

Huntly Bauxite Mine – Water Quality Monitoring System Data Review

February 2024

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

RARE Environmental Pty Ltd (RARE) was engaged by SciDev Pty Ltd (SciDev) to analyse and comment on raw turbidity monitoring data collected by their Water Quality Monitoring Systems (WQMSs) at the Huntly Bauxite Mine, owned and operated by Alcoa of Australia Limited (Alcoa). Stream turbidity monitoring is a core regulatory requirement stipulated as part of Alcoa's approvals and operating framework. The data for this reporting period was collected in February of 2024.

This report has been prepared to assess the quality of data provided and identify potential drainage incidents ('true' events) per the procedure detailed below within that data. Where possible recommendations are made for either WQMS network upgrades or further investigation of events identified within the data. This report should not be considered an assessment of the WQMS network and/or Alcoa's compliance to relevant legislation and requirements, nor should it be considered an assessment of the suitability of the adopted trigger level and event classification procedure.

1.2. Context

Data from each location has been collected and compared against the drainage incident trigger level outlined in the *Environmental Protection (Darling Range Bauxite Mining Proposal) Exemption Order 2023* Schedule 1 Division 2 Cl. 6. Trigger events have then been assessed against Alcoa's turbidity event classification guidelines to determine whether the event is true, i.e. caused by stream turbidity, or false, i.e. caused by stream debris, algae or other. For the purpose of this report a turbidity event is an event where turbidity levels, measured by a WQMS, are at least 25 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU) for a period of at least 1 hour.

A site map showing the WQMSs locations is provided in Appendix A.

1.3. Monitoring Requirements

Under Schedule 1, Division 2 ("Controls on activities"), of the *Environmental Protection (Darling Range Bauxite Mining Proposals) Exemption Order 2023* a drainage incident is defined as:

- a) *a runoff from a disturbance area to the surrounding environment of surface water that has a turbidity of at least 25 nephelometric turbidity units for a period of at least 1 hour; or*
- b) *a discharge from containment infrastructure that includes or may include environmentally hazardous material;*

1.4. Water Quality Monitoring System (WQMS)

At the Huntly site, for this reporting period, 8 (eight) WQMSs have been installed in streams within or downstream of mining operations to monitor stream turbidity levels. Each turbidity monitoring station is fitted with an Aquas SMR10 turbidity probe. The Aquas probes are placed directly in the streams, mounted at 90 degrees to the flow of water. Each sensor has a guard to protect the lens from larger debris and the units are fitted with a lens screen wiper. Note: disruptions or errant readings can occur with smaller pieces of debris (leaves etc.).

Data is collected via a Data Taker DT82 logger. Data from each logger is linked to an IOT data modem to transmit to a cloud-based platform. Data is logged locally in 6 second intervals with a 6-minute average pushed into the cloud-based platform. A float switch or cell indicates sensor immersion or a dry stream.

1.5. Data Review & Event Classification Process

Data produced by the WQMSs is reviewed by RARE per the following procedure and in consultation with SciDev. This allows for the identification of true events that require investigation to determine whether the mining operations may have contributed to the elevated turbidity levels, and false events.

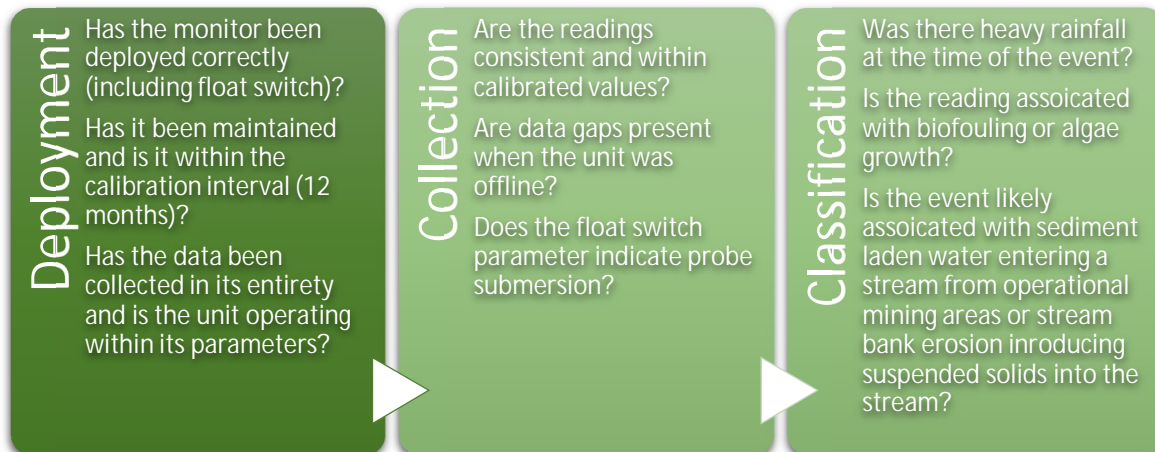


Figure 1: Data Review & Event Classification Process

The process considers the physical aspects of the WQMS deployment, the data collection by that monitor and finally classification of the events identified in that data. Classification of events is per Alcoa's procedure to identify events as true or false.

A 'true' stream turbidity exceedance event that is caused by an actual increase in stream water turbidity. Alcoa has identified that 'true' turbidity exceedance events typically show a sharp turbidity incline before gradually trailing off as the stream turbidity level returns to background.

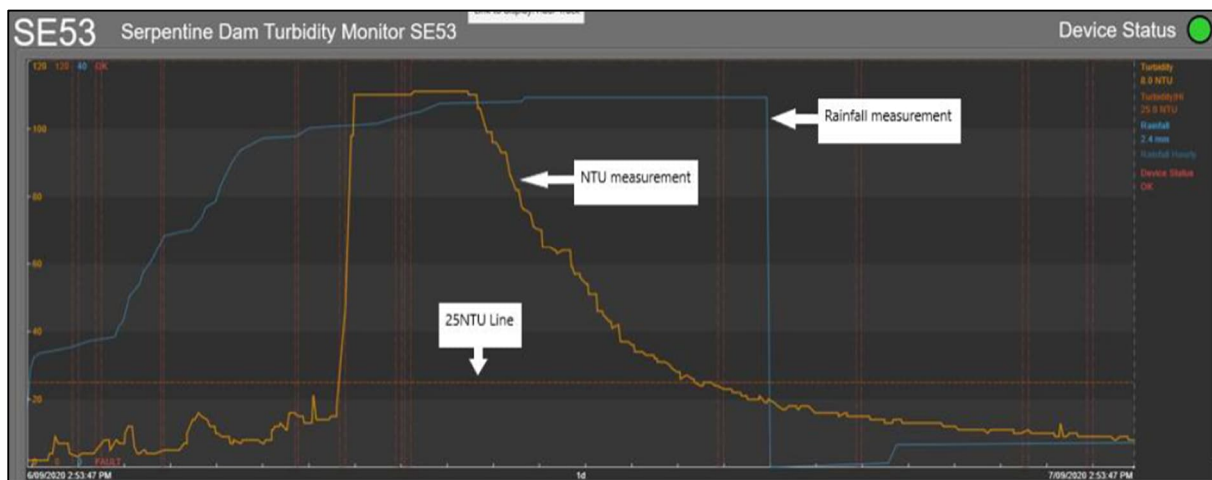


Figure 2: Typical 'true' exceedance event showing the sharp incline and gradually return to background levels.

