

## **Mount Pleasant Operation Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report**

**April 2021**

## 1. Introduction

The Mount Pleasant Operation (MPO) is located in the Upper Hunter Valley of New South Wales, approximately three kilometres (km) north-west of Muswellbrook and approximately 50 km north-west of Singleton. The villages of Aberdeen and Kayuga are located 12 km north-northeast and 3 km north of the operations, respectively.

The purpose of this report is to provide a monthly update of monitoring data in accordance with the requirements of NSW Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) 20850, Section 66(6) of the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) and the MPO Development Approval (DA 92/97).

**Table 1-1 – Mount Pleasant Operation**

<b>Name of Operation</b>	Mount Pleasant Operation
<b>Name of Licensee</b>	MACH Energy Australia Pty Ltd
<b>Environmental Protection Licence</b>	20850
<b>Project Approval</b>	DA 92/97
<b>Reporting Period Start Date</b>	1 April 2021
<b>Reporting Period End Date</b>	30 April 2021
<b>Date All Data Received</b>	8 June 2021

The MPO EPL 20850 and DA 92/97 can be read in full by clicking the links below:

<https://machenergyaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/EPL-20850-23-April-2021.pdf>

<https://machenergyaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018-MOD4-Consolidated-Consent.pdf>

## 2. Monitoring Requirements

The MPO EPL 20850 specifically requires the monitoring of:

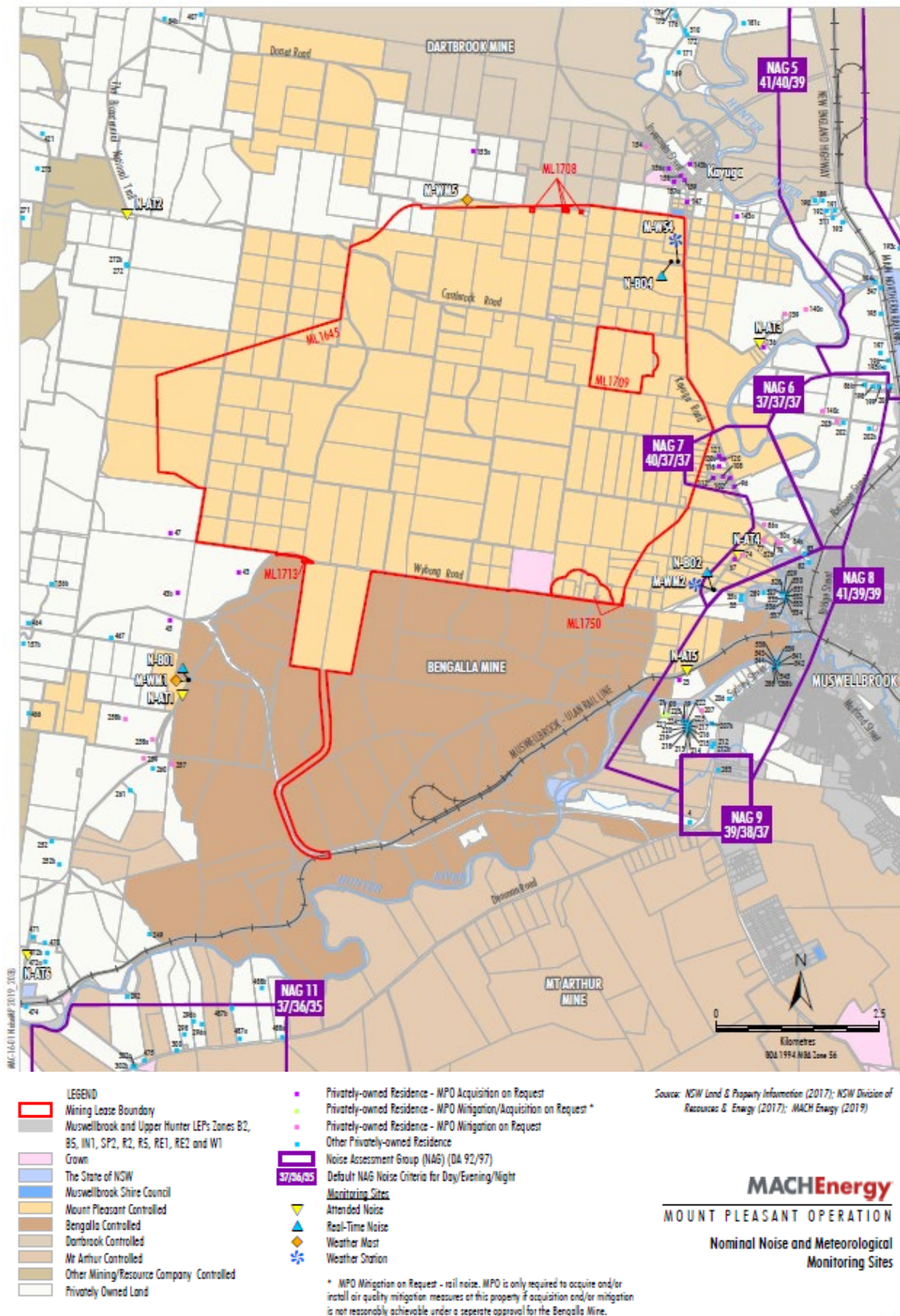
- 2 x Palas Fidas Air Quality Monitoring sites;
- Noise monitoring;
- Blast monitoring; and
- Meteorological monitoring.

Monitoring of sites not required by the EPL are carried out in accordance with MPO Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) and Project Approval (DA 92/97).

All monitoring is undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced person(s).

