MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday 28 March 2017
ASHTON COAL ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

Attendees

Godfrey Adamthwaite, Chairman	(GA)	Singleton Shire Council (SSC)
Debbie Richards	(DR)	Community Representative
Michael Bestic	(MB)	Community Representative
John McInerney	(JM)	Community Representative
William Farnworth	(WF)	Company Rep (Operations Manager)
Phillip Brown	(PB)	Company Rep (Environment & Community Superintendent)
Julie McNaughton	(JMc)	Company Rep (Environment & Community Coordinator (contract))

1. **Opening and Welcome**
   The Chairman opened the meeting at 1:10pm.

2. **Apologies**
   No apologies.

3. **Declaration of Pecuniary Interest by Community Representatives**
   - No pecuniary interests declared
   - Pecuniary interest declaration forms circulated for one-off signoff in accordance with new Community Consultative Committee (CCC) guidelines issued by Department of Planning and Environment (DPE).
   - Definition of pecuniary interest in new CCC guidelines discussed.

4. **Minutes from Previous Meeting**
   - Minutes from the meeting held 29 November 2016 were accepted as a true and accurate record:
     Moved: *Debbie Richards* ***Seconded:*** *Godfrey Adamthwaite*

5. **Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS COMMENTS
Tree Screen at New England Hwy requires maintenance	DS	Highway tree screen failed due to poor soils and conditions. Planting is recommended to be redone in September 2017 with adequate watering and soil amelioration.
Poor housekeeping at two privately tenanted, Ashton owned residences, in Camberwell requires addressing	DS	Houses maintained and inspected to adequate standard during previous inspection. Will have another look prior to next CCC.

6. **Correspondence**
   Correspondence from DPE outlined the endorsement of the operations of the CCC with the following points raised:
   - GA to continue as chair until such time as an Independent Chair appointed by DPE
   - DPE recognizes that GA unable to perform all the duties of the Chair
   - DPE accepts that ACOL will take responsibility for the documentation, minutes and distribution of information from CCC Meetings.
   - Need to sign off on a declaration of pecuniary interest and will need to sign off on a code of conduct at future meetings.

   The Committee discussed the new CCC Guidelines (*refer to presentation*), including the correspondence between ACOL, the Chairperson and the DPE.

   GA outlined the new CCC Guidelines process for the membership of the CCC:
   - DPE approved the Independent Chairperson
   - Council appoints a Council representative
   - Ashton Coal appoints mine representatives
   - Chair provides recommendation to DPE regarding Community Representatives.

ACTION: Clarify the differences between the CCC guidelines and requirements of Ashton's Development consent with respect to sitting fees for CCC members.

7. Company Reports and Overview Of Activities

7.1 Ashton Operations Update

Refer to presentation

- WF/JMc advised that there had been no surface exploration conducted on EL5860 or EL4918 in the period since the previous CCC meeting. There was some inter-seam drilling works coming up in the near future, as well as a large diameter drill hole to the ULLD seam occurring in the vicinity of LW5 in the coming month.

7.2 Monitoring and Environmental Performance

Refer to presentation.

7.3 Independent Environmental Audit update

Refer to presentation

7.4 Community Complaints and response to complaints

Refer to presentation

7.5 Website Information

Refer to presentation

7.6 SEOC Update

Refer to presentation

7.7 Camberwell Update

Refer to presentation.

8. General Business

- MB would like to see employee numbers presented each meeting. *Action by PB.*
- GA would like to see the safety statistics continue to be reported in the CCC meetings.
- JM raised concerns that ACOL did not assist further in the clean-up process in Camberwell after the bushfire. He felt that ACOL could have assisted with labour and in-kind support through skip bins for clean up throughout the western side of the village.
- JM also raised that the old butcher shop owned by ACOL required works after the fire and nothing had been done.
- JM raised the derelict buildings in Camberwell that required demolition. PB advised that there is money budgeted for the demolition works this year and that these houses would be demolished before the end of the year.
- After discussion of environmental monitoring data, JMc asked the Committee if this should be discussed every meeting, or sent out as a report prior to the meeting and not included in the presentation. MB and GA agreed that reporting by exception in the presentation would be better than reporting all the data each meeting. MB added that they would like to hear more about the work that was being undertaken in the environmental field rather than hearing about the monitoring data.

9. Actions

- Clarify the discrepancy between the CCC guidelines and requirements of Ashton's Development Consent with respect to sitting fees for CCC members (PB).
- CCC Presentation to include environmental activities update, employment and safety statistics. A summary of environmental monitoring report to be circulated with discussion by exception when distributing the agenda and presentation. (PB)
- Ensure the old butcher shop is cleaned up adequately prior to the next CCC meeting (PB)
- Progress demolition of derelict houses in Camberwell as discussed and update CCC at next meeting (PB).

10. Date for Next Meeting

Next Meeting: Thursday 27th July 12:00pm – to include a site tour of Bowmans Creek Diversions.

MEETING CLOSED 2:41pm

Community Consultative Committee

28 March 2017

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New CCC Guidelines, DPE, Nov 2016

- Operate CCC in accordance with new *CCC Guidelines for State Significant Projects, November 2016, NSW Planning and Environment*
- Agree and Sign Code of Conduct Agreement prior to commencement of Meeting
  - Independent Chairperson
  - Members
- Sign Declaration of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests?
  - Receiving any payment, gift or benefit
  - E.g. Contract or lease with ACOL, voluntary or acquisition rights, involved in stakeholder group that has received grant money/ donation

New CCC Guidelines, Nov 2016

- Appointment of Independent Chairperson by DPE
  - Currently advertising for nominees to create a pool of chairpersons
  - DPE will appoint the Chairpersons to the CCC's from this pool
  - DPE accepted continued appointment of Councillor Godfrey Adamwaite and the continued representation of the existing community members for ACOL CCC
- Chairperson to prepare and distribute the meeting Agenda and Minutes
  - Distribute draft minutes within 1 week
  - Members have 1 week to provide any feedback
  - Minutes finalised within 2 weeks of receiving feedback
  - Published on website
- Chairperson to prepare an Annual Report

New CCC Guidelines, Nov 2016

- Committee Membership
  - Up to 7 community representatives
  - A Council Representative
  - Up to 3 company representatives
  - Change to some procedures e.g. selection and replacement of members;
  - New members apply to Independent chair who makes recommendation for DPE to decide and appoint
- Update CCC Terms of Reference
  - Determine frequency of meetings
  - Members can receive reimbursement for out of pocket expenses (but not a paid a sitting fee), if requested (must declare pecuniary interest)
  - Provide all documents, strategies etc and not bound by confidentiality
  - Can make recommendations to govt. agencies
  - Request govt. representatives attend some meetings

New CCC Guidelines, Nov 2016

- ACOL Responsible for:
  - Provide CCC with copies of consent, licenses, Management Plans etc
  - Results of environmental monitoring
  - Annual Review Reports
  - Reports on community concerns or complaints and ACOL's response
  - Consult with CCC before lodging any applications
  - Respond to any questions from the CCC within 28 days of the meeting, unless otherwise specified in the minutes
  - Organise site visits for the CCC, if requested by the Chairperson

New CCC Guidelines, Nov 2017

- Community Members responsible for:
  - Communicate & disseminate information about ACOL with broader community
  - If agreed by committee, release statements to Media (only Chairperson can speak publicly on behalf of committee)
  - Individuals can make comments to the media or public forums only on behalf of themselves (not the committee)
  - Members names, credentials (if agreed) and contact details must be published on ACOL website
  - Requests from public for agenda items can be directed to members or the Chairperson

Action List – Not updated yet

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	PROGRESS UPDATE
Tree Screen at New England Hwy requires maintenance	PB	Nothing to report at this stage
Poor housekeeping at two privately tenanted, Ashton owned residences, in Camberwell requires addressing	PB	Routine inspections completed in early November.

Ashton Mine Production CY2017

	2017 Budget ytd	2017 Actual ytd
ROM (t)	264,303	539,616
Product Coal (t)	104,912	242,575
Total Coal Sales (t)	177,160	239,954

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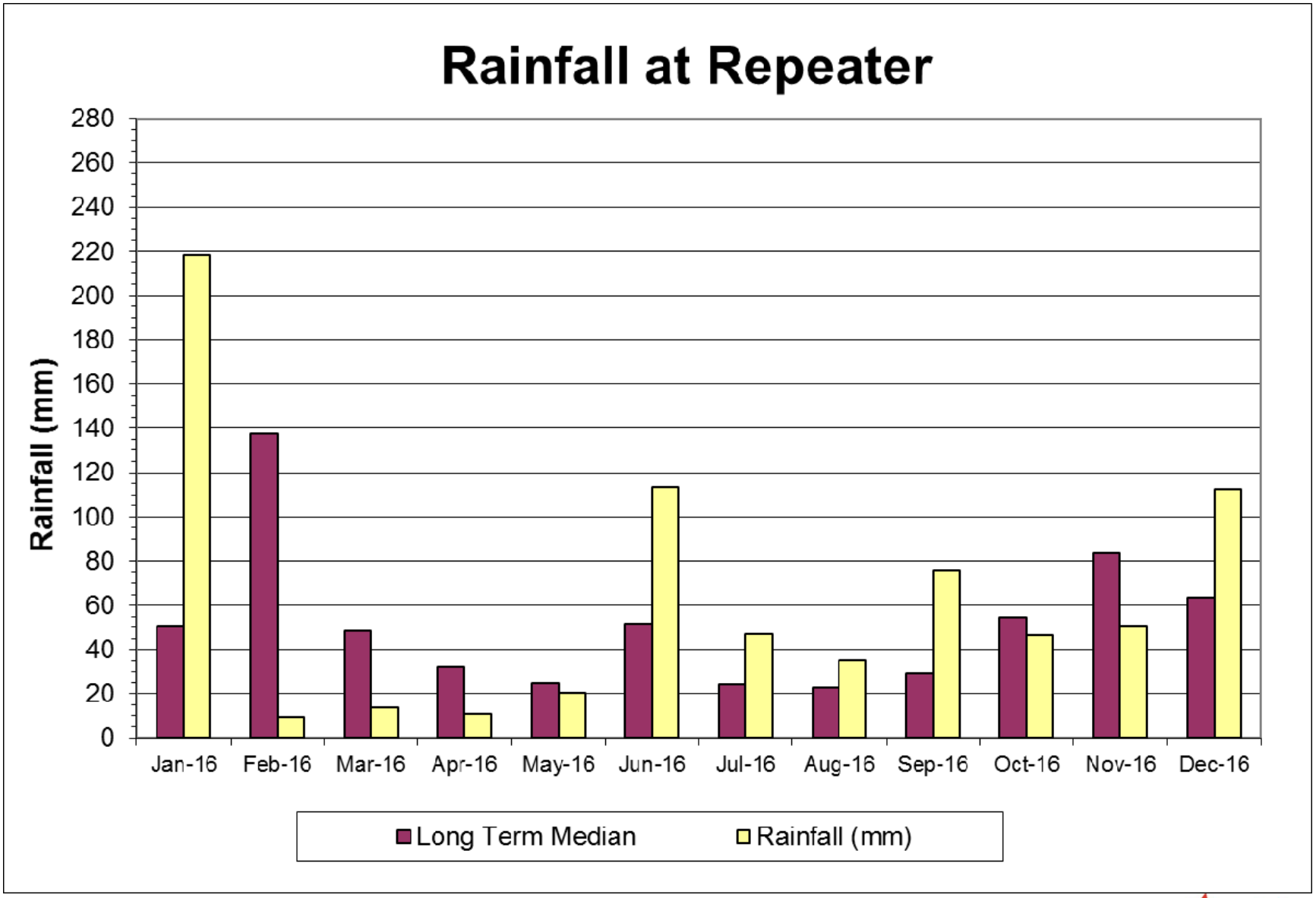
Current Mining Area

b. Environment Monitoring Data

- Meteorological
  - Rainfall
- Air Quality
  - Depositional Dust Gauges – Total suspended dust
  - PM10 – Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalance (TEOM)
- Surface Water
  - Glennies Ck, Bowmans Ck and Hunter River
- Groundwater
  - various aquifers
- Noise

