

Mount Pleasant Operation Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report

### 1. Introduction

The Mount Pleasant Operation (MPO) is located within 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

Name of Operation	Mount Pleasant Operation
Name of Licensee	MACH Energy Australia Pty Ltd
Environmental Protection Licence	20850
Project Approval	DA 92/97
Reporting Period Start Date	1 January 2024
Reporting Period End Date	31 January 2024
Date All Data Received	12 April 2024

Links to two key regulatory documents are provided here:

- MACH Energy Environment Protection Licence EPL 20850; and
- Mount Pleasant Operation Development Application Approval DA 92/97.

### 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 conducted 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.

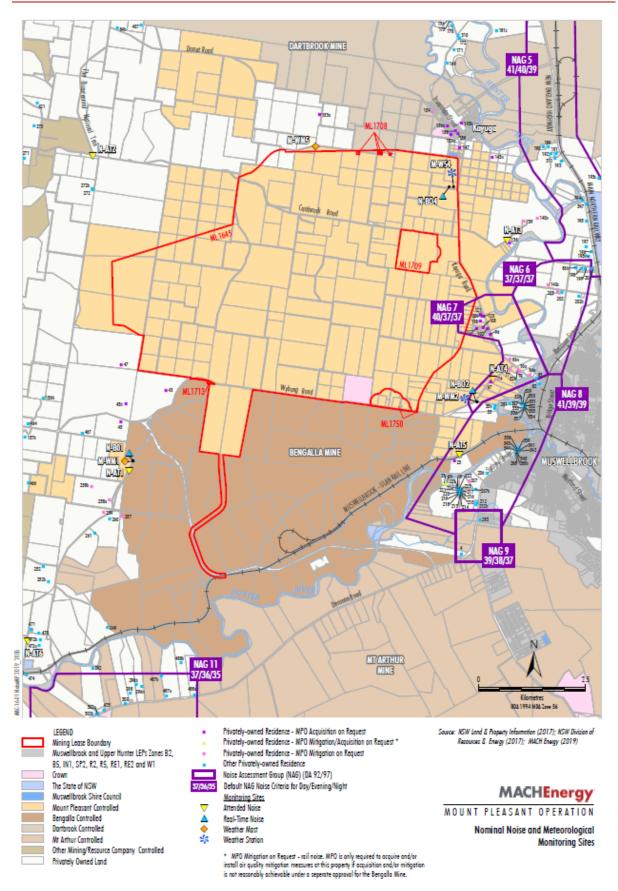
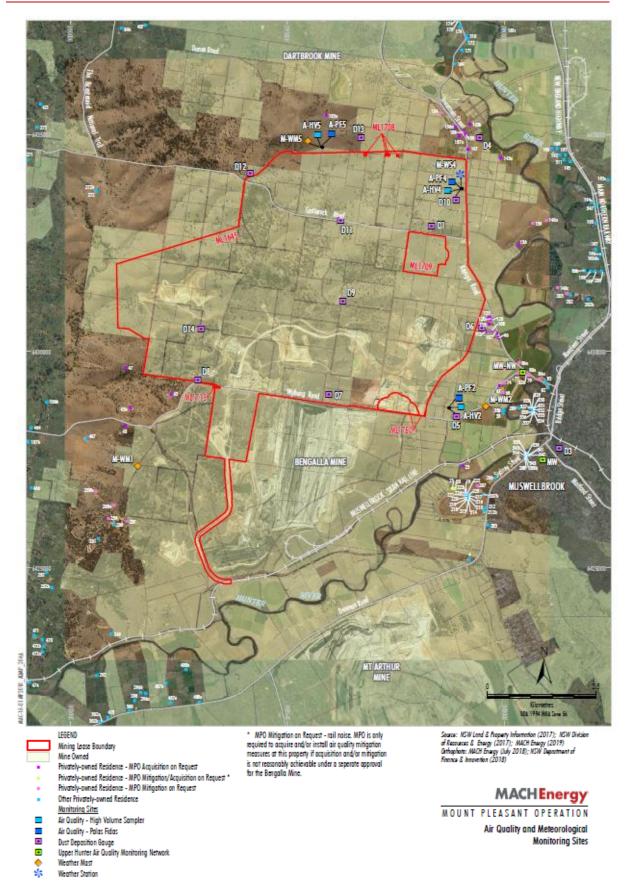
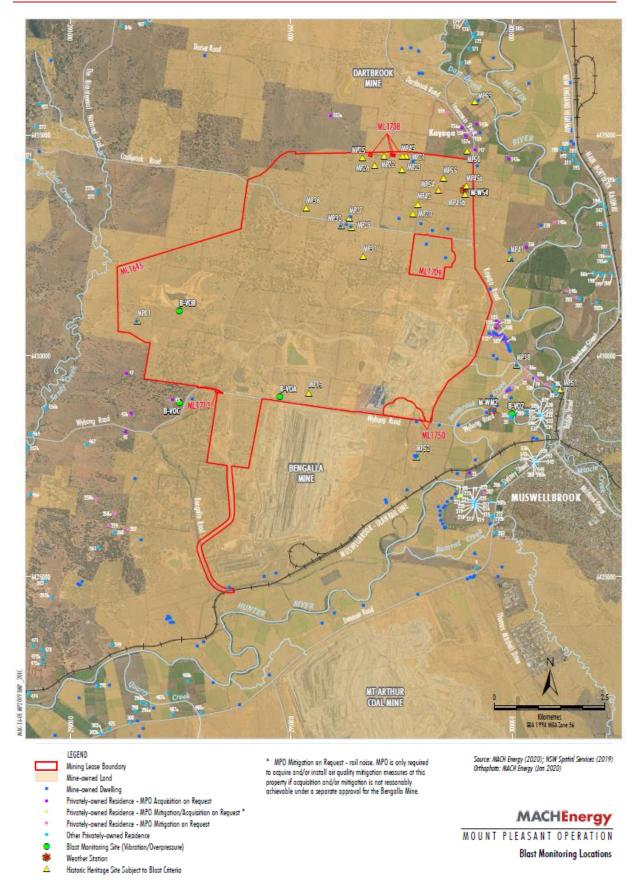