'False' stream turbidity exceedance events are caused by factors other than an actual increase in stream water turbidity (i.e. organic debris covering the monitor such as sticks/leaves/algae, stream water turbulence or air bubbles and fluctuating water levels that intermittently cover the monitor lens and then recede). Alcoa has identified that 'false' turbidity exceedance events typically illustrate sharp inclines and declines for turbidity when the data is graphed over time and lack the distinctive 'bell curve' shape that is associated with 'true' turbidity exceedance events.

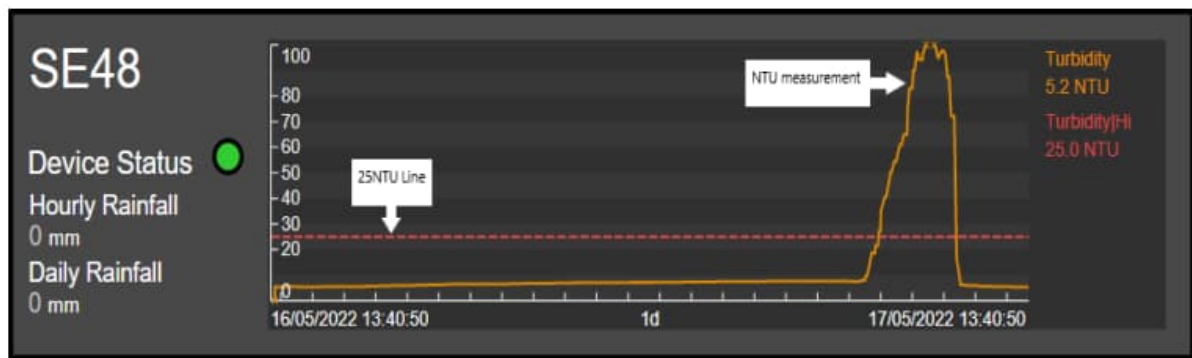


Figure 3: Typical 'false' exceedance event showing both a sharp incline and decline.

Any 'true' events identified in this report have been listed in **Section 3**.

2. WQMS Data Review

For the reporting period of February 2024, 45,423 data points were collected by 8 (eight) WQMSs across the Huntly site. From this data a total of 160 events were flagged where turbidity levels above 25 were held for an hour or more. The following sections review this data, beginning with the deployment and operation of the WQMSs.

2.1. Deployment & Collection

From the data provided there were several units producing erroneous results, marked by spikes and/or non-sensical peaks. Furthermore, from information provided by SciDev, RARE understands the flow switch on several units was nonfunctional for the reporting period due to blockages or incorrect deployment.

RARE have identified WQMSs in Table 1 that require review in regards erroneous data. SciDev have confirmed that the data generated by these units is invalid and has been excluded from further analysis.

Excluding the data from these units leaves 24 (twenty-four) potential turbidity events during the reporting period across 5 (five) units as discussed in the following section.

Table 1: WQMS Requiring Review

Unit	Dates	Comment
ND07T	February 1st to 29th	All data is consistently sustained over 25 NTU suggesting incorrect deployment. Heavy algae has also been noted in this stream.
SE02T	February 1st to 29th	All data is consistently sustained over 25 NTU suggesting incorrect deployment. Sensor was noted to have been found lying in vegetation.
SE61T	February 1st to 29th	All data is consistently sustained over 25 NTU suggesting incorrect deployment. Stream level was noted to be repeatedly low.

2.2. Classification

Analysis of the data from the 5 (five) valid WQMSs identified 24 (twenty-four) potential turbidity events during the reporting period across 3 (three) units as summarised in Table 2. For this reporting period there were no 'true' turbidity events identified. Refer to the following section for analysis.

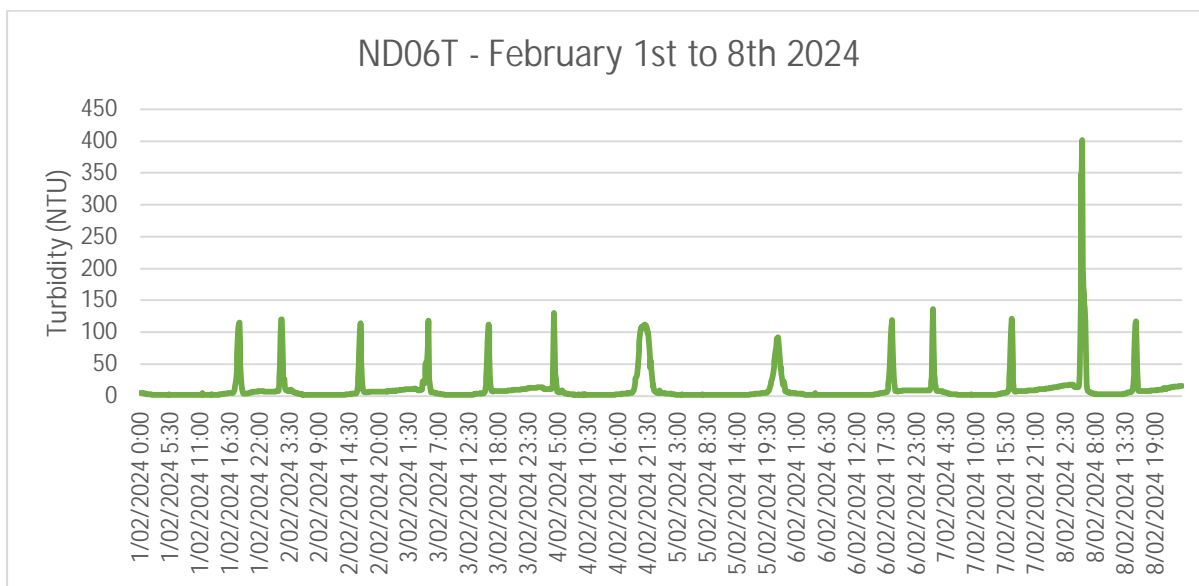
Table 2: Turbidity events summary

Date	Huntly WQMS Data - February 2024 - Events with turbidity > 25 NTU for an hour or more				
	ND06T	ND14T	PD01T	SE03T	SE51T
1/02/2024	1			1	
2/02/2024				1	
3/02/2024				1	
4/02/2024	1			1	
5/02/2024	1				
6/02/2024	1			1	
7/02/2024				1	
8/02/2024	1			1	
9/02/2024				1	
10/02/2024					
11/02/2024					
12/02/2024				1	
13/02/2024				1	
14/02/2024				1	
15/02/2024			1		
16/02/2024					
17/02/2024	1				
18/02/2024	1				
19/02/2024	2				
20/02/2024			1		
21/02/2024					
22/02/2024					
23/02/2024					
24/02/2024			1		
25/02/2024					
26/02/2024			1		
27/02/2024					
28/02/2024					
29/02/2024					

