EnergyAustralia Lithgow Region Community Consultative Committee
Final Meeting Minutes – 19 November 2024

Member attendees:

- Julie Favell
- Jim (Cricket) Whitty
- Jamie Giokaris (for part of meeting)
- Aunty Helen Riley
- Alex Preema
- Rob White
- Shaun Elwood – Lithgow City Council
- Peter Griffiths – EnergyAustralia
- David Wilson – EnergyAustralia
- Ben Eastwood – EnergyAustralia

Apologies:

- Rob Cluff
- Lauren Stevens– Lithgow City Council (support)

Presenters

- Ben Eastwood - EnergyAustralia
- Michael de Vink – EnergyAustralia

Chair:

- Brendan Blakeley

Item	Discussion Point
1	**Welcome and introductions** • The meeting began at 5:03 pm • The Chair welcomed all members • The Chair acknowledged Country • The Chair asked for declarations of interest: - the Chair noted he chaired a similar group for EnergyAustralia at Tallawarra Power Station - the Chair declared payment received from EnergyAustralia for role as independent chair of this CCC - no other interests were declared.
2	**Minutes** Actions from the previous meeting were: 1. EnergyAustralia to provide an update on acid mine drainage at Pine Dale Mine. (see slide 6) • Ben noted the following points: - there are no known active areas of acid mine drainage at Pine Dale Mine - acid mine drainage occurs when pyrite oxidizes - there is an abundance of pyrite throughout the area. - you often see evidence of this with the reddish ring around the edge of dams and water bodies and exposed rock surfaces.

Item	Discussion Point

- areas within Pine Dale that had evidence of acid mine drainage have been rehabilitated (Area 8).
- treatment is through application of gypsum and compost to alter soil ph. and get organic matter into the soil.
- the vegetation has responded well, and this is helping to stop erosion and any further damage to soil.
- *Julie Favell requested that a photo of the rehabilitated area be provided at the next CCC.*

Action 1: Photo to be provided at next CCC.

2. Disabled Fishing access at Thompson Creek Reservoir (TCR) (see slides 7&8)

- Ben and Peter noted:

- EnergyAustralia has met with DPI Fisheries to discuss access to TCR for anglers with disability.
- there is an angler access deed. The dam is on private property. Members of the general public are allowed to access the dam for angling purposes under the deed. Other general recreational activities are not permitted at TCR.
- a revised access deed is being finalised with DPI Fisheries.
- currently access for disabled anglers is arranged with EnergyAustralia security guards who open the gates to allow entry for vehicles and mobility aids.
- DPI Fisheries is looking at preparing a leaflet for EnergyAustralia security to provide to anglers. This would outline risks and anglers' responsibilities.
- the revised deed is not likely to include providing an MLAC key to enable people to access the dam themselves. They will still need to make an arrangement with security.
- the Chair noted that Alex Preema from the Acclimatisation Society had tabled a letter to EA outlining the requirements to support a member of the society (and very experienced angler) who has particular access needs.
- EnergyAustralia advised they would review Alex's correspondence and come back with a response to his request.
- *There was discussion about access to the dam and possible compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act.*

- The Chair reminded the CCC, that the dam was privately owned land without any requirement to provide for public access, and it was unlikely that DDA requirements would apply.

Action 2: EnergyAustralia to consider and respond to Alex Preema's request.

3. Wombat Mange Management Program (see slide 9)

- Ben noted:

- He has met Anna from the Kanimbla Wombat Program, Anna had also visited the EA lands adjacent Mt Piper Power Station.

Item	Discussion Point

- Anna has explained how the group has successfully treated wombats in other areas of the Blue Mountains.
- EnergyAustralia is looking at options for implementing the program to manage mange in wombats on its lands within the Lithgow area.
- Discussions with Anna will continue.

Action 3: Julie Favell requested the CCC be updated regularly on the progress of this matter.

Responses to questions on notice were:

- *Is there a public link to EnergyAustralia's statement responding to the opposition's proposal for nuclear power at Mt Piper?*
- *David* responded:
  - the copy of the media response sent out to CCC members could be shared but there is no public link as the response wasn't a general media release.
  - he encouraged CCC members to pass the response onto their members.
- *Could EnergyAustralia clarify what they mean by technology neutral in the statement that was sent to CCC members?*
- David responded:
  - that the nuclear stations were only a policy commitment of the opposition at this point in time.
  - the company is technology neutral regarding generation with coal, gas and renewable assets. This means decisions about type of generating assets are made within prevailing policy and regulatory frameworks, market needs and the most appropriate available technology.
- *Has EnergyAustralia met with government or ministers to discuss nuclear power?*
- David responded:
  - EnergyAustralia speaks with all sides of government about energy issues.
  - EnergyAustralia is not investigating nuclear power. The company's plans for Mt Piper, now and into the future, are outlined in the Climate Transition Action Plan.
  - *Julie Favell noted that the Lithgow Environment Group is formally opposed to nuclear power within the Lithgow region.*
  - *There was discussion within the group noting different views on the desirability of nuclear power as part of the energy transition.*
  - *Alex Preema stated he believed nuclear to be a better option over pumped hydro.*

Action 4: David to supply a PDF of the email statement for the chair to distribute to the CCC.

Item	Discussion Point
3	**Mt Piper and Pine Dale Update** Site safety (*See slides 13,14 & 15)* • Peter Griffiths noted: - the station has been injury free since the last meeting. - EnergyAustralia isn't complacent about this success and is always looking at ways to improve what we do. Operation in the market *Slides have been redacted due to confidentiality. Only high-level discussion points are reported below.* • Peter Griffiths explained: - renewables have been readily available and reliable over spring. - at Mt Piper we have been operating the units at quite a low load of down to 150 megawatts (MW) over the times when renewable generation has been high. - EnergyAustralia is pleased the units have been operating and staying steady at this low rate of production. - the reliability of the plant at Mt Piper has been good. - the quality of coal received from various sources has been good and of sufficient quality to go straight into the boilers. - the bulk of deliveries come from Centennial and Castlereagh with overall deliveries being equal to what is being used. - EnergyAustralia is also undertaking equipment improvements to improve the efficiency of getting coal into the boilers. - overall generation has been consistent but low level. - both Units 1 and 2 have been subject to outages for planned summer readiness. - Unit 2 was also closed through part of October due to a tube leak that needed to be rectified. - the Water Treatment Facility has also been very reliable and consistent at around 36 megalitres (ML) per day. • *Jim Whitty asked about the balance of water from the treatment plant going into the station.* • Peter responded that this varies. The treatment plant output is constant with any excess water being sent to Thompson Creek Reservoir (TCR) when there is excess to our needs . The water going into TCR is treated. • *There was discussion about the presence of solcenic oil (a lubricant used for mining equipment) within water in TCR.* • Peter noted - that there should be no solcenic oil in water from the WTP as it is treated to a very high standard.

Item	Discussion Point

- that EnergyAustralia was working with Centennial to seek provision in the current DA to send partially treated minewater into TCR under certain outage conditions.
- water at a number of different levels of purity is used across the station for different purposes. The boilers require purified water treated to a very high standard. The cooling towers use treated water but not purified water.
- *Julie Favell asked about the conductivity level of water going into TCR. She stated that her understanding was that above 350 micro siemens per cm aquatic life may be threatened.*
- Ben replied that the limit in the approval is a maximum 500 micro siemens per cm for stabilised treated water going into the dam, but this is readily diluted once it gets to the dam.

People (see slides 21)

- Peter noted that the apprentice intake this year was competitive with 7 positions filled.
- *Rob White asked how many apprenticeships went to local young people?*
- Peter stated he did not have this information to hand.
- *Julie Favell asked if EnergyAustralia could access additional funding for more apprenticeships?*
- Peter responded that there was lot of regulation around apprenticeship regarding supervision and that there was a cost involved in ensuring that apprentices had high quality supervised on the job training.
- *Julie suggested that at a regional level more might needed to train young people for opportunities within the energy transition.*

.

Action 5: Provide information on number of apprenticeships given to local young people.

Pine Dale Mine and Enhance Place Update (see slides 31,32 & 33)

- Ben and Peter noted:
  - Pine Dale Mine continues in Care and Maintenance with no change.
  - there have been no non-compliances and no community complaints received since last meeting.
  - there was fire that entered the lease area triggering the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan to be activated.
  - the cause of fire has not been officially identified.
  - it is likely the fire entered from the grass along the highway or possibly started from a spark from powerlines. It was quite a windy day.
- *Julie Favell noted the proximity of the pine trees to her house and expressed her ongoing concerns about safety given it only took 15 minutes for the fire to travel to the neighbours houses and the RFS*

Item	Discussion Point

took over two hours before issuing a request to evacuate. She wouldn't want to see all the trees removed but some thinning out and maintenance would be good.

- Ben continued:
  - nesting boxes have been installed at Pine Dale Mine.
  - the boxes have different sized entry holes to target a range of birds and small mammals.
- *Julie Favell expressed approval of this initiative.*
- *Alex Preema asked the hole size was suitable for parrots.*
- Ben noted that boxes had different sized holes to attract a range of bird species including parrots, hole size is from 70mm up to 110mm in diameter.

Community *(see slide 35,36 & 37)*

- David noted:
  - Round 2 community grants were open across September 2024.
  - Sponsorship was provided to:
    - Lithgow Public School and Meadow Flat Public School
    - Uniting Church Lithgow
    - Wallerawang Juniors
    - Rydal Recreation PCYC
    - Wallerawang Sailing Club
  - support was also extended to several community events and community organisations including Nanna's Kitchen.
  - requests have been received from several local organisations and these are currently being considered.
  - EnergyAustralia attended the Lithgow High School and LaSalle Academy graduations to represent an award we sponsor. This was a great opportunity to meet young people from the area.
  - EnergyAustralia has distributed approximately $1.5 million to the community over the past 10 years.
  - *Auntie Helen and Jim Whitty commended the work done by Nanna's Kitchen.*

Environmental reporting update. *(see slide 38-54)*

- The Chair advised that under the guidelines the CCC was to receive a yearly update on environmental performance and reporting across the station's varied activities.
- Ben noted:
  - environmental reports and annual reports are available on the Mt Piper website.
  - the station draws water from many sources.
  - water is recycled 5-6 times through the cooling towers, but new water is required to make up for evaporation losses.

