

Mount Pleasant Operation Monthly Environmental Monitoring Report

January 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

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 2021	
Reporting Period End Date	31 January 2021	
Date All Data Received	1 March 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-20850-20-January-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.

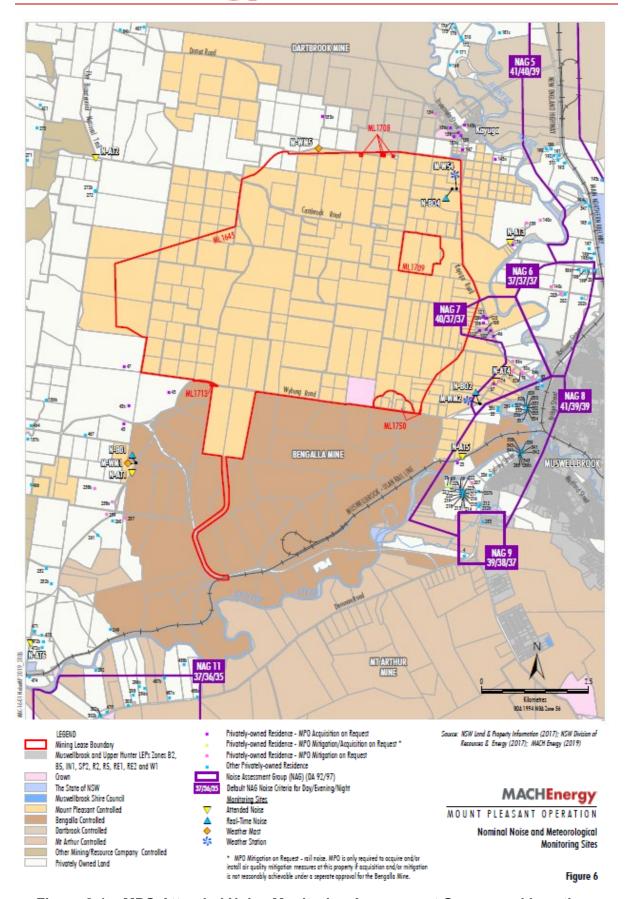


Figure 2-1 - MPO Attended Noise Monitoring Assessment Groups and Locations

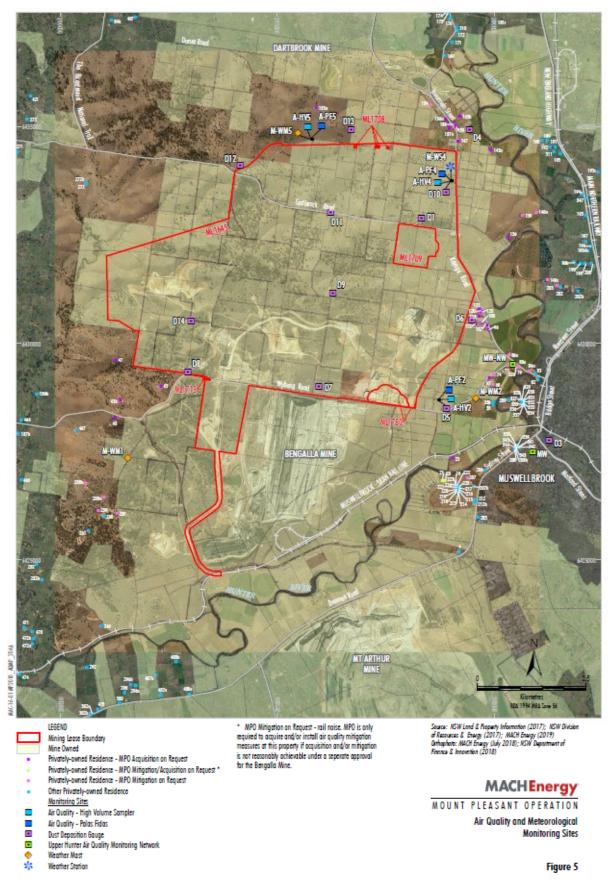


Figure 2-2 – MPO Air Quality and Meteorological Monitoring Network

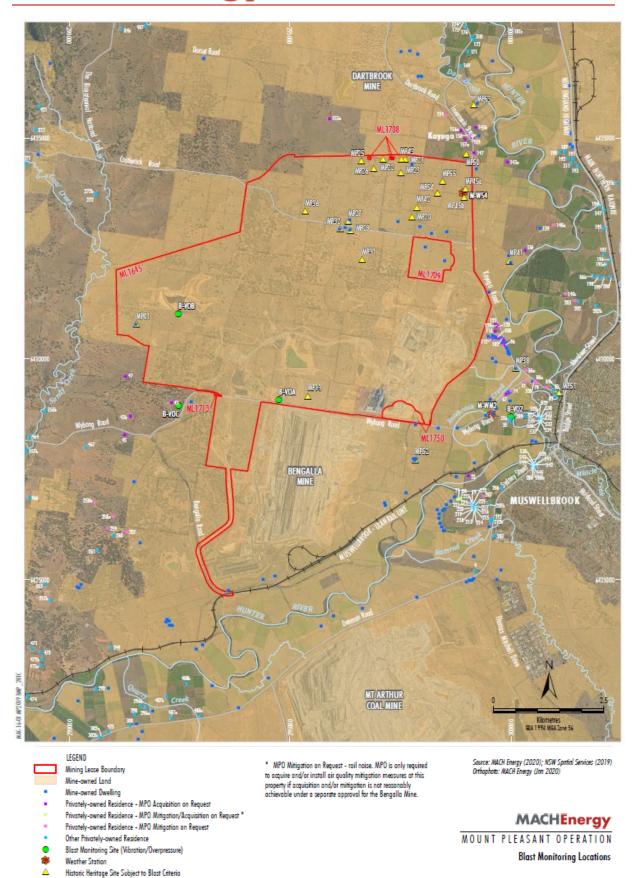


Figure 2-3 – MPO Blast Monitoring Locations

Figure 2

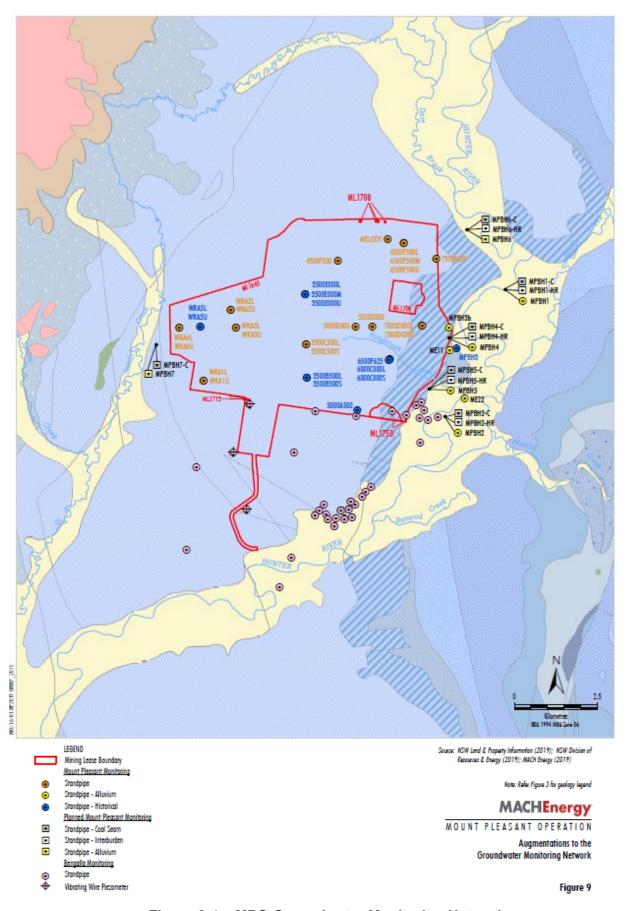


Figure 2-4 – MPO Groundwater Monitoring Network

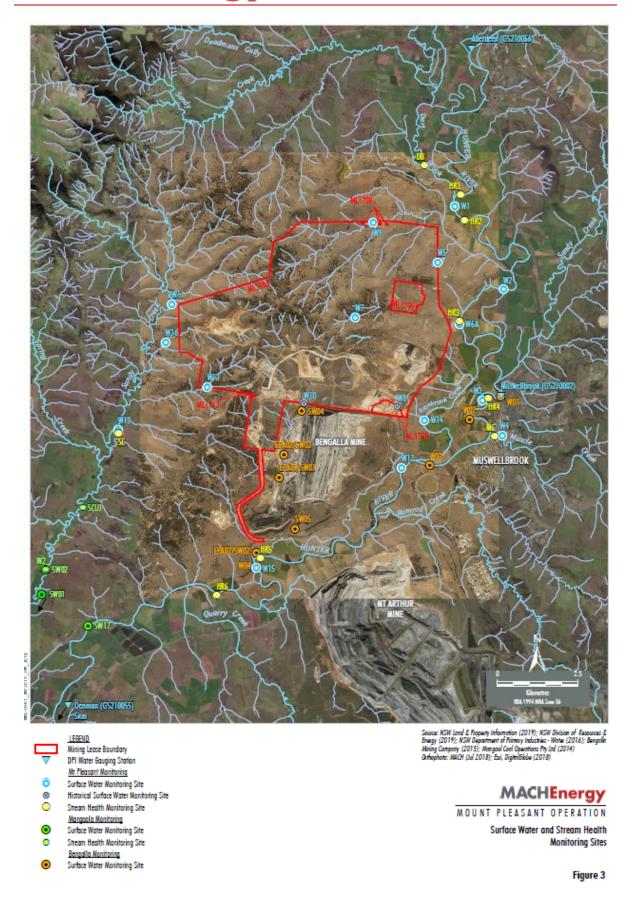


Figure 2-5 – MPO Surface Water Monitoring Network



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, temperature (at 2 m and 10 m), solar radiation, relative humidity, rainfall, atmospheric pressure, and sigma theta.

