



# **Hume Coal Project**

Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land Verification Assessment

Prepared for Hume Coal Pty Limited | August 2015









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Prepared for Hume Coal Pty Limited | 17 August 2015

Ground Floor, Suite 01, 20 Chandos Street St Leonards, NSW, 2065

> T +61 2 9493 9500 F +61 2 9493 9599 E info@emgamm.com

## Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land Verification Assessment

Final

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Prepared by	Kylie Drapala	Approved by	Dr Timothy Rohde
Position	Senior Environmental Scientist (Soils)	Position	Practice Leader - Rehabilitation, Closure and Soils
Signature	Drapala.	Signature	T. Clal
Date	17 August 2015	Date	17 August 2015

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#### **Document Control**

Version	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by
1	17/8/2015	K. Drapala, N. Cupples, J. Kelehear and T. Rohde	J. Kelehear, T. Rohde and P. Mitchell



T+61 (0)2 9493 9500 | F+61 (0)2 9493 9599

Ground Floor | Suite 01 | 20 Chandos Street | St Leonards | New South Wales | 2065 | Australia

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#### 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 Project background

Hume Coal Pty Limited (Hume Coal) proposes to develop and operate an underground coal mine and associated mine infrastructure (the 'Hume Coal Project') in the Southern Coalfield of New South Wales (NSW). Hume Coal holds exploration authorisation 349 (A349) to the west of Moss Vale, in the Wingecarribee local government area (LGA). The underground mine will be developed within part of A349 and associated surface facilities will be developed within and north of A349. The project's local setting is shown in Figure 1.1.

The mine will be developed and operated over an approximate 22 year-period, producing metallurgical and thermal coal for international and domestic markets. It will extract approximately 50 million tonnes of run of mine (ROM) coal from the Wongawilli Seam using low impact mining methods. To minimise environmental impacts, Hume Coal has devised an innovative 'non-caving' mining method which will have negligible subsidence impacts. It will leave pillars of coal in place so that the overlying strata remain intact and supported, rather than collapsing into the mined-out void and causing subsidence. This mining method will protect the overlying aquifer and surface features and allow existing land uses to continue at the surface. The mine will employ around 300 full-time equivalent personnel at peak production. Post-mining, the mine infrastructure will be decommissioned and these areas rehabilitated over a nominal two year period, to a state where they can support land uses similar to the current land uses. This outcome will be assisted by the surface infrastructure design, which retains as much of the existing landscape as possible.

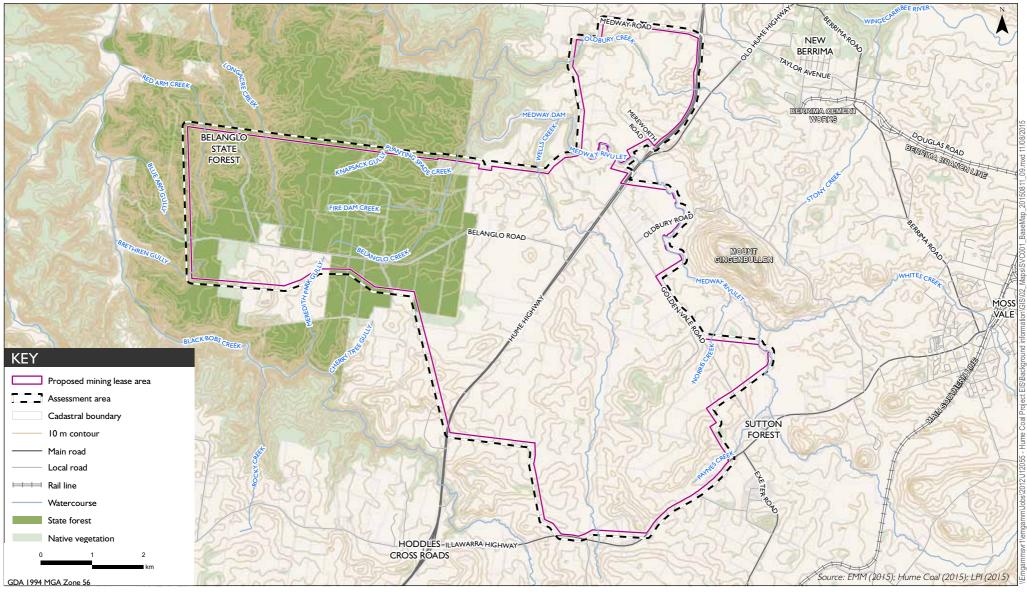
The project has been developed following several years of detailed technical investigations to define the mineable resource and identify and address environmental and other constraints. Numerous alternative designs have been prepared and evaluated. This process has allowed development of a well-considered, practical and economic project design that will enable resource recovery, while minimising environmental impacts and potential land use conflicts.

The project is now in the early stages of the comprehensive assessment processes required by Commonwealth and NSW legislation. Under provisions of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000, either a gateway certificate or a site verification certificate (SVC) is needed before the project's development application is lodged. This process was established by the NSW Government (2012a) Strategic Regional Land Use Policy (SRLUP) and an amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007 (Mining SEPP) in 2013. It applies to State significant mining developments, such as the Hume Coal Project, that require a new or extended mining lease under the NSW Mining Act 1992.

The type of certificate required depends on whether or not a proposed development is on 'strategic agricultural land', as defined in the SRLUP. Strategic agricultural land, which makes up less than 4% of all land in NSW (NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure 2013), falls into two categories: critical industry clusters (CICs) and biophysical strategic agricultural land (BSAL).

Developments that are on the unique and highly productive land classified as strategic agricultural land need to go through the gateway process and obtain a gateway certificate. Conversely, developments which are not on strategic agricultural land need to obtain a SVC, certifying that the land is not BSAL The gateway process does not apply to these types of developments and they cannot go through the gateway process.

The NSW Government has mapped strategic agricultural land across the whole of NSW at a desktop level. This Strategic Agricultural Land Map (attached to the Mining SEPP) shows that there is no strategic agricultural land in Hume Coal's proposed mining lease areas. However, in accordance with the Mining SEPP, detailed site-specific surveys and analysis ('site verification') are required following the NSW Government (2013) Interim Protocol for Site Verification and Mapping of Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (Interim Protocol), to confirm whether or not any land within Hume Coal's proposed mining lease areas is BSAL. As described in Section 2.1, there are no CICs within or close to the Hume Coal Project and site verification or a SVC are not required in respect of CICs.







SVC application area

Hume Coal Project Biophysical strategic agricultural land verification assessment

Site verification has been completed for the Hume Coal Project and confirmed that, consistent with the NSW Government's mapping, there is no BSAL within Hume Coal's proposed mining lease areas. Hume Coal is therefore applying to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) for a SVC to certify this finding. The verification process and outcomes are documented in this report, which accompanies the SVC application under Part 4AA of the Mining SEPP.

Hume Coal's SVC application is for those parts of A349 and land to the north over which it intends to seek a mining lease (including a lease for mining purposes) under the NSW Mining Act 1992 (herein the 'SVC application area') (Figure 1.1). The wider BSAL verification assessment area comprises the SVC application area plus a 100 metre (m) buffer, as per Interim Protocol requirements.

#### 1.2 Policy framework

The site verification policy framework is set out in the SRLUP and Mining SEPP.

The NSW Government released the SRLUP in 2012 to "provide greater protection for valuable agricultural land and better balance competing land uses". This was to be by "identifying and protecting strategic agricultural land, protecting valuable water resources and providing greater certainty for companies wanting to invest in mining and coal seam gas projects in regional NSW". The SRLUP provides a strategic framework and a range of initiatives to balance agriculture and resource development.

As mentioned in Section 1.1, the SVC process was established in 2013 by an amendment to the Mining SEPP. The Mining SEPP amendment included addition of the following aims in Clause 2(d):

- (i) to recognise the importance of agricultural resources, and
- (ii) to ensure protection of strategic agricultural land and water resources, and
- (iii) to ensure a balanced use of land by potentially competing industries, and
- (iv) to provide for the sustainable growth of mining, petroleum and agricultural industries.

The SRLUP seeks to identify and map the two categories of strategic agricultural land. First, land with a rare combination of natural resources which make it very valuable for agriculture (known as BSAL). Second, land which is important to a highly significant and clustered industry such as wine making or horse breeding (known as CICs). Further discussion of BSAL and CICs is provided in Chapter 2.

The SRLUP applies to mining proposals that are State Significant Development under the Mining SEPP and require a new or extended mining lease. In such cases proponents are required to confirm whether or not they are to be situated on strategic agricultural land. The Hume Coal Project is a State significant mining proposal which requires a new mining lease and so the SRLUP applies.

Hume Coal's SVC application is being lodged under Part 4AA of the Mining SEPP. In accordance with Clause 17C(3) of the Mining SEPP, Hume Coal has given notice of its intent to lodge an SVC application "by advertisement published in a newspaper circulating in the area in which the development is to be carried out no later than 30 days before the application is made". A copy of the advertisement, which was published in the Southern Highland News on 17 July 2015, is provided in Appendix H.

## 2 Strategic agricultural land assessment

## 2.1 Critical industry clusters

The NSW Government (2012b) Draft Guideline for site verification of critical industry clusters provides guidance for identifying the existence of CICs. They are mapped on the Strategic Agricultural Land Map and comprise land which is important to a highly significant and clustered industry, such as wine making or horse breeding.

The draft guideline describes a CIC as a "localised concentration of interrelated productive industries based on an agricultural product that provides significant employment opportunities and contributes to the identity of the region". It specifies that a CIC must meet the following criteria:

- there is a concentration of enterprises that provides clear development and marketing advantages and is based on an agricultural product;
- the productive industries are interrelated;
- it consists of a unique combination of factors such as location, infrastructure, heritage and natural resources;
- it is of a national and/or international importance;
- it is an iconic industry that contributes to the region's identity; and
- it is potentially substantially impacted by coal seam gas or mining proposals.

The Strategic Agricultural Land Map (attached to the Mining SEPP) shows that there are no CICs within or close to Hume Coal's proposed mining lease areas. There are only two in NSW (an equine and a viticulture CIC), both in the Upper Hunter, more than 200 kilometres north of the SVC application area. The draft guideline states that "projects located outside the mapped CIC are not required to seek site verification". The Hume Coal Project is outside the mapped CIC. Therefore, the application area does not contain CICs and Hume Coal is not required to seek a site verification or gateway certificate in respect of CICs.

## 2.2 Biophysical strategic agricultural land

BSAL is defined in the Interim Protocol as:

land with a rare combination of natural resources highly suitable for agriculture. These lands intrinsically have the best quality landforms, soil and water resources which are naturally capable of sustaining high levels of productivity and require minimal management practices to maintain this high quality. BSAL is able to be used sustainably for intensive purposes such as cultivation. Such land is inherently fertile and generally lacks significant biophysical constraints.

The NSW Government has mapped BSAL across the whole of NSW, based on a desktop study, and the resultant maps accompany the Mining SEPP. The BSAL shown on the maps comprises land which meets the following criteria (as described in the Interim Protocol):

- access to a reliable water supply; and
- falls under soil fertility classes 'high' or 'moderately high' under the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
  (OEH) Draft Inherent General Fertility of NSW, where it is also present with land capability classes I, II or III
  under OEH's Land and Soil Capability Mapping of NSW; or
- falls under soil fertility classes 'moderate' under OEH's Draft Inherent General Fertility of NSW, where it is also present with land capability classes I or II under OEH's Land and Soil Capability Mapping of NSW.

These maps have generally not been verified by site investigations and site verification in accordance with the Interim Protocol is required to confirm whether or not land is actually BSAL.

The Strategic Agricultural Land Map indicates that there is no BSAL in the SVC application area. Figure 2.1 presents the NSW Government's regional scale BSAL map for the area. BSAL has been mapped nearby, in the south-eastern corner of A349 and at a hill (Mount Gingenbullen) in its north-eastern corner (refer to Figure 2.1), though this land has not been confirmed as BSAL by site investigations. The project does not involve mining under either of these areas. They are outside of the SVC application area (Figure 2.1) and the entirety of the proposed development application area. It is however noted that, based on review of LiDAR data, there is less than 20 hectares (ha) of land at Mount Gingenbullen with slopes less than or equal to 10% and so it does not comprise BSAL (refer to Figures 2.2 and 3.6). Furthermore, the hill includes rocky outcrops and is the site of an old Trachyte quarry.

Notwithstanding, the Interim Protocol states that "due to the regional scale of the maps, it is important that appropriate processes are in place to provide for verification that particular sites are in fact BSAL. Verification can apply to both mapped and unmapped BSAL areas." The Mining SEPP requires certain types of development (including the Hume Coal Project) to verify whether or not any land within their proposed mining lease areas is BSAL.

The Interim Protocol outlines the steps and criteria to establish whether an area is BSAL. The criteria relate to:

- slope;
- rock outcrop;
- surface rock fragments;
- gilgais;
- soil fertility;
- effective rooting depth to a physical barrier;
- soil drainage;
- soil pH;
- salinity; and
- effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier.

Figure 2.2 shows the order in which the site verification criteria must be assessed and the decision making sequence to establish whether or not BSAL is present at a particular site. For land to be classified as BSAL, it must meet all of the criteria in Figure 2.2. If any of the criteria are not met, the land is not BSAL and later steps in the assessment are not relevant. In addition, the Interim Protocol specifies a minimum area for BSAL of 20 ha. If the area subject to assessment falls below 20 ha at any point of the assessment because of exclusion of land that does not meet the criteria, then the land is not BSAL and there is no need to continue the assessment. Therefore, for land to be classified as BSAL, it must have access to a reliable water supply; meet all of the criteria in Figure 2.2; and be a contiguous area of at least 20 ha. If any of these criteria are not met, the land is not BSAL. A detailed description of the BSAL classification rules and analysis methods used in this assessment is provided in Appendix F.

It is noted that Figure 2.2 is a direct extract from the Interim Protocol and has a misprint in Step 12. The actual effective rooting depth criteria for a site to be classified as BSAL (as used in the Hume Coal Project's assessment) is greater than or equal to 750 millimetres (mm) (not 75 mm). This is correctly shown in respect of physical barriers in Step 8 of the flow chart, and quoted elsewhere in the Interim Protocol in relation to chemical barriers, for example in Section 6.10: "BSAL soils must have an effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier greater or equal to 750 mm".







DP&E mapped BSAL

Hume Coal Project Biophysical strategic agricultural land verification assessment

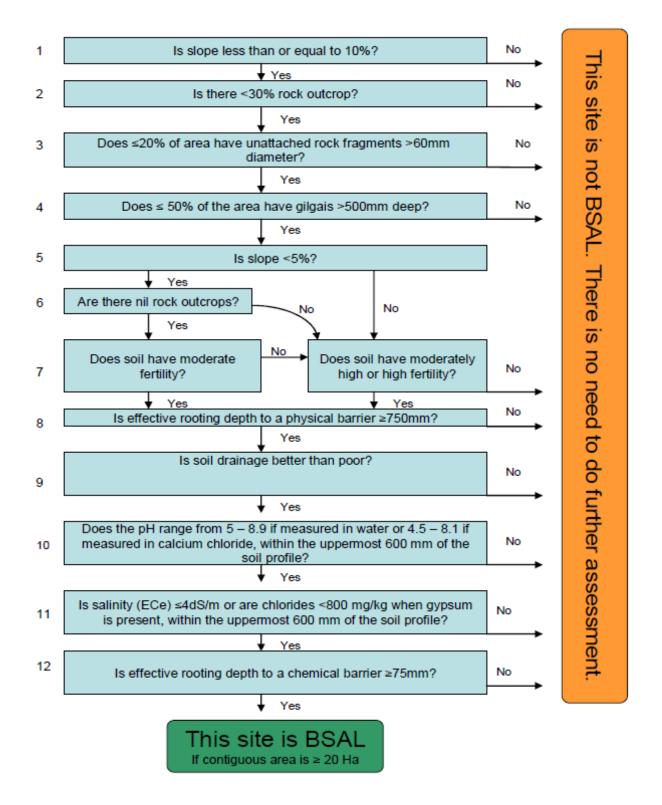


Figure 2.2 Interim Protocol flow chart for site assessment of BSAL

### 2.3 Statement of qualification

This site verification report has been prepared by Kylie Drapala and Neil Cupples of EMGA Mitchell McLennan Pty Limited (EMM) in accordance with the Interim Protocol. Kylie and Neil are senior soil scientists. The assessment and report have been authorised by Dr Timothy Rohde, who is a certified professional soil scientist, Stage 2 (Australian Society of Soil Science Inc).

### 2.4 Expert reviews

This site verification report was independently reviewed by Dr David McKenzie. Dr McKenzie is a certified professional soil scientist, Stage 3 (Australian Society of Soil Science Inc.) and a certified soil scientist by the British Society of Soil Science. A letter documenting Dr McKenzie's review is provided in Appendix A.

In addition, preparation of this report required application of remote sensing techniques in soil characterisation and mapping (refer to Appendix B). This process and its outcomes were also subject to independent review, by remote sensing expert Professor Bruce Forster. Professor Forster has a PhD in satellite remote sensing, is a former Director of the Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) at the University of New South Wales, and is the Managing Director of Asia Pacific Remote Sensing Pty Ltd. Professor Forster's report is also provided in Appendix A.

#### 2.5 Interim protocol checklist

The Interim Protocol provides a checklist of requirements for a BSAL site verification assessment report. The checklist is reproduced in Table 2.1, with reference to where each of the requirements has been addressed in this report.

#### Table 2.1 Interim protocol checklist

Requirement	Reference
Method, analysis and data	
A qualified soil scientist is overseeing the verification assessment and has signed off on the quality and extent of the work.	Sections 2.3 and 2.4 and Appendix A.
Laboratories for soil samples are compliant with AS ISO/IEC17025.	Appendix D.
Results with 15% of threshold levels are analysed in a laboratory.	Appendix E.
All soil profile descriptions are recorded and submitted to the NSW Soil and Land Information System (SALIS).	Survey data was recorded on SALIS soil data cards and submitted to OEH for entry into the SALIS database.
Laboratory data is supplied to OEH using their standard spreadsheet templates.	Laboratory data has been provided to OEH in the OEH template.
Report	
Reporting requirements for site verification criteria as described in Appendix 1 of the Interim Protocol.	Table 5.1and Appendix G.
Three 1:25,000 maps showing base level information, soil types and BSAL.	Figures 1.1, 4.1 and 5.1.
GIS output files and metadata statements.	GIS output files and metadata statements are provided with the SVC application.
Laboratory report.	Appendix E.

## 3 BSAL verification methods and initial steps

#### 3.1 Introduction

The Interim Protocol prescribes four initial steps in verifying BSAL:

- Step 1: identify the project area which will be assessed for BSAL;
- Step 2: confirm access to a reliable water supply;
- Step 3: choose the appropriate approach to map the soils information; and
- Step 4: risk assessment.

These steps are addressed in Sections 3.2 to 3.5 respectively. Section 3.6 describes the field-based survey methodology, including site selection and soils analysis, as well as a review of regional soil, geology and topographic mapping by others.

#### 3.2 Project area

The proposed mining lease application area, which is also the SVC application area, is 5,042 ha and is shown on Figure 1.1. The BSAL verification assessment area comprises the SVC application area plus a 100 m buffer, as per the Interim Protocol, and is 5,491 ha. It is also shown on Figure 1.1.

It should be noted that under clause 17A(2) of the Mining SEPP, mining development, as defined for the purposes of the site verification process, does not include development on land outside of a proposed mining lease. Therefore, any project components outside proposed lease areas, for example linear infrastructure such as rail infrastructure, are not subject to the site verification process. Accordingly, the SVC application area covers land over which Hume Coal intends to seek a mining lease or lease for mining purposes. It does not include some land where the rail spur, electricity transmission lines and other project-related components not subject to a mining lease will be constructed.

The majority of the SVC application area is freehold land, around 1,247 ha of which is owned by Hume Coal or affiliated entities. The north-western corner (Belanglo State Forest) is owned by State Forests of NSW, covering approximately 1,295 ha. The remainder, principally being road reserves, is variously owned by the Crown and Wingecarribee Shire Council.

## 3.3 Water supply

The SVC application area has a reliable water supply, defined in the Interim Protocol as rainfall of 350 mm or more per annum in nine out of 10 years. Weather records from the nearby town of Moss Vale indicate that for the past 14 years (2000-2014), rainfall has been in the range of 526-873 mm per annum (Bureau of Meteorology 2014). A review of NSW Office of Water mapping (NOW 2013a,b,c) confirms the reliability of rainfall, presence of a highly productive groundwater source and close proximity to reliable surface water supplies.

## 3.4 Land access and mapping approach

Sufficient land was able to be accessed within the SVC application area to satisfy on-site soil sampling density requirements specified in the Interim Protocol (refer to Sections 3.5 and 3.6.1). However, whilst Hume Coal made every reasonable attempt to access properties across the application area for soil surveys, a number of landholders declined to participate, and so land access was not uniformly spread (refer to Figure 3.1). A combination of field surveys and remote sensing methods were therefore used to identify and map soil types across the assessment area, consistent with guidance in the Interim Protocol. The remote sensing methods used are considered to be more accurate and objective than traditional manual mapping methods.

The Interim Protocol stipulates that where access for sampling is not available, a model of soils distribution should be developed based on landscape characteristics and remotely sensed and other data sources such as aerial photos, geology (extrapolated to identify parent material), electromagnetic and LiDAR data.

Accordingly, high resolution remotely-sensed data (eg digital elevation model derived from LiDAR data, gamma radiometric, geological and satellite imagery) has been used, in conjunction with soils data collected by field and laboratory analyses, to develop a model of soils distribution for the application area. The model employs a 'maximum likelihood' method of soil classification, based on statistical relationships between measurements in the field and remotely sensed data. It has been used to map soil types across the assessment area, including on land that could not be accessed, using the Australian Soil Classification (ASC) system. This approach differs from more traditional mapping methods, which involve manually mapping soil type boundaries based on professional judgement and interpretations of field data, maps and aerial/satellite images.

However, the gamma radiometric imagery, which was a key input to the remote sensing model, does not cover the far northern part of the application area. Therefore, soil types in this northern area were not mapped using remote sensing methods. Good field survey coverage was achieved in this northern area and used by EMM's soil scientists to manually map soil types there (refer to Figures 3.1 and 4.1).

Comparison of the soil types predicted by the model at each field survey point to the actual field results indicates an overall confidence level of approximately 75%, which is considered high. That is, approximately 75% of field survey points were classified as the same soil type by the model. In every instance where the two differed, the field survey point was 50 m or less from the model-predicted boundary of that same soil type. This spatial accuracy would be difficult to achieve with manual soil mapping techniques, especially at high resolutions of 1:25,000 or finer. By way of comparison, using traditional manual mapping methods, if a soil type is deemed to make up greater than 70% of a polygon, then the polygon would be mapped as that dominant soil type. This means there is allowance for 'error' of up to 30% in soil mapping using 'traditional methods'.

The remote sensing and mapping methodologies are described in detail in Appendix B. Details of the field survey methodology are provided in Section 3.6.

It is also noted that landholder objection to digging soil pits ('test pits') meant that the soil surveys were mostly completed by taking soil samples with 50 mm diameter core tubes or augers. The core tube and auger sample sites were supplemented with a test pit using a backhoe for four of the five soil types identified, on land where the landholder was receptive to having a soil pit. The sites selected for test pitting were those which were both accessible and adequately representative of the soil type. The latter was determined based on a review of survey results from cored or augered sites at or adjacent to potential test pit locations, to identify those which had relatively consistent average results across both physical, and where available, chemical parameters. The test pit locations are therefore considered to be generally representative of other sites with that same soil type.

It is further noted that this assessment and soil mapping used soil type map units. The option of instead using soil landscape units was considered. Soil landscape units are more appropriate for situations where there is more variability in soil types. They are typically used in areas where there may be a single dominant soil type but two or three common sub-dominants. For the SVC application area, soil map units were chosen due to the relatively low variability observed. The soil map units are referred to as 'soil types' in this report for simplicity. Correlations with landforms and geology are made using either method.

#### 3.5 Soil sampling density target

To determine the density of soil sampling required, the Interim Protocol recommends risks to agricultural resources and enterprises be evaluated using guidance in Appendix 3 of the Interim Protocol.

Risks can be classified as low, medium or high. The Interim Protocol states that examples of low risk situations include "areas of land that are unlikely to be BSAL over a proposed underground mine". It stipulates that sampling densities should be one site per 25 to 400 ha (1:25,000 to 1:100,000) for low risk activities and one site per 5 to 25 ha (1:25,000) for high risk activities (Gallant et al. 2008).

The project involves development and operation of mine infrastructure and an underground mine on and under land which is unlikely to be BSAL, based on the NSW Government's BSAL map, an extract of which is shown in Figure 2.1.

The potential for impacts to agricultural resources and enterprises is limited by the project design, which is for an underground mine that uses mining systems designed to avoid subsidence impacts. Direct surface disturbance, conservatively estimated at approximately 115 ha, will largely be restricted to surface infrastructure areas. They are predominantly in the north of the application area, though include some other areas above the underground mine to the south, such as drill pads and access tracks. Surface infrastructure will be on land owned by Hume Coal (or affiliated entities) or for which appropriate access agreements are in place with the landowner. It is noted that, as mentioned in Section 3.2, some project-related elements which will involve surface disturbance, such as rail infrastructure, do not require a mining lease or lease for mining purposes, and therefore are not subject to the site verification process. This infrastructure will extend outside of the SVC application area. The total surface disturbance for the mine and associated facilities (Hume Coal Project), as well as associated rail infrastructure subject of a separate development application (Berrima Rail Project), is conservatively estimated to be approximately 150 ha.

Development and operation of the surface infrastructure will have different impacts on the land's agricultural capability to development and operation of the underground mine. Surface impacts above the mine, proposed to cover approximately 3,400 ha, will be limited by the low impact mining system which will have negligible subsidence impacts; the existing land uses, agricultural or otherwise, will continue at the surface in these areas. Conversely, development of surface infrastructure (principally on land owned by Hume Coal or affiliated entities) would constitute a temporary land use change at that location. Land disturbance at surface infrastructure areas will be reversible and the infrastructure design retains as much of the existing landscape as possible. Post-mining, the mine infrastructure will be decommissioned and these areas rehabilitated to a state where they can support land uses similar to the current land uses.

Based on the above, separate preliminary agricultural risk assessments were undertaken for the surface infrastructure footprint and land overlying the underground mine, respectively, using the risk ranking matrix in the Interim Protocol. The results are presented in Table 3.1. It is noted that, based on the consequence descriptors in Appendix 3 of the Interim Protocol, the preliminary risk assessments are for an unmitigated scenario, which is not realistic. In practice, mitigation and management measures will be developed and implemented to avoid and minimise impacts to agriculture. These measures will be detailed in the environmental impact statement (EIS), though some examples are provided in the comments column of Table 3.1.

It is also noted that there are areas (more than 1,000 ha) within the SVC application area which are outside of both the surface infrastructure footprint and underground mining area, which are also not proposed to be disturbed, and pose negligible risk to agricultural resources. However, the preliminary risk assessment conservatively considers the entire SVC application area as either a 'surface infrastructure footprint' or 'underground mine area'.

Table 3.1 Preliminary agricultural risk assessment (unmitigated scenario)

Aspect	Probability <sup>1</sup>	Consequences <sup>1</sup>	Rating <sup>1</sup>	Comments
Surface infrastructure	A - almost certain	2 - major	A2 - high	Applicable consequence descriptor from risk assessment matrix in Appendix 3 of Interim Protocol:
footprint				Long-term management implications.
				EMM comments: This risk ranking rating applies only to the proposed surface disturbance footprint (approximately 115 ha) and is due to the proposed temporary land use change in these areas from agricultural to mine industrial for the duration of the project (nominally 24 years including construction and rehabilitation). Post-mining, the mine infrastructure will be decommissioned and these areas rehabilitated to a state where they can support land uses similar to current land uses.
Underground mine area	A - almost certain	4 - minor	A4 - medium	Applicable consequence descriptor from risk assessment matrix in Appendix 3 of Interim Protocol:
				Potential for short-term impact to agricultural resources or industries. Can be managed as part of routine operations.
				EMM comments: Surface impacts will be limited by the 'non-caving', low impact mining system which will have negligible subsidence impacts and will, therefore, protect the overlying aquifer and surface features and allow existing land uses to continue at the surface.
				The risk rating is based on the potential for other temporary impacts, which will be managed as part of the mine's operations. For example, the potential for groundwater inflows to the mine to result in a temporary decline in the water level within some water supply bores or wells of more than 2 m. In these situations, Hume Coal would offer any affected third parties appropriate compensatory arrangements such as access to an equivalent water supply through enhanced infrastructure or other means such as deepening an existing bore.

Note:

1. Based on the probability and consequence descriptors in Appendix 3 of the Interim Protocol and an unmitigated scenario, which is not realistic. In practice, mitigation and management measures will be implemented to avoid and minimise impacts to agriculture. These measures will be detailed in the EIS, though examples are provided in the comments column.

A soil survey density target of at least one site per 25 ha was conservatively adopted for BSAL verification purposes.

#### 3.6 Field-based survey methodology

#### 3.6.1 Survey density

Soil survey sites were mostly confined within the project area as recommended by Section 9.2 of the Interim Protocol. A total of 246 sites were surveyed within and immediately adjacent to the SVC application area and an average survey density of about one site per 20.5 ha was achieved. The average survey density achieved meets the conservative target adopted, which was at least one site per 25 ha or 202 sites (refer to Section 3.5). When considering the 100 m buffer, the average density achieved was about one site per 22.3 ha, which also meets the target adopted.

As discussed in Section 3.4, access for soil sampling was not uniformly spread across the application area and the spatial distribution of soil sampling points provides good coverage in some areas, though not in others. Therefore, consistent with guidance in the Interim Protocol, the field surveys were complemented by remote sensing techniques, to identify and map soil types across the assessment area and evaluate other BSAL criteria such as slope.

It is noted that soil surveys have also been conducted at additional locations outside the SVC application area, as part of the broader investigations for the project's EIS. These locations are not considered or described in this report, as they are not directly relevant to the SVC application. They will be detailed in the EIS. It is however noted that the soil types recorded at these additional locations are the same as those found within the SVC application area, none of which are BSAL.

#### 3.6.2 Site selection

Initial positioning of the soil survey sites was based on stratified random sampling across the application area, though designed to provide a relatively even distribution of detailed and check sites. In accordance with the requirements of stratified random sampling, a greater frequency of sampling was proposed for soil types that cover a greater proportion of the application area. Also, topographic maps were reviewed to ensure surveying was representative of the different landform types in the application area. Existing information reviewed is discussed in Section 3.6.3.

The exact locations of soil survey sites were finalised with consideration to land access constraints and site factors, particularly past disturbance, vegetation cover and infrastructure. These constraints meant that some sites initially identified were not available or suitable for surveying. For example, a pre-determined site visited during the field surveys and found to be at a disturbed area, such as within fill material along a road verge, would be unsuitable for sampling. In these inaccessible or unsuitable areas, the nearest available locations with similar landscape features were sampled and spatial co-ordinates recorded. Soil survey sites are shown in Figure 3.1.

Soil survey sites for a BSAL assessment fall into three categories:

- Exclusion sites fail a readily apparent landscape requirement for BSAL, such as excessive slope, rock outcrop, surface rockiness or gilgai micro relief. Soil profile descriptions or survey are not necessary.
- Detailed sites soil profiles are described in sufficient detail to allow all major physical and chemical soil features of relevance to BSAL verification to be clearly established.
- Check sites examined in sufficient detail to enable categorisation according to a soil type and soil map unit.

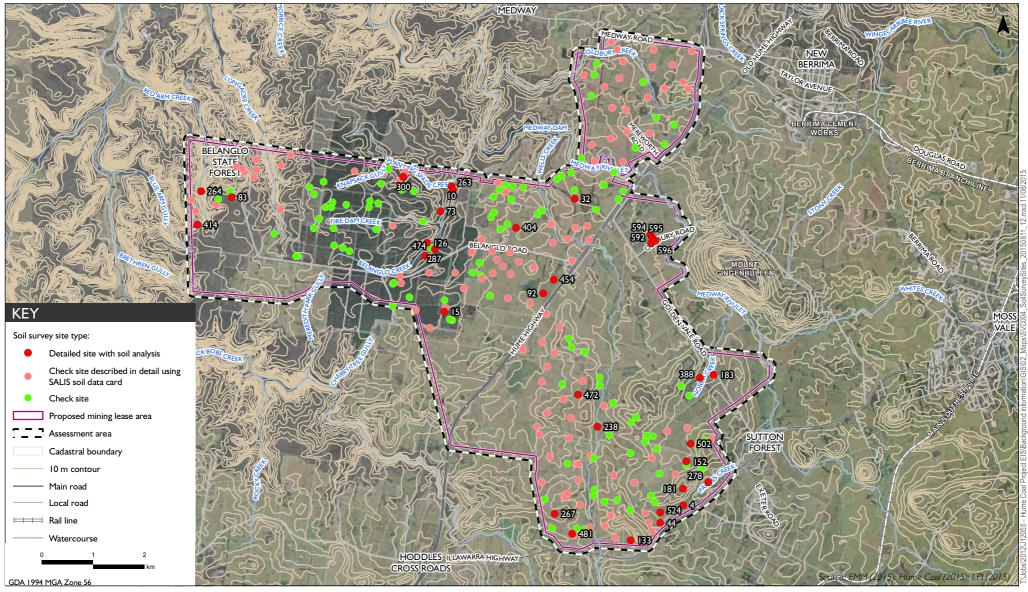
Guidance in the Interim Protocol and the National Committee on Soil and Terrain (NCST) (2009) Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook (the Handbook) was followed in the site assessments. The Interim Protocol suggests that each soil type identified should be examined in detail and samples analysed from at least three sites from each of the soil types. For example, an assessment area with five soil types would require at least 15 detailed site soil analyses. The Handbook suggests:

- 10-30% of sites should be described in detail:
- 1-5% of the sites described in detail should be subject to soil analysis; and
- remaining sites should be used as check sites.

In this way, a total of 246 soil survey sites were assessed, comprising 141 described in detail using the SALIS detailed soil data card (of which 33 were subjected to laboratory analysis), and 105 used as check sites. This meant that all relevant guidance in the Handbook was achieved or exceeded, with 57% of the sites described in detail and 23% of these subject to analysis.