Item	Discussion Point
	- the bulk of water comes from the WTP but each month up to 1,100 ML make up water is needed. - LNAR monitoring points are outside or on adjacent property and include points for surface water testing and groundwater bores. - dust testing around LNAR is done using deposition gauges and high-volume air samplers. - with this data we look at trends and what dust is ambient and what is attributable to the project. - you can see that during a drought or dry spell there may be more ambient dust or if it is due to things such as insects getting into the gauges. • *Julie asked if readings are impacted by pollen from pine trees.* • Ben noted: - that samples are burnt to take out organic content such as pollen or insects. That way the readings are for direct and insoluble solids. - we look at fine particulates to PM 10ug and we are not required to monitor PM 2.5. Particulates are well within limits. • noise monitoring shows that isn't an issue at LNAR which is essentially inaudible with the dominant sound in this area coming from the highway. Results for noise are well within limits, *Julie Favell suggested PM 2.5 should be tested for.* • *Shaun asked if the once yearly noise testing was done on a random basis.* • Ben responded that EnergyAustralia test yearly when the specialist noise monitoring team is available. EnergyAustralia is aware when the noise samplers are monitoring, however no changes to normal operating arrangements are considered.
4	**Project updates** • Ben noted: - that there were several planning processes underway for EnergyAustralia projects within the region - the Battery Energy Storage Scheme has received indicative approval but not yet formally gazetted. - the request for 24-hour operations at LNAR has been approved - the Mod 9 application to cap MPAR is about to be submitted. It will also need consultation with NSW Treasury as it is a legacy contaminated site. - Mod 10 which is the coal settling pond near the stockpile area is underway. This project is to bring an existing approval up to date and reflect more contemporary practices. - as noted previously EnergyAustralia is undertaking studies for the transfer of blended mine water during prolonged outages. - the application is being prepared by EA but will be lodged by Centennial Coal. It is modification 11 to the existing consent for the WTP. - filtered mine water will be blended with treated WTP water and sent via the pipeline to TCR.

Item	Discussion Point

- *Julie Favell asked where the blending point will be.*

- Ben responded that
- it is combined in the pipeline before entering the TCR.
- the water from the treatment plant is lacking in minerals and needs to be conditioned.
- water levels at TCR are managed in accordance with the Dam Safety Management Plan
- *Alex asked what happens if there is no capacity in TCR for more water.*
- Ben responded that If TCR exceeds its high Operating Level (HOL) then all inputs into TCR must stop. If TCR needs to be lowered quickly water can be released via Pipers Creek into Lake Wallace. This is done according to the dam safety management plan.
- *Julie Favell queried the conductivity levels by the time the water gets to the dam wall.*
- Ben responded:
- that the conductivity level maximum is generally up to 500 micro siemens for water in TCR.
- during a prolonged outage the blended water may go up to 880 micro siemens on average when transferred to TCR.
- at times there may be very short spikes at 1200 micro siemens, but this would be for limited duration periods.
- to exceed conductivity in TCR above 550 micro siemens we need to transfer water with a conductivity above 800 micro siemens for over 50 days.
- if the outage was for 20 days, conductivity may reach a maximum of ~520 micro siemens.
- *Julie expressed concerns about conductivity levels in Wangcol Creek and noted that depending upon where water is discharged from these could be anywhere between 500 -6000 micro siemens. She asked why the discharge point could not be changed*?
- Ben stated that the original WTP development Consent contemplated a licence discharge point into Wangcol Creek, however this was not supported by the EPA or community at the time. EA would support a licenced discharge point into Wangcol Creek.
- Peter noted
- the application for Mod 11 water transfers was solely to have flexibility during prolonged outages, mostly beyond 21 days and the discharge of 25 -35 ML per day due to lower operating use during outages.
- the anticipated number of outage days over the next five years is around 90 days for Unit 2 and 80 days for Unit 1.
- Mod 11 will be submitted in December 2024 to DPHI.
- *Julie asked who owns water treated by Veolia.*
- Ben responded that the water is owned by the Crown and managed by the State and Centennial Coal is responsible for

Item	Discussion Point

managing the water. EnergyAustralia is approved to receive water from the WTP and access water from TCR.

- Ben spoke to the requirement to report on Green House Gas Emissions:
- Scope 1 emissions refer to CO2 directly emitted form generation at the station.
- Scope 2 refers to energy used by the station to support operations; this includes lights and diesel etc. Scope 2 emissions only contribute a small proportion of the overall amount.
- the amount of GHG generated fluctuates with levels of production.
- *Julie and Shaun questioned the extent of reductions due to new rules in place for large emitters due to climate change commitments and the Net Zero Future Act.*

Draft Climate Change Assessment Requirements and Guide | NSW Environment Protection Authority

- Ben continued:
- Nitrous oxides and sulphur dioxides are monitored daily from the stack and are well below limits
- PM - ash and dust that makes it through filters into the stack are generally below 10 mg per m3
- overall stack emissions data is available monthly on website.
- the stack is monitored in real time and if limits are being approached the operator will change generation to manage any excess emissions.
- other improvement projects include creating bunds around pumps and pipe junctions associated with various settling ponds (slide 52)
- Pond D is double lined and takes water from Angus Place
- Pond A is a contaminated water pond that is set up to capture water that may have oil in it.
- The brine waste pond is for storing high conductivity salt water that is used for brine conditioned ash.

Links to monitoring reports

Mt Piper EPA Reports | EnergyAustralia
- Monthly MPPS Environmental Monitoring Data Report
- Annual Air Emission Monitoring Report

Mt Piper Water Data | EnergyAustralia
- Weekly Water Storage Report (Lake Lyell, Thompsons Creek Reservoir and Lake Wallace)

Mt Piper Brine in Ash Co-Placement | EnergyAustralia
- Mt Piper Ash Repository Annual Environmental Monitoring Report

Pine Dale Mine - Pollution Monitoring Data | EnergyAustralia
- Pine Dale Mine Monthly Pollution Monitoring Data

Yarraboldy Stage 1 | EnergyAustralia
- Pine Dale Mine Annual Review

Item	Discussion Point

- Pine Dale Mine Forward Program
- Pine Dale Mine Annual Rehabilitation Report

LNAR Stage 2 Update: (see slide 53)

- Ben noted EnergyAustralia is pleased to announce that the repository is now lined and receiving brine conditioned ash.
- *There was general discussion about the use of fly ash.*
- *Julie Favell asked about the overall volumes of ash that can be stored in the repository.*
- The question was taken on notice.
- *Jim Whitty asked whether fly ash from Mt Piper is used in concrete.*
- Ben responded that fly ash from Mt Piper is used to make concrete. Brine conditioned ash is not suitable for concrete production, but NUROC is looking at using it in its manufacture.
- Peter noted:

- that Australia was well ahead of the world in use of fly ash. An emerging issue with lower rates of coal fired power generation is that fly ash is becoming less readily available.
- repositories are now being designed to be mined at some point in the future, so that what is seen as waste can continue to be a resource.

The Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage Scheme (BESS)

See slides 56 and 57

- The BESS application has been approved but EnergyAustralia has not yet received formal notification.
- *Jim Whitty asked about fire safety with batteries and what plans will be put into place.*
- The question was taken on notice for a detailed response.
- EnergyAustralia representatives noted:

- that the systems were set up so that areas could be readily isolated.
- the main strategy was to control spread of fire to other modules. This occurs through designing separation between modules as well as watering down batteries adjacent to the fire.
- there are standards guiding how they are designed which include placing batteries on concrete pads.
- there have been very few fires at large scale battery systems that use quality units made to standards.
- as noted at the last meeting the Rural Fire Service has also agreed to EnergyAustralia undertaking a Fire Safety Study once the detailed design is known. The scope of the study will be refined following input from the RFS.
- the timeline for BESS is about 12 – 18 months for construction.

Item	Discussion Point
	- the tendering process is unlikely to start until early next year once formal notice to proceed is received and we have full sign off from our board. Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System. | Planning Portal - Department of Planning and Environment Mt Piper BESS - Bushfire Assessment - Final V2 • Ben responded to a prior question about *eucalyptus aggregata* trees on the BESS site noting the trees were from tube stock planted back at the time of the substation development. There were no plans to take seedstock as the actual trees were not endemic to the area. • *Julie Favell requested that seed still be taken as different stock adds to the overall diversity of seedstock.*
6	**Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Study- project update** *Refer slides 58-62* There was a question on notice related to a video claiming artefacts have been removed from site without permission and lack of consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders. • David and Michael replied: - the person in the video was a late registrant in the process and became involved after much of the field work was already done. - Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) that were involved held quite varied views on how and where artefacts should eventually be located. - all work to date had been in accordance with the Heritage NSW code of practice. - the artefacts are being temporarily stored in Sydney - there will be ongoing consultation as to the return of the artefacts. • *Auntie Helen noted that Mingaan had representation on the ground when the archaeological investigations were done, and it was important that Mingaan continue to be consulted.* • *Auntie Helen made some comments about the existing government processes for archaeology and heritage studies that she asked not to be reported in detail.* • *Julie Favell asked where the artefacts were removed from*. • Michael De Vink replied: - that the artefacts were from test areas. - that during the investigation there was discussion about what should happen with the artefacts. - there were quite different views among the 22 RAPs about storage options.

Item	Discussion Point
	- in the absence of a consensus and consistent with HeritageNSW Code of Practice and guidelines, the artefacts continue to be stored off site for later return to Country. - this way the artefacts are safe until there is agreement about what should happen with them in the longer term. - all steps in notifying the project and calling for RAPs were consistent with NSW government requirements. - it is understood that the stakeholder in the video didn't register their interest within the initial timeline as set out in the protocols. They have since been included. • *Auntie Helen noted as part of this process, registered parties need to show that they have a connection to the Country being investigated.* • *Rob White stated he felt the process did not seem to be well executed and had caused dissatisfaction among members of the local Aboriginal community. His understanding was that the person in question had made themselves known to EnergyAustralia very early on in the process and was not included despite this.* • Michael De Vink noted: - that all steps in the RAP process were followed by the consultant team. - several individuals and groups were reached out to, and not all replied or expressed interest. - as to the storage and location of the artefacts there were very differing views among the parties involved and the temporary storage away from the site while further consultation occurs was seen as the better option. • *Auntie Helen again stated that it was important to get people involved from the very beginning of the project.* • David noted EnergyAustralia was looking for an inclusive process. If after the initial RAP notification process people still approach us, we will look to work with them. • David and Michael then provided further detail on the designation of the Lake Lyell project as Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI). - this is where a project is deemed essential to the state for economic, social or environmental reasons. - the minister is the determining authority. - following this designation the SEARs needed to be updated. • *Rob White asked if there were any substantial changes in the SEARs.* • Michael noted - revising the SEARs has been a substantial exercise with changes to the scope of studies and wording through the documentation. - with some of the studies the team must now look at additional matters. - with the changes to the SEARs, lodgement of the EIS has been pushed back and unlikely to be before well into Q2 2025.

Item	Discussion Point

Declaration of SSI and CSSI – State Significant Infrastructure Guide – March 2021

Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro | Planning Portal - Department of Planning and Environment

Action 6: EnergyAustralia to compile a summary table of key differences in the new SEARs for Brendan to distribute to the CCC.

- *Shaun Elwood noted that CSSI projects are determined by the minister. While they still go on public exhibition once a determination is made it can't be appealed or contested by a third party. The only avenue for appeal is through a judicial review at the direction of the minister.*
- The Chair commented that this is why the public exhibition process is very important, as it is the point where the community can provide comment on the completed EIS.
- *Alex Preema asked if there were other pumped hydro projects already in operation in NSW.*
- Michael pointed to the following projects: (NB the Chair has provided links to information about each.)

