

## **Minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sunnyside Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee**

**Meeting Held:** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013, 3:30pm

**Venue:** The meeting was held in the Board Room at Namoi Valley Brickworks.

### **1. Present and Apologies**

**Present:** Mr Michael Broekman (MB) (Chairman)  
Mr Bruce Reid (BR) (Community Representative)  
Glenn Bailey (GB) (Community Representative)  
Mrs Jill Johnson (JJ) (Environmental Officer - Whitehaven)  
Mr Tim Muldoon (TM) (Manager Community Relations - Whitehaven)

**Apologies:** Mr Danny Young (DY) (Environmental Manager - Whitehaven)  
Mrs Liz Ferguson (LF) (Community Representative)  
Mr Hans Allgayer (HA) (Gunnedah Shire Council Representative)

Moved: GB, BR

### **2. Previous Minutes**

Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as a true record on the motion of MB and BG.

### **3. Business Arising**

- 3.1.** JJ provided an update on the care and maintenance situation at Sunnyside advising that environmental consultants were finalising the Care and Maintenance Mining Operations Plan for submission to the Division of Resources and Energy.

ROM coal is still being transported to the CHPP and all environmental monitoring is still being conducted, with the exception of noise monitoring and PM<sub>10</sub> monitoring at the project-related "Lilydale" residence.

- 3.2.** JJ advised that the P7 and P8 were believed to be affected by a temporary perched water table, as such, as a result of the leaking void water dam rather than the water table they are drilled to monitor rising in standing water level. There is potential that the upper level of the monitoring piezometers was compromised during drilling however Whitehaven's geologist has advised that they still continue to be effective in monitoring the lower water table that they are drilled into.
- 3.3.** JJ advised that the contact details of tenants of Whitehaven owned properties around Sunnyside have been provided to the Rural Fire Service, following a request from LF at the previous meeting. The tenants consented to their contact details being provided.
- 3.4.** GB said he doesn't think it's right that Toll refuted the claim that reject falls out from the top of the trucks and suggested clarification with Toll.

### **4. Mine Progress Report**

JJ advised that 135,000 tonnes had been transported to the CHPP in the last 3 months.

## **5. Environmental Monitoring Report**

JJ presented the environmental monitoring results which are attached in the Environmental Monitoring Report.

BR said he finds it hard to believe that the elevated dust result is not related to mining. JJ said that the only operation occurring at the site during that month was coal loading and no other deposited dust gauges, including those closer to the mine site, showed the same elevated results at "Woodlawn". BR disagreed and said that he knows any dust would be from mining, that he is not concerned with natural dust and that you can eat it. He said it's the mine dust which is a concern and that children are susceptible to mine dust whereas it doesn't affect adults.

## **6. Complaints**

No complaints in the last three months.

## **7. General Business**

JJ provided the CCC with a hard copy and an electronic copy of the latest AEMR.

JJ noted that the majority of the conversation during the meeting would not be recorded in the minutes as it was un-related to operations at Sunnyside (ie. discussions about the Shenhua EA and mining on the Liverpool Plains). Moved MB, GB.

## **8. Next Meeting**

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013, 3:30pm

Meeting closed at 4:20pm



Michael Broekman - Chairman

# Sunnyside Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee Meeting #17

## Environmental Monitoring Report December 2012 – February 2013

### Noise Monitoring

Noise monitoring has not been carried out since the mine was placed into care and maintenance. The Noise Monitoring Program has been modified to exclude the requirement to monitor noise until such time as production recommences (approved by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure in January 2013) and an Environment Protection Licence Variation Application has been prepared for submission to the EPA.

### Air Quality Monitoring

#### **Deposited Dust**

Deposited dust levels for the site for the last 12 months are provided below. Dust levels at all monitoring locations have been low since the last meeting with the exception of a highly anomalous result at “Woodlawn” in February 2013. The sample result comprised 17.7g combustible matter and 28.8g ash indicating some contamination but with a higher proportion of dust particles. As production wasn’t occurring at the mine during the monitoring period, this is a good example of the coarse nature of deposited dust monitoring and its inability to separate mining associated dust from other sources.

The annual averages for each monitor remain well below the annual average limit of 4g/m<sup>2</sup>/month, except “Woodlawn” which is now at 5.6g/m<sup>2</sup>/month. With the combustible matter component of February’s sample excluded, the annual average is 4.1g/m<sup>2</sup>/month.

Month	SD1 Ferndale	SD3 Plainview	SD4 Lilydale	SD5 Ivanhoe	SD6 Illili	SD7 Innisvale	SD8 Woodlawn
March 2012	0.8	1.5	4.6	4.6	1.3	1.1	10.8
April 2012	0.8	3.3	0.4	1.7	1.1	1.1	0.8
May 2012	1.6	0.5	0.5	1.2	0.7	1.2	0.6
June 2012	2.2	1.0	0.2	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.4
July 2012	1.1	0.7	0.8	2.3	1.7	0.7	0.5
August 2012	0.3	1.5	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
September 2012	1.2	1.5	1.0	1.1	1.8	0.8	3.1
October 2012	1.0	1.2	0.5	1.7	0.7	1.4	0.7
November 2012	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.5	2.2	1.2	1.1
December 2012	0.8	2.9	1.0	3.5	1.4	1.0	1.0
January 2013	3.4	3.0	2.9	7.9	2.8	2.8	1.0
February 2013	0.9	2.5	1.4	3.0	1.4	4.1	46.5
<b>Annual Average</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>5.6</b>

## PM<sub>10</sub> Data

Compliance with the 24hr criterion of 50µg/m<sup>3</sup> has been maintained during the reporting period.

Monitoring at the "Lilydale" property ceased on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013 on the basis that the house is mine owned and unoccupied. The "Lilydale" monitoring location is also no longer on the Environment Protection Licence. The annual average at the time that monitoring ceased was 13.17µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

PM<sub>10</sub> measurements taken for the "Illili" High Volume Air Sampler (HVAS) are returning a running annual average of 14.14µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which is well below the annual average limit of 30µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

## Blast Monitoring

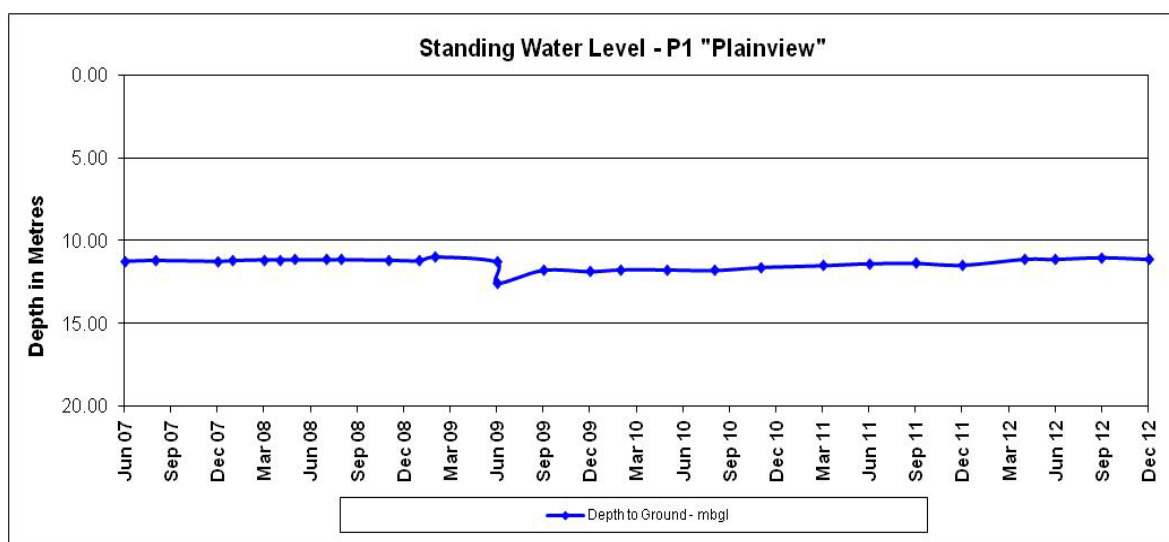
No blasts have been fired since the last meeting.