The majority of meteorological data was captured at M-WS2 (>99.8%) during the January 2021 monitoring period, with the exception of solar radiation (88.7%). All meteorological data was captured at M-WS4 during the January 2021 monitoring period, with the exception of PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ (77.0%).

Throughout January 2021, there was 64.8 and 70.4mm 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 17 December 2020. Sample collection was undertaken on 18 January 2021 by AECOM with sample analysis performed by SRT, a NATA accredited laboratory. Results are summarised in **Table 4-1**. Annual rolling averages for January 2021 have been provided as an indication of performance between January 2020 – January 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 - January 2021

Location	YTD Insoluble Solids (g/m².month)	Insoluble Solids Annual Rolling Average (g/m².month)
D1	1.3	2.3
D3a	**	2.6
D4	3.2	2.9
D5	0.8	2.9
D6^	2.3	2.8
D7b¹	5.2	***
D8	3.6	4.5
D9a	2.2	***
D10	1.3	1.5
D11	2.9	3.2
D12	1.9	1.9
D13	1.3	3.1
D14	3.3	3.2
Criterion	-	4

Notes:

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

Contaminated results are not included in the 12 month rolling average. An elevated reading above the annual average criterion for dust deposition (insoluble solids) was recorded at site D8 (4.5 g/m2.month).

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

^{**}Indicates result unavailable due to contaminated depositional dust gauges for YTD

^{***} annual rolling average not available as new site location

¹Site 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

[^] Elevated results due to earthworks in the vicinity of D6 commencing 13 January 2020 which are not subject to DA 92/97 or EPL 20850.



in accordance with the MPO Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Management Plan (MACH Energy, 2019).

Field notes from the January 2021 sampling event noted that all the gauges contained insects.