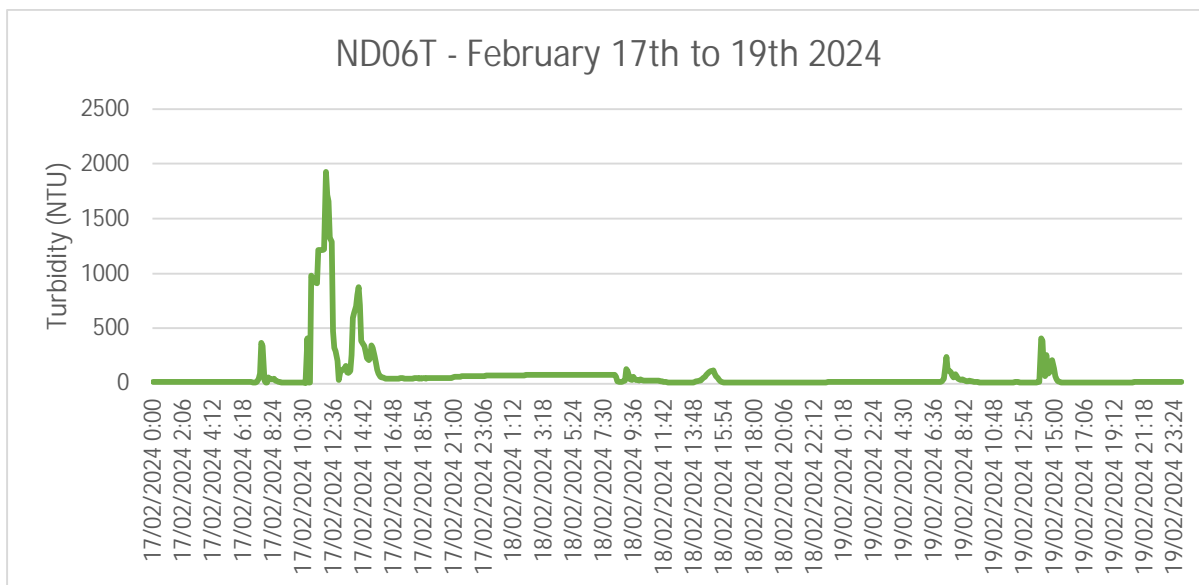
Note: False events have been annotated by black bold text. True events for further investigation are annotated by **red** bold text. See following section for analysis.

2.2.1. ND06T Potential Turbidity Events

Chart(s) for data flagged at monitor ND06T are shown below for the potential events identified in the reporting period.



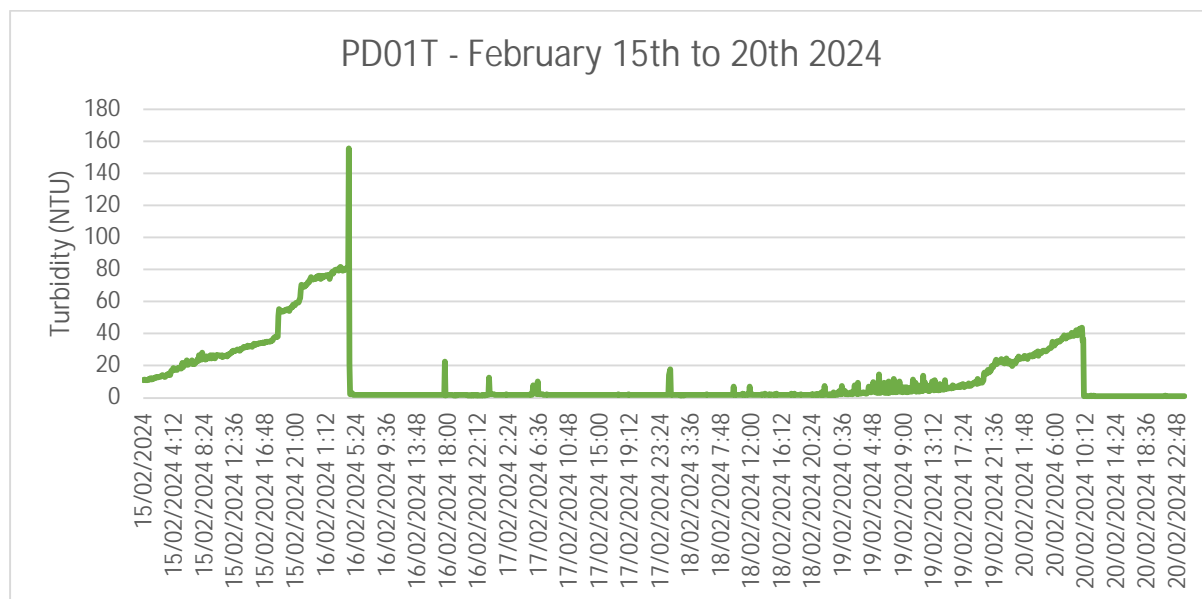
The events are marked by sporadic peaks indicative of a 'false' event.



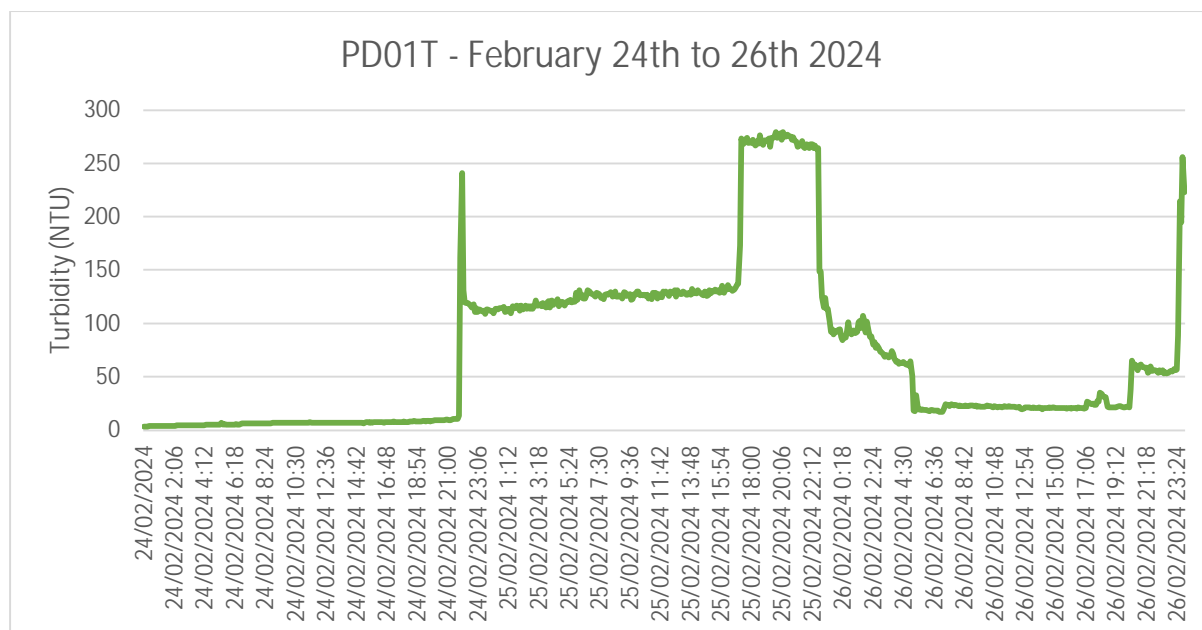
The events are marked by a sharp return to normal values indicative of a 'false' event.

2.2.2. PD01T Potential Turbidity Events

Chart(s) for data flagged at monitor PD01T are shown below for the potential events identified in the reporting period.