Rainfall



2016 Total Rainfall: 754mm

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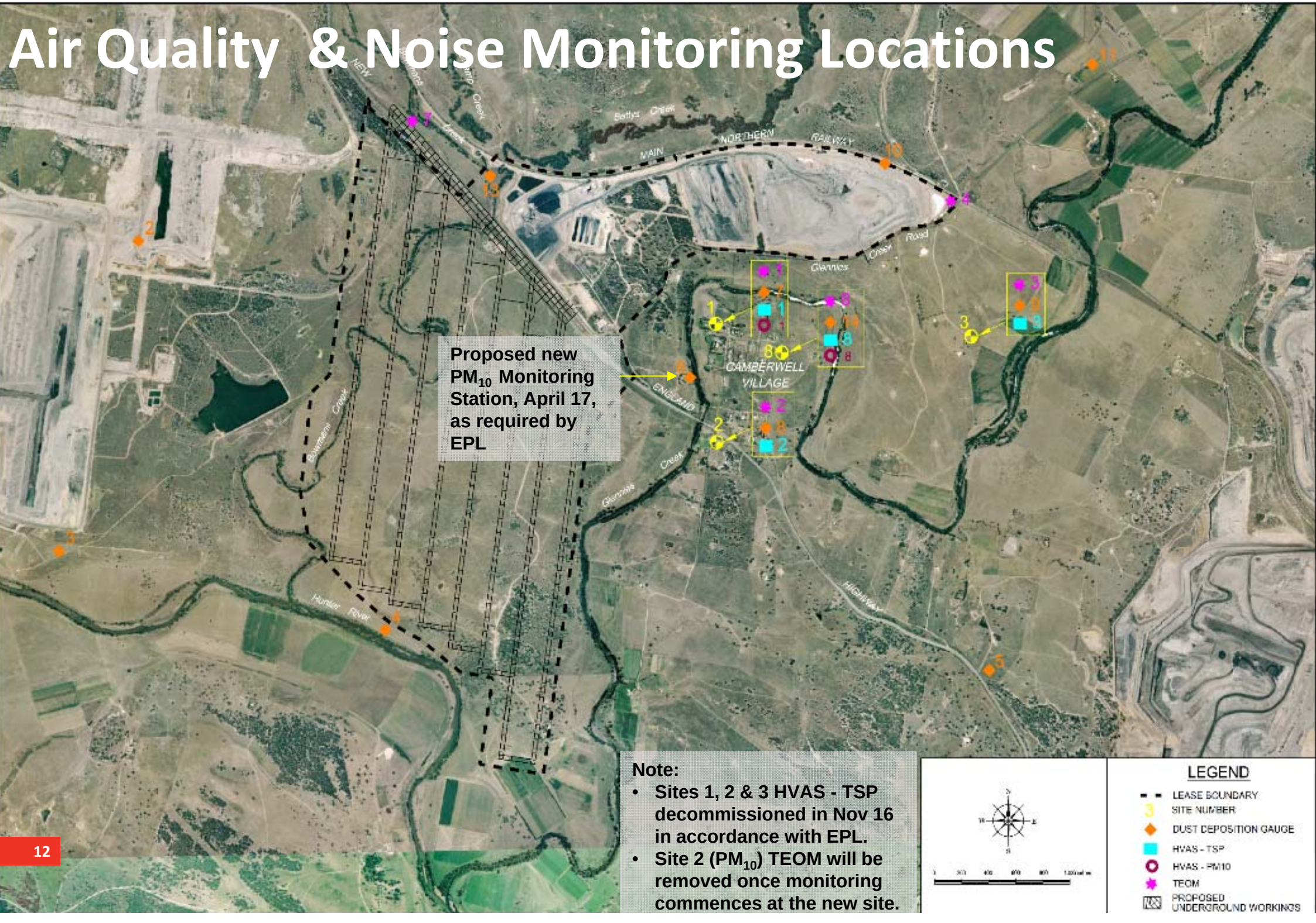
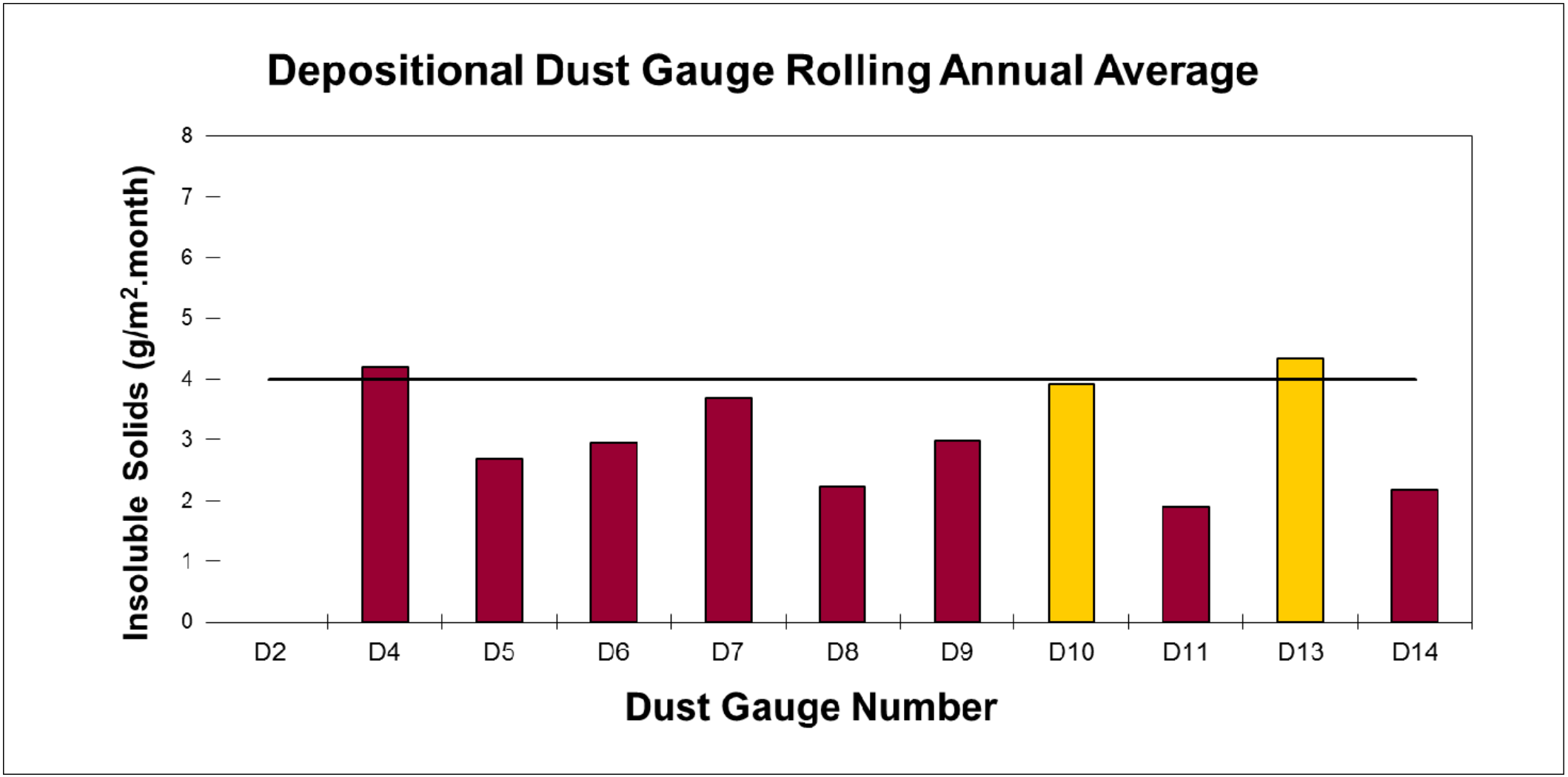
Air Quality & Noise Monitoring Locations



Note:

- **Sites 1, 2 & 3 HVAS - TSP decommissioned in Nov 16 in accordance with EPL.**
- **Site 2 (PM_{10}) TEOM will be removed once monitoring commences at the new site.**

Depositional Dust



On-site Dust Gauges

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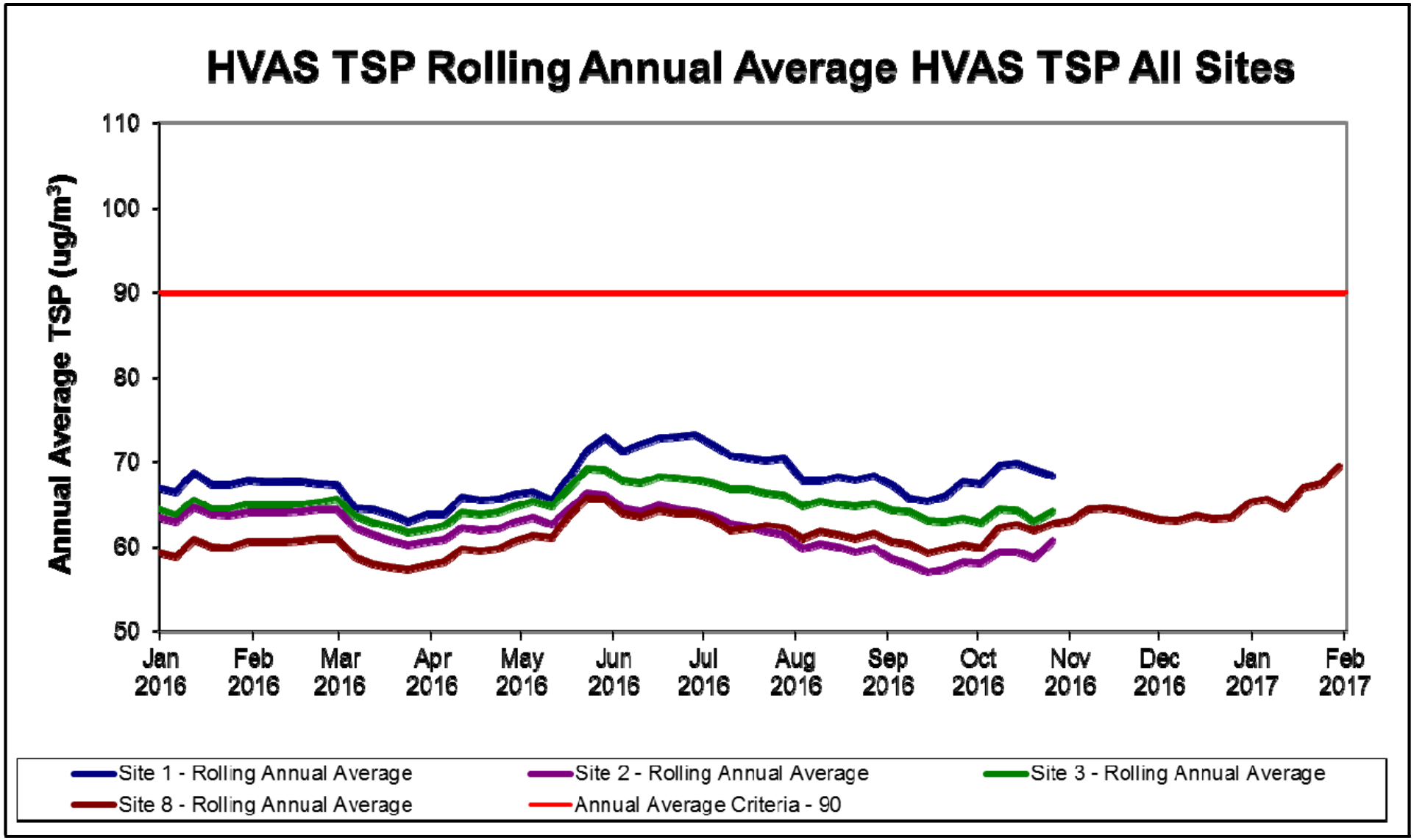
Total Suspended Dust