- Wivenhoe Dam in Qld had been in operation for 25 years. Wivenhoe Power Station - Wikipedia
- A station in Kangaroo Valley has been working for 20 years Shoalhaven Scheme - Wikipedia
- Snowy 1 has some pumped hydro elements The Snowy Scheme - Snowy Hydro
- Snowy 2 is a very large pumped hydro project but is still in construction. About - Snowy Hydro

7	**General discussion**

- *Julie asked if EnergyAustralia supported Mod 5 and Mod 8 for Angus Place West.*
- David replied that EnergyAustralia did support these modifications which would allow for the transfer of water to and from Angus Place.
- *Julie then asked how this would work given the earlier discussion about the need to use TCR for managing excess water and concerns about increased salinity within the overall water system.*
- *Julie also asked for an outline of Centennial Coal and EnergyAustralia's respective roles and responsibilities for water management between Angus Place and Mt Piper.*
- These questions were taken on notice for a more detailed response.

Item	Discussion Point
	CCC operation • The Chair noted that Rob White has asked if discussion points in the minutes could be attributed to individual members. • *Members agreed that this could be done.* • It was also agreed that there be a minimum of four meetings in 2025. • The focus of the first two meetings should be on Lake Lyell. • There was discussion about recording the meetings. The Chair asked if there were any concerns around the accuracy of the minutes. No concerns were raised. The Chair stated unless there were concerns with the minutes his preference was not to record the meetings. • *Shaun noted the Mayor would be representing Council on the CCC.* • Chairs note this has now been changed to Councillor Ray Smith • *The Chair noted he would liaise with Trinity at Lithgow Council to identify 2025 dates that would not clash with council meetings.* • *It was agreed that meetings would continue to take place on Tuesdays.*
8	**Meeting close** • 7:00 pm • The next meeting was likely to be held in February 2025 depending on progress with the Lake Lyell EIS.

EnergyAustralia Lithgow Region

Community Consultative Committee

19 November 2024

Peter Griffiths – A/Head of Mt Piper

EnergyAustralia
LIGHT THE WAY

Agenda

1. Welcome – Acknowledgement of Country – Declarations of Interest
2. Minutes and Actions
3. Mt Piper and Pine Dale Update
4. Project Updates
   - Environmental Reporting 2024
   - Mt Piper Battery
   - Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro
5. General Discussion
6. CCC Operations
   - Guidelines
   - Meeting schedule for 2025
7. Meeting Close

EnergyAustralia
LIGHT THE WAY

Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people as the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and future

Artwork done by Wurundjeri Traditional Owner, Mandy Nicholson

Declarations of Interest

Minutes and Actions

Actions from Previous Meeting

A CCC member asked if acid mine drainage was a problem at Pine Dale Mine.

- There is no known areas at PDM with active acid mine drainage.
- 'Acid mine drainage' is a general reference to the generation of acidic water (low pH) from the oxidation of pyrite in mining ore material. Oxidation of Pyrite is a natural process that can be exacerbated by mining activities.
- Rehabilitation Area 8 was previously characterised with low soil pH, indicative of pyrite oxidation. EA treated this area with lime and gypsum and other mediums including mushroom compost, which has improved the soil in this area and improved vegetation cover and growth in plants.
- There is no evidence of rehabilitation areas currently being actively treated for acid mine drainage impacts.

Actions from Previous Meeting

Disabled Fishing Access at Thompsons Creek Dam (TCD)

EnergyAustralia have met with Alistair McBurnie from DPI Fisheries (who manages all fishing in NSW lakes and rivers) to discuss access for disabled anglers to TCD.

Access for anglers is pursuant to the Anglers Access Deed (members of the general public are precluded from entry). EnergyAustralia provide the land and anglers are allowed in as invitees of the Department and under **their** conditions of entry.

A further Anglers Access Deed is currently being finalised between the parties.

Disabled access is currently accommodated by EA security guards, who upon request, will attend and unlock the gates to allow entry for vehicles or mobility aids.

Actions from Previous Meeting

Disabled Fishing Access at Thompsons Creek Dam (TCD) (cont)

The intention going forward is that EA security guards will give the angler a leaflet which sets out the conditions of entry as per the Deed and relevant site signage. Those conditions will indicate the rugged nature of the terrain and that fishing is an inherently dangerous activity. A condition of entry is that all Anglers accept responsibility.

Alistair is of the view that special access key (MLAC) or other alternative arrangements for disabled anglers can be rorted or misused. He has seen it happen before.

TCD is viewed as unsuitable for installing a pontoon given the topography.

The current method of managing the disabled access, with the addition of the leaflet, is considered the most appropriate.

Actions from Previous Meeting

Is EnergyAustralia interested in involvement in Program to address Mange in Wombats on EA Land? – Julie confirmed with Ben to meet Anna, a volunteer for the Kanimbla Wombat Program, on 2nd October. Can Ben please provide an update.

- Mange is caused by an introduced parasite called *sarcoptes scabiei* that burrows into the animal's skin and lays eggs, also known as Scabies in humans
- The Wombat's body reacts to this parasite and form crusts and scabs and is 100% fatal to Wombats without human intervention
- EnergyAustralia has recently been approached by a concerned member of the community for the Wombat population in the area
- Currently we are looking at options to implement some programs to assist in the treatment of Wombat mange on EnergyAustralia land

Questions on Notice

- *Following up on EA's Response Statement of June 2024 to the Leader of the Opposition relating to Mt Piper Nuclear proposal, as provided to the CCC*

  - *Can you provide a public link to CCC members?*
    No. The statement was specifically made in response to an individual media inquiry and shared with all community committees associated with EnergyAustralia out of respect for the role members hold in those communities.

  - *A defined description of what EA means in that statement "EnergyAustralia is technology neutral"*
    This means we are comfortable implementing any energy technology solution as relevant to the market need.

Questions on Notice

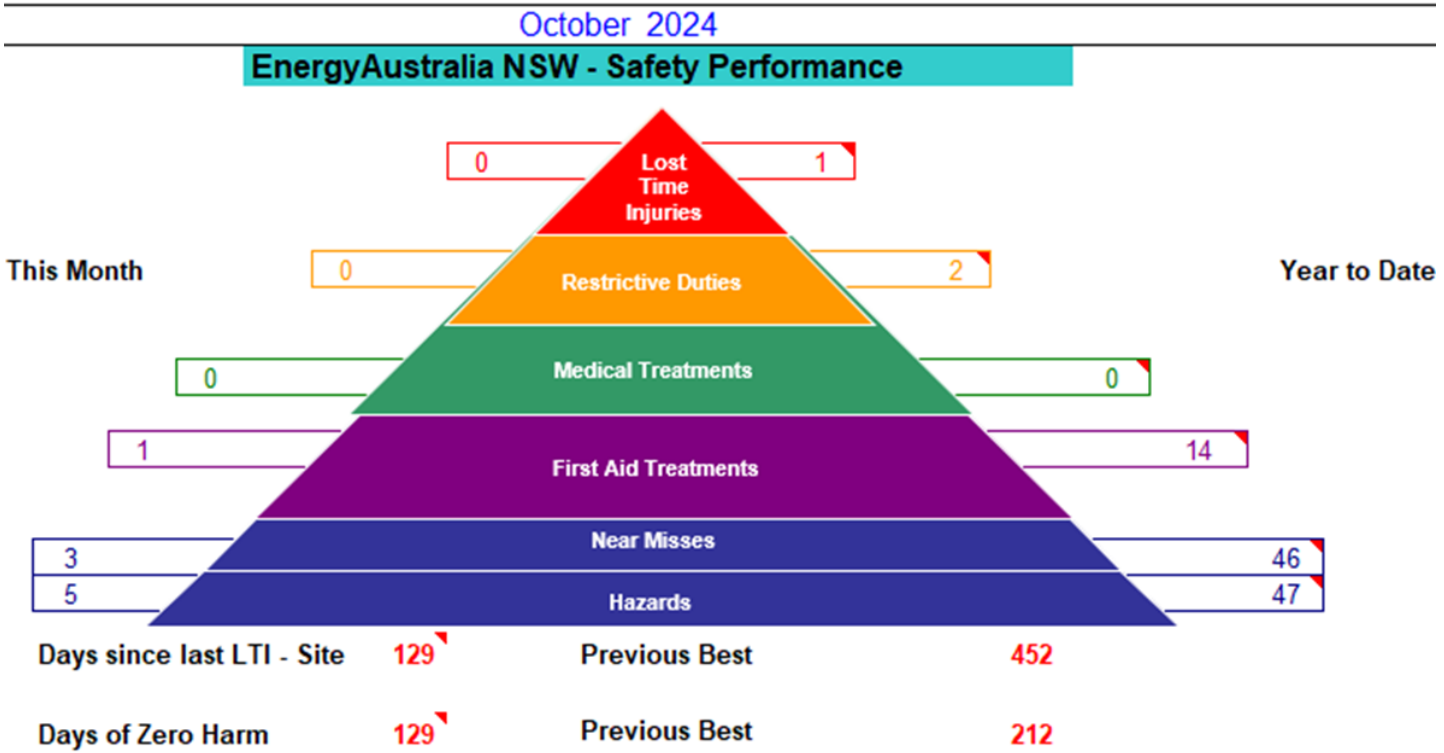
- *Following up on EA's Response Statement of June 2024 to the Leader of the Opposition relating to Mt Piper Nuclear proposal, as provided to the CCC (cont)*

  - *Any further discussions with government/ministers on nuclear for EnergyAustralia sites?*
    EnergyAustralia continues to have discussions with all sides of politics about their energy policies. Our plans for Mt Piper, and all of our generation sites, into the future are clearly outlined in our Climate Transition Action Plan. ClimateTransitionActionPlan.pdf

Mt Piper Update

Site Safety

Site Safety – October 2024



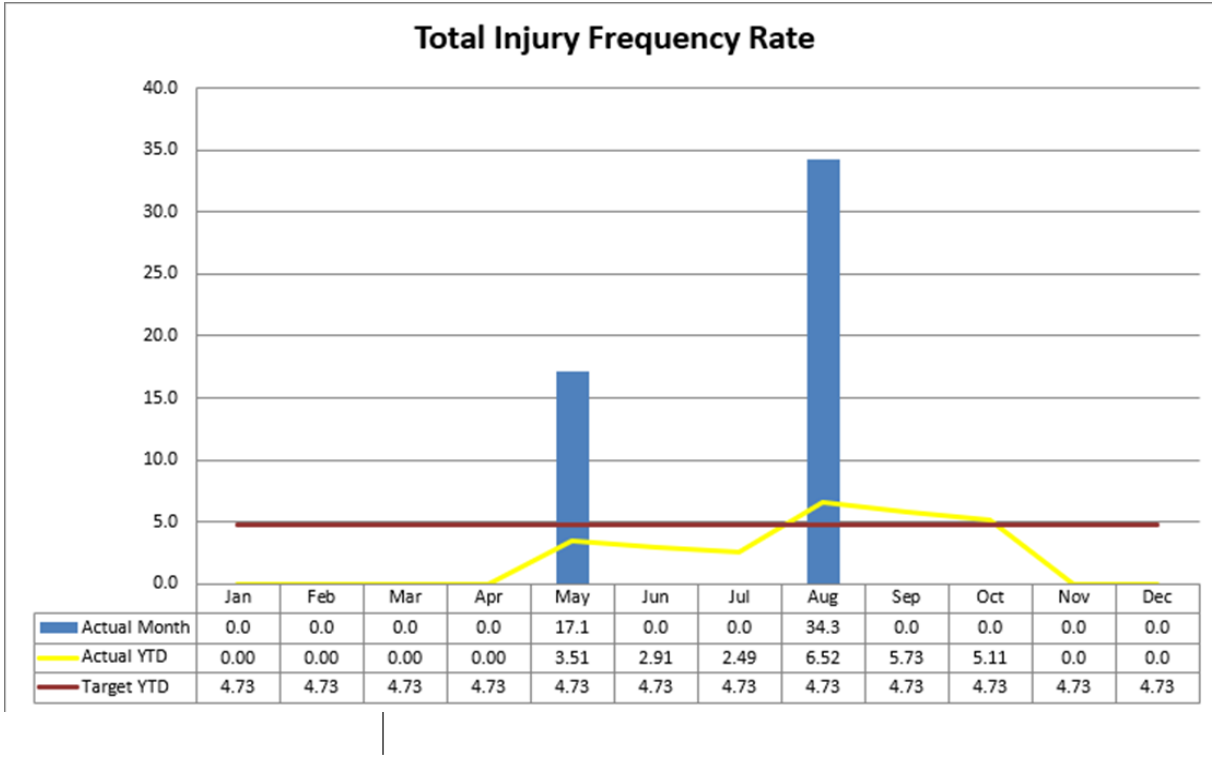
Site Safety October 2024

YTD – TIFR (As of October 2024)

Actual = 5.73

Target = 4.73

August – restricted duties – contract worker miss judges bottom rung of ladder and fell causing fracture to arm.