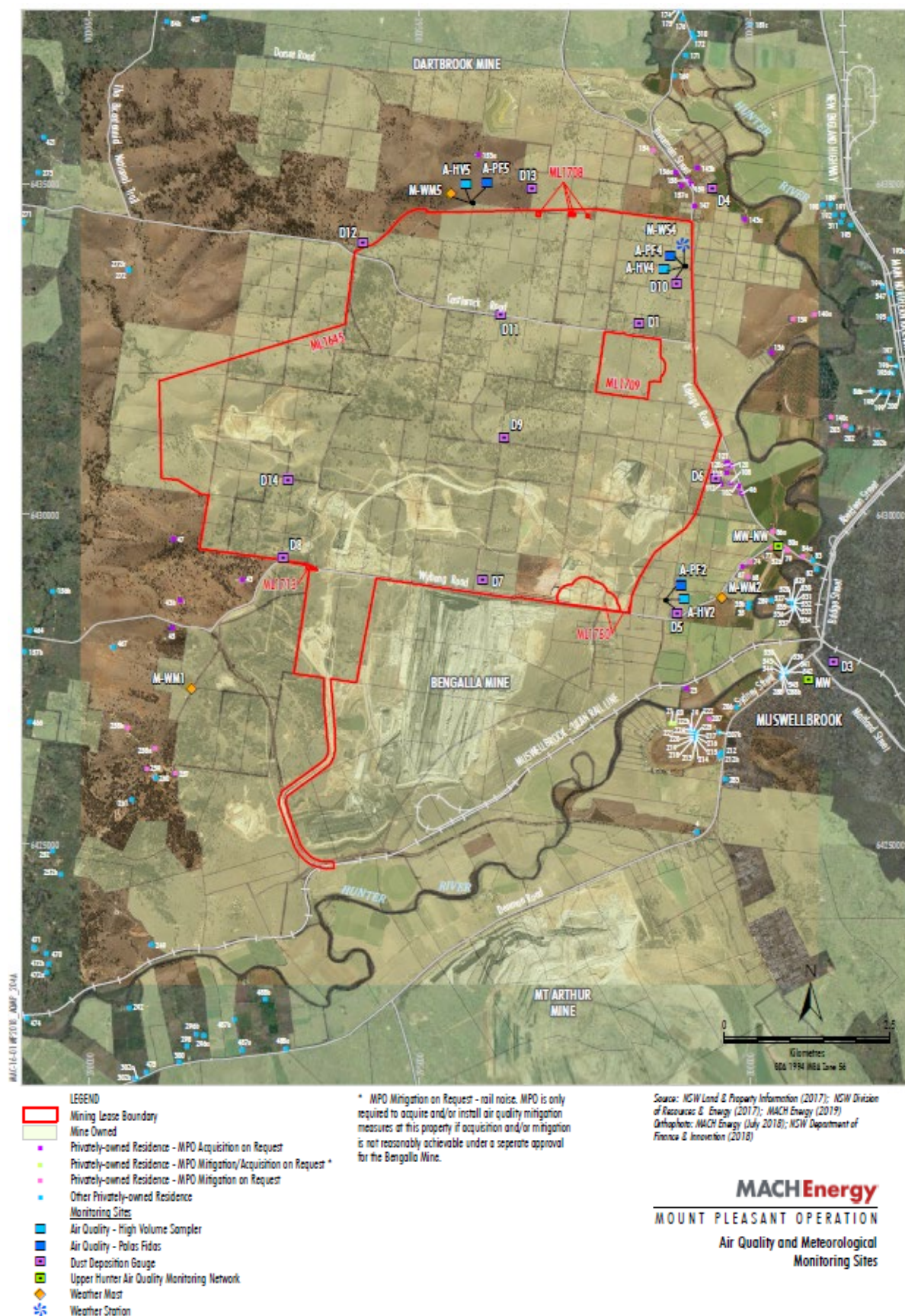
The MPO Environmental Monitoring Network is shown in the following figures:

- **Figure 2-1** shows MPO attended noise monitoring locations and Noise Assessment Groups (NAGs);
- **Figure 2-2** shows the MPO Air Quality Monitoring network;
- **Figure 2-3** shows the MPO Blast Monitoring Locations;
- **Figure 2-4** shows the MPO Groundwater Monitoring network; and
- **Figure 2-5** shows the MPO Surface Water Monitoring network.



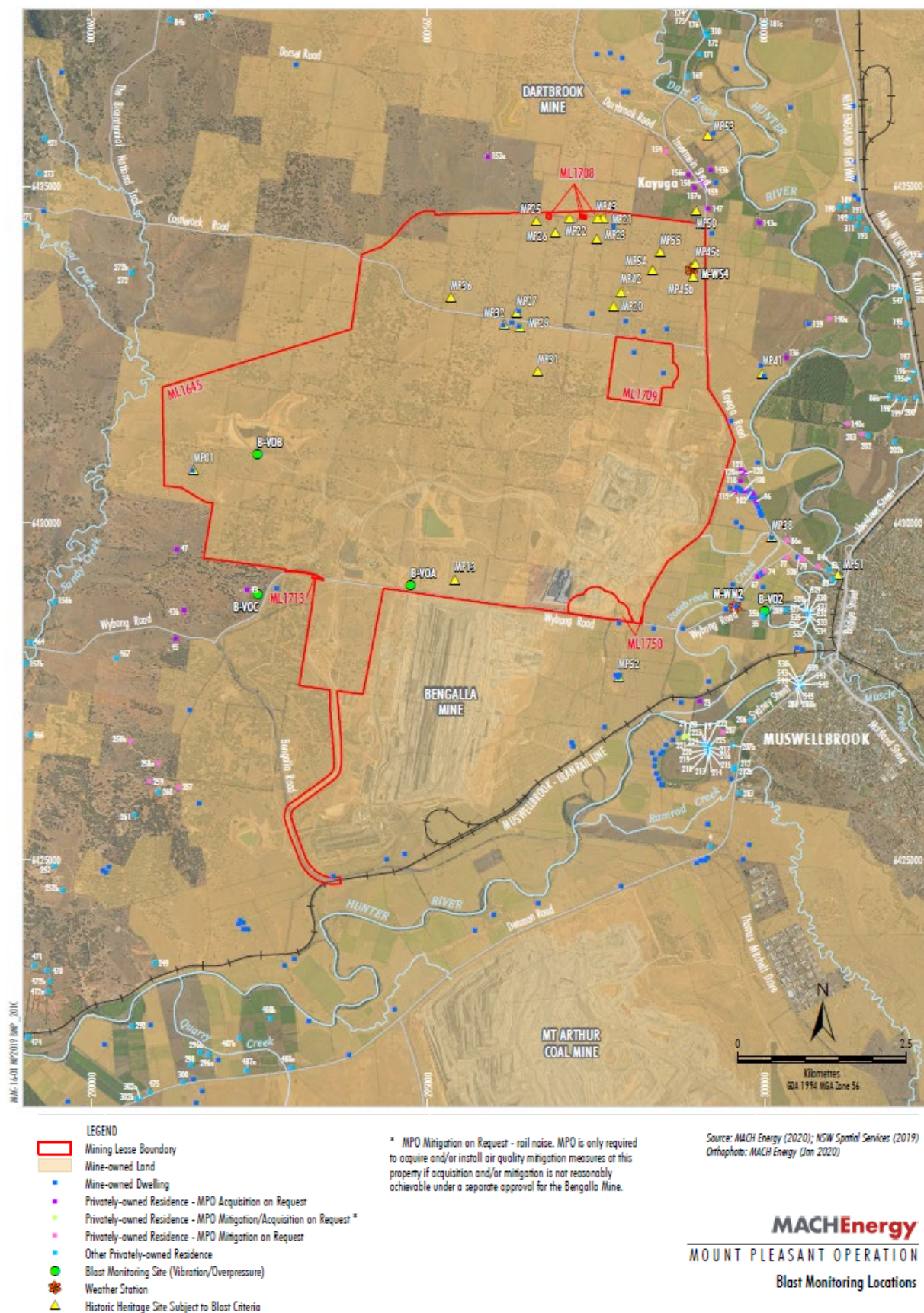
**Figure 2-1 – MPO Attended Noise Monitoring Assessment Groups and Locations**