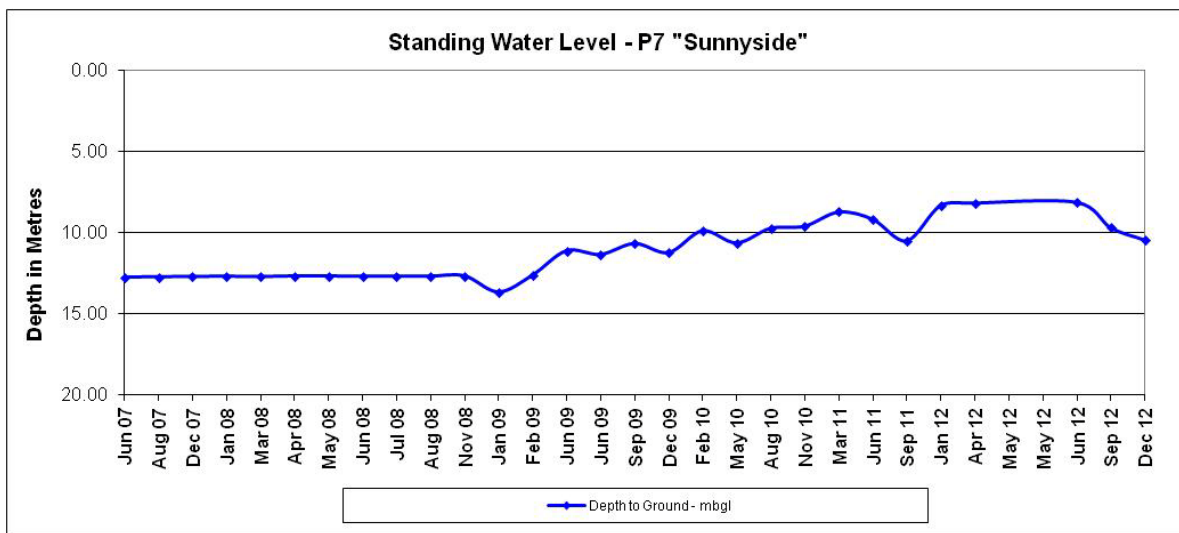
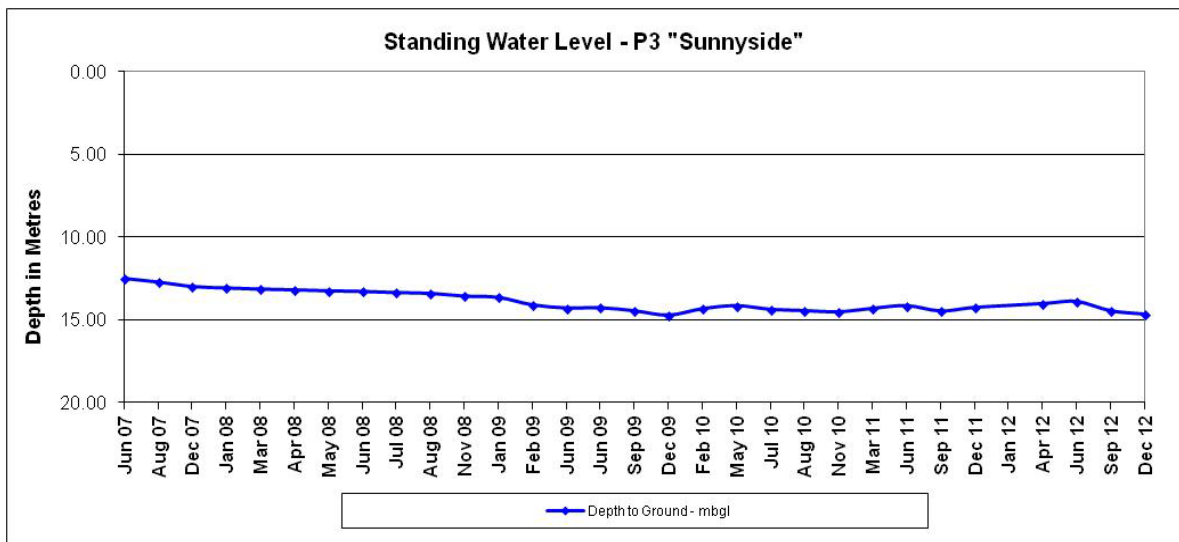
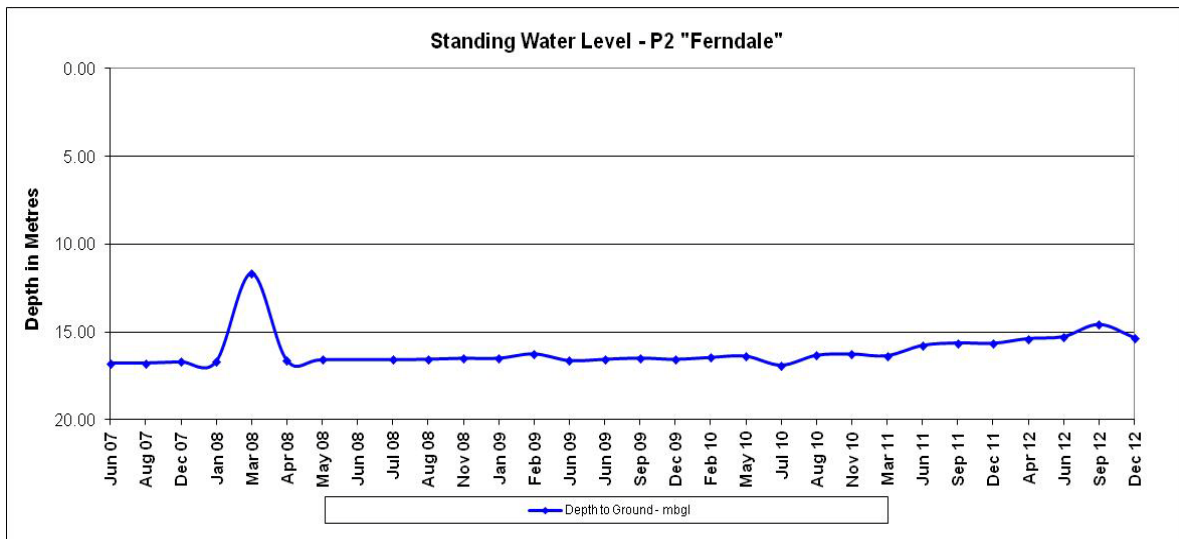
## Groundwater Monitoring