Figure 2-1 – MPO Attended Noise Monitoring Assessment Groups and Locations







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

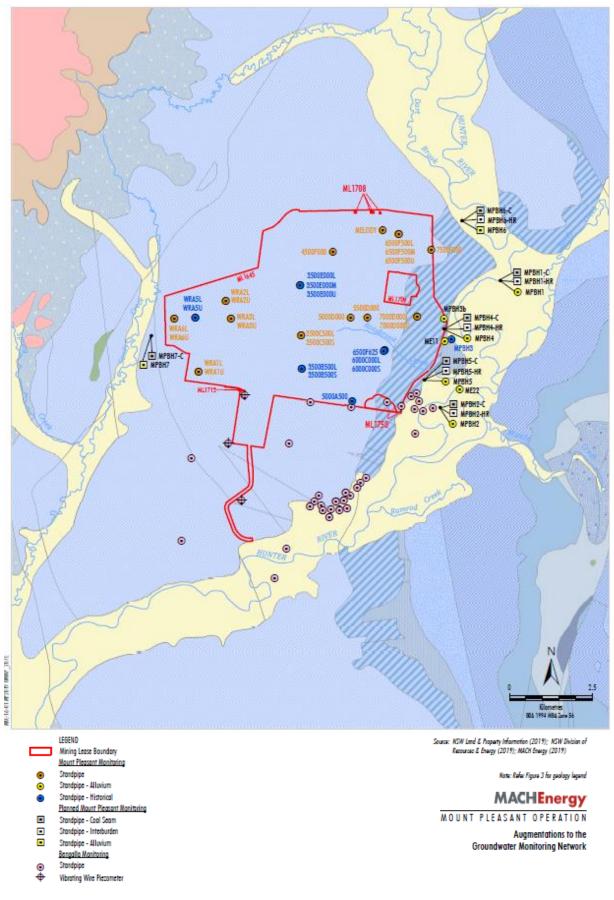
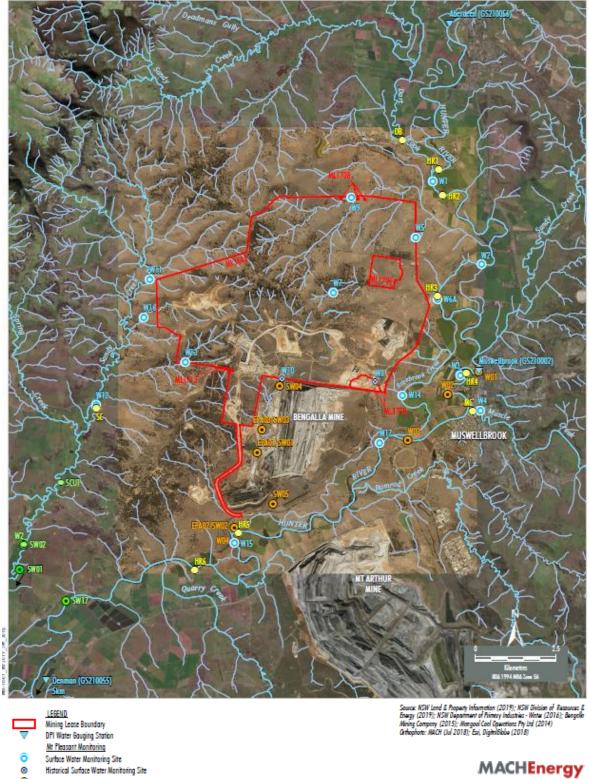