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Actual Month	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.1	0.0	0.0	34.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Actual YTD	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.51	2.91	2.49	6.52	5.73	5.11	0.0	0.0
Target YTD	4.73	4.73	4.73	4.73	4.73	4.73	4.73	4.73	4.73	4.73	4.73	4.73

Market Update

Operation in the Market

Redacted - Commercially Sensitive Not for Website Display

Operations (Site) Update

Operations update – October

Redacted

Operations update – October

Redacted

People

- Apprenticeship intake for 2025
  - ✓ 1 Electrical and 6 Mechanical Fitter apprenticeships on offer
  - ✓ 170 applications received
  - ✓ 20 applicants proceeded to interview
  - ✓ 7 applicants received offers

Planning Approvals

Environment Planning Approvals

	Approval Process - Stage					
	Project Description/Introduction (SEARs or Mod briefing, application briefing)	Complete Environmental Studies & Prepare report (SEE, EIS or Mod report)	Lodge Application with Determining Authority (DPHI or LCC)	Public Exhibition	EA Response to Submissions	Determining Authority Assessment & Project Determination
EA Project	Community Consultation					
Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Site Investigation Geotech (Council DA)						**Approved**
Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro Site Investigation Geotech Mod 1 (Council DA)						**Approved**
Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System (SSD)						
Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro (CSSI)						
Lamberts North Ash Repository Mod 2 (SSD) (extension of operating hours)						**Approved**
Mt Piper Mod 9 (SSD) (Ash repository capping)						
Mt Piper Mod 10 (SSD) (Coal settling pond augmentation)						
Springvale Water Treatment Plant Mod 11 (SSD) (Transfer of water from SVWTP to TCR)						

Mt Piper Power Station
Outage Periods
SWTP Water Management

Modification 11 to SWTP Consent SSD 7592

OUR WAY IN ENERGY

Springvale Water Treatment Plant

- The Springvale Water Treatment Plant (**SWTP**) is a joint venture between Centennial Coal subsidiary, Springvale Coal Pty Ltd (**Springvale)** and EnergyAustralia, and is managed by Veolia Water Australia Pty Limited (**Veolia**).
- The SWTP is located on the Mt Piper Power Station (**MPPS**) site.
- The SWTP was developed as an industrial water reuse scheme to use mine water transferred from the nearby Angus Place Colliery and Springvale Coal Mine as cooling water at the MPPS. The SWTP incorporates filtration and desalination (reverse osmosis) processes to reduce the turbidity and salinity of mine water;
- The SWTP has enabled Springvale Coal Mine to cease mine water discharge into the Coxs River and MPPS to reuse up to 42 megalitres per day (**ML/day**) of treated mine water in place of fresh water drawn from the Coxs River Catchment or the Fish River Supply Scheme.
- The key operating activities at the SWTP are :
  - Transfer up to 42 ML/day (average 36 ML/day) of mine water via the approved Springvale Water Transfer Scheme on the Newnes Plateau to the MPPS;
  - Transfer treated water from the SWTP to the MPPS cooling water system for make-up water;
  - Use of the existing Coxs River Water Supply Pipeline to transfer excess treated mine water to Thompsons Creek Reservoir (**TCR**) for storage and reuse in the MPPS cooling water system. The existing Coxs River Water Supply Pipeline is used for transfer of water between the SWTP and the TCR, and the MPPS and the TCR; and
  - Implementation of an Optimised Pre-treatment and Unique Separation (**OPUS**) process to manage salt load from the SWTP. Disposal of brine is managed in accordance with existing approvals and practices at MPPS.

Mt Piper Power Station

- The MPPS is a coal-fired power station that is operated and managed by EnergyAustralia.
- During normal operations at MPPS:
  - MPPS utilises a combination of both fresh water from the Fish River system, the Coxs River system and preferentially treated mine water from the SWTP;
  - Excess treated water from the SWTP is directed via the Coxs River Water Supply Pipeline to the TCR.
  - TCR provides ongoing water storage subject only to riparian releases from the TCR via the riparian release pipeline which flows to Thompsons Creek before joining Pipers Flat Creek;
  - Surplus brine from the SWTP and power station cooling system is stored in ponds on site pending its co-disposal with ash in the Lamberts North Ash Repository (**LNAR**); and
  - TCR is maintained at its Low Operating Level (**LOL**) to ensure that TCR has water storage capacity.
- Outages are a normal part of the maintenance and upkeep of the MPPS.
- There are typically two types of outages, being:
  - Planned outages; and
  - Unplanned (or forced) outages.
- Planned Outages are scheduled in advance and have a known duration to facilitate maintenance of plant and infrastructure to be completed during that period.
- The outages are coordinated through the Australian Energy Market Operator (**AEMO**) in consultation with other generators to guarantee availability of electricity and stability of the national electricity grid. Planned Outages are critical to ensure operational stability and statutory compliance and reduce the frequency of unplanned (or forced) Outages.

MPPS Outage Periods

- A planned Station Outage (two-unit) is scheduled to occur at MPPS over a 28-day period during April/May 2025.
- From time to time, additional Outage periods are also required at MPPS for scheduled maintenance:
  - Indicatively every one to two years; and
  - Outages periods of up to 91 days, depending upon the scope of the planned maintenance.
- The Outage periods result in a significant reduction in power generation and associated water usage at MPPS, with the following associated outcomes:
  - Significantly reduced water usage;
  - Continued incoming water presenting at the SWTP to prevent flooding of underground workings at the Angus Place Colliery and Springvale Coal Mine;
  - Risk of MPPS site brine and water storage ponds reaching capacity; and
  - Risk for an uncontrolled release to the environment.
- To address the water supply/demand imbalance presented during Outage periods and the identified risks, a mechanism is required to provide for short periods for water transfer direct to TCR that consist of:
  - Blend consisting of Treated Mine Water and Filtered Mine Water; or
  - Filtered Mine Water.
- If Modification is not approved, mine water will need to be stored in the mines during Outage periods and there is no capacity for water storage at present.

Indicative Outage Schedule

Year	Unit 1	Unit 2
2025	28 Days	-
2026	-	*(Potential 91 Days moved from 2027)*
2027	21 days	91 Days
2028	-	-
2029	30 days	-
2030	-	30 days
2031	-	-
2032	-	49 days
2033	49 Days	-

Modification Overview

- To support the future water management needs during periodic MPPS Outage periods, Springvale proposes to amend SSD-7592 (**Mod 11**) to allow for transfer of Treated Mine Water and/or Filtered Mine Water to the TCR to accommodate the MPPS Outage periods during which water usage at the MPPS will be substantially reduced.

- The transfer from SWTP to TCR may occur as:

  - Transfer of up to 42 ML/day of blended mine water consisting of up to 18 ML/day of Treated Mine Water (output from the SWTP), and up to 24 ML/day of Filtered Mine Water, blended in the Coxs River Water Supply Pipeline (**Blended Mine Water Transfers**); or

  - Transfers of up to 24 ML/day of Filtered Mine Water (**Filtered Mine Water Transfers**).

- Proposed Mod 11 would seek to amend Condition 6 of Schedule 2 of SSD 7592.

Environmental Assessment

- A Modification Report would be prepared to document:
  - Existing operations
  - MPPS outages and schedule
  - Proposed outages management:
    - Transfer of SWTP water to TCR
  - Assessment of water quality at the following locations:
    - Stored water within TCR
    - TCR riparian release water
    - Near confluence of Pipers Flat Creek and Coxs River
    - Lake Lyle
  - TCR mixing assessment
  - Salt load assessment
  - NoBE assessment
  - Contingency mitigation measures
  - Justification for Modification

- Modification 11 is proposed to be submitted towards the end of November 2024.

Pine Dale Mine and Enhance Place

Pine Dale Mine

- No non-compliances at the Pine Dale Mine
- No community complaints recorded for Pine Dale Mine, related to its activities
- Monthly reports as required under the Pine Dale EPL have been uploaded onto the EnergyAustralia website
- Activated the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan at Pinedale Mine in response to an uncontrolled grass fire that entered the mining lease area

Pine Dale Mine

- It can take up to 80+ years for native trees to develop hollows suitable for native animals to use for shelter, protection and breeding
- 20 hollow nesting boxes have been installed at Pine Dale Mine in rehabilitated areas
- Nest boxes provide suitable interim habitat while young Eucalypts are establishing in previously disturbed areas
- Target species include birds (parrots & rosellas, nightingales, owls) glider (Sugar, feather tail), possums (ringtail, brushtail) and micro bats

Community Update

Community

- Round 2 Community Grants closed 30 September 2024. 28 applications received.

Successful applicants included:

- Lithgow Public School – Historic bell surrounds, garden and memorial plaque for 150 year celebrations
- Meadow Flat Public School – Enclosure for chook run and fruit tree orchard. This also brings a great opportunity for EnergyAustralia staff to volunteer with the planting of the trees.
- The Uniting Church, Lithgow – Project Alive – 2 x Defibrilliators
- Wallerawang Warriors Junior Rugby League – Upgrade of facilities – purchase of a mobile scoreboard.

Community

- Rydal Recreation – Communication for Everyone – Can you Hear Us Now – PA System
- PCYC – Lithgow School Holiday Activity Passes for Disadvantaged Youth – 150 activity passes for Lithgow youth
- Wallerawang Sailing Club – Junior Learn to Sail Program – 2 x Skiff Bic boats

Community

Supported Events

- Beatlesfest
- Halloween
- Portland Golf Club Centenary Celebrations
- Rydal Show
- Local primary and high school end of year awards
- Ongoing sponsorship of Nanna's Kitchen
- Donation of 45 custom polo shirts to Lithgow High for their ISTE(A)M – Innovation, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Mathematics program.