Note: Sites 1, 2 & 3 decommissioned in Nov 16 as per EPL

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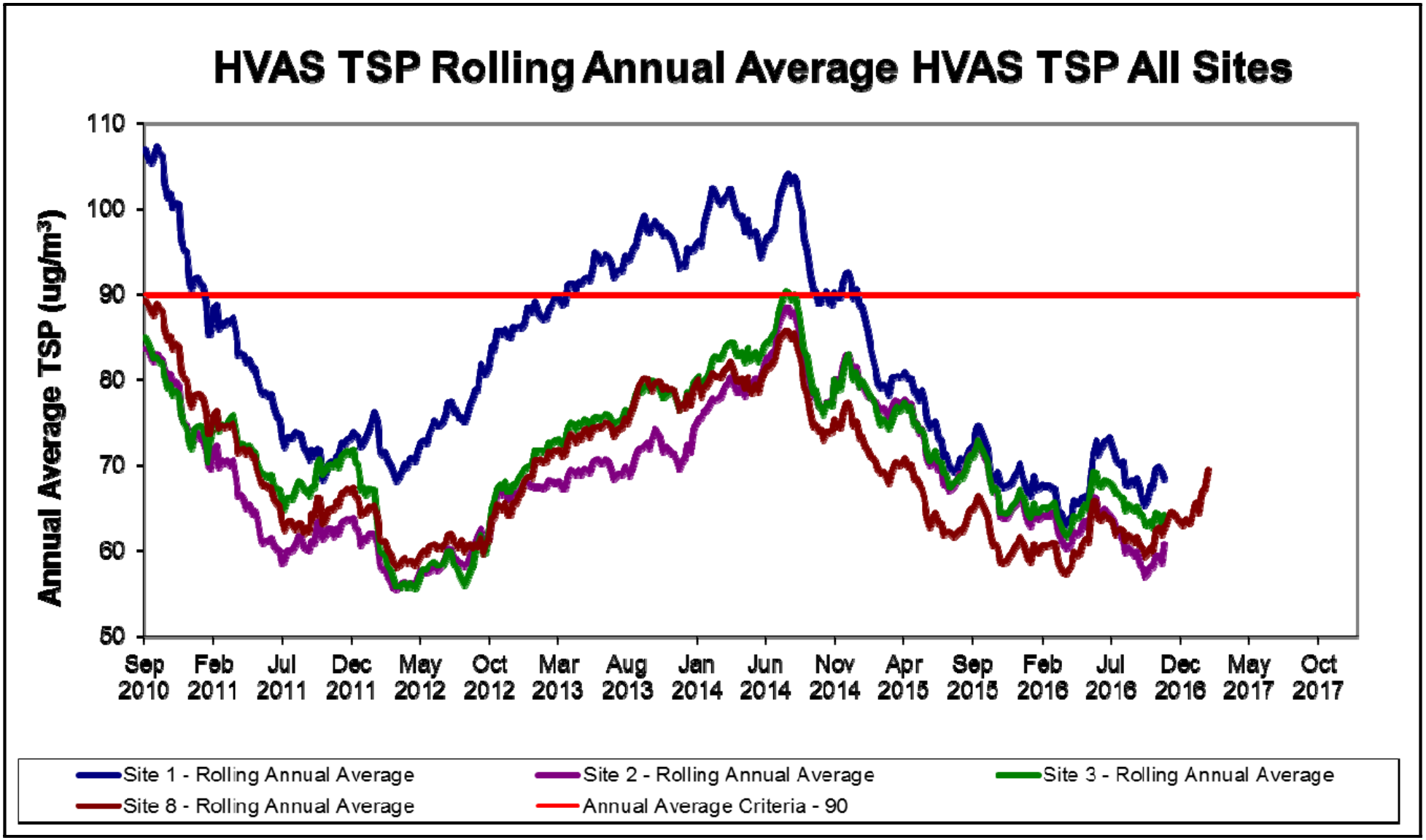
Total Suspended Dust



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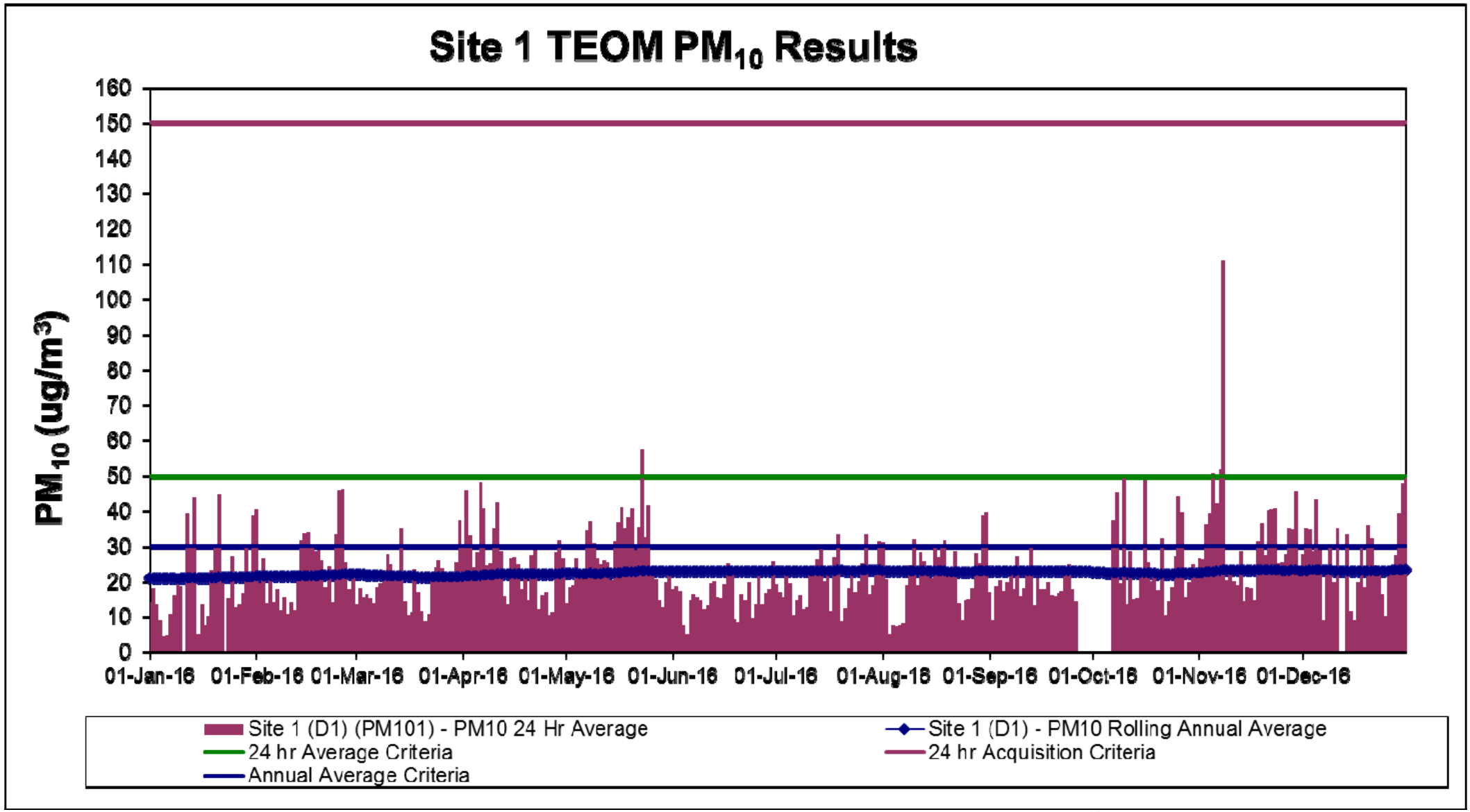
PM_{10} Dust – Site 1 (north Camberwell)