Figure 2-4 – MPO Groundwater Monitoring Network



0 Stream Health Monitoring Site Manacola Monitorina Surface Water Monitoring Site 0 Stream Health Monitoring Site Bengalla Monitoring

Surface Water Monitoring Site 0

MOUNT PLEASANT OPERATION Surface Water and Stream Health Monitoring Sites



### 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 ( $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$ ), the weather stations measure wind speed and direction, temperature (at 2 metres (m) and 10m), temperature inversion (using the sigma theta method), solar radiation, relative humidity, rainfall and atmospheric pressure.

Meteorological data was captured at M-WS2 (>90.0%) during January 2024 (the monitoring period) except for particulate matter less than 10  $\mu$ m (PM10) and particulate matter less than 2.5  $\mu$ m (PM2.5) (27.8%). Majority of this data was collected at M-WS4 (61.2%).

Throughout January 2024, there was 31.8mm and 36.6mm 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. AECOM determines a gauge sample 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 an elevated 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 gauges commenced on 27 December 2023. Sample collection was undertaken on 25 January 2024 by AECOM with sample analysis performed by ALS, a National Accreditation and Testing Authority (NATA) accredited laboratory. Results are summarised in **Table 4-1**. Annual rolling averages for January 2024 have been provided as an indication of performance between January 2023 – January 2024 and does not represent annual average results for 2024 as per Schedule 3, Condition 20 of DA 92/97.

Location	YTD Insoluble Solids (g/m².month)	Insoluble Solids Annual Rolling Average (g/m².month)	
D1	2.2	1.9	
D3	1.6	1.9	
D4	1.5	1.3	
D5a	1.4	2.8	
D6	2.0	2.5	
D7b	6.9	7.6	
D8	3.6	3.9	
D9a	4.1	4.2	
D10	0.5	1.0	
D11	3.6	3.1	
D12	1.4	1.1	
D13	1.1	1.3	
D14	2.2	3.5	
Criterion	-	4	

#### Table 4-1: Dust Depositional Results – January 2024

Notes:

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

\* Insufficient monthly results to calculate annual average

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, D9 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 January sampling event noted that all the gauges contained insects, five contained vegetation and one contained bird droppings. Field notes indicated that gauge D4 had segments of the plastic lid broken in the gauge. Contents were clear in colour and turbidity. Gauge 9a was noted to be light grey in colour and turbid. Gauge 7b was noted to be brown in colour and very turbid. The insoluble solids result for site D7b and D9a were not included in the annual average calculation. All other January 2024 insoluble solid results were included in the annual rolling average calculations.