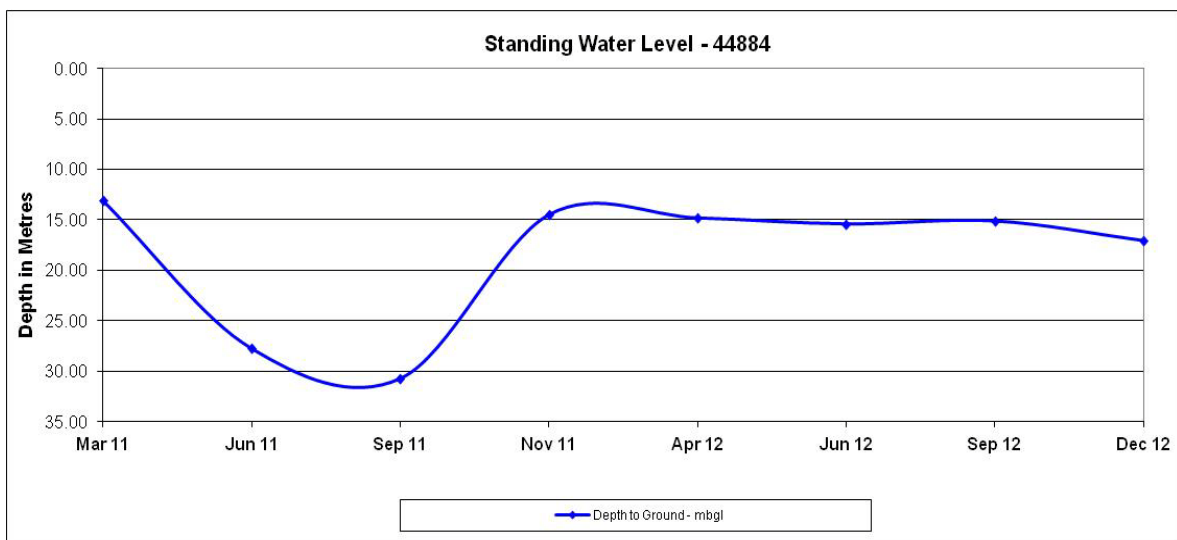
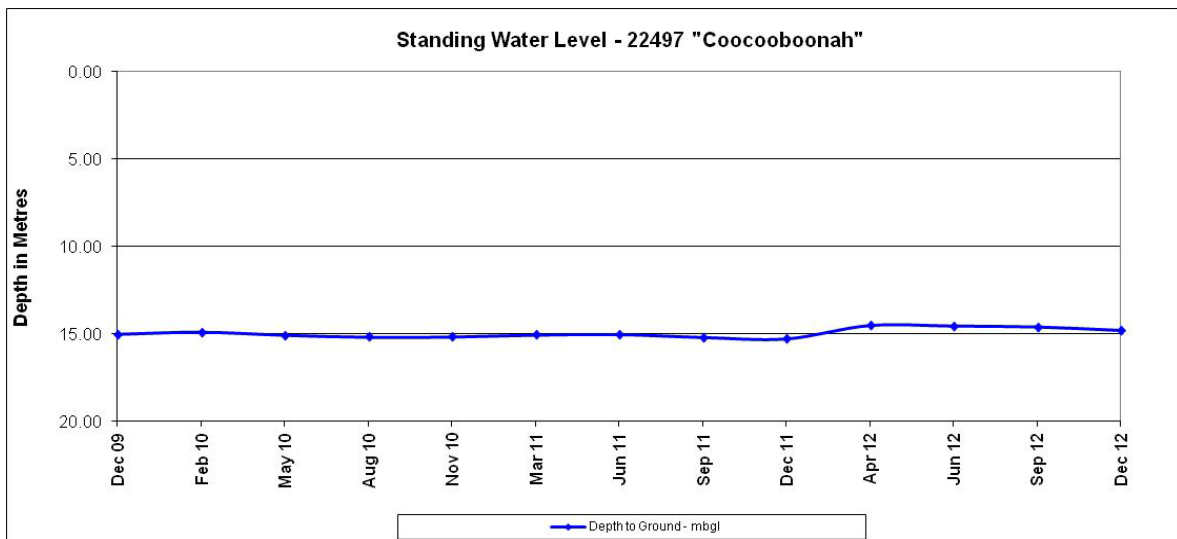
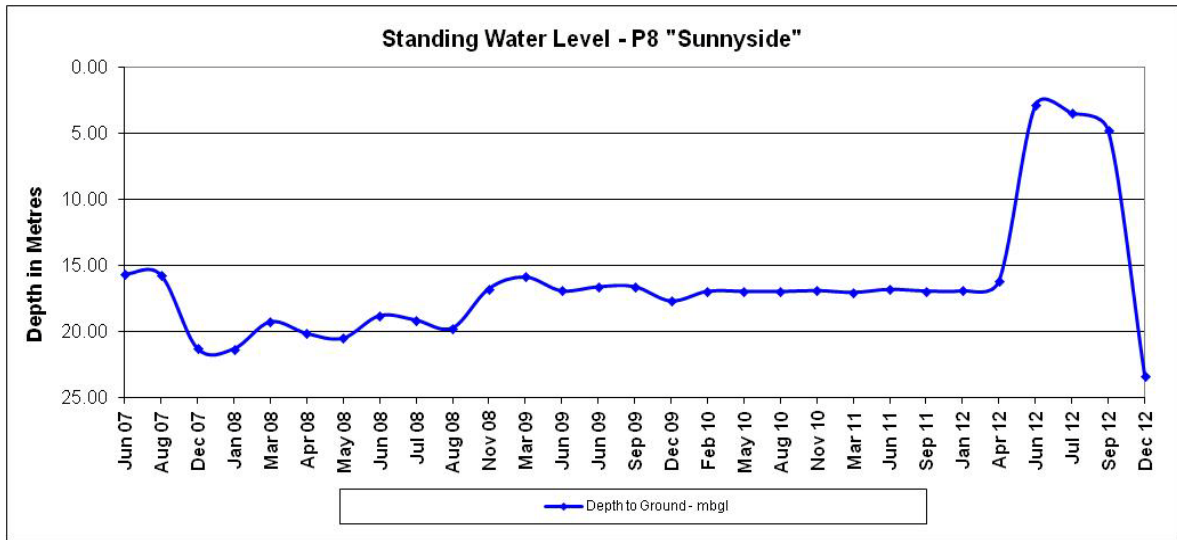
Groundwater monitoring is undertaken from a range of monitoring piezometers and water bores both within and surrounding the mine site. Standing Water Level (SWL) checks are undertaken on a quarterly basis, with full water quality sampling undertaken on a 6 monthly basis.