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

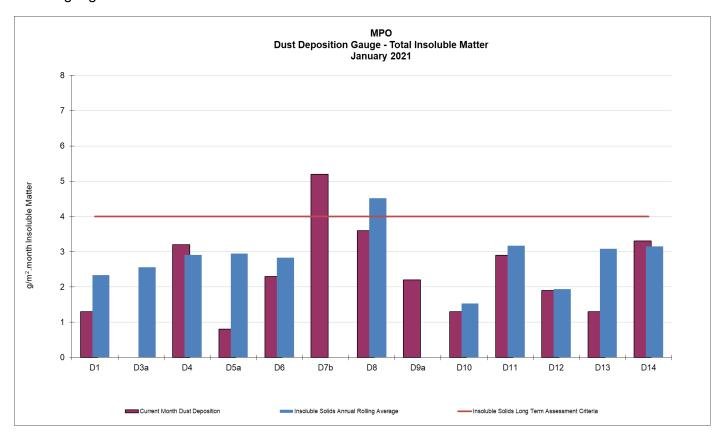


Figure 4-1: MPO Dust Deposition Monthly Results and Annual Rolling Average – January 2021

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/m³.

5.2 Results

In January 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 January 2021 have been provided as an indication of performance between January 2020 – January 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 – January 2021

Run Date	Assessment	TSP μg/m³				
Ruii Date	Criterion	HVAS A-PF2	HVAS M-WS4	HVAS A-PF5		
3/01/2021	-	31	20	34		
9/01/2021	-	27	17	26		
15/01/2021	-	101	53	64		
21/01/2021	-	67	62	92		
27/01/2021		92	69	111		
Monthly Mean	-	64	44	65		
Annual Rolling Average	90	58	38	39		

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 μ g/m³.



6. Real Time Air Quality Monitoring

Continuous particulate matter less than 10 μ m (PM₁₀) and particulate matter less than 2.5 μ m (PM_{2.5}) monitoring was conducted by three Palas Fidas (one utilised for management only) units at MPO during January 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_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ 12-month rolling averages for January 2021 have been provided in Section 6.2 and 6.4 respectively, as an indication of performance between January 2020 – January 2021 and do not represent annual average results for 2021 as per Schedule 3, Condition 20 of DA 92/97.

6.1 PM₁₀ Results – 24 hour rolling average

There were no elevated PM₁₀ measurements reported throughout January 2021. The Muswellbrook NW monitor was operational during all days of January 2021. Real time PM₁₀ 24 hour rolling average results for January 2021 are presented in **Table 6-1**.

Table 6-1: MPO Palas Fidas PM₁₀ Data – January 2021

	A-PF2/EPA ID 1	A-PF4	A-PF5/EPA ID 2	Muswellbrook NW	Muswellbrook NW 24 Hour	A-PF2, A-PF4, A-PF5 24 Hour
Date		24 hou	r Average Res	sult	Average Limit (μg/m³)	Average Limit (µg/m³)
1/01/2021	10	9	9	9	44	50
2/01/2021	10	8	8	9	44	50
3/01/2021	13	12	9	13	44	50
4/01/2021	12	12	8	11	44	50
5/01/2021	12	9	6	13	44	50
6/01/2021	14	13	9	17	44	50
7/01/2021	11	9	7	13	44	50
8/01/2021	13	11	8	16	44	50
9/01/2021	8	8	6	8	44	50
10/01/2021	10	-	7	10	44	50
11/01/2021	14	-	9	14	44	50
12/01/2021	19	-	9	22	44	50
13/01/2021	16	-	14	20	44	50
14/01/2021	16	15	16	20	44	50
15/01/2021	29	21	20	33	44	50
16/01/2021	38	-	14	38	44	50
17/01/2021	19	-	13	25	44	50
18/01/2021	19	-	17	26	44	50
19/01/2021	24	-	18	32	44	50
20/01/2021	15	-	14	18	44	50
21/01/2021	23	22	29	30	44	50
22/01/2021	19	17	16	21	44	50
23/01/2021	22	14	12	23	44	50



24/01/2021	23	18	16	22	44	50
25/01/2021	20	14	11	21	44	50
26/01/2021	22	15	12	19	44	50
27/01/2021	25	12	29	29	44	50
28/01/2021	7	10	6	5	44	50
29/01/2021	8	9	8	7	44	50
30/01/2021	17	17	16	17	44	50
31/01/2021	21	16	21	25	44	50

Votes:

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 PM₁₀ 24 hour rolling average results at MPO air quality monitoring sites January 2021.

