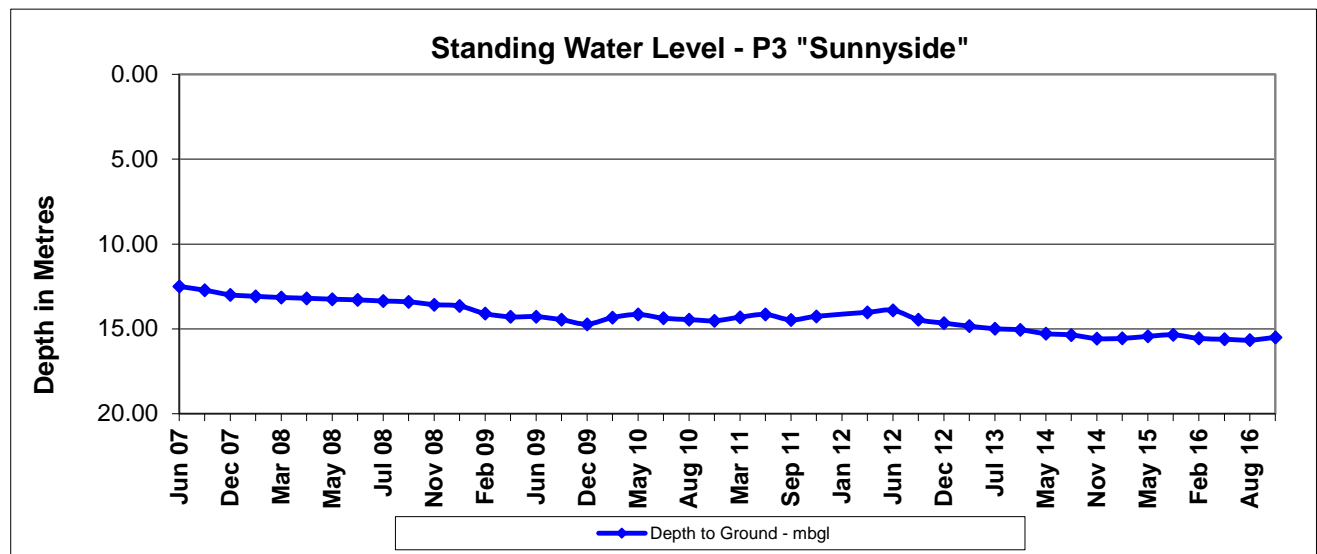
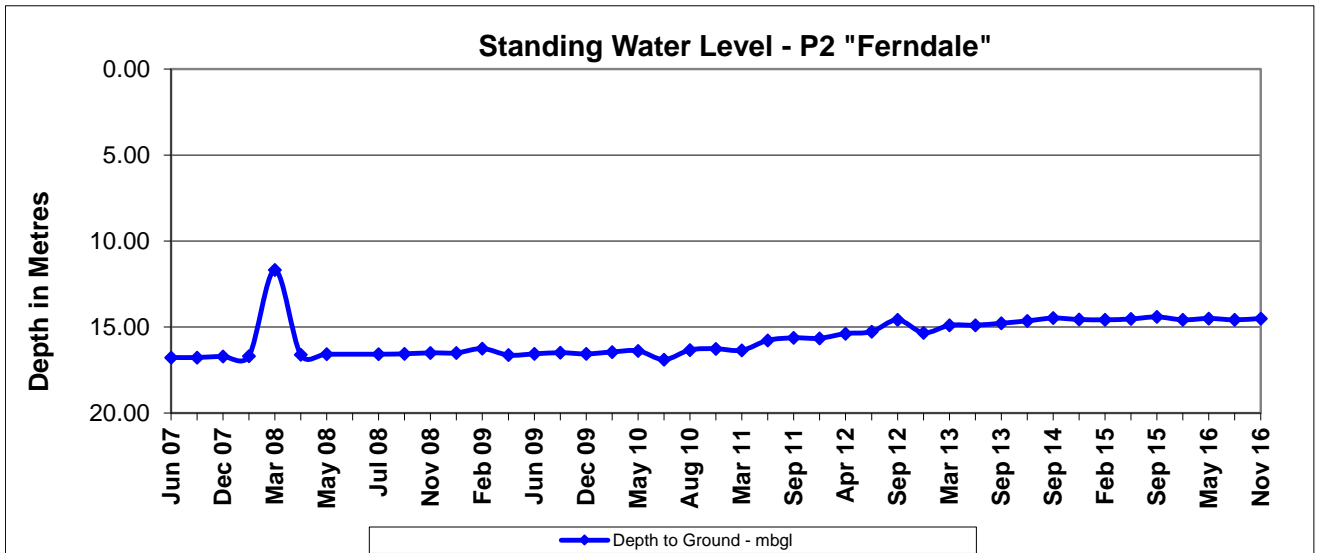