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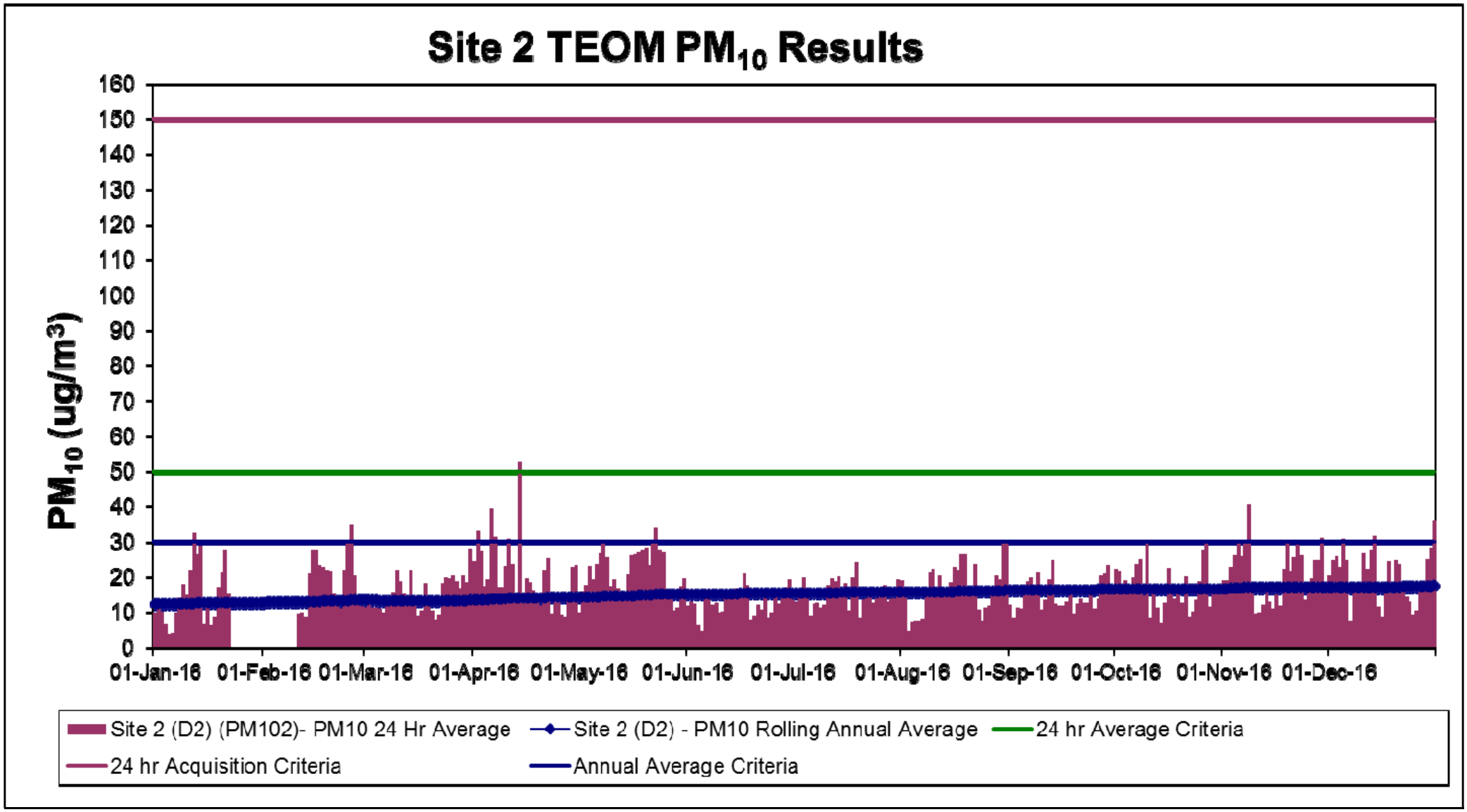
PM_{10} Dust – Site 2 (south Camberwell)



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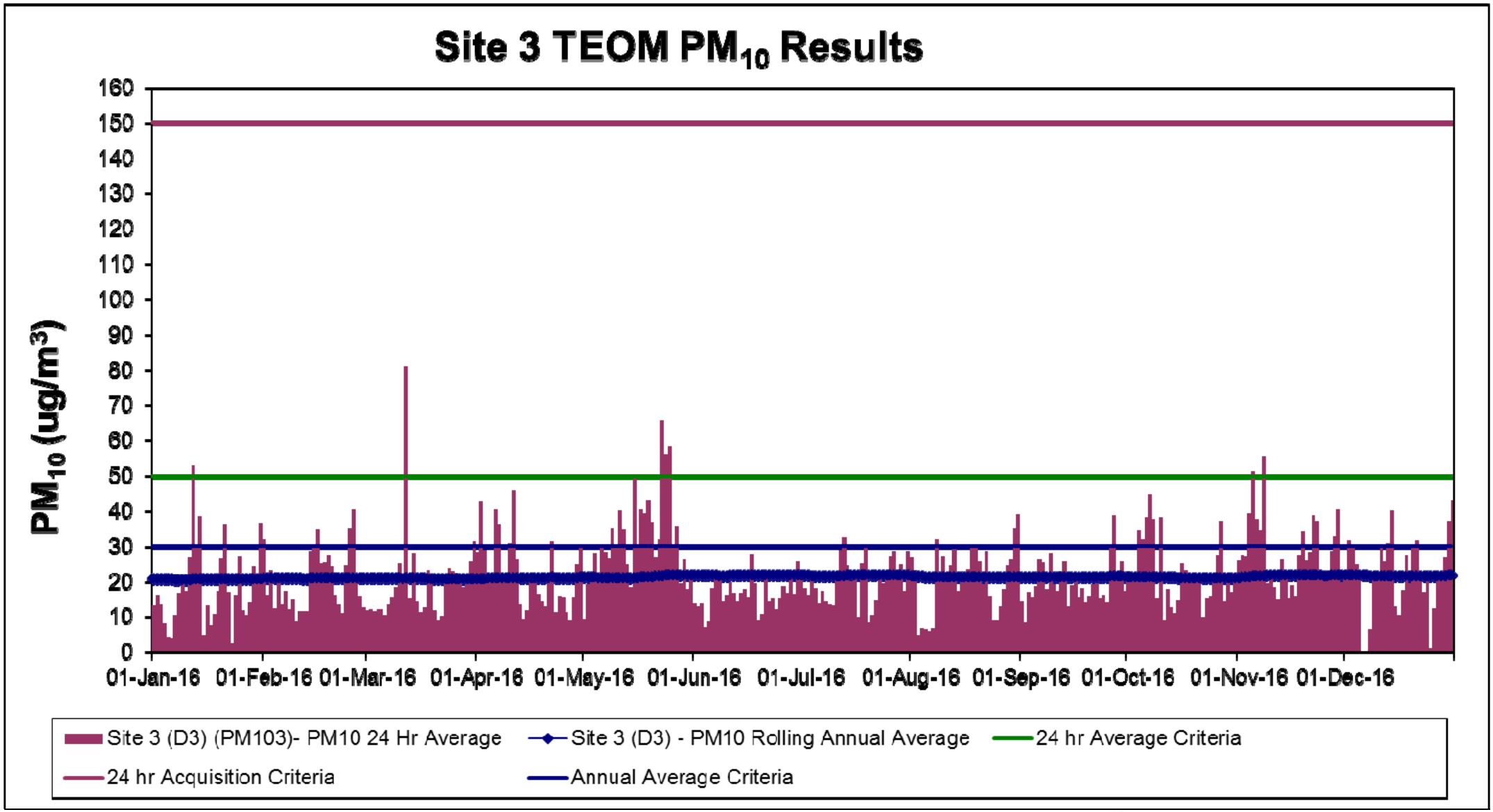
PM_{10} Dust – Site 3 (far east of Camberwell)



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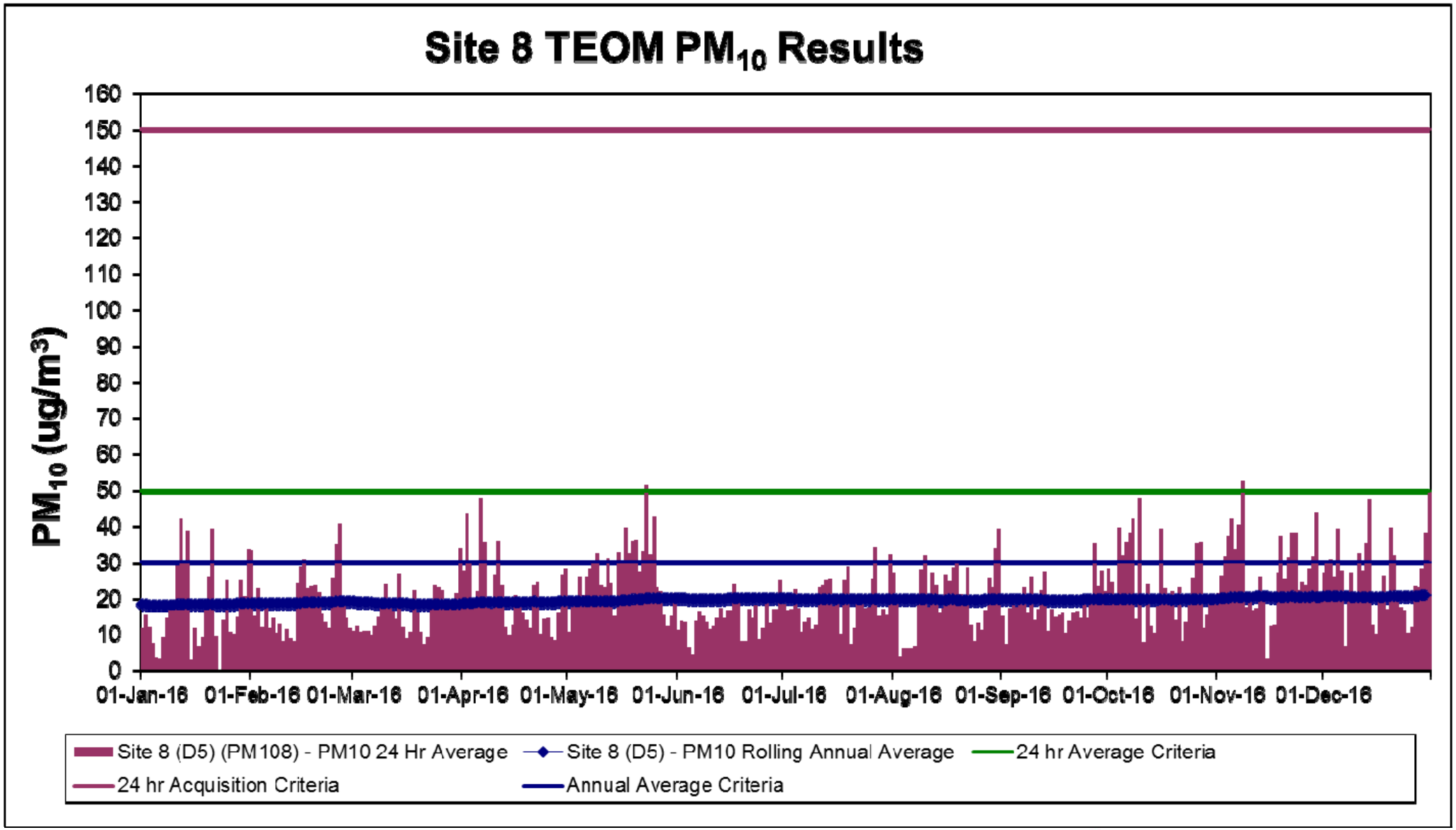
PM_{10} Dust – Site 8 (east of Camberwell)