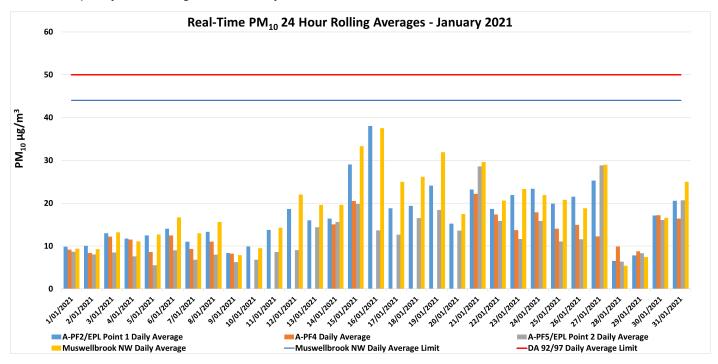


Figure 6-1: Real-time PM₁₀ 24 hour rolling average results for January 2021.

6.2 PM₁₀ Results – Annual rolling average

There were no elevated PM_{10} measurements reported at MPO for the January 2021 annual rolling average. Real time PM_{10} annual rolling averages for January 2021 are presented in **Figure 6-2** below.



PM₁₀ µg/m³

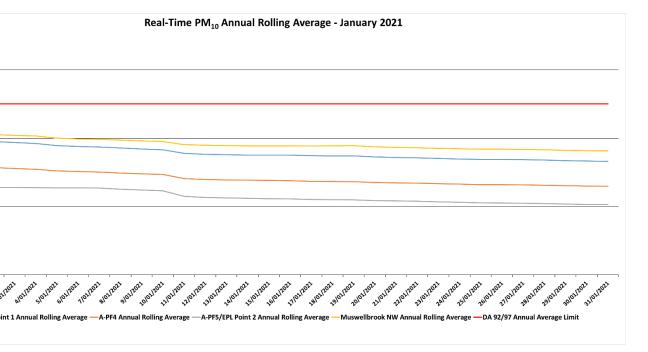


Figure 6-2: Real-time PM₁₀ Annual Rolling average results for January 2021.

6.3 PM_{2.5} Results – 24 hour rolling average

There were no elevated $PM_{2.5}$ measurements reported throughout January 2021. Real time $PM_{2.5}$ 24 hour rolling average results for January 2021 are presented in **Table 6-2**.

Table 6-2: MPO Palas Fidas PM_{2.5} Data - January 2021

Date	A-PF2/EPA ID 1	A-PF4	A-PF5/EPA ID 2	A-PF2, A-PF4, A-PF5 24 Hour
Date	24	Average Limit (µg/m³)		
1/01/2021	4	4	4	25
2/01/2021	4	4	4	25
3/01/2021	5	5	4	25
4/01/2021	4	4	3	25
5/01/2021	4	3	2	25
6/01/2021	6	6	4	25
7/01/2021	4	4	3	25
8/01/2021	5	4	3	25
9/01/2021	3	4	3	25
10/01/2021	4	-	3	25
11/01/2021	5	-	3	25
12/01/2021	4	-	3	25
13/01/2021	5	-	4	25
14/01/2021	5	5	4	25
15/01/2021	8	7	6	25
16/01/2021	6	-	4	25
17/01/2021	4	-	4	25
18/01/2021	5	-	5	25



19/01/2021	7	-	6	25
20/01/2021	5	-	5	25
21/01/2021	6	6	7	25
22/01/2021	5	5	5	25
23/01/2021	5	5	4	25
24/01/2021	5	6	5	25
25/01/2021	5	5	4	25
26/01/2021	5	5	4	25
27/01/2021	6	5	7	25
28/01/2021	3	6	3	25
29/01/2021	3	5	4	25
30/01/2021	6	6	6	25
31/01/2021	7	5	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_{2.5} 24 hour average results for January 2021 are presented in **Figure 6-3** below.