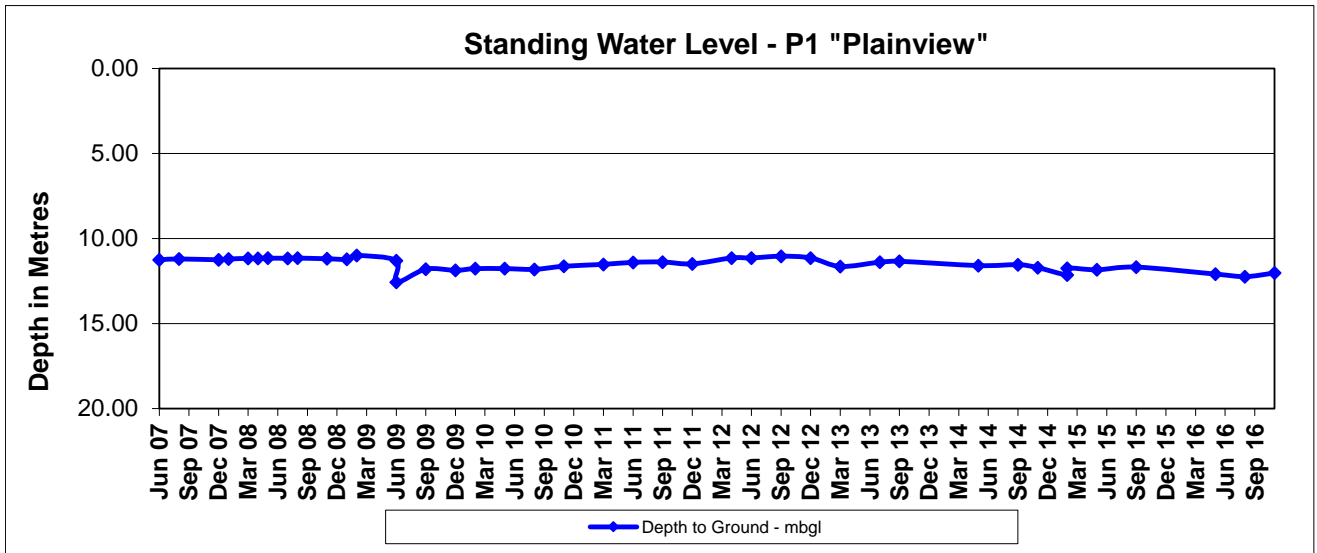
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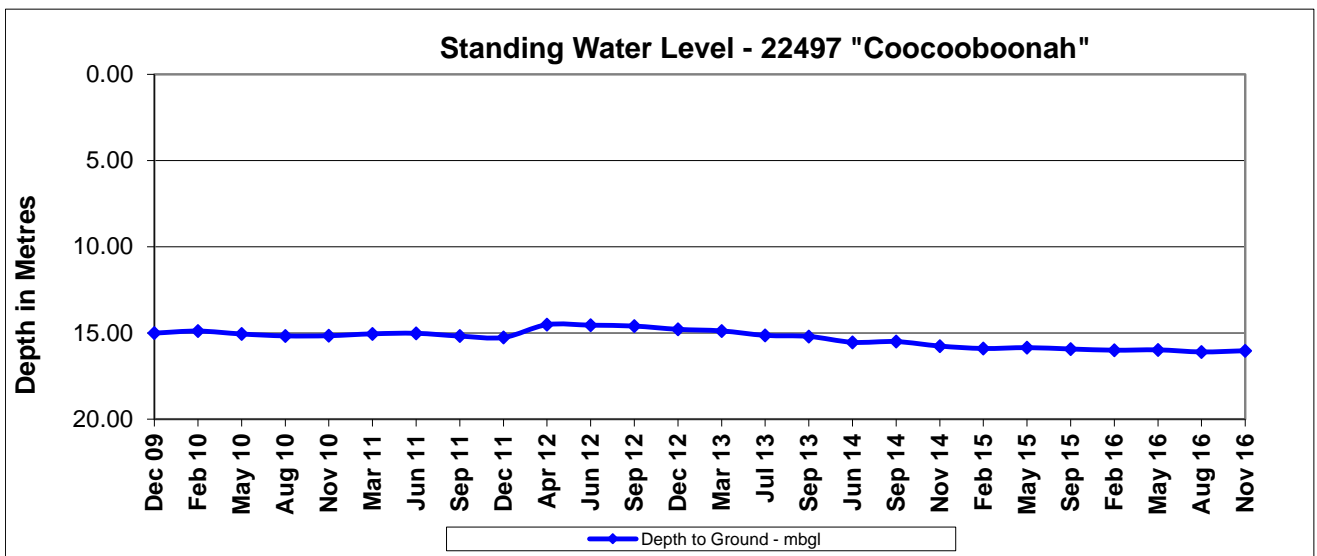