Applying the definitions from the Interim Protocol, the 33 sites subjected to laboratory analysis were also classified as detailed sites for the purpose of BSAL assessment, with the remainder check sites. Samples from a minimum of three sites from each of the five soil types identified were submitted for laboratory analysis (refer to Table 3.5), which meets the Interim Protocol requirement. Detailed descriptions of each of these soil types are provided in Chapter 4.

For the purpose of BSAL verification, a site was defined as occurring within a 10-20 m radius of the point of observation of the soil profile. Soil profile data were recorded in the field on SALIS data cards. Photographic records of detailed sites and their soil profiles were taken in the field using a digital camera and are presented in Chapter 4 and Appendix C.







#### Soil survey sites

Hume Coal Project Biophysical strategic agricultural land verification assessment

#### 3.6.3 Review of available mapping

The soil survey sites were initially planned based on a review of Australian Soil Resource Information System (ASRIS) regional soil maps, geology maps and topographic maps. Regional soil mapping and information from the NSW Government's online soil mapping database eSPADE, released in 2014, was also reviewed.

#### i ASRIS mapping

The ASRIS mapping indicated that seven soil types were present in the application area, with Kurosols and Tenosols dominant. The agricultural potential of the mapped soils was also referenced. Soils across 89% of the assessment area were classified as having very low agricultural potential. The regional scale map is shown in Figure 3.2 and Table 3.2 summarises the soil types and coverage mapped within the assessment area, along with their respective agricultural potentials.

Table 3.2 Summary of regional soil mapping by ASRIS: SVC application area plus 100 m buffer

Soil type	Area (ha)1	Agricultural potential <sup>2</sup>
Chromosol	2	Moderate agricultural potential with moderate chemical fertility and water-holding capacity.
Dermosol	49	High with good structure and moderate to high chemical fertility and water-holding capacity with few problems.
Ferrosol	409	Generally high because of their good structure and moderate to high chemical fertility and water-holding capacity.
Hydrosol	21	Very low due to seasonal or permanent saturation.
Kandosol	160	Low to moderate with low to moderate chemical fertility and water-holding capacity.
Kurosol	3,027	Very low with high acidity (pH < 5.5), low chemical fertility, low water-holding capacity and often sodic.
Tenosol	1,823	Very low with low chemical fertility, poor structure and low water-holding capacity.

Notes:

- 1. Totals not exact due to rounding.
- 2. Based on Gray and Murphy (2002).

#### ii eSPADE mapping

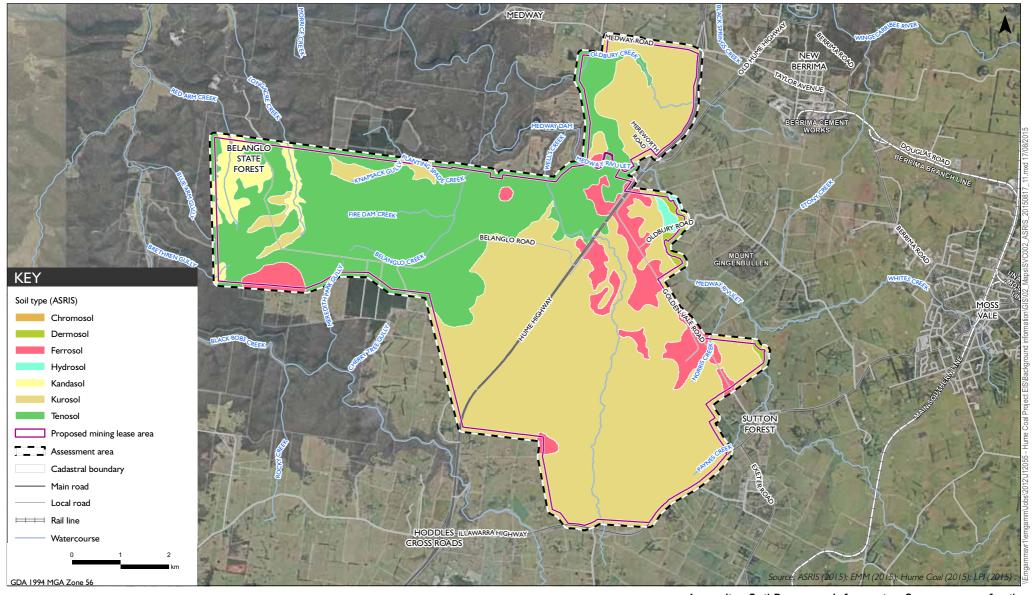
The eSPADE (OEH 2014) regional soil mapping showed six ASC orders within the assessment area with one suborder also mapped. The mapping indicated that Dermosols and Kurosols were dominant. Figure 3.3 shows the regional scale soil mapping and Table 3.3 summarises the ASC soil orders and coverage within the assessment area. Table 3.3 also shows the inherent soil fertility for each ASC order, as indicated by the eSPADE regional soil mapping portal. This information suggests that soils across 49% of the assessment area were classified as having low to moderately low soil fertility and a further 49% as having moderate soil fertility.

Table 3.3 Summary of regional soil mapping by eSPADE: SVC application area plus 100 m buffer

eSPADE ASC soil type	Area (ha) <sup>1</sup>	eSPADE inherent soil fertility	
Dermosol	2,629	Moderate	
Ferrosol	89	Moderately high	
Hydrosol	68	Moderate	
Kurosol	2,042	Moderately low	
Kurosol, Natric	2	Moderately low	
Rudosol	160	Low	
Rudosol and Tenosol	500	Low	

Note:

1. Totals not exact due to rounding.

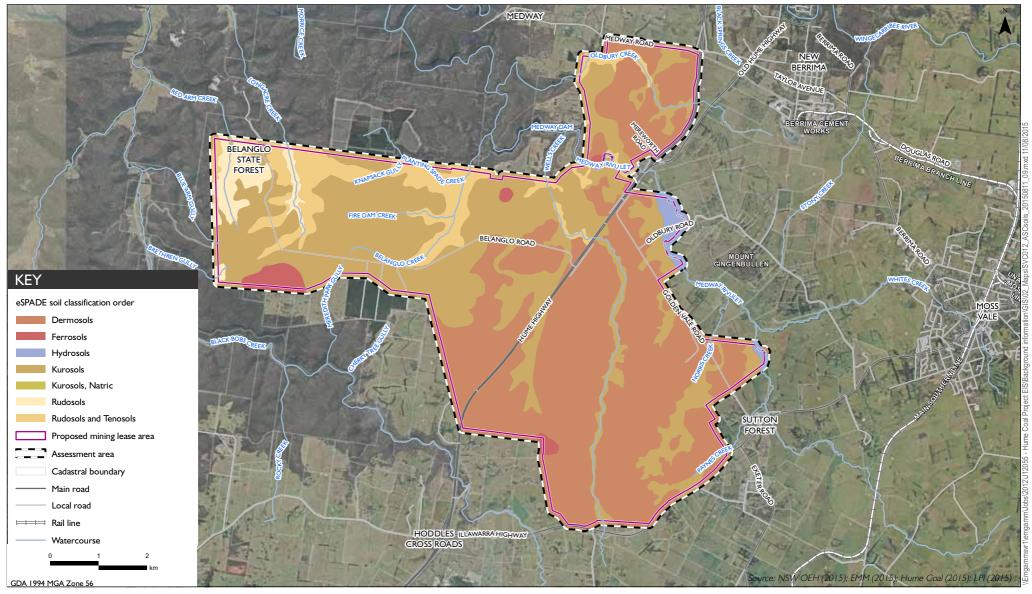






Australian Soil Resource Information System map of soils

Hume Coal Project Biophysical strategic agricultural land verification assessment







## eSPADE map of soils

Hume Coal Project Biophysical strategic agricultural land verification assessment

#### iii Geology mapping

A review of geological mapping was done to differentiate between potential landscapes in the application area. The Moss Vale 1:100,000 Geological Sheet (Trigg and Campbell 2009) extract in Figure 3.4 shows Hawkesbury Sandstone to be dominant on the western side of the application area. The majority of the central and eastern parts of the application area are shown to be covered by unconsolidated clayey sands and weakly consolidated sandy clays, interspersed with Bringelly Shale, quaternary alluvial sand and silt, Ashfield Shale, alkaline olivine basalt and conglomerate.

During the field surveys, observations of surface geology were made. Geology is an important determinant of soil characteristics and a strong relationship between the two has been identified within the SVC application area. Table 3.4 summarises soil types most commonly identified in association with each of the observed geological formations in the application area.

Table 3.4 Soil and geology relationships within the application area

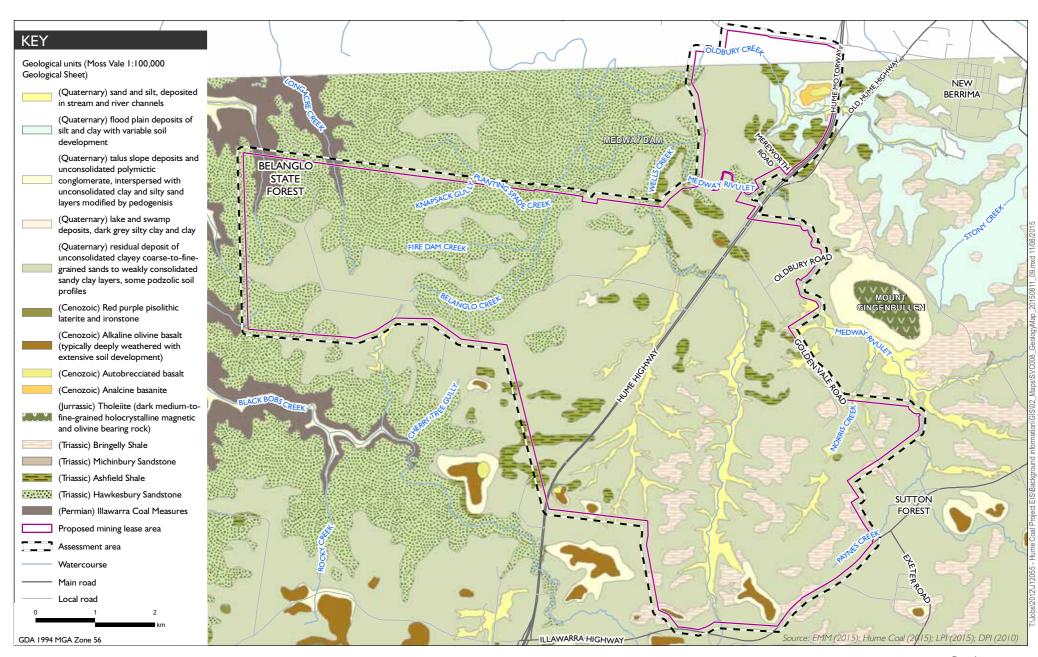
Mapped geology (Moss Vale 1:100,000 Geological Sheet)	Surface geology (observed in the field)	Common soil types
Hawkesbury Sandstone	Sandstone parent material	Paralithic Leptic Tenosol and Lithic Leptic Rudosol
Quaternary clayey sands-sandy clays, alkaline olivine basalt, Bringelly Shale and Ashfield Shale	Shale parent material	Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol
Quaternary alluvial sand and silt	Alluvium	Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol
Alkaline olivine basalt and Bringelly Shale	Basalt parent material	Eutrophic Grey Dermosol

#### iv Slope and elevation mapping

A review of slope and elevation maps was done to differentiate between potential landscapes in the application area. The elevation map in Figure 3.5 shows that the majority of the central and eastern parts of the application area have very low rolling hills with occasional elevated ridge lines. There are steeper slopes in the west of the application area, in Belanglo State Forest, associated with steeply incised valleys, gorges and drainage lines.

The slope map in Figure 3.6 shows that the majority of the application area has slopes of 10% or less. However, there are steeper slopes associated with the deeply incised drainage lines in the west of the application area and the elevated ridge lines through the central and eastern parts of the application area. This slope data has been taken into account in BSAL verification (refer to Chapter 5, Figure 5.1 and Appendix G).

The soil descriptions in Chapter 4 reference the different landforms where each of the identified soil types typically occur.





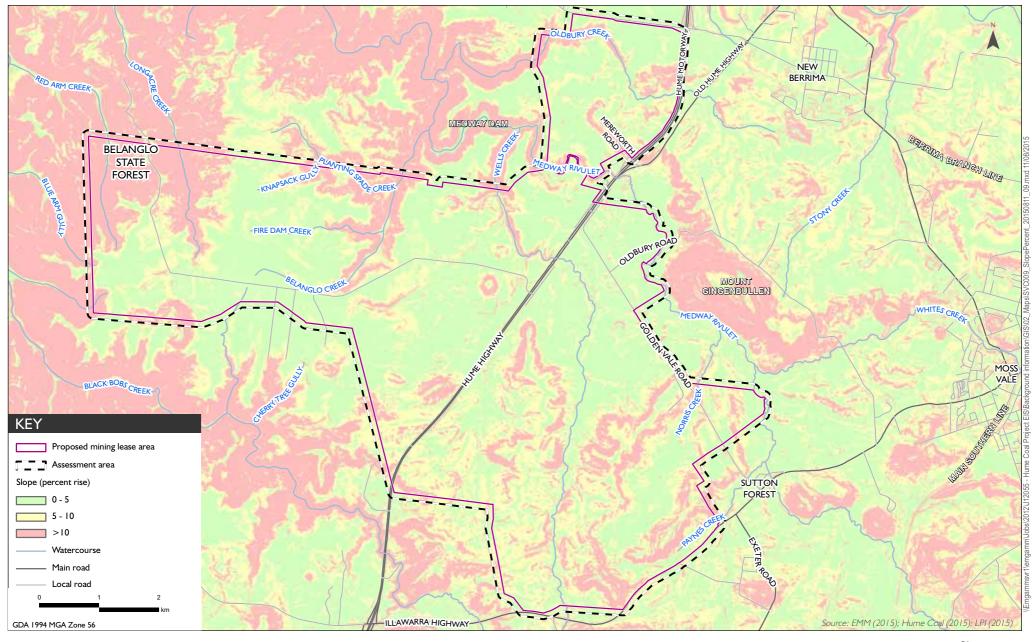








## Elevation map







## Slope map

#### 3.6.4 Soils analysis

Analysis of soil samples from each of the 33 sites identified in Table 3.5 was undertaken at a 'suitable laboratory', as described in the Interim Protocol, to determine physical and chemical characteristics. Samples were taken from various depths at each site, so as to characterise properties throughout the soil profiles. Evidence of the laboratory's accreditation is presented in Appendix D.

The physical and chemical analyses of samples were based on measurements described in the NSW Department of Primary Industries (2014) Agricultural Impact Statement technical notes: A companion to the Agricultural Impact Statement quideline.

The physical properties measured were:

- dispersion;
- soil texture;
- particle size analysis of particles less than 2 mm;
- gravel content; and
- other specified significant soil characteristics where these occurred.

The chemical properties measured were:

- organic carbon;
- pH<sub>water</sub>;
- total and available nitrogen;
- available phosphorus;
- exchangeable potassium;
- cation exchange capacity;
- exchangeable sodium;
- exchangeable calcium;
- exchangeable potassium;
- exchangeable magnesium;
- exchangeable aluminium;
- soluble cations; and
- electrical conductivity.

On occasion, pH and electrical conductivity were measured in the field at detailed soil survey sites, using accepted methods described in the Handbook. The results were recorded on the SALIS soil data cards.

A summary of the number of soil samples analysed from each soil type found in the application area is presented in Table 3.5. The locations of detailed sites subjected to laboratory analysis are shown in Figure 3.1 Laboratory results are presented in Appendix E.

Table 3.5 Soil analysis sites

Soil type	Number of sites subjected to laboratory analysis	Site numbers	Horizons analysed
Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol	15	15, 32, 44, 133, 183, 267, 388, 404, 472, 481, 502, 592, 594, 595, 596	72
Paralithic Leptic Tenosol	6	73, 83, 126, 263, 287, 300	29
Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol	6	4, 10, 92, 238, 454, 524	28
Lithic Leptic Rudosol	3	264, 414, 474	7
Eutrophic Grey Dermosol	3	152, 181, 278	14

## 4 Soil descriptions

#### 4.1 Overview

#### 4.1.1 Results summary

The soil surveys identified five dominant soil types. The mapped distribution of soil types in the SVC application area and 100 m buffer zone is summarised in Table 4.1 and shown in Figure 4.1. The dominant soil type is Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol, found across approximately 60% of the area. Descriptions of each soil type identified are provided in this chapter.

The soil types identified below were keyed out to Great Group level in accordance with The Australian Soil Classification (Isbell 1996). Soil types were validated using The Australian Soil Classification - An Interactive Key (Jacquier, McKenzie and Brown 2000). It is important to note that, as stated in the Interim Protocol:

all soil map units will have some variation. The dominant soil type upon which BSAL status is determined should comprise greater than 70 per cent of a soil map unit.

Some variability in soil properties does occur within each of the mapped soil units. However, consistent with requirements of the Interim Protocol, each soil map unit is comprised of greater than 70% of the dominant soil type.

Table 4.1 Soil map unit distribution: SVC application area plus 100 m buffer

Soil type	Area (ha)	Distribution (%)
Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol	3,308	60
Paralithic Leptic Tenosol	800	15
Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol	266	5
Lithic Leptic Rudosol	941	17
Eutrophic Grey Dermosol	179	3

#### 4.1.2 Comparison with soil mapping by others

There are some broad similarities between the ASRIS and eSPADE soil mapping (outlined in Sections 3.6.3i and ii), and the field-based soil survey results from this assessment, in terms of soil orders present and general patterns of distribution. However, comparison of Figures 3.2, 3.3 and 4.1 shows that the three soil maps differ. The results are summarised below.

Western part of the application area:

- ASRIS mapping: dominated by Tenosols, with smaller areas of Kandosols, Kurosols and Ferrosols;
- eSPADE mapping: dominated by Kurosols with some Rudosols and Tenosols and minor areas of Ferrosols in similar locations to those predicted by ASRIS; and
- EMM soil survey: dominated by Rudosols and Tenosols, with Kandosols in the south.

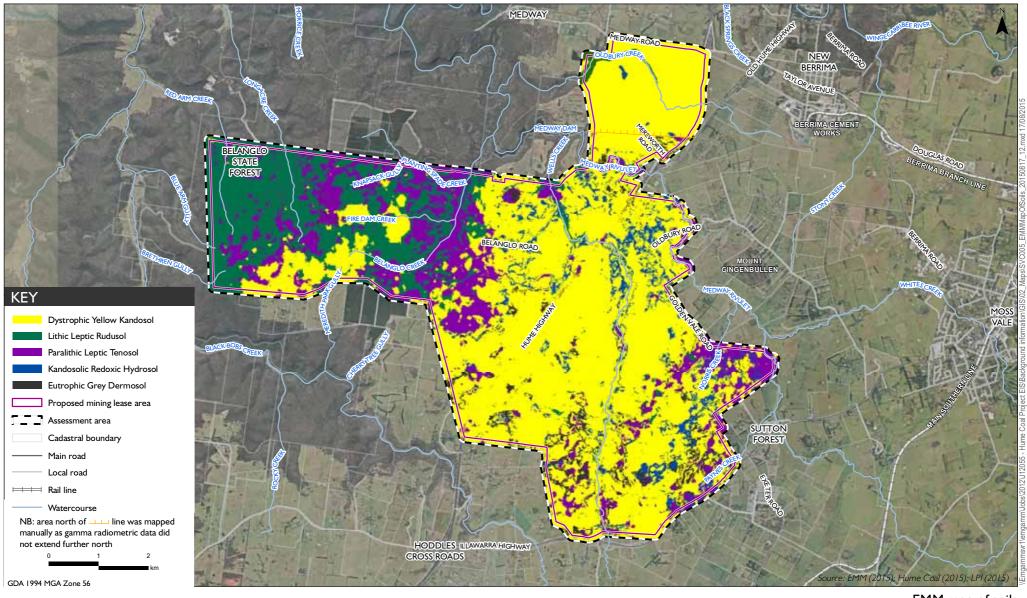
Eastern and central parts of the application area:

- ASRIS mapping: dominated by Kurosols, with some Tenosols and Ferrosols and a small area of Hydrosols and Dermosols in the north-east:
- eSPADE mapping: dominated by Dermosols, with some Kurosols and a small area of Hydrosols in the northeast: and
- EMM soil survey: dominated by Kandosols with smaller areas of Hydrosols, Tenosols and Dermosols.

The eSPADE mapping did not identify any Kandosols within the application area, while the ASRIS mapping did not identify any Rudosols. Field investigations found these to be the two dominant soil types occurring throughout the application area. Kurosols, which were dominant in both the ASRIS and eSPADE mapping, were not identified in the field, nor were Ferrosols.

Given the differences in information from the above-listed sources, and difficulty in verifying the methods or results of studies by others, the ASRIS and eSPADE data was not used further in this assessment. The assessments and soil mapping within this report have been based on results of field surveys and laboratory analyses from the current study, which were conducted in accordance with the Interim Protocol, and remotely-sensed datasets. In particular, the field and laboratory investigations for this study provided information which confirmed the presence or absence of various soil orders, including the following:

- Kurosols: none identified field surveys did not identify any soils with consistent indication of strong texture contrast, in line with the definition provided by Isbell (1996);
- Ferrosols: none identified laboratory testing (Method 13C1 in Rayment and Higginson 1992) did not identify any soils with free iron oxide contents greater than 5%; and
- Dermosols: small areas of Dermosols were identified in the central and eastern parts of the application area associated with isolated basalt intrusions or flow remnants. However, the majority of sites sampled in this region (shown to be dominated by Dermosols in the eSPADE mapping) did not have any consistent indication of structured B horizons, as defined by NCST (2009). Instead they displayed massive B horizons.







# EMM map of soils

# 4.2 Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol

This soil unit occurs on slopes and crests of low rolling hills on shale surface geology. Soils are lacking strong texture contrast, with silty clay loams over light clays transitioning to medium clays at depth.

The soil surface is mostly firm when dry and without coarse fragments. Topsoils have few coarse fragments and are without mottling. Subsoils have few coarse fragments, massive structure and are imperfectly drained. A test pit was dug at a previously sampled detailed site (Site 481) and confirmed the massive structure. There are no strong texture contrasts. Mottling abundance is common. Mottle colour is typically orange or red. The Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol can be strongly acidic and is most commonly non-saline and non-sodic.

Two variations were noted, a shallow phase variation (around 10% of total occurrences) and a variation with a red hue in the upper B2 horizon (around 10% of total occurrences). The shallow phase variation typically exists on steep slopes or hillcrests. The second variation exists on spurs and ridge lines. Laboratory testing using a citrate-dithionite extractable iron procedure confirmed that the percentage of free iron oxide is less than 5% and so the red variation is not a Ferrosol.

Land within the application area that is characterised by this soil type is extensively cleared and primarily used for grazing of improved pastures and to a lesser extent pine forestry.

The Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol is more common across the eastern and central parts of the SVC application area where shale surface geology and low rolling hills are common. It occurs less regularly within the Belanglo State Forest due to the increased presence of sandstone surface geology.

A soil profile description for a typical Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol is provided in Table 4.2. It is noted that the laboratory pH values presented in Table 4.2 are median values.

Soil chemistry results for the Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol are presented in Table 4.3. The results presented are the median value for each horizon from the 15 sampled locations (refer to Table 3.5), with the lowest and highest recorded values also provided in brackets. Appendix E presents individual soil chemistry results for each of the 15 sampled locations. The soil chemistry constituent values highlighted in the 'soil sufficiency' column in Table 4.3 are agricultural industry benchmarks (Baker and Eldershaw 1993; Department of the Environment and Resource Management (DERM) 2011; Peverill, Sparrow and Reuter 1999) and have been referenced in interpreting the laboratory results. The outcomes are presented in the comments column of Table 4.3. The comments are in reference to the median values with increasing depth.

Table 4.4 summarises soil chemistry for the Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol and comments on whether there are restrictions to agriculture. Note that Table 4.4 includes a comparison of inherent soil fertility (NSW Government 2013) to measured field results by applying Murphy et al. (2007). This is particularly useful because the comparison justifies the inherent soil fertility ranking in instances where the Interim Protocol assigns the soil order more than one ranking.

Table 4.2 Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol typical soil profile summary

ASC:	Horizon name and depth (average) (m)	Colour, mottles and bleach	Moisture, laboratory pH (median value) and drainage	Texture and structure	Coarse fragments, segregations and roots
	A1 0-0.19	Dark greyish brown, 10YR4/2 and no mottles or bleaching.	Moderately moist, pH 5.2 and well drained.	Silty loam and sub- angular blocky or massive.	No surface rock, few coarse fragments, no segregations and many roots.
3	A2 0.19-0.36 (Sometimes A2e)	Pale brown, 10YR6/3 and no mottles or bleaching.	Moderately moist, pH 6.1 and well drained.	Clay loam sandy and sub-angular blocky or massive.	Few coarse fragments, no segregations and common roots.
	B21 0.36-0.53	Brownish yellow, 10YR6/8, common orange or red mottles and no bleaching.	Moist, pH 4.3 and imperfectly drained.	Light clay and massive.	Common coarse fragments, no segregations and few roots.
	B21 0.53-0.76	Brownish yellow, 10YR6/8, common to many orange or red mottles and no bleaching.	Moist to wet, pH 4.3 and imperfectly to poorly drained.	Medium clay and massive.	Common coarse fragments, no segregations and few to no roots.

Note:

Table 4.3 Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol soil chemistry results – median values (and ranges)

Constituents	Unit	Soil sufficiency <sup>1</sup>	A1 0-0.19	A2 0.19-0.36	B21 0.36-0.53	B22 0.53-0.76	Comments on median values (in increasing depth)
pH <sub>water</sub>	pH units	6.0-7.5	5.2 (3.8-6.2)	6.1 (4.3-6.5)	4.3 (3.8-7.1)	4.3 (4.0-7.2)	Strong (top of A horizon) to extreme acidity (B horizon).
Electrical conductivity – saturated extract (ECse)	dS/m	<1.9	0.49 (0.16-4.63)	0.26 (0.23-0.66)	0.19 (0.09-1.17)	0.13 (0.07-1.51)	Very low soil salinity.
Chloride (CI-)	mg/kg	<800	30 (20-50)	50 (50-50)	20 (10-140)	105 (30-200)	Not restrictive.
Plant available water capacity (PAWC)	mm	>80	11.4 (L-ZCL)	13.6 (ZL-ZCL)	17.0 (LC-LMC)	27.6 (LMC-HC)	Small (total of 69.6).
Macronutrients							
Nitrite + Nitrate as N (Sol.)	mg/kg	>15	19.6 (0.1-333)	13.7 (12.9-14.5)	2.8 (0.1-12.2)	2.1 (0.8-6.8)	Moderate (top of A horizon) to very low (with depth).
Total Nitrogen as N	mg/kg	>1500	1485 (520-2680)	520 (390-940)	410 (200-960)	380 (110-530)	Deficient.
Phosphorous (P) (Colwell)	mg/kg	>10	3 (<2-46)	<2 (<2-5)	<2 (<2-24)	<2 (<2-26)	Very low (except in the A1 horizon).

<sup>1.</sup> Description in accordance with the Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook (NCST 2009).

Table 4.3 Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol soil chemistry results – median values (and ranges)

Constituents	Unit	Soil sufficiency <sup>1</sup>	A1 0-0.19	A2 0.19-0.36	B21 0.36-0.53	B22 0.53-0.76	Comments on median values (in increasing depth)
Potassium (K) (Acid Extract)	mg/kg	>117	<100 (<100-300)	<100 (<100-<100)	<100 (<100-<100)	<100 (<100-200)	Insufficient.
K (Total)	mg/kg	>150	275 (200-790)	260 (220-320)	390 (140-610)	420 (170-830)	High (A horizon) to very high (B horizon).
Micronutrients							
Copper (Cu)	mg/kg	>0.3	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	Low (inconclusive).
			(<1.0-<1.0)	(<1.0-<1.0)	(<1.0-<1.0)	(<1.0-<1.0)	
Zinc (Zn)	mg/kg	>0.5 (pH<7)	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	Low (inconclusive).
		>0.8 (pH>7)	(<1.0-8.1)	(<1.0-<0.1)	(<1.0-2.9)	(<1.0-2.0)	
Manganese (Mn)	mg/kg	>2	47.0	21.0	<1.0	<1.0	Moderate (A
			(<1.0-74)	(<1.0-44)	(<1.0-14)	(<1.0-9)	horizon) to very low (B horizon).
Boron (B)	mg/kg	>1	0.95	0.50	0.50	0.50	Low (A1 horizon) to
			(<0.2-1.6)	(<0.2-0.7)	(<0.2-3.3)	(<0.2-1.7)	very low (A2 and B horizons).
Cation	meq/	12-25	3.8	2.1	0.8	0.3	Very low.
Exchange Capacity (CEC)	100g		(0.6-11.8)	(1.4-3.5)	(0.1-3.9)	(0.04-4.3)	
Calcium (Ca)	meq/	>5	2.9	1.7	1.1	1.0	Low (A horizon) to
	100g		(0.3-8.4)	(0.7-4.7)	(<0.1-4.4)	(0.2-5.5)	very low (B horizon).
Magnesium (Mg)	meq/	>1	0.8	8.0	0.7	1.6	Low (A and B1
	100g		(0.3-3.5)	(0.2-3.3)	(0.4-5.9)	(0.6-7.7)	horizons) to moderate.
Sodium (Na)	meq/	<0.7	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	Very low.
	100g		(<0.1-0.2)	(<0.1-0.2)	(<0.1-0.3)	(<0.1-0.4)	
K	meq/	>0.3	0.3	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	Low (A1 horizon) to
	100g		(<0.1-1.2)	(<0.1-0.1)	(<0.1-0.2)	(<0.1-0.4)	very low (A2 and B horizons).
Exchangeable	%	<6	<2.70*	<3.90*	4.35	3.60	Non-sodic.
sodium percentage (ESP)			(1.7-16.7)	(2.41-11.1)	(2.8-16.7)	(2.8-11.1)	
Ca:Mg ratio		>2	3.40	2.10	0.83	0.30	Stable A horizon.
Ü			(1.0-6)	(1.4-3.5)	(0.1-3.9)	(0.04-4.3)	Unstable B horizon.
Organic Carbon	%	>1.2	2.0	<0.5	<0.5	<0.5	Moderate (A1
<b>3</b>			(<0.5-4.1)	(<0.5-2.2)	(<0.5-1.8)	(<0.5-1.8)	horizon) to very low (A2 and B horizons).

Notes:

<sup>1.</sup> Plant sufficiency sources: Baker and Eldershaw (1993), DERM (2011) and Peverill, Sparrow and Reuter (1999).

<sup>2.</sup> Values in brackets are the ranges measured.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>star}$  These values are an approximation based on calculations using the lowest measurable level.

Table 4.4 Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol soil chemistry summary

Elements	Comments
pH <sub>water</sub>	Strongly acid at the surface, progressing to extremely acidic with depth. Outside of the desirable range for agriculture throughout most of the profile. Would restrict agriculture.
EC	Very low salinity levels that would not restrict agriculture.
Cl	Acceptable chloride levels that would not restrict agriculture.
PAWC	At the upper limit of a small PAWC, which would restrict agriculture.
Fertility	
Macronutrients	Mostly low levels of macronutrients, which present fertility issues. Would restrict agriculture.
Micronutrients	Mostly low to very low levels of micronutrients, which present fertility issues. Would restrict agriculture.
CEC	Very low CEC, which may present some fertility issues.
Fertility ranking	Relative Fertility of ASC Classes (NSW Government 2013):
	Moderately low - Kandosols (order), Any (sub-order), Dystrophic (Great Group)
	EMM applied Relative Fertility of ASC Classes (lab and field data applied to Murphy et al. 2007):
	Moderately low (Group 2)
	Explanation (Murphy et al. 2007):
	Low fertilities that generally only support plants suited to grazing. Generally deficient in nitrogen, phosphorus and many other elements.
ESP	Low ESP indicating a non-sodic soil, which would not restrict agriculture.
Ca:Mg ratio	A mostly stable Ca:Mg ratio in the topsoil, but decreasing with depth to levels that suggest strong soil instability.
Organic Carbon	Indicative of good structural condition and structural stability in the A1 horizon. Low levels below this horizon.
Major limitations to	PAWC
agriculture	Macronutrients (eg nitrate, total nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium extract)
	Micronutrients (eg boron, calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium)

### 4.3 Paralithic Leptic Tenosol

This soil unit occurs on rises and low hills on the Hawkesbury Sandstone formation (sandstone-quartz). Soils are weakly developed with a slight increase in clay content and lightening of soil colour with depth.

Typically the A1 horizon is sandy and the A2 horizon is a sandy loam. The soil surface is without coarse fragments and of loose condition. Paralithic Leptic Tenosols have few coarse fragments, which are spread evenly throughout the profile. Subsoils typically have few orange mottles with no segregations. Paralithic Leptic Tenosols are typically extremely acidic, highly permeable, rapidly drained and non-saline.

Within the application area, land use on this soil type is typically for native and pine forestry, with low intensity grazing in some locations.

Paralithic Leptic Tenosols are associated with low gradient slopes on sandstone surface geology and less commonly on depositional foot slopes on shale geology. Their location is independent of elevation, with Tenosols just as likely to be present on low gradient hilltops as in stable low lying areas. Within the SVC application area, they are most commonly found within and immediately surrounding the Belanglo State Forest. A transitional Tenosol (grading to a Kandosol) was recorded on an isolated sandstone outcrop to the east of Belanglo State Forest.

A soil profile description for a typical Paralithic Leptic Tenosol is presented in Table 4.5. Generally the Tenosol sites were underlain by a hard material, usually weathered rock, which varied in depth between sites from <500 mm to approximately 750 mm. It is noted that the laboratory pH values presented in Table 4.5 are median values.

Soil chemistry results for the Paralithic Leptic Tenosol are presented in Table 4.6. The results presented are the median value for each horizon from six sampled locations (refer to Table 3.5), with the lowest and highest recorded values also provided in brackets. Appendix E presents individual soil chemistry results for each of the six sampled locations. The soil chemistry constituent values highlighted in the 'soil sufficiency' column in Table 4.6 are agricultural industry benchmarks (Baker and Eldershaw 1993, DERM 2011 and Peverill, Sparrow and Reuter 1999) and have been referenced in interpreting the laboratory results. The outcomes are presented in the comments column of Table 4.6. The comments are in reference to the median values with increasing depth.