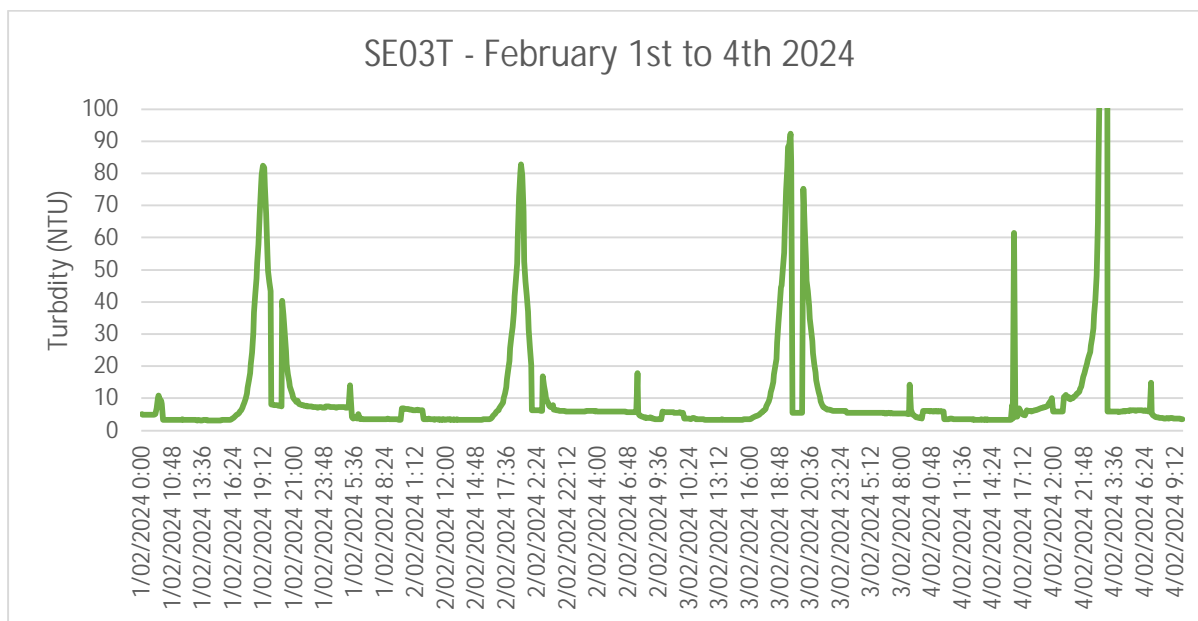
The events are marked by a sharp return to normal values indicative of a 'false' event.



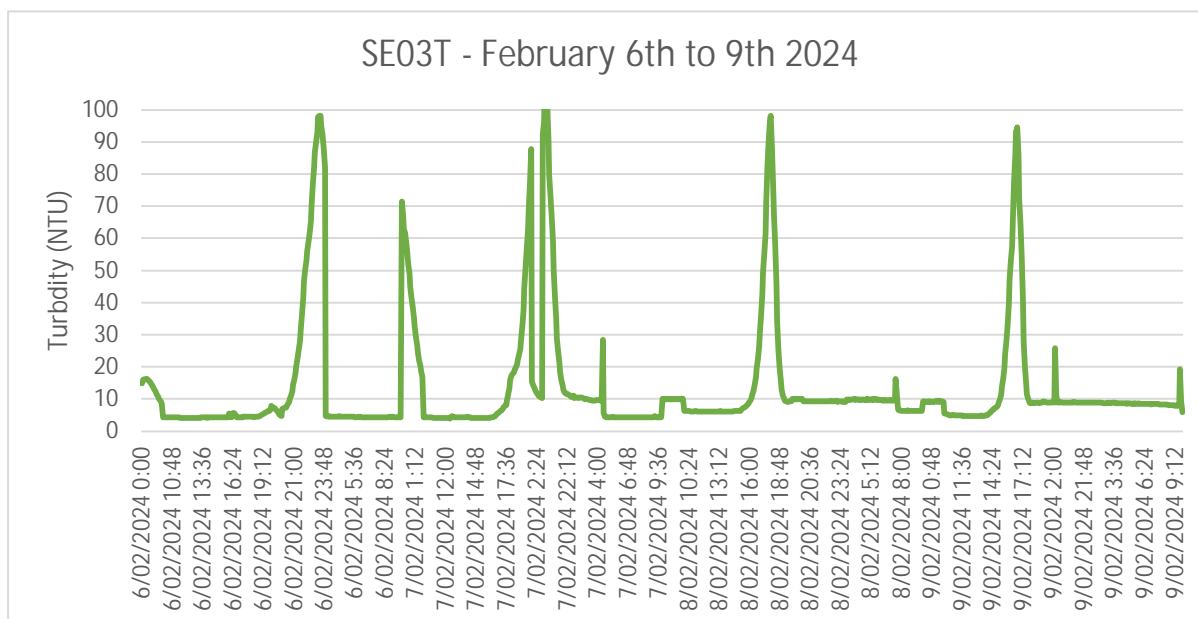
Given the gradual return to background readings, the event of the 24th February at PD01T requires further investigation.

2.2.3. SE03T Potential Turbidity Events

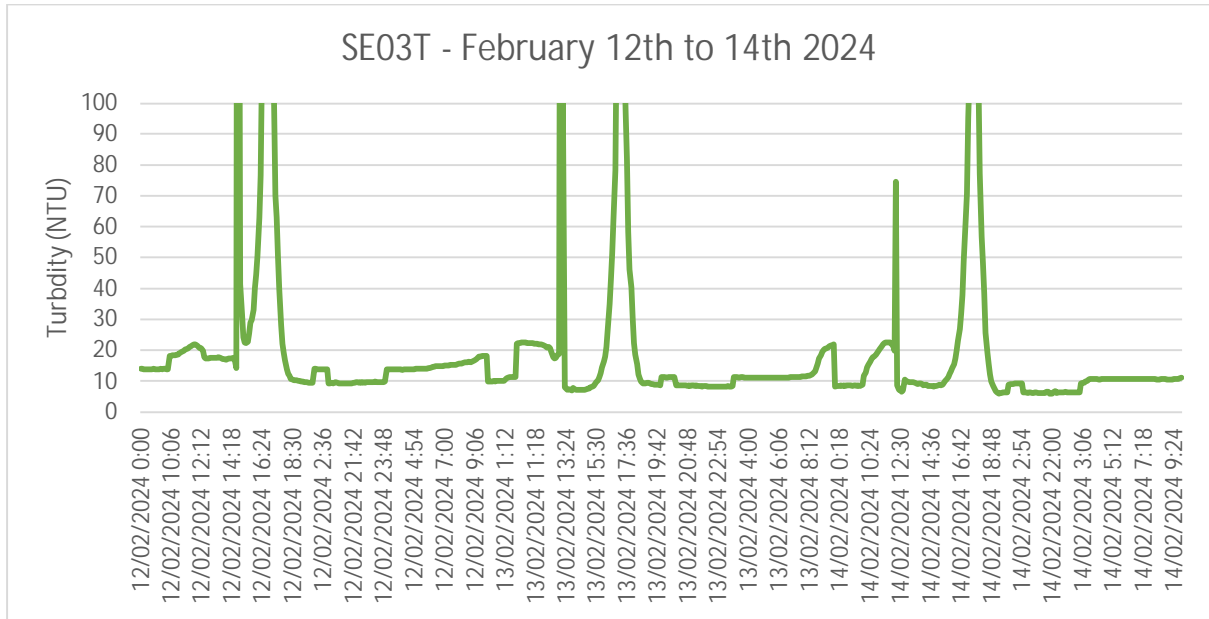
Chart(s) for data flagged at monitor SE03T are shown below for the potential events identified in the reporting period.



The events are marked by sporadic peaks indicative of 'false' events.



The events are marked by sporadic peaks indicative of 'false' events.



The events are marked by sporadic peaks indicative of 'false' events.