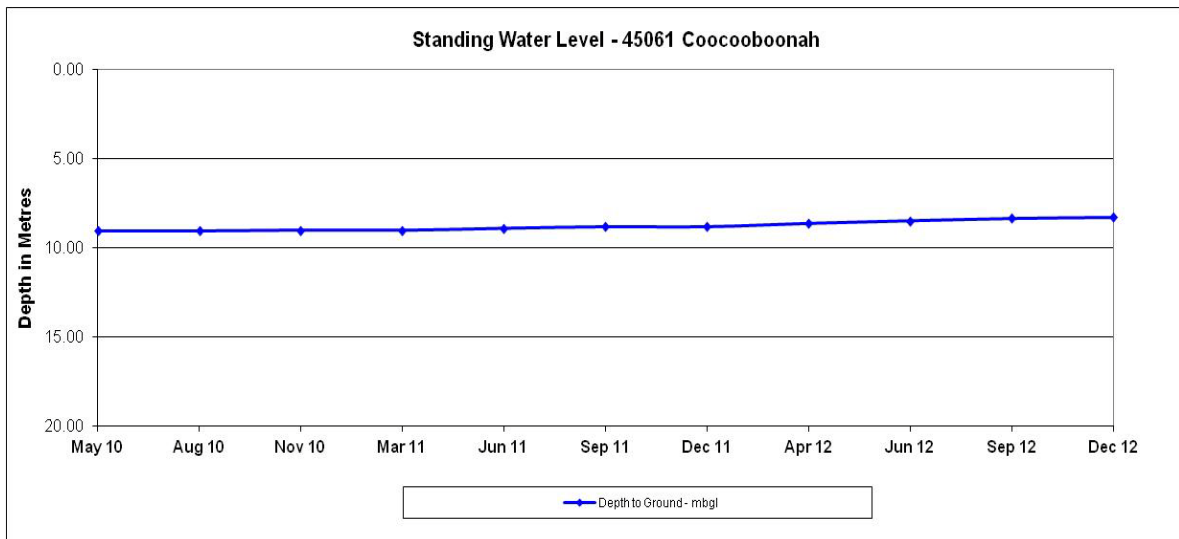
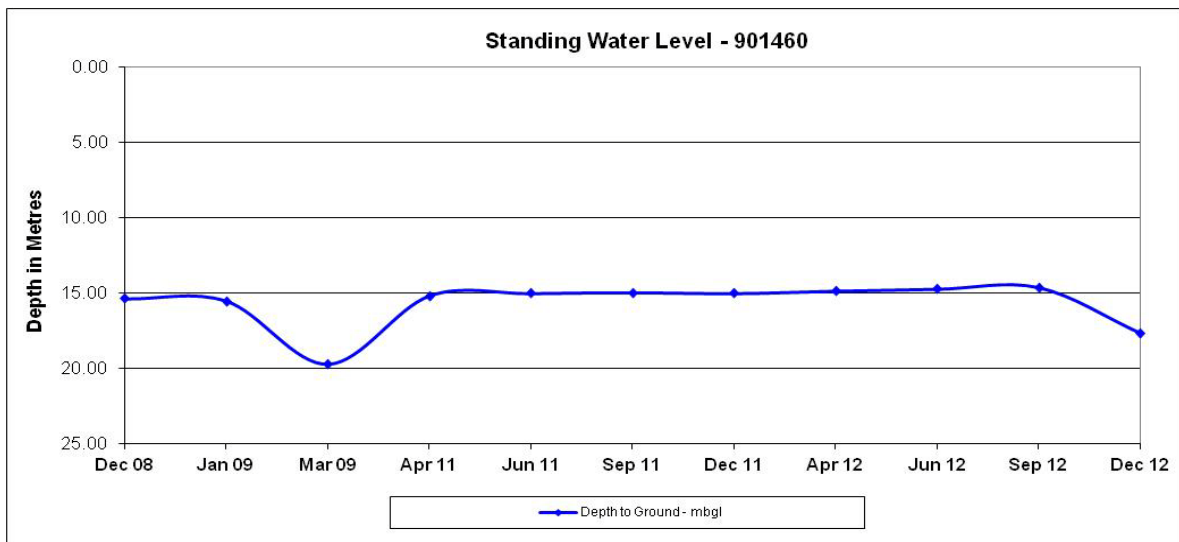
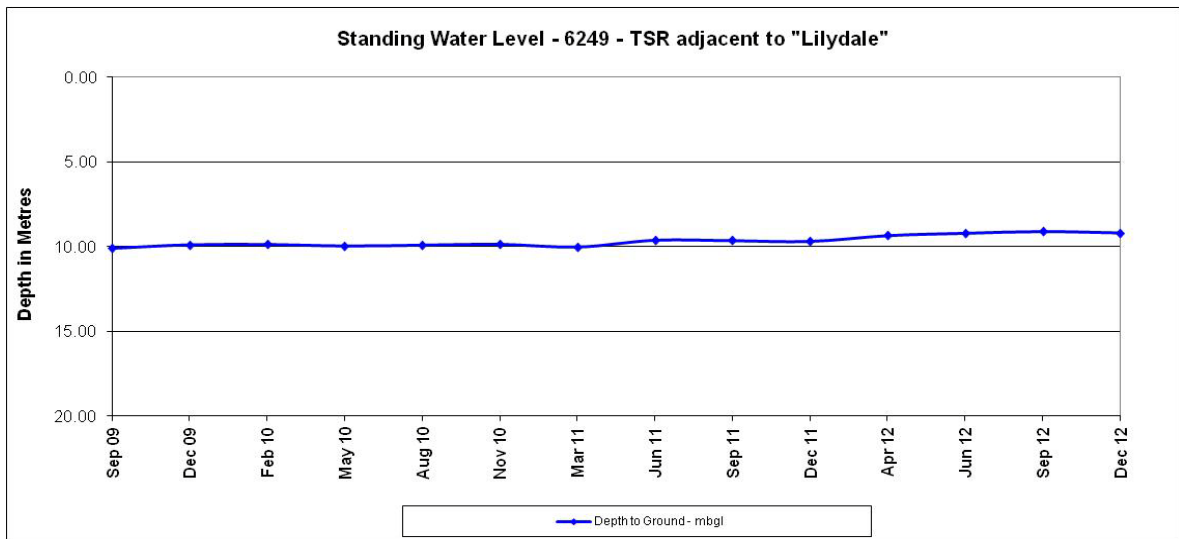
Quarterly field sampling was undertaken in December 2012. Results for SWL are shown below with no significant impact/trend indicated, with the exception of P7 and P8.

P7 was influenced by surface runoff during 2012 as a result of a broken standpipe. P8, and potentially P7 to a lesser degree, were influenced by seepage from the Void Water Dam. As discussed at the previous meeting, the Void Water Dam was treated with a polymer sealing agent in early September to prevent the seepage. The standing water levels in P7 and P8 have continued to drop, with a significant drop in SWL particularly noticeable in P8.











### **Surface Water**

Surface water sampling of storages onsite was carried out in February 2013. Results from the sampling found that Electrical Conductivity (EC) levels had returned to more normal levels and that Total Suspended Solids (TSS) levels were elevated in some dams, including the Licenced Discharge Point SD4. Both these results are related to inflows of water from significant rainfall experienced in late January. No wet weather discharges occurred during the period, with a total of 192.2mm of rainfall received at the mine during the last three months.

### **Complaints**

One complaint has been received since the last meeting. The complaint, on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2013, was in relation to a contract coal haulage truck consistently using exhaust brakes on the corner of Blackjack Road and the highway. The complainant said they do not have an issue with any other trucks. The complaint was referred to Toll Resources who instructed the owner of the sub-contracted truck. The owner subsequently disciplined the driver. The complainant advised that they did not require a return phone call.

### **Rehabilitation**

During the reporting period, no additional rehabilitation works have taken place. It is anticipated that 2.14 ha of additional rehabilitation on the emplacement area slopes will commence in the next reporting period, in accordance with care and maintenance requirements. Completed rehabilitation areas have shown excellent grass establishment and tree survival rates, as shown in Plate 1.