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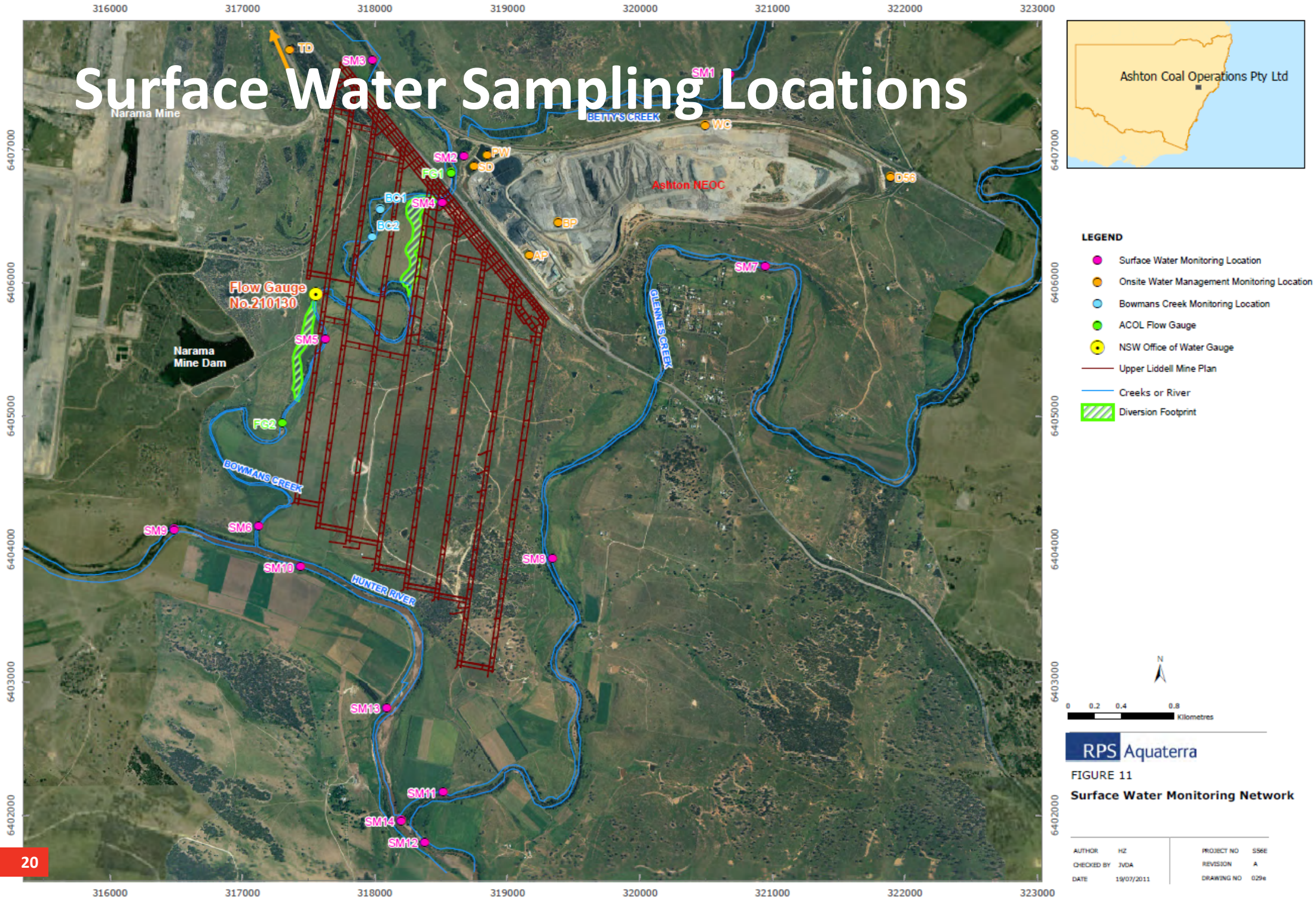
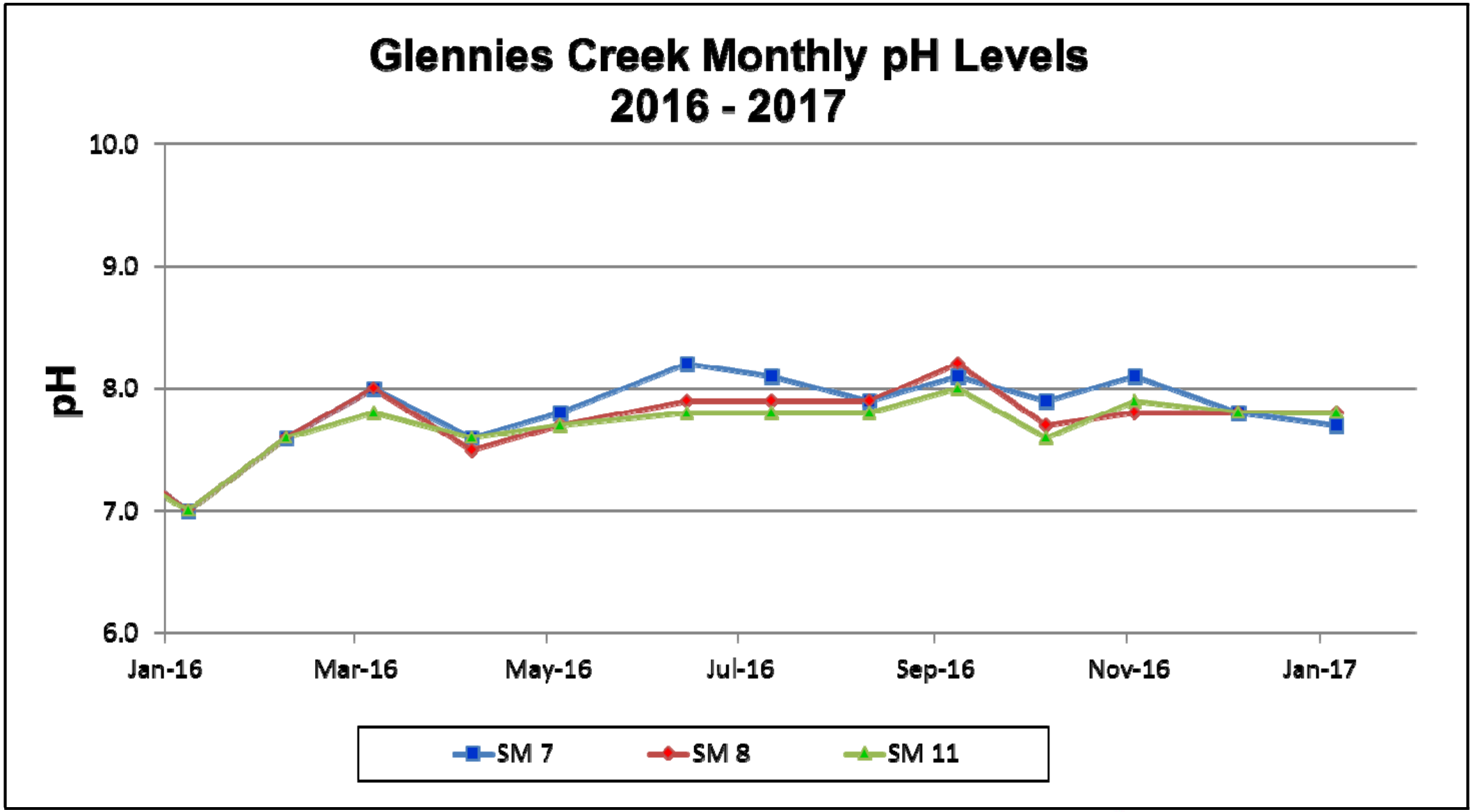
Surface Water Sampling Locations



Surface Water Quality – pH



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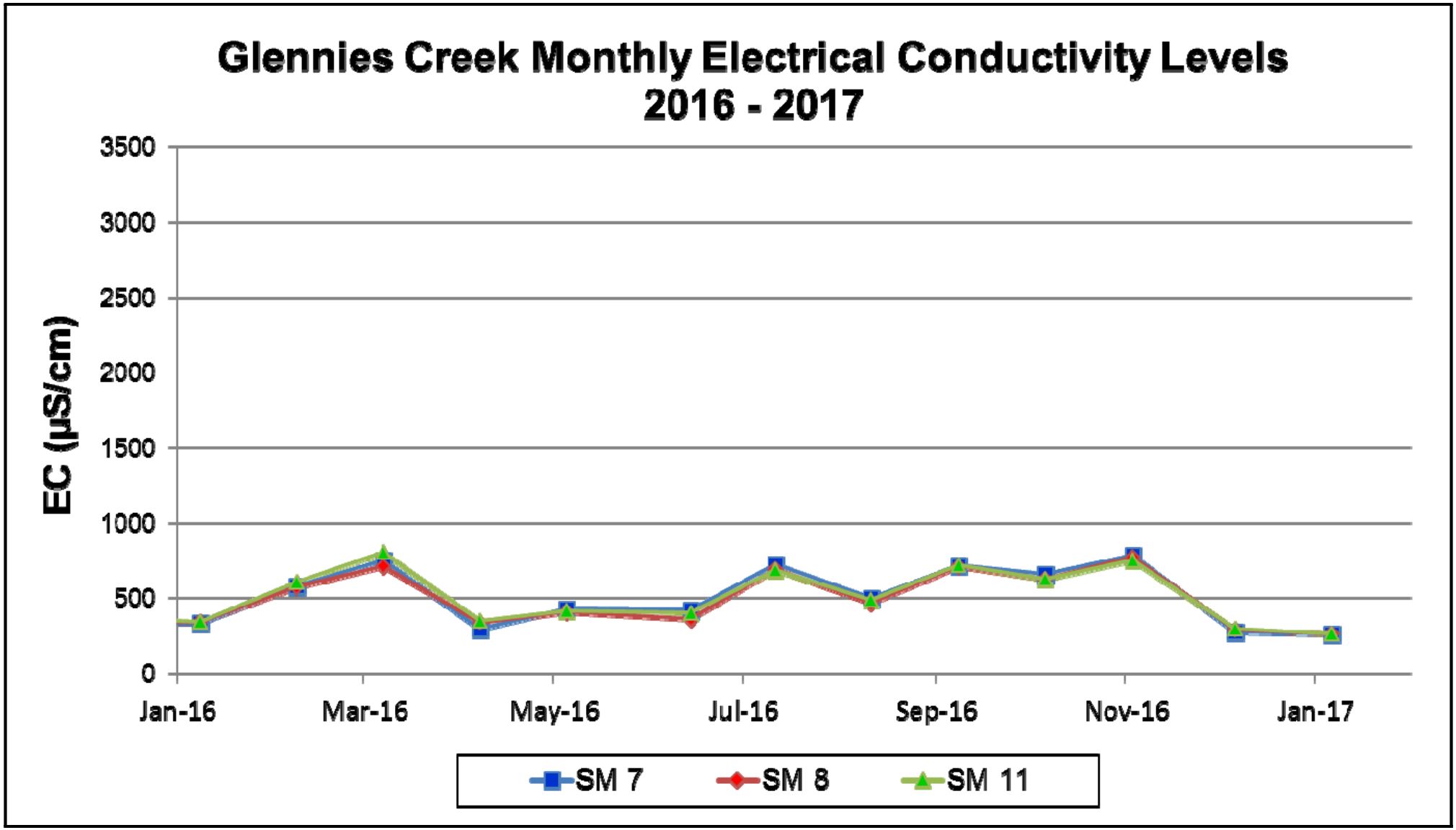
Surface Water Quality – EC