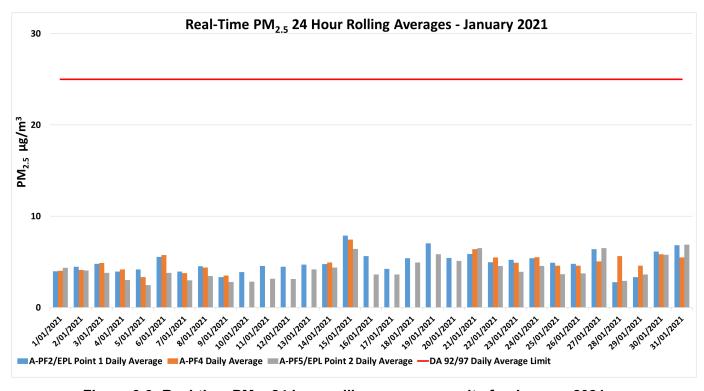


Figure 6-3: Real-time PM_{2.5} 24 hour rolling average results for January 2021.

6.4 PM_{2.5} Results - Annual rolling average

There were no elevated $PM_{2.5}$ measurements reported at MPO for the January 2021 annual rolling average. Real time PM_{10} annual rolling averages for January 2021 are presented in **Figure 6-4** below.



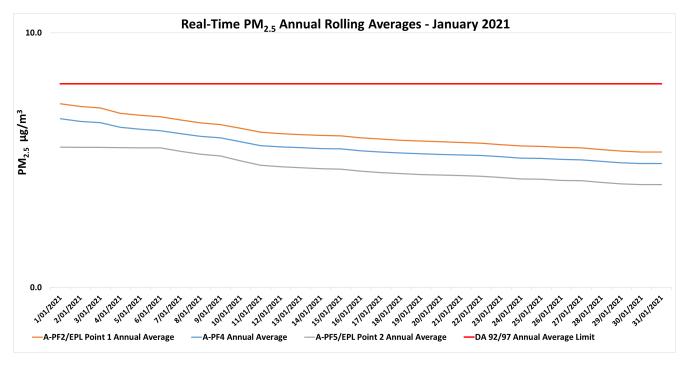


Figure 6-4: Real-time PM_{2.5} Annual Rolling average results for January 2021.

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 5 January 2021. Laboratory analysis was performed by SRT 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 - 5 January 2021

Station	рН	Electrical Conductivity (EC) (μs/cm) ¹	Total Suspended Solids (TSS) (mg/L)	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) (mg/L)
W1	7.6	270	151	195
W2	۸	۸	۸	۸
W3	7.6	270	612	224
W4	7.6	710	28	371
W5	*	*	*	*
W6A	7.6	210	560	172
W7	۸	۸	۸	۸
W9	6.8	120	239	100**
W11	۸	۸	۸	۸
W12	7.6	280	41	217
W13	7.2	90	132	80**
W14	*	*	*	*
W15	7.7	480	61	261
W16	^	۸	۸	٨
W17	۸	۸	۸	۸

Notes:

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

Seven of the fifteen monitoring locations were found to be dry or were not safely accessible on 5 January 2021. All sites sampled were below or inside the trigger level values. An investigation into the elevated measurement will be triggered if this occurs for three consecutive sampling events in accordance MPO Water Management Plan (MACH Energy, 2019).

8. Groundwater Monitoring

Quarterly groundwater monitoring was not undertaken during January 2021. The next scheduled monitoring event is in February 2021.