2.3. True Turbidity Events

For this reporting, period one (1) 'true' turbidity event(s) was identified.

Event ID	Monitor	Date	Start	End	Duration (hours)	Peak Turbidity (NTU)
HUN-2402-001	PD01T	24 th February 2024	21:54	05:15 (26 th February)	31.3	279

2.4. Investigation

Event ID	Monitor	Date	Results
HUN-2402-001	PD01T	24 th February 2024	The following was provided by SciDev in regards to this event: <i>"Stream level is very low and sensor is sitting within layer of vegetation and algae on the stream bed. Data trend shows two rapid spikes followed by a rapid drop in NTU, indicating likely vegetation caught up around the sensor and then being dislodged. Stream level is being monitored, ongoing intermittent events are expected whilst stream is drying up."</i> No further investigation is required.

3. Recommendations

3.1. WQMS Network

RARE recommends:

- WQMSs include a flow switch or similar mechanism to detect when the stream is dry.
- Perform a maintenance and deployment review of all units to ensure their correct operation.

4. Raw WQMS Data

Date	Huntly WQMS Data - February 2024 - Events with turbidity > 25 NTU for an hour or more							
	ND06T	ND07T	ND14T	PD01T	SE02T	SE03T	SE51T	SE61T
1/02/2024	1				1	1		7
2/02/2024		1				1		7
3/02/2024		1				1		8
4/02/2024	1	2				1		7
5/02/2024	1	4						6
6/02/2024	1					1		8
7/02/2024						1		5
8/02/2024	1					1		10
9/02/2024						1		9
10/02/2024		2						9
11/02/2024		1						8
12/02/2024						1		7
13/02/2024						1		7
14/02/2024						1		1
15/02/2024				1				
16/02/2024								
17/02/2024	1	1						
18/02/2024	1							
19/02/2024	2				3			
20/02/2024				1	1			
21/02/2024								
22/02/2024					1			
23/02/2024					2			
24/02/2024				1	3			
25/02/2024								
26/02/2024				1	2			
27/02/2024					3			
28/02/2024					4			
29/02/2024					5			

Note: False events have been annotated by black bold text. True events for further investigation are annotated by red bold text.

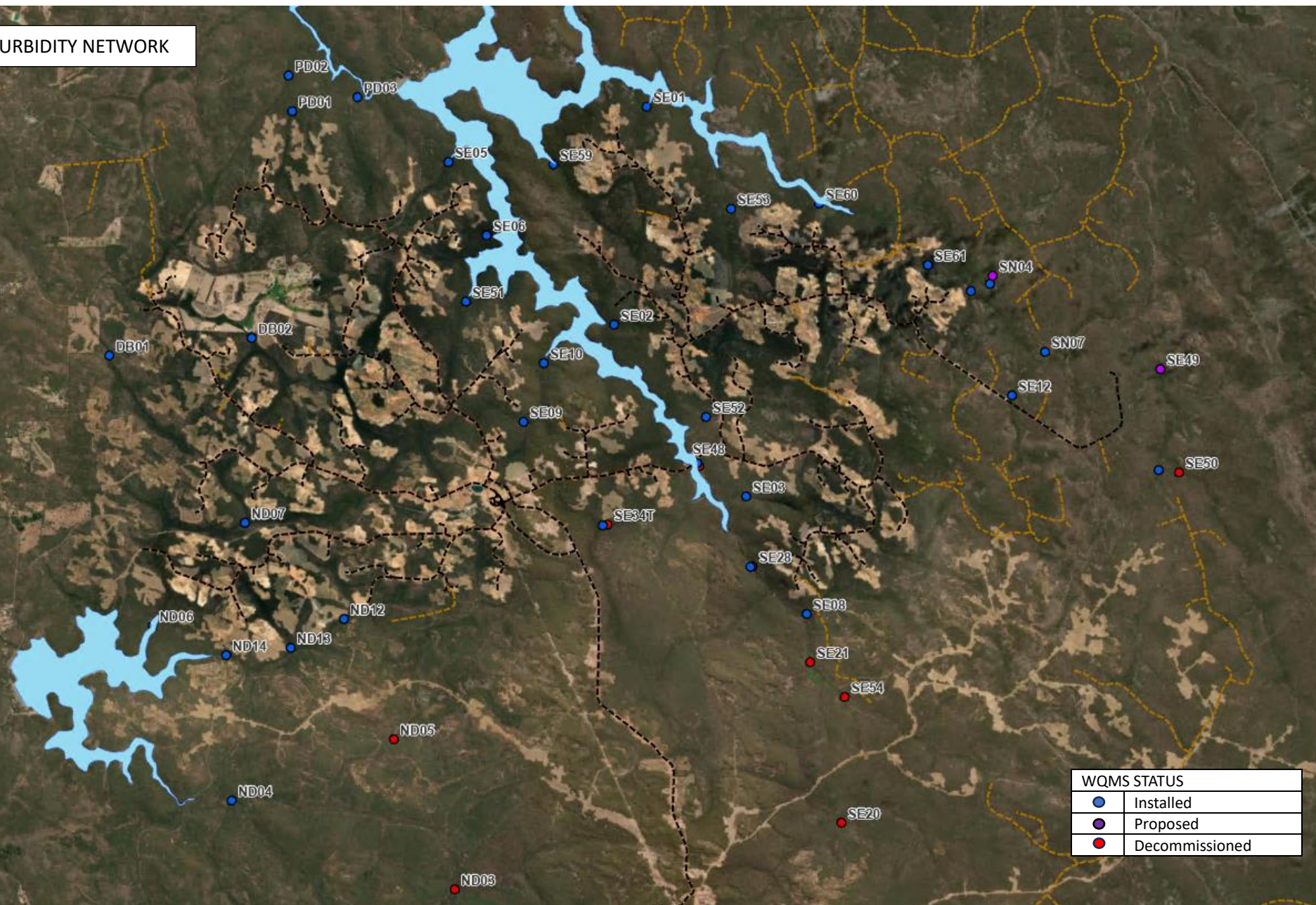
Huntly Bauxite Mine – Water Quality Monitoring System Data Review

Date	Huntly WQMS Data - February 2024 - Turbidity (Daily Average, NTU)							
	ND06T	ND07T	ND14T	PD01T	SE02T	SE03T	SE51T	SE61T
1/02/2024	6.3	6.6	0.8		30.6	10.1		39.9
2/02/2024	9.2	306.9	2.3		45.5	9.1		32.5
3/02/2024	10.5	2254.2	1.0		86.0	10.5		41.0
4/02/2024	17.0	533.9	3.8		198.1	11.7		47.1
5/02/2024	7.7	219.5	3.1		221.1	28.3		55.4
6/02/2024	6.6	418.5	0.8	2.1	235.8	10.9		46.3
7/02/2024	9.3	1076.3	0.8	1.9	260.5	17.6	1.3	40.4
8/02/2024	20.2	2732.3	6.0	1.8	287.6	12.7	1.3	78.2
9/02/2024	40.8	2011.5	0.9	1.8	326.4	12.0	1.5	333.9
10/02/2024	13.6	405.3	0.9	2.2	374.4	12.0	1.8	366.7
11/02/2024	13.5	43.8	1.9	4.2	443.0	18.1	1.7	249.9
12/02/2024	13.1	42.2	1.0	1.8	510.1	23.2	1.5	167.9
13/02/2024	15.1	36.0	1.1	1.9	573.2	18.3	1.7	212.5
14/02/2024	14.8	33.1	0.9	4.3		16.4	1.6	
15/02/2024	14.5	41.7	2.7	31.6	4.5	10.1	1.6	101.7
16/02/2024	13.9	157.0	1.4	17.7	5.3		1.9	92.3
17/02/2024	147.9	164.8	1.3	1.9	5.5		1.8	
18/02/2024	40.0	182.1	1.3	1.9	11.1		1.8	
19/02/2024	22.8	227.8	1.8	7.6	28.2		1.8	
20/02/2024	12.8	102.9	2.8	14.0	53.8		1.6	
21/02/2024	13.5	87.1	3.6	1.2	107.2		1.2	
22/02/2024			1.3	1.3	124.2		1.5	
23/02/2024			1.2	2.3	160.9		1.4	
24/02/2024			1.0	14.8	237.2		1.5	
25/02/2024			1.2	156.8	365.9		1.5	
26/02/2024			1.0	41.4	530.5		1.5	
27/02/2024			1.0	38.7	703.6		1.7	
28/02/2024			1.3	5.7	804.5		1.9	
29/02/2024			1.3	2.1	719.2		5.1	