Environmental Reporting 2024

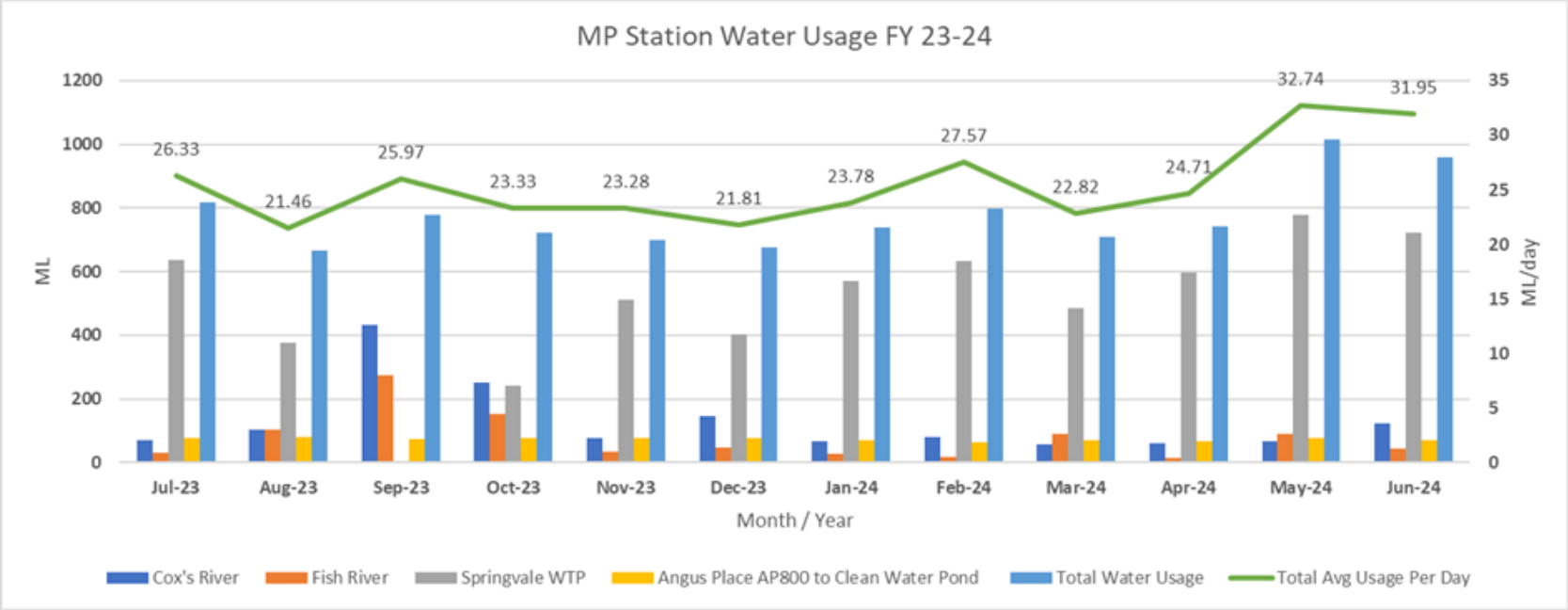
MPPS Makeup Water 2023/2024

Month	Coxs River[#] (ML/ month)	Fish River (ML/ month)	Springvale Mine (ML/ month)	Angus Place (ML/month)	Monthly Make-up Water (ML/ month)	Daily Average Make-up Water Use (ML/day)
Jul 2023	726.7	31	637.3	76.6	1471.8	47.5
Aug 2023	1124.5	104	376.2	81.2	1685.6	54.4
Sept 2023	913.1	273	0.0	72.4	1258.6	42.0
Oct 2023	0.0	152	241.7	77.8	471.6	15.2
Nov 2023	0.3	35	511.3	76.6	622.8	20.8
Dec 2023	1.0	49	402.1	76.4	528.7	17.1
Jan 2024	86.2	27	572.7	70.2	756.3	24.4
Feb 2024	262.3	19	634.4	64.8	980.1	33.8
Mar 2024	0.1	91	485.3	72.1	649.0	20.9
Apr 2024	0.0	15	595.2	68.6	679.0	22.6
May 2024	0.0	91	779.2	76.5	946.2	30.5
Jun 2024	0.0	43	723.5	69.7	836.2	27.9
Total 2023-24	**3,414.2***	**930.0**	**5,958.9**	**882.8**	**10,885.9**	**29.7**

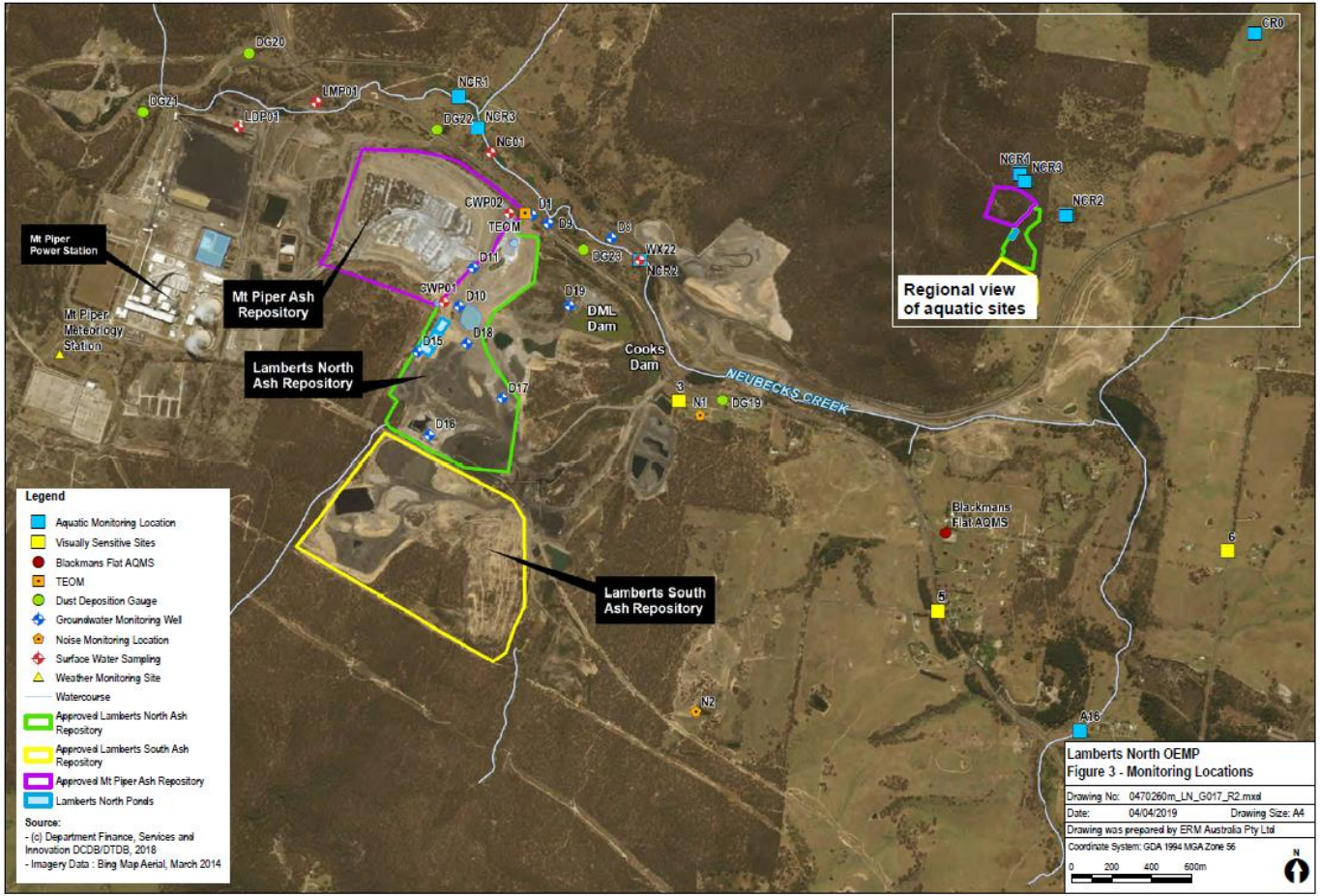
[#]Coxs River figure is the sum of MPPS gross extraction figures

