

**MOOLARBEN COAL OPERATIONS - COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING No. 47**

**Date:** Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018  
**Time:** 4:13pm  
**Location:** Moolarben Coal Open Cut Administration Board Room, Ulan  
**Attendance:** Independent Chairperson  
Lisa Andrews (LA)

Community Members

Aleisha Lonsdale (AL)  
Andrew Palmer (AP)  
Bev Smiles (BS)  
Cr John O'Neil (Mid Western Regional Council)  
David Stokes (DS)  
Helen Ungaro (HU)  
Julia Imrie (JI)

Moolarben Coal Operations

Steve Archinal (SA)  
Graham Chase (GC)  
Trent Cini (TC)  
Michelle Frankham (MF)

Apologies

Cr Des Kennedy – Mayor (Mid Western Regional Council)

***A hard copy of the Agenda and Meeting 47 Presentation was provided to all meeting attendees.***

**A site tour was undertaken by all CCC members from 3pm – 4.10pm.**

## 1. Introduction and Welcome

Lisa Andrews (LA) opened the meeting, welcomed all attendees to the Moolarben Coal Operations (MCO) CCC and thanked GC and team for organising the site tour.

## 2. Apologies

Cr Des Kennedy – Mayor (Mid Western Regional Council).

## 3. Business Arising from Previous Finalised Minutes

**Meeting 46 Action 1** - *Update community complaints graph to include number of complainants, and the last quarter's results.* **Complete**

**Meeting 46 Action 2** – *MCO to provide total surface water storage volume to next meeting.*

GC advised the CCC that currently approximately 900 Megalitres was stored at Moolarben Coal Operations including in mine water and sediment water dams.

### **Correspondence (emailed with meeting notice 19/11/18 with one additional item)**

Correspondence to the CCC since meeting 46 included the following:

- 16/9/18 – Draft minutes from 11/9/18 CCC sent to members for review/comment.
- 25/9/18 – Finalised minutes sent to CCC members with Annual Review link.
- 1/10/18 – Email from Bev Smiles requesting information on the train derailment.
- 2/10/18 – Email to members with advice from Moolarben Coal that matter was under investigation.
- 3/10/18 – Email to members regarding the Moolarben Rd closure.
- 19/11/18 – Email to members with the Meeting Notice & Agenda for this meeting with the Correspondence Report.
- 26/11/18 – Email to members reminding of Meeting 47 and cancellation of end of year dinner due to low RSVP numbers.

### **CCC Update Presentation**

GC provided an update on the Community Support Program (CSP). GC noted there will be a revised approach for the MCO CSP in 2019. GC advised that information will be circulated to the CCC when the new guidelines are released.

GC provided an operational update. BS asked about the number of tonnes extracted from the Open Cut in 2018. GC advised just under 13 million tonnes will be extracted from Open Cut 4 and Open Cut 2 in 2018, separate to the additional Underground coal tonnes.

GC provided a drilling and exploration update.

TC provided an update on environmental monitoring including water quality.

TC provided an update on air quality, noise monitoring and community complaints. BS asked whether the complaints in 2018 had been less on previous years because MCO had purchased complainants' properties. GC advised that the complainants had not significantly changed and that operational areas have progressed south.

TC provided an update on rehabilitation and biodiversity offsets management. JI asked about the success of the Spiny Rush weed control program? TC advised a combination of chemical and mechanical removal had been used for weed control. The mechanical removal areas had also been mulched. TS advised that good control results had been achieved, with the next focus on the response post rainfall event to follow-up germination. TC advised there had been a significant improvement in Spiny Rush control due to the implemented measures.

BS asked what the total area of Moolarben-held Biodiversity offsets were. GC advised approximately 7,000 ha. BS asked whether most offsets are left to natural regeneration or if plantings are required. TC discussed the different management zones, with Management Zone One comprising remnant vegetation and do not require planting and Management Zone Two areas including natural regeneration and plantings. TC advised of approximately 2,500 trees and seed plantings in 2018. GC explained that Biodiversity Offsets are tied to three federal approvals of varying ages. BS asked the success rate of plantings. TC advised a success rate of 75% is targeted. TC advised monitoring has suggested the offset performance is heading in the right direction. BS asked whether maintenance focused on endangered communities. TC advised maintenance is required on a combination of communities.

BS asked whether offsets are included in a conservation arrangements. GC advised that some offset properties have been transferred to the National Parks estate and some offset properties will covenants on the title. BS asked whether a Conservation Bond has been arranged. GC confirmed a Conservation Bond is in place.