**Figure 2-2 – MPO Air Quality and Meteorological Monitoring Network**



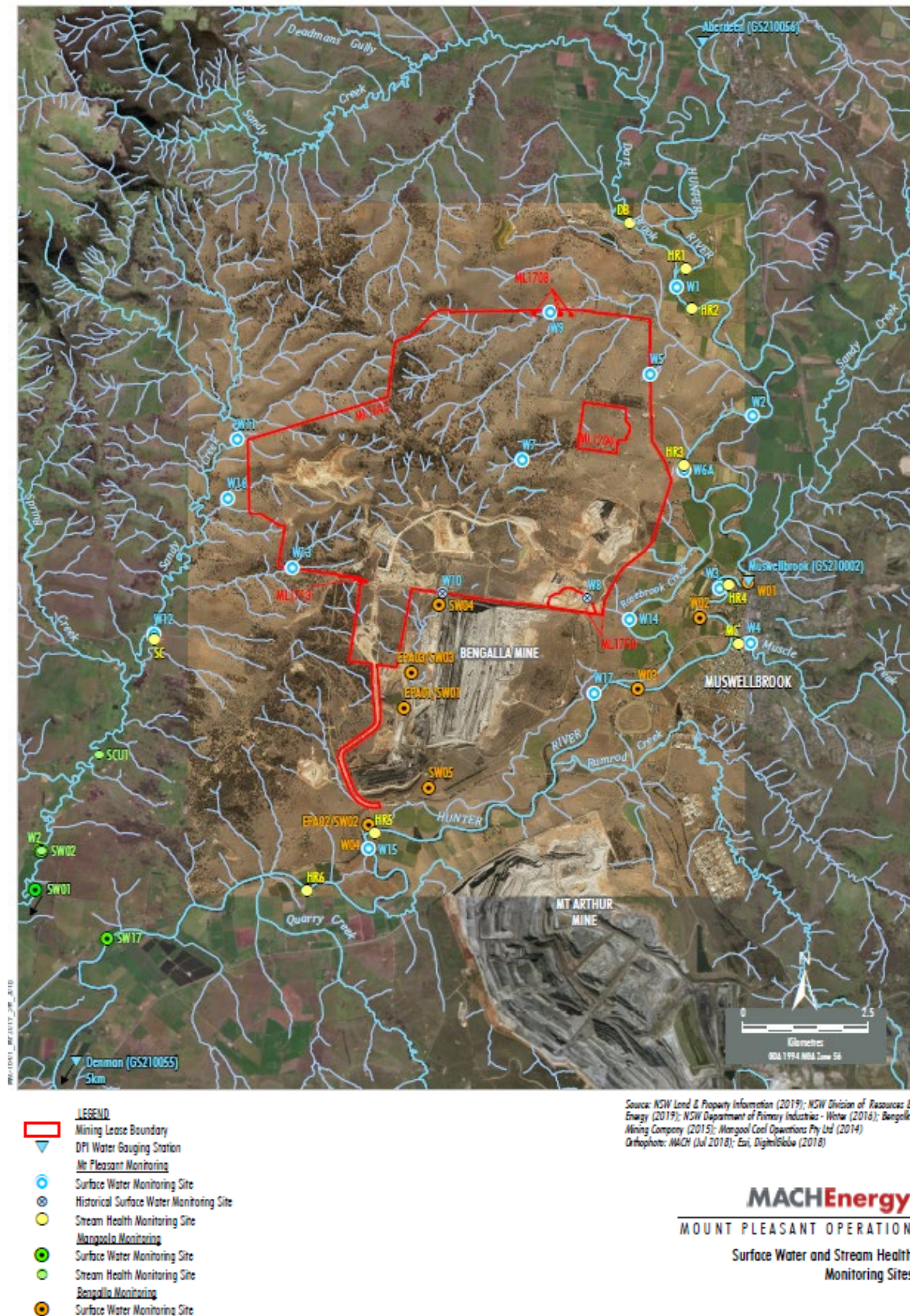


**Figure 2-3 – MPO Blast Monitoring Locations**









**Figure 2-5 – MPO Surface Water Monitoring Network**

### 3. Meteorological Monitoring

Weather data is measured continuously at the Kayuga Road (M-WS4) and the Wybong Road (M-WS2) meteorological stations. In addition to air quality parameters, the weather stations measure wind speed and direction (using the sigma theta method), temperature (at 2 m and 10 m), solar radiation, relative humidity, rainfall, atmospheric pressure.

The majority of meteorological data was captured at M-WS2 (>95.0%) during April 2021 (the monitoring period), with the exception of solar radiation (79.2%). The majority of meteorological data was captured at M-WS4 (95.3%) during the monitoring period, with the exception of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> (95.2%).

Throughout April 2021, there was 11.2mm and 10.8mm of rainfall recorded at M-WS2 and M-WS4, respectively.

### 4. Dust Depositional Monitoring

#### 4.1 Methodology

Dust deposition was monitored according to the OEH's Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in New South Wales (DECC 2007), which references Australian Standard (AS)/New Zealand Standard (NZS) 3580.10.1:2016 Methods for Sampling and Analysis of Ambient Air: Determination of particulate matter – Deposited matter – Gravimetric Method. The dust deposition monitoring network comprises of 13 dust deposition gauges (DDG). Details of the monitoring locations are shown in **Figure 2-2**.

DDG samples can be contaminated by a variety of means, notably by the presence of insects and bird droppings. Results for contaminated gauges were not included in the calculation of the annual averages as this would result in skewed or misleading results for the purpose of dust deposition assessment. The Australian Standard does not provide criteria for the determination of contamination of a DDG. A gauge sample is determined by AECOM to be contaminated only after reference to field observation sheets, historical monitoring location data, laboratory notes and results, prevailing atmospheric conditions and feedback from field technicians. For example, a gauge sample with a statistically abnormally high insoluble solids result, a low ash residue result (indicating a high level of organic matter) and field notation that bird droppings or insects were present is likely to be considered contaminated.

#### 4.2 Results

The dust deposition exposure period for all gauges commenced on 19 March 2021. Sample collection was undertaken on 16 April 2021 by AECOM with sample analysis performed by SRT, a NATA accredited laboratory. Results are summarised in **Table 4-1**. Annual rolling averages for April 2021 have been provided as an indication of performance between April 2020 – April 2021 and does not represent annual average results for 2021 as per Schedule 3, Condition 20 of DA 92/97.