Table 4.7 summarises soil chemistry for the Paralithic Leptic Tenosol and comments on whether there are restrictions to agriculture. Note that Table 4.7 includes a comparison of inherent soil fertility ranking (NSW Government 2013) to field constituent results by applying Murphy et al. (2007). This is particularly useful because the comparison justifies the inherent soil fertility ranking in instances where the Interim Protocol assigns the soil order more than one ranking.

It is noted that using Isbell (2002), the subgroup would be Brown-Orthic rather than Leptic. This difference would not affect interpretation of the soil's characteristics or the BSAL assessment outcome.

Table 4.5 Paralithic Leptic Tenosol typical soil profile summary

ASC:	Horizon name and depth (average) (m)	Colour, mottles and bleach	Moisture, laboratory pH (median value) and drainage	Texture, structure and consistence	Coarse fragments, segregations and roots
	A11 0-0.12	Yellowish brownish, no mottles and no bleaching.	Dry, pH 4.6 and rapidly drained.	Clayey sand, granular and loose.	Few surface coarse fragments, few coarse fragments, no segregations and few roots.
Maria.	A12 0.12-0.31	Yellowish brownish, few orange mottles and no bleaching.	Dry, pH 4.4 and rapidly drained.	Clayey sand, granular and loose.	Few coarse fragments, no segregations and few roots.
	A21 0.31-0.53	Brownish yellow, few orange mottles and no bleaching.	Dry, pH 4.4 and rapidly drained.	Loamy sandy, granular and loose.	Few coarse fragments, no segregations and no roots.
	A21 0.53-0.74	Pale yellow, few orange mottles and no bleaching.	Dry, pH 4.4 and rapidly drained.	Loamy sandy, granular and loose.	Few coarse fragments, no segregations and no roots.

1. Description in accordance with the Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook (NCST 2009).

Note:

Table 4.6 Paralithic Leptic Tenosol soil chemistry results – median values (and ranges)

Constituents	Unit	Soil sufficiency <sup>1</sup>	A11 0-0.12	A12 0.12-0.31	A21 0.31-0.53	A22 0.53-0.74	Comments on median values (in increasing depth)
pH <sub>water</sub>	pH units	6.0-7.5	4.6 (4.0-4.6)	4.4 (4.3-4.5)	4.4 (4.4-4.5)	4.4 (4.3-7.4)	Very strong (A11 horizon) to extreme acidity (below A11 horizon).
EC <sub>se</sub>	dS/m	<1.9	1.17 (0.36- 2.53)	0.39 (0.26- 0.62)	0.26 (0.17-0.38)	0.17 (0.08- 0.24)	Low (A11 horizon) to very low soil salinity (below A11 horizon).
Cl <sup>-</sup>	mg/kg	<800	20 (20-50)	50 (30-110)	150 (50-880)	290 (50-1500)	Not restrictive.
PAWC	mm	>80	4.8 (S-ZL)	7.6 (LS-ZL)	8.8 (LS-CLS)	8.4 (LS-CLS)	Very small (total of 29.6).
Macronutrients			( - /				
Nitrite + Nitrate as N (Sol.)	mg/kg	>15	19.8 (0.4-87.1)	10.4 (1.4-13.0)	6.0 (1.2-9.9)	1.1 (0.6-2.8)	Moderate (A11 horizon) to very low (below A11 horizon).
Total Nitrogen as N	mg/kg	>1500	980 (270- 2540)	550 (280- 1150)	530 (280-740)	230 (140-320)	Deficient.
P (Colwell)	mg/kg	>10	11 (9-13)	3 (3-3)	2 (<2-2)	2 (<2-2)	Moderate (A11 horizon) to very low (below A11 horizon).
K (Acid Extract)	mg/kg	>117	<100 (<100- 100)	<100 (<100- <100)	<100 (<100- <100)	<100 (<100- 200)	Low (inconclusive).
K (Total)	mg/kg	>150	165 (60-310)	150 (80-160)	165 (80-240)	140 (80-280)	Moderate (A11 horizon) to low (generally below A11 horizon).
Micronutrients							,
Cu	mg/kg	>0.3	<1.0 (<1.0- <1.0)	<1.0 (<1.0- <1.0)	<1.0 (<1.0- <1.0)	<1.0 (<1.0- <1.0)	Low (inconclusive).
Zn	mg/kg	>0.5 (pH<7) >0.8 (pH>7)	<1.0 (<1.0-8.1)	<1.0 (<1.0- <0.1)	<1.0 (<1.0-2.9)	<1.0 (<1.0-2.0)	Low (inconclusive).
Mn	mg/kg	>2	7.7 (<1.0- 19.3)	<1.0 (<1.0-1.5)	<1.0 (<1.0- <1.0)	<1.0 (<1.0- <1.0)	Moderate (A11 horizon) to very low (below A11 horizon).
В	mg/kg	>1	1.6 (0.4-5.0)	0.5 (0.4-3.4)	0.5 (0.5-3.0)	0.5 (0.4-2.6)	Moderate (A11 horizon) to very low (below A11 horizon).
CEC	meq/ 100g	12-25	2.15 (1.2-4.0)	1.40 (1.1-2.3)	0.85 (0.6-2.3)	0.60 (0.1-1.3)	Very low.
Ca	meq/ 100g	>5	3.2 (2.2-5.7)	3.0 (0.2-3.6)	2.7 (0.3-10.7)	2.2 (0.2-12.8)	Low.
Mg	meq/ 100g	>1	3.1 (1.7-4.7)	3.2 (0.4-4)	3.8 (0.5-12.7)	4.8 (1-19.8)	Moderate.
Na	meq/ 100g	<0.7	0.5 (0.5-0.5)	0.5 (0.1-0.5)	0.4 (0.1-1.1)	0.6 (0.2-2.1)	Very low.

Table 4.6 Paralithic Leptic Tenosol soil chemistry results – median values (and ranges)

Constituents	Unit	Soil sufficiency <sup>1</sup>	A11 0-0.12	A12 0.12-0.31	A21 0.31-0.53	A22 0.53-0.74	Comments on median values (in increasing depth)	
K	meq/	>0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	Very low.	
	100g		(0.2-0.3)	(0.1-0.1)	(0.1-0.3)	(0.1-0.2)		
ESP	%	<6	<2.38*	<6.81*	<4.44*	5.89*	Generally non-sodic	
			(1.54- 4.46)	(1.45- 12.5)	(3.08- 16.70)	(3.33- 16.42)	though sodic in A12 horizon.	
Ca:Mg ratio		>2	1.21	0.85	0.56	0.47	Moderate (A11 horizon)	
			(1.03- 1.29)	(0.5-1.1)	(0.2-0.84)	(0.2-0.65)	to strongly unstable (below A11 horizon).	
Organic Carbon	%	>1.2	3.1	1.4	1.0	0.95	High (A11 horizon) to low	
			(2.4-5.0)	(0.6-1.9)	(0.5-4.5)	(0.8-1.1)	(A21 and A22 horizons).	

Notes:

Table 4.7 Paralithic Leptic Tenosol soil chemistry summary

Elements	Comments
pH <sub>water</sub>	Very strongly acid at the surface, progressing to extreme acidity with depth. Outside of the desirable range for agriculture throughout most of the profile. Would restrict agriculture.
EC	Low to very low soil salinity levels that would not restrict agriculture.
CI	Acceptable chloride levels that would not restrict agriculture.
PAWC	At the upper limit of a small PAWC, which would restrict agriculture.
Fertility	
Macronutrients	Moderate to mostly low levels of macronutrients, which present fertility issues. Would restrict agriculture.
Micronutrients	Mostly low to very low levels of micronutrients, which present fertility issues. Would restrict agriculture.
CEC	Very low CEC, which may present some fertility issues.
Fertility ranking	Relative Fertility of ASC Classes (NSW Government 2013):
	Low - Tenosols (order), Leptic (sub-order), Any (Great Group)
	EMM applied Relative Fertility of ASC Classes (lab and field data applied to Murphy et al. 2007):
	Low (Group 1)
	Explanation (Murphy et al. 2007):
	Soils which, due to their poor physical and/or chemical status, only support limited agriculture. The maximum agricultural use of these soils is low intensity grazing. Include sandy soils which by virtue of their poor water retention characteristics, can only support limited agriculture.
ESP	ESP indicating a sodic soil. The low sodium levels for all samples analysed make it difficult to be conclusive in the topsoil.
Ca:Mg ratio	A moderate Ca:Mg ratio in the topsoil, but decreasing with depth to levels that suggest soil instability.
Organic Carbon	Indicative of good structural condition and structural stability in the A1 horizons. Low levels below this horizon.
Major limitations to	pH
agriculture	PAWC
	Macronutrients (eg nitrate, total nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium extract)
	Micronutrients (eg manganese, boron, calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium)

<sup>1.</sup> Sources: Baker and Eldershaw (1993), DERM (2011) and Peverill, Sparrow and Reuter (1999).

<sup>2.</sup> Values in brackets are the ranges measured.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>star}$  These values are an approximation based on calculations using the lowest measurable level.

# 4.4 Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol

The Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol occurs on raised or lower drainage depressions and valley flats. Soils are weakly to moderately developed with variable textures and colour grades depending on the localised site morphology.

A horizons are silty clay loam to light clay grading with depth towards medium to heavy clay B horizons. Surface condition is cracked and without coarse fragments and there are also no coarse fragments throughout the profile. Orange mottles may be present at depth. Subsoils typically have no segregations.

Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosols have moderately low fertility, are strongly acidic, slowly permeable, poorly drained, sodic in the B horizon and moderately saline in the A horizon.

Within the application area, land use on this soil type is generally for improved and native pastures. Coverage of the Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol is limited to drainage depressions and associated floodplains that experience regular inundation. This soil unit is spread throughout the SVC application area and is directly associated with drainage lines and water bodies.

A soil profile description for a typical Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol is presented in Table 4.8. It is noted that the laboratory pH values presented in Table 4.8 are median values.

Soil chemistry results for the Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol are presented in Table 4.9. The results presented are the median value for each horizon from the six sampled locations (refer to Table 3.5), with the lowest and highest recorded values also provided in brackets. Appendix E presents individual soil chemistry results for each of the six sampled locations. The soil chemistry constituent values highlighted in the soil sufficiency column in Table 4.9 are agricultural industry benchmarks (Baker and Eldershaw 1993; DERM 2011; Peverill, Sparrow and Reuter 1999) and have been referenced in interpreting the laboratory results. The outcomes are presented in the comments column of Table 4.9. The comments are in reference to the median values with increasing depth.

Table 4.10 summarises soil chemistry for the Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol and comments on whether there are restrictions to agriculture. Note that Table 4.10 provides a comparison of inherent soil fertility ranking (NSW Government 2013) to field constituent results by applying Murphy et al. (2007). This is particularly useful because the comparison justifies the inherent soil fertility ranking in instances where the Interim Protocol assigns the soil order more than one ranking.

Table 4.8 Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol typical soil profile summary

ASC:	Horizon name and depth (average) (m)	Colour, mottles and bleach	Moisture, laboratory pH (median value) and drainage	Texture, structure and consistence	Coarse fragments, segregations and roots
	A11 0-0.18	Yellowish brown, no mottles and no bleaching.	Moderately moist, pH 4.5 and poorly drained.	Light clay, sub- angular blocky and moderately weak force.	No surface coarse fragments, no coarse fragments, no segregations and many roots.
46	A12 0.18-0.33	Yellowish brown, few orange mottles and no bleaching.	Moist, pH 5.2 and poorly drained.	Light clay, sub- angular blocky and moderately weak force.	No coarse fragments, no segregations and few roots.
	B21 0.33-0.58	Very dark greyish brown, few orange mottles and no bleaching.	Wet, pH 5.0 and poorly drained.	Light-medium clay, massive and moderately weak force.	No coarse fragments, no segregations and few roots.
	B22 0.58-0.80+	Dark greyish brown, common orange mottles and no bleaching.	Moist, pH 4.9 and poorly drained.	Medium-heavy clay, massive and very firm force.	No coarse fragments, no segregations and few roots.

Note: 1. Description in accordance with the Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook (NCST 2009).

Table 4.9 Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol soil chemistry results – median values (and ranges)

Constituents	Unit	Soil sufficiency <sup>1</sup>	A11 0-0.18	A12 0.18-0.33	B21 0.33-0.58	B22 0.58-0.80+	Comments on median values (in increasing depth)
pH <sub>water</sub>	pH units	6.0-7.5	4.5 (3.7-5.2)	5.2 (3.8-5.2)	5.0 (4.0-5.1)	4.9 (4.3-6.5)	Extreme (A11 horizon) to very strong acidity (A12 horizon and below).
ECse	dS/m	<1.9	1.39	0.20	0.32	0.37	Low soil salinity.
			(0.89-4.46)	(0.19-1.02)	(0.13-3.27)	(0.13-5.53)	
CI-	mg/kg	<800	20	50	150	290	Not restrictive.
			(20-50)	(30-110)	(50-880)	(50-1500)	
PAWC	mm	>80	18.0	15.0	30.0	26.4	Moderate (total of
			(ZL-MC)	(LC-LMC)	(LC-HC)	(LC-HC)	89.4).
Macronutrients							
Total Nitrogen as N	mg/kg	>1500	2540 (2320-2900)	1295 (670-1760)	890 (440-2000)	745 (400-1320)	Sufficient (A11 horizon) to deficient (below A12 horizon)

Table 4.9 Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol soil chemistry results – median values (and ranges)

Constituents	Unit	Soil sufficiency <sup>1</sup>	A11 0-0.18	A12 0.18-0.33	B21 0.33-0.58	B22 0.58-0.80+	Comments on median values (in increasing depth)
P (Colwell)	mg/kg	>10	11 (9-13)	2 (<2-3)	2 (<2-2)	2 (<2-2)	Moderate (A11 horizon) to very low (A12 horizon and below).
K (Acid Extract)	mg/kg	>117	200 (100-200)	<100 (<100-<100)	<100 (<100-<100)	<100 (<100-100)	Moderate (A11 horizon) to low – insufficient (A12 horizon and below).
K (Total)	mg/kg	>150	490	380	450	455	Very high.
			(360-680)	(150-520)	(180-930)	(360-1040)	
Micronutrients							
Cu	mg/kg	>0.3	1.91	1.78	1.05	1.10	Moderate.
			(<1-3.1)	(<1-2.5)	(<1-1.9)	(<1-1.8)	
Zn	mg/kg	>0.5 (pH<7)	2.3	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	High (A11 horizon)
		>0.8 (pH>7)	(1.9-2.8)	(<1.0-<0.1)	(<1.0-1.1)	(<1.0-<1.0)	to low (inconclusive) (A12 horizon and below).
Mn	mg/kg	>2	39.5 (31.4-123.0)	93.8 (4.25-138.0)	<1.0 (<1.0-78.8)	<1.0 (<1.0-17.9)	High (A horizon) to very low (B horizon).
В	mg/kg	>1	1.40	0.75	0.80	0.75	Moderate (A11
			(1.4-1.6)	(0.6-1)	(0.6-1.8)	(0.3-1.8)	horizon) to low (A12 horizon and below).
CEC	meq/	12-25	6.50	7.00	6.50	7.95	Low.
	100g		(4.2-11.2)	(0.8-7.6)	(0.7-24.8)	(1.6-34.9)	
Ca	meq/	>5	3.20	3.00	2.75	2.20	Low.
	100g		(2.2-5.7)	(0.2-3.6)	(0.3-10.7)	(0.2-12.8)	
Mg	meq/	>1	3.10	3.25	3.80	4.80	High.
	100g		(1.7-4.7)	(0.4-4.0)	(0.5-12.7)	(1.0-19.8)	
Na	meq/	<0.7	<0.10	0.30	0.40	0.50	Low to moderate.
	100g		(<0.1-0.5)	(<0.1-0.5)	(0.1-1.1)	(<0.1-2.1)	
K	meq/	>0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	Low to very low.
	100g		(0.2-0.3)	(<0.1-0.1)	(<0.1-0.3)	(<0.1-0.2)	
ESP	%	<6	2.40	6.81	4.40	5.90	Non-sodic to sodic.
			(<1.5*-4.5)	(1.5-<12.5*)	(3.1-16.7)	(<3.3*-16.4)	
Ca:Mg ratio		>2	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.5	Unstable to strongly
			(1.0-1.3)	(0.5-1.1)	(0.2-0.8)	(0.2-0.7)	unstable.
Organic Carbon	%	>1.2	3.1	1.4	1.0	0.9	Very high to low.
			(2.4-5.0)	(0.6-1.9)	(<0.5-4.5)	(<0.5-1.1)	

Notes:

<sup>1.</sup> Sources: Baker and Eldershaw (1993), DERM (2011) and Peverill, Sparrow and Reuter (1999).

<sup>2.</sup> Values in brackets are the ranges measured.

<sup>\*</sup> These values are an approximation based on calculations using the lowest measurable level.

Table 4.10 Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol soil chemistry summary

Elements	Comments
$pH_{water}$	Varying from extremely to very strongly acidic throughout the profile. Outside of the desirable range for agriculture. Would restrict agriculture.
EC	Moderate to low soil salinity levels that would not restrict agriculture.
Cl	Acceptable chloride levels that would not restrict agriculture.
PAWC	A moderate PAWC, which would not restrict agriculture.
Fertility	
Macronutrients	Very high to very low levels of nitrogen in the A horizons. Moderate to low levels of phosphorus and potassium extract in the A horizons. Mostly low levels of macronutrients in the B horizons. Would restrict agriculture.
Micronutrients	Variable levels of macronutrients in the A horizons, ranging from high to low depending on the parameter, and generally decreasing to moderate to very low levels in the B horizons. Would restrict agriculture.
CEC	Low CEC levels throughout the soil. Would restrict agriculture.
Fertility ranking	Relative Fertility of ASC Classes (NSW Government 2013):
	Moderately low - Hydrosol (order), Redoxic (sub-order), any but some Sulfuric (Great Group)
	EMM applied Relative Fertility of ASC Classes (lab and field data applied to Murphy et al. 2007):
	Moderately low (Group 2)
	Explanation (Murphy et al. 2007):
	Low fertilities that generally only support plants suited to grazing. Large inputs of fertiliser are required to make soil usable for arable purposes. Generally deficient in nitrogen, phosphorus and many other elements.
ESP	ESP indicating sodic soils. Would restrict agriculture.
Ca:Mg ratio	Unstable Ca:Mg ratio indicating soil instability.
Organic Carbon	Indicative of good structural condition and structural stability in the upper A horizon, but reducing with depth to low levels. Would not restrict agriculture.
Major limitations to	pH
agriculture	Macronutrients (eg phosphorus, potassium extract)
	Micronutrients (eg boron, calcium, potassium)
	Sodicity

## 4.5 Lithic Leptic Rudosol

The Lithic Leptic Rudosol is a shallow soil that occurs on the plateaus, scarps and benches of steep hills on Hawkesbury Sandstone (sandstone-quartz and shale). Slopes vary from very gently inclined on the plateaus to steeply inclined on scarps with an average gradient of around 17%.

Soils are shallow weakly developed sands (most commonly clayey sands) to a depth of approximately 0.18 m over weakly to highly weathered sandstone. The soil surface is loose with common surface coarse fragments and rock outcrops. Lithic Leptic Rudosols have few coarse fragments throughout, no mottling and are highly permeable and rapidly drained. These soils typically have low fertility, are strongly acidic, non-sodic and non-saline.

Within the application area, common land uses on this soil type are low intensity grazing on native pastures and forestry. Coverage of the Lithic Leptic Rudosols is limited to the steep slopes associated with sandstone surface geology most commonly found within Belanglo State Forest.

A soil profile description for a typical Lithic Leptic Rudosol is presented in Table 4.11. It is noted that the laboratory pH values presented in Table 4.11 are median values.

Soil chemistry results for the Lithic Leptic Rudosol are presented in Table 4.12. The results presented are the median value for each horizon from the three sampled locations (refer to Table 3.5), with the lowest and highest recorded values also provided in brackets. Appendix E presents individual soil chemistry results for each of the three sampled locations. The soil chemistry constituent values highlighted in the soil sufficiency column in Table 4.12 are agricultural

industry benchmarks (Baker and Eldershaw 1993; DERM 2011; Peverill, Sparrow and Reuter 1999) and have been referenced in interpreting the laboratory results. The outcomes are presented in the comments column of Table 4.12. The comments are in reference to the median values with increasing depth.

Table 4.13 summarises soil chemistry for the Lithic Leptic Rudosol and comments on whether there are restrictions to agriculture. Note that Table 4.13 provides a comparison of inherent soil fertility ranking (NSW Government 2013) to field constituent results by applying Murphy et al. (2007). This is particularly useful because the comparison justifies the inherent soil fertility ranking in instances where the Interim Protocol assigns the soil order more than one ranking.

Table 4.11 Lithic Leptic Rudosol typical soil profile summary

ASC:	Horizon name and depth (m) (average)	Colour, mottles and bleach	Moisture, laboratory pH (median value) and drainage	Texture, structure and consistence	Coarse fragments, segregations and roots
	O 0-0.02	Very dark brown, no mottles and no bleaching.	Dry, pH 4.4, rapidly drained.	Loamy sand, crumb or granular and very weak force.	Surface coarse fragments of 10-20% stones and boulders, few coarse fragments, very high organic matter, no segregations and common roots.
	A11 0.02-0.09	Dark greyish brown, no mottles and no bleaching.	Dry, pH 4.6, rapidly drained.	Sandy loam, crumb or granular and very weak force.	Few coarse fragments, high organic matter, no segregations and common roots.
	A12 0.09-0.18 R 0.18+	Dark greyish brown, no mottles and no bleaching. Parent material - Hawkesbury Sandstone	Dry, pH 4.75, rapidly drained.	Sandy loam, crumb or granular and very weak force.	2-10% gravel, no segregations and common roots.

Note: 1. Description in accordance with the Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook (NCST 2009).

Table 4.12 Lithic Leptic Rudosol soil chemistry results – median values (and ranges)

Constituents	Unit	Soil sufficiency <sup>1</sup>	A11 0.02-0.09	A12 0.09-0.18	Comments on median values (in increasing depth)
pH <sub>water</sub>	pH units	6.0-7.5	4.60	4.75	Very strong acidity.
			(4.4-5.8)	(4.2-5.3)	
EC <sub>se</sub>	dS/m	<1.9	0.46	0.34	Very low soil salinity.
			(0.21-0.46)	(0.24-0.44)	
CI <sup>-</sup>	mg/kg	<800	30	30	Not restrictive.
			(20-40)	(30-30)	
PAWC	mm	>80	3.5	4.5	Very small (total of 8).
			(CS-ZCL)	(CS-ZCL)	
Macronutrients					
Nitrite + Nitrate as N	mg/kg	>15	0.20	0.35	Very low.
(Sol.)			(0.2-0.5)	(0.2-0.5)	

Table 4.12 Lithic Leptic Rudosol soil chemistry results – median values (and ranges)

Constituents	Unit	Soil sufficiency <sup>1</sup>	A11 0.02-0.09	A12 0.09-0.18	Comments on median values (in increasing depth)	
Total Nitrogen as N	mg/kg	>1500	1270	1215	Deficient.	
-			(1270-2700)	(750-1680)		
P (Colwell)	mg/kg	>10	<2	<2	Very low.	
,			(<2-6)	(<2-5)	•	
K (Acid Extract)	mg/kg	>117	100	<100	Insufficient - low.	
,			(<100-100)	(<100-<100)		
K (Total)	mg/kg	>150	150	165	Moderate.	
, ,			(130-180)	(120-210)		
Micronutrients			,			
Cu	mg/kg	>0.3	<1.0	<1.0	Inconclusive.	
	0 0		(<1.0-<1.0)	(<1.0-<1.0)		
Zn	mg/kg	>0.5 (pH<7)	<1.0	<1.0	Inconclusive.	
	0 0	>0.8 (pH>7)	(<1.00-3.19)	(<1.0-<0.1)		
Mn	mg/kg	>2	<1.00	2.79	Very low (A11 horizon) to	
	0 0		(<1.0-14.6)	(<1.00-4.57)	moderate (A12 horizon).	
В	mg/kg	>1	<1.0	<1.0	Low.	
	0 0		(<1.00-3.19)	(<1.0-<1.0)		
CEC	meq/ 100g	12-25	0.70	3.05	Very low.	
	, ,		(0.6-7.5)	(0.4-5.7)	•	
Ca	meq/ 100g	>5	0.20	2.40	Very low (A11 horizon) to low	
	, ,		(0.1-6.1)	(<0.1-4.7)	(A12 horizon).	
Mg	meq/ 100g	>1	0.20	0.45	Very low (A11 horizon) to low	
			(0.1-1.2)	(<0.1-0.8)	(A12 horizon).	
Na	meq/ 100g	<0.7	0.2	<0.1	Low (A11 horizon) to very low	
			(<0.1-0.2)	(<0.1-0.1)	(A12 horizon).	
K	meq/ 100g	>0.3	<0.1	0.2	Very low.	
	, ,		(<0.1-0.2)	(<0.1-0.2)	•	
ESP	%	<6	0.33	1.00*	Non-sodic.	
			(0.29-1.33*)	(0.25-1.75*)		
Ca:Mg ratio		>2	1.00	3.44	Unstable (A11 horizon) to stable	
J			(1.0-5.1)	(1.0-5.9)	(A12 horizon).	
Organic Carbon	%	>1.2	3.4	2.7	Very high.	
Č			(2.9-7.0)	(1.8-3.9)	, ,	

Notes:

<sup>1.</sup> Sources: Baker and Eldershaw (1993), DERM (2011) and Peverill, Sparrow and Reuter (1999).

<sup>2.</sup> Values in brackets are the ranges measured.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>star}$  These values are an approximation based on calculations using the lowest measurable level.

Table 4.13 Lithic Leptic Rudosol soil chemistry summary

Elements	Comments
pH <sub>water</sub>	Very strongly acidic throughout the profile. Outside of the desirable range for agriculture throughout most of the profile. Would restrict agriculture.
EC	Very low soil salinity levels that would not restrict agriculture.
CI	Acceptable chloride levels that would not restrict agriculture.
PAWC	A very small PAWC, which would restrict agriculture.
Fertility	
Macronutrients	Mostly low levels of macronutrients, which present fertility issues. Would restrict agriculture.
Micronutrients	Mostly low to very low levels of micronutrients, which present fertility issues. Would restrict agriculture.
CEC	Very low CEC, which may present some fertility issues.
Fertility ranking	Relative Fertility of ASC Classes (NSW Government 2013):
	Low - Rudosols (order), Leptic (sub-order), Any (Great Group)
	EMM applied Relative Fertility of ASC Classes (lab and field data applied to Murphy et al. 2007):
	Low (Group 1)
	Explanation (Murphy et al. 2007):
	Soils which, due to their poor physical and/or chemical status, only support limited agriculture. The maximum agricultural use of these soils is low intensity grazing. Include shallow and sandy soils which by virtue of their poor water retention characteristics can only support limited agriculture.
ESP	ESP indicating a non-sodic soil that would not restrict agriculture.
Ca:Mg ratio	Unstable Ca:Mg ratio in the topsoil, but increasing stability with depth to levels that suggest soil stability.
Organic Carbon	Indicative of good structural condition and structural stability. Very high levels throughout that would not restrict agriculture.
Major limitations to	рН
agriculture	PAWC
	Macronutrients (eg nitrate, total nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium extract)
	Micronutrients (eg manganese, boron, calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium)

## 4.6 Eutrophic Grey Dermosol

Eutrophic Grey Dermosols occur on gently to moderately inclined rolling low hills to rolling hills on small, randomly distributed, isolated basalt intrusions. Soils are moderately to well developed (depending on landform element). The soil lacks strong texture contrast and has increasing clay content with depth.

A horizons are typically greyish brown silty loam over grey medium to heavy clay B horizons. The soil surface is mostly without coarse fragments and of firm to cracked condition. Eutrophic Grey Dermosols generally have few or no coarse fragments in the lower A and upper B horizons with coarse fragments more common in the lower B horizon. Subsoils commonly have red and orange mottling with no segregations.

Eutrophic Grey Dermosols are of moderately high fertility, moderately permeable, poorly drained and have moderate to low salinity. They have sodic B horizons and very strongly acidic A horizons.

Within the application area, land use on this soil type is for grazing of native and improved pastures. Grey Dermosols appear to be limited to the small, randomly distributed, isolated basalt intrusions. They were not recorded away from these surface geology expressions.

A soil profile description for a typical Eutrophic Grey Dermosol is presented in Table 4.14. Land access to undertake a test pit was not provided on any land which contained a representative Dermosol. It is noted that the laboratory pH values presented in Table 4.14 are median values.

Soil chemistry results for the Eutrophic Grey Dermosol are presented in Table 4.15. The results presented are the median values for each horizon from the three sampled locations (refer to Table 3.5), with the lowest and highest recorded values also provided in brackets. Appendix E presents individual soil chemistry results for each of the three sampled locations. The soil chemistry constituent values highlighted in the soil sufficiency column in Table 4.15 are agricultural industry benchmarks (Baker and Eldershaw 1993; DERM 2011; Peverill, Sparrow and Reuter 1999) and have been referenced in interpreting the laboratory results. The outcomes are presented in the comments column of Table 4.15. The comments are in reference to the median values with increasing depth.

Table 4.16 summarises soil chemistry for the Eutrophic Grey Dermosol and comments on whether there are restrictions to agriculture. Note that Table 4.16 provides a comparison of inherent soil fertility ranking (NSW Government 2013) to field constituent results by applying Murphy et al. (2007). This is particularly useful because the comparison justifies the inherent soil fertility ranking in instances where the Interim Protocol assigns the soil order more than one ranking.

Table 4.14 Eutrophic Grey Dermosol typical soil profile summary

ASC:	Horizon name and depth (m) (average)	Colour, mottles and bleach	Moisture, laboratory pH (median value) and drainage	Texture, structure and consistence	Coarse fragments, segregations and roots
	A1 0-0.18	Dark greyish brown, no mottles and no bleaching.	Moist, pH 4.9 and moderately well drained.	Silty loam, sub- angular blocky and moderately weak force.	No surface coarse fragments, no coarse fragments, no segregations and many roots.
10000000000000000000000000000000000000	A2 0.18-0.30	Dark greyish brown, few red mottles and no bleaching.	Moderately moist, pH 4.8 and imperfectly drained.	Silty clay loam, sub- angular blocky and very firm force.	No coarse fragments, no segregations and common roots.
	B21 0.30-0.50	Greyish brown, common orange mottles and no bleaching.	Moderately moist, pH 5.1 and imperfectly drained.	Medium heavy clay, sub-angular blocky and very firm force.	Few coarse fragments, no segregations and few roots.
	B22 0.50-0.67	Grey, many orange mottles and no bleaching.	Dry, pH 6.8 and poorly drained.	Heavy clay, sub- angular blocky and moderately strong force.	Few coarse fragments, no segregations and few roots.

1. Description in accordance with the Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook (NCST 2009).

Note:

Table 4.15 Eutrophic Grey Dermosol soil chemistry results – median values (and ranges)

Constituents	Unit	Soil sufficiency <sup>1</sup>	A1 0-0.18	A2 0.18-0.30	B21 0.30-0.50	B22 0.50-0.67	Comments on median values (in increasing depth)
$pH_{water}$	pH units	6.0-7.5	4.9 (4.5-5.4)	4.8 (4.7-4.9)	5.1 (4.8-7.4)	6.8 (5.2-8.3)	Very strong acidity (A1 to B21 horizons) to neutral (B22 horizon).
ECse	dS/m	<1.9	1.51 (0.26-2.37)	0.56 (0.13-0.98)	0.22 (0.07-1.10)	1.21 (0.05-2.36)	Moderate to low soil salinity.
CI-	mg/kg	<800	10	10	20	105	Not restrictive.
			(<10-10)	(10-10)	(10-140)	(30-200)	
PAWC	mm	>80	10.8	9.6	24.0	20.4	Small (total of 64.8).
			(ZL-ZCL)	(ZL-ZCL)	(MC-HC)	(MC-HC)	
Macronutrients Nitrite + Nitrate as N (Sol.)	mg/kg	>15	104.70 (14-164)	36.60 (1.2-71.9)	1.60 (1.1-5.8)	0.35 (0.3-0.4)	Very high (A horizon) to very low (B horizon).
Total Nitrogen as N	mg/kg	>1500	3690 (1510-5650)	2645 (1240-4050)	990 (900-1330)	635 (560-710)	Sufficient (A horizon) to deficient (B horizon).
P (Colwell)	mg/kg	>10	12.0 (3.0-25.0)	8.5 (2.0-15.0)	<2.0 (<2.0-<2.0)	<2.0 (<2.0-<2.0)	Moderate (A1 horizon), low (A2 horizon) to very low (B horizon).
K (Acid Extract)	mg/kg	>117	200 (100-400)	200 (<100-300)	<100 (<100-<100)	<100 (<100-100)	Moderate (A horizon) to low - insufficient (B horizon).
K (Total)	mg/kg	>150	595	515	570	570	Very high.
			(370-840)	(320-710)	(490-740)	(490-650)	
Micronutrients							
Cu	mg/kg	>0.3	1.51 (<1.00-1.71)	<1.00 (<1.00-<1.00)	<1.00 (<1.00-<1.00)	<1.00 (<1.00-<1.00)	Moderate (A1 horizon) to low - inconclusive (A2 horizon and below).
Zn	mg/kg	>0.5 (pH<7)	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	<1.0	Low (inconclusive).
		>0.8 (pH>7)	(<1.0-8.1)	(<1.0-<0.1)	(<1.0-<1.0)	(<1.0-<1.0)	
Mn	mg/kg	>2	45.10	31.30	1.23	<1.00	Very high (A
			(37.9-51.8)	(28.4-34.1)	(<1.0-1.46)	(<1.0-<1.0)	horizon) to low (B21 horizon) to very low (B22 horizon).
В	mg/kg >1		1.65 (0.8-2.4)	1.60 (1.2-2.0)	1.20 (0.7-1.7)	0.45 (0.4-0.5)	Moderate (A1 to B21 horizons) to very low (B22 horizon).
CEC	meq/ 12-25 100g		8.55 (6.9-10.4)	8.25 (6.6-9.9)	17.90 (12.0-21.0)	16.80 (12.6-21.0)	Low (A horizon) to moderate (B horizon).
Ca	meq/	>5	6.0	5.7	6.5	5.5	Moderate.
	100g		(5.0-6.9)	(4.4-6.9)	(5.4-7.1)	(4.7-6.2)	
Mg	-		2.1 (1.5-2.8)	2.1 (1.8-2.4)	10.6 (4.9-12.4)	9.9 (5.6-14.1)	Moderate (A horizon) to high (B horizon).