GC provided an employment and recruitment update. DS asked whether trainees are locally sourced. SA confirmed all labour is endeavoured to be locally sourced. DS made reference to employees heading back to the Hunter Valley after working their swing. SA confirmed that some employees do return to the Hunter Valley for family commitments.

GS provided an update on the Open Cut Optimisation Modification. GC advised that the status on the Department of Planning and Environment (eg 'More Information Required', does not necessarily reflect outstanding requests. GC advised that MCO does not have any requests for information from DPE. JI asked when MCO expects the Modification assessment report to be released by DPE. GC advised no timeframe has been confirmed by DPE.

GC provided requested groundwater levels to CCC members. GC advised no extraction from Northern Borefields had been undertaken since the previous CCC meeting. JI asked about the drilling near her property gate on Saddlers Creek Road with GC advising that the bore casing is being removed and of a Vibrating Wire Piezometer (VWP) being installed. JI enquired how changes to groundwater water quality in PZ105 would be monitored. GC advised that PZ105C will remain open and the others decommissioned.

JI noted that groundwater levels for PZ105 and PZ179 dropped below the trigger. GC confirmed investigations have been conducted in accordance with the Groundwater Management Plan including specialist input. GC advised that climatic influences had contributed to levels. MCO will continue to monitor the water levels. JI commented PZ105C groundwater levels sit above the river water level and potentially interact with the river.

JI requested that the closed portions of Moolarben Road are marked as a 'No Through Road'. GC advised that Council have planned to install the signs at both ends of the road. DS noted that signs have been put up on the Wollar end.

JI commented that bore levels are continuing to drop, most noticeably in PZ179 just to the north east of UG1. GC advised MCO is aware of the trend at PZ105. JI asked about water levels in the newly installed bores, PZ192 and 193. GC advised these bores, though closer to the mine, had not seen the same movement. JI asked whether the groundwater levels had been referred to MCO's groundwater modeller. GC confirmed and advised that the process outlined in the Groundwater Management Plan is followed, including input from specialists. JI expressed her opinion that the decreasing groundwater levels are connected with mine dewatering at UG1.

#### 4. General Business

Cr O'Neil extended a thank you to MCO for the site visit. Cr O'Neil made reference to MCO's rehabilitation success. Cr O'Neil asked how MCO benchmarks the rehabilitation in relation to what is expected from regulators. TC discussed rehabilitation completion criteria and that the rehabilitation is trending towards the criteria. BS asked how climatic influences affect timeframes for rehabilitation. General discussion of rehabilitation timeframes of 10 to 15 years and that climatic influences balance themselves out over the period and that nearby analogue sites are used to inform performance and season changes. TC explained that the rehabilitation approach considers seasonal conditions.

BS asked on behalf of a community member whether MCO had a breach in relation to a stockpile. GC explained that the stockpile referenced is a stockpile of material at the CHPP to be used in final landform shaping. DPE considered the stockpile was not generally in accordance with the Environmental Assessment. GC advised that the stockpile has been considered in the Open Cut Optimisation Modification.

BS asked whether EL6288 had been renewed. GC advised the renewal application is still with DRG for processing.

BS asked whether MCO sources gravel from Bylong Quarry for blast stemming material, referencing a comment made by a community member on the number of gravel trucks from the area. **Meeting 47 Action 1:** *MCO to advise whether gravel from Bylong Quarry is provided to MCO.*

BS made reference to a press release suggesting that China is not importing coal until the end of 2018 and asked how that affects the MCO business. SA advised that no impact was expected in MCO operations. General discussion of purchasers, noting Korea, Japan and China with China being the largest purchaser.

#### 5. Meeting Schedule for 2019

MCO CCC Meeting Dates were confirmed for 12 March, 4 June, 10 September, and 26 November 2019.

LA thanked everyone for their contribution to the CCC in 2018 and wished members a Merry Christmas and happy new year.

**6. Next Meeting:** 12th March 2019 – 4:00pm.

*Meeting Closed at 4:58pm.*

#### Action Items:

Item	Action	Responsibility
1	Send revised MCO CSP guidelines to CCC when available	GC
2	MCO to advise whether gravel from Bylong Quarry is provided to MCO.	GC

# Community Consultative Committee Update

November 2018



# Community Support Program

## Community Support Events last quarter:

- Watershed Landcare Green Day (10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)
- M3 Maths Challenge
- Gulgong Bowling Tournament
- Sculptures in the Garden
- Gulgong Gold and Mining Festival
- Rylstone Street Feast

Total of **\$95, 000** in Community Contributions in 2018



# Upcoming Events and Initiatives

## 2018

- Rotary Christmas Carols
- Lions Club Christmas Twilight Markets
- Ulan School Kitchen Garden Learning Program
- Mudgee Playgroup Outdoor Upgrade
- Lue Public School Bus / Carport
- Moolarben Spirit Awards

## 2019

- 2019 Max Potential Program
- Survivor Lifeskills Program
- Gulgong Show 2019



# Operational Update

- Open cut operations in OC2 & OC4.
- Landform shaping and topsoiling in OC2
- Longwall 102 Continues.
- UG development continues.