**Plate 1 – Rehabilitation on the upper tier of the emplacement**



**Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the  
Sunnyside Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee**

**Meeting Held:** 12<sup>th</sup> June 2013, 3:35pm

**Venue:** The meeting was held in the Board Room at Namoi Valley Brickworks.

**1. Present and Apologies**

**Present:** Mr Michael Broekman (MB) (Chairman)  
Mr Bruce Reid (BR) (Community Representative)  
Mrs Jill Johnson (JJ) (Environmental Officer - Whitehaven)  
Mr Tim Muldoon (TM) (Manager Community Relations - Whitehaven)  
Mr Hans Allgayer (HA) (Gunnedah Shire Council Representative)  
Mr Danny Young (DY) (Environmental Manager - Whitehaven)

**Apologies:** Mr Glenn Bailey (GB) (Community Representative)

**No advice:** Mrs Liz Ferguson (LF) (Community Representative)

Moved: HA, TM

**2. Previous Minutes**

Minutes of the previous meeting were adopted as a true record on the motion of MB and BR, with agreement that Tim Muldoon's name be moved from the present list to the apologies list.

**3. Business Arising**

- 3.1.** DY advised that an application to convert Sunnyside to the care and maintenance phase was lodged last year and Whitehaven is still awaiting advice from the Division of Resources and Energy (DRE). Initial indications are for a conditional approval with additional actions required for the void however Whitehaven is not progressing development of a care and maintenance MOP until formal advice has been issued by DRE.

HA said he would like a tour of the site, which JJ said she would arrange.

- 3.2.** In relation to GB's concern about Toll's response to claims of reject falling from trucks (in relation to the Melville Emplacement Area, not Sunnyside) JJ advised that Toll's Mining Services Manager – Gunnedah Region clarified that some reject may fall from the top of the trailers (deposited by the excavator when loading) or from the mudflaps and that the material in the trucks would not be spilling out. JJ also noted that the consent for Brickworks requires loads to be covered and trucks washed down prior to entering the public road network.

**4. Mine Progress Report**

JJ and DY advised that the remainder of coal stockpiled at site had been transported to the CHPP. Rehabilitation of 2.6 hectares has commenced and, as discussed previously, Whitehaven is awaiting DRE advice on their requirements of the care and maintenance MOP. DY noted that the Development Consent for Sunnyside expires in 2015 so the company will need to decide soon what they intend to do at site – either move to

closure or seek an extension to the approval timeframe. He said it is unlikely that DRE would support a care and maintenance period beyond expiry of the consent.

BR asked when mining finished. DY said around November 2012. BR asked when coal carting finished and DY said May 2013. BR said he won't be around for his main issue that the mine will never be properly rehabilitated. He said by the time Whitehaven gets around to rehabilitating the site the money dedicated to rehabilitation will only be enough to get equipment to site. TM and HA said they don't agree with HA noting that modern legislation is fairly tight in relation to rehabilitation of mines.

BR said planting trees is nothing and that we know that trees grow. He referred to filling in the void and disposing of nasty chemicals floating around. DY said it was never on the agenda to fill the void. BR asked what about the pools of muck and said there are always by products of mining that we don't hear about.

HA asked if there was any prospect of highwall mining. DY said it had been discussed but the quality and quantity of coal doesn't make it viable at this stage.

Mine Progress Report moved by TM and HA.

## **5. Environmental Monitoring Report**

DY presented the environmental monitoring results which are attached in the Environmental Monitoring Report.

Moved by HA and TM.

## **6. Complaints**

No complaints in the last three months.

## **7. General Business**

TM queried the frequency of meetings now the mine is in care and maintenance. DY said he'd discussed the situation with Steve O'Donoghue from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure who said the CCC guidelines recommendation for four meetings per year is only a recommendation and therefore the frequency of meetings can be varied so long as there is consensus from the Committee. BR said he wonders what we're doing at this meeting and agreed that once a year is appropriate as we haven't got much to do. TM said if something happens in the period between meetings the Chair can call an extraordinary meeting. MB moved a motion that a letter be issued to CCC members not in attendance at the meeting to seek their opinion on annual meetings. Moved BR.

## **8. Next Meeting**

To be advised

Meeting closed at 4:00pm



Michael Broekman – Chairman

# Sunnyside Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee Meeting #18

## Environmental Monitoring Report March – May 2013

### Noise Monitoring

Operational noise monitoring has not been carried out since the mine was placed into care and maintenance. As remaining coal stocks were being hauled from Sunnyside during the period, transport noise monitoring was carried out at “Roslyn” for one hour on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013. A total of 17 heavy vehicles travelled along Torrens Lane, measuring 55 dB(A). This is equal to the noise criterion for a local roads of 55 dB(A). “Roslyn” is Whitehaven owned.

### Air Quality Monitoring

#### **Deposited Dust**

Deposited dust levels for the site for the last 12 months are provided below.

Month	SD1 Ferndale	SD3 Plainview	SD4 Lilydale	SD5 Ivanhoe	SD6 Illili	SD7 Innisvale	SD8 Woodlawn
June 2012	2.2	1.0	0.2	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.4
July 2012	1.1	0.7	0.8	2.3	1.7	0.7	0.5
August 2012	0.3	1.5	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2
September 2012	1.2	1.5	1.0	1.1	1.8	0.8	3.1
October 2012	1.0	1.2	0.5	1.7	0.7	1.4	0.7
November 2012	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.5	2.2	1.2	1.1
December 2012	0.8	2.9	1.0	3.5	1.4	1.0	1.0
January 2013	3.4	3.0	2.9	7.9	2.8	2.8	1.0
February 2013	0.9	2.5	1.4	3.0	1.4	4.1	46.5
March 2013	14.5	5.9	3.0	1.0	3.4	0.6	13.0
April 2013	0.4	0.5	2.2	0.4	0.4	2.8	0.7
May 2013	0.9	0.8	1.9	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.8
<b>Annual Average</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>5.8</b>

Dust levels at all monitoring locations have been low since the last meeting with the exception of two highly anomalous results at “Ferndale” and “Woodlawn” and a minor elevated result at “Plainview” in March 2013.

The “Ferndale” result of 14.5 g/m<sup>2</sup>/month included a large component of combustible matter (12.3g/m<sup>2</sup>/month), including insects and bird droppings. The “Woodlawn” result of 13.0 g/m<sup>2</sup>/month also included a large proportion combustible matter (10.5g/m<sup>2</sup>/month) including bird droppings and plant material. The “Plainview” monitor recorded a minor elevated result of 5.9 g/m<sup>2</sup>/month, where

combustible matter made up 5.0g/m<sup>2</sup>/month of the result. These results again are a good example of how deposited dust monitoring is very broad method of dust sampling.

The annual averages for each monitor remain well below the annual average limit of 4g/m<sup>2</sup>/month, except "Woodlawn" which is now at 5.8g/m<sup>2</sup>/month. With the combustible matter component of February and March's samples excluded, the annual average is 3.5g/m<sup>2</sup>/month.