**Table 4-1: Dust Depositional Results – April 2021**

Location	YTD Insoluble Solids (g/m <sup>2</sup> .month)	Insoluble Solids Annual Rolling Average (g/m <sup>2</sup> .month)
D1	1.7	2.1
D3a	0.4	2.0
D4	1.8	2.4
D5	2.2	2.8
D6	2.3	2.7
D7b <sup>1</sup>	5.7	***
D8	4.1	4.0
D9a	1.8	***
D10	0.8	1.1
D11	2.3	2.7
D12	0.9	1.5
D13	1.9	2.1
D14	3.5	3.0
<i>Criterion</i>	-	4

**Notes:**

Results in **bold** indicate an elevated measurement of adopted assessment criteria

\*\*Indicates result unavailable due to contaminated depositional dust gauges for YTD

\*\*\* annual rolling average not available as new site location

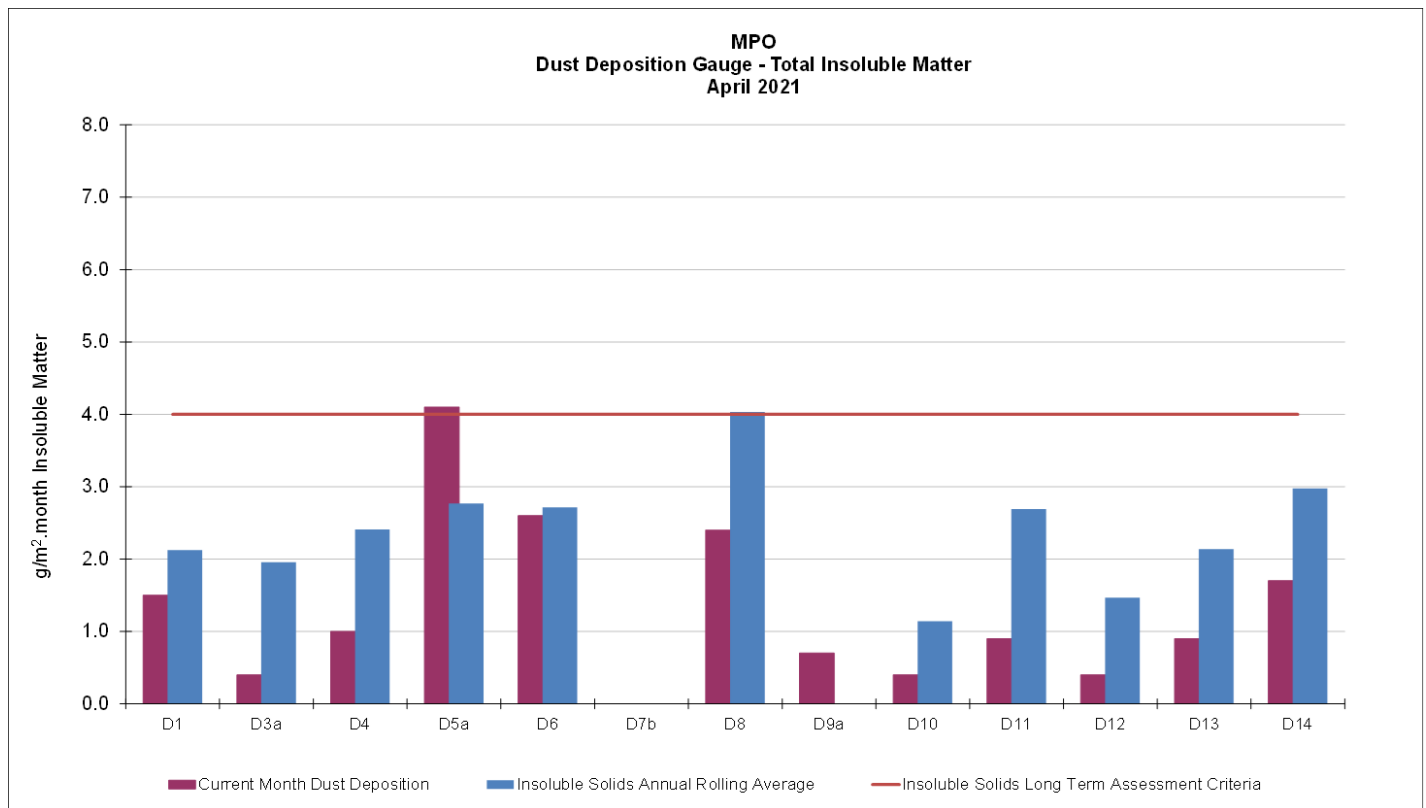
<sup>1</sup>Site D7b is located within close proximity to the northern boundary of a neighbouring mining company's main pit and thus is influenced by activities there. This site will continue to be monitored, however will not be used to assess compliance or to represent residential receivers in the area.

\* No data due to dust gauge removed during construction activities

Contaminated results, as described in Section 4.1, are not included in the 12 month rolling average. Site D7b is located within close proximity to the northern boundary of a neighbouring mining operation and thus can be influenced by this site. D7b will continue to be monitored, however will not be used to assess compliance or to represent residential receivers in the area. Furthermore, there are no privately-owned receivers in the vicinity of D8 and D14. Whilst these sites do not represent residence(s) on privately-owned land, they will continue to be monitored in accordance with the MPO Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan (MACH Energy, 2019).

Field notes from the April 2021 sampling event noted that all the gauges contained insects and one contained vegetation.

**Figure 4-1** compares the monthly insoluble solids results to the annual averages for each dust gauge and the assessment criterion.



**Figure 4-1: MPO Dust Deposition Monthly Results and Annual Rolling Average – April 2021**

## 5. Total Suspended Particulates

All High Volume Air Samplers (HVAS) are run for 24 hours every six days in accordance with AM-15 of Approved Methods for the Sampling and Analysis of Air Pollutants in New South Wales (DECC, 2007), referencing AS/NZS 3580.9.3:2015 Methods for sampling and analysis of ambient air – Determination of suspended particulate matter – Total suspended particulate matter (TSP) - High volume sampler gravimetric method, for the monitoring of TSP.

Three TSP HVAS units are included in the MPO air quality monitoring network and are displayed in **Table 5-1** below. These units were commissioned in March 2017.



**Table 5-1 Total Suspended Particulate Monitoring Sites**

ID	Description
A-PF2	Reilly's
M-WS4	Kayuga Road Met Station
A-PF5	Athlone

## 5.1 Assessment Criteria

TSP is assessed against the guidelines defined in the EPA Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in New South Wales (EPA 2016) and Project Approval DA 92/97. The DA 92/97 specifies an annual average project contribution plus background criterion of 90 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

## 5.2 Results

In April 2021 sample collection was undertaken by AECOM with sample analysis performed by Steel River Testing (SRT), a NATA accredited laboratory. TSP results for the monitoring period are provided in **Table 5-2**. Annual rolling averages for April 2021 have been provided as an indication of performance between April 2020 – April 2021 and do not represent annual average results for 2021 as per Schedule 3, Condition 20 of DA 92/97.

**Table 5-2 Total Suspended Particulate Monitoring Data – April 2021**

Run Date	Assessment Criterion	TSP µg/m <sup>3</sup>		
		HVAS A-PF2	HVAS M-WS4	HVAS A-PF5
3/04/2021	-	30.4	28.4	27.9
9/04/2021	-	59.9	22.4	20.0
15/04/2021	-	113	22.9	20.0
21/04/2021	-	51.8	25.0	24.6
27/04/2021	-	32.6	35.4	32.1
Monthly Mean	-	58	27	25
Annual Rolling Average	90	51	31	32

Note: Results in **bold** indicate an elevated reading

## 5.3 Discussion

For the reporting period, the annual rolling average TSP data at all sites was below the annual average criterion of 90 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

## 6. Real Time Air Quality Monitoring

Continuous particulate matter less than 10 µm (PM<sub>10</sub>) and particulate matter less than 2.5 µm (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) monitoring was conducted by three Palas Fidas units (one utilised for management only) at MPO during April 2021.