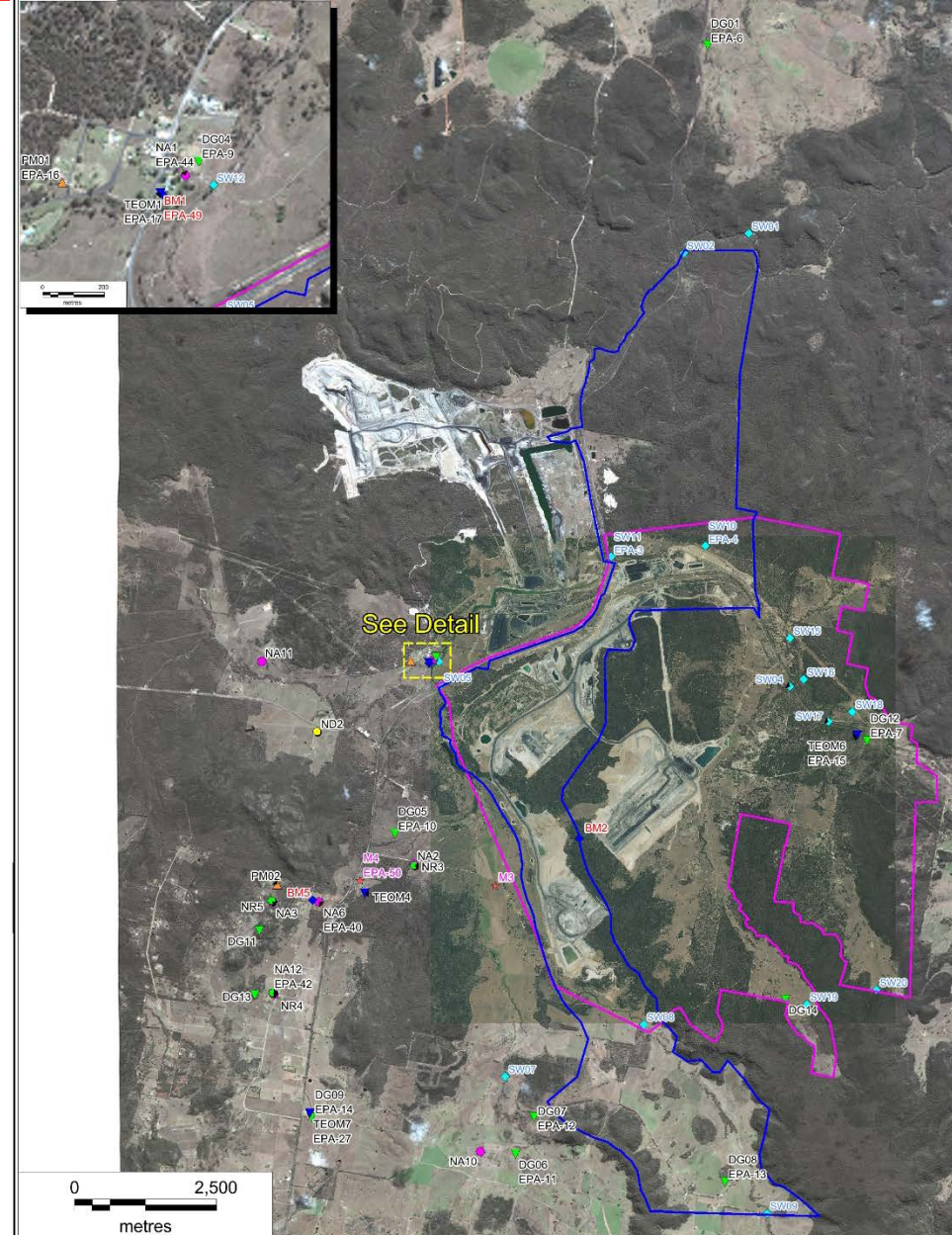
# Exploration Update

- Resource delineation continued in OC4 & OC3.
- Resource delineation continued in UG2.
- Rehabilitation and monitoring activities have continued during the period.