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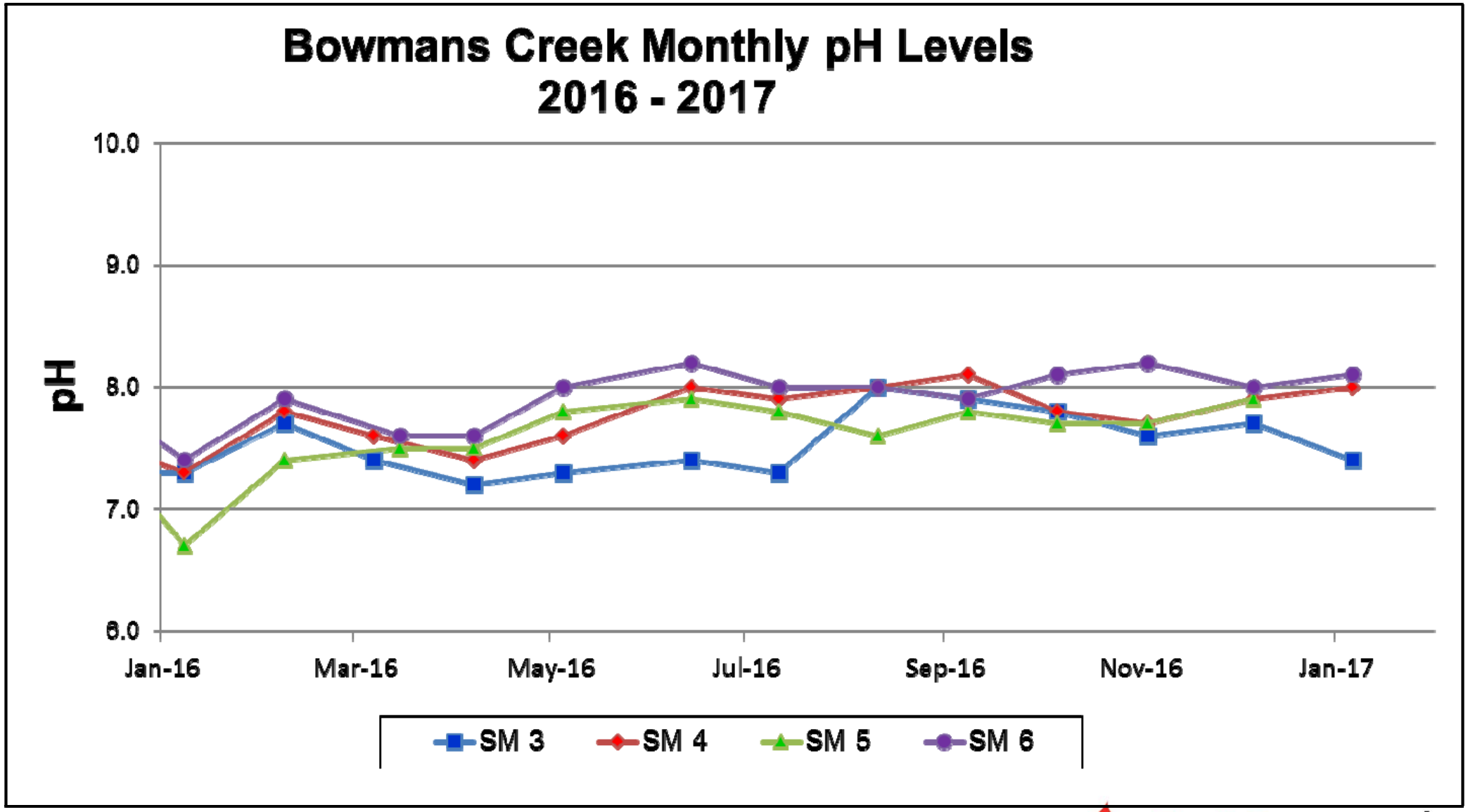
Surface Water Quality – pH



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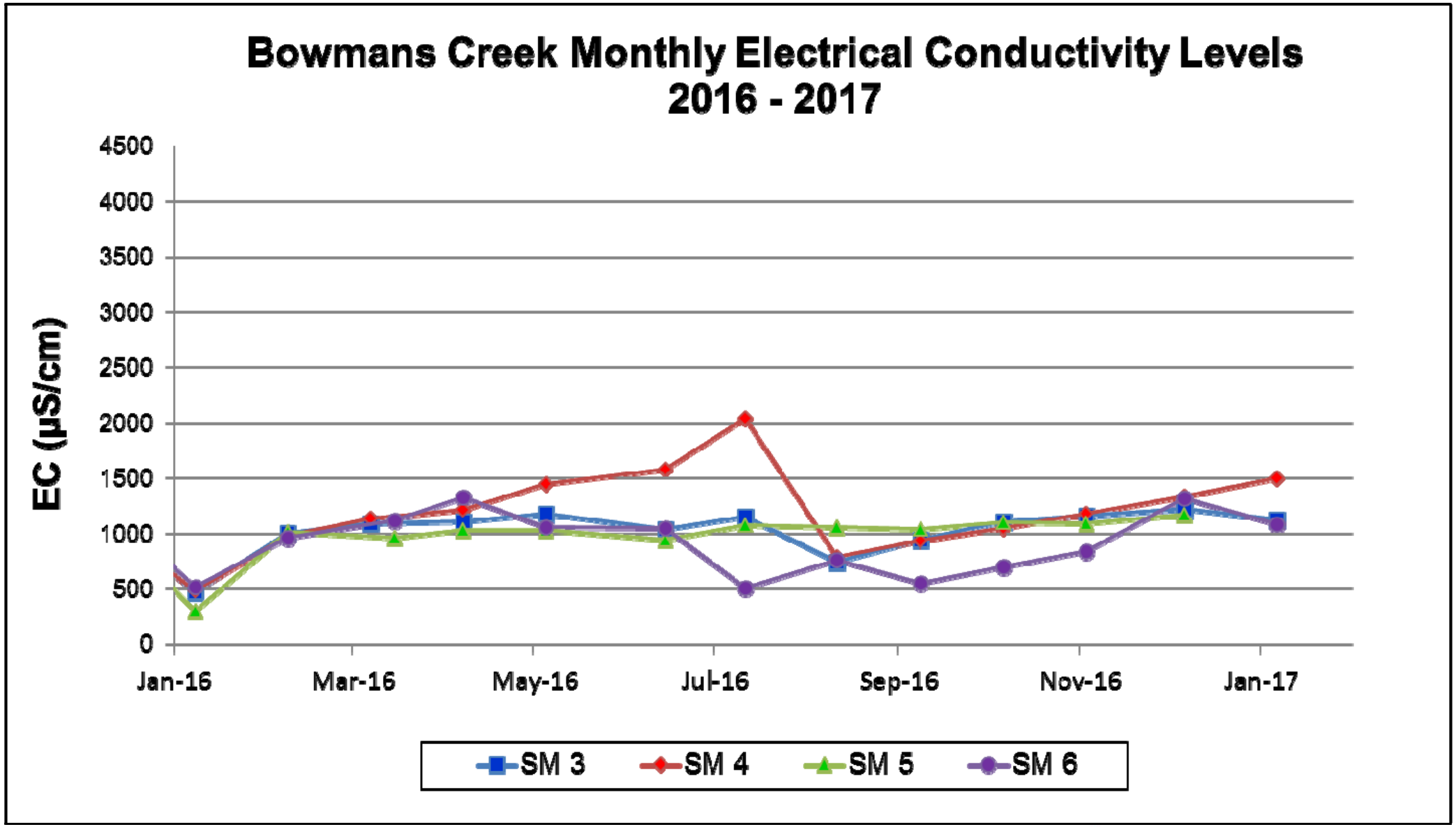
Surface Water Quality – EC



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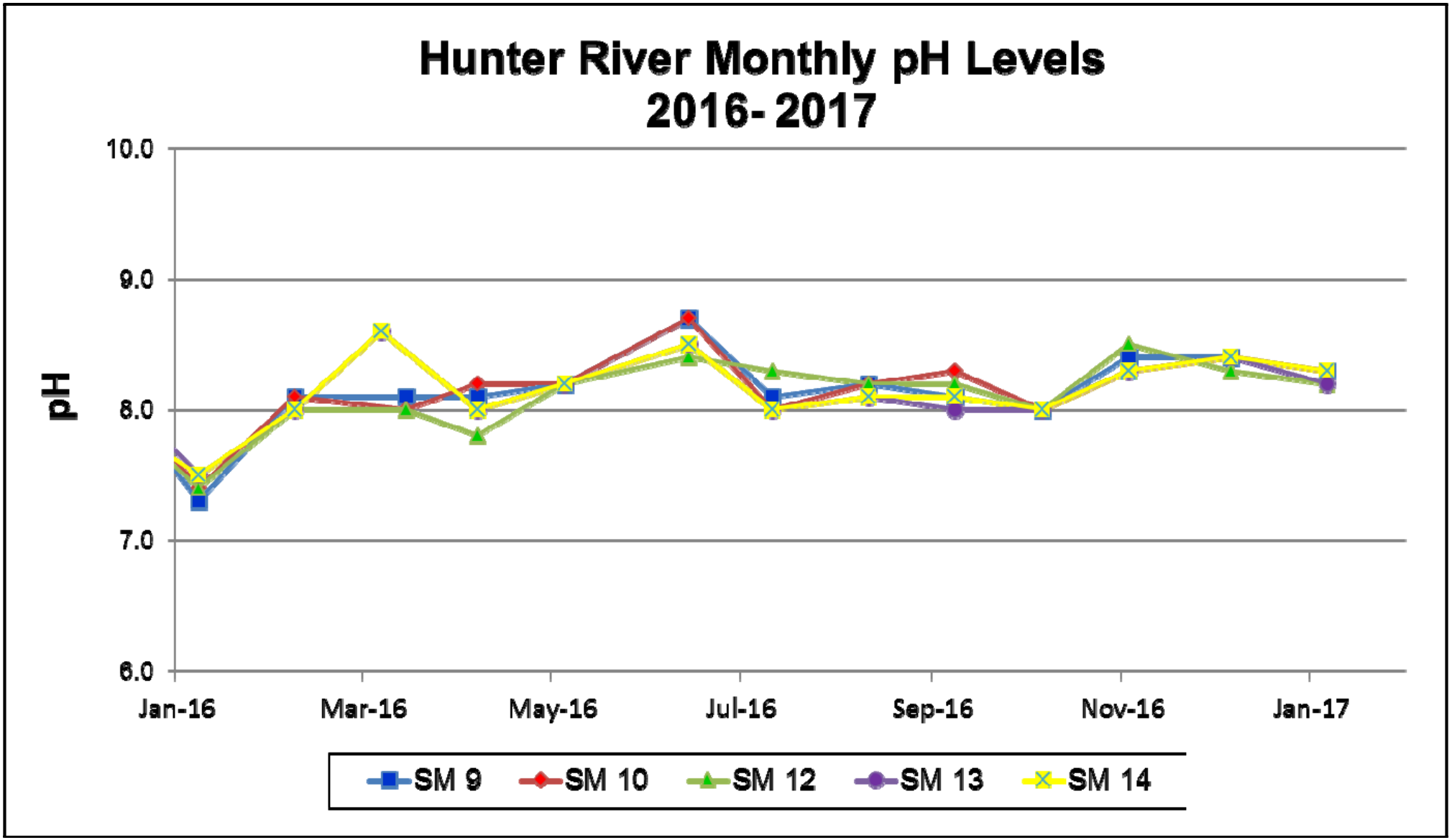
Surface Water Quality – pH