The EPA identification numbers 1 and 2 refer to Palas Fidas units installed on Wybong Road (A-PF2) and Dorset Road (A-PF5), respectively. In addition, a third unit (A-PF4) is installed on Kayuga Road with data used for management purposes only.

Real time PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> 12-month rolling averages for April 2021 have been provided in Section 6.2 and 6.4 respectively, as an indication of performance between April 2020 – April 2021 and do not represent annual average results for 2021 as per Schedule 3, Condition 20 of DA 92/97.

### 6.1 PM<sub>10</sub> Results – 24 hour rolling average

There were no elevated PM<sub>10</sub> measurements reported throughout April 2021. The Muswellbrook NW monitor was operational during all days of April 2021. Real time PM<sub>10</sub> 24 hour rolling average results for April 2021 are presented in **Table 6-1**.

**Table 6-1: MPO Palas Fidas PM<sub>10</sub> Data – April 2021**

Date	A-PF2/EPA ID 1	A-PF4	A-PF5/EPA ID 2	Muswellbrook NW	Muswellbrook NW 24 Hour Average Limit (µg/m³)	A-PF2, A-PF4, A-PF5 24 Hour Average Limit (µg/m³)
	24 hour Average Result					
1/04/2021	16	17	23	14	44	50
2/04/2021	12	10	18	10	44	50
3/04/2021	12	11	16	10	44	50
4/04/2021	17	10	15	13	44	50
5/04/2021	-	15	20	20	44	50
6/04/2021	-	10	15	11	44	50
7/04/2021	12	10	15	10	44	50
8/04/2021	12	12	16	10	44	50
9/04/2021	19	14	15	20	44	50
10/04/2021	21	16	25	20	44	50
11/04/2021	20	11	-	20	44	50
12/04/2021	19	12	-	18	44	50
13/04/2021	21	16	-	20	44	50
14/04/2021	23	13	-	26	44	50
15/04/2021	36	13	-	27	44	50
16/04/2021	24	18	-	25	44	50
17/04/2021	12	12	-	12	44	50
18/04/2021	14	14	16	12	44	50
19/04/2021	14	12	13	13	44	50
20/04/2021	17	13	13	15	44	50
21/04/2021	21	14	15	20	44	50
22/04/2021	17	11	12	22	44	50
23/04/2021	17	12	13	19	44	50



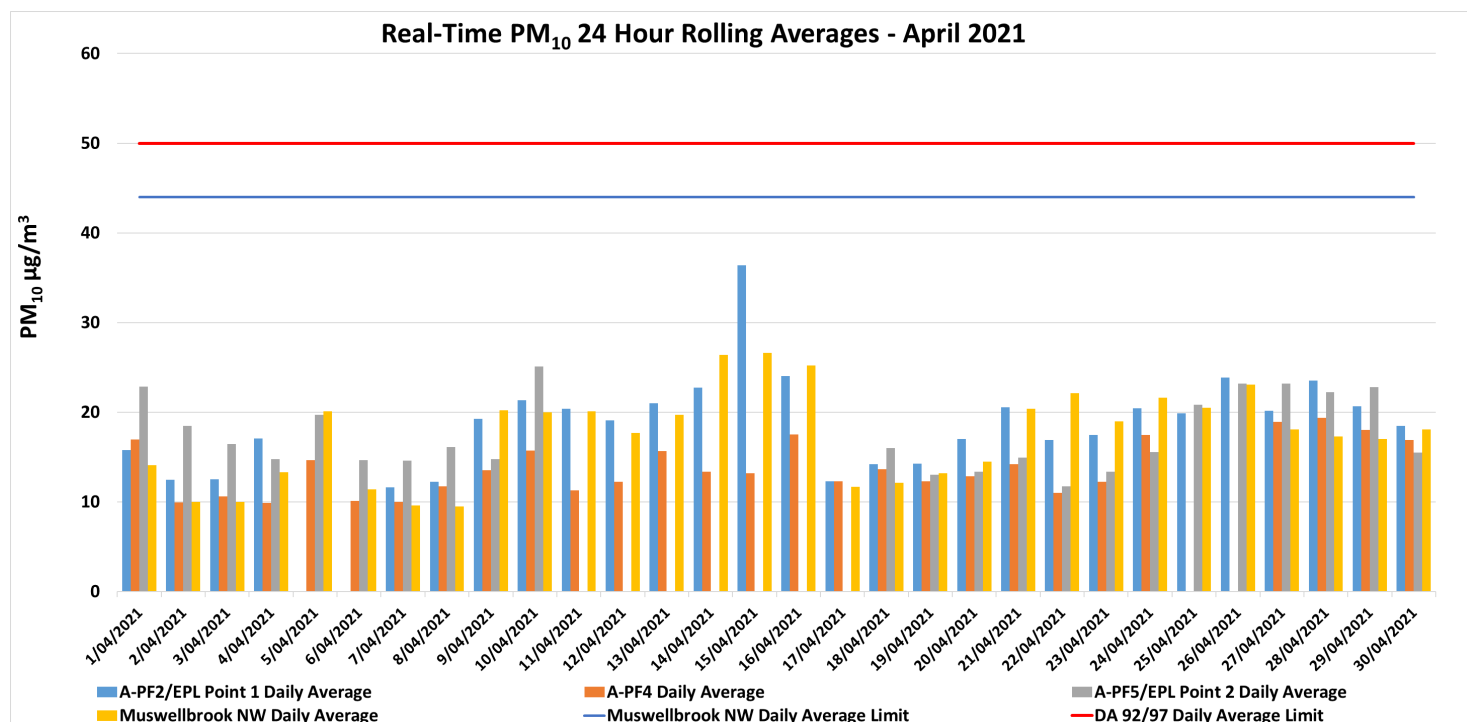
24/04/2021	20	17	16	22	44	50
25/04/2021	20	-	21	21	44	50
26/04/2021	24	-	23	23	44	50
27/04/2021	20	19	23	18	44	50
28/04/2021	24	19	22	17	44	50
29/04/2021	21	18	23	17	44	50
30/04/2021	18	17	16	18	44	50

Notes:

Results in bold indicate elevated readings during adverse weather conditions.

Results with "-" indicate dates where data was affected by maintenance or servicing (scheduled and unscheduled)

**Figure 6-1** below shows the results of real-time PM<sub>10</sub> 24 hour rolling average results at MPO air quality monitoring sites April 2021.



**Figure 6-1: Real-time PM<sub>10</sub> 24 hour rolling average results for April 2021.**

## 6.2 PM<sub>10</sub> Results – Annual rolling average

There were no elevated PM<sub>10</sub> measurements reported at MPO for the April 2021 annual rolling average. Real time PM<sub>10</sub> annual rolling averages for April 2021 are presented in **Figure 6-2** below.

