

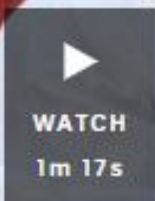
LIVE BLOG

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South32's Dendrobi coal sludge into cre Wollongong EPA off

ABC Illawarra / By Nick McLaren

Posted Mon 17 Aug 2020 at 5:13pm





LIVE





Paul Scully MP

Shadow Minister for Natural Resources

Member for Wollongong

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On Tue, Aug 18, 2020, 9:02 AM Paul Scully <Paul.Scully@parliament.nsw.gov.au> wrote:

The clean-up started on the day it happened. I don't know anyone who likes seeing this sort of event happen and everyone involved knows that I am paying close attention to the responses of everyone involved – operator and regulator.

Licence Variation

Licence - 3241



BACKGROUND

A. DENDROBIUM COAL PT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS NOTICE

3241 ("the licence") issued
The licence authorises the
2526 ("the premises").

- This notice is issued under section 58(5) of the Act.
- Details provided in this notice, along with an updated version of the licence, will be available on the EPA's Public Register (<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/prpoeo/index.htm>) in accordance with section 308 of the Act.

B. On 10 August 2020, the E
licensee that an incident h
Waters Creek.

Appeals against this decision

C. An EPA Authorised Officer
occurred. A stormwater p
and the release of turbid w

- You can appeal to the Land and Environment Court against this decision. The deadline for lodging the appeal is 21 days after you were given notice of this decision.

D. The EPA officer inspected
Waters Creek and parts o
deposited along some edg

When this notice begins to operate

E. The EPA determined that
to the dictionary definition

- The variations to the licence specified in this notice begin to operate immediately from the date of this notice, unless another date is specified in this notice.

F. The EPA has added condi
cause of the incident, its e
creeks.

- If an appeal is made against this decision to vary the licence and the Land and Environment Court directs that the decision is stayed the decision does not operate until the stay ceases to have effect or the Land and Environment Court confirms the decision or the appeal is withdrawn (whichever occurs first).

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AUGUST 17 2020 - 12:00PM

Impact of coal pollution on Figtree creek still unclear

**Ben Langford**

Latest News

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Water from south 32 Dendrobian creek contamination.. Collected today a week after the spill. No signs warning kids not to play in this toxic mess running through suburban Figtree. [@drianwright](#) any chance we could get this analysed to inform the community of what's in it?



Reference	Description	Sample	Sample	Replicate	ate Sample	minium-Tot	rsenic-Tot	arium-Tot	admium-To	obalt-Tot	opper-Tot	Iron-Total	nganese-T	ybdenum-T	Nickel-Tot	Lead-Total	ithium-Tot	rontium-T	oranium-Tot	Zinc-T
		Description	No.			µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L	µg/L
Units						10	1	1	0.1	1	1	10	5	1	1	1	1	1	0.5	1
PQL																				
Method						Metals-022	Metals-022	Metals-022	Metals-022	Metals-022	Metals-022	Metals-022	Metals-022	Metals-022	Metals-022	Metals-022	Metals-022	Metals-022	Metals-022	Metals
250238	Figtree	BWU 1	1	0	27/08/2020	520	<1	130	<0.1	<1	<1	290	7	<1	<1	2	8	170	<0.5	<1
250238	Figtree	BWU 2	1	0	27/08/2020	300	<1	150	<0.1	<1	<1	230	8	<1	<1	<1	6	170	<0.5	<1
250238	Figtree	BWU 3	1	0	27/08/2020	640	<1	160	<0.1	<1	<1	460	18	<1	1	<1	6	160	<0.5	
250238	Figtree	BWU 3	1	1	27/08/2020	670	<1	160	<0.1	<1	<1	510	19	<1	1	<1	6	160	<0.5	
250238	Figtree	FT Spill	2	0	12/08/2020															
250238	Figtree	FT Spill	2	0	12/08/2020	1400	4	480	<0.1	5	2	3100	1900	4	4	1	22	890	0.6	
250238	Figtree	FT Spill	2	1	12/08/2020	1600	4	470	<0.1	5	1	3000	1900	4	4	<1	23	870	0.6	
250238	Figtree	DB MP1	3	0	27/08/2020	<10	10	720	<0.1	<1	<1	56	<5	71	10	<1	410	710	2.7	
250238	Figtree	DB MP2	3	0	27/08/2020	<10	10	750	<0.1	<1	<1	57	<5	71	10	<1	410	730	2.6	
250238	Figtree	SAL 1	5	0	27/08/2020	60	48	790	<0.1	10	4	130	6	170	280	<1	2300	610	5.6	
250238	Figtree	SAL 2	5	0	27/08/2020	60	46	820	<0.1	9	4	110	6	170	270	<1	2500	620	5.5	
250238	Figtree	SAL 3	5	0	27/08/2020	70	57	830	<0.1	12	5	160	6	200	340	<1	2700	580	6.3	
250238	Figtree	ACMKR	6	0	27/08/2020	60	<1	83	<0.1	<1	1	89	9	<1	<1	<1	3	190	<0.5	
250238	Figtree	BD1	15	0	27/08/2020	60	<1	21	<0.1	<1	4	21	<5	<1	1	<1	<1	46	<0.5	