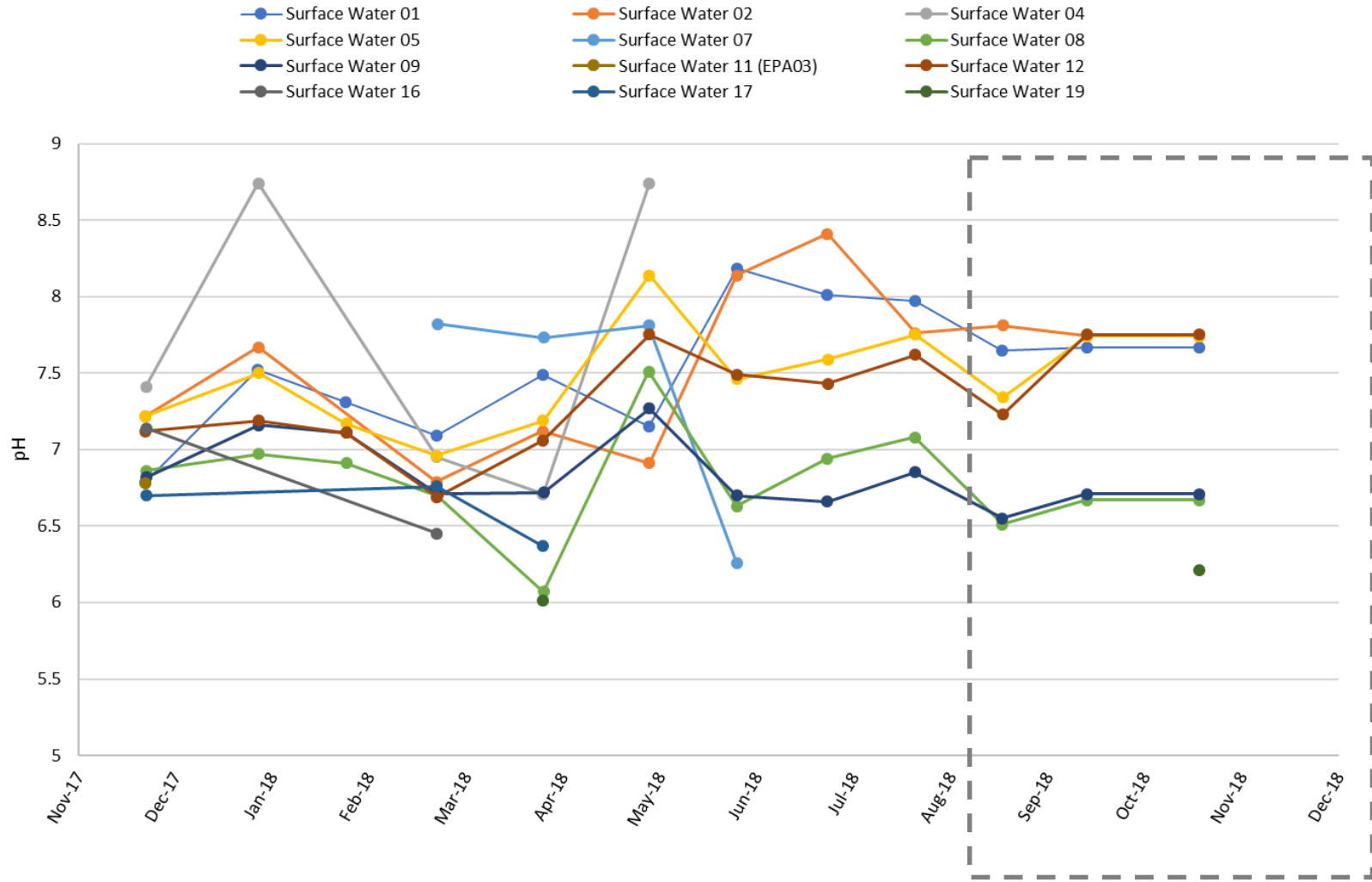


# Environmental Monitoring

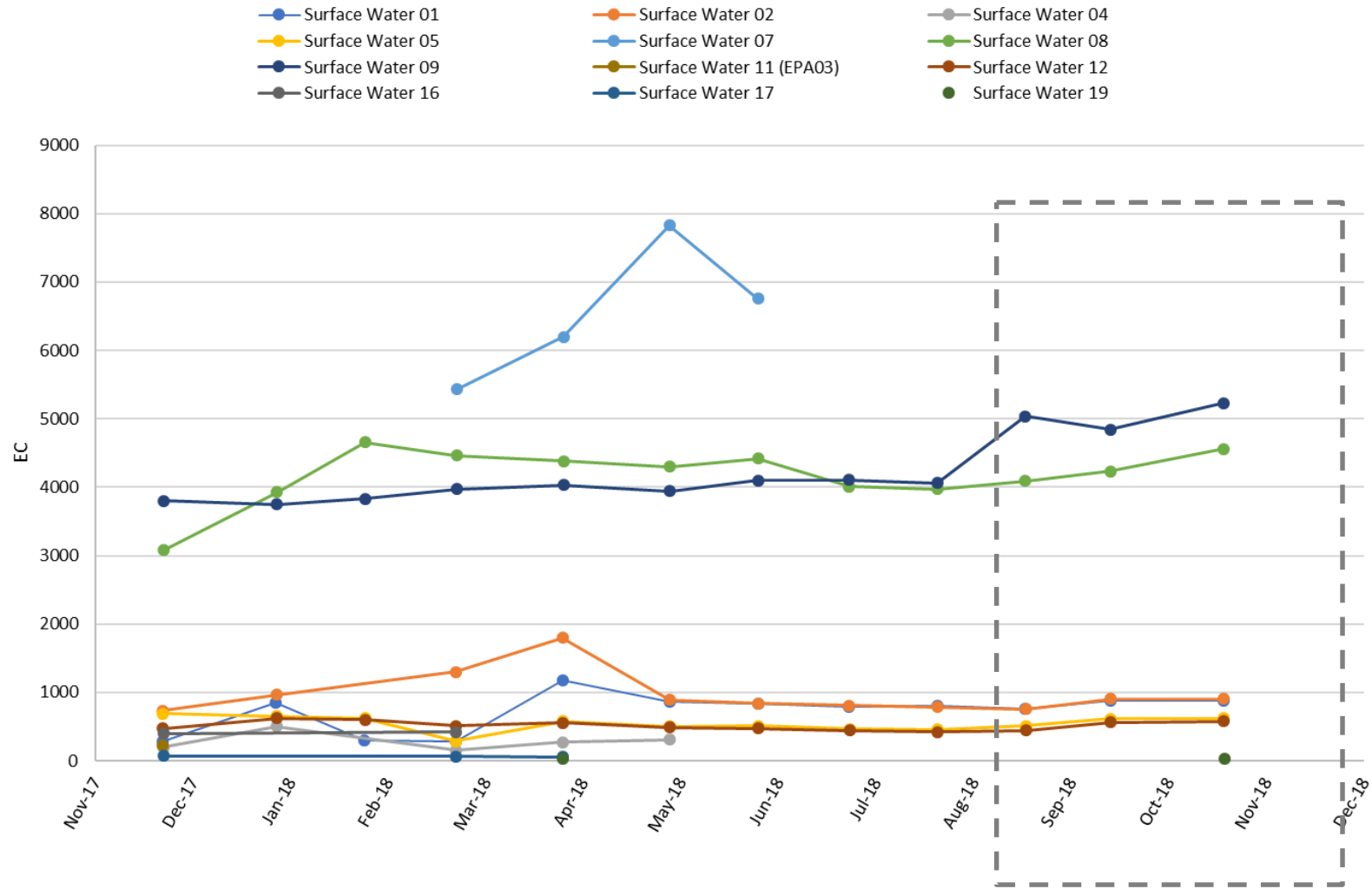
- Monitoring network
  - Water;
  - Air Quality;
  - Blasting;
  - Noise;
  - Meteorology.