### PM<sub>10</sub> Data

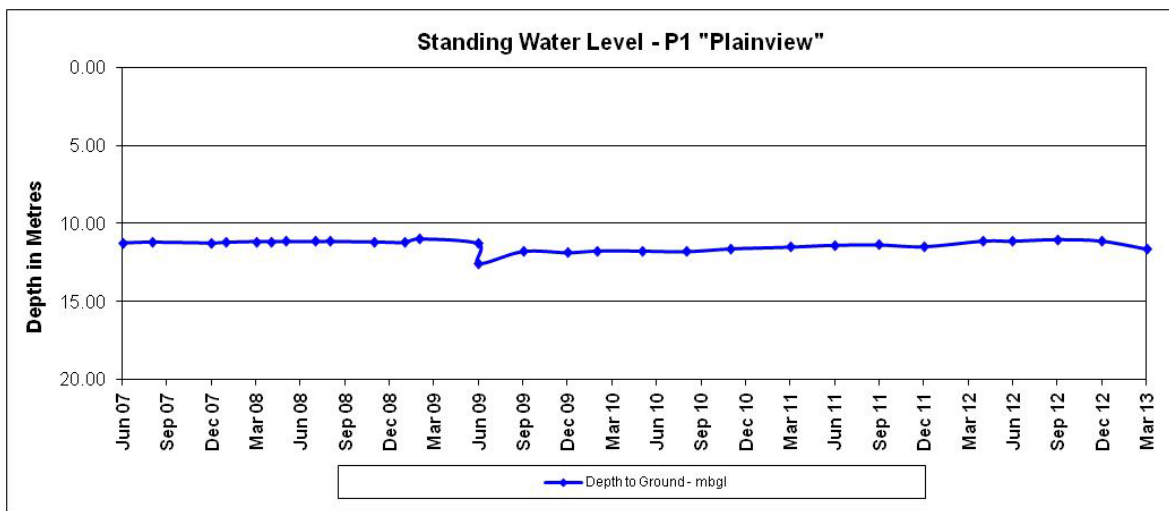
Compliance with the 24hr criterion of 50µg/m<sup>3</sup> has been maintained during the reporting period.

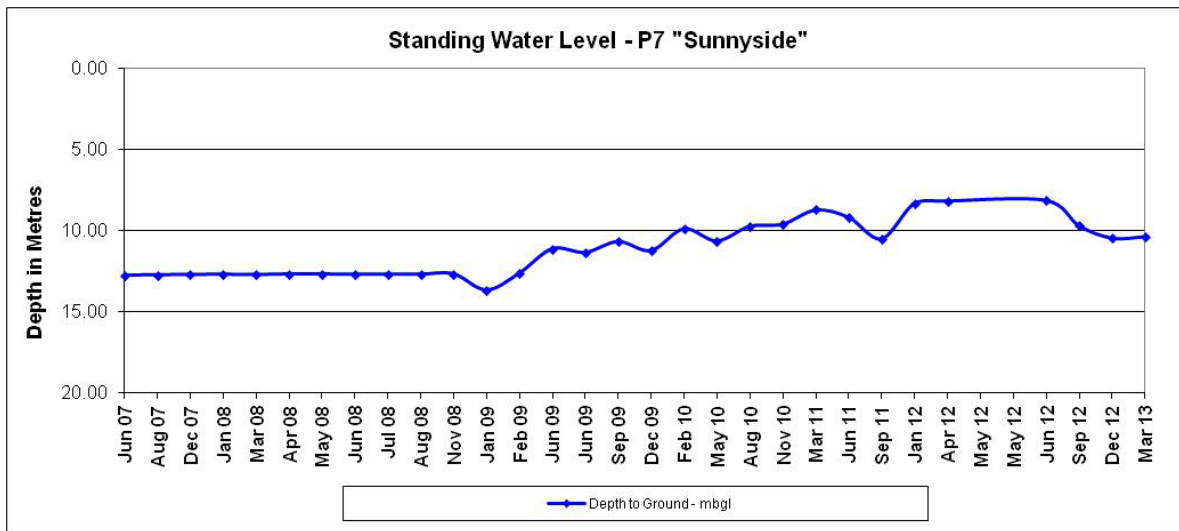
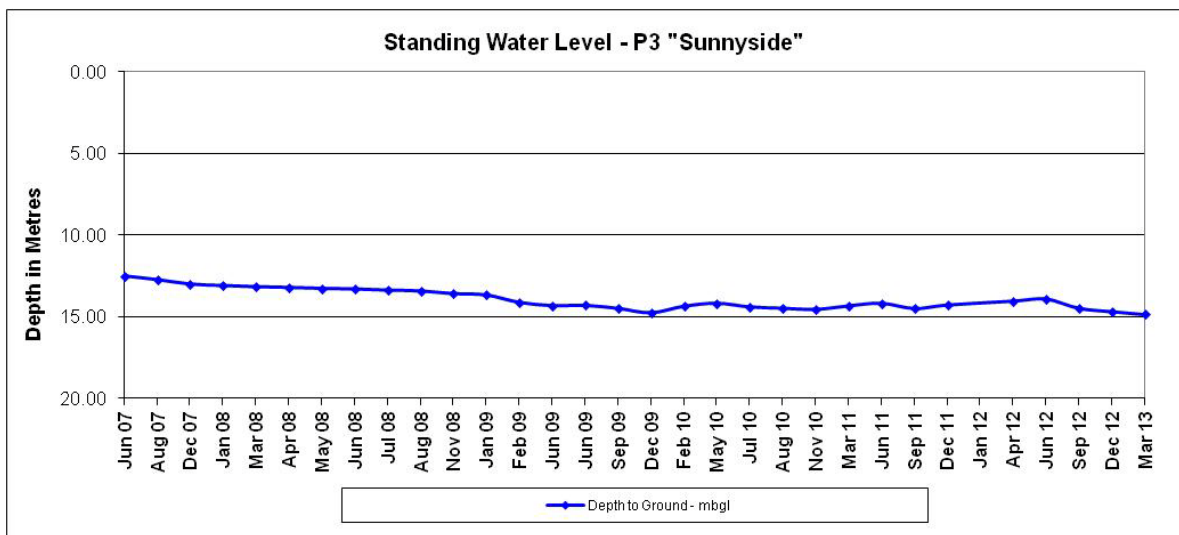
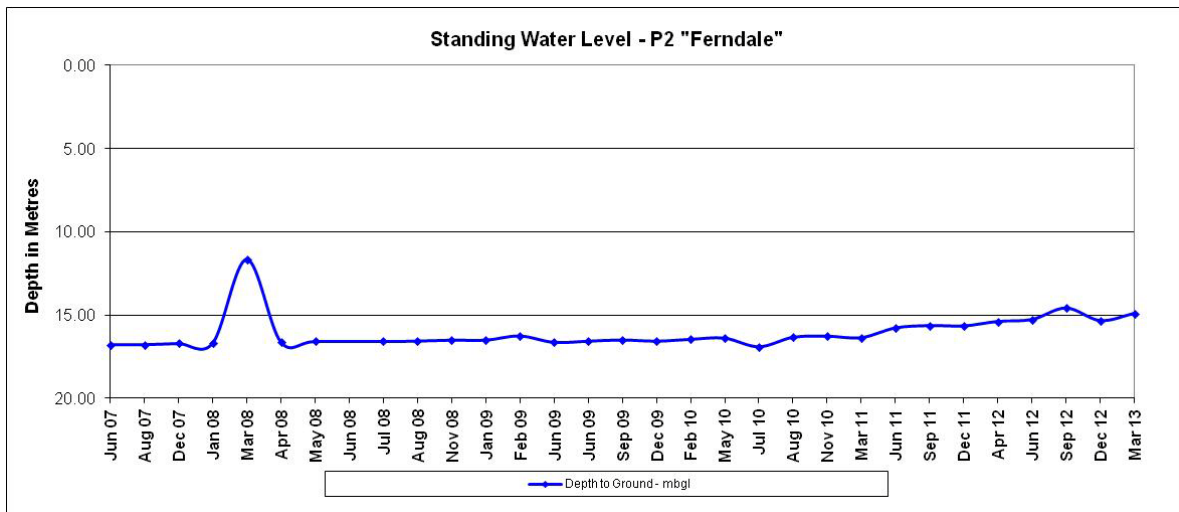
PM<sub>10</sub> measurements taken for the "Illili" High Volume Air Sampler (HVAS) are returning a running annual average of 14.92µg/m<sup>3</sup>, which is well below the annual average limit of 30µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