Real-Time PM<sub>10</sub> Annual Rolling Average - April 2021

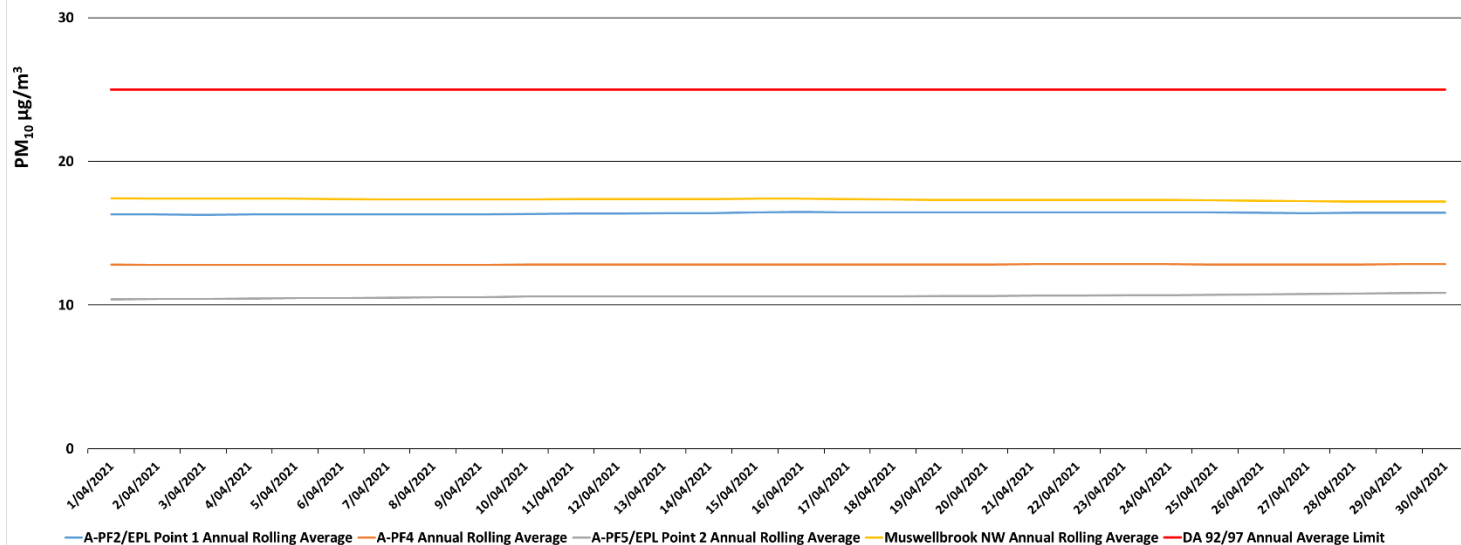


Figure 6-2: Real-time PM<sub>10</sub> Annual Rolling average results for April 2021.

### 6.3 PM<sub>2.5</sub> Results – 24 hour rolling average

There were no elevated PM<sub>2.5</sub> measurements reported throughout April 2021. Real time PM<sub>2.5</sub> 24 hour rolling average results for April 2021 are presented in **Table 6-2**.

Table 6-2: MPO Palas Fidas PM<sub>2.5</sub> Data – April 2021

Date	A-PF2/EPA ID 1	A-PF4	A-PF5/EPA ID 2	A-PF2, A-PF4, A-PF5 24 Hour Average Limit (µg/m³)
	24 hour Average Result			
1/04/2021	5	6	8	25
2/04/2021	4	4	6	25
3/04/2021	4	5	6	25
4/04/2021	5	4	5	25
5/04/2021	-	5	6	25
6/04/2021	-	4	6	25
7/04/2021	4	4	6	25
8/04/2021	5	5	5	25
9/04/2021	5	5	6	25
10/04/2021	6	6	7	25
11/04/2021	5	4	-	25
12/04/2021	4	4	-	25
13/04/2021	4	4	-	25
14/04/2021	5	5	-	25
15/04/2021	6	4	-	25
16/04/2021	7	7	-	25
17/04/2021	5	5	-	25



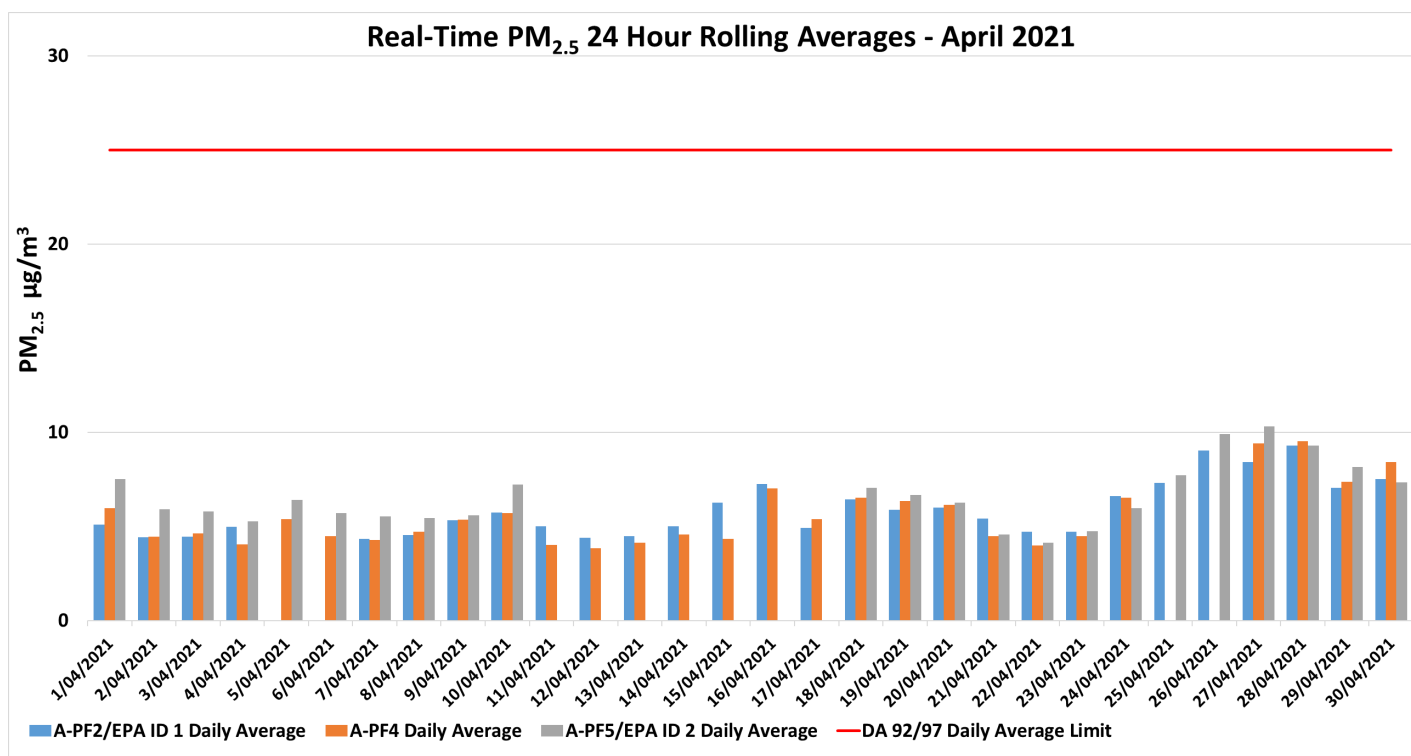
18/04/2021	6	7	7	25
19/04/2021	6	6	7	25
20/04/2021	6	6	6	25
21/04/2021	5	4	5	25
22/04/2021	5	4	4	25
23/04/2021	5	4	5	25
24/04/2021	7	7	6	25
25/04/2021	7	-	8	25
26/04/2021	9	-	10	25
27/04/2021	8	9	10	25
28/04/2021	9	10	9	25
29/04/2021	7	7	8	25
30/04/2021	8	8	7	25