Table 3.4.1 Trigger values for toxicants at alternative levels of protection. Values in grey shading are the trigger

values applying to typical *slightly-r*
applying these levels to different ex

[illegible]

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Licence summary

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Summary Licence No: 3241

[View this licence](#) (PDF document 151 kb)**Licence holder:** DENDROBIUM COAL PTY LTD**Premises:** DENDROBIUM MINE

CORDEAUX ROAD, MOUNT KEMBLA, NSW, 2526

LGA: WOLLONGONG **Catchment:** Illawarra Coast**Administrative fee:** \$79,230.00**Licence status:** Issued**Activity type:** Mining for coal

Coal works

Licence review: Complete date 09 May 2019

Complete date 09 May 2014

Complete date 09 Sep 2009

Complete date 09 Sep 2004

Complete date 24 Sep 2001

Due date 09 May 2024

Environment Protection Licence

Licence - 3241



Licence Details

Number:	3241
Anniversary Date:	01-July

Licensee

DENDROBIUM COAL PTY LTD

PO BOX 275

UNANDERRA NSW 2526

Premises

DENDROBIUM MINE

CORDEAUX ROAD

MOUNT KEMBLA NSW 2526

Scheduled Activity

Coal works



red to in the table are identified in this licence for the purposes of the monitoring
s for discharges of pollutants to water from the point.

Water and land

Monitoring Point	Type of Discharge Point	Location Description
	Stormwater and minewater discharge from Dendrobium mine. Brine discharge from Appin West mine. Discharge quality monitoring	Pipeline discharging to Allan's Creek labelled as "Discharge Point" on map titled "Dendrobium Mine Water Disposal Pipeline" dated 8 November 2002.