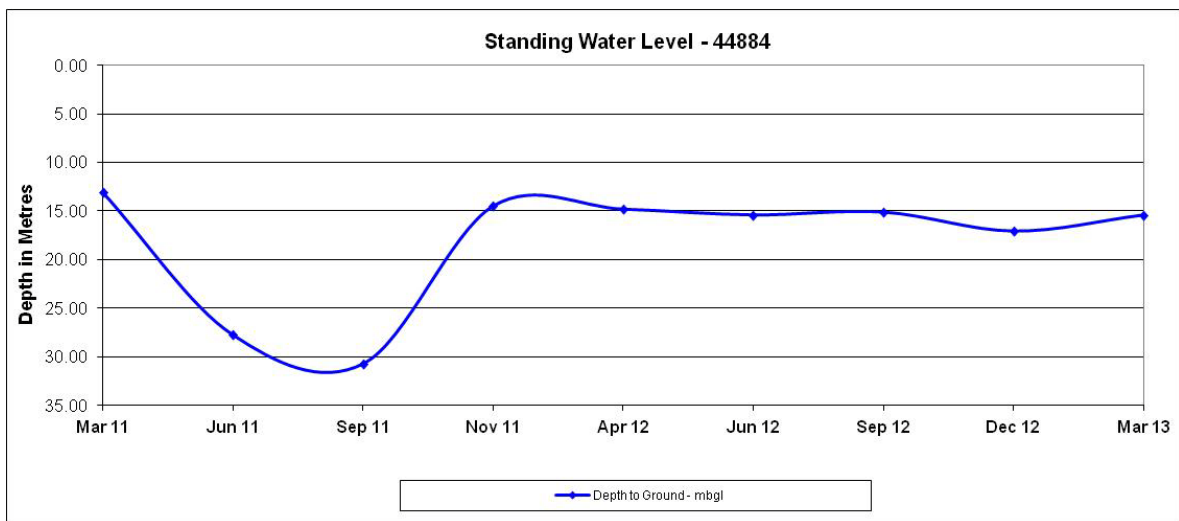
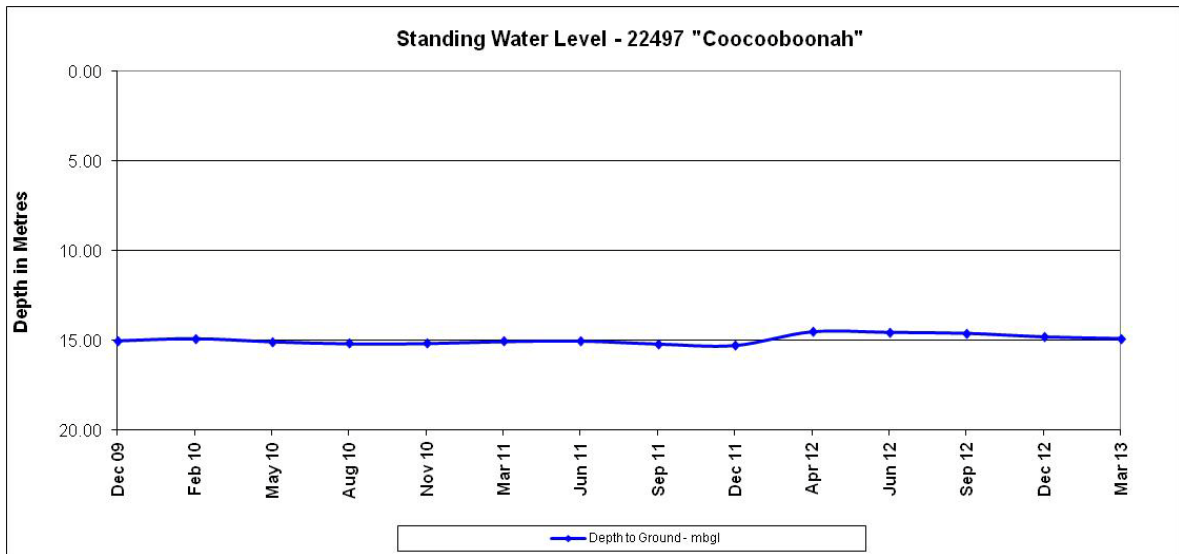
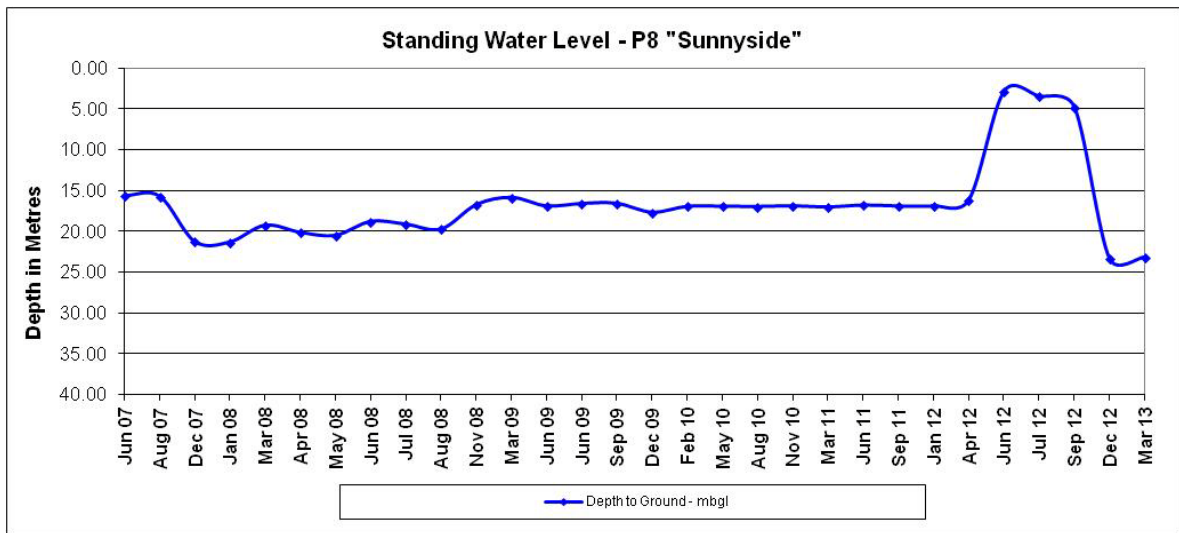
### Groundwater Monitoring