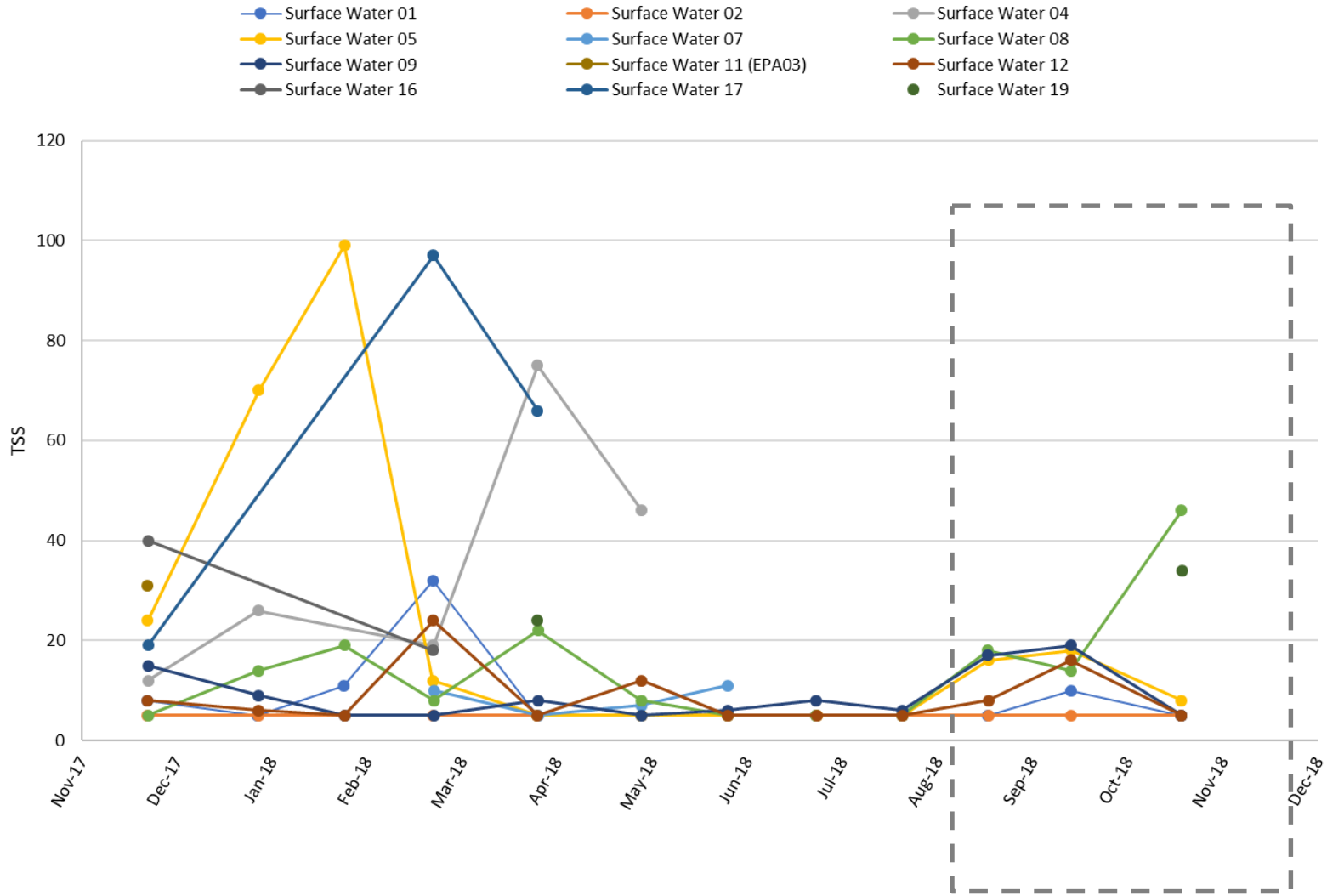
# Water Quality - pH



# Water Quality - EC



# Water Quality - TSS



# Air Quality

Site	October 2017 PM10 Annual Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	October 2018 PM10 Annual Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Air Quality PM10 Annual Average Criteria ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
Ulan School	12.6	14.5	30.0
Ulan Road	-*	14.8	30.0
Ulan-Wollar Rd	13.3	14.9	30.0

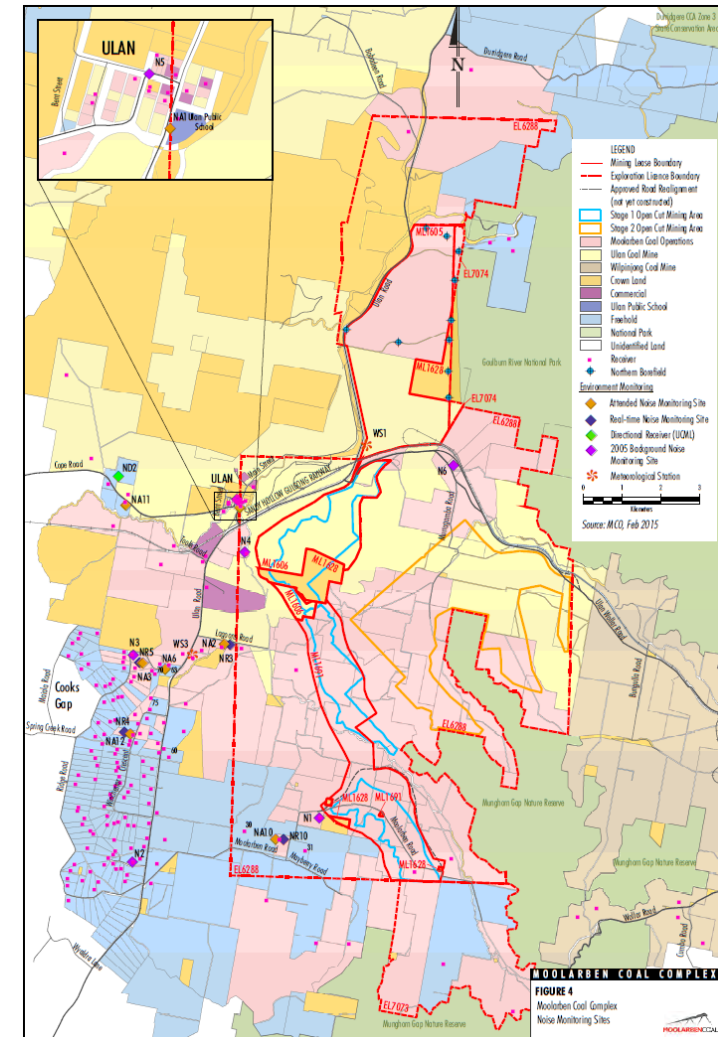
\*Insufficient data available to calculate 2017 rolling annual average. Unit installed August 2017