Table 4.15 Eutrophic Grey Dermosol soil chemistry results – median values (and ranges)

Constituents	Unit	Soil sufficiency <sup>1</sup>	A1 0-0.18	A2 0.18-0.30	B21 0.30-0.50	B22 0.50-0.67	Comments on median values (in increasing depth)
Na	meq/ 100g	<0.7	0.10 (<0.1-0.2)	0.15 (<0.1-0.2)	1.30 (0.4-1.4)	1.25 (0.4-2.1)	Low (A horizon) to moderate (B horizon).
K	meq/ 100g	>0.3	0.4 (0.2-0.6)	0.4 (0.2-0.6)	0.3 (0.2-0.5)	0.2 (0.1-0.3)	Moderate (A horizon) to low (B horizon).
ESP	%	<6	<1.20* (0.96-2.9)	2.00 (1.0-3.0)	6.19 (3.3-7.8)	6.60 (3.2-10.0)	Non-sodic (A horizon) to sodic (B horizon).
Ca:Mg ratio		>2	3.00 (2.5-3.4)	2.70 (2.4-2.9)	0.57 (0.5-1.3)	0.72 (0.3-1.1)	Stable (A horizon) to strongly unstable (B horizon).
Organic Carbon	%	>1.2	3.75 (1.6-4.9)	2.80 (1.3-4.3)	1.00 (0.7-1.1)	<0.50 (<0.5-0.5)	Very high (A horizon) to very low (B horizon).

Notes:

Table 4.16 Eutrophic Grey Dermosol soil chemistry summary

Elements	Comments
pH <sub>water</sub>	Very strongly acidic at the surface grading to neutral in the subsoil. Outside of the desirable range for agriculture in the upper profile. Would restrict agriculture.
EC	Moderate to low soil salinity levels that would not restrict agriculture.
CI	Acceptable chloride levels that would not restrict agriculture.
PAWC	A small PAWC, which would restrict agriculture.
Fertility	
Macronutrients	Moderate to high levels of macronutrients in the A horizon. Would not restrict agriculture.
	Note: there was evidence of recent cultivation at the detailed survey sites on this soil type and demonstrated field and laboratory signs of recent fertiliser application, including non-soil related white substance noted in the field and high nutrient levels in the A horizon.
Micronutrients	Moderate to low levels of micronutrients in the A horizon. Would not restrict agriculture.
CEC	Low CEC levels in the A horizon, which may present some fertility issues.
Fertility ranking	Relative Fertility of ASC Classes (NSW Government 2013):
	Moderately high - Dermosol (order), any (sub-order), Eutrophic (Great Group)
	EMM applied Relative Fertility of ASC Classes (lab and field data applied to Murphy et al. 2007):
	Moderate (Group 3)
	Explanation (Murphy et al. 2007):
	Soils have moderate fertility and usually require fertiliser and/or have some physical restrictions for arable use. Soils within this group are moderately deficient in nitrogen, phosphorus and some other elements. The grey, red and brown clays have a somewhat better chemical status than the other soils within this group. The high clay content and strongly coherent nature of some subsoils restrict water and root penetration.
	Note: The laboratory results class the soil as moderately high to high fertility, particularly with the very high nitrogen and total potassium levels recorded in the A horizon. However, the moderate to very low levels of most other macronutrients and micronutrients indicated by the laboratory results, particularly below 30 centimetres depth, suggest moderate natural fertility. Field and laboratory results suggest recent application of fertiliser.

<sup>1.</sup> Sources: Baker and Eldershaw (1993), DERM (2011) and Peverill, Sparrow and Reuter (1999).

<sup>2.</sup> Values in brackets are the ranges measured.

<sup>\*</sup> These values are an approximation based on calculations using the lowest measurable level.

Table 4.16 Eutrophic Grey Dermosol soil chemistry summary

Elements	Comments
ESP	ESP indicating a sodic subsoil that would restrict agriculture.
Ca:Mg ratio	Stable Ca:Mg ratio in the topsoil, but decreasing with depth to levels that suggest soil instability.
Organic Carbon	Indicative of good structural condition and structural stability in the A horizon, but reducing with depth to low levels. Would not restrict agriculture.
Major limitations to	Surface pH
agriculture	PAWC
	Subsoil sodicity

## 5 BSAL verification

For land to be classified as BSAL it must have access to a reliable water supply; meet all of the criteria presented in Figure 2.2; and be a contiguous area of at least 20 ha. Under the Interim Protocol if any individual criterion is not met, the site is not BSAL. The BSAL verification criteria have been evaluated for the assessment area, based on analysis of field, laboratory and remotely sensed data. Section 5.1 explains the BSAL exclusion criteria and more detail is provided in Appendix F. Section 5.2 presents the results of the BSAL assessment and more detail is provided in Appendix G.

#### 5.1 Exclusion criteria

#### 5.1.1 Slope

A slope assessment for the entire assessment area was conducted using a digital elevation model and site observations were made using a hand held clinometer. Areas with slopes greater than 10% were identified as BSAL exclusion areas.

# 5.1.2 Rock outcrop

The area of rock outcrop at each soil survey site, estimated as a percentage of the survey site, was determined by visual inspection in the field and recorded on SALIS data cards. Sites with 30% or greater rock outcrop were identified as BSAL exclusion areas.

#### 5.1.3 Surface rockiness

Rockiness refers to the presence of unattached coarse rock fragments and/or rock outcrops at the soil surface. The area of surface rockiness, estimated as a percentage of each survey site, as well as the physical characteristics and size of rock fragments, was determined in the field and recorded on SALIS data cards.

Sites with greater than 20% coverage of unattached rock fragments, with diameters larger than 60 mm, were identified as BSAL exclusion areas.

### 5.1.4 Gilgai

Gilgai microrelief is a natural soil feature of mounds and depressions commonly associated with cracking clays or Vertosols. The review of NSW regional soils mapping indicated that gilgai microrelief was unlikely to be present within the application area and this was supported by the field observations.

Under the Interim Protocol, sites with average gilgai depressions deeper than 500 mm over more than 50% of the area are identified as BSAL exclusion areas. However, in the SVC application area no significant areas of gilgai were identified and thus no areas were excluded as BSAL on this basis.

## 5.1.5 Soil fertility

Soil types with fertility less than 'moderate', based on the relative fertility of ASC classes presented in Appendix 2 of the Interim Protocol, were identified as BSAL exclusion areas. This was based on the soil type distribution map presented as Figure 4.1.

#### 5.1.6 Effective rooting depth

Effective rooting depth refers to the depth of soil in which roots can function effectively. That is, above any physical or chemical barrier.

Physical and chemical barriers were identified in the field and recorded on SALIS data cards, and/or by laboratory analysis. In the context of BSAL, the depth of soil material from the surface to a physical barrier such as bedrock, weathered rock, hard pans or continuous gravel layers was noted during field surveys. Chemical barriers were identified based on laboratory analysis of soil profile samples, being where limiting values of soil pH, chloride content, electrical conductivity, exchangeable sodium percentage and/or the calcium to magnesium ratio (Ca:Mg) exist.

Survey sites with a physical or chemical barrier to rooting depth at less than 750 mm were identified as BSAL exclusion areas.

### 5.1.7 Drainage

The hydrology at soil survey sites was observed in the field and recorded on SALIS data cards. Poorly drained sites were identified as BSAL exclusion areas. Poorly drained sites were defined as those in low-lying landscapes with drainage restrictions and potential for waterlogging.

## 5.1.8 Soil pH

Soil pH was measured in the laboratory and occasionally in the field. Sites where the pH in the uppermost 600 mm of the soil profile was outside of the range 5.0-8.9, measured in water, were identified as BSAL exclusion areas.

### 5.1.9 Soil salinity

Soil salinity was measured in the laboratory. Sites where soil salinity in the uppermost 600 mm of the soil profile had any of the following properties were identified as BSAL exclusion areas:

- electrical conductivity of greater than 4 deciSiemens per metre (dS/m); or
- the presence of chlorides at 800 milligrams/kilogram (mg/kg) or more, with gypsum present.

#### 5.2 Results of BSAL assessment

Detailed survey sites in the SVC application area which were subject to soil analysis (refer to Table 3.5) have been classified according to their soil type under the ASC, to Great Group level. These survey sites were assessed against each of the BSAL criteria specified in the Interim Protocol, to determine whether or not the criterion is satisfied. The detailed results are provided in Appendix G and summarised in Table 5.1, using the following code:

- yes (Y) highlighted in green, for a decisive 'yes' to meeting the subject criterion for BSAL;
- no (N) highlighted in orange, where a site fails the BSAL verification criteria but assessment against subsequent criteria is required to determine whether the site is BSAL or not (applies to criteria 5 to 7b); and
- N highlighted in red, for a decisive 'no' to meeting the subject criterion, meaning the site is excluded as BSAL
  on this basis alone.

Table 5.1 BSAL verification assessment by soil survey site

Site	ASC soil type	BSAL v	erificatio/	n crite	ria												Is the site BSAL?
no.1	(to Great Group)	Water	1	2	3	4	5	6	7a	7b	8	9	10	11	12	Area	
		Access to reliable water supply?	Slope ≤ 10%?	< 30% rock outcrop?	≤ 20% of area has unattached rock fragments > 60 mm diameter?	≤ 50% of the area has gilgais > 500 mm deep?	Slope < 5 %?	Nil rock outcrops?	Moderate soil fertility?	Moderately high or high soil fertility?	Effective rooting depth to physical barrier is ≥750 mm?	Soil drainage is better than poor?	pH 5-8.9 if measured in water or 4.5-8.1 if measured in calcium chloride, within the uppermost 600 mm of the soil profile?	Salinity is ≤ 4 dS/m or chlorides < 800 mg/kg when gypsum is present, within the uppermost 600 mm of the soil profile?	Effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier is ≥750 mm?	ls the contiguous area ≥20 ha?	
Dystro	ophic Yellow Kandosol																
15	Acidic-Mottled Dystrophic Grey Kandosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	No
32	Acidic Dystrophic Brown Kandosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	N	Υ	N	Υ	N	Υ	No
44	Bleached Mesotrophic Yellow Kandosol	Υ	Y	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	Y	Υ	Υ	Υ	No
133	Acidic-Mottled Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol	Υ	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	Υ	No
183	Palic-Acidic Paralithic Leptic Tenosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	No
267	Acidic-Sodic Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	Υ	N	N	Υ	N	Υ	No
388	Bleached-Mottled Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	No
404	Acidic-Mottled Dystrophic Brown Kandosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	Υ	No
472	Acidic-Sodic Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	N	Υ	N	N	N	Υ	No
481	Acidic-Mottled Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	Υ	No
502	Mottled Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	N	N	Υ	N	Υ	N	Υ	No
592	Haplic Dystrophic Red Kandosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	No
594	Mottled Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	No
595	Haplic Dystrophic Red Kandosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	No
596	Mottled Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	No

Table 5.1 BSAL verification assessment by soil survey site

Site	ASC soil type	BSAL v	erificatio	n crite	ria												Is the site BSAL?
no.1	(to Great Group)	Water	1	2	3	4	5	6	7a	7b	8	9	10	11	12	Area	
		Access to reliable water supply?	Slope ≤ 10%?	< 30% rock outcrop?	≤ 20% of area has unattached rock fragments > 60 mm diameter?	≤ 50% of the area has gilgais > 500 mm deep?	Slope < 5 %?	Nil rock outcrops?	Moderate soil fertility?	Moderately high or high soil fertility?	Effective rooting depth to physical barrier is ≥750 mm?	Soil drainage is better than poor?	pH 5-8.9 if measured in water or 4.5-8.1 if measured in calcium chloride, within the uppermost 600 mm of the soil profile?	Salinity is ≤ 4 dS/m or chlorides < 800 mg/kg when gypsum is present, within the uppermost 600 mm of the soil profile?	Effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier is ≥750 mm?	ls the contiguous area ≥20 ha?	
Paralit	hic Leptic Tenosol																
73	Palic-Acidic Paralithic Leptic Tenosol	Υ	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	Υ	No
83	Palic-Acidic Paralithic Leptic Tenosol	Υ	Y	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	Υ	No
126	Palic-Acidic Paralithic Leptic Tenosol	Υ	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	Υ	No
263	Palic-Acidic Paralithic Leptic Tenosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	Υ	No
287	Palic-Acidic Paralithic Leptic Tenosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	Y	Υ	N	Υ	No
300	Palic-Acidic Paralithic Leptic Tenosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	Υ	No
Kando	solic Redoxic Hydrosol																
4	Acidic-Sodic Dermosolic Redoxic Hydrosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	Υ	N	Υ	N	N	Υ	No
10	Acidic-Sodic Tenosolic Oxyaquic Hydrosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	Υ	No
92	Acidic-Sodic Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	Υ	N	N	Υ	N	Υ	No
238	Acidic-Sodic Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	N	N	N	Υ	N	Υ	No
454	Acidic-Sodic Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	No
524	Acidic-Sodic Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	Υ	N	N	Υ	N	Υ	No

Table 5.1 BSAL verification assessment by soil survey site

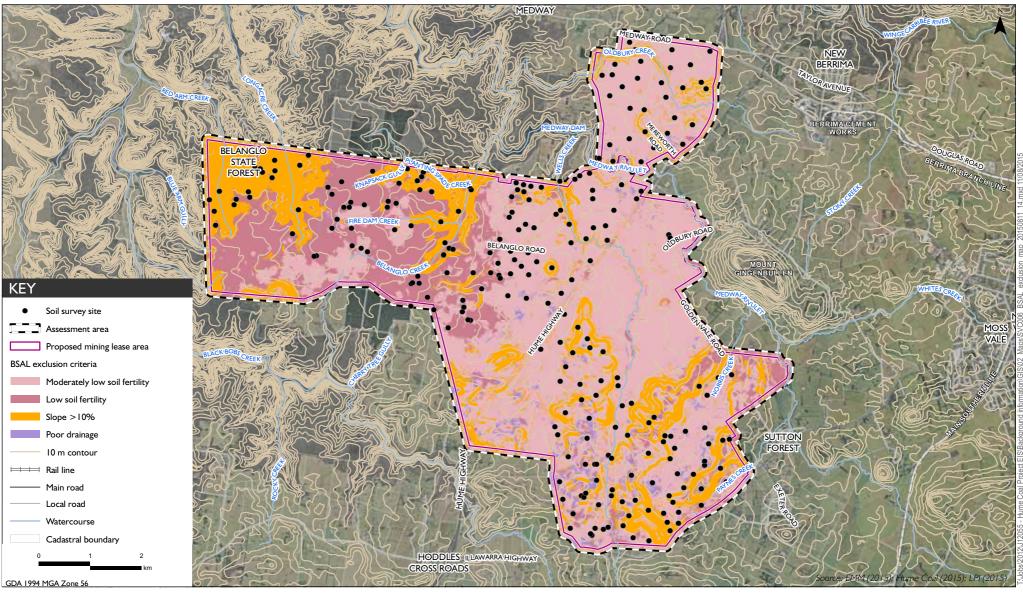
Site	ASC soil type	BSAL v	erification	on crite	ria												Is the site BSAL?
no. <sup>1</sup>	(to Great Group)	Water	1	2	3	4	5	6	7a	7b	8	9	10	11	12	Area	
		Access to reliable water supply?	Slope ≤ 10%?	< 30% rock outcrop?	≤ 20% of area has unattached rock fragments > 60 mm diameter?	≤ 50% of the area has gilgais > 500 mm deep?	Slope < 5 %?	Nil rock outcrops?	Moderate soil fertility?	Moderately high or high soil fertility?	Effective rooting depth to physical barrier is ≥750 mm?	Soil drainage is better than poor?	pH 5-8.9 if measured in water or 4.5-8.1 if measured in calcium chloride, within the uppermost 600 mm of the soil profile?	Salinity is ≤ 4 dS/m or chlorides < 800 mg/kg when gypsum is present, within the uppermost 600 mm of the soil profile?	Effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier is ≥750 mm?	ls the contiguous area ≥20 ha?	
Lithic	Leptic Rudosol																
264	Acidic Lithic Leptic Rudosol	Υ	N	Υ	N	Υ	N	N	N	N	N	Υ	N	N	N	Y	No
414	Acidic Lithic Leptic Rudosol	Υ	N	N	N	Υ	N	N	N	N	N	Υ	N	Υ	N	Υ	No
474	Acidic Lithic Leptic Rudosol	Υ	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	N	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	No
Eutrop	phic Grey Dermosol																
152	Mottled-Sodic Eutrophic Grey Dermosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	N	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	No
181	Acidic-Sodic Eutrophic Brown Dermosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	N	Υ	N	N	No
278	Acidic- Mottled Mesotrophic Grey Dermosol	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	No

Note: 1. Refer to Figure 3.1 for the locations of survey sites.

The results in Table 5.1 show that there is no BSAL in the SVC application area or wider assessment area. Most areas and/or soils fail the BSAL tests on multiple criteria. The principal exclusion criteria across the assessment area are shown in Figure 5.1 and are summarised as follows:

- steep slope BSAL exclusion areas (slopes greater than 10%) occur in much of the western part of the SVC application area associated with the deep sandstone gorges in Belanglo State Forest, as well as along some elevated ridge lines through the central and eastern parts of the application area; and
- physical and chemical soil characteristics BSAL exclusion areas:
  - Dystrophic Yellow Kandosols were excluded because of moderately low soil fertility;
  - Paralithic Leptic Tenosols were excluded because of low soil fertility;
  - Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosols were excluded because of moderately low soil fertility;
  - Lithic Leptic Rudosols were excluded because of low fertility (and typically occur on land which failed BSAL slope criteria); and
  - Eutrophic Grey Dermosols were excluded because of poor drainage.

Most soils also do not meet other BSAL criteria. For example many of the soils have high acidity (soil pH less than 5), high salinity (ECe greater than 4 dS/m and/or chloride greater than or equal to 800 mg/kg), chemical barriers to plant rooting such as sodicity (exchangeable sodium percentage greater than or equal to 15%) and/or physical barriers to plant rooting such as rock. Further detail is provided in the BSAL verification assessment tables in Appendix G.







BSAL exclusion map

Hume Coal Project Biophysical strategic agricultural land verification assessment

### 6 Conclusion

A robust site verification assessment has been conducted over more than two years, by certified professional soil scientists, following the relevant guidelines. This has included field surveys, laboratory analyses and remote sensing techniques to analyse soils and landforms across the assessment area and determine whether the BSAL criteria shown in Figure 2.2 were met. The BSAL verification assessment area was defined as the land that will be subject to a mining lease application plus a 100 m buffer. This resulted in a total assessment area of 5,488 ha.

Based on the assessment results, Hume Coal needs to apply for a SVC as opposed to a gateway certificate. This site verification report has been prepared in accordance with the Interim Protocol to accompany the SVC application. As the Hume Coal Project is not on strategic agricultural land, the gateway process does not apply and the project cannot go through the gateway process. Nonetheless any agricultural impacts will be comprehensively assessed through an Agricultural Impact Statement that will be part of the EIS, and will be assessed by the relevant agencies at the development application stage.

Field-based site surveys and laboratory analyses of soils were undertaken based on recommendations in the Handbook and Interim Protocol. Where land access or other constraints precluded field surveys, soil types were identified by applying remote sensing techniques. Soil type boundaries were identified by remote sensing techniques with correlation provided by site survey and soil analysis results.

Five soil types were identified in the SVC application area: Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol, Paralithic Leptic Tenosol, Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol, Lithic Leptic Rudosol and Eutrophic Grey Dermosol.

Each soil type was assessed against the BSAL verification criteria and no soil type was found to satisfy the criteria, with most failing multiple physical and chemical criteria. In addition, an analysis of slope in the SVC application area determined that some land failed the slope criterion. The result is that no BSAL is present in the SVC application area or wider assessment area, a conclusion that is consistent with the results of the NSW Government's BSAL mapping.

# Abbreviations

A349	exploration authorisation 349				
ASC	Australian Soil Classification				
ASRIS	Australian Soil Resource Information System				
В	boron				
BSAL	biophysical strategic agricultural land				
Ca	calcium				
Ca:Mg	calcium to magnesium ratio				
CEC	cation exchange capacity				
CIC	critical industry cluster				
CI-	chloride				
Cu	copper				
DERM	QLD Department of the Environment and Resource Management				
DP&E	NSW Department of Planning and Environment				
DP&I	former NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure				
dS/m	deciSiemens per metre				
EC	electrical conductivity				
ECse	electrical conductivity – saturated extract				
EIS	environmental impact statement				
EMM	EMGA Mitchell McLennan Pty Limited				
ESP	exchangeable sodium percentage				
GIS	Geographic Information Systems				
ha	hectares				
Handbook	NCST (2009) Australian Soil and Land Survey Field Handbook				
Hume Coal	Hume Coal Pty Limited				
Interim Protocol	NSW Government (2013) Interim Protocol for Site Verification and Mapping of Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land				
K	potassium				
kg	kilograms				
LGA	local government area				
m	metres				
meq/100g	milliequivalent of hydrogen per 100 grams of dry soil				
mg	milligrams				
Mg	magnesium				
Mining SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007				
mm	millimetres				
Mn	manganese				
N	nitrogen				
Na	sodium				
NCST	National Committee on Soil and Terrain				
NOW	NSW Office of Water				
NSW	New South Wales				
OEH	NSW Office of Environment and Heritage				
P	phosphorus				
PAWC	plant available water capacity				
ROM	run of mine				
SALIS	NSW Soil and Land Information System				

SRLUP	NSW Government (2012a) Strategic Regional Land Use Policy
SVC	site verification certificate
Zn	zinc

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Appendix A		
Expert review letters		



13 August 2015

Jodi Kelehear EMM PO Box 21 St Leonards NSW 2065



P.O. Box 2171 ORANGE NSW 2800

ph: (02) 6361 1913 f: (02) 6361 3268 e: david.mckenzie@soilmgt.com.au

www.soilmgt.com.au ABN 37 076 676 616

# COMMENTS REGARDING EMM's 'BIOPHYSICAL STRATEGIC AGRICULTURAL LAND VERIFICATION ASSESSMENT', HUME COAL PROJECT, AUGUST 2015

Dear Jodi

In March 2014, I was invited to carry out a technical review for Hume Coal and EMM of their 'Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) Verification Assessment' for the Hume Coal Project near Sutton Forest, NSW. I have 38 years experience as a soil scientist. My qualifications include a PhD (soil physics) from University of Sydney and a MScAg degree (soil chemistry & agronomy) from University of New England. I have 'Certified Professional Soil Scientist (Stage 3)' and 'CPSS Competent in Australian Soil Survey' accreditation from Soil Science Australia, and I am a 'Chartered Scientist' with British Society of Soil Science.

I met with EMM and Hume Coal staff at Moss Vale on 6 June 2014 and visited the study site. At that time, the soil survey field work was at a standstill because of land access constraints.

One potential solution raised was the possibility of hiring an expert in landscape modelling and remote sensing to assist with filling in the gaps on the soil maps that were being prepared. Since that time, access was successfully negotiated to several additional properties and further field-based soil survey completed. Nonetheless EMM proceeded with using innovative remote sensing techniques to complement the soil survey field work and map soils across the project area.

In addition to the initial face-to-face meeting, I have liaised with EMM on several occasions over the past year, via phone and email correspondence, to discuss the assessment methodology and results.

The 'Interim BSAL Protocol' from NSW Government is written in a way that provides experienced soil surveyors with some flexibility when selecting soil sampling techniques and assessment thresholds for each new field site requiring BSAL assessment. I generally support the way that EMM soil surveyors interpreted the protocol when selecting soil survey and BSAL verification methods for their study area near Sutton Forest in early-2013. However, I note that the EMM field description and sampling techniques were based mainly on the use of 50 mm diameter soil cores, with test pits using a backhoe at a limited number of representative sites. My personal preference is to use backhoe pits wherever possible in BSAL assessments (each with soil laboratory analysis unless the site obviously is non-BSAL based on field observations), as demonstrated in my soil survey reports for Malabar Coal and BHP Billiton:

- Spur Hill underground coal mine proposal (Malabar Coal)
   <a href="http://www.mpgp.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view\_job&job\_id=6335">http://www.mpgp.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view\_job&job\_id=6335</a>
- Caroona underground coal mine proposal (BHP Billiton)
   http://www.mpgp.nsw.gov.au/index.pl?action=view\_job&job\_id=6474

I was advised that landholder objection towards the use of backhoe pits by EMM meant that coring was considered to be the only way of getting the job done. The intensity of sampling sites in accessible areas was appropriate.

I was not present in the field whilst the EMM soil description and sampling was being carried out. However, my discussions with the EMM soil surveyors (Tim Rohde, Neil Cupples) did not create any doubts in my mind about their commitment to quality of workmanship and honesty in reporting.

The BSAL Verification Assessment Report is presented concisely and very clearly. I received a draft of the report on 11 November 2014 and provided detailed comments to EMM soon afterwards. I note that all of the comments were taken on board by EMM and a revised draft issued on 5 December 2015. EMM have systematically and clearly explained how they have addressed all of the relevant requirements in the Interim BSAL Protocol.

I was impressed by the way that soil nutrient data have been linked in with the Fertility Rankings. EMM's reference to Baker & Eldershaw, DERM and Peverill *et al.* takes the soil fertility component of BSAL assessment well beyond that carried out by Murphy et al. (2007). I consider this to be innovative and valuable.

The information presented to me by EMM has convinced me that declarable areas of BSAL almost certainly do not exist within the Hume Coal study site boundaries.

Nevertheless, Hume Coal have noted (see page 77 of their 'Preliminary Environmental Assessment', July 2015) that when their EIS document is prepared for NSW Government, a detailed soil and land resources assessment will be undertaken that builds on the SVC soil assessment, and which is in accordance with all of the applicable guidelines. The emphasis on a new mining and backfilling technique which apparently results in negligible subsidence impacts is an excellent feature of their proposal.

Yours sincerely

Dr David McKenzie

Soil Science Consultant



## Asia-Pacific Remote Sensing Pty Ltd, ABN 74 063 918 445

PO Box 1460, Double Bay, NSW, 2028, Mob: 0416 071646

Email: forster.bruce@gmail.com

Mr. Luke Edminson

6<sup>th</sup> August, 2015

Hume Coal Pty Ltd

Manager – Environmental Planning

Unit 7-8 Clarence House

9 Clarence Street, Moss Vale, NSW, 2577

Dear Mr. Edminson

I have been asked to provide a review of the methods and report "Soil Mapping using Remote Sensing Techniques" prepared by EMM for the Hume Coal Project. I am an internationally recognized expert in remote sensing and recently a Visiting Professorial Fellow in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of NSW (UNSW), Managing Director of Asia-Pacific Remote Sensing Pty Ltd, and formerly the Director of the Centre for Remote Sensing and GIS at UNSW. I have a Bachelor and Master Degree in surveying and mapping from Melbourne University, a Master of Science degree from the University of Reading, and a PhD in satellite remote sensing from UNSW. I have undertaken consulting for a wide range of organizations both nationally and internationally, including BHP, Unisearch, Murray Darling Authority, AusAid, World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

The aim of the remote sensing work was to use a combination of satellite remotely sensed digital image data and airborne radiometric data, combined with other spatial data sources, including elevation and slope data, and soil data collected by field surveys, to predict and map soil types over the Hume Coal Project area.

A preliminary meeting was held with Roshni Sharma of EMM on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September, 2014, at the University of NSW, to review both the remotely sensed and field sampled soil data and to discuss the range of methods that might be appropriate for predicting soil types. Further meetings were held on a weekly basis at UNSW ranging from one to two hours, through to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, to discuss the methods and examine the results of a number of different approaches that I had recommended. In addition, I independently reviewed interim results outside of these meetings.

The analysis stages decided upon in joint discussions, and varied and added to as work progressed, were as follows –

- (1) Undertake a multivariate analysis of all the spatial data, to determine the correlation between the variables and to extract principal components to allow a better understanding of the relationship between, and the importance of, each of the variables.
- (2) Resample all spatial data to a 5m resolution to allow extracted results to be presented at a finer scale than 1:25,000 and all data to be spatially registered.
- (3) Produce overlay maps of the principal components and individual variables, with the soil type point data established from field surveys, to determine and examine any obvious spatial correlation.
- (4) Undertake preliminary testing of a number of different methods, including decision trees and maximum likelihood classification, and analysis and comparison of the results.
- (5) Use a Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) as a vegetation surrogate to offset the attenuating effects of the spatially variable forest cover on the airborne radiometric data, so as to improve the correlation between soil properties (established from field surveys) and this data. The NDVI has low values for bare soil and high values for dense forest, and as the amount of attenuation, to a first order, is directly related to the density of forest cover, then the NDVI will allow separation of attenuated and non-attenuated data.
- (6) Examine a number of Landsat TM satellite images from different dates to select an image that was clear of cloud and was acquired at a similar seasonal time to the radiometric data.
- (7) Calculate a Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), from the near infrared and visible red spectral bands of Landsat TM over the project area.

- (8) Develop a maximum likelihood classification approach using selected radiometric data, elevation and slope data. The use of two separate classes for each soil one under forest and one in open fields to counteract the effects of forest attenuation on the radiometric data, was initially considered but rejected due to limited sampled points in each soil class. Subsequently, use an alternative approach, by incorporating the NDVI layer into the maximum likelihood classification
- (9) Test the confidence of the resulting soil classification using an omission commission error matrix.
- (10) Jointly review the results.

I believe the maximum likelihood classification approach, with the inclusion of the NDVI data that was used in the final analysis, is theoretically sound and is the method that produced the most accurate results. It therefore meets the aim of predicting and classifying soil classes using remotely sensed data.

The omission- commission error matrix indicates that the soil map has a confidence level of 75% or above. It can be seen from the results that some classified soils do not accord with the field sampled soil results. However international mapping standards dictate that well defined points and boundaries should have a 90% probability of being no more than +/- 0.5mm error at map scale. At a 1:25,000 map scale, this means an acceptable error of +/- 12.5m. Thus a predicted soil type boundary and a sampled point of the same soil type could, theoretically, be 25m apart before an error was assumed. In addition soil boundaries are not well defined lines, but more zones of transition between one soil class and another, where the probability of being one or other soil varies across the zone, being approximately 50:50 near the centre of the zone. In a similar way, based on probabilities, the maximum likelihood classifier gives a label to a class if it has a greater than 50% probability of belonging to that class rather than another. Probability will therefore decrease to 50% at the boundary but will greatly increase away from the boundary.

Considering these factors, I would estimate that overall the results have a better confidence level than the 75% indicated by the error matrix.

Yours sincerely

Dr Bruce Forster, AM, FIE(Aust.)

Appendix B		
Soil mapping using remote sensing techn	iques	







# Soil mapping using remote sensing techniques

**Hume Coal Project** 

Prepared for Hume Coal Pty Limited | 17 August 2015

Ground Floor, Suite 01, 20 Chandos Street St Leonards, NSW, 2065

> T +61 2 9493 9500 F +61 2 9493 9599 E info@emgamm.com

## Soil mapping using remote sensing techniques

Final

J12055 | Prepared for Hume Coal Pty Limited | 17 August 2015

Prepared by	Roshni Sharma	Approved by	Dr Philip Towler
Position	Geographic Information Systems Analyst	Position	Associate Director
Signature	Phaema.	Signature	D
Date	17 August 2015	Date	17 August 2015

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#### **Document Control**

Version	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by
v1	17/8/2015	R. Sharma	P. Towler and J. Kelehear



T +61 (0)2 9493 9500 | F +61 (0)2 9493 9599

Ground Floor | Suite 01 | 20 Chandos Street | St Leonards | New South Wales | 2065 | Australia

emgamm.com

## **Executive Summary**

Hume Coal Pty Limited (Hume Coal) proposes to develop and operate an underground coal mine and associated mine infrastructure (the 'Hume Coal Project') west of Moss Vale, in the Southern Coalfield of New South Wales (NSW).

Under NSW legislation, State significant mining developments, such as the Hume Coal Project, which require a new or extended mining lease, also need either a gateway certificate or a site verification certificate (SVC) before their development application can be lodged. The type of certificate required depends on whether or not the proposed development is to be on 'strategic agricultural land'. 'Site verification' following procedures in the NSW Government (2013) Interim Protocol for Site Verification and Mapping of Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (Interim Protocol) is required to confirm whether or not the development is to be on a type of strategic agricultural land referred to as biophysical strategic agricultural land (BSAL).

Site verification has been undertaken, including identifying and mapping soil types across the assessment area using a combination of field-based soil surveys, laboratory analysis and remote sensing techniques. The site verification process confirmed that the land over which Hume Coal intends to seek a mining lease, including a lease for mining purposes, is not BSAL (EMM 2015). Hume Coal is therefore applying for a SVC to certify this finding. This report documents the remote sensing rationale, methods and results and accompanies the SVC application. Full details of the BSAL verification process and outcomes are provided in the main report.

Field-based soil surveys and analyses were undertaken at 246 sites within and immediately adjacent to the SVC application area, equating to more than one site per 25 hectares, which satisfies the Interim Protocol's sampling density requirements. However, some landowners did not agree to sampling on their properties, meaning coverage is better in some areas than others.

The Interim Protocol stipulates that where access for sampling is not available, a model of soils distribution should be developed based on landscape characteristics and remotely sensed and other data sources such as aerial photos, geology (extrapolated to identify parent material), electromagnetic and LiDAR data.

Accordingly, high resolution remotely-sensed data has been used, in conjunction with soils data collected by the field and laboratory analyses, to develop a model of soils distribution. The model employs a 'maximum likelihood' method of soil classification, based on statistical relationships between measurements in the field and remotely sensed data. It has been used to map soil types across the entire application area, including properties that could not be accessed, at a scale finer than 1:25,000. Key steps were as follows:

- 1. Collation and processing of high resolution remotely sensed data and its derivatives, including LiDAR, gamma radiometric and satellite imagery.
- 2. Selection of data layers which provide information on soil properties and distribution, such as terrain, landscape and geological source material data. For example, geology, interpreted through gamma radiometric imagery, was used because it is an important determinant of soil type, given that weathering of this parent material leads to soil formation.
- 3. Extraction of spectral data from the remotely sensed data layers at the location of each field survey point, and grouping the extracted values by known soil type (as determined from the field surveys).
- 4. Statistical analyses to determine the characteristics of each soil type in each remotely sensed data layer and thus derive statistical relationships between the field results and each data layer, and sets of values characteristic of each soil type.
- 5. Application of the derived statistical relationships between the field results and each data layer to model soil type across the assessment area on a pixel-by-pixel basis, and determine the probable soil type for each 5 metre (m) by 5 m pixel. The results were used to build a soil map on a 5 m grid, which is better than the 1:25,000 map resolution required by the Interim Protocol.