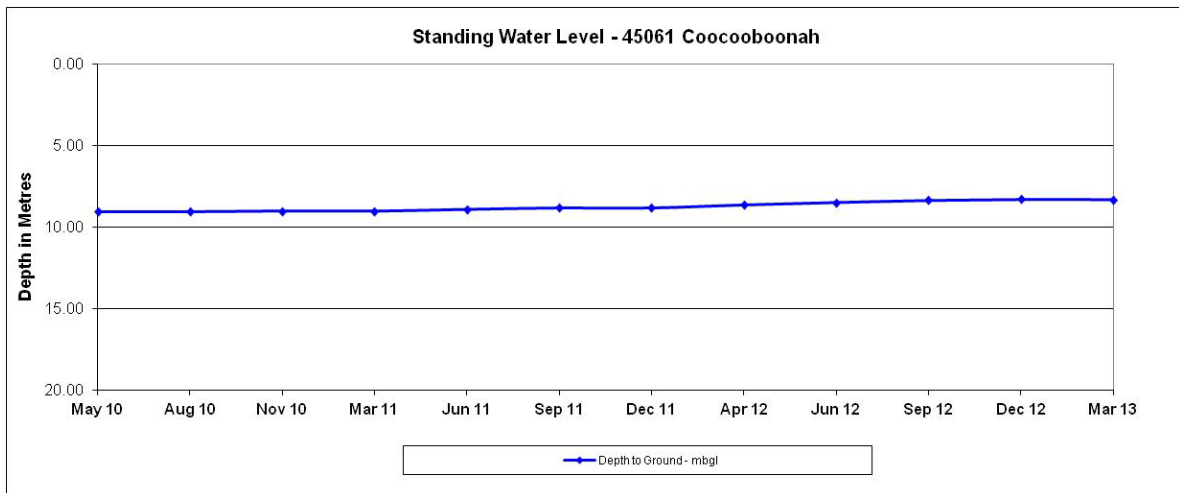
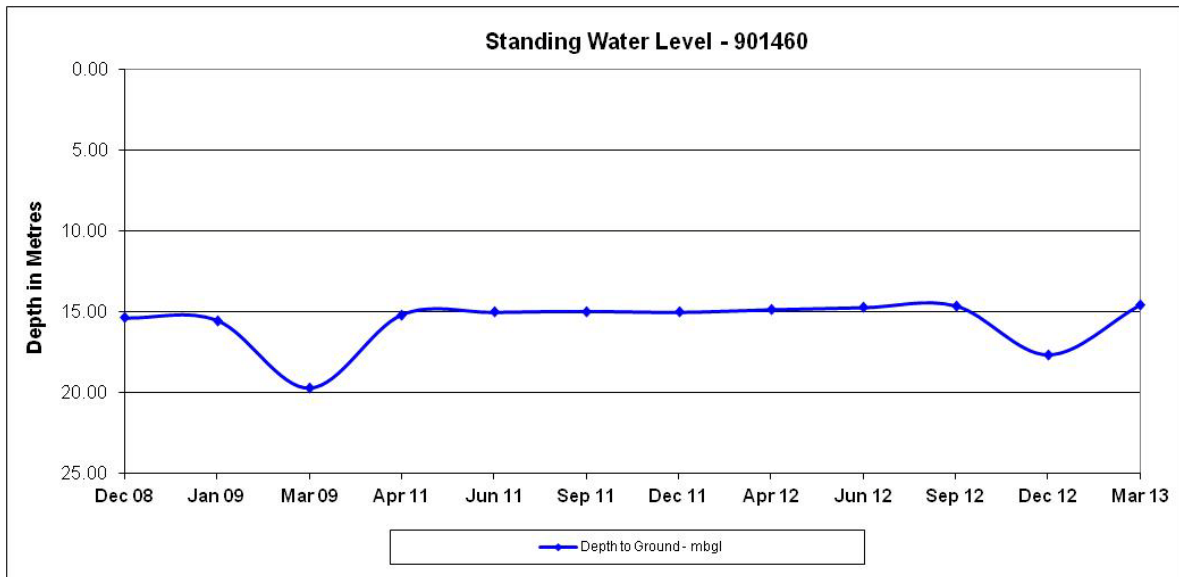
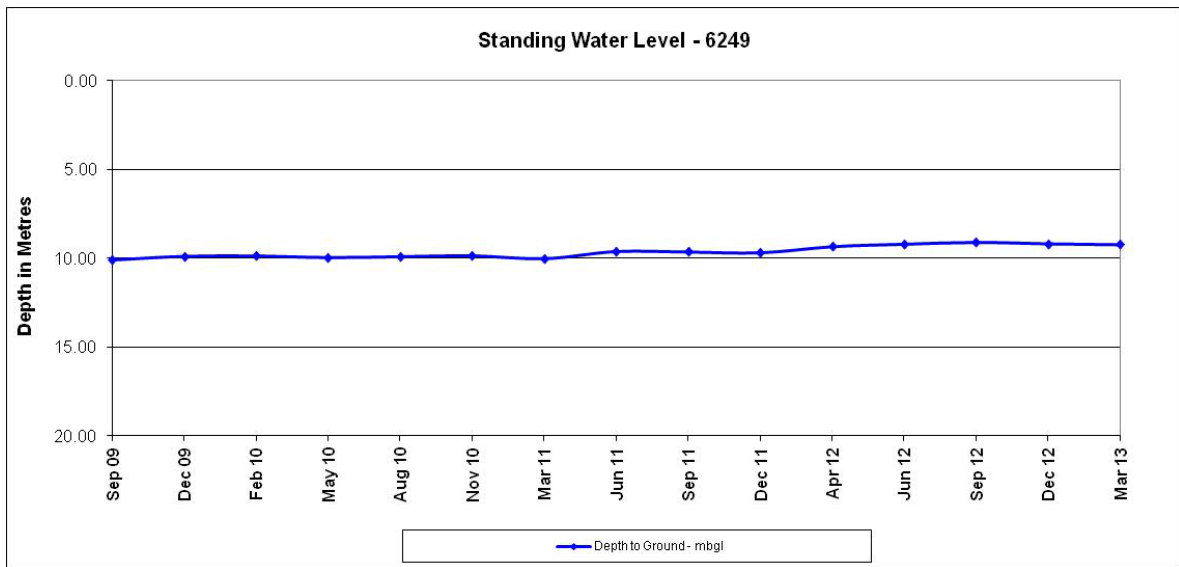
Groundwater monitoring is undertaken from a range of monitoring piezometers and water bores both within and surrounding the mine site. Standing Water Level (SWL) checks are undertaken on a quarterly basis, with full water quality sampling undertaken on a 6 monthly basis.

Six monthly field sampling was undertaken in March 2013. Results for SWL are shown below with no significant impact/trend indicated. Monitoring piezometers P7 and P8 are showing minimal change since the last round of monitoring indicating a return to more normal standing water levels. Water quality results were as expected with no major fluctuation in quality.











### **Surface Water**

Surface water sampling of storages onsite was carried out in May 2013. Results from the sampling found normal levels of Electrical Conductivity, Total Suspended Solids and pH in sediment basins and water within the pit. No wet weather discharges occurred during the period.

### **Complaints**

No complaints were received during the period.

### **Rehabilitation**

During the reporting period, two areas of the emplacement's slope, totaling 2.14 ha, was topsoiled and temporarily seeded to minimise the potential of erosion, until contour banks and tree mounds can be constructed. It is intended to construct these contour banks and mounds as soon as practically possible. Completed rehabilitation areas are in good condition, with excellent tree growth (Plate 1).



**Plate 1 – Trees on the emplacements slope**