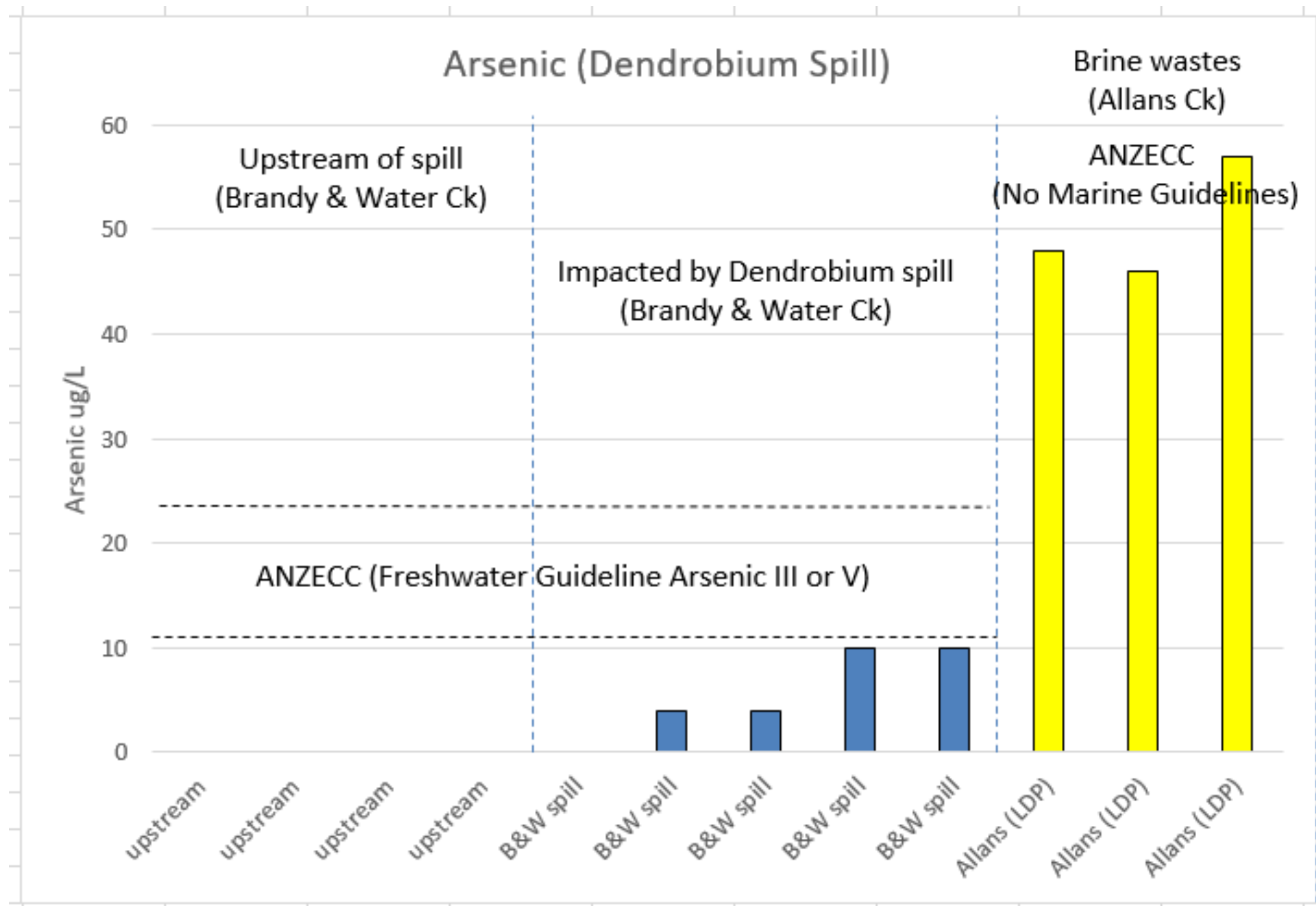


Upstream