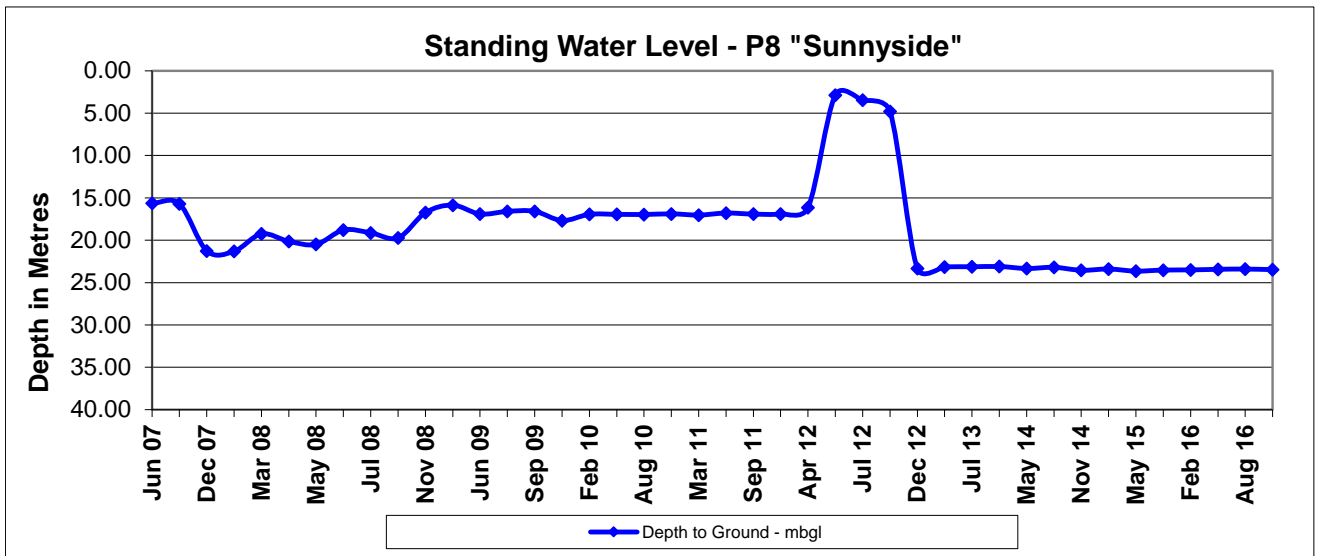
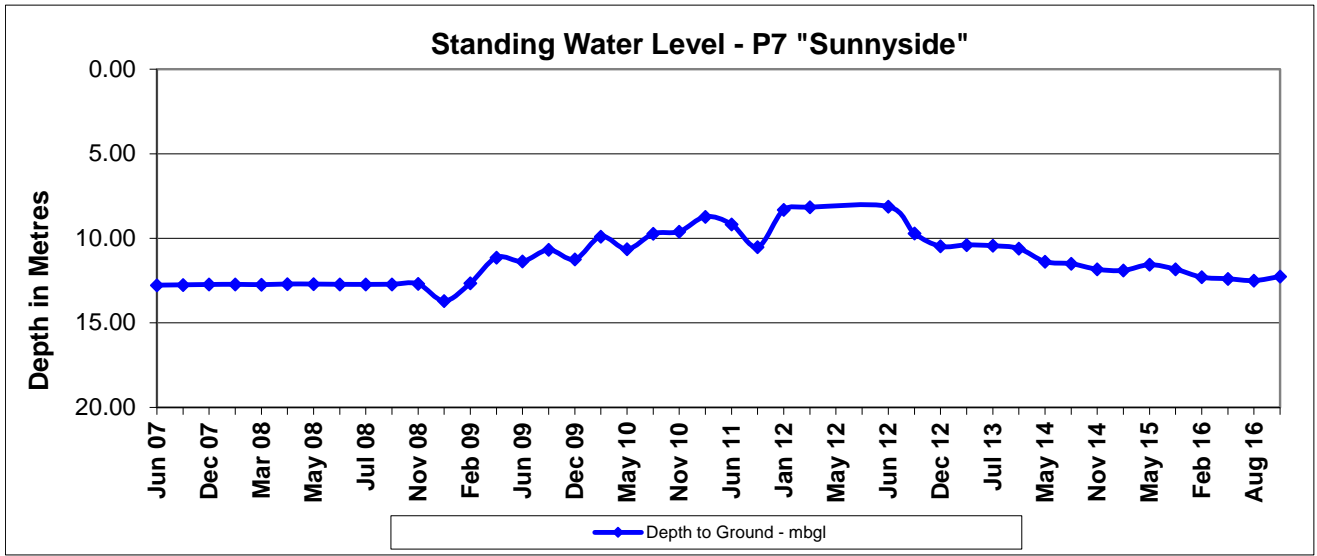