Note: Daily averages above 25 NTU have been annotated by black bold text. Daily averages inclusive of with true events for further investigation are annotated by **red** bold text. Grey shading indicates no data available for that day at that unit.

Appendix A. Huntly WQMS Locations

HUNTLY TURBIDITY NETWORK



Appendix B. WQMS General Arrangement

Technical drawing showing two views of a rectangular object, labeled FRONT VIEW and SIDE VIEW, plotted on a grid.

FRONT VIEW: A rectangle with a height of 800.0 and a width of 600.0. The drawing includes hidden lines (dashed lines) indicating internal features. There are four small circles, each with a concentric circle inside, located at the corners of the rectangle. The top and bottom edges are labeled with dimension lines and values 800.0 and 600.0 respectively.

SIDE VIEW: A rectangle with a height of 800.0 and a width of 400.0. The drawing includes hidden lines (dashed lines) indicating internal features. There are four small circles, each with a concentric circle inside, located at the corners of the rectangle. The top and bottom edges are labeled with dimension lines and values 800.0 and 400.0 respectively.

The drawing is plotted on a grid with horizontal lines labeled 1 through 12 and vertical lines labeled A through D. The grid lines are spaced at intervals of 100.0 units.

The image displays a technical drawing of a rectangular object, likely a book or a folder, showing two views: a front view and a side view. The drawing is overlaid on a grid with horizontal lines labeled 1 through 12 and vertical lines labeled A through D.

FRONT VIEW: This view shows the front of the object. It is a rectangle with a width of 600.0 and a height of 800.0. The top edge is dashed, indicating it is hidden. The bottom edge is solid. There are two small circles (holes) on the left side, one near the top and one near the bottom. The right side has two small circles (holes) near the top and bottom corners. The drawing is labeled "FRONT VIEW" at the top.

SIDE VIEW: This view shows the side of the object. It is a rectangle with a width of 400.0 and a height of 800.0. The top edge is dashed, indicating it is hidden. The bottom edge is solid. There are two small circles (holes) on the left side, one near the top and one near the bottom. The right side has two small circles (holes) near the top and bottom corners. The drawing is labeled "SIDE VIEW" at the top.

The drawing is overlaid on a grid with horizontal lines labeled 1 through 12 and vertical lines labeled A through D. The dimensions 600.0 and 800.0 are indicated on the front view, and 400.0 and 800.0 are indicated on the side view.

INTERNAL LAYOUT

The diagram illustrates the internal layout of a 19-inch equipment rack. The components are arranged vertically as follows:

- Top Section:** Contains a 20 AMP MPPT solar charger and a 20A circuit breaker, both housed within a 40 X 60 MM cable duct.
- Middle Section:** Features a SIERRA WIRELESS FX30 unit connected to a terminal block, also within a 40 X 60 MM cable duct.
- Bottom Section:** Houses a 12 V, 120 AH LI-ION BATTERY, connected to a terminal block, within a 40 X 60 MM cable duct.

Vertical cable ducts on the left and right sides are labeled 40 X 60 MM CABLE DUCT.

MATERIAL LIST

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	PART NO.	SUPPLIER	QUANTITY
1	20A CIRCUIT BREAKER - 2P	TBC	TBC	1
2	DATA TAKER	DT82I	TBC	1
3	LITHIUM ION BATTERY 12VDC 120AH	TBC	TBC	1
4	20A SOLAR CHARGER	TBC	TBC	1
5	TERMINALS GREY 2.5MM	TBC	TBC	8
6	TERMINAL EARTH Y/G 2.5MM	TBC	TBC	2
7	TERMINALS GREY FUSED 2.5MM	TBC	TBC	3
8	HIGH GAIN ANTENNA	TBC	TBC	1
9	SIERRA WIRELESS UNIT	FX30	TBC	1

INTERNAL LAYOUT

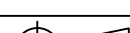

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5	TERMINALS GREY 2.5MM	TBC	TBC	8
6	TERMINAL EARTH Y/G 2.5MM	TBC	TBC	2
7	TERMINALS GREY FUSED 2.5MM	TBC	TBC	3
8	HIGH GAIN ANTENNA	TBC	TBC	1
9	SIERRA WIRELESS UNIT	FX30	TBC	1

								<div></div> <div>ALL DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES U.N.O. LEVELS ARE IN METRES ON AHD U.N.O. DO NOT SCALE DRAWING IF IN DOUBT - ASK TOLERANCES ISO2768-m U.N.O. © SCIDEV</div>	CLIENT	NSW - BUILDING G, 22 POWERS RD, SEVEN HILLS, NSW 2147 (02) 8385 5357 WA - 512, 1A QUEEN ST FREEMANTLE WA 6160 (08) 6245 9843 waterservices@scidev.com.au www.scidev.com.au		TITLE		SHEET SIZE A3	
							IOT TURBIDITY MONITORING STATION ELECTRICAL CONTROL SCHEMATICS / MATERIAL LIST					REV.			
0	ISSUE FOR APPROVAL	26.05.2023	A.K.	M.G	A.K.	A.K.						SHEET 1 OF 2	DRAWING NO.		1
REV.	REMARKS	DATE	DESIGNED	DRAWN	CHECKED	APPROVED	REFERENCE DRAWINGS					SCALE NTS OR AS SHOWN	H10090 - ALCOA WQMS		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8					9	10		

Willowdale Mine – Water Quality Monitoring System Data Review

February 2024

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Prepared by		Technical Review		Approved for Issue	
					
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Position	Env. Scientist	Position	Regional Manager	Position	Regional Manager
Date	19/07/2024	Date	19/07/2024	Date	19/07/2024

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

RARE Environmental Pty Ltd (RARE) was engaged by SciDev Pty Ltd (SciDev) to analyse and comment on raw turbidity monitoring data collected by their Water Quality Monitoring Systems (WQMSs) at the Willowdale Mine, owned and operated by Alcoa of Australia Limited (Alcoa). Stream turbidity monitoring is a core regulatory requirement stipulated as part of Alcoa's approvals and operating framework. The data for this reporting period was collected in February of 2024.

This report has been prepared to assess the quality of data provided and identify potential drainage incidents ('true' events) per the procedure detailed below within that data. Where possible recommendations are made for either WQMS network upgrades or further investigation of events identified within the data. This report should not be considered an assessment of the WQMS network and/or Alcoa's compliance to relevant legislation and requirements, nor should it be considered an assessment of the suitability of the adopted trigger level and event classification procedure.