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The remote sensing mapping method, based on statistical analysis, is considered to be more objective than traditional methods, which involve manually mapping soil type boundaries based on interpretation of field data, maps, aerial/satellite images and professional judgement.

Comparison of the soil type predicted by the model at each field survey point to the actual field results indicated high confidence levels. Approximately 75% of field survey points were classified as the same soil type by the model. In every instance where the two differed, the field survey point was 50 m or less from the model-predicted boundary of that same soil type. This spatial accuracy would be difficult to achieve with manual soil mapping techniques, especially at a high resolution of 1:25.000 or finer.

In understanding the limitations in mapping soil type boundaries, it is important to note that soil type definitions require thresholds where one soil type is considered to become another. However, there are often transition zones and graded (indeterminate) boundaries between soil types, which make it difficult to delineate distinct boundaries. It is therefore likely that some of the points where field survey and model-predicted soil types differ are within the transition zone between two soil types, and in fact some combination of the two may be present within the 5 m by 5 m pixel area. Regardless of where actual soil type boundaries occur, none of the soil types found in the field surveys or predicted by the model have the capacity to be BSAL.

The field surveys and remote sensing model identified and mapped five soil types in the SVC application area: Dystrophic Yellow Kandosols, Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosols, Paralithic Leptic Tenosols, Lithic Leptic Rudosols and Eutrophic Grey Dermosols. None of these soil types have the capacity to be BSAL. This is due to physical and chemical limitations such as low to moderately low fertility, poor drainage, high acidity, high salinity and chemical and physical barriers to plant rooting such as sodicity or rock.

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## 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Project background

Hume Coal Pty Limited (Hume Coal) proposes to develop and operate an underground coal mine and associated mine infrastructure (the 'Hume Coal Project') in the Southern Coalfield of New South Wales (NSW). Hume Coal holds exploration authorisation 349 (A349) to the west of Moss Vale, in the Wingecarribee local government area (LGA). The underground mine will be developed within part of A349 and associated surface facilities will be developed within and north of A349. The project's local setting is shown in Figure 1.1.

The project is in the early stages of the comprehensive assessment processes required by Commonwealth and NSW legislation. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is being prepared as part of this.

In addition, under provisions of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000, either a gateway certificate or a site verification certificate (SVC) is needed before the project's development application is lodged. This process was established by the NSW Government (2012a) *Strategic Regional Land Use Policy* (SRLUP) and an amendment to the State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007 (Mining SEPP) in 2013. It applies to State significant mining developments, such as the Hume Coal Project, that require a new or extended mining lease under the NSW *Mining Act 1992*.

The type of certificate required depends on whether or not a proposed development is on 'strategic agricultural land', as defined in the SRLUP. Strategic agricultural land falls into two categories. First, land shown on the Strategic Agricultural Land Map, which accompanies the Mining SEPP, to be a critical industry cluster (CIC), important to a highly significant and clustered industry such as wine making or horse breeding. Second, biophysical strategic agricultural land (BSAL), being land with a rare combination of natural resources highly suitable for agriculture.

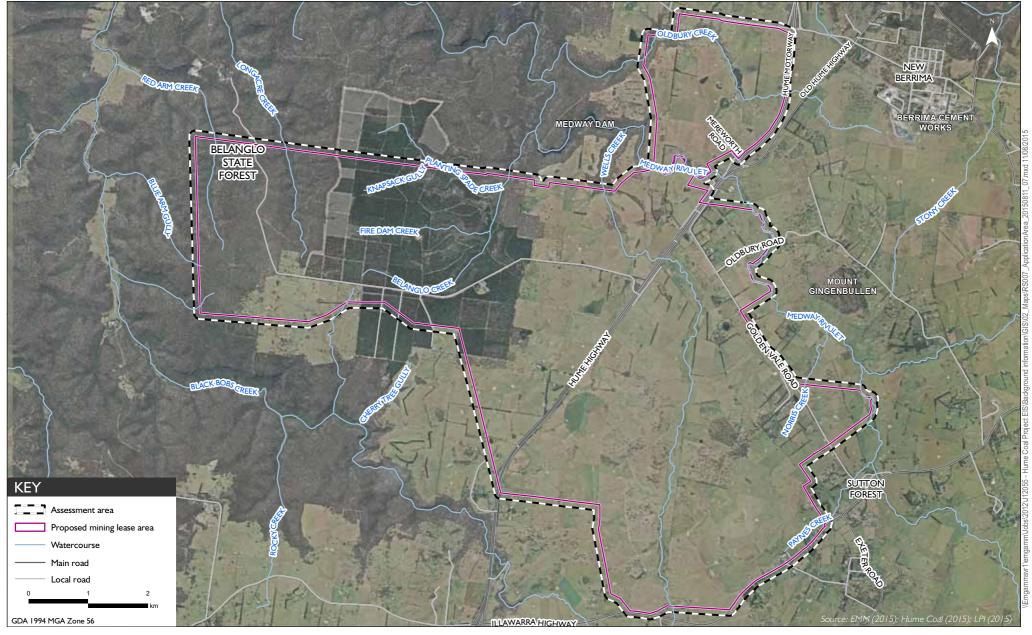
Developments that are on strategic agricultural land need to go through the gateway process and obtain a gateway certificate. Conversely, developments which are not on strategic agricultural land need to obtain a SVC, certifying that the land is not BSAL The gateway process does not apply to these types of developments and they cannot go through the gateway process.

The land is not shown on the Strategic Agricultural Land Map to be a CIC. Therefore it is not a CIC. The NSW Government (2012b) *Draft Guideline for site verification of critical industry clusters* states that "projects located outside the mapped CIC are not required to seek site verification". Accordingly, Hume Coal is not required to seek a site verification or gateway certificate in respect of CICs.

In accordance with the Mining SEPP, detailed site-specific surveys and analysis ('site verification') are required following the NSW Government (2013) *Interim Protocol for Site Verification and Mapping of Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land* (Interim Protocol), to confirm whether or not any land within Hume Coal's proposed mining lease areas is BSAL.

Site verification has been completed for the Hume Coal Project in accordance with the Interim Protocol and confirmed that there is no BSAL within the proposed mining lease areas (EMM 2015). Hume Coal is therefore applying for a SVC (certifying that the land is not BSAL) under Part 4AA of the Mining SEPP. The application relates to those areas over which Hume Coal intends to seek a mining lease, including a lease for mining purposes (the 'SVC application area'), which are shown in Figure 1.1.

As part of the BSAL site verification process, and to inform the agricultural impact statement and land and soil capability assessment components of the EIS, EMM has identified and mapped soil types across the SVC application area. This has been by field surveys, laboratory analyses and remote sensing techniques. This report documents the remote sensing rationale, methods and results and accompanies the SVC application.







## SVC application area

Hume Coal Project Soil mapping using remote sensing techniques

## 1.2 Interim Protocol requirements for BSAL verification

#### 1.2.1 Overview

The Interim Protocol outlines the process for identifying and mapping BSAL. This includes assessment of sites against specific criteria to determine whether or not they are BSAL. The criteria relate to:

- slope;
- rock outcrop;
- surface rock fragments;
- gilgais;
- soil fertility (inferred from soil type);
- effective rooting depth to a physical barrier;
- soil drainage;
- soil pH;
- salinity; and
- effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier.

The "Flow chart for site assessment of BSAL" (Figure 2 of the Interim Protocol) provides twelve steps for consideration of these criteria.

Soil type identification and mapping is an important part of a BSAL verification assessment as it provides a good indication of the chemical and physical properties of soil and therefore soil fertility.

As described in the EMM (2015) *Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land Verification Assessment*, the Interim Protocol requires soil mapping to be at a scale of 1:25,000.

### 1.2.2 Site types

The Interim Protocol defines 'exclusion', 'detailed' and 'check' soil survey site types. These are described below.

## i Exclusion sites (Interim Protocol Section 9.4.1)

The Interim Protocol defines exclusion sites as being:

within areas that fail the obvious landscape requirements, that is, slope, rock outcrop, surface rockiness or gilgai microrelief criteria as explained in steps 1 to 6 in Figure 2 [Flow chart for site assessment of BSAL].

#### For these sites:

Neither soil profile description nor soil survey is necessary.

#### ii Detailed sites (Interim Protocol Section 9.4.2)

The Interim Protocol requires detailed sites to be:

described in sufficient detail to allow all major physical and chemical soil features of relevance to BSAL to be clearly identified as described from steps 1 to 12 in [Interim Protocol] Figure 2.

The Interim Protocol (Section 5, Step 3) states:

Access to the project area will define the level of investigation that the proponent can undertake. If the proponent has access to the land then the BSAL verification requirements for on-site soils assessment as described in sections 6 [Soils and landscape verification criteria] and 9 [Collecting and presenting soils information] should be met. If the proponent does not have access then the proponent should develop a model of soils distribution guided by sections 6 and 9.6 based on landscape characteristics using the information listed below. This approach can also be used if the proponent has access but the area is not used for agriculture (for example, heavily forested areas) or the proponent needs to identify the boundary of BSAL outside the project area. Relevant information includes:

- estimate of BSAL criteria for slope, rockiness, and gilgais;
- available soils datasets;
- geology extrapolated to identify parent material;
- local knowledge;
- vegetation;
- aerial photography;
- other remotely-sensed resources (eg EM [electromagnetic], LiDAR); and
- soils assessment of nearby accessible sites of similar landscape.

The Interim Protocol recognises that where site access is not available, steps 1 to 6 should be completed using other methods. This is described in Section 6 of the Interim Protocol:

Steps 1-6 in Figure 2 can be measured with relative ease in the field or via remotely sensed data as these are basically landscape criteria that can be ascertained without soil profile information. If these landscape requirements are not met, simple observation sites called exclusion sites are used. However, Steps 7-12 in Figure 2 are determined by soil profile description and will require detailed assessment sites complemented by check sites. These assessment sites are explained in section 9.4 [Sites].

#### ii Check sites (Interim Protocol Section 9.4)

The Interim Protocol describes check sites as follows:

Check sites are examined in sufficient detail to allocate the site to a soil type and soil map unit. Check sites are commonly used to accurately position the boundaries of soil map units, to describe the variability within a soil map unit and to validate soil predictions. Check sites complement detailed sites.

If existing soil mapping is available, check sites could be used to investigate its accuracy and relevance of the existing mapping to the assessment area. If the check sites confirm the existing mapping, then the existing soil map units may be sufficient to support a BSAL assessment. However if the on-ground assessment shows inconsistencies or errors in the available information, then more detailed site descriptions and mapping will be required.

## 1.3 Field soil surveys

EMM has, to date, conducted soil surveys at 246 sites (or 'points') within and immediately adjacent to the SVC application area. These surveys have been conducted with the aim of classifying soil types to the required mapping scale of 1:25,000, necessitating a density target of at least one site per 25 hectares (ha). The sampling points are a combination of detailed and check sites. Access to many sites required extensive landholder negotiations. Details of soil survey sites are provided in the *Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land Verification Assessment* (EMM 2015).

Based on the proposed mining lease boundary ('SVC application area') of approximately 5,042 ha, an average field survey density of about one site per 20.5 ha has been achieved. For the broader assessment area of 5,491 ha, comprising the proposed mining lease application areas plus a 100 metre (m) buffer, as per the Interim Protocol, an average field survey density of about one site per 22.3 ha has been reached. Both of these meet the required mapping scale of 1:25,000, however, land access was not uniformly spread across the application area.

Hume Coal has made every reasonable attempt to access properties across the application area for soil surveys, however, a number of landholders declined to participate. Accordingly, consistent with guidance in the Interim Protocol for areas where the proponent does not have access, a model of soils distribution across the entire application area, including land that could not be accessed, has been developed using remote sensing techniques.

It is noted that soil surveys have also been conducted at additional locations outside the SVC application area, as part of the broader investigations for the EIS. These locations are not considered or described in this report, as they are not directly relevant to the SVC application. They will be detailed in the EIS. It is however noted that the soil types recorded at these additional locations are the same as those found within the SVC application area, none of which are BSAL.

## 1.4 Remote sensing as a complementary method to field soil surveys

The Report by the Mining & Petroleum Gateway Panel to accompany a Conditional Gateway Certificate for the Caroona Coal Project (NSW Government Gateway Panel 2014) advises that, in the event that physical soil sampling is not possible, remote sensing techniques are appropriate to undertake soil mapping:

Every effort should be made to negotiate access to physically sample these areas and apply the BSAL verification protocol.

Where physical soil sampling remains unachievable, a desktop interpretation is acceptable for determination of the presence of BSAL but the process needs to be fully elucidated and include all available, relevant information. The Gateway Panel believes such information should include the remote electromagnetic survey information ... this information has the potential to assist with the mapping of variability in key soil factors and soil landscape units.

Remote electromagnetic survey methods include a wide range of satellite and airborne data collection from parts of the electromagnetic spectrum (eg infrared, visible and gamma bands). These methods were used for the project's soil mapping, as described in Chapter 2.

As of July 2014, it was not possible to gain landowner agreement to undertake field sampling on some properties in the application area. It was therefore decided to use remote sensing techniques to complete soil mapping across the application area.

Since July 2014, successful negotiations have allowed access to additional properties and further field-based sampling to be completed. The average field sampling density now meets the Interim Protocol requirements and the spatial distribution of soil sampling points provides good coverage in some areas, though not in others. The remote sensing program was continued as:

• it is a complementary method to field soil surveys and allows soils to be mapped across the whole application area on a 5 m grid (better than 1:25,000 resolution);

- it is informed by electromagnetic survey information from a range of bands, which provide real-world detailed information on soil attributes:
- soil type distributions are mapped based on statistical relationships between measurements in the field and remotely sensed data, which provides a level of objectivity;
- comparison of field and modelled soil types provides an understanding of the accuracy and precision of soil mapping, which is not possible for soil mapping based on field sampling alone; and
- it meets the Interim Protocol's requirements.

## 1.5 Expert review

An expert review of the methods and results of the remote sensing soil type classification was conducted by Professor Bruce Forster. Professor Forster has a PhD in satellite remote sensing, is a former Director of the Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems at the University of New South Wales, and is the Managing Director of Asia Pacific Remote Sensing Pty Ltd. The expert review report is provided in Appendix A.

## 2 Remote sensing analysis of soil type classes in the application area

### 2.1 Overview

High resolution remotely-sensed data has been collated and statistically analysed, in conjunction with known soil properties determined from field surveys, to predict and map soil types across the application area.

Remote sensing is the science of accurate measurement of properties of surfaces without physical contact, often using electromagnetic radiation detected by airborne or satellite sensors. Remotely sensed data can be statistically and mathematically analysed to understand properties of environmental and other phenomena and associated processes (Jensen 2005).

The following general steps have been followed in this analysis:

- 1. Field and remote data collation, review and preparation.
- 2. Data analysis and mapping.
- 3. Assessment of confidence limits.

## 2.2 Remote sensing for soil type identification

Digital soil mapping applies remote sensing and spatial analysis techniques to soil sciences (Hartemink 2012). These techniques allow a combination of field measurements and remotely sensed data to be used to reliably map soil types between field soil survey points.

A soil type map created using remote sensing applications has the capacity to provide a statistical understanding of soil type distribution across the entire assessment area based on field survey results and remotely sensed data. This differs from a traditional soil map, which involves manually mapping soil type boundaries based on interpretation of field data, maps, aerial/satellite images and professional judgement.

This method extracts spectral data at the location of each field survey point from a range of remotely sensed data layers. It groups these values according to known soil type (as determined from the field program). Statistical analyses are then done to determine the characteristics of each soil type in each remotely sensed data layer. The derived statistical relationships between the field results and each data layer are then used to model soil type across the entire assessment area on a pixel-by-pixel basis and build the soil map.

Unlike traditional soil mapping techniques, use of remote sensing techniques also allows a transparent understanding of the uncertainty in the soil map produced (Rossiter 2012).

#### 2.3 Method selection

#### 2.3.1 Overview

There are many remote soil mapping approaches and methods available (Hartemink 2012). The applicability of a given method depends on a range of factors including the environment being mapped, available data and geographic scale.

A number of methods were considered for modelling soil type distribution in this assessment, including:

- principal component analysis;
- boosted regression trees; and
- supervised classification methods, including maximum likelihood analysis.

These methods were each trialled in consultation with Professor Bruce Forster from the University of New South Wales (refer to Section 1.5).

### 2.3.2 Principal component analysis – rejected

Principal component analysis was trialled but did not show relationships that revealed soil type distributions. The principal component layers produced provided information on surface cover but were not able to extend to inferring relationships to the soil beneath the surface cover.

## 2.3.3 Boosted regression trees – rejected

Boosted regression trees were trialled but were not able to effectively discern between soil types within the application area. In addition, this method included a small amount of randomness within each iteration, producing slightly different results each time the model was run. Because some of the soil types identified in the application area during field surveys show very similar characteristics, it was difficult to understand the relative accuracy of results each time the model was run.

### 2.3.4 Supervised classification – adopted

In a supervised classification of remotely sensed imagery, the analyst defines spectral 'regions of interest' (pixels which exemplify a particular soil type, also known as a 'class') in the application area, generally based on field survey results. The analyst selects imagery input layers which quantitatively and spatially describe features of the assessment area important in soil type distribution. The geographic coordinates of the regions of interests are then used to select training regions in the input imagery layers. The resultant groups of pixels within each remotely sensed layer give the features of each soil type in that layer. These clusters are analysed statistically to characterise each class. The relationships established in this way are then applied to each pixel in the assessment area, and a soil type class assigned to each pixel.

Supervised classification is useful in instances where there is reasonably good field survey coverage but without adequate spatial distribution, as is the case for the Hume Coal Project. There are a number of supervised classification methods, including 'parallel piped', 'minimum distance to mean' and 'maximum likelihood'. These are each based on different ways of statistically defining classes, based on the user-defined regions of interest.

Maximum likelihood analysis is a supervised classification method based on probability. Probability distribution plots are generated for each class by the cluster of pixel values of its region of interest in each imagery band (Figure 2.1). Each pixel is then assigned a class type based on the highest probability class fit for that pixel (Atkinson and Lewis 2000; Lo and Yeung 2002; Jensen 2005). Compared to other supervised classification methods, the maximum likelihood method is most effective for correctly classifying data where classes may be similar to each other. It is also able to compute statistical relationships for regions of interest across multiple bands of remotely sensed data.

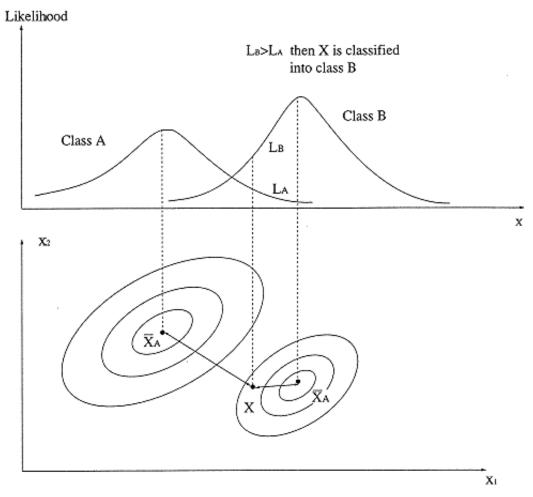


Figure 2.1 Example probability density curves (ACRoRS 1999)

The maximum likelihood analysis method was selected for the Hume Coal Project's soil mapping because:

- the application area is relatively small;
- the application area needs to be mapped in relatively high resolution (1:25,000); and
- some soil types identified in field surveys are similar to each other and the analysis plots probability density for
  each class in the input datasets, so is able to correctly differentiate between different classes with better
  accuracy than other methods (Jensen 2005).

## 2.4 Data collation, review and preparation

## 2.4.1 Input datasets

The SCORPAN framework was used in this assessment to inform the selection of appropriate input remote sensing datasets. The SCORPAN model (McBratney et al 2003) is a modification of Jenny's (1941) seminal model for soil type classifications. The SCORPAN model defines the factors that control soil development as:

$$S_c = f(c, o, r, p, \alpha, n)$$

Where:

S<sub>c</sub>: soil

c: climate

o: organisms (vegetation, fauna, human activity)

r: topography, landscape attributes

p: parent material, lithology

a: age, time

n: space, spatial position

Reliable data for each of the SCORPAN factors is not always available. Further, some factors may be more informative about soil types than others depending on the mapping scale and location.

Only the most relevant input layers should be used for maximum likelihood analysis. This minimises statistical 'noise' and maximises output accuracy (Jensen 2005), by maintaining precision in the probability distribution boundaries (see Figure 2.1). The resulting relationships improve the accuracy of classification results and minimise misclassification of soil types.

A number of potential raster remote sensing datasets were reviewed to determine their suitability for inclusion in the maximum likelihood analysis. These included a range of gamma radiometric data layers, geology and vegetation data. Some datasets were not in the correct format for implementation by the model and/or produced statistical relationships which distorted the model's ability to predict more than one soil type; these datasets were not used.

After data review, six raster datasets and one layer of point data from field surveys were used for the maximum likelihood classification (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1 Input datasets for maximum likelihood classification

Data type	SCORPAN factor	Input dataset	Source		
Topography	r, n	Digital elevation model	Airborne survey conducted by AAM (25 October 2013)		
Topography	r	Slope model	Derived from digital elevation model data (above)		
Gamma radiometric imagery	p, c, a	Gamma radiometrics – total count	Airborne survey conducted by Fugro Airborne Surveys (December 2001)		
Gamma radiometric imagery	р, с, а	Gamma radiometrics – thorium	Airborne survey conducted by Fugro Airborne Surveys (December 2001)		

Table 2.1 Input datasets for maximum likelihood classification

Data type SCORPAN Input dataset factor		Input dataset	Source		
Gamma radiometric imagery	p, c, a	Gamma radiometrics – potassium	Airborne survey conducted by Fugro Airborne Surveys (December 2001)		
Satellite imagery	0	Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)	Landsat ETM+ image (captured on 31 January 2014)		
Field survey data <sup>1</sup>	Sc	Point soil type classification data	Check and detailed survey site data from field soil sampling in the application area, based on the <i>Australian Soil Classification</i> (McDonald et al. 1990)		

Note:

The remotely sensed imagery datasets were in raster format (ESRI GRID files). All raster datasets were resampled to a 5 m by 5 m cell to provide a resolution better than 1:25,000. All datasets were clipped to the assessment area boundary, comprising the proposed mining and mining purposes lease application areas plus a 100 m buffer, as per the Interim Protocol.

The gamma radiometric imagery does not cover a small area in the north of the application area (Figure 3.1). Given that this imagery was a key dataset to map soil types, the soil types in this northern area were not mapped using remote sensing methods. Good field survey coverage was achieved in this northern area and used by EMM's soil scientists to manually map soil types there (refer to Figure 4.1 in main report for results).

Of the 246 soil sampling points within and immediately to the application area, 221 were used in the maximum likelihood analysis. These were the points within the region covered by the input datasets, and had been assigned a soil type based on the field survey program. One check site was excluded from the analysis because it comprised rock outcrop and so had not been assigned a soil type in the field. The remaining 24 soil sampling points were excluded as they are beyond the model domain, being in the northern portion of the application area not covered by the gamma radiometric imagery (Figure 3.2).

### 2.4.2 Topography

Terrain and landscape are significant factors in soil type distribution, facilitating weathering from ridges and slopes, accumulation of weathered material in valleys and erosion of parent material by river channels. They also influence the moisture contents of soils (McBratney et al 2003).

Airborne LiDAR surveys were conducted by AAM for Hume Coal in 2013. The results were used to prepare a digital elevation model for the assessment area. The digital elevation model provides terrain data and allows slopes to be calculated.

### 2.4.3 Gamma radiometric imagery

An airborne magnetic and radiometric survey was conducted by Fugro Airborne Services Pty Ltd in December 2001 for Anglo Coal Australia Pty Ltd (Encom 2002).

High resolution spatial data about geological source material can be a useful tool to ascertain soil type because soil formation occurs with weathering of parent material (Wilford et al 1997; International Atomic Energy Agency 1991). Thorium is generally immobile in the environment and is used as a proxy for parent material. Potassium is slightly more mobile and can indicate areas of weathering as well as parent material of different types (Wilford et al 1997; International Atomic Energy Agency 2010, 1991).

<sup>1.</sup> Details of field soil sampling and soil point classification are provided in the EMM (2015) Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land Verification Assessment.

Gamma radiometric imagery measures thorium and potassium levels, and therefore provides information on the mineralogy and geochemistry of soils. This indicates geological source material, an important determinant of soil type (Viscarra Rossel et al 2007; Taylor et al 2002). This imagery can be included in a model to account for the geology of an area.

## 2.4.4 Satellite imagery

Dense vegetation cover can attenuate the electromagnetic signals that form the basis of a remote sensing dataset, distorting the data. A vegetation index can be used to identify areas where dense vegetation cover exists, assisting the model to factor this into the statistical relationships made for each class.

This assessment used the Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), which is widely used to identify vegetation cover density across a multispectral image. The NDVI differentiates between densely vegetated areas, less densely vegetated areas (for example cropland), and sparsely vegetated areas (Jensen 2005).

Landsat ETM+ imagery was used to calculate the NDVI. Landsat TM and Landsat ETM+ imagery for the application area are captured every 16 days. The 31 January 2014 Landsat ETM+ imagery used for the assessment was captured during relatively dry ground conditions and has minimal cloud cover interference. Higher soil water content and higher vegetation density attenuate the radiometric signal in the visible and near infrared bands captured by Landsat imagery. Imagery captured in drier conditions is therefore more useful for understanding soils, though corrections still need to be applied to counteract the differential effects of differing vegetation densities on the radiometric signal across an area. That is, to isolate the soils-related component as much as possible.

The Landsat ETM+ imagery captured closer to when the gamma airborne survey was conducted (2001) is less suitable for determining the NDVI because the land surface was covered by much higher vegetation density at that time. Increased vegetation cover results in increased attenuation of electromagnetic radiation, resulting in the return signal giving less accurate data regarding soil properties and more data about vegetation properties. For the purposes of this study, satellite imagery taken during drier conditions, where there is less vegetation cover on the ground, provides a more effective input for analysis and mapping of soil type distribution in the area. After reviewing all Landsat imagery over this area captured between 2001 and 2014, the more recent (2014) imagery, captured when conditions were considerably drier, was selected and used in analysis.

In applying the 2014-derived NDVI to the 2001 gamma radiometric data, it was important to check that the areas of grassland and forest vegetation had not significantly changed in extent in the intervening period. All Landsat ETM+ imagery captured from 2001 to 2014 was reviewed. The spatial distribution of grassland and forested areas remained consistent between 2001 and 2014. Therefore, use of the NDVI generated from recent Landsat ETM+ imagery (2014) is applicable to all input raster datasets and appropriately shows differences in vegetation density across the assessment area.

### 2.5 Data analysis and mapping

The maximum likelihood analysis was performed using ArcMap 10.2.2 software to produce a map of soil types across the assessment area (Figure 3.1). This was undertaken by the following steps:

- 1. Field-derived soil type data were plotted to understand spatial distribution.
- 2. Univariate statistical analyses of the properties of each of these soil types was undertaken to understand the ranges in which values fall for each factor considered and properties of each distribution.
- 3. A number of remotely sensed data layers, including airborne and satellite imagery and their derivatives were pre-processed.
- 4. Geostatistical analyses of remotely sensed data were undertaken in relation to soil survey points to understand the relationships between the soil types in the area.

- 5. Supervised classification using the maximum likelihood method was used to generate a map of soil type distribution, showing the probable soil type for each cell in the assessment area.
- 6. The similarity between field survey results at each of the sampling points with soil type distribution predicted by the maximum likelihood method was assessed to understand confidence levels of results.

## 3 Results

## 3.1 Soil type classification map

Modelled soil types in the application area, determined using remote sensing methods, are shown in Figure 3.1.

#### 3.2 Confidence levels

As with any model, it is important to understand the confidence level associated with the results. This is established by ground-truthing across the assessment area to assess the degree to which the model is able to correctly predict the point data classifications and patterns established from soil surveys.

### 3.2.1 Classification similarities and differences by soil type

The soil type classification similarities and differences, that is, which points were classified the same by field survey and remote sensing and which were classified differently, are summarised in Table 3.1 and shown on Figure 3.2.

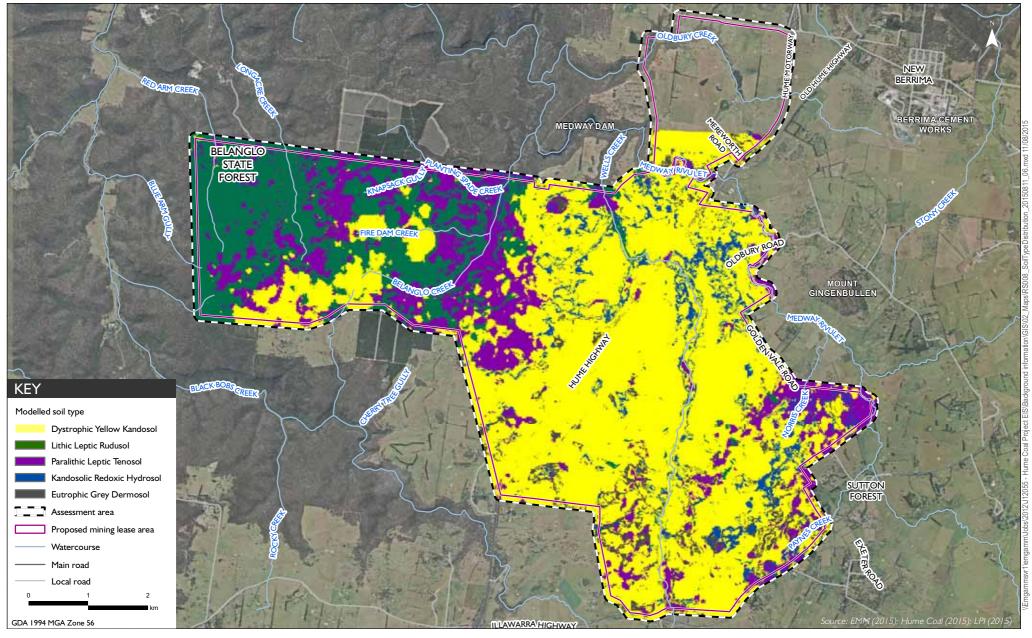
Table 3.1 Classification similarities and differences

		Soil types – classified by remote sensing					
		Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol	Eutrophic Grey Dermosol	Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol	Lithic Leptic Rudosol	Paralithic Leptic Tenosol	Total
	Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol	114	3	11	9	17	154
	Eutrophic Grey Dermosol		7				7
Soil types – classified by	Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol		1	5	1		7
field survey	Lithic Leptic Rudosol	2			22	5	29
	Paralithic Leptic Tenosol	3			4	17	24
	Total	119	11	16	36	39	221

Note: Shaded cells indicate a match between the soil types determined by field survey and remote sensing.

In summary, of the 221 field survey points used in the analysis, approximately 75% were classified as the same soil type by the model and approximately 25% were classified differently. In each instance where the two differed, the field survey point was 50 m or less from the model-predicted boundary of that same soil type (Figure 3.2), even in regions which showed complex soil formation factors. This spatial accuracy would be difficult to achieve with manual soil mapping techniques, especially at a high resolution of 1:25,000.

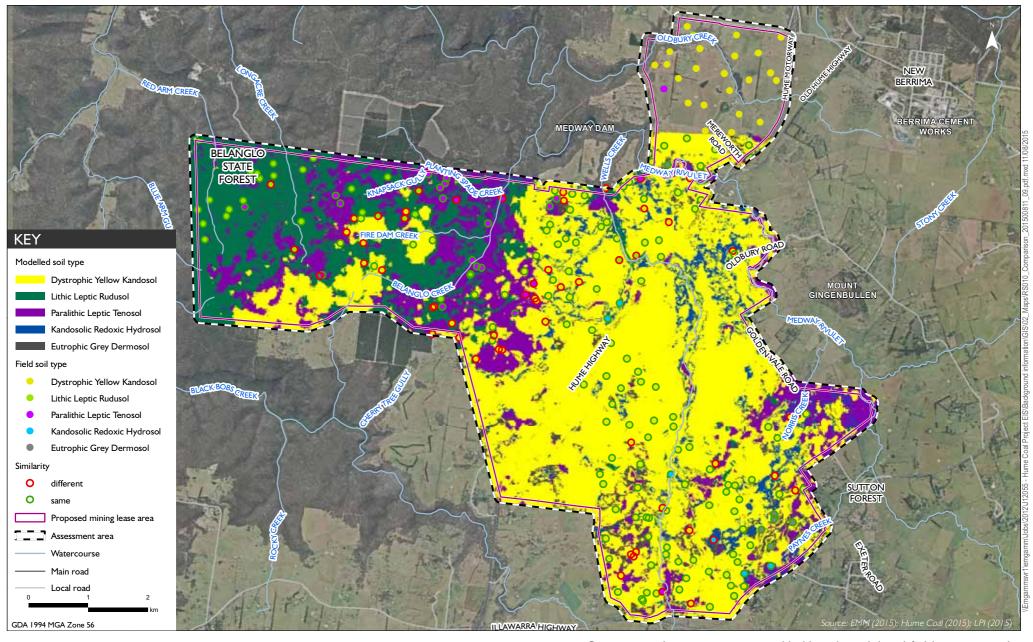
Most instances where there are differences between field survey and model predicted soil type classifications are for Dystrophic Yellow Kandosols. However, results still show high levels of correct classification (>74%). The differences were mainly where soil survey points classified as Dystrophic Yellow Kandosols in the field were predicted to be a different soil type by the model (40 locations). However in some instances, soil survey points classified as something other than a Kandosol in the field were classified as Dystrophic Yellow Kandosols by the model (five locations). These results suggest that the probability distribution for Dystrophic Yellow Kandosols has a wider spread within the maximum likelihood model compared to the other soil types (and therefore more overlap with the probability distributions for other soil types). Accordingly, it is possible that in some areas with more complex soil formation factors, Dystrophic Yellow Kandosols may exist but have been classified by the model as a different soil type. This is not likely to be extensive, or to extend to areas with less complex soil formation factors.