*Incidental 300 ML water usage at SSCAD

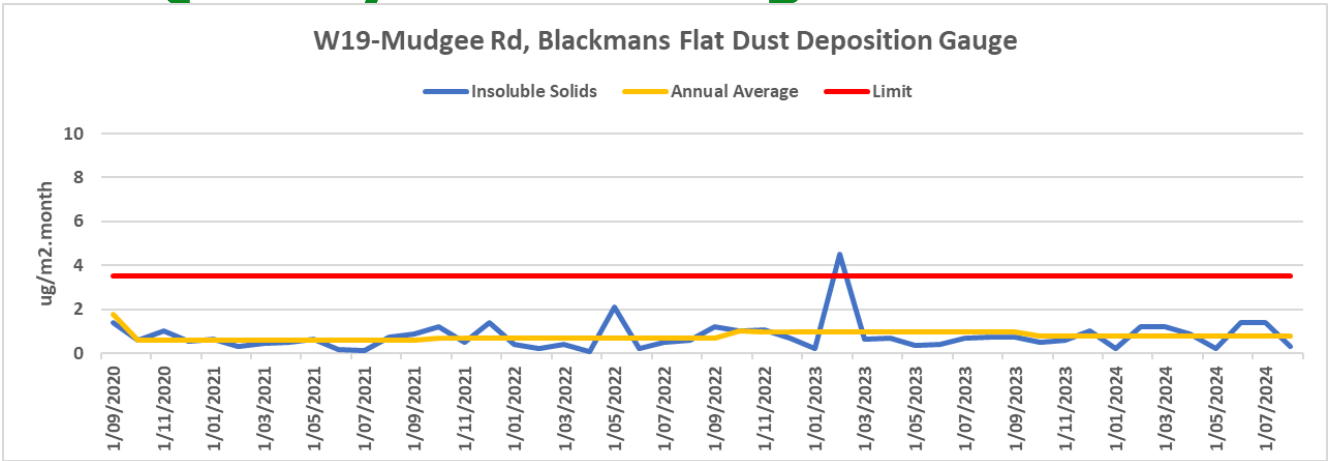
MPPS Makeup Water 2023/2024

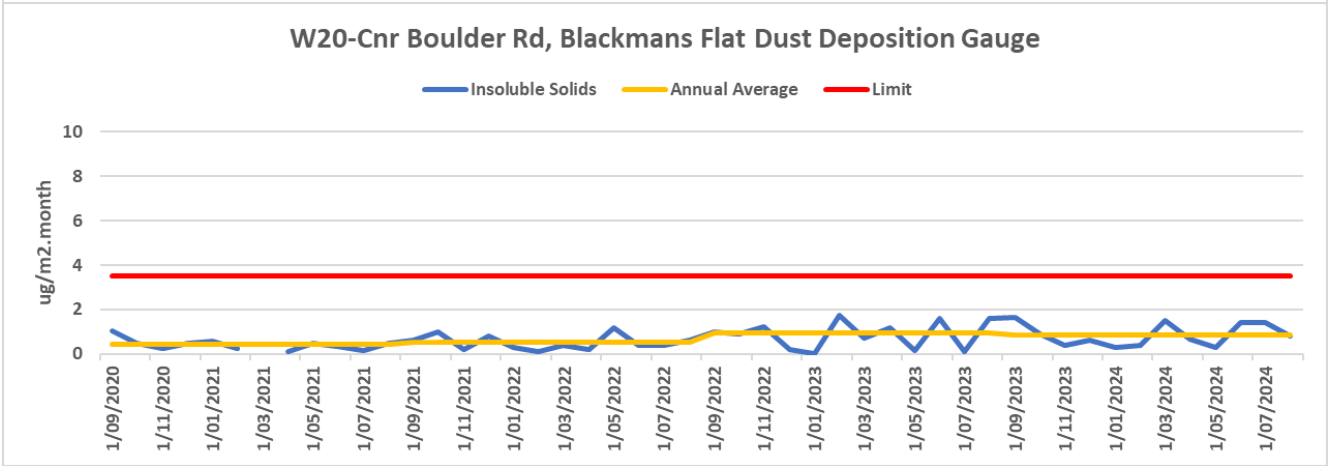


LNAR Monitoring Locations 2024

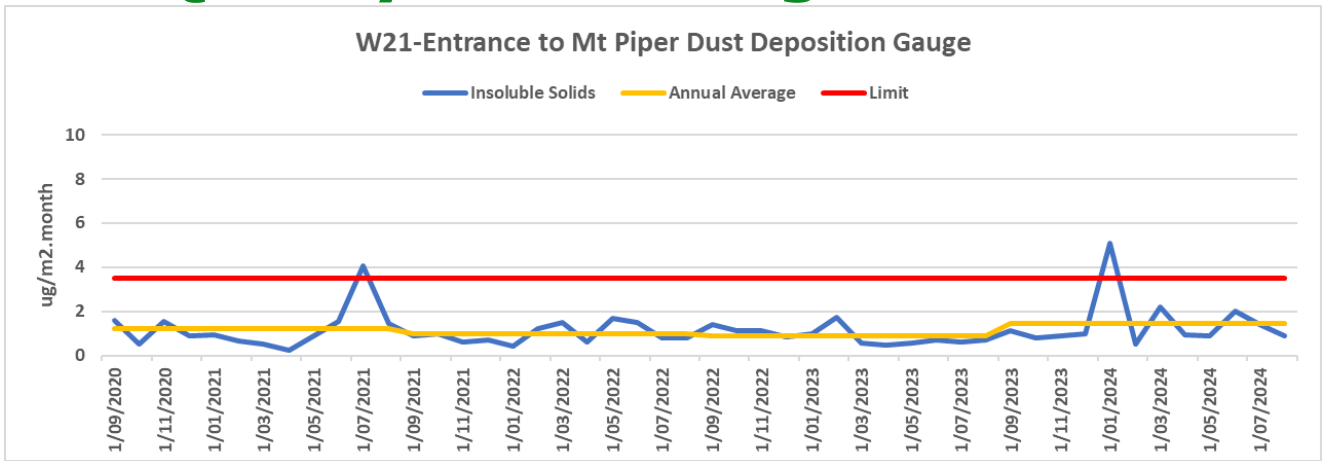


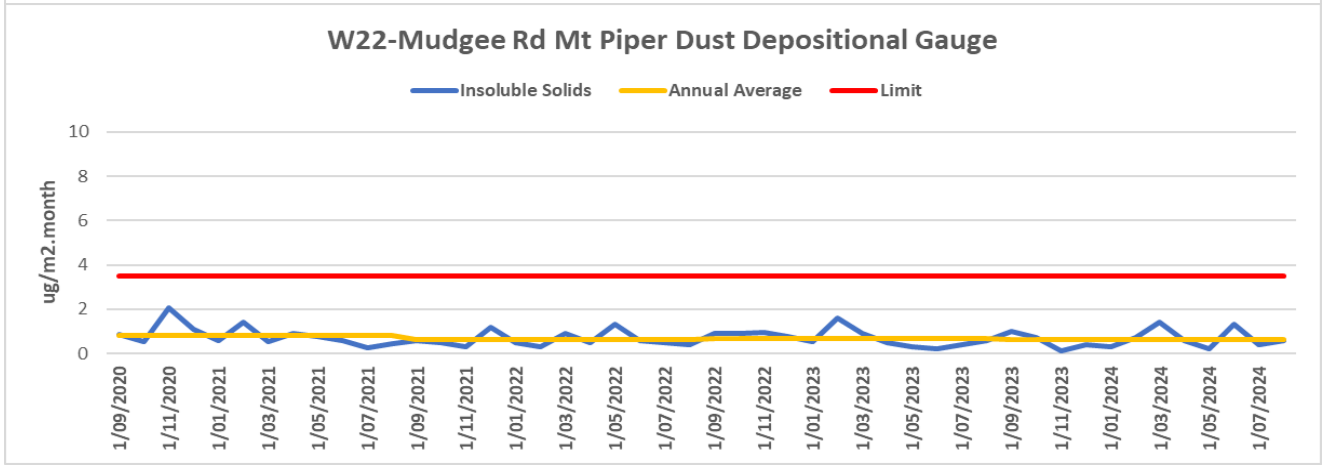
LNAR Air Quality Monitoring2024



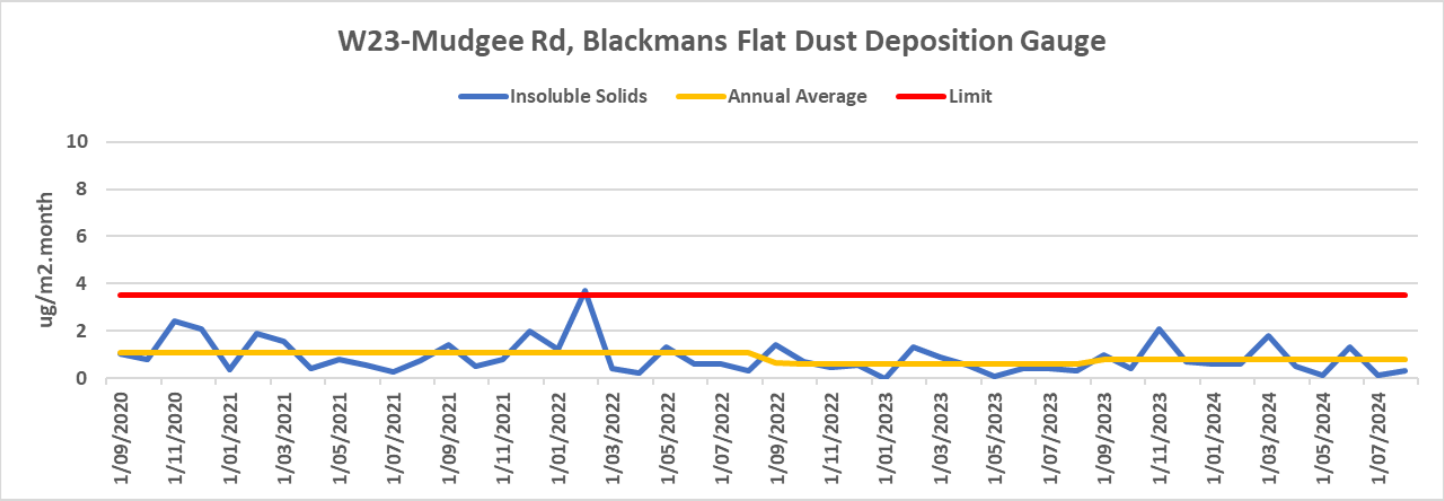


LNAR Air Quality Monitoring 2024



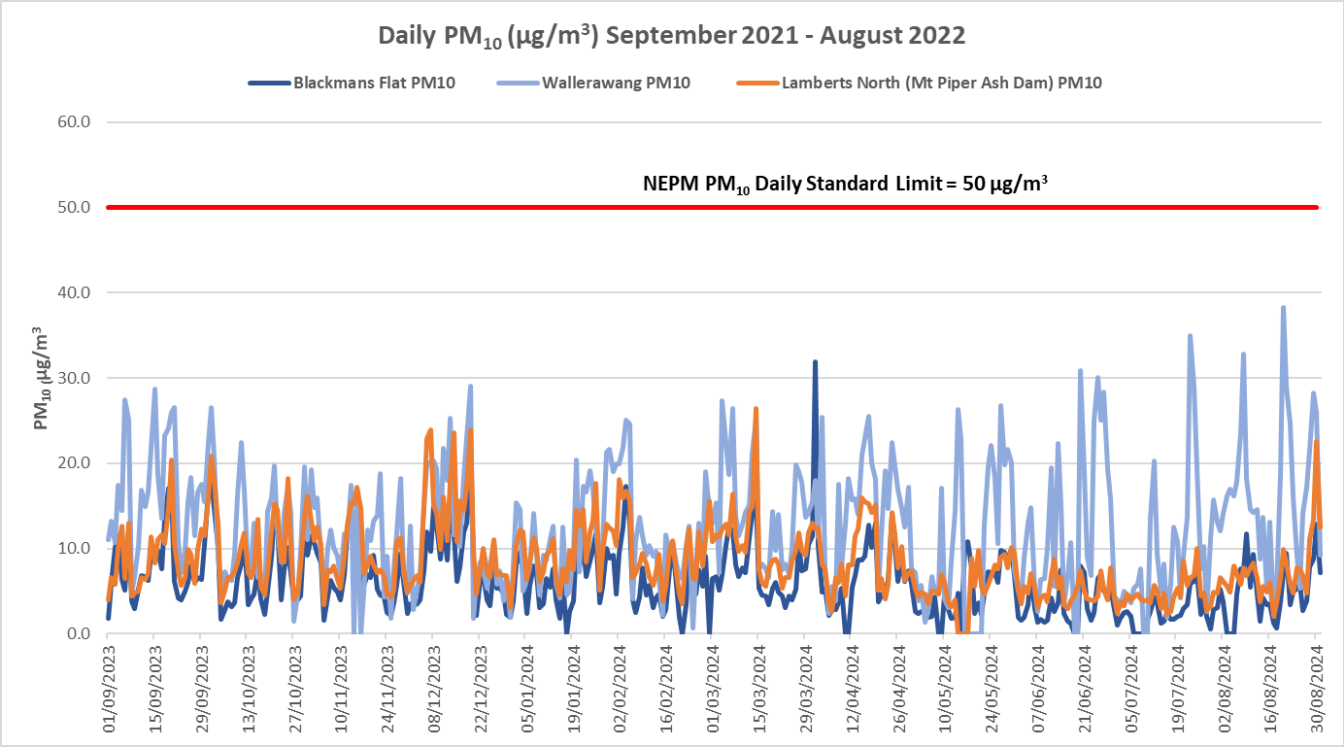


LNAR Air Quality Monitoring 2024



- There was one anomalous peak recorded during the 23 -24 reporting period at dust gauge D21 during January 2024
- This high result has been deemed to not be associated with operations at Lamberts North, the average wind direction during the period was not travelling from LNAR towards the impacted gauge