Notes:

Results in **bold** indicate elevated readings during adverse weather conditions.

Results with "-" indicate dates where data was affected by maintenance or servicing (scheduled and unscheduled)

Real time PM<sub>2.5</sub> 24 hour average results for April 2021 are presented in **Figure 6-3** below.



**Figure 6-3: Real-time PM<sub>2.5</sub> 24 hour rolling average results for April 2021.**

## 6.4 PM<sub>2.5</sub> Results - Annual rolling average

There were no elevated PM<sub>2.5</sub> measurements reported at MPO for the April 2021 annual rolling average. Real time PM<sub>10</sub> annual rolling averages for April 2021 are presented in **Figure 6-4** below.

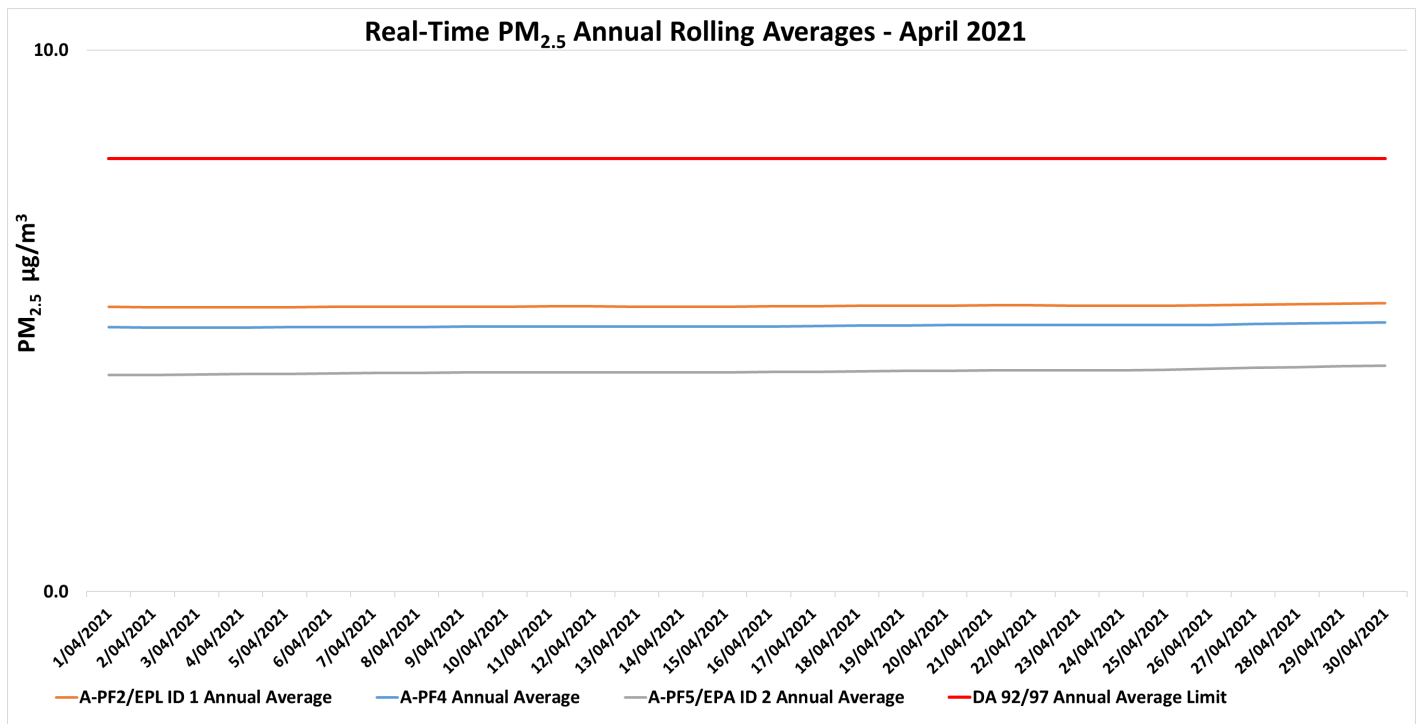


Figure 6-4: Real-time PM<sub>2.5</sub> Annual Rolling average results for April 2021.

## 7. Surface Water Monitoring

### 7.1 Methodology

Surface water quality is monitored at 15 sites on a monthly basis, with additional monitoring conducted if triggered by a rain event. A comprehensive suite of analysis is performed at these sites on a quarterly basis.

### 7.2 Assessment Criteria

Surface waters were assessed as per the MPO Water Management Plan (MACH Energy, 2019) in accordance with site specific trigger values that have been developed using the ANZECC (2000) guidelines for sites that contain a minimum of two years of monthly data. Sites with insufficient data are assessed on default trigger values adopted from ANZECC (2000) guidelines.

### 7.3 Results

Monthly and rain event surface water monitoring was conducted by AECOM on 28 April 2021. Laboratory analysis was performed by ALS which is a NATA accredited laboratory. Monthly monitoring results for pH, EC, TSS and TDS are presented in **Table 7-1**.

**Table 7-1 – MPO Monthly Surface Water Monitoring Results – 28 April 2021**

Station	pH	Electrical Conductivity (EC) (µs/cm) <sup>1</sup>	Total Suspended Solids (TSS) (mg/L)	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (mg/L)
W1	8.0	640	12	371
W2	8.0	720	17	402
W3	7.9	750	7	406
W4	7.6	1850	<5	1000
W5	*	*	*	*
W6A	8.2	<b>710</b>	6	396
W7	*	*	*	*
W9	*	*	*	*
W11	^	^	^	^
W12	7.5	4750	<5	2610
W13	^	^	^	^
W14	*	*	*	*
W15	7.9	820	12	454
W16	*	*	*	*
W17	8.0	<b>790</b>	16	436

Notes:

Results in **bold** indicate elevated reading of adopted assessment criteria.

\*Dry or insufficient water to sample.