## Soil type distribution







Comparison between maximum likelihood model and field survey results

Eutrophic Grey Dermosols are generally classified well by the maximum likelihood model, with 100% of soil survey points classified as this soil type in the field predicted correctly by the model. There were four instances of the model predicting a pixel of Eutrophic Grey Dermosol where field surveys showed a different soil type.

The model also has high levels of accuracy in its ability to predict regions where Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosols occur, accurately predicting five of the seven points classified as this soil type in the field. However, the results indicate some overlap between the probability distributions for Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosols and Dystrophic Yellow Kandosols and in some instances this soil type may be predicted where Kandosols actually occur.

Of the 29 sites classified as Lithic Leptic Rudosols in the field surveys, 22 (76%) were similarly classified by the model, which indicates that it is reasonably accurate in predicting occurrence of this soil type. The results indicate that, as is the case with Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosols (and Paralithic Leptic Tenosols), there is some overlap between its probability distributions with those for Dystrophic Yellow Kandosols.

Of the 24 sites classified as Paralithic Leptic Tenosols in the field surveys, 17 (71%) were similarly classified by the model, with the remainder predicted to be either Dystrophic Yellow Kandosols or Lithic Leptic Rudosols by the model. There is some overlap between the probability distributions for Paralithic Leptic Tenosols with those for Dystrophic Yellow Kandosols and Lithic Leptic Rudosols.

#### 3.2.2 Classification differences by area

The spatial distribution of field survey point soil type classification compared to model soil type classification across the assessment area is shown in Figure 3.2.

There is a strip of land from north-east to south-west across the centre of the application area where field-classified soil types have a higher likelihood of differing from the model results, albeit that all disparate points are within 50 m of the modelled soil type of the same class. This region is a transition zone between extensive Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol soils to the east and a mixture of Paralithic Leptic Tenosol and Lithic Leptic Rudosol soils to the west. This area shows complexity in all of the input layers. There are many small regions of different soil types in this transition zone, and so the soil type classification for any given 5 m by 5 m pixel in this region is more likely to be between two or more soil type probability density curves (Figure 2.1).

The topography and surface cover of the western region of the application area, in Belanglo State Forest, is similarly complex. Use of an NDVI layer to account for dense vegetation in this area is believed to have improved the ability of the model to correctly classify soil types in this area, however some differences between field and model results are still apparent.

Sites where there are differences between field results and model predictions are generally close to a modelled soil type boundary. Soil type definitions provide a tool for naming soils and require thresholds where one soil type is considered to become another. Soils are also mobile. Hence, there are often graded (indeterminate) boundaries between soil types, which can make it difficult to delineate a soil type boundary, particularly distinct boundaries in complex areas and transition zones (Burroughs 1996). Indeed, a transitional Tenosol (grading to a Kandosol) was identified within the application area during the field surveys, on an isolated sandstone outcrop just east of Belanglo State Forest (EMM 2015). It is therefore likely that some of the points where the field survey and model-predicted soil types differ are within the transition zone between two or more soil types, and in fact some combination of these soil types may be present within the 5 m by 5 m pixel area.

Regardless of where actual soil type boundaries occur, it is important to note that none of the soil types found in the field surveys or predicted by the model have the capacity to be BSAL. This is due to a range of limitations such as low to moderately low soil fertility, poor drainage, high acidity, high salinity and chemical and physical barriers to plant rooting such as sodicity or rock, as discussed in the main report (EMM 2015).

## 4 Conclusion

To fulfil the Interim Protocol's requirements to map soil types in the Hume Coal Project's SVC application area, the spatial distribution of soil types has been mapped using remote sensing techniques to complement the field-based soil surveys. The mapping of soil types by remote sensing used maximum likelihood classification to produce a map with a pixel size of 5 m by 5 m and a resolution better than 1:25,000.

Field surveys and remote sensing model predictions show the presence of Dystrophic Yellow Kandosols, Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosols, Paralithic Leptic Tenosols, Lithic Leptic Rudosols and Eutrophic Grey Dermosols in the SVC application area. These soil types do not have the capacity to be BSAL.

## Abbreviations

A349	exploration authorisation 349
BSAL	biophysical strategic agricultural land
CIC	critical industry cluster
EIS	environmental impact statement
EM	electromagnetic
EMM	EMGA Mitchell McLennan Pty Limited
ha	hectares
Hume Coal	Hume Coal Pty Limited
Interim Protocol	NSW Government (2013) Interim Protocol for Site Verification and Mapping of Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land
LGA	local government area
m	metres
Mining SEPP	State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007
NDVI	Normalised Difference Vegetation Index
NSW	New South Wales
SRLUP	NSW Government (2012a) Strategic Regional Land Use Policy
SVC	site verification certificate

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### Appendix A

### Expert review letter



### Asia-Pacific Remote Sensing Pty Ltd, ABN 74 063 918 445

PO Box 1460, Double Bay, NSW, 2028, Mob: 0416 071646

Email: forster.bruce@gmail.com

Mr. Luke Edminson

6<sup>th</sup> August, 2015

Hume Coal Pty Ltd

Manager – Environmental Planning

Unit 7-8 Clarence House

9 Clarence Street, Moss Vale, NSW, 2577

Dear Mr. Edminson

I have been asked to provide a review of the methods and report "Soil Mapping using Remote Sensing Techniques" prepared by EMM for the Hume Coal Project. I am an internationally recognized expert in remote sensing and recently a Visiting Professorial Fellow in the Faculty of Engineering at the University of NSW (UNSW), Managing Director of Asia-Pacific Remote Sensing Pty Ltd, and formerly the Director of the Centre for Remote Sensing and GIS at UNSW. I have a Bachelor and Master Degree in surveying and mapping from Melbourne University, a Master of Science degree from the University of Reading, and a PhD in satellite remote sensing from UNSW. I have undertaken consulting for a wide range of organizations both nationally and internationally, including BHP, Unisearch, Murray Darling Authority, AusAid, World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

The aim of the remote sensing work was to use a combination of satellite remotely sensed digital image data and airborne radiometric data, combined with other spatial data sources, including elevation and slope data, and soil data collected by field surveys, to predict and map soil types over the Hume Coal Project area.

A preliminary meeting was held with Roshni Sharma of EMM on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September, 2014, at the University of NSW, to review both the remotely sensed and field sampled soil data and to discuss the range of methods that might be appropriate for predicting soil types. Further meetings were held on a weekly basis at UNSW ranging from one to two hours, through to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, to discuss the methods and examine the results of a number of different approaches that I had recommended. In addition, I independently reviewed interim results outside of these meetings.

The analysis stages decided upon in joint discussions, and varied and added to as work progressed, were as follows –

- (1) Undertake a multivariate analysis of all the spatial data, to determine the correlation between the variables and to extract principal components to allow a better understanding of the relationship between, and the importance of, each of the variables.
- (2) Resample all spatial data to a 5m resolution to allow extracted results to be presented at a finer scale than 1:25,000 and all data to be spatially registered.
- (3) Produce overlay maps of the principal components and individual variables, with the soil type point data established from field surveys, to determine and examine any obvious spatial correlation.
- (4) Undertake preliminary testing of a number of different methods, including decision trees and maximum likelihood classification, and analysis and comparison of the results.
- (5) Use a Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) as a vegetation surrogate to offset the attenuating effects of the spatially variable forest cover on the airborne radiometric data, so as to improve the correlation between soil properties (established from field surveys) and this data. The NDVI has low values for bare soil and high values for dense forest, and as the amount of attenuation, to a first order, is directly related to the density of forest cover, then the NDVI will allow separation of attenuated and non-attenuated data.
- (6) Examine a number of Landsat TM satellite images from different dates to select an image that was clear of cloud and was acquired at a similar seasonal time to the radiometric data.
- (7) Calculate a Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), from the near infrared and visible red spectral bands of Landsat TM over the project area.

- (8) Develop a maximum likelihood classification approach using selected radiometric data, elevation and slope data. The use of two separate classes for each soil one under forest and one in open fields to counteract the effects of forest attenuation on the radiometric data, was initially considered but rejected due to limited sampled points in each soil class. Subsequently, use an alternative approach, by incorporating the NDVI layer into the maximum likelihood classification
- (9) Test the confidence of the resulting soil classification using an omission commission error matrix.
- (10) Jointly review the results.

I believe the maximum likelihood classification approach, with the inclusion of the NDVI data that was used in the final analysis, is theoretically sound and is the method that produced the most accurate results. It therefore meets the aim of predicting and classifying soil classes using remotely sensed data.

The omission- commission error matrix indicates that the soil map has a confidence level of 75% or above. It can be seen from the results that some classified soils do not accord with the field sampled soil results. However international mapping standards dictate that well defined points and boundaries should have a 90% probability of being no more than +/- 0.5mm error at map scale. At a 1:25,000 map scale, this means an acceptable error of +/- 12.5m. Thus a predicted soil type boundary and a sampled point of the same soil type could, theoretically, be 25m apart before an error was assumed. In addition soil boundaries are not well defined lines, but more zones of transition between one soil class and another, where the probability of being one or other soil varies across the zone, being approximately 50:50 near the centre of the zone. In a similar way, based on probabilities, the maximum likelihood classifier gives a label to a class if it has a greater than 50% probability of belonging to that class rather than another. Probability will therefore decrease to 50% at the boundary but will greatly increase away from the boundary.

Considering these factors, I would estimate that overall the results have a better confidence level than the 75% indicated by the error matrix.

Yours sincerely

Dr Bruce Forster, AM, FIE(Aust.)

Appendix C			
Site photographs			



Table C.1 shows landscape and profile photographs for all detailed survey sites with laboratory analysis.

Table C.1 Landscape and soil profile photographs

Site number	Landscape	Profile	
	c Yellow Kandos	ol .	
15			イを作り
32			
44			

Table C.1 Landscape and soil profile photographs

Site number	Landscape	Profile
133		
183		
267		

Table C.1 Landscape and soil profile photographs

Site number	Landscape	Profile
388		
404		
472		

Table C.1 Landscape and soil profile photographs

Site number Profile Landscape 481 502

Table C.1 Landscape and soil profile photographs

Site number	Landscape	Profile
592		
594		
595		

Table C.1 Landscape and soil profile photographs

Site number Profile Landscape 596 Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol 10

Table C.1 Landscape and soil profile photographs

Site number	Landscape	Profile	
92			1
	<b>基本</b> 。		
238			
454			9
		TO SHAPE BEING	\$

Table C.1 Landscape and soil profile photographs

Site Landscape Profile number

524





For information purposes only, the adjacent photograph shows a Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol soil profile within a soil pit dug within the SVC application area, at an area representative of this soil type. The site is classified as a check site, in accordance with the Interim Protocol, as laboratory analysis has not been undertaken. Accordingly detailed results from this site have not been provided elsewhere in this BSAL Verification Assessment report.



Table C.1 Landscape and soil profile photographs

Site number Profile Landscape Paralithic Leptic Tenosol 73 83 126

Table C.1 Landscape and soil profile photographs

Site number	Landscape	Profile
263		
287		
300		

Table C.1 Landscape and soil profile photographs

Site number Profile Landscape Lithic Leptic Rudosol 264 414 474

Table C.1 Landscape and soil profile photographs

Site Landscape Profile number

### **Eutrophic Grey Dermosol**

152





181





278





Appendix D		
Laboratory accreditation		





Australasian Soil and Plant Analysis Council Inc.

### This is to certify that

## Australian Laboratory Services

meets ASPAC's proficiency criteria for the following methods conducted in the Soil Proficiency Testing Programme, 2013/14

•	Exchangeable Calcium	15A1
	Exchangeable Potassium	15A1
	Exchangeable Magnesium	15A1
	Exchangeable Sodium	15A1
	Extractable Copper	12A1
	Extractable Manganese	12A1
	Bray Extractable P	9E1, 9E2
	Colwell Extractable P	9B1, 9B2
	Olsen Extractable P	9C1, 9C2
•	Nitrate Nitrogen	7B1
	Soil pH	4A1
	Soil pH	4B2, 4B4
	Total Phosphorus	Pooled

Method codes are from Rayment and Lyons (2011)

1. Foules

T. Fowles Chairperson, ASPAC R. Hill

Convenor, Lab Proficiency Committee

# NATA Accredited Laboratory

National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia

has accredited

# ALS Laboratory Group Brisbane Laboratory

following demonstration of its technical competence to operate in accordance with

ISO/IEC 17025

This facility is accredited in the field of

# Chemical Testing

for the tests shown on the Scope of Accreditation issued by NATA

Alan Patterson Chief Executive

Date of accreditation: 10 April 1970

Accreditation number: 825 Corporate site number: 818



NATA is Australia's government-endorsed laboratory accreditor, and a leader in accreditation internationally.

NATA is a signatory to the international mutual recognition arrangements of the International Laboratory

Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC).

Appendix E		
PROF.		
Laboratory analysis results		





### **CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS**

**Work Order** : **EB1317604** Page : 1 of 10

Amendment : 2

Client : **EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN** Laboratory : Environmental Division Brisbane

Contact : MR NEIL CUPPLES Contact : Customer Services EB

Address : 1/4 87 WICKHAM TERRACE Address : 2 Byth Street Stafford QLD Australia 4053

SPRING HILL QLD 4000

 Telephone
 : 07 3839 1800
 Telephone
 : +61 7 3243 7222

 Facsimile
 : 07 3839 1866
 Facsimile
 : +61 7 3243 7218

Project : Hume Coal Project : NEPM 2013 Schedule B(3) and ALS QCS3 requirement

Order number : ---C-O-C number : ----

C-O-C number : ---- Date Samples Received : 24-JUL-2013
Sampler : Neil Cupples Issue Date : 11-AUG-2015

Site : ---

No. of samples received : 20
Quote number : BN/005/13 v2 No. of samples analysed : 20

This report supersedes any previous report(s) with this reference. Results apply to the sample(s) as submitted. All pages of this report have been checked and approved for release.

This Certificate of Analysis contains the following information:

- General Comments
- Analytical Results



NATA Accredited Laboratory 825

Accredited for compliance with ISO/IEC 17025.

#### Signatories

This document has been electronically signed by the authorized signatories indicated below. Electronic signing has been carried out in compliance with procedures specified in 21 CFR Part 11.

Signatories	Position	Accreditation Category
Hamish Murray	Supervisor - Soils	Newcastle - Inorganics
Jonathon Angell	Inorganic Coordinator	Brisbane Inorganics
Satishkumar Trivedi	Acid Sulfate Soils Supervisor	Brisbane Acid Sulphate Soils
Satishkumar Trivedi	Acid Sulfate Soils Supervisor	Brisbane Inorganics

Address 2 Byth Street Stafford QLD Australia 4053 | PHONE +61-7-3243 7222 | Facsimile +61-7-3243 7218 Environmental Division Brisbane ABN 84 009 936 029 Part of the ALS Group An ALS Limited Company



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Work Order : EB1317604 Amendment 2
Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : Hume Coal Project



#### **General Comments**

The analytical procedures used by the Environmental Division have been developed from established internationally recognized procedures such as those published by the USEPA, APHA, AS and NEPM. In house developed procedures are employed in the absence of documented standards or by client request.

Where moisture determination has been performed, results are reported on a dry weight basis.

Where a reported less than (<) result is higher than the LOR, this may be due to primary sample extract/digestate dilution and/or insufficient sample for analysis.

Where the LOR of a reported result differs from standard LOR, this may be due to high moisture content, insufficient sample (reduced weight employed) or matrix interference.

When sampling time information is not provided by the client, sampling dates are shown without a time component. In these instances, the time component has been assumed by the laboratory for processing purposes.

Where a result is required to meet compliance limits the associated uncertainty must be considered. Refer to the ALS Contact for details.

Key: CAS Number = CAS registry number from database maintained by Chemical Abstracts Services. The Chemical Abstracts Service is a division of the American Chemical Society.

LOR = Limit of reporting

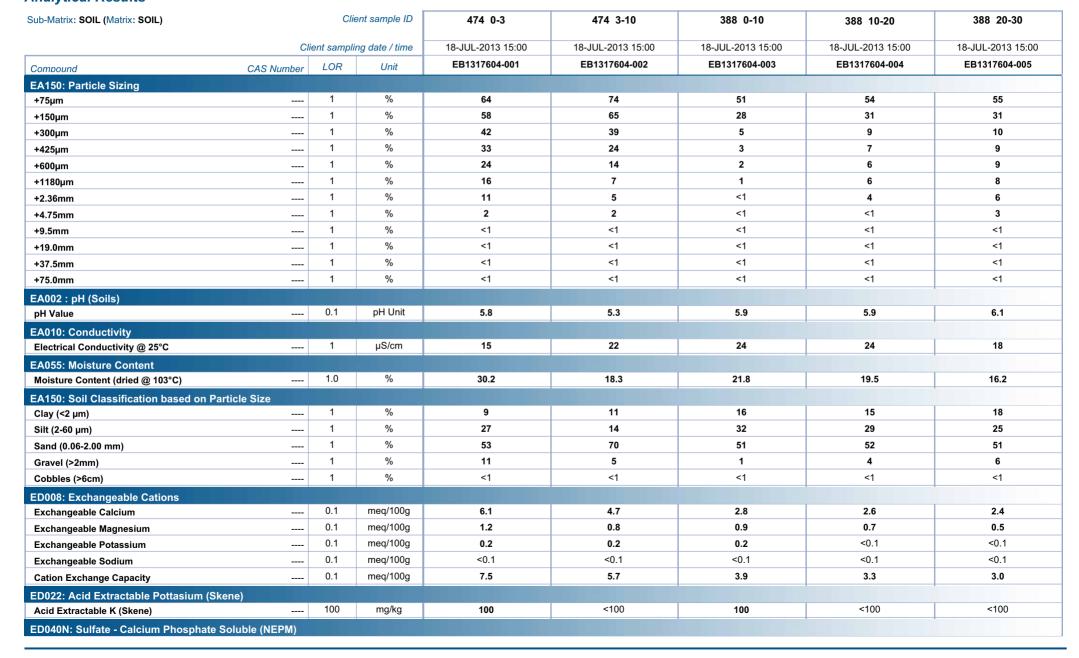
^ = This result is computed from individual analyte detections at or above the level of reporting

• EK059G (Nitrite and Nitrate as N): Some samples were diluted due to matrix interference. LOR adjusted accordingly.

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Work Order : EB1317604 Amendment 2
Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : Hume Coal Project





Page : 4 of 10

Work Order : EB1317604 Amendment 2
Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : Hume Coal Project



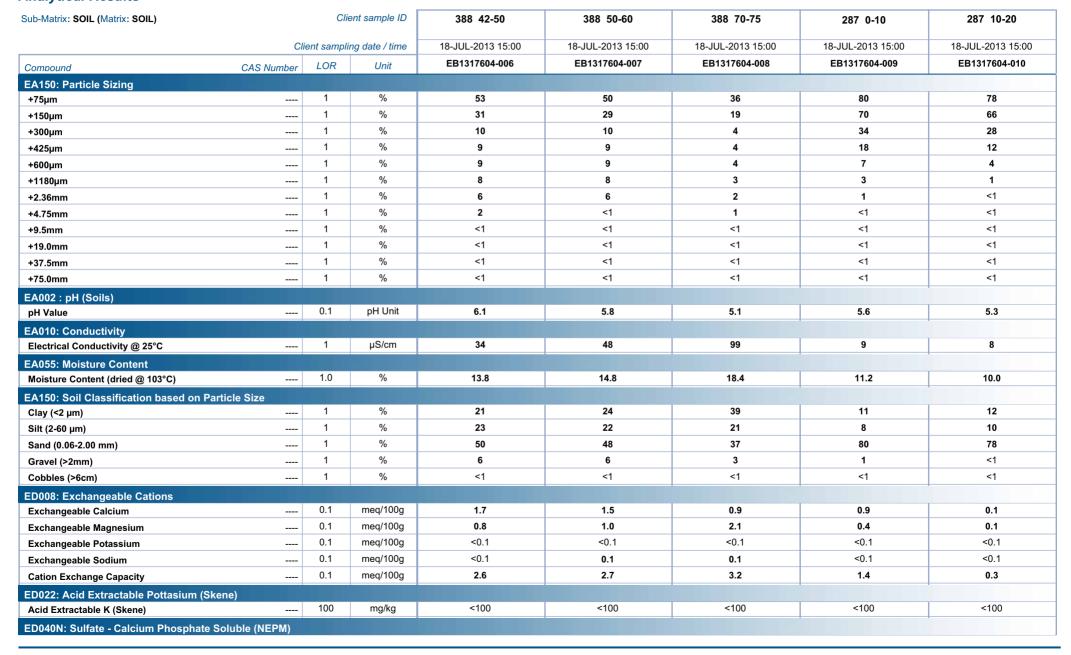


Sub-Matrix: SOIL (Matrix: SOIL)		Clie	ent sample ID	474 0-3	474 3-10	388 0-10	388 10-20	388 20-30
	Cli	Client sampling date / time			18-JUL-2013 15:00	18-JUL-2013 15:00	18-JUL-2013 15:00	18-JUL-2013 15:00
Compound	CAS Number	LOR	Unit	EB1317604-001	EB1317604-002	EB1317604-003	EB1317604-004	EB1317604-005
ED040N: Sulfate - Calcium Phosph	ate Soluble (NEPM) - C	ontinued						
Sulfate as SO4 2-	14808-79-8	50	mg/kg	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50
ED042T: Total Sulfur by LECO								
Sulfur - Total as S (LECO)		0.01	%	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04
ED045G: Chloride Discrete analyse	r							
Chloride	16887-00-6	10	mg/kg	40	30	30	30	20
ED091 : Calcium Chloride Extractal	ble Boron							
Boron	7440-42-8	0.2	mg/kg	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2
ED092: DTPA Extractable Metals								
Copper	7440-50-8	1.00	mg/kg	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00
Iron	7439-89-6	1.00	mg/kg	512	226	151	155	92.6
Manganese	7439-96-5	1.00	mg/kg	14.6	4.57	67.5	62.4	70.6
Zinc	7440-66-6	1.00	mg/kg	3.19	<1.00	1.04	<1.00	<1.00
ED093T: Total Major Cations								
Potassium	7440-09-7	50	mg/kg	130	210	300	240	220
G005T: Total Metals by ICP-AES								
Aluminium	7429-90-5	50	mg/kg	1560	5770	4180	5430	6070
Molybdenum	7439-98-7	2	mg/kg	3	<2	<2	<2	<2
:K059G: Nitrite plus Nitrate as N (l	NOx) by Discrete Ana	lyser						
Nitrite + Nitrate as N (Sol.)		0.1	mg/kg	<0.5	<0.5	0.3	0.1	<0.1
EK061G: Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen B	y Discrete Analyser							
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen as N		20	mg/kg	2700	1680	1550	1200	880
EK062: Total Nitrogen as N (TKN +	NOx)							
Total Nitrogen as N		20	mg/kg	2700	1680	1550	1200	880
EK067G: Total Phosphorus as P by	Discrete Analyser							
Total Phosphorus as P		2	mg/kg	230	179	253	202	207
K080: Bicarbonate Extractable Ph	osphorus (Colwell)							
Bicarbonate Ext. P (Colwell)		2	mg/kg	4	6	4	2	<2
EP004: Organic Matter								
Organic Matter		0.5	%	12.0	6.2	4.1	2.0	0.8
Total Organic Carbon		0.5	%	7.0	3.6	2.4	1.2	<0.5

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Work Order : EB1317604 Amendment 2
Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : Hume Coal Project



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Work Order : EB1317604 Amendment 2
Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : Hume Coal Project





Sub-Matrix: SOIL (Matrix: SOIL)		Clie	ent sample ID	388 42-50	388 50-60	388 70-75	287 0-10	287 10-20
	Clic	ent samplii	ng date / time	18-JUL-2013 15:00				
Compound	CAS Number	LOR	Unit	EB1317604-006	EB1317604-007	EB1317604-008	EB1317604-009	EB1317604-010
ED040N: Sulfate - Calcium Phosphate	Soluble (NEPM) - C	ontinued						
Sulfate as SO4 2-	14808-79-8	50	mg/kg	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50
ED042T: Total Sulfur by LECO								
Sulfur - Total as S (LECO)		0.01	%	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
ED045G: Chloride Discrete analyser								
Chloride	16887-00-6	10	mg/kg	50	70	170	<10	<10
ED091 : Calcium Chloride Extractable	Boron							
Boron	7440-42-8	0.2	mg/kg	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2
ED092: DTPA Extractable Metals								
Copper	7440-50-8	1.00	mg/kg	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00
Iron	7439-89-6	1.00	mg/kg	26.5	17.8	16.8	101	55.0
Manganese	7439-96-5	1.00	mg/kg	21.1	3.00	<1.00	2.26	<1.00
Zinc	7440-66-6	1.00	mg/kg	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00
ED093T: Total Major Cations								
Potassium	7440-09-7	50	mg/kg	220	260	400	140	120
EG005T: Total Metals by ICP-AES								
Aluminium	7429-90-5	50	mg/kg	6310	7430	12400	8460	9380
Molybdenum	7439-98-7	2	mg/kg	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2
EK059G: Nitrite plus Nitrate as N (NC	0x) by Discrete Anal	yser						
Nitrite + Nitrate as N (Sol.)		0.1	mg/kg	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
EK061G: Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen By D	Discrete Analyser							
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen as N		20	mg/kg	520	370	330	540	460
EK062: Total Nitrogen as N (TKN + NO	Ox)							
` Total Nitrogen as N		20	mg/kg	520	370	330	540	460
EK067G: Total Phosphorus as P by D	iscrete Analyser							
Total Phosphorus as P		2	mg/kg	161	189	181	112	83
EK080: Bicarbonate Extractable Phos	sphorus (Colwell)							
Bicarbonate Ext. P (Colwell)		2	mg/kg	<2	<2	<2	3	<2
EP004: Organic Matter								
Organic Matter		0.5	%	0.8	1.2	3.1	2.3	2.2
Total Organic Carbon		0.5	%	<0.5	0.7	1.8	1.3	1.3

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Work Order : EB1317604 Amendment 2
Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : Hume Coal Project



Sub-Matrix: SOIL (Matrix: SOIL)		Cli	ent sample ID	287 20-30	287 50-60	287 70-75	15 0-10	15 15-20
	Cli	ient sampli	ng date / time	18-JUL-2013 15:00	18-JUL-2013 15:00	18-JUL-2013 15:00	17-JUL-2013 15:00	17-JUL-2013 15:00
Compound	CAS Number	LOR	Unit	EB1317604-011	EB1317604-012	EB1317604-013	EB1317604-014	EB1317604-015
EA150: Particle Sizing								
+75µm		1	%	74	72	69	60	56
+150µm		1	%	62	62	59	38	35
+300µm		1	%	24	27	28	22	18
+425µm		1	%	10	12	13	12	9
+600µm		1	%	2	3	3	7	4
+1180µm		1	%	<1	<1	<1	3	1
+2.36mm		1	%	<1	<1	<1	1	<1
+4.75mm		1	%	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
+9.5mm		1	%	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
+19.0mm		1	%	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
+37.5mm		1	%	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
+75.0mm		1	%	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
EA002 : pH (Soils)								
pH Value		0.1	pH Unit	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.1	5.2
EA010: Conductivity								
Electrical Conductivity @ 25°C		1	μS/cm	9	10	10	13	9
EA055: Moisture Content								
Moisture Content (dried @ 103°C)		1.0	%	9.1	8.5	8.8	15.8	14.8
EA150: Soil Classification based on Partic	cle Size							
Clay (<2 µm)		1	%	15	16	19	15	19
Silt (2-60 µm)		1	%	10	11	11	22	21
Sand (0.06-2.00 mm)		1	%	75	73	70	62	59
Gravel (>2mm)		1	%	<1	<1	<1	1	1
Cobbles (>6cm)		1	%	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1
ED008: Exchangeable Cations								
Exchangeable Calcium		0.1	meq/100g	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.5	<0.1
Exchangeable Magnesium		0.1	meq/100g	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.2
Exchangeable Potassium		0.1	meq/100g	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Exchangeable Sodium		0.1	meq/100g	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Cation Exchange Capacity		0.1	meq/100g	0.3	0.5	0.6	1.0	0.3
ED022: Acid Extractable Pottasium (Sken	ie)							
Acid Extractable K (Skene)		100	mg/kg	<100	<100	<100	<100	<100
ED040N: Sulfate - Calcium Phosphate Sol	luble (NEPM)							

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Work Order : EB1317604 Amendment 2
Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : Hume Coal Project



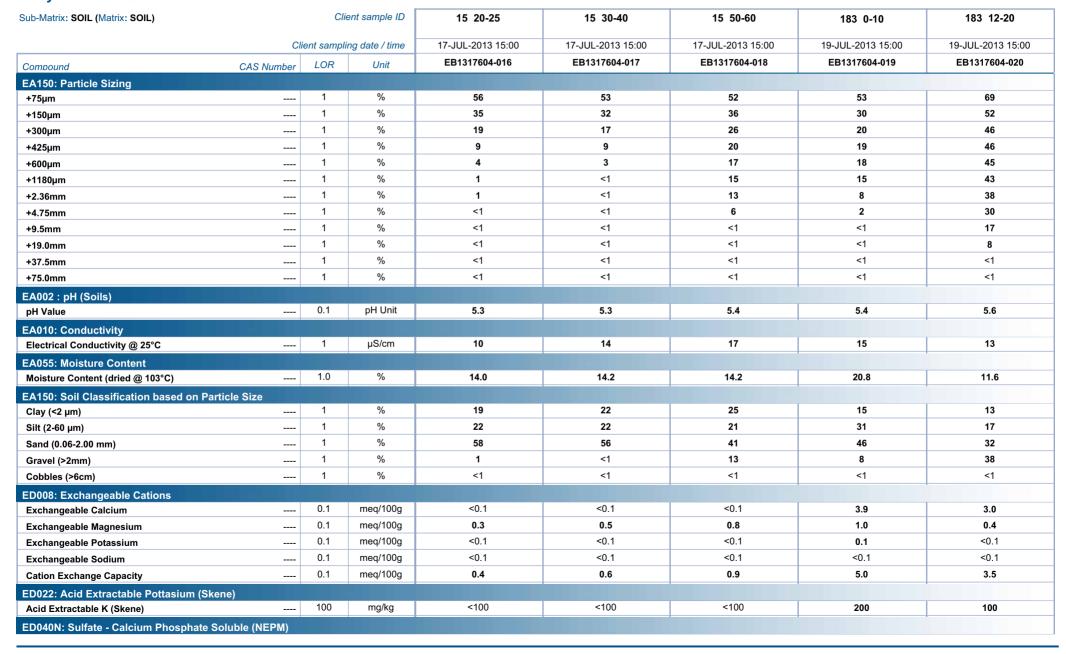


Sub-Matrix: SOIL (Matrix: SOIL)		Clie	ent sample ID	287 20-30	287 50-60	287 70-75	15 0-10	15 15-20
	Cli	ent samplii	ng date / time	18-JUL-2013 15:00	18-JUL-2013 15:00	18-JUL-2013 15:00	17-JUL-2013 15:00	17-JUL-2013 15:00
Compound	CAS Number	LOR	Unit	EB1317604-011	EB1317604-012	EB1317604-013	EB1317604-014	EB1317604-015
ED040N: Sulfate - Calcium Phospha	te Soluble (NEPM) - C	ontinued						
Sulfate as SO4 2-	14808-79-8	50	mg/kg	<50	<50	70	<50	<50
ED042T: Total Sulfur by LECO								
Sulfur - Total as S (LECO)		0.01	%	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.03
ED045G: Chloride Discrete analyser								
Chloride	16887-00-6	10	mg/kg	<10	<10	<10	10	<10
ED091 : Calcium Chloride Extractab	le Boron							
Boron	7440-42-8	0.2	mg/kg	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2
ED092: DTPA Extractable Metals								
Copper	7440-50-8	1.00	mg/kg	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00
Iron	7439-89-6	1.00	mg/kg	39.3	9.88	8.17	400	106
Manganese	7439-96-5	1.00	mg/kg	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	1.56	<1.00
Zinc	7440-66-6	1.00	mg/kg	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00
ED093T: Total Major Cations								
Potassium	7440-09-7	50	mg/kg	110	130	130	120	100
EG005T: Total Metals by ICP-AES								
Aluminium	7429-90-5	50	mg/kg	9310	9230	7660	6060	6880
Molybdenum	7439-98-7	2	mg/kg	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2
EK059G: Nitrite plus Nitrate as N (N	IOx) by Discrete Anal	lyser						
Nitrite + Nitrate as N (Sol.)		0.1	mg/kg	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.1
EK061G: Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen By	Discrete Analyser							
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen as N		20	mg/kg	340	150	130	990	400
EK062: Total Nitrogen as N (TKN + N	NOx)							
Total Nitrogen as N		20	mg/kg	340	150	130	990	400
EK067G: Total Phosphorus as P by	Discrete Analyser							
Total Phosphorus as P		2	mg/kg	89	81	71	114	51
EK080: Bicarbonate Extractable Pho	osphorus (Colwell)							
Bicarbonate Ext. P (Colwell)		2	mg/kg	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2
EP004: Organic Matter								
Organic Matter		0.5	%	1.4	0.8	0.7	4.5	1.4
Total Organic Carbon		0.5	%	0.8	<0.5	<0.5	2.6	0.8

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Work Order : EB1317604 Amendment 2
Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : Hume Coal Project



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Work Order : EB1317604 Amendment 2
Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : Hume Coal Project





Sub-Matrix: SOIL (Matrix: SOIL)		Clie	ent sample ID	15 20-25	15 30-40	15 50-60	183 0-10	183 12-20
	Cli	ent samplii	ng date / time	17-JUL-2013 15:00	17-JUL-2013 15:00	17-JUL-2013 15:00	19-JUL-2013 15:00	19-JUL-2013 15:00
Compound	CAS Number	LOR	Unit	EB1317604-016	EB1317604-017	EB1317604-018	EB1317604-019	EB1317604-020
ED040N: Sulfate - Calcium Phosphat	te Soluble (NEPM) - C	ontinued						
Sulfate as SO4 2-	14808-79-8	50	mg/kg	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50
ED042T: Total Sulfur by LECO								
Sulfur - Total as S (LECO)		0.01	%	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04
ED045G: Chloride Discrete analyser								
Chloride	16887-00-6	10	mg/kg	<10	20	30	10	10
ED091 : Calcium Chloride Extractabl	e Boron							
Boron	7440-42-8	0.2	mg/kg	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2
ED092: DTPA Extractable Metals								
Copper	7440-50-8	1.00	mg/kg	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00
Iron	7439-89-6	1.00	mg/kg	59.1	19.1	12.7	111	60.2
Manganese	7439-96-5	1.00	mg/kg	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	37.6	12.6
Zinc	7440-66-6	1.00	mg/kg	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00	<1.00
ED093T: Total Major Cations								
Potassium	7440-09-7	50	mg/kg	110	140	170	350	260
EG005T: Total Metals by ICP-AES								
Aluminium	7429-90-5	50	mg/kg	7680	8370	11900	10700	9940
Molybdenum	7439-98-7	2	mg/kg	<2	<2	<2	<2	<2
EK059G: Nitrite plus Nitrate as N (N	Ox) by Discrete Ana	lyser						
Nitrite + Nitrate as N (Sol.)		0.1	mg/kg	0.2	0.1	<0.1	1.9	2.4
EK061G: Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen By	Discrete Analyser							
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen as N		20	mg/kg	340	220	210	2660	1740
EK062: Total Nitrogen as N (TKN + N	lOx)							
Total Nitrogen as N		20	mg/kg	340	220	210	2660	1740
EK067G: Total Phosphorus as P by	Discrete Analyser							
Total Phosphorus as P		2	mg/kg	72	65	78	589	328
EK080: Bicarbonate Extractable Pho	sphorus (Colwell)							
Bicarbonate Ext. P (Colwell)		2	mg/kg	<2	<2	<2	5	3
EP004: Organic Matter								
Organic Matter		0.5	%	0.9	0.9	1.0	5.8	3.2
Total Organic Carbon		0.5	%	0.5	0.5	0.6	3.4	1.8



# **CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS**

**Work Order** Page : ES1419227 : 1 of 46

Client **EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN** Laboratory : Environmental Division Sydney

Contact : MR TIMOTHY ROHDE Contact : Client Services

Address : 1/4 87 WICKHAM TERRACE Address : 277-289 Woodpark Road Smithfield NSW Australia 2164

SPRING HILL QLD 4000

E-mail E-mail : trohde@emgamm.com : sydney@alsglobal.com Telephone : 07 3839 1800 Telephone : +61-2-8784 8555

Facsimile : 07 3839 1866 Facsimile : +61-2-8784 8500

QC Level Project : HUME : NEPM 2013 Schedule B(3) and ALS QCS3 requirement

C-O-C number **Date Samples Received** : 28-AUG-2014

Sampler Issue Date : 09-SEP-2014 : NC Site

No. of samples received : 110 No. of samples analysed Quote number : BN/005/13 v2 : 110

This report supersedes any previous report(s) with this reference. Results apply to the sample(s) as submitted. All pages of this report have been checked and approved for release.