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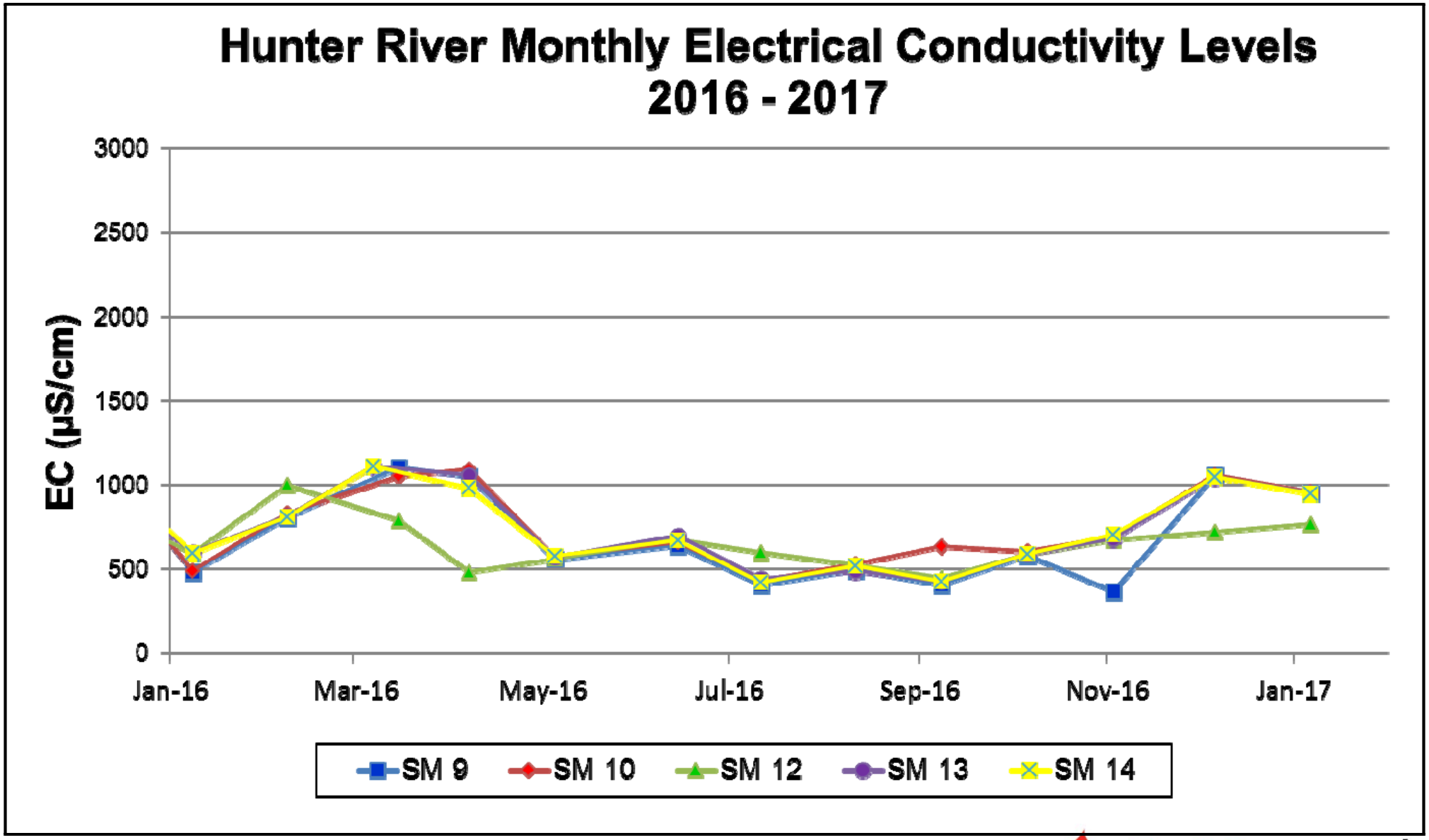
Surface Water Quality – EC



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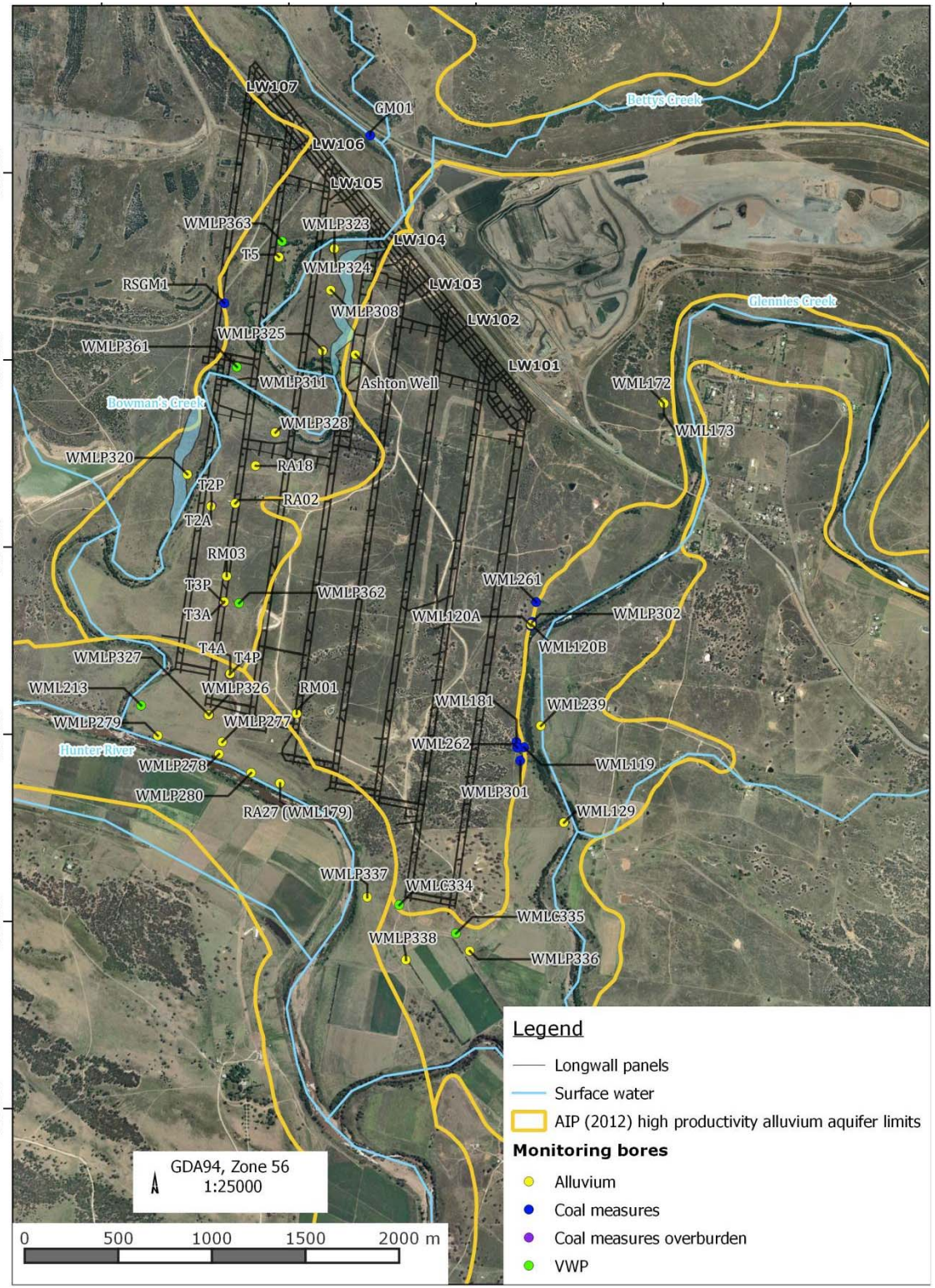
ACP Groundwater Monitoring Network



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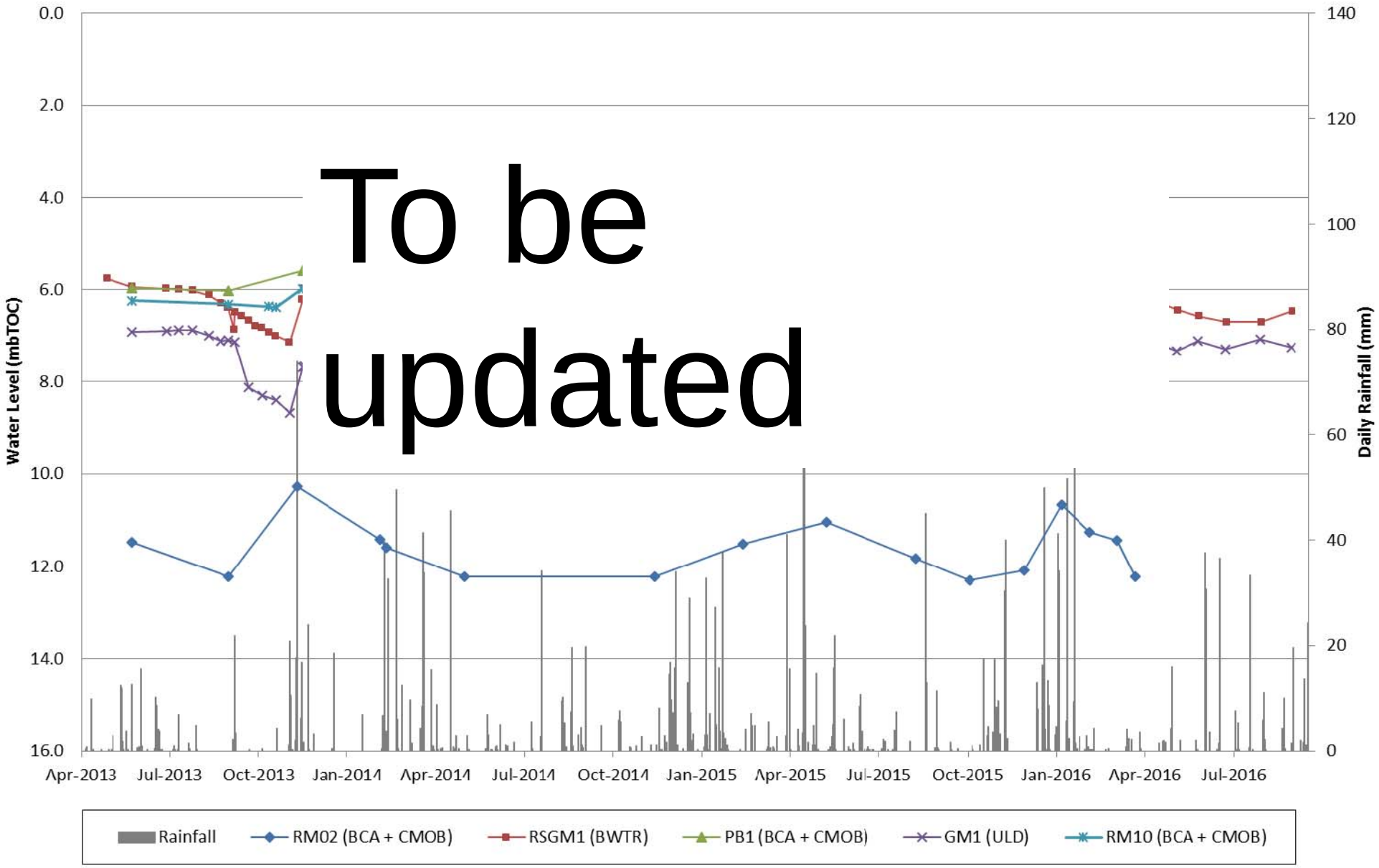
Groundwater – Standing Depth