9. Noise Monitoring

Attended noise monitoring was undertaken during the night period of 18 January 2021 at 6 monitoring locations as per the MPO Noise Management Plan (MACH Energy, 2019) in accordance with DA 92/97 and EPL 20850.

^{*}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

¹ Results have been rounded in accordance with the In-house method Q4AN(EV)-332-WI3 (pH) and In-house method Q4AN(EV)-332-WI2 (EC).

^{**} Calculated result due to interference from colloidal material interfering with laboratory result.



9.1 Results

The results for night time attended noise monitoring for noise generated by MPO in January 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 – 18 January 2021

Location	Start Date and Time	Wind Speed m/s	Stability Class	Criterion dB	Criterion Applies ¹	MPO Only L _{A1,1min} dB ^{2.4}	Exceedance dB ^{3,4}
N-AT1	18/01/2021 23:37	1.3	Е	43	Yes	25	Nil
N-AT2	18/01/2021 22:00	2.0	Е	36	Yes	IA	Nil
N-AT3	18/01/2021 22:58	0.9	F	41	Yes	35	Nil
N-AT4	18/01/2021 23:49	0.9	Е	42	Yes	40	Nil
N-AT5	19/01/2021 00:16	0.8	D	40	Yes	42	Nil
N-AT6	18/01/2021 22:35	1.2	E	35	Yes	IA	Nil

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_{A1,1minute} 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; and
- 4. Bold results indicate exceedance of criteria.

Table 9-2 - L_{Aeq,15min} Generated by MPO: Attended Night Monitoring - 18 January 2021

Location	Start Date and Time	Wind Speed m/s	Stability Class	Criterion dB	Criterion Applies ¹	MPO Only L _{Aeq} dB ^{2.4}	Exceedance dB ^{3,4}
N-AT1	18/01/2021 23:37	1.3	Е	43	Yes	<20	Nil
N-AT2	18/01/2021 22:00	2.0	Е	36	Yes	IA	Nil
N-AT3	18/01/2021 22:58	0.9	F	41	Yes	32	Nil
N-AT4	18/01/2021 23:49	0.9	E	42	Yes	35	Nil
N-AT5	19/01/2021 00:16	0.8	D	40	Yes	37	Nil
N-AT6	18/01/2021 22:35	1.2	E	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;
- 2. Estimated or measured L_{Aeq,15minute} 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; and
- 4. Bold results indicate exceedance of criteria.



Table 9-3 - LAeq,period Cumulative Noise: Attended Night Monitoring - 18 January 2021

Location	Start Date and Time	Cumulative Noise Criterion LAeq dB	Measured Mining Only L _{Aeq,period} dB ^{1,2}	Exceedance dB
N-AT1	18/01/2021 23:37	40	Nil	Nil
N-AT2	18/01/2021 22:00	40	Nil	Nil
N-AT3	18/01/2021 22:58	40	Nil	Nil
N-AT4	18/01/2021 23:49	40	35	Nil
N-AT5	19/01/2021 00:16	40	37	Nil
N-AT6	18/01/2021 22:35	40	Nil	Nil

Notes:

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 January 2021 monitoring period.

10. Blast Monitoring

There were 5 blast events during January (a total of 5 blasts YTD). Results for January 2021 are presented in **Table 10-1**. All blast results during the January 2021 monitoring period were below the criteria in Schedule 3, Condition 10 of DA 92/97 and EPL 20850 and thus the MPO remains compliant in 2021 YTD.

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'.



Table 10-1 - MPO Blast Monitoring Results - January 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
Friday 08/01/21	13:01	0.410	109.0	0.270	100.1	0.460	94.7	Υ
Tuesday 12/01/21	12:06	0.240	95.5	0.120	88.9	0.330	96.7	Υ
Thursday 14/01/21	12:02	0.270	93.2	0.150	87.1	0.400	100.8	Υ
Friday 15/1/2021	13:01	0.040	90.6	0.010	95.1	0.010	81.9	Υ
January 22/01/21	13:50	0.180	94.3	0.100	93.4	0.100	94.5	Υ