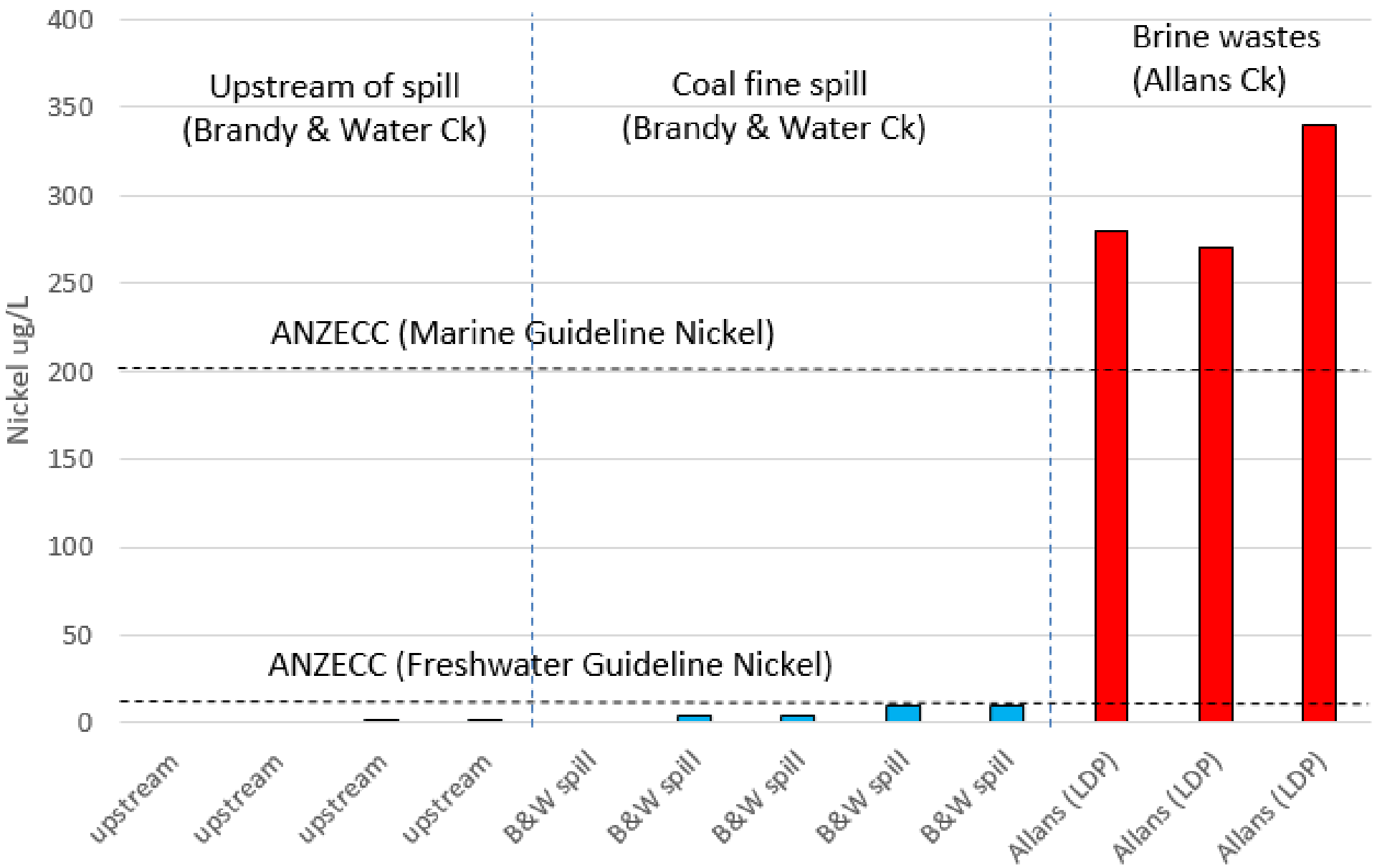


Brandy and Water Creek (Dendrobium spill)