GROUNDWATER MONITORING DATA

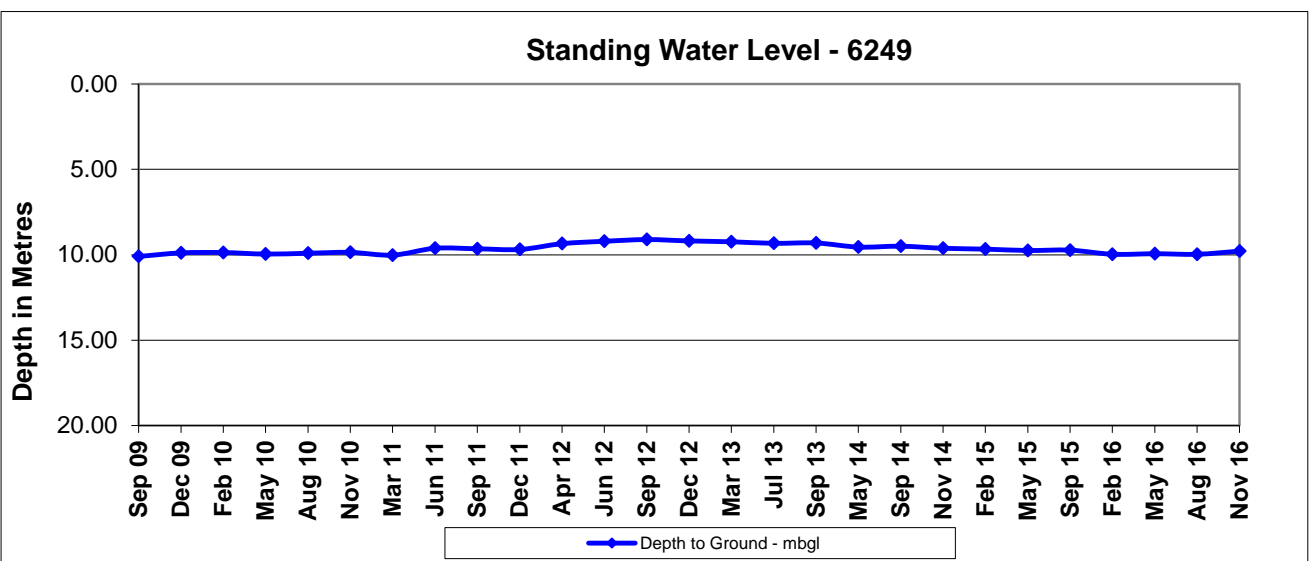
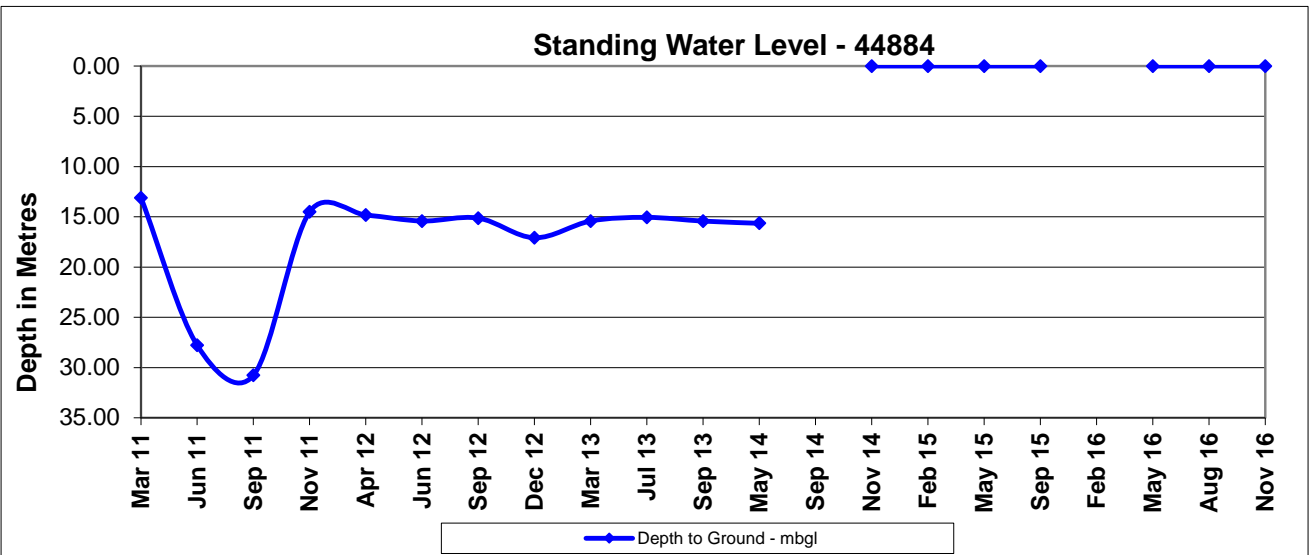