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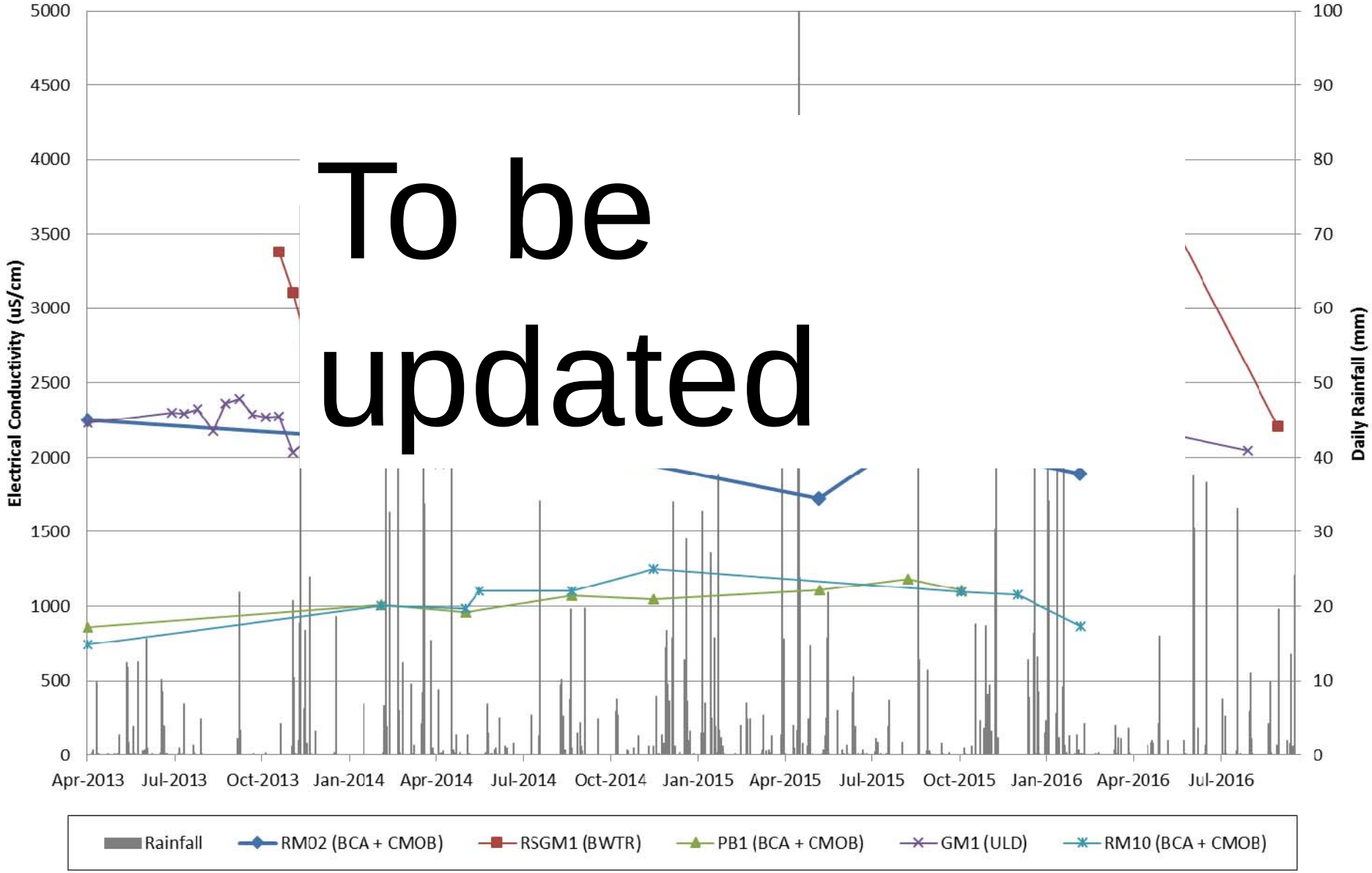
Groundwater – EC



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Noise Monitoring

Attended noise monitoring is conducted Monthly.

There were no exceedances during the reporting period

Table 1 ACP Noise Monitoring Results, 20 December 2016 (Night)						
Location	Time	dB(A) Leq	Comments	WS (m/s)/ Direction	Inversion °C/ 100m	ACP Noise Sources
N2	10:00 pm	48	Traffic (47), insects (36), wind (35), other mine (24), **ACP inaudible**	3.8/280	<+3	n/a
N3	10:19 pm	49	Insects (48), wind (40), traffic (34), other mine (25), **ACP inaudible**	4.6/283	<+3	n/a
N4	10:50 pm	40	Traffic (38), insects (35), other mine (26), **ACP inaudible**	1.8/233	<+3	n/a

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Independent Compliance Audit

- Report finalised 19 December 2016
- Copy forwarded to Community Consultative Committee members
- Audit covered period 10 Oct 2013 – 19 June 2016
- Reviewed 47 approvals and associated environmental documents
- Identified 27 non-compliances (16 were administrative)
  - No high risk non-compliances
  - 11 Medium risk non-compliances
  - 3 Low risk non-compliances
  - Few environmental issues, with general environmental management of site acceptable through the audit period
- Actions identified for all non-compliances where required and being implemented

Complaints

One Complaint reported to DPE on 28/01/17 at 8:09am regarding ‘operational and mine noise’.

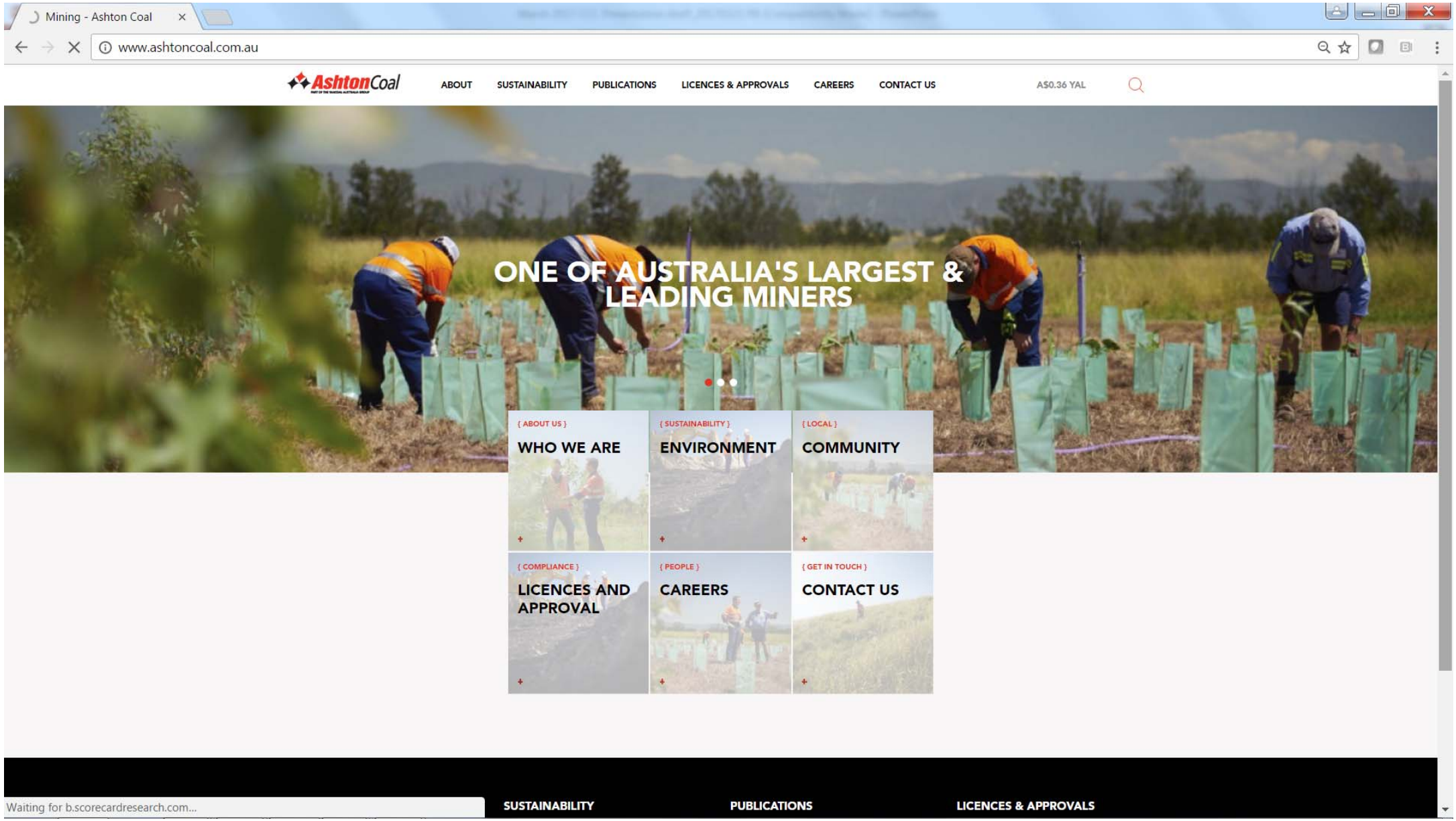
- A review of ACOL operations indicated there was minimal site operations occurring at the time.
- Investigations indicated ACOL contribution to noise levels at the time were minimal.
- Report provided to DPE compliance branch.

Environmental Update

- 2016 Annual Review to be submitted by 31st March 2017
  - Copy to be provided to CCC members
- Review Environmental Management Plans by 30 June 2017
  - Within 3 months of Independent Environmental Audit and completion of Annual Review
  - Copy of updated plans to be made available to CCC members
- Penalty Infringement Notice received for Complaints Hotline temporarily not working and Complaints Register not on ACOL website
- Attended Hunter Mining Dialogue Stakeholder Annual Forum
- LW201-204 Extraction Plan was lodged 8 November 2016 and approved 15 March 2017

New Website

- New website
- Easy to use format
- Up-to-date environmental monitoring data
- Approvals
- Management Plans



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f. South East Open Cut Project (SEOC)

- Amendment was lodged with DPE as advised last meeting.
- Was placed on public exhibition by DPE.
- Application made to modify Consent conditions - 28 private submission, 7 group submissions and 5 Agency submissions.
- Reply to submissions currently being prepared by Ashton Coal.

Camberwell update

- Camberwell property
  - 33 homes tenanted, 1 vacant to be tenanted
  - 4 homes vacant - care and maintenance

Any Questions?