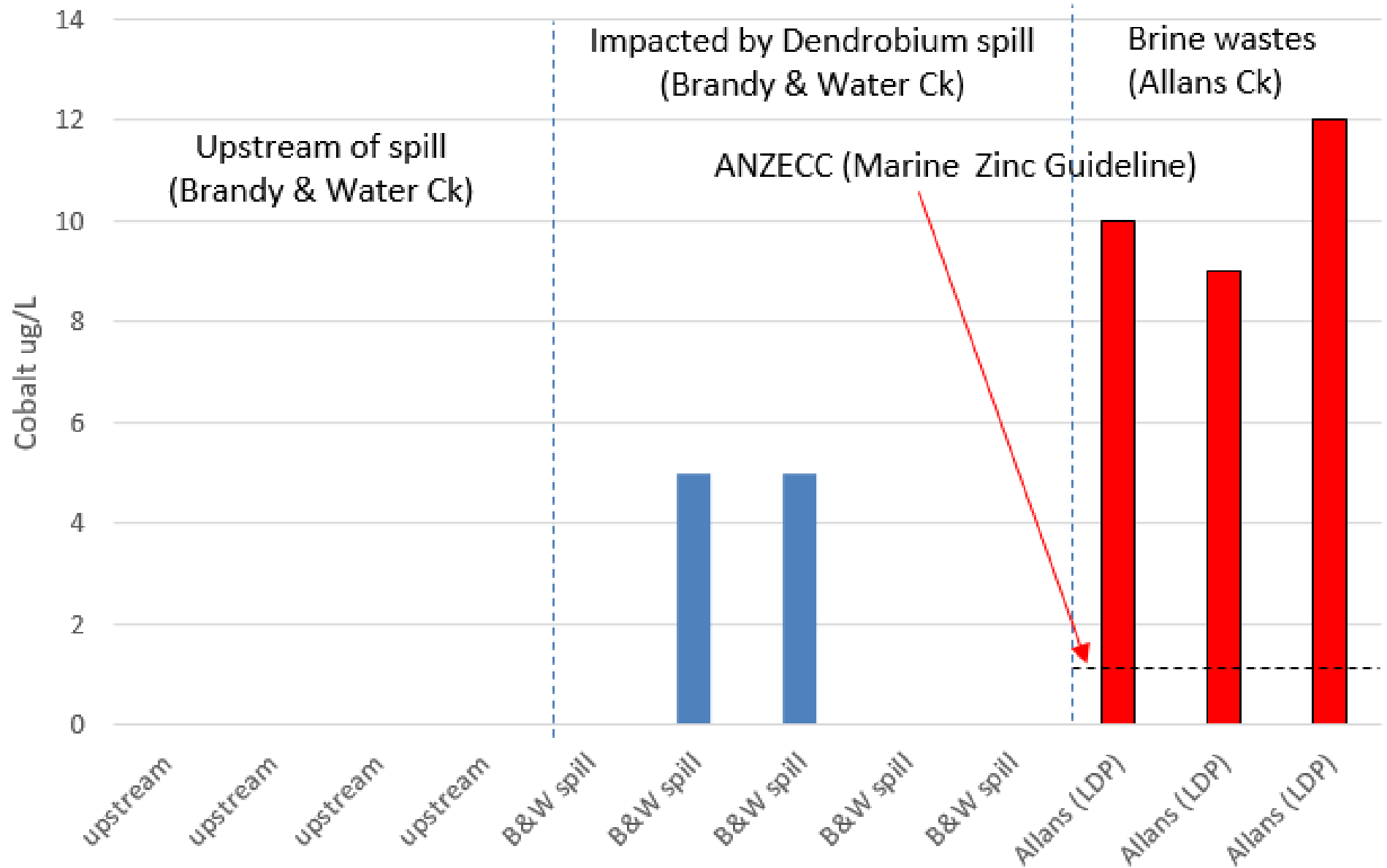
Coal brine wastes disposed into Allans Creek