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

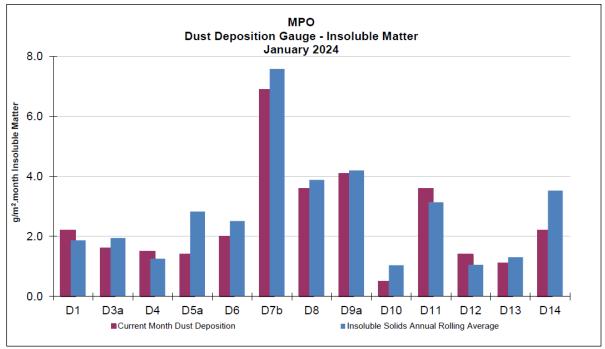


Figure 4-1: MPO Dust Deposition Monthly Results and Annual Rolling Average – January 2024

### 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.

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

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

#### 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  $\mu$ g/m<sup>3</sup>.

#### 5.2 Results

Sample collection was undertaken by AECOM with sample analysis performed by ALS, a NATA accredited laboratory. TSP results for the monitoring period are provided in **Table 5-2**. Annual rolling averages for January 2024 have been provided as an indication of performance between January 2023 – January 2024 and do not represent annual average results for 2024 as per Schedule 3, Condition 20 of DA 92/97.

	Assessment	TSP μg/m³					
Run Date	Criterion	HVAS A- PF2	HVAS A-PF5	HVAS M-WS4			
06/01/2024	-	49.2	43.0	24.2			
12/01/2024	-	37.7	73.4	25.3			
18/01/2024	-	59.2	12.8	11.0			
24/01/2024	-	76.9	66.1	45.8			
30/01/2024	-	61.5	89.6	47.5			
*Monthly Mean	-	56.9	57.0	30.8			
Annual Rolling Average	90	63	55	39			

Table 5-2 Total Suspended Particulate Monitoring Data – January 2024

Notes:

Results in **bold** indicate an elevated reading.

\*Results have been rounded to one decimal place for reporting purposes where applicable.

#### 5.3 Discussion

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

### 6. Real Time Air Quality Monitoring

Continuous particulate matter less than 10  $\mu$ m (PM<sub>10</sub>) and particulate matter less than 2.5  $\mu$ m (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) monitoring was conducted by three Palas Fidas units (one utilised for management only) at MPO during January 2024.

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  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$  12-month rolling averages for January 2024 have been provided in Section 6.2 and 6.4 respectively, as an indication of performance during 2024 as per Schedule 3, Condition 20 of DA 92/97.

#### 6.1 **PM**<sub>10</sub> Results – 24 Hour Rolling Average

In accordance with the DA 92/97 limit of 50  $\mu$ g/m3 for the 24-hour daily average, there were no elevated readings in January 2024. Real time PM<sub>10</sub> 24-hour daily average results for January 2024 are presented in **Table 6-1**.

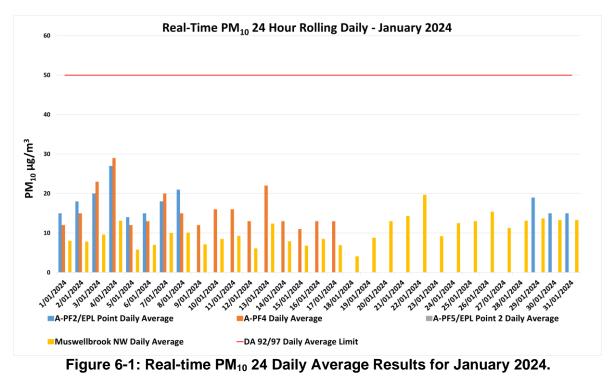
#### Table 6-1: MPO Palas Fidas PM<sub>10</sub> Data – January 2024

Date	A-PF2 EPA ID 1	A-PF4	A-PF5 EPA ID 2	Muswellbrook NW	A-PF2, A-PF4, A-PF5 24 Hour		
Juli		24-hour Average Result					
1/01/2024	15	12	-	8	<mark>(μg/m³)</mark> 50		
2/01/2024	18	15	-	7.8	50		
3/01/2024	20	23	-	9.6	50		
4/01/2024	27	29	-	13.1	50		
5/01/2024	14	12	-	5.8	50		
6/01/2024	15	13	-	7	50		
7/01/2024	18	20	-	10	50		
8/01/2024	21	15	-	10.1	50		
9/01/2024	-	12	-	7.1	50		
10/01/2024	-	16	-	8.5	50		
11/01/2024	-	16	-	9.3	50		
12/01/2024	-	13	-	6.1	50		
13/01/2024	-	22	-	12.4	50		
14/01/2024	-	13	-	7.9	50		
15/01/2024	-	11	-	6.8	50		
16/01/2024	-	13	-	8.5	50		
17/01/2024	-	13	-	6.9	50		
18/01/2024	-	-	-	4.1	50		
19/01/2024	-	-	-	8.8	50		
20/01/2024	-	-	-	13	50		
21/01/2024	-	-	-	14.3	50		
22/01/2024	-	-	-	19.7	50		
23/01/2024	-	-	-	9.2	50		
24/01/2024	-	-	-	12.5	50		
25/01/2024	-	-	-	13	50		
26/01/2024	-	-	-	15.4	50		
27/01/2024	-	-	-	11.3	50		
28/01/2024	-	-	-	13.1	50		
29/01/2024	19	-	-	13.7	50		
30/01/2024	15	-	-	13.3	50		
31/01/2024	15	-	-	13.3	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 daily average results at MPO air quality monitoring sites January 2024.