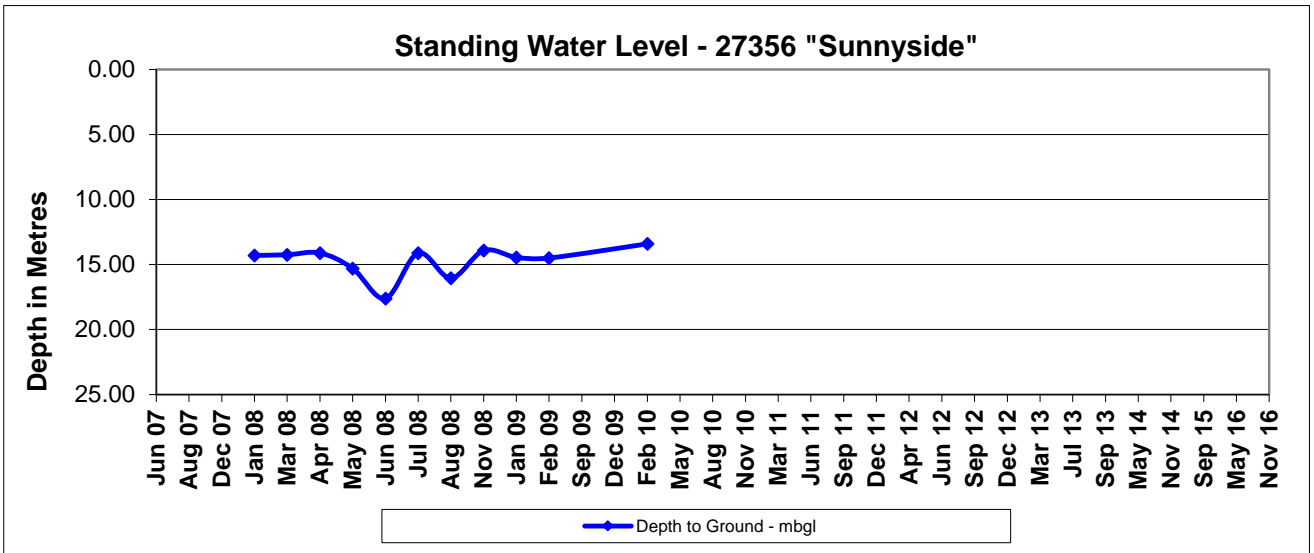












Standing Water Level - 901460