1.2. Context

Data from each location has been collected and compared against the drainage incident trigger level outlined in the *Environmental Protection (Darling Range Bauxite Mining Proposal) Exemption Order 2023* Schedule 1 Division 2 Cl. 6. Trigger events have then been assessed against Alcoa's turbidity event classification guidelines to determine whether the event is true, i.e. caused by stream turbidity, or false, i.e. caused by stream debris, algae or other. For the purpose of this report a turbidity event is an event where turbidity levels, measured by a WQMS, are at least 25 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU) for a period of at least 1 hour.

A site map showing the WQMSs locations is provided in Appendix A.

1.3. Monitoring Requirements

Under Schedule 1, Division 2 ("Controls on activities"), of the *Environmental Protection (Darling Range Bauxite Mining Proposals) Exemption Order 2023* a drainage incident is defined as:

- a) a runoff from a disturbance area to the surrounding environment of surface water that has a turbidity of at least 25 nephelometric turbidity units for a period of at least 1 hour; or
- b) a discharge from containment infrastructure that includes or may include environmentally hazardous material;

1.4. Water Quality Monitoring System (WQMS)

At the Willowdale site, for this reporting period, 2 (two) WQMSs has been installed in streams within or downstream of mining operations to monitor stream turbidity levels. Each turbidity monitoring station is fitted with an Aquas SMR10 turbidity probe. The Aquas probes are placed directly in the streams, mounted at 90 degrees to the flow of water. Each sensor has a guard to protect the lens from larger debris and the units are fitted with a lens screen wiper. Note: disruptions or errant readings can occur with smaller pieces of debris (leaves etc.).

Data is collected via a Data Taker DT82 logger. Data from each logger is linked to an IOT data modem to transmit to a cloud-based platform. Data is logged locally in 6 second intervals with a 6-minute average pushed into the cloud-based platform. A float switch or cell indicates sensor immersion or a dry stream.

1.5. Data Review & Event Classification Process

Data produced by the WQMSs is reviewed by RARE per the following procedure and in consultation with SciDev. This allows for the identification of true events that require investigation to determine whether the mining operations may have contributed to the elevated turbidity levels, and false events.

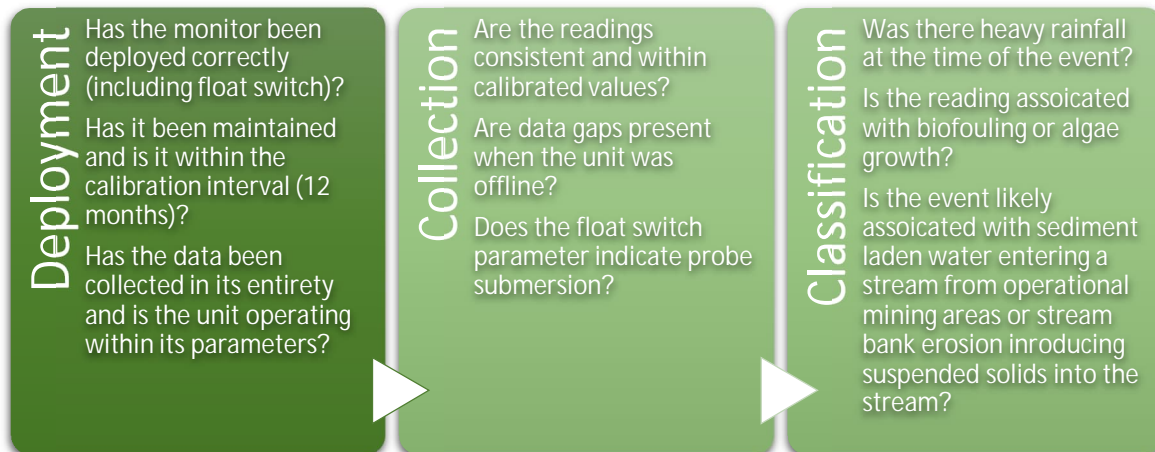


Figure 1: Data Review & Event Classification Process

The process considers the physical aspects of the WQMS deployment, the data collection by that monitor and finally classification of the events identified in that data. Classification of events is per Alcoa's procedure to identify events as true or false.

A 'true' stream turbidity exceedance event that is caused by an actual increase in stream water turbidity. Alcoa has identified that 'true' turbidity exceedance events typically show a sharp turbidity incline before gradually trailing off as the stream turbidity level returns to background.

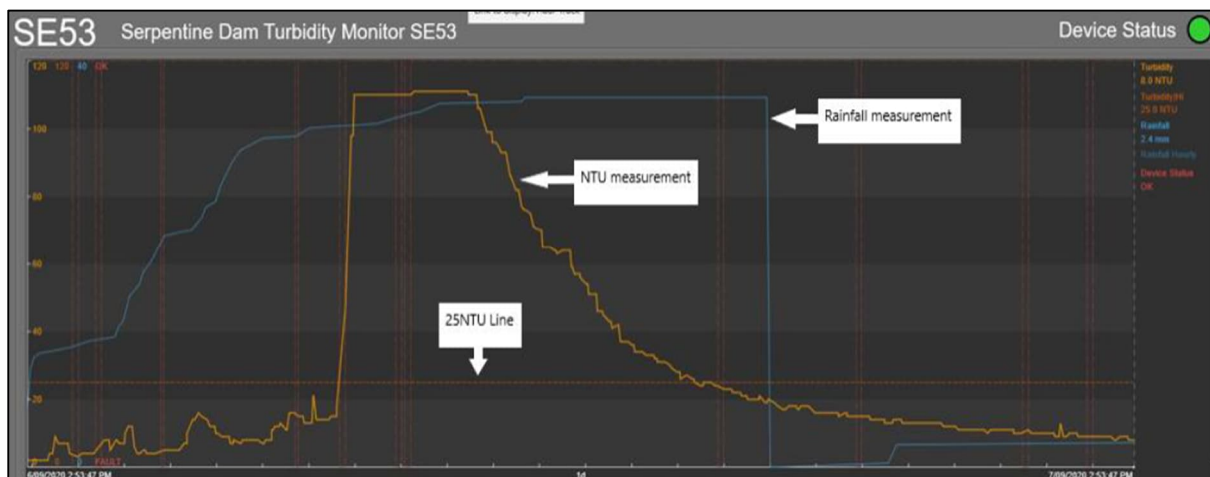


Figure 2: Typical 'true' exceedance event showing the sharp incline and gradually return to background levels.

'False' stream turbidity exceedance events are caused by factors other than an actual increase in stream water turbidity (i.e. organic debris covering the monitor such as sticks/leaves/algae, stream water turbulence or air bubbles and fluctuating water levels that intermittently cover the monitor lens and then recede). Alcoa has identified that 'false' turbidity exceedance events typically illustrate sharp inclines and declines for turbidity when the data is graphed over time and lack the distinctive 'bell curve' shape that is associated with 'true' turbidity exceedance events.