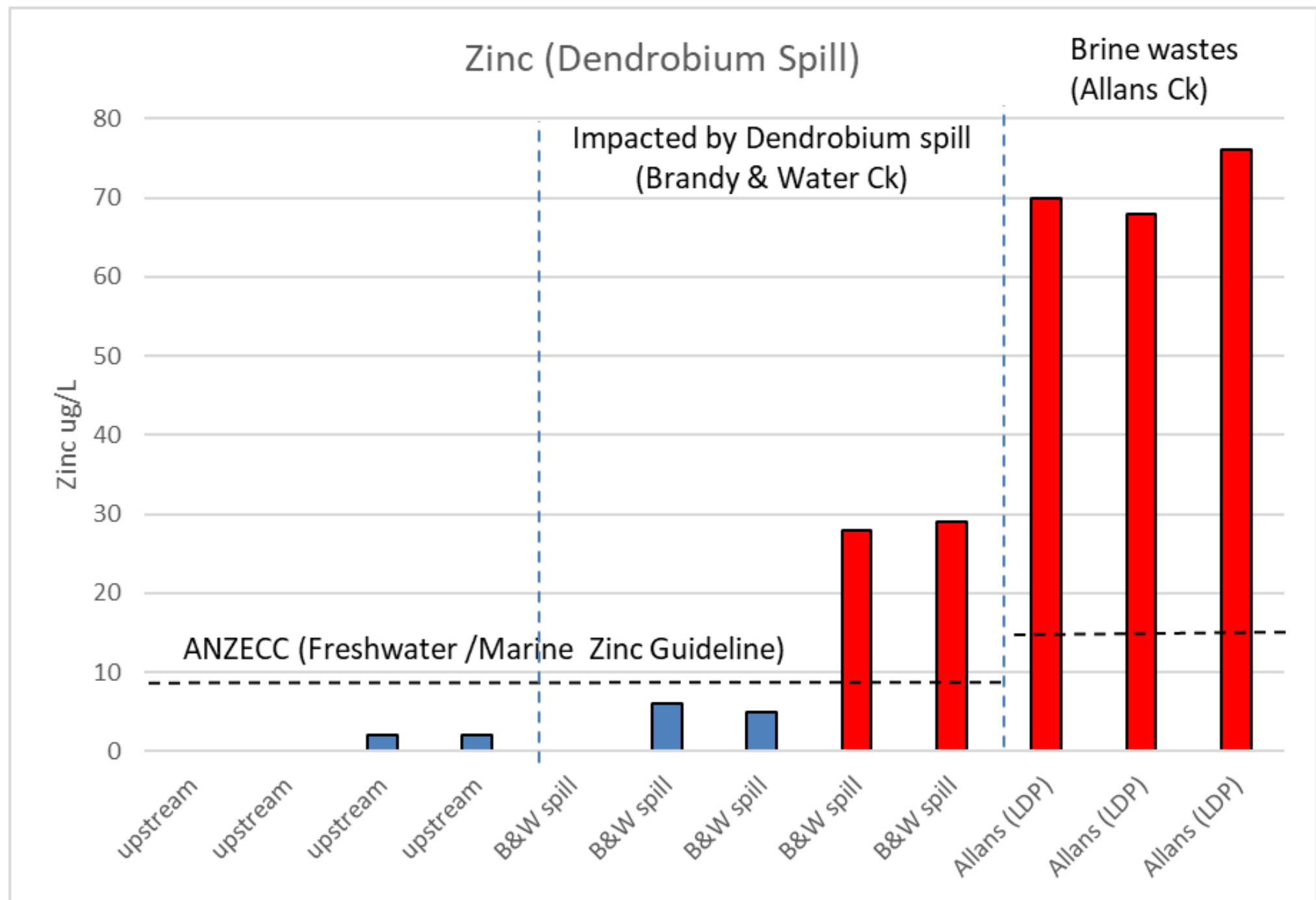


Nickel (Dendrobium Spill)