LNAR Air Quality Monitoring 2024



- The results show a generally consistent trend of fine particulate matter over the reporting period, with all results below the National Environment Protection Measures (NEPM) Daily Standard Limit for PM10

LNAR Noise Monitoring 2024

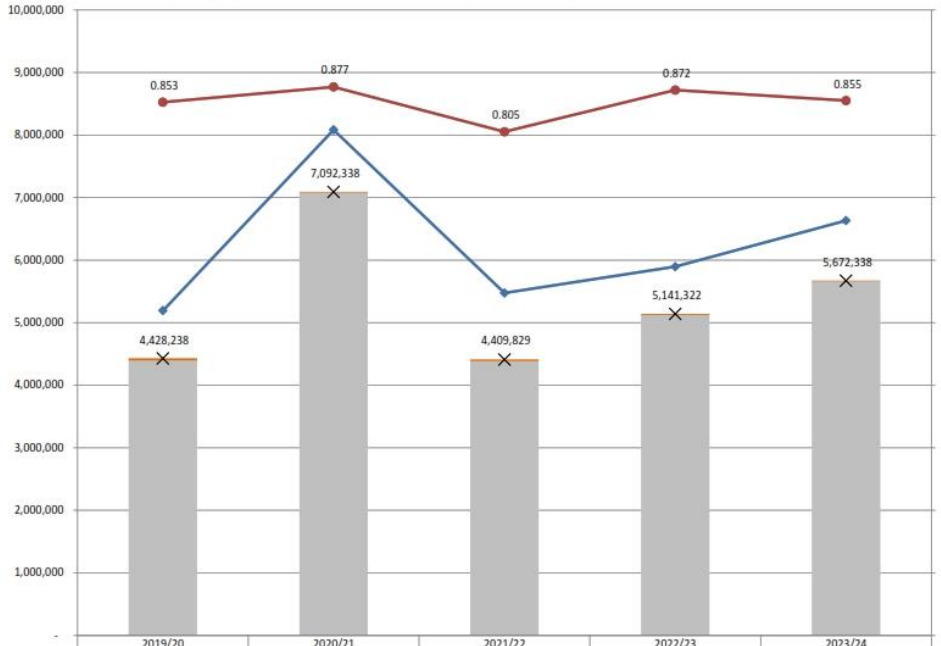
- The Annual Lamberts North Ash Repository noise monitoring was completed in April 2024
- Noise monitoring occurs at 2 sites “N1” Noon Street, Blackmans Flat and “N2” End of Karawartha Drive, Wallerawang
- Noise at N1 from the LNAR was occasionally audible at very low levels during the Evening monitoring period and inaudible during the Day and Night periods
- Noise at N2 was inaudible during all the monitoring periods i.e. Day, Evening and Night
- The operational noise monitoring was complaint with the LNAR project approval for the 2023 – 2024 reporting period

MPPS Green House Gas emissions 2024

Annual Greenhouse Gas and Energy Report for EPL 13007

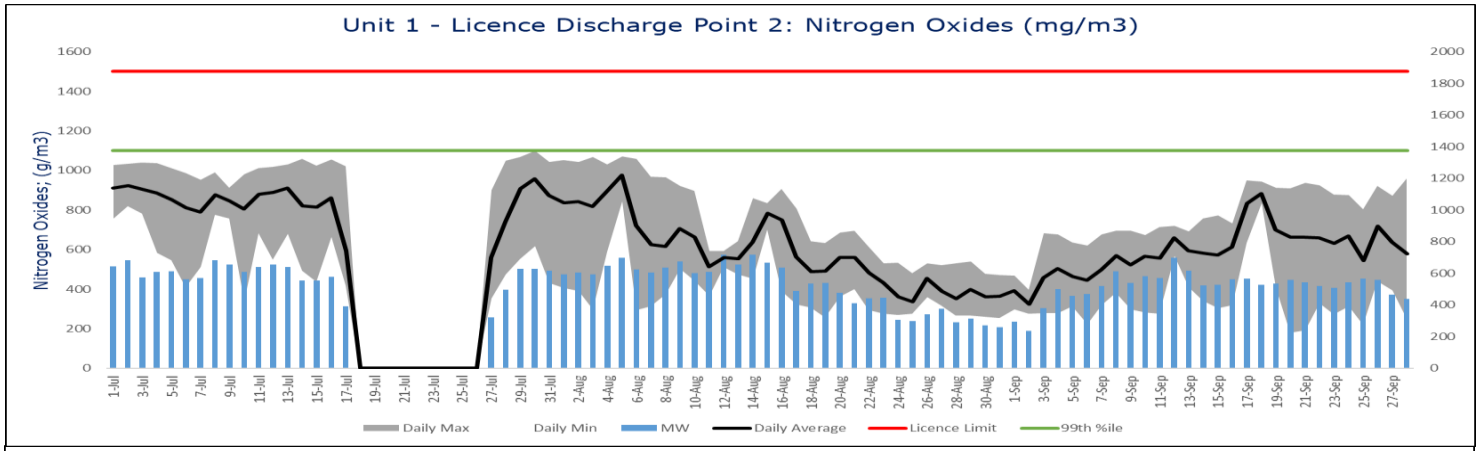
R4.7 a) the facility name: Mt Piper Power Station

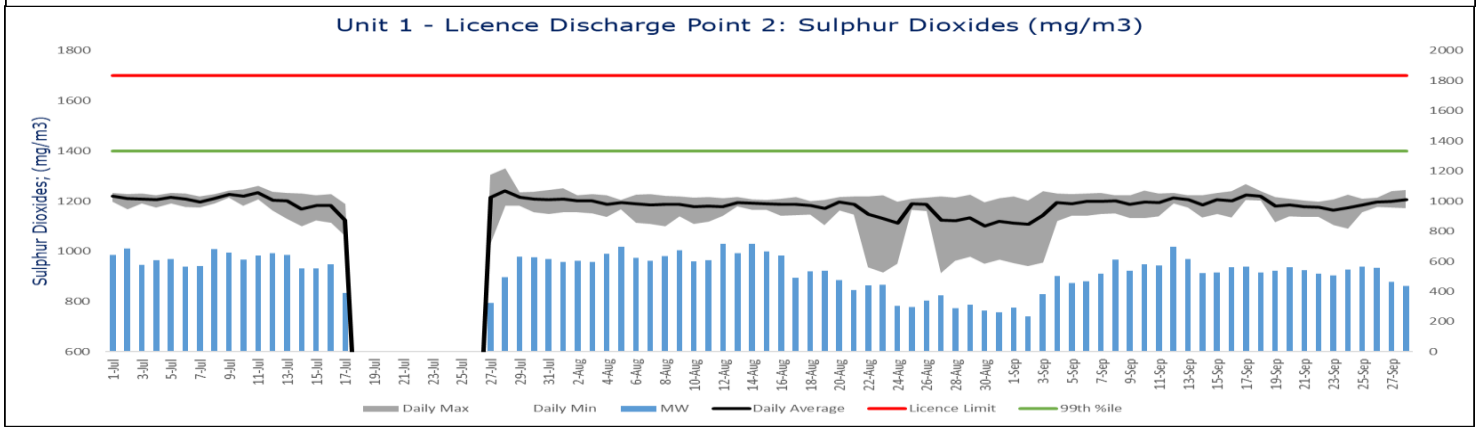
R4.8 Annual graphical trend analysis for five most recent financial years: 2019/20 - 2023/24



	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
R4.7 d) Total scope 2 emissions in t CO2-e	32,658	10,060	23,284	16,531	8,944
R4.7 c) Total scope 1 emissions in tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO2-e)	4,395,580	7,082,278	4,386,545	5,124,791	5,663,394
R4.7 b) Total energy produced in gigajoules (GJ) [ECF 3.6GJ/MWh]	18,698,303	29,108,758	19,710,764	21,226,769	23,879,946
R4.7 b) Total energy produced in megawatt hours (MWh)	5,193,973	8,085,766	5,475,212	5,896,325	6,633,318
R4.7 e) Total scope 1 and scope 2 emissions in t CO2-e	4,428,238	7,092,338	4,409,829	5,141,322	5,672,338
R4.7 f) Emissions intensity in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per megawatt hour of energy produced (t CO2-e / MWh)	0.853	0.877	0.805	0.872	0.855