Monthly monitoring reports are available on our website:

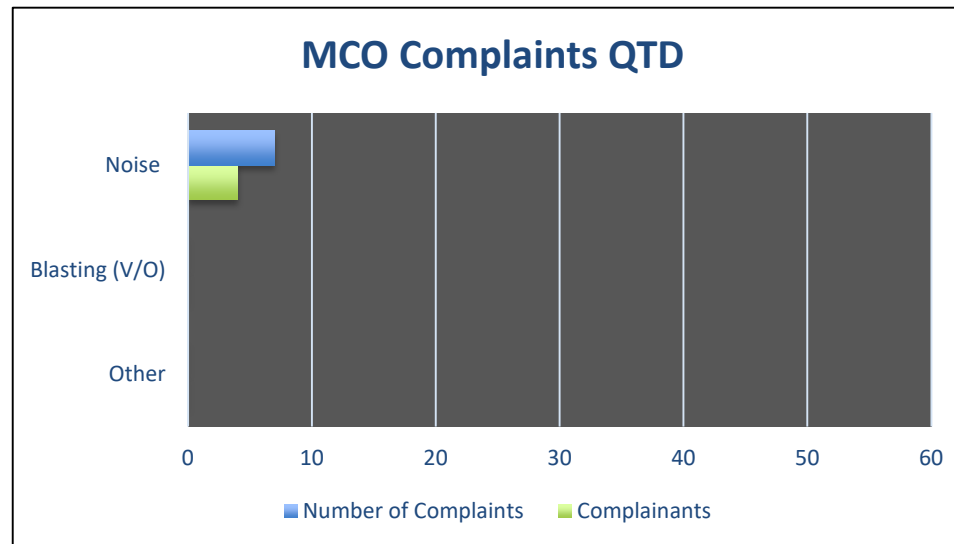
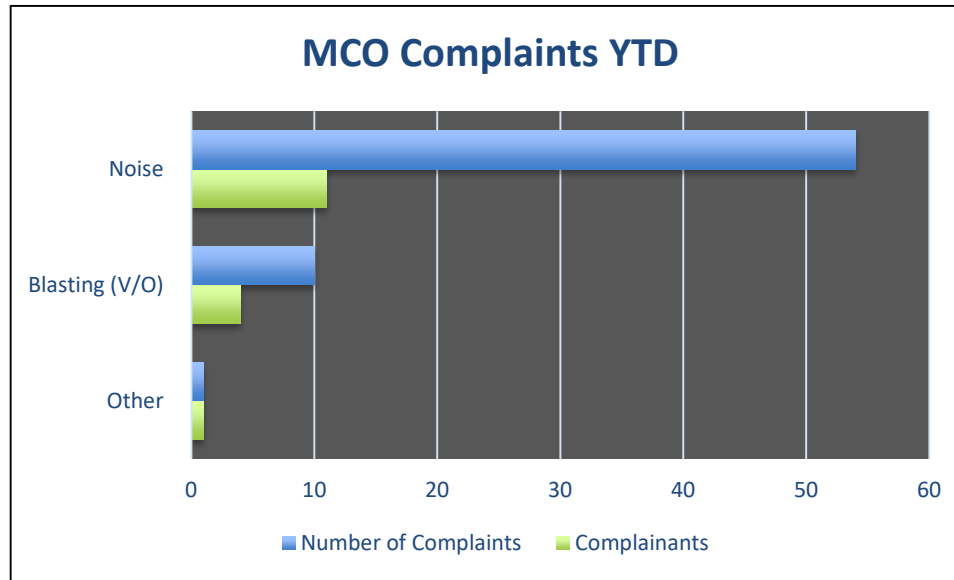
[www.moolarbencoal.com.au/environment-and-community/monitoring-results/](http://www.moolarbencoal.com.au/environment-and-community/monitoring-results/)

# Noise Monitoring

- All monthly & quarterly attended noise monitoring within criteria.
- Continued implementation of:
  - Planning controls - scheduling
  - Engineering controls - attenuation
  - Operational controls - bunds/screens
  - Real-time monitoring triggers
  - Real-time response protocols



# Community Complaints





# Rehabilitation Update

- Rehabilitation maintenance works are continuing.
- Landform shaping and topsoiling in OC2.