\*\* TDS result calculated due to high TSS containing colloidal clay particles which have interfered with the Laboratory TDS result.

^ Indicates no safe access due to wet weather conditions

<sup>1</sup> Results have been rounded in accordance with the In-house method Q4AN(EV)-332-W13 (pH) and In-house method Q4AN(EV)-332-W12 (EC).

\*\* Calculated result due to interference from colloidal material interfering with laboratory result.

Seven of the fifteen monitoring locations were found to be dry or were not safely accessible on 28 April 2021. All sites sampled were below or inside the trigger level values with the exception of EC at W6A and W17. An investigation will be triggered if elevated measurements occur for three consecutive sampling events in accordance MPO Water Management Plan (MACH Energy, 2019).

## 8. Groundwater Monitoring

Quarterly groundwater monitoring was not undertaken during April 2021. The next scheduled monitoring event is in May 2021.

## 9. Noise Monitoring

Attended noise monitoring was undertaken during the night period of 12 April 2021 at 6 monitoring locations as per the MPO Noise Management Plan (MACH Energy, 2019) in accordance with DA 92/97 and EPL 20850.



## 9.1 Results

The results for night time attended noise monitoring for noise generated by MPO in April 2021 against noise criteria is shown in **Table 9-1**; **Table 9-2**; and **Table 9-3**.

**Table 9-1 –  $L_{A1,1min}$  Generated by MPO: Attended Night Monitoring – 12 April 2021**

Location	Start Date and Time	Wind Speed m/s	Stability Class	Criterion dB	Criterion Applies <sup>1</sup>	MPO Only $L_{A1,1min}$ dB <sup>2,4</sup>	Exceedance dB <sup>3,4</sup>
N-AT1	12/04/2021 23:46	1.7	D	45	Yes	44	Nil
N-AT2	12/04/2021 22:02	1.5	D	45	Yes	26	Nil
N-AT3	12/04/2021 23:03	0.8	F	45	Yes	37	Nil
N-AT4	13/04/2021 00:08	1.0	E	45	Yes	34	Nil
N-AT5	12/04/2021 23:42	1.6	D	45	Yes	<30	Nil
N-AT6	12/04/2021 22:37	0.9	F	45	Yes	IA	Nil

Notes:

- As per Condition L2.3 of EPL 20850, noise emission limits do not apply during wind speeds greater than 3m/s at 10m above ground level, or stability category F temperature inversion conditions and wind speeds greater than 2m/s at 10m above ground level, or stability category G temperature inversion conditions;
- Estimated or measured  $L_{A1,1minute}$  attributed to MPO;
- NA in exceedance column means meteorological conditions outside those specified in Condition L2.3 of EPL 20850 and thus criterion is not applicable; and
- Bold results indicate exceedance of criteria.
- IA indicates inaudible noise attributed to MPO.

**Table 9-2 –  $L_{Aeq,15min}$  Generated by MPO: Attended Night Monitoring – 12 April 2021**

Location	Start Date and Time	Wind Speed m/s	Stability Class	Criterion dB	Criterion Applies <sup>1</sup>	MPO Only $L_{Aeq}$ dB <sup>2,4</sup>	Exceedance dB <sup>3,4</sup>
N-AT1	12/04/2021 23:46	1.7	D	43	Yes	<30	Nil
N-AT2	12/04/2021 22:02	1.5	D	36	Yes	22	Nil
N-AT3	12/04/2021 23:03	0.8	F	41	Yes	35	Nil
N-AT4	13/04/2021 00:08	1.0	E	42	Yes	31	Nil
N-AT5	12/04/2021 23:42	1.6	D	40	Yes	<30	Nil
N-AT6	12/04/2021 22:37	0.9	F	35	Yes	IA	Nil

Notes:

- As per Condition L2.3 of EPL 20850, noise emission limits do not apply during wind speeds greater than 3m/s at 10m above ground level, or stability category F temperature inversion conditions and wind speeds greater than 2m/s at 10m above ground level, or stability category G temperature inversion conditions;
- Estimated or measured  $L_{Aeq,15minute}$  attributed to MPO;
- NA in exceedance column means meteorological conditions outside those specified in Condition L2.3 of EPL 20850 and thus criterion is not applicable; and
- Bold results indicate exceedance of criteria.

**Table 9-3 –  $L_{Aeq,period}$  Cumulative Noise: Attended Night Monitoring – 12 April 2021**

Location	Start Date and Time	Cumulative Noise Criterion $L_{Aeq}$ dB	Measured Mining Only $L_{Aeq,period}$ dB <sup>1,2</sup>	Exceedance dB
N-AT1	12/04/2021 23:46	40	36	Nil
N-AT2	12/04/2021 22:02	40	Nil	Nil
N-AT3	12/04/2021 23:03	40	Nil	Nil
N-AT4	13/04/2021 00:08	40	36	Nil
N-AT5	12/04/2021 23:42	40	31	Nil
N-AT6	12/04/2021 22:37	40	Nil	Nil

Notes:

- These are the results for MPO and all other mining sources. 15-minute measurements have been assumed to apply across the entire night period as a conservative measure and to represent "worst case" results; and
- By definition, cumulative noise refers to two or more noise sources. If only one other source of mining is audible, or if MPO is inaudible, the measured cumulative noise defined here is 'Nil'.

The purpose of the noise monitoring is to quantify and describe the existing acoustic environment around the mining operation and compare results with relevant limits as per the MPO Noise Management Plan (MACH Energy, 2019). Noise levels from MPO complied with noise limits at all monitoring locations during the monitoring period.

## 10. Blast Monitoring

There were 9 blast events during April (a total of 21 blasts YTD). Results for April 2021 are presented in **Table 10-1**. All blast results during the April 2021 monitoring period were below the criteria in Schedule 3, Condition 10 of DA 92/97 and EPL 20850 and therefore compliant.

**Table 10-1 – MPO Blast Monitoring Results – April 2021**

Day & Date Fired	Time Fired	Vibration (mm/s) BVOA	Overpressure (dBL) BVOA	Vibration (mm/s) BVOC	Overpressure (dBL) BVOC	Vibration (mm/s) BVO2	Overpressure (dBL) BVO2	Blast Fume Compliant
1/04/2021	13:35	0.280	97.2 DBL	0.190	103.2	0.540	94.1	Y
8/04/2021	13:06	0.010	89.4 DBL	0.010	91.4	0.000	82.1	Y
14/04/2021	13:23	0.140	107.7	0.080	100.3	0.260	112.1	Y
16/04/2021	12:27	1.770	105.9	0.780	97.9	1.060	97	Y
19/04/2021	13:00	0.170	94.3	0.100	82.7	0.170	95.7	Y

21/04/2021	13:05	0.210	89.3	0.180	94.6	0.260	92.5	Y
27/04/2021	12:56	0.510	99.3	0.240	91.3	0.360	97.2	Y
29/04/2021	14:48	0.300	93.3	0.260	93.6	0.680	93.8	Y