#### 6.2 PM<sub>10</sub> Results – Annual Rolling Average

There was no exceedance of the  $PM_{10}$  annual rolling average reported at MPO during January 2024. Real time  $PM_{10}$  annual rolling averages during the reporting period are presented in **Figure 6-2** below.

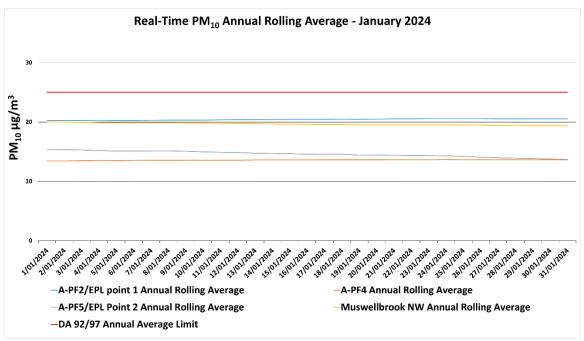


Figure 6-2: Real-time PM<sub>10</sub> Annual Rolling Average Results for January 2024.

#### 6.3 PM<sub>2.5</sub> Results – 24 Hour Daily Average

There was no exceedance of the  $PM_{2.5}$  annual rolling average reported at MPO during January 2024. Real time  $PM_{2.5}$  24 hour rolling average results for January 2024 are presented in **Table 6-2.** 

	A-PF2/EPA ID 1	A-PF4	A-PF5/EPA ID 2	A-PF2, A- PF4, A-PF5
Date		24-hour Average Result		
1/01/2024	6	5	-	Limit (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) 25
2/01/2024	6	6	-	25
3/01/2024	6	6	-	25
4/01/2024	10	10	-	25
5/01/2024	6	5	-	25
6/01/2024	5	5	-	25
7/01/2024	6	6	-	25
8/01/2024	7	5	-	25
9/01/2024	-	5	-	25
10/01/2024	-	6	-	25
11/01/2024	-	7	-	25
12/01/2024	-	5	-	25
13/01/2024	-	8	-	25
14/01/2024	-	5	-	25
15/01/2024	-	5	-	25
16/01/2024	-	5	-	25
17/01/2024	-	5	-	25
18/01/2024	-	-	-	25
19/01/2024	-	-	-	25
20/01/2024	-	-	-	25
21/01/2024	-	-	-	25
22/01/2024	-	-	-	25
23/01/2024	-	-	-	25
24/01/2024	-	-	-	25
25/01/2024	-	-	-	25
26/01/2024	-	-	-	25
27/01/2024	-	-	-	25
28/01/2024	-	-	-	25
29/01/2024	-	-	-	25
30/01/2024	-	-	-	25
31/01/2024	-	-	-	25
Notes:	1	1	1	

#### Table 6-2: MPO Palas Fidas PM<sub>2.5</sub> Data – January 2024

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 January 2024 are presented in Figure 6-3 below.

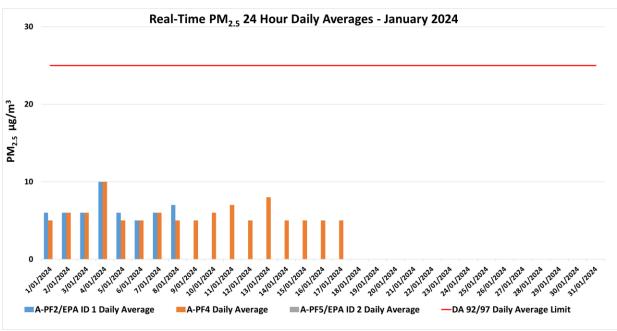


Figure 6-3: Real-time PM<sub>2.5</sub> 24 hour Daily Average Results for January 2024.