# Biodiversity Offset Management

- Targeted weed control programs continued across BOA's
- Spring Monitoring has now been complete for 2018
- Boundary fencing on Nori is currently underway



# Employment Update

## Traineeships

- Currently 16 OC, 15 UG and 2 Complex

## Apprentices

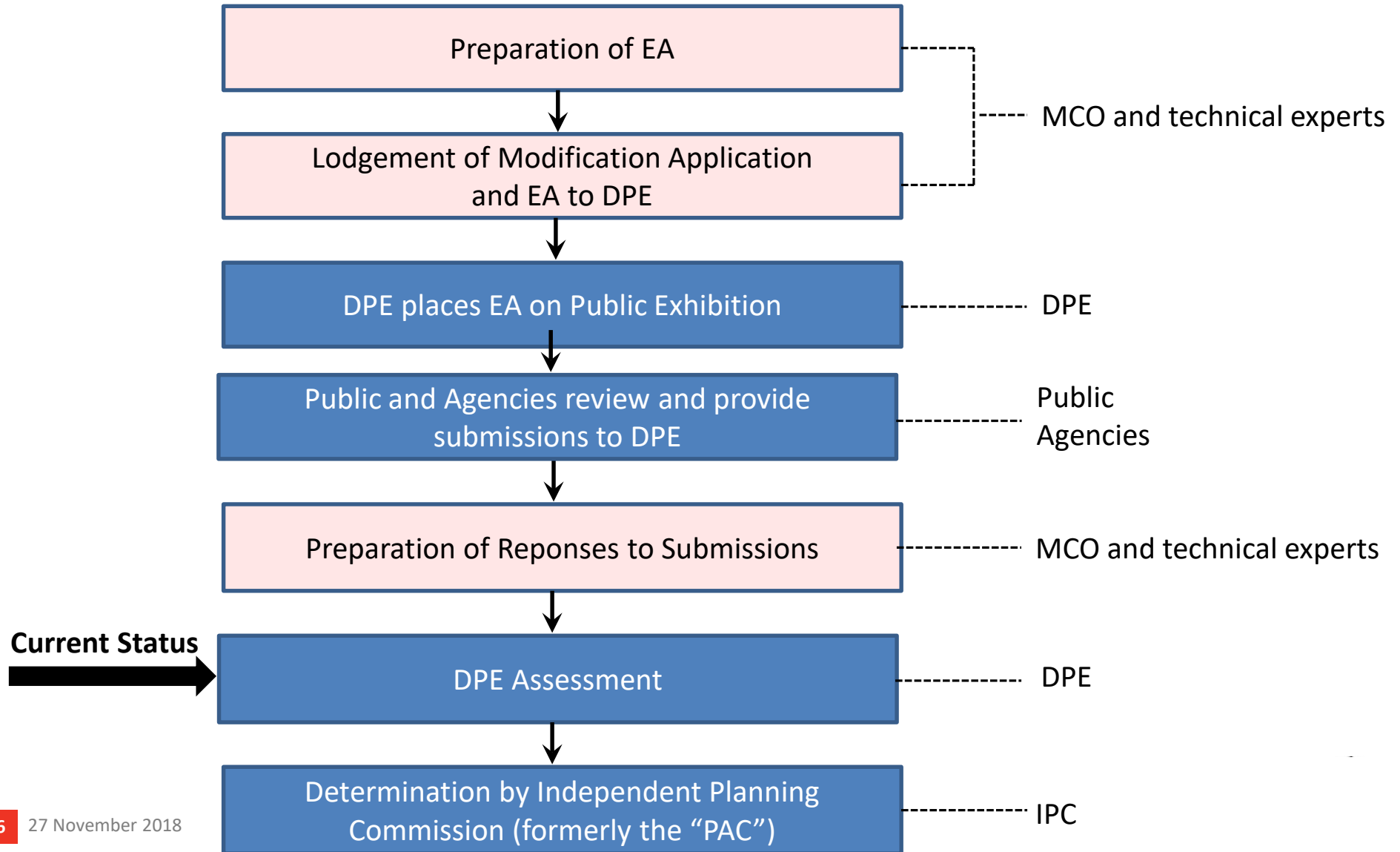
- Currently 6 Underground & 13 Open Cut

## General

- 9 Apprentices and 4 – 8 Trainees to start in January



# Open Cut Optimisation Modification Update



THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT  
IN THE CCC FOR 2018.

ON BEHALF OF MOOLARBEN WE WISH  
YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES A MERRY  
CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