This Certificate of Analysis contains the following information:

: ----

- General Comments
- Analytical Results

Order number



Page : 2 of 46 Work Order : ES1419227

Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : HUME



#### General Comments

The analytical procedures used by the Environmental Division have been developed from established internationally recognized procedures such as those published by the USEPA, APHA, AS and NEPM. In house developed procedures are employed in the absence of documented standards or by client request.

Where moisture determination has been performed, results are reported on a dry weight basis.

Where a reported less than (<) result is higher than the LOR, this may be due to primary sample extract/digestate dilution and/or insufficient sample for analysis.

Where the LOR of a reported result differs from standard LOR, this may be due to high moisture content, insufficient sample (reduced weight employed) or matrix interference.

When sampling time information is not provided by the client, sampling dates are shown without a time component. In these instances, the time component has been assumed by the laboratory for processing purposes.

Where a result is required to meet compliance limits the associated uncertainty must be considered. Refer to the ALS Contact for details.

Key: CAS Number = CAS registry number from database maintained by Chemical Abstracts Services. The Chemical Abstracts Service is a division of the American Chemical Society.

LOR = Limit of reporting

^ = This result is computed from individual analyte detections at or above the level of reporting

- ED007 and ED008: When Exchangeable AI is reported from these methods, it should be noted that Rayment & Lyons (2011) suggests Exchange Acidity by 1M KCI (Method 15G1) is a more suitable method for the determination of exchange acidity (H+ + AI3+).
- ED092: Insufficient sample provided for ED092 analysis on sample 181 70-80.
- Ek067G: Spike failed for Total P due to matrix interferences (Confirmed by re-digestion and re-analysis)



NATA Accredited Laboratory 825

Accredited for compliance with ISO/IEC 17025.

Signatories

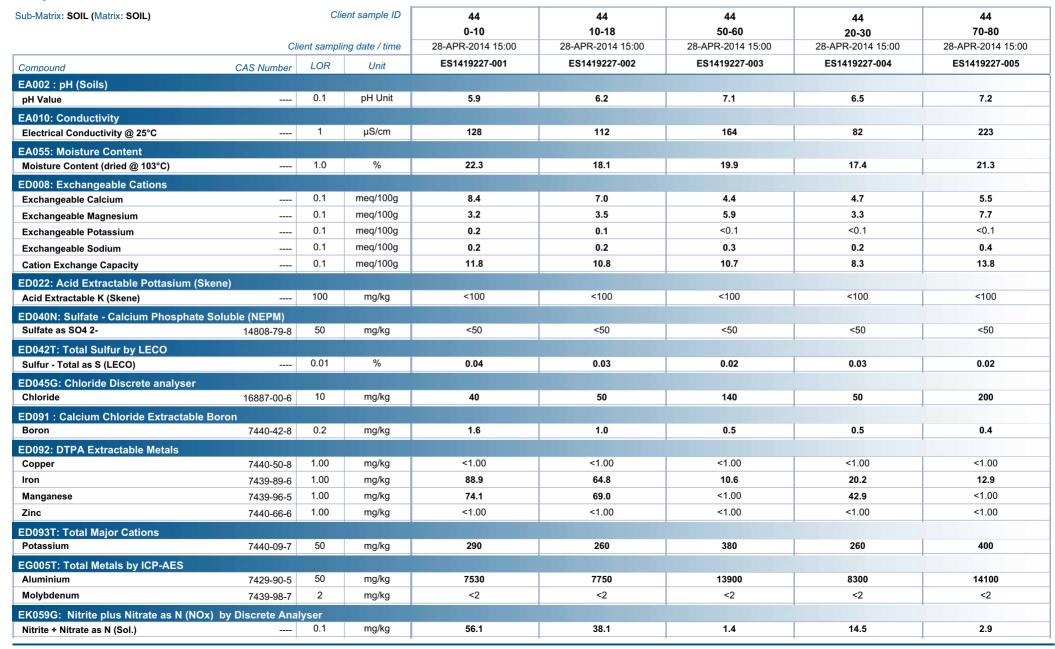
This document has been electronically signed by the authorized signatories indicated below. Electronic signing has been carried out in compliance with procedures specified in 21 CFR Part 11.

Signatories	Position	Accreditation Category
Ankit Joshi	Inorganic Chemist	Sydney Inorganics
Celine Conceicao	Senior Spectroscopist	Sydney Inorganics
Dian Dao		Sydney Inorganics
Kim McCabe	Senior Inorganic Chemist	Brisbane Inorganics
Pabi Subba	Senior Organic Chemist	Sydney Inorganics
Satishkumar Trivedi	2 IC Acid Sulfate Soils Supervisor	Brisbane Acid Sulphate Soils
Shobhna Chandra	Metals Coordinator	Sydney Inorganics

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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

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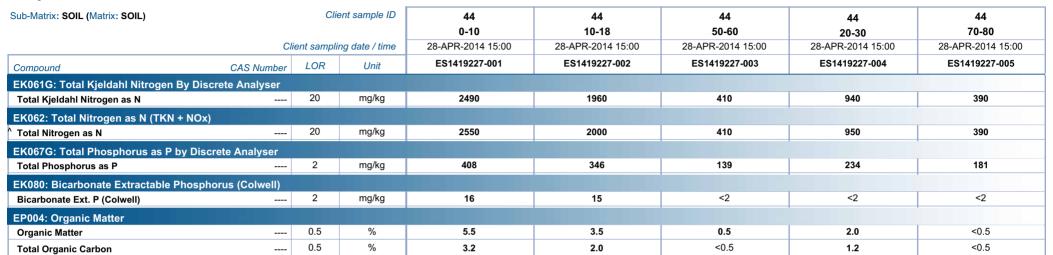




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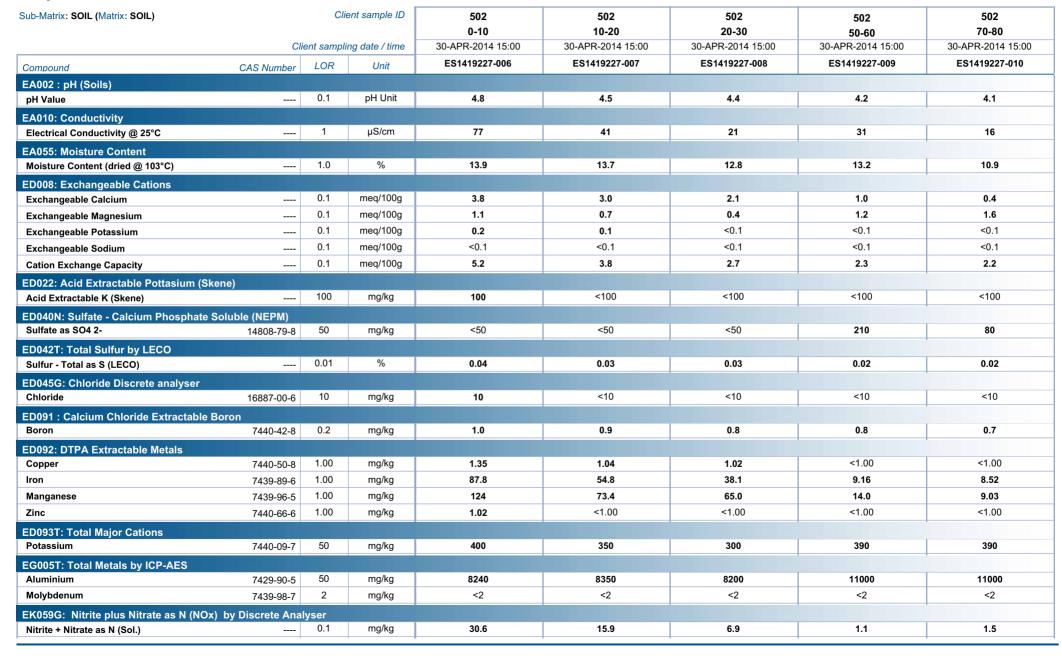




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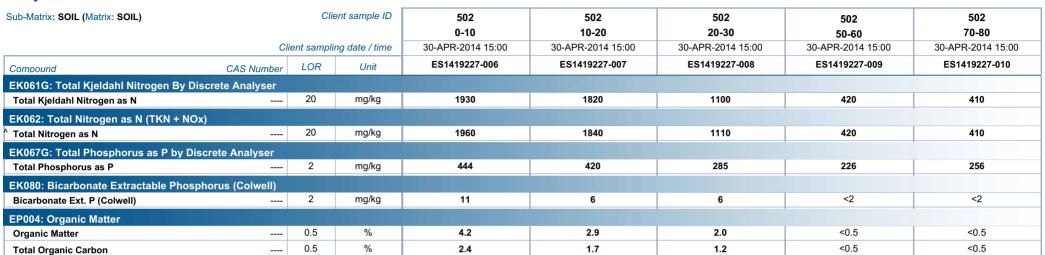




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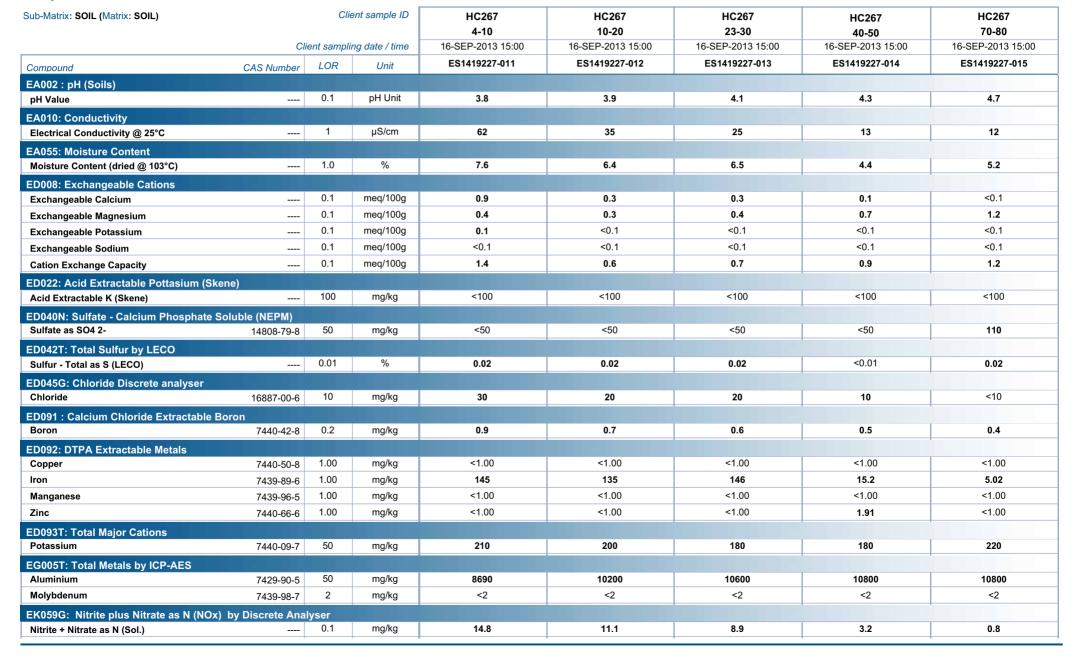




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Project : HUM

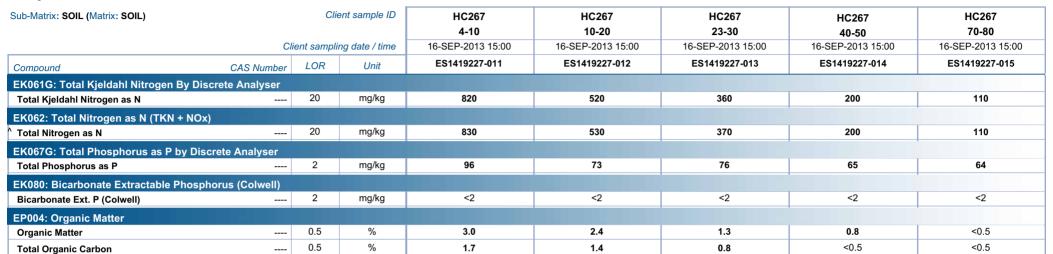




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Project : HUM

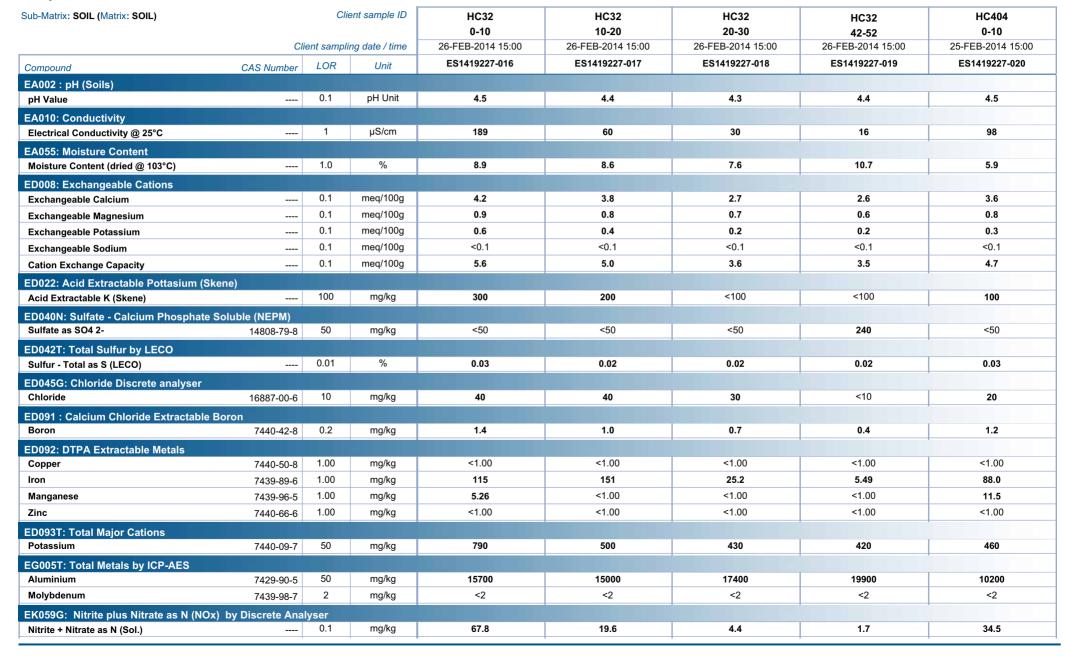




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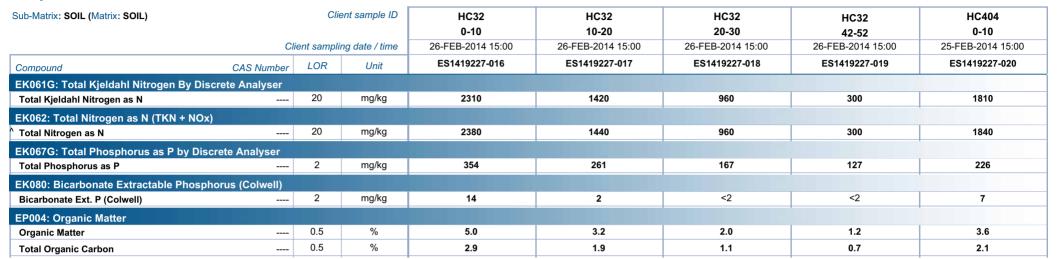




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Project : HUM

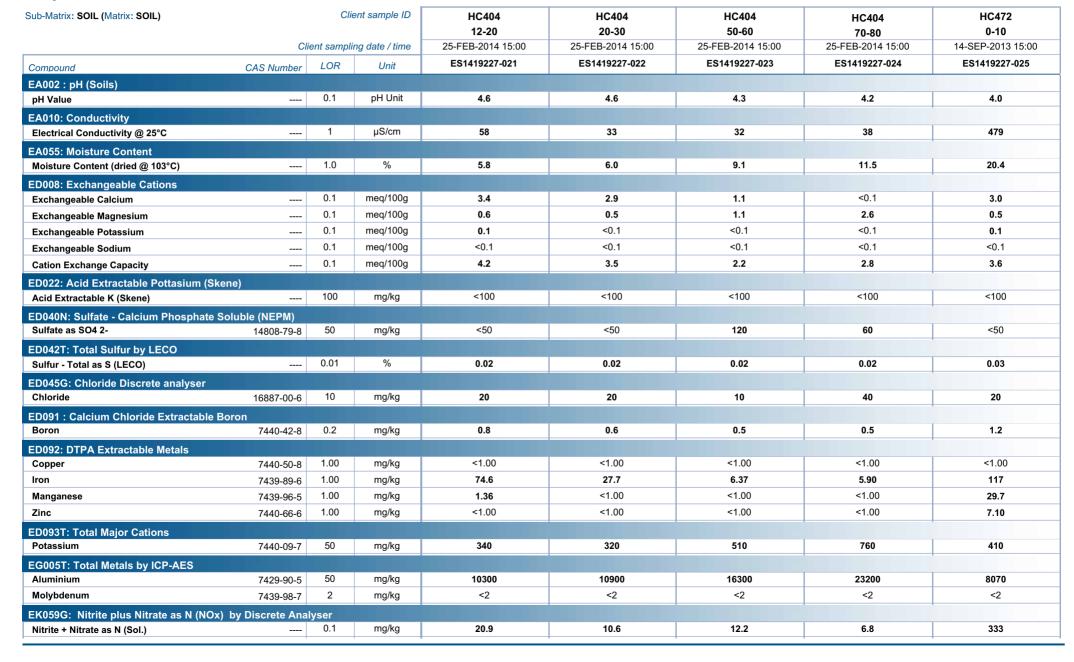




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Project : HUMI

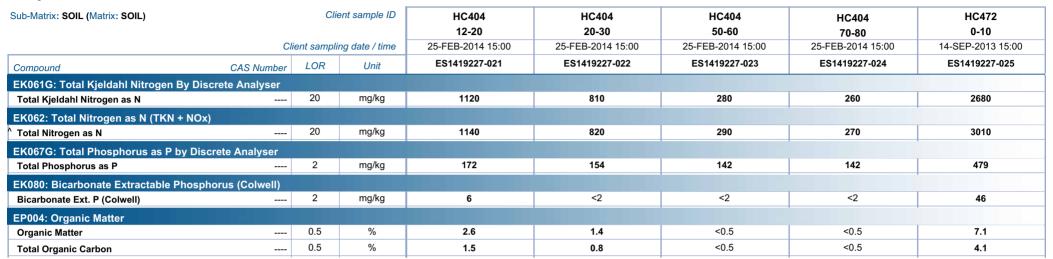




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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

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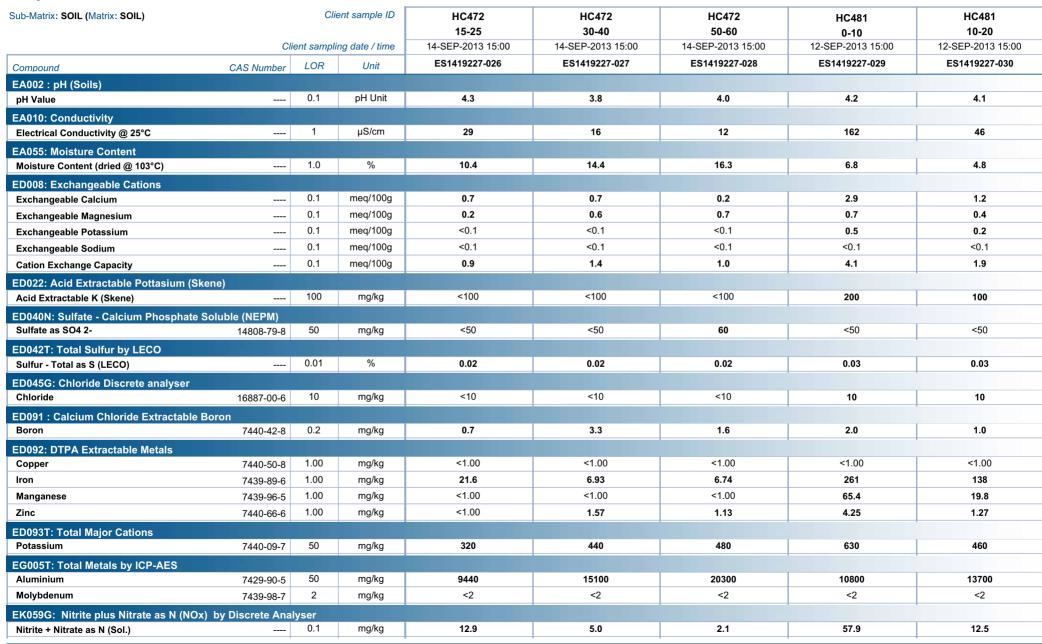




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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

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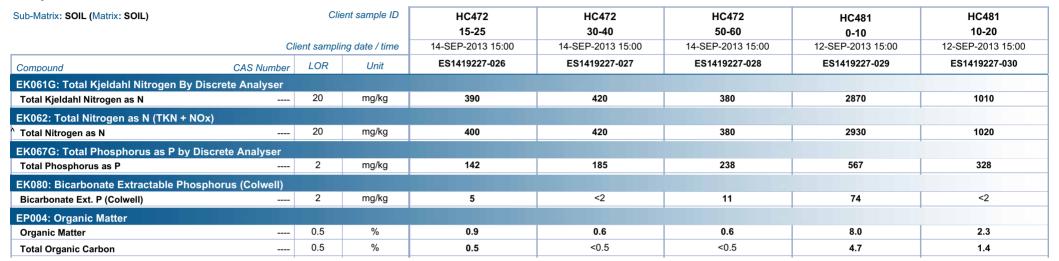




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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : HUM

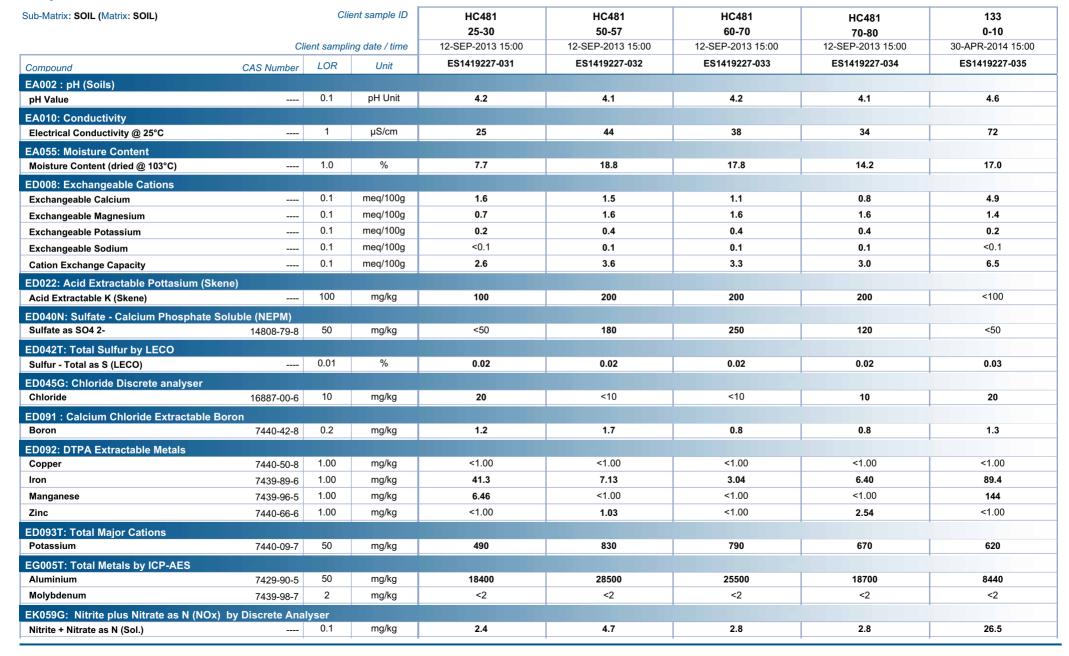




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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

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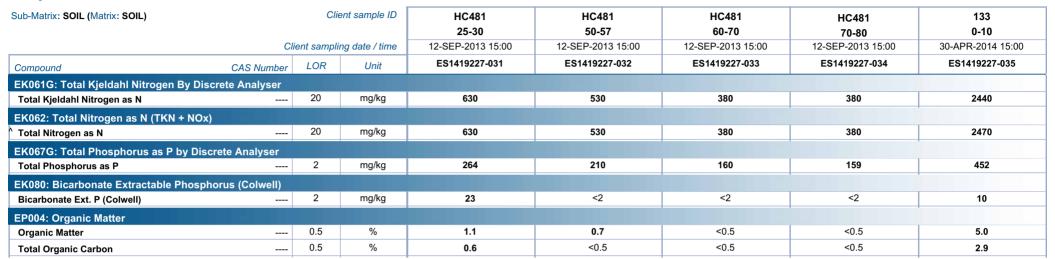




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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : HUMI

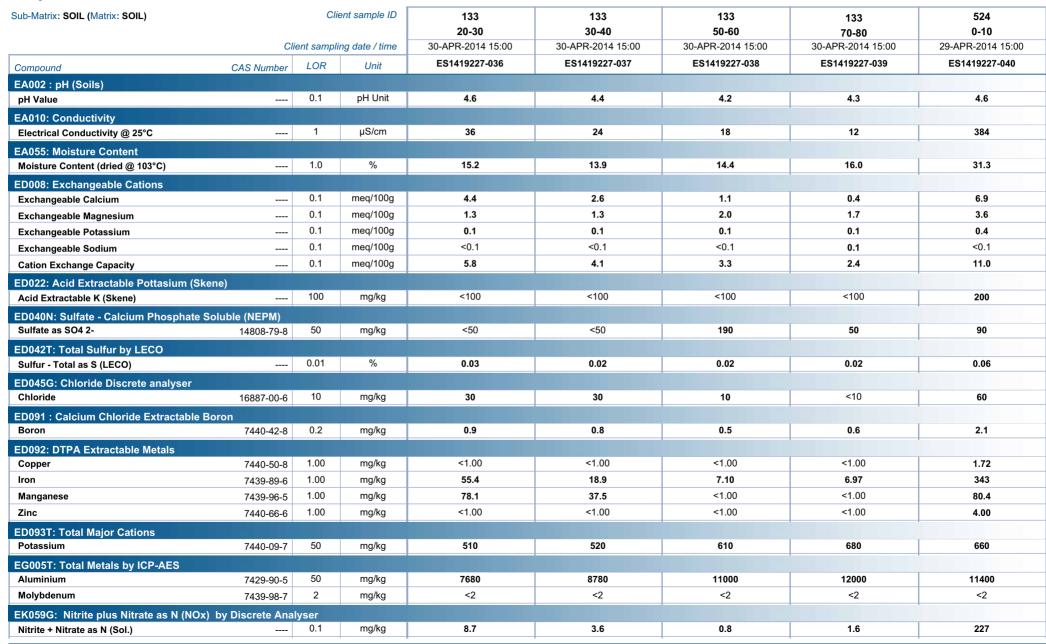




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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : HUME

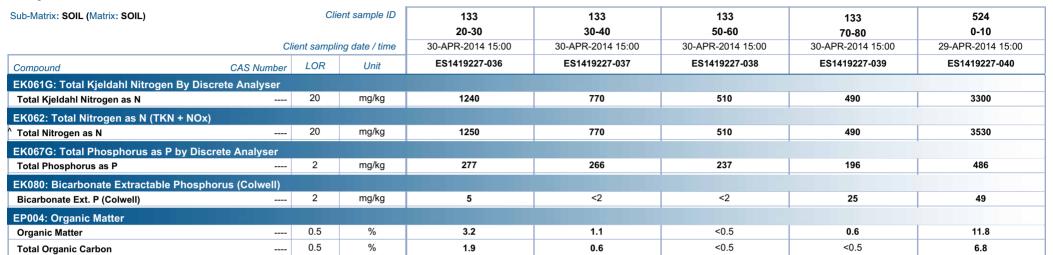




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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : HUM

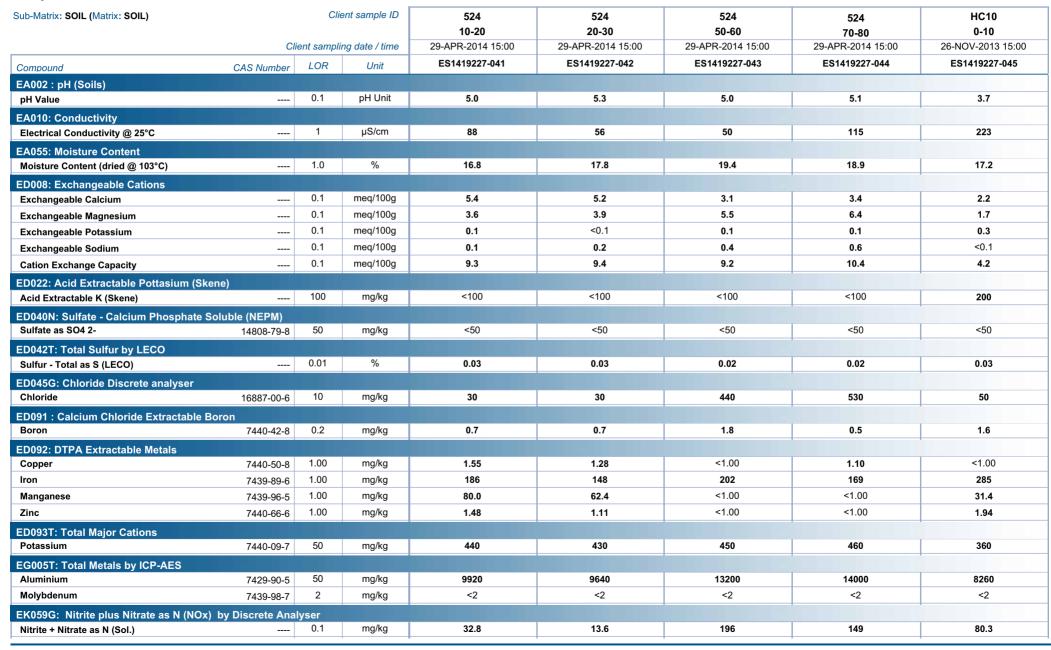




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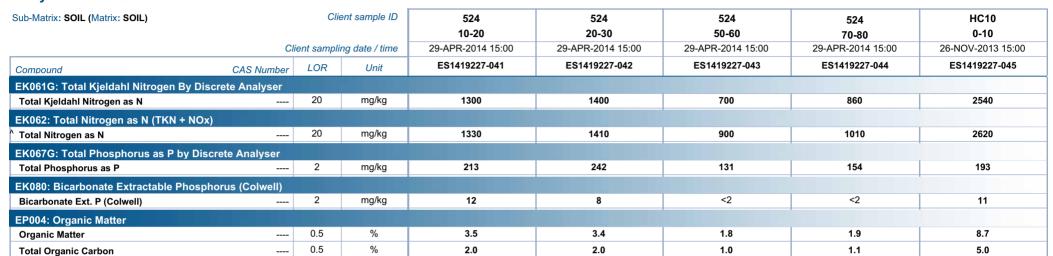