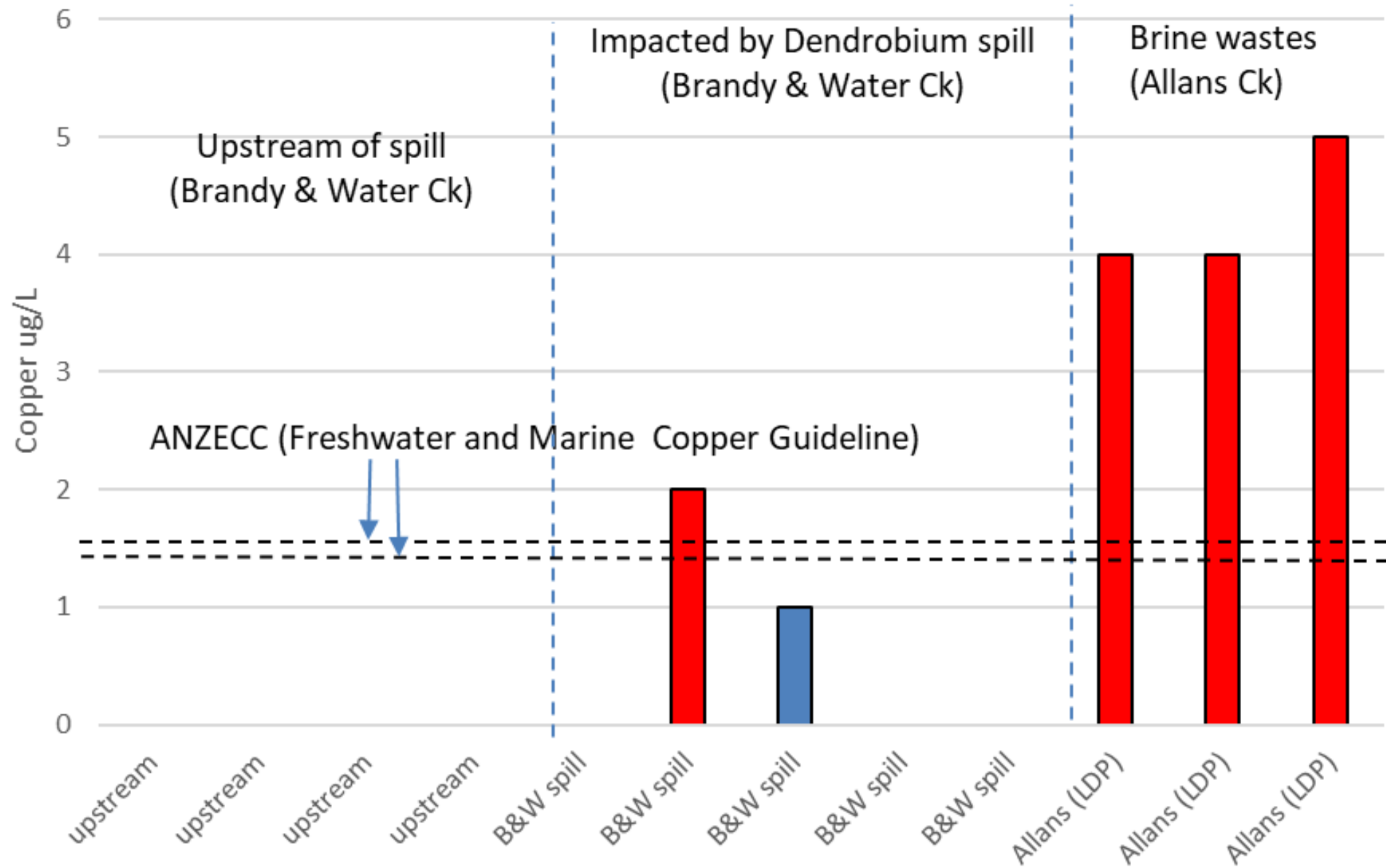


Cobalt (Dendrobium Spill)





Copper (Dendrobium Spill)



What impact did the Dendrobium coal fine spill have on Brandy and Water Creek (BWC)?

Probably a moderate ecosystem impact. I have not seen results that suggest it was hazardous to human health.

1. The sludge/sediment sample from BWC did not exceed any ANZECC (2000) sediment quality guidelines. But the coal fines are likely to cause ecological stress through damage / smothering to habitat, clogging of gills etc.
2. Of moderate concern is that three water samples collected from Brandy & Water did exceed ANZECC (2000) water quality guidelines for protection of 95% of species for copper (1) and zinc (2 samples).
3. Water samples collected from Brandy & Water were elevated above natural (background) concentrations for cobalt, barium, strontium, lithium (all have no freshwater guidelines) and were elevated but less than the arsenic ANZECC water quality guideline.



How does EPL 3241 succeed at protecting the environment?

Poorly. It permits the discharge of highly contaminated waste 'brine waste' at ecologically hazardous concentrations for nickel, zinc, copper, arsenic(?). It does not permit the discharge of cobalt. See clause L2.3 below:

L2.3 To avoid any doubt, this condition does not authorise the pollution of waters by any pollutant other than those specified in the table\.

Environment Protection Licence

Licence - 3241



Licence Details

Number:	3241
Anniversary Date:	01-July

Licensee

DENDROBIUM COAL PTY LTD
PO BOX 275
UNANDERRA NSW 2526

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CORDEAUX ROAD
MOUNT KEMBLA NSW 2526

Scheduled Activity

Coal works

How do the water chemical results from Allan's Creek compare to the EPA licence?

POINT 5

Pollutant	Units of Measure	50 percentile concentration limit	90 percentile concentration limit	3DGM concentration limit	100 percentile concentration limit
Arsenic	milligrams per litre				1.3
Copper	milligrams per litre				0.080
Nickel	milligrams per litre				5
Oil and Grease	milligrams per litre				10
pH	pH				6.5-9.0
Total suspended solids	milligrams per litre				30

Arsenic in Allens Ck brine was 0.05 mg/L

Copper in Allens Ck brine at 0.005 mg/L

Nickel in Allens Ck brine at 0.340 mg/L

Zinc	milligrams per litre				0.4
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Zinc in Allens Ck brine at 0.076 mg/L