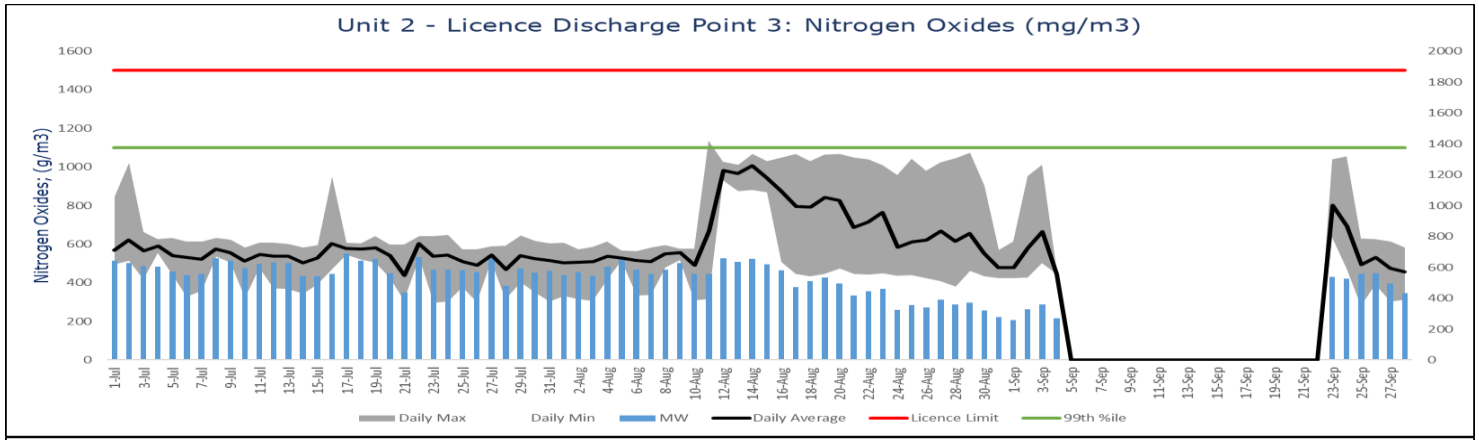
Unit 1 – Quarter 3 NOx SO2 Review

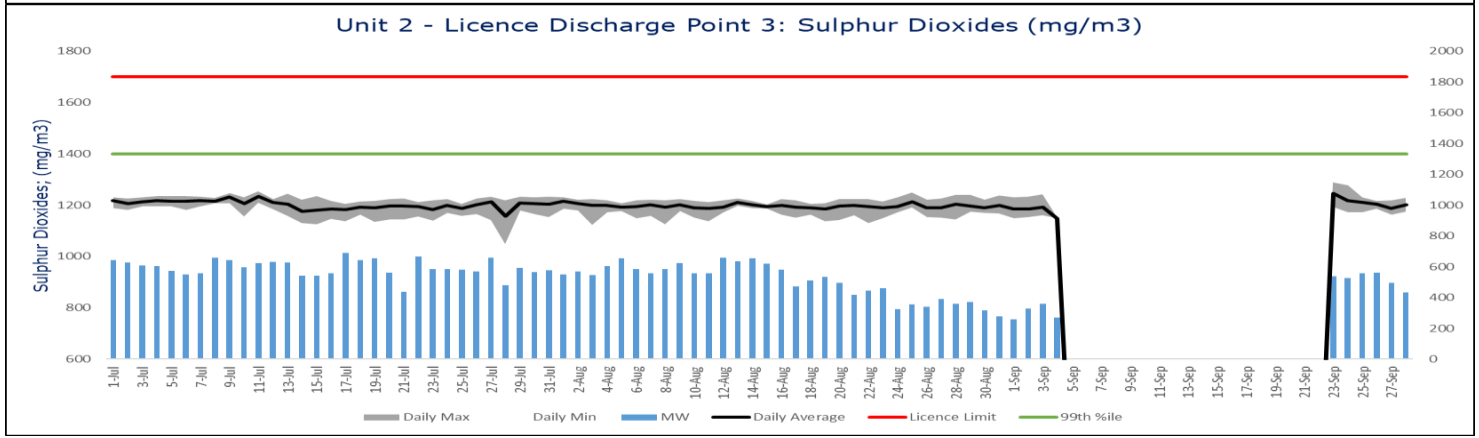




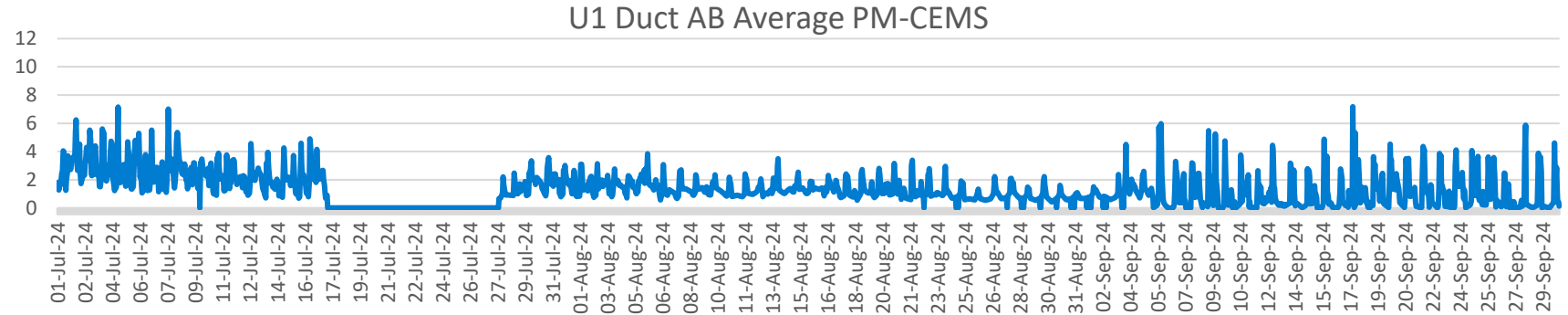
48

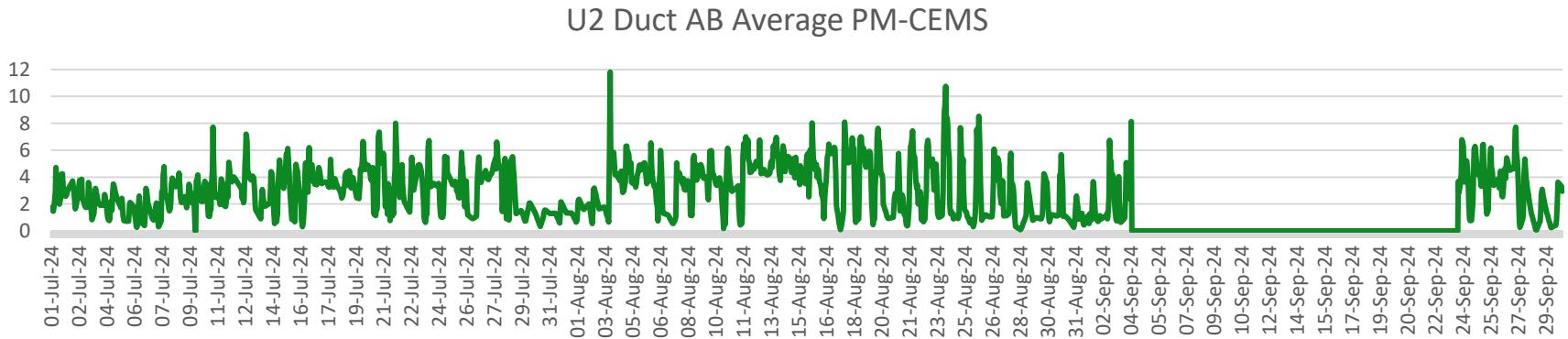
Unit 2 – Quarter 3 NOx SO2 Review





Unit 1 and 2 Quarter 3 PM-CEMS Review





MPPS Stack Emissions 2024

2024	No. of samples required by EPL per year	EPL Point	Samples taken (year to date)	Result				Limit	Compliant
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Solid Particles (mg/m^3)	4	2	3	1.7	1.7	2.2		50	Yes
		3	3	<1	<1	<1			Yes

2024	No. of samples required by EPL per year	EPL Point	Samples taken (year to date)	Result		Limit	Compliant
				Jan - Jun	Jul - Dec		
Carbon Dioxide (%)	2	2	1	2.6		-	Yes
		3	1	2.5		-	Yes
Cadmium (mg/m^3)	2	2	2	0.0012	0.00093	0.03	Yes
		3	2	0.00094	0.00069		Yes
Mercury (mg/m^3)	2	2	2	0.0032	<0.0002	0.03	Yes
		3	2	0.002	<0.0005		Yes
Type 1 and Type 2 substances in aggregate (mg/m^3)	2	2	2	<0.06	≤0.05	0.60	Yes
		3	2	<0.1	≤0.03		Yes
Hydrogen Chloride (mg/m^3)	2	2	1	2.2		50	Yes
		3	1	3			Yes
Fluorine (mg/m^3)	2	2	1	11		30	Yes
		3	1	11			Yes
Chlorine (mg/m^3)	2	2	1	<0.02		4	Yes
		3	1	<0.03			Yes
Sulfuric Acid Mist and Sulfur Trioxide as SO^3 (mg/m^3)	2	2	1	2.1		100	Yes
		3	1	3.3			Yes
Volatile Organic Compounds as n-propane equivalent (mg/m^3)	2	2	1	0.23		8	Yes
		3	1	0.31			Yes

Improvement in Enviro Practices

- Assets team have implemented new bunding around a number of the fixed pumps around site
- This prevents potential loss of containment that could result from pump issues
- Spills in the bunded area drain back to the pond they were pumping from
- Allows safe temporary storage of IBC in the bunded area

LNAR Stage 2

- Lamberts North Stage 2A has begun taking brine conditioned ash
- Construction works continue to ensure there is enough lined areas to place ash
- Positive environmental outcome
- Great work to all involved

Links to Environment Monitoring Data

- Mt Piper EPA Reports | EnergyAustralia
  - Monthly MPPS Environmental Monitoring Data Report
  - Annual Air Emission Monitoring Report
- Mt Piper Water Data | EnergyAustralia
  - Weekly Water Storage Report (Lake Lyell, Thompsons Creek Reservoir and Lake Wallace)
- Mt Piper Brine in Ash Co-Placement | EnergyAustralia
  - Mt Piper Ash Repository Annual Environmental Monitoring Report
- Pine Dale Mine - Pollution Monitoring Data | EnergyAustralia
  - Pine Dale Mine Monthly Pollution Monitoring Data
- Yarraboldy Stage 1 | EnergyAustralia
  - Pine Dale Mine Annual Review
  - Pine Dale Mine Forward Program
  - Pine Dale Mine Annual Rehabilitation Report

Project – Mt Piper Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Questions on Notice

- ***BESS location – identified Eucalyptus aggregata is a vulnerable listed species under both State and Federal listings. Will staff collect seeds to regenerate elsewhere on Mt Piper site?***

Impacts to the *E. aggregata* have been minimised where possible, and we are committed to retaining 13 of the 19 trees within the BESS footprint. It is apparent that these trees were planted from tube stock, and at this stage there are no plans to collect seeds for regeneration.

Mt Piper BESS –Overview

- The Mt Piper BESS is a 500MW/4-hour grid-scale battery to be constructed on EnergyAustralia land adjoining the Mt Piper Power Station.
- The project was designated as State Significant Development by the NSW Government and recently received planning approval.
- Bidding into the NSW Capacity Investment Scheme tender in December.

EnergyAustralia
LIGHT THE WAY

Project – Lake Lyell Pumped Hydro

Questions on Notice

- *In relation to viewing a video at a public meeting, Rick Slaven's presentation stated that he was unaware of and upset with the removal of aboriginal items from the site. (Julie Favell)*

➢ Why was Rick not consulted and asked to participate with the archeologist with the removal of objects?

Mr Slaven was a late registrant to the project (2 April 2024) and primarily became involved following completion of much of the field activities associated with the project (early October 2023 – late March 2024).

Due to his late involvement in the project, Mr Slaven has been constrained to the cultural values mapping study of the project, but has met with members of the project team, including our Aboriginal Engagement specialist, several times since April. This has included discussion over these artefacts and his broader concerns over Mount Walker. EnergyAustralia would like to emphasise that we are closely consulting with some 21 other locally based Aboriginal traditional owner groups on the project.

Questions on Notice

- What is the current legislative local government DA requirements process to remove artifacts in situ?

Test excavations were undertaken in accordance with the HeritageNSW Code of Practice, and some 1,344 stone artefacts were recovered for analysis. They remain temporarily in Sydney and will be returned following finalisation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment. The exact method and location for return of the artifacts is still to be determined, as well as subject to Heritage NSW approval, since Mr Slaven's views are not universal and some Aboriginal parties would like access to them for education and interpretation opportunities.

Critical State Significant Infrastructure

Lake Lyell PHES has been designated as Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) by the NSW Government.

What does this mean?

The Minister is of the opinion that Lake Lyell PHES is essential for the State for economic, environmental or social reasons.

In practice, all infrastructure proposals that are declared CSSI are determined by the Minister. The Minister cannot delegate this decision-making power.

There are also no third-party appeal rights in relation to CSSI declarations and decisions. Judicial reviews in relation to CSSI decisions can only occur with the approval of the Minister.

Lake Lyell PHES EIS update

- EIS still under preparation, planning for lodgment and exhibition in 2025
- Technical studies – 21 specialist technical studies required for the document.
- Detailed field surveys largely completed – some continue as needed, e.g. monitoring
- Some additional engagement and feedback still to be completed for input to assessments and mitigation
- Updated SEAR's were issued by DPHI on 1 November 2024 as a consequence of the declaration CSSI. These include additional requirements, some of which will require additional studies to be undertaken before lodgment of the EIS.
- It is now anticipated that the EIS will not be ready for lodgment earlier than Q2 2025.

General Discussion

CCC Operations

- ❑ Guidelines
- ❑ Meeting Schedule for 2025

Thank you