#### 6.4 PM<sub>2.5</sub> Results - Annual Rolling Average

There was no exceedance of the  $PM_{2.5}$  annual rolling average reported at MPO during January 2024. Real time  $PM_{2.5}$  annual rolling averages during the reporting period are presented in **Figure 6-4** below.

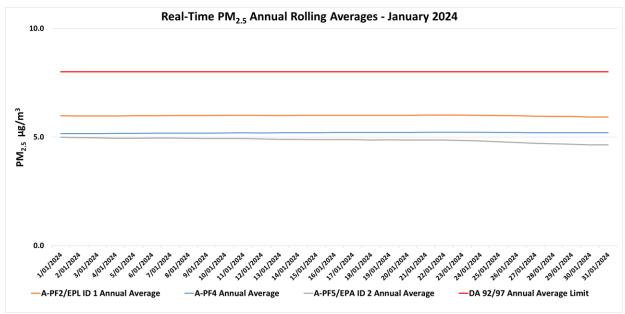


Figure 6-4: Real-time PM<sub>2.5</sub> Annual Rolling Average Results for January 2024.

### 7. Surface Water Monitoring

#### 7.1 Methodology

Surface water quality is monitored at 14 sites on a monthly basis, with additional monitoring conducted if triggered by a rain event. A more comprehensive suite of analysis is performed at these sites on a quarterly basis.

#### 7.2 Assessment Criteria

Surface waters were assessed as per the <u>MPO Water Management Plan</u> (MACH Energy, 2022) in accordance with site specific trigger values that have been developed using the <u>ANZECC</u> (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

Surface water and rain event monitoring was conducted by AECOM on 30 January 2024 respectively. Laboratory analysis was performed by ALS NATA accredited laboratory. Monthly monitoring results for pH, EC, TSS and Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) are presented in **Table 7-1**.

Station	рН	Electrical Conductivity (EC) (µs/cm) <sup>1</sup>	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (mg/L)	Total Suspended Solids (TSS) (mg/L)
W1	8.2	420	280	22
W2	8.2	460	280	14
W3	8.1	470	300	16
W4	7.9	1900	1300	16
W5	*	*	*	*
W6A	8.3	460	290	36
W9	*	*	*	*
W11	7.7	5050	3000	7.6
W12	8.2	5000	2900	7.3
W13	*	*	*	*
W14	*	*	*	*
W15	8.0	590	350	30
W16	*	*	*	*
W17	8.1	490	330	15

#### Table 7-1 – MPO Monthly Surface Water Monitoring Results – 30 January 2024

Note: Results in **bold** indicate exceedances of adopted assessment criteria.

\*Dry or insufficient water to sample.

<sup>1</sup> Results have been rounded in accordance with the In-house method Q4AN(EV)-332-WI2 (EC).

During the 30 January monitoring event, five (5) sites were dry or contained insufficient water to sample. All sites were within their respective EC and pH trigger levels. All sites were below their respective TSS trigger levels with the exception of W6A.

An investigation is triggered if elevated measurements occur for three consecutive sampling events in accordance MPO Water Management Plan (MACH Energy, 2022).

### 8. Groundwater Monitoring

Groundwater monitoring did not occur this in this reporting period. The next quarterly monitoring event is scheduled for February 2024.

### 9. Noise Monitoring

Attended noise monitoring was undertaken during the night period of 11/12 January 2024 at six (6) monitoring locations as per the <u>MPO Noise Management Plan</u> (MACH Energy, 2021) in accordance with DA 92/97 and EPL 20850.

#### 9.1 Results

The results for nighttime attended noise monitoring for noise generated by MPO in January 2024 against noise criteria is shown in **Table 9-1**; **Table 9-2**; and **Table 9-3**.