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Project : HUM

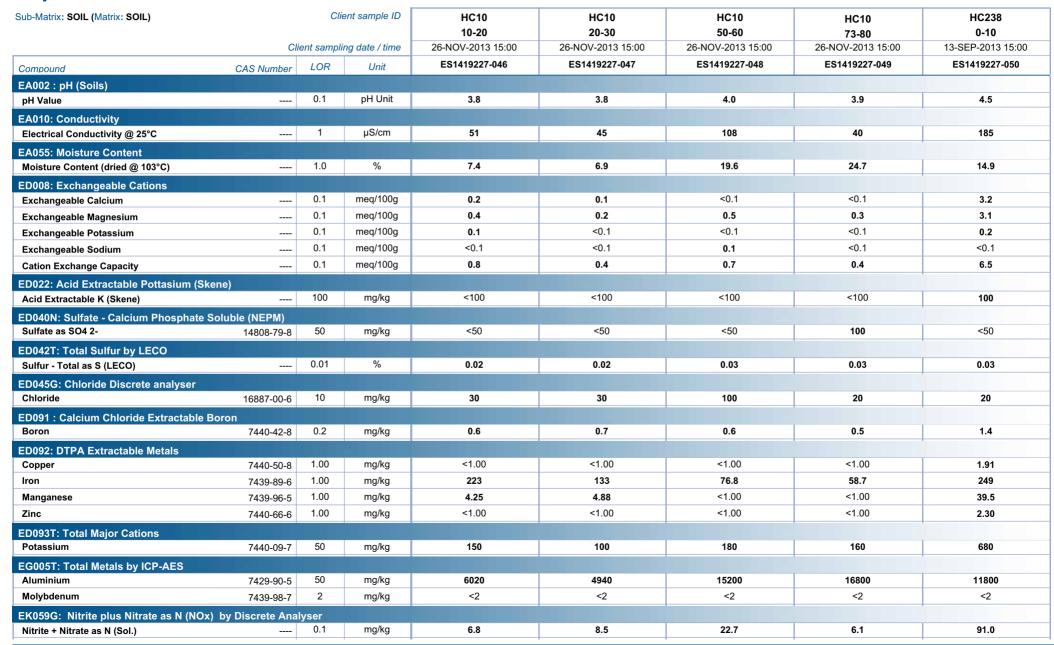




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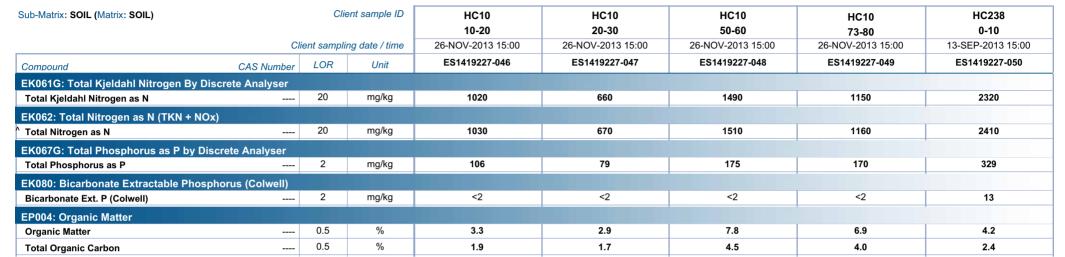




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Project : HUMI

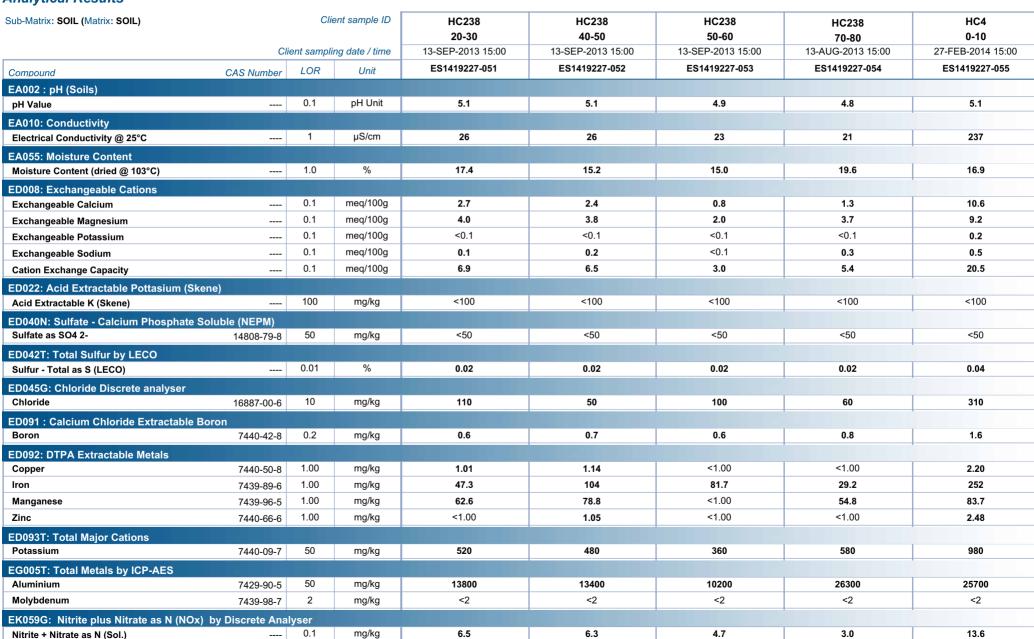




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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

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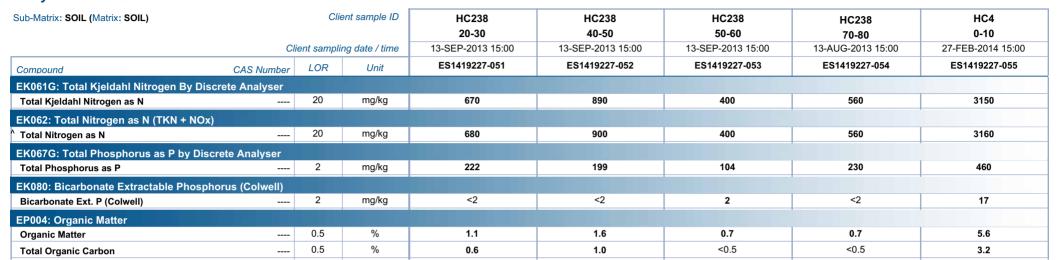




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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : HUMI

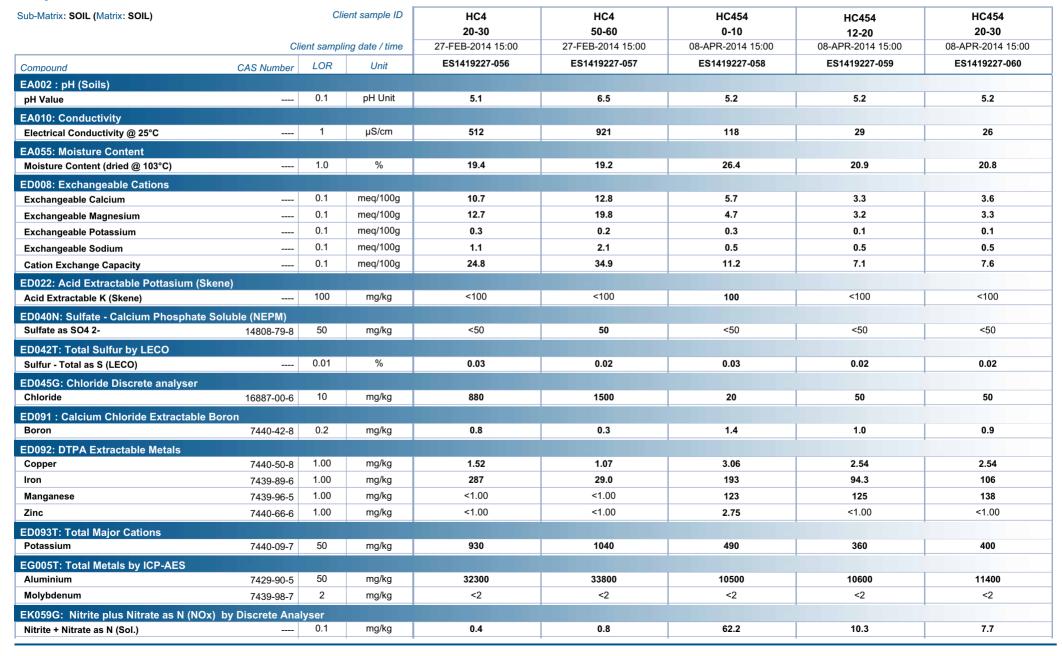




Page : 25 of 46 Work Order : ES1419227

Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : HUMI

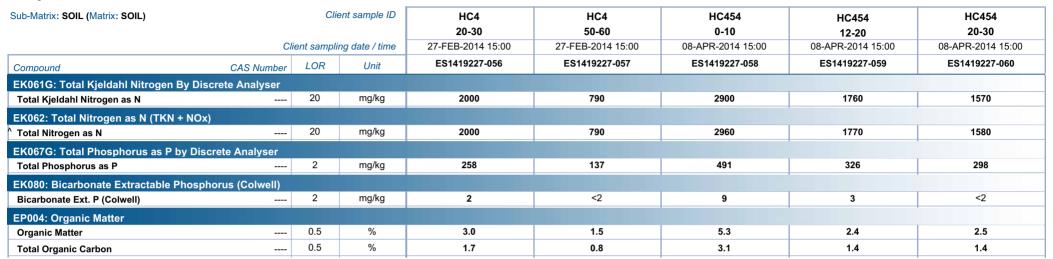




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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : HUM

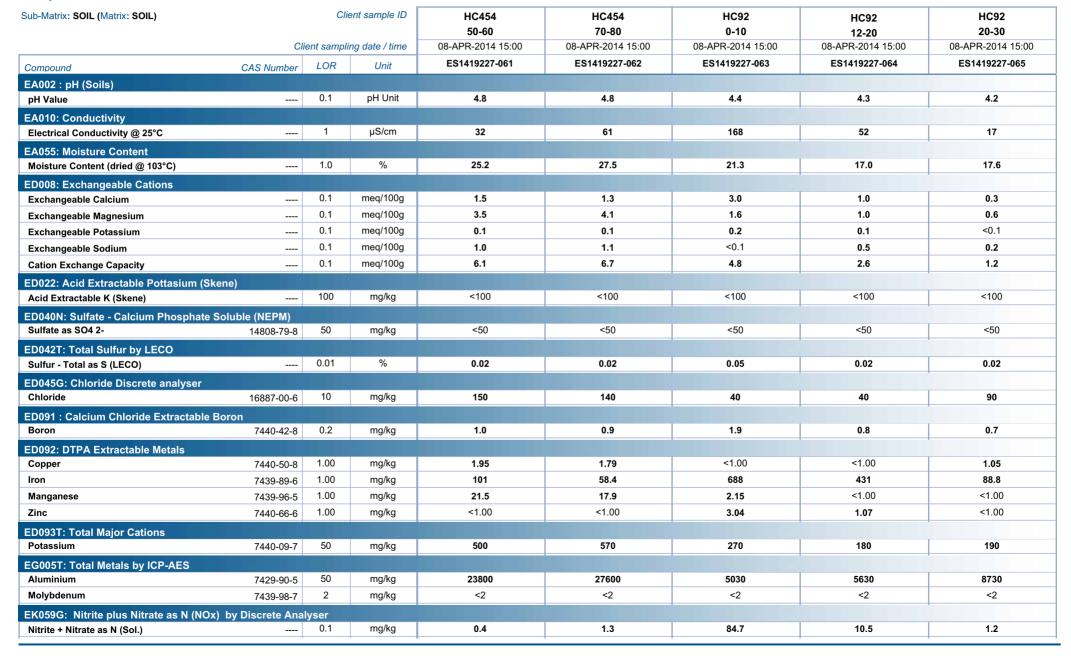




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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project · HUM

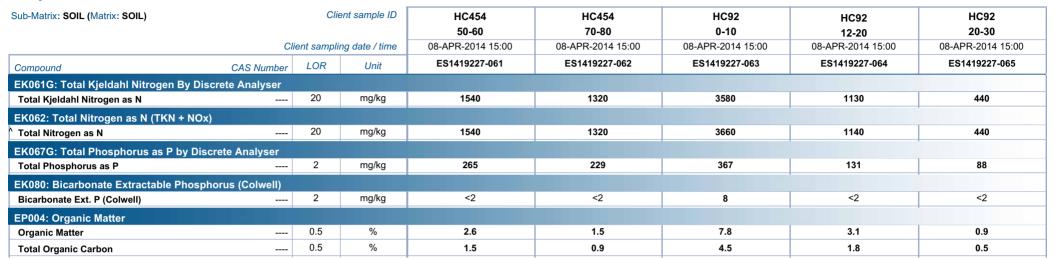




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Project : HUMI

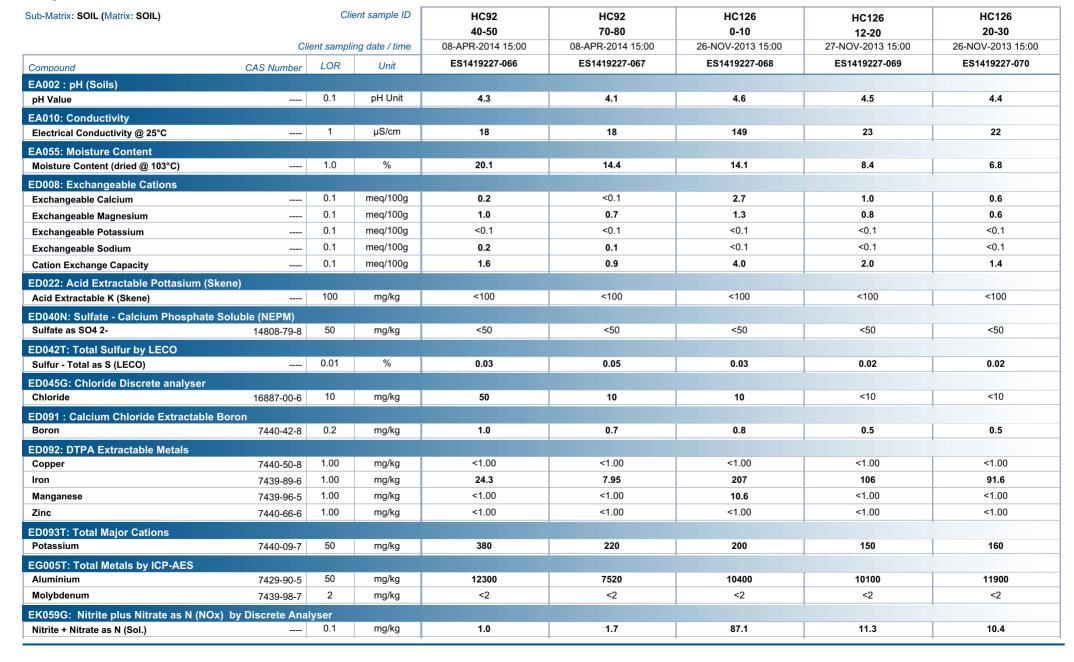




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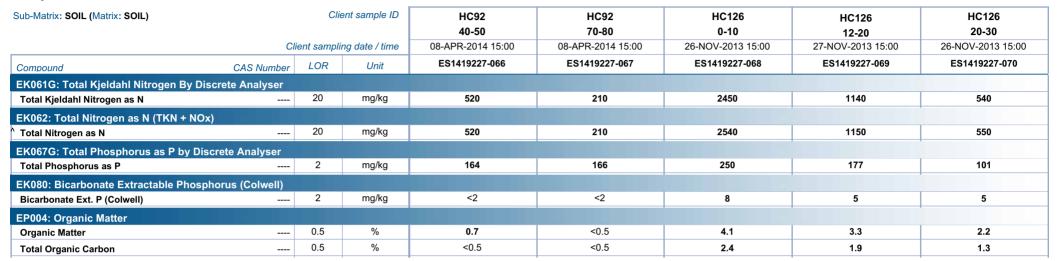




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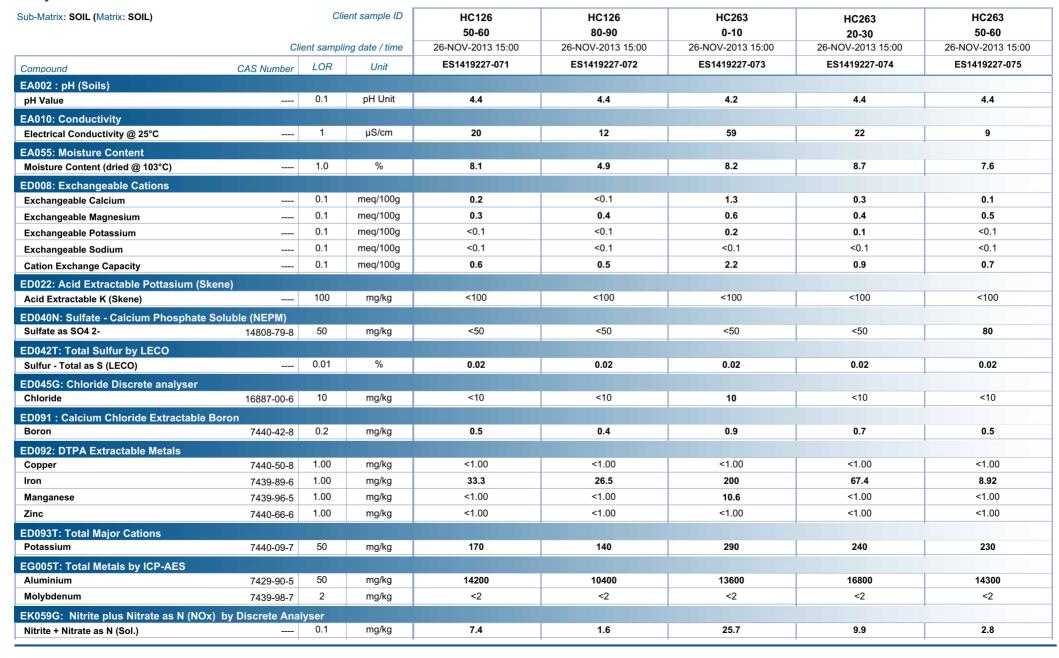




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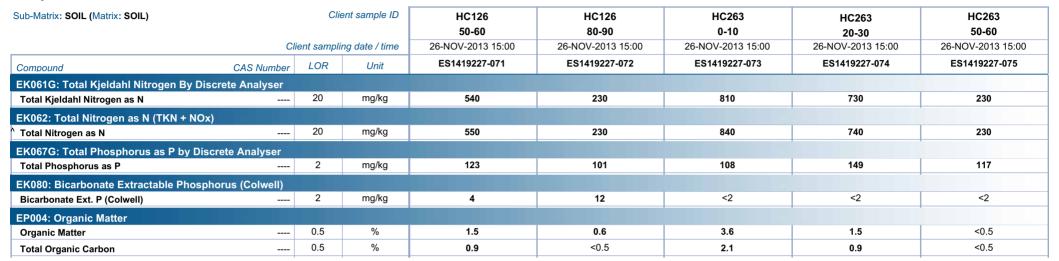




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Project : HUM

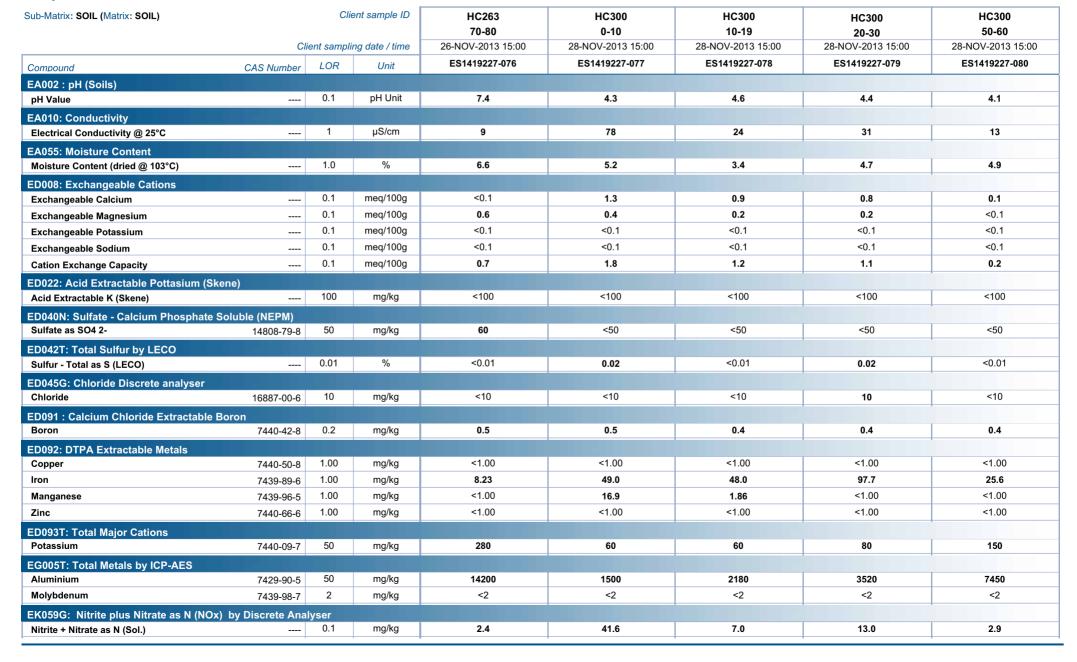




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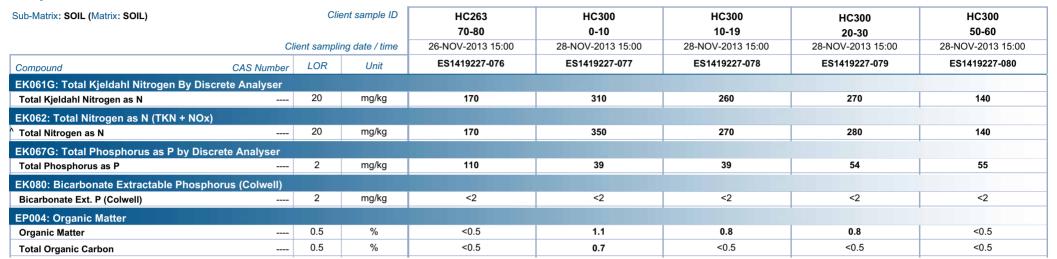




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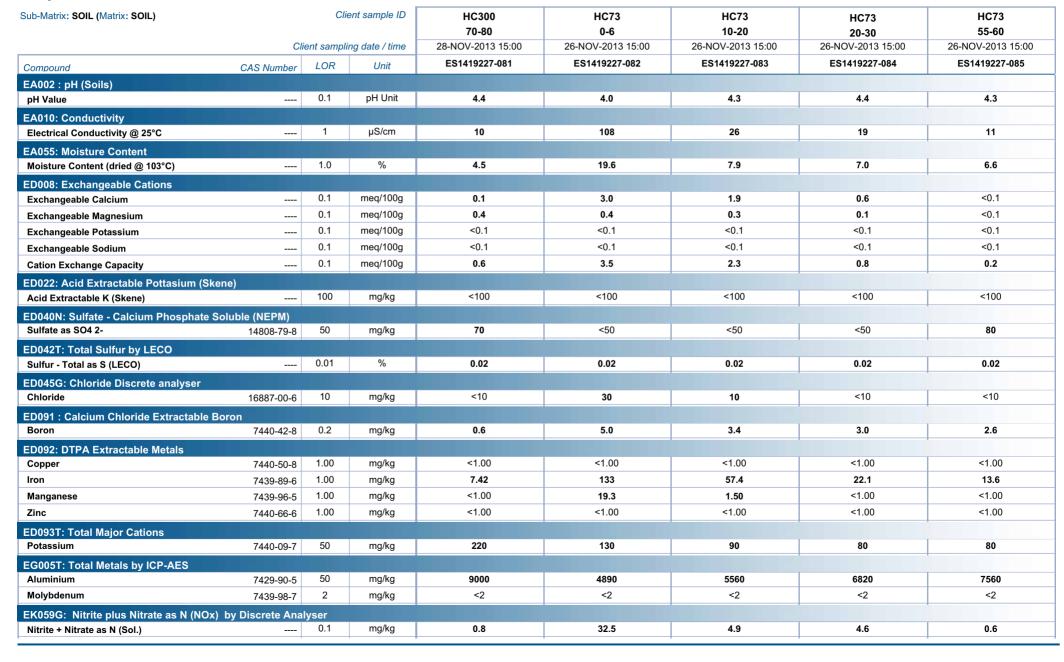




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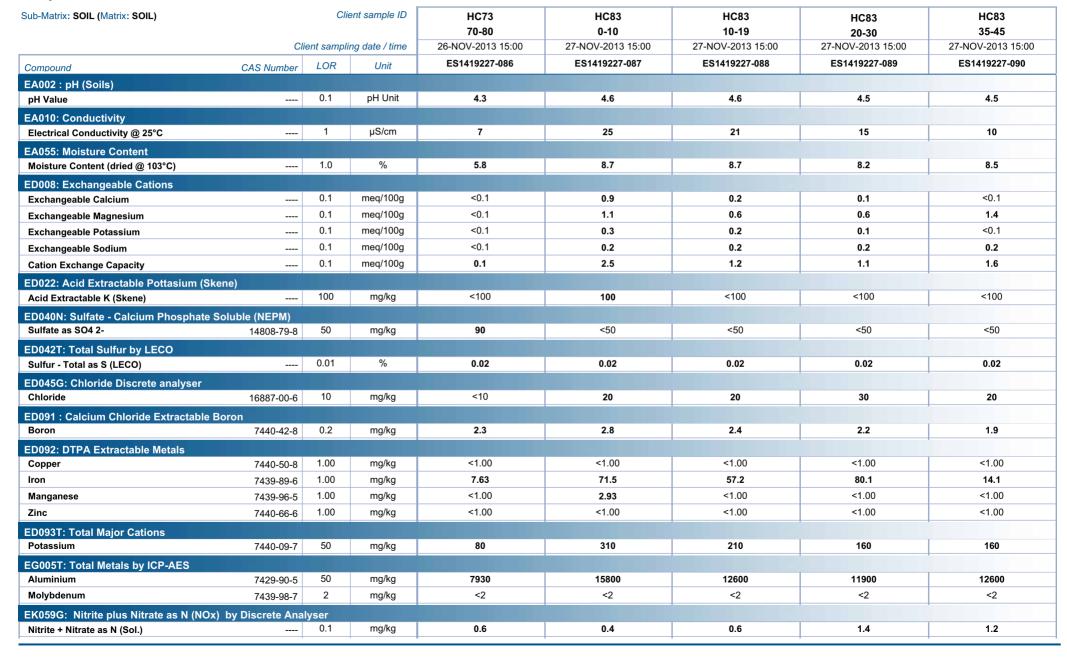


Sub-Matrix: SOIL (Matrix: SOIL)		Clie	ent sample ID	HC300	HC73	HC73	HC73	HC73
				70-80	0-6	10-20	20-30	55-60
	Cli	ient sampli	ng date / time	28-NOV-2013 15:00	26-NOV-2013 15:00	26-NOV-2013 15:00	26-NOV-2013 15:00	26-NOV-2013 15:00
Compound	CAS Number	LOR	Unit	ES1419227-081	ES1419227-082	ES1419227-083	ES1419227-084	ES1419227-085
EK061G: Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen By Di	screte Analyser							
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen as N		20	mg/kg	120	2000	1140	510	320
EK062: Total Nitrogen as N (TKN + NO	x)							
<sup>^</sup> Total Nitrogen as N		20	mg/kg	120	2030	1140	510	320
EK067G: Total Phosphorus as P by Dis	screte Analyser							
Total Phosphorus as P		2	mg/kg	83	133	101	68	62
EK080: Bicarbonate Extractable Phosp	horus (Colwell)							
Bicarbonate Ext. P (Colwell)		2	mg/kg	<2	6	<2	<2	<2
EP004: Organic Matter								
Organic Matter		0.5	%	<0.5	10.4	2.8	2.5	1.2
Total Organic Carbon		0.5	%	<0.5	6.0	1.6	1.4	0.7

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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : HUMI

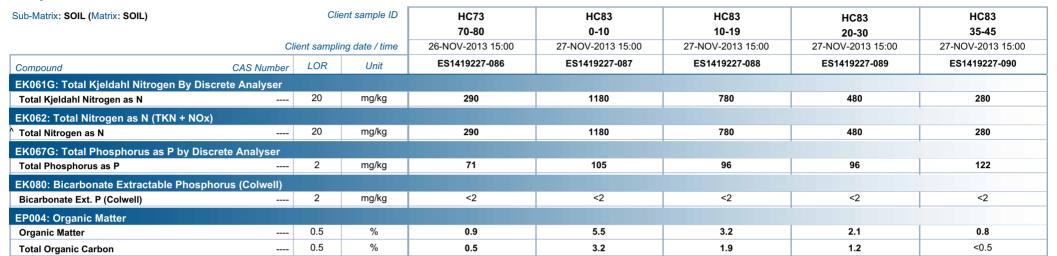




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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : HUM

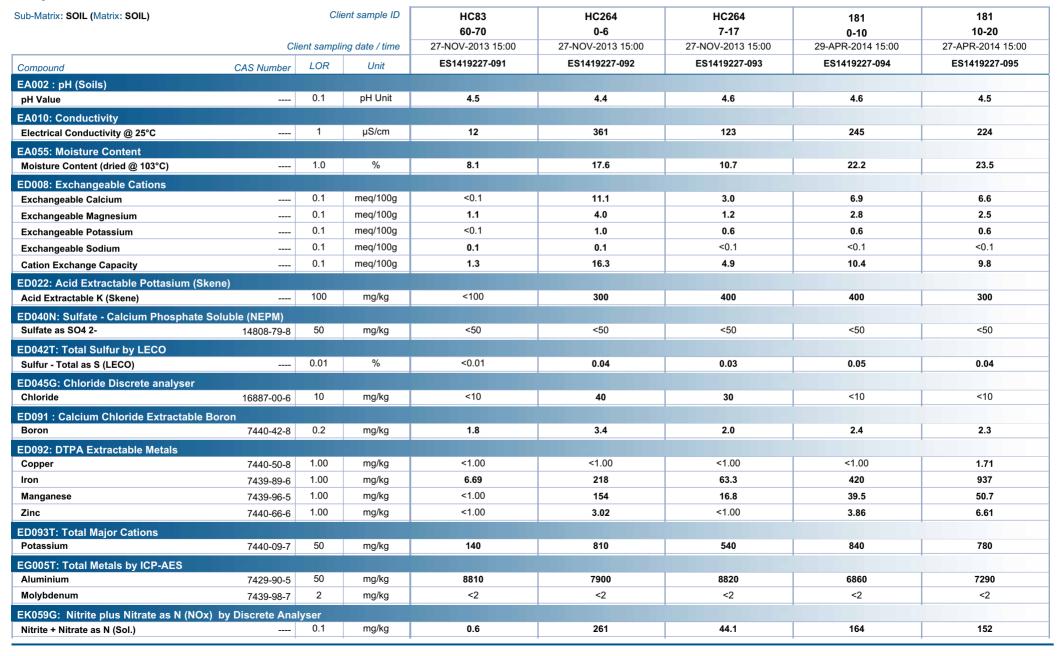




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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : HUMI

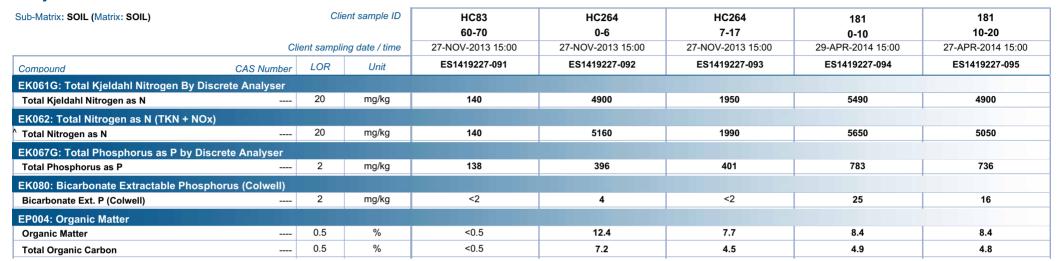




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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : HUMI

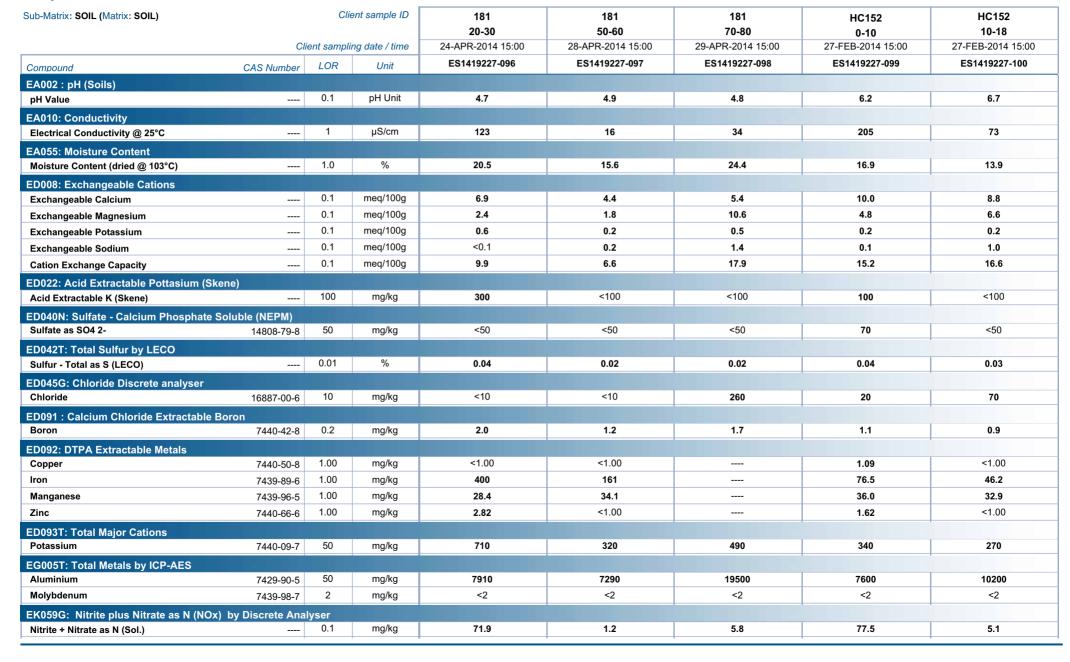




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Project : HUME

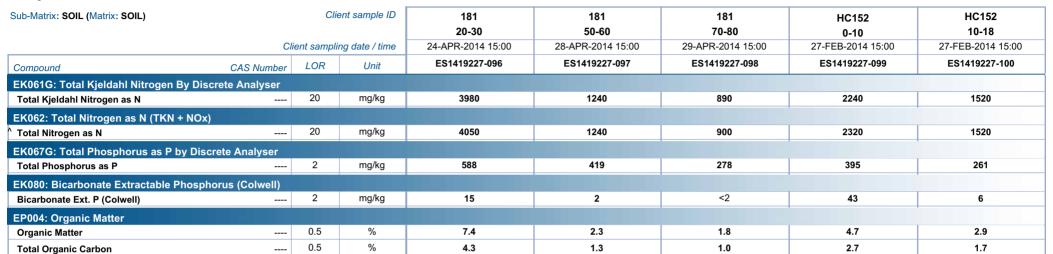




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Project : HUM