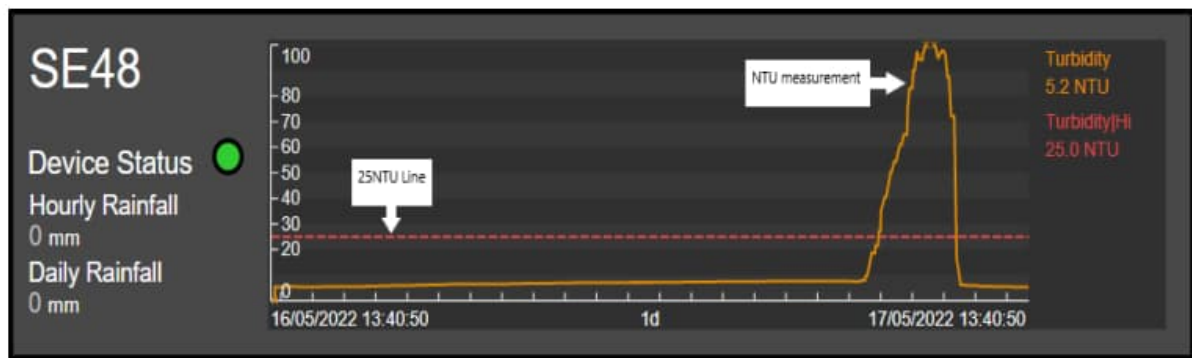


Figure 3: Typical 'false' exceedance event showing both a sharp incline and decline.

Any 'true' events identified in this report have been listed in **Section 3**.

2. WQMS Data Review

For the reporting period of February 2024, 0 data points were collected by 2 (two) WQMSs across the Willowdale site. From this data a total of 0 events were flagged where turbidity levels above 25 were held for an hour or more. Due to dry streams, both WQMS probes switched off for the duration of the month. The following sections review this data, beginning with the deployment and operation of the WQMSs.

2.1. Deployment & Collection

RARE have identified that no WQMSs require review in regards erroneous data.

No potential turbidity events during the reporting period across the 2 (two) units were identified as discussed in the following section.

Table 1: WQMS Requiring Review

Unit	Dates	Comment
HV07	February 2024	Stream was dry. No valid data available for February 2024.
PTM01	February 2024	Stream was dry. No valid data available for February 2024.

2.2. Classification

Analysis of the data from the 2 (two) valid WQMSs identified no potential turbidity events during the reporting period. For this reporting period there were no ‘true’ turbidity events identified. Refer to the following section for analysis.

2.3. True Turbidity Events

For this reporting period, no ‘true’ turbidity events were identified.

3. Recommendations

3.1. WQMS Network

RARE recommends:

- Perform a maintenance and deployment review of all units to ensure their correct operation.

4. Raw WQMS Data

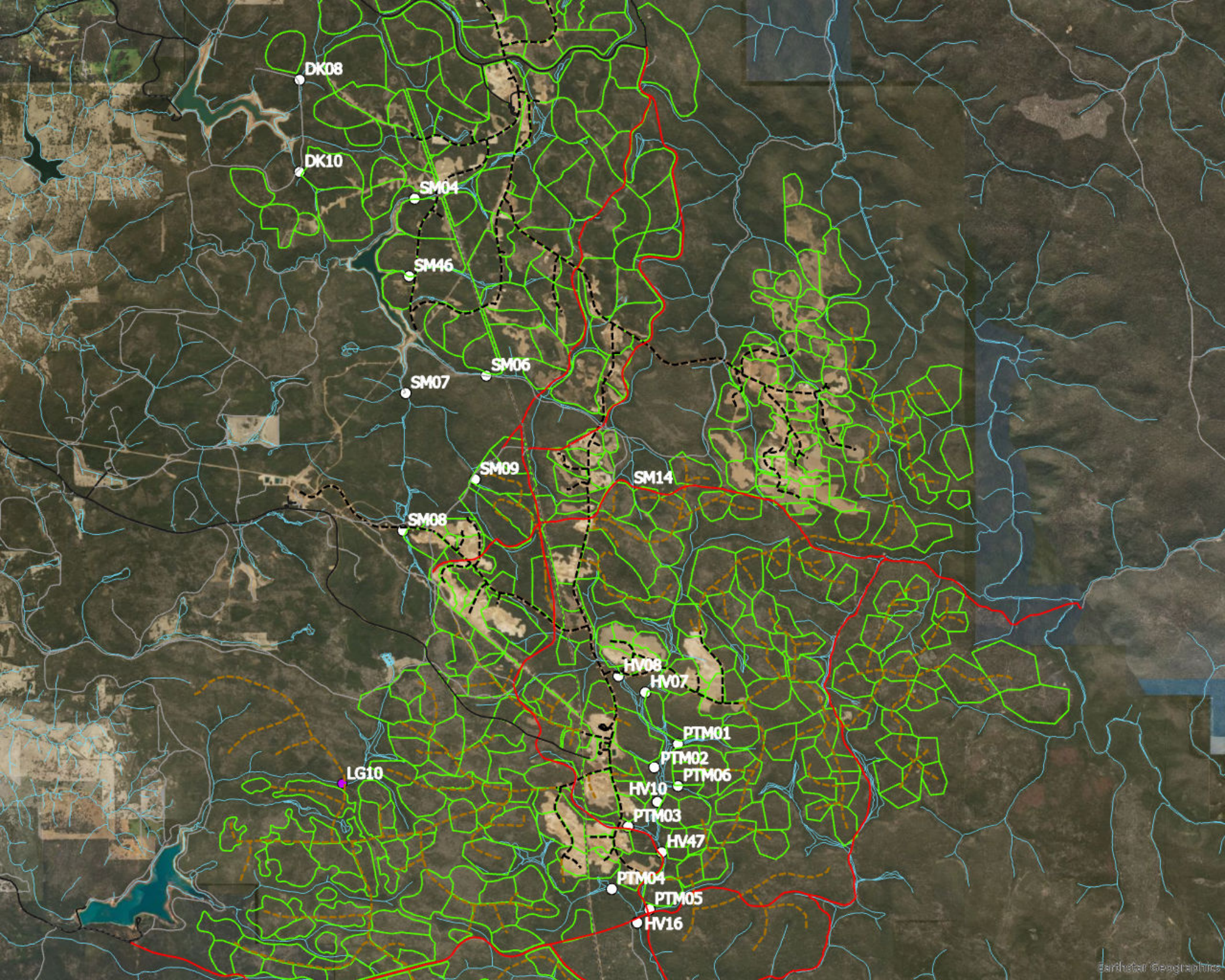
Date	Willowdale WQMS Data - February 2024 - Events with turbidity > 25 NTU for an hour or more	
	HV07	PTM01
1/02/2024		
2/02/2024		
3/02/2024		
4/02/2024		
5/02/2024		
6/02/2024		
7/02/2024		
8/02/2024		
9/02/2024		
10/02/2024		
11/02/2024		
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22/02/2024		
23/02/2024		
24/02/2024		
25/02/2024		
26/02/2024		
27/02/2024		
28/02/2024		
29/02/2024		

Note: False events have been annotated by black bold text. True events for further investigation are annotated by red bold text.

Date	Willowdale WQMS Data - February 2024 - Turbidity (Daily Average, NTU)	
	HV07	PTM01
1/02/2024		
2/02/2024		
3/02/2024		
4/02/2024		
5/02/2024		
6/02/2024		
7/02/2024		
8/02/2024		
9/02/2024		
10/02/2024		
11/02/2024		
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28/02/2024		
29/02/2024		

hntNote: Daily averages above 25 NTU have been annotated by black bold text. Daily averages inclusive of with true events for further investigation are annotated by red bold text. Grey shading indicates no data available for that day at that unit.

Appendix A. Willowdale WQMS Locations



Appendix B. WQMS General Arrangement