Location	Start Date and Time	MPO Only L <sub>A1,1min</sub> dB <sup>2.4</sup>	Criterion dB	Wind Speed m/s	Criterion Applies <sup>1</sup>	Stability Class	Exceedance dB <sup>3</sup>
N-AT1	12/01/2024 00:29	IA	45	1.1	Yes	В	No
N-AT2	11//01/2024 22:17	IA	45	7.5	No	D	NA
N-AT3	11/01/2024 22:49	IA	45	6.9	No	D	NA
N-AT4	11/01/2024 23:14	IA	45	4.8	No	D	NA
N-AT5	11/01/2024 23:35	IA	45	4.5	No	D	NA
N-AT6	12/01/2024 00:07	IA	45	2.0	Yes	D	No

### Table 9-1 – L<sub>A1,1min</sub> Generated by MPO: Attended Night Monitoring – 11/12 January 2024

Notes:

1. 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.

2. Estimated or measured L<sub>A1,1minute</sub> attributed to MPO.

3. NA in exceedance column means meteorological conditions outside those specified in Condition L2.3 of EPL 20850 and thus criterion is not applicable.

4. IA = inaudible; and

5. Bold results indicate exceedance of criteria.

6. Monitoring at N-AT5 was unable to be conducted due to a road closure.

### Table 9-2 – L<sub>Aeq,15min</sub> Generated by MPO: Attended Night Monitoring – 11/12 January 2024

			2024				
Location	Start Date and Time	MPO Only L <sub>A1,1min</sub> dB <sup>2.4</sup>	Criterion dB	Wind Speed m/s	Criterion Applies <sup>1</sup>	Stability Class	Exceedance dB <sup>3</sup>
N-AT1	12/01/2024 00:29	IA	43	1.1	Yes	В	No
N-AT2	11//01/2024 22:17	IA	36	7.5	No	D	NA
N-AT3	11/01/2024 22:49	IA	41	6.9	No	D	NA
N-AT4	11/01/2024 23:14	IA	42	4.8	No	D	NA
N-AT5	11/01/2024 23:35	IA	40	4.5	No	D	NA
N-AT6	12/01/2024 00:07	IA	35	2.0	Yes	D	No

Notes:

1. 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.

2. Estimated or measured L<sub>Aeq,15minute</sub> attributed to MPO.

3. IA = inaudible; and

4. Bold results indicate exceedance of criteria.

5. Monitoring at N-AT5 was unable to be conducted due to a road closure.

### Table 9-3 – LAeq, period Cumulative Noise: Attended Night Monitoring – 11/12 January 2024

Location	Start Date and Time	Cumulative Noise Criterion LAeq dB	Measured Mining Only L <sub>Aeq, period</sub> dB <sup>1,2,3</sup>	Exceedance dB
N-AT1	12/01/2024 00:29	40	IA	No
N-AT2	11//01/2024 22:17	40	IA	NA
N-AT3	11/01/2024 22:49	40	IA	NA
N-AT4	11/01/2024 23:14	40	IA	NA
N-AT5	11/01/2024 23:35	40	IA	NA
N-AT6	12/01/2024 00:07	40	IA	No

Notes:

1. 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

2. 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'.

3. NA in exceedance column means criterion was not applicable due to atmospheric conditions.

4. Monitoring at N-AT5 was unable to be conducted due to a road closure.

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, 2021).

### **10.** Blast Monitoring

There were 6 blast events during January (a total of 6 blasts YTD). Results for January 2024 are presented in **Table 10-1**. All blast results during this monitoring period were below the criteria stated in Schedule 3, Condition 10 of DA 92/97 and L5 of EPL 20850.

Day & Date Fired	Time Fired	BVOC Vibration (mm/s)	BVOC Overpressure (dBL)	BVO2 Vibration (mm/s)	BVO2 Overpressure (dBL)	Blast Fume Compliant
Thursday 04/01/2024	13:00	0.380	100.5	0.150	98.6	Y
Thursday 11/01/2024	14:22	2.040	107.1	1.770	96.8	Y
Wednesday 17/01/2024	13:03	0.270	101.5	0.230	94.8	Y
Thursday 18/01/2024	15:10	0.270	99.5	0.320	104.1	Y
Wednesday 24/01/2024	13:04	0.180	96.8	0.360	95.0	Y
Wednesday 31/01/2024	13:25	0.210	86.3	0.390	89.2	Y

#### Table 10-1 – MPO Blast Monitoring Results - January 2024

#### **END OF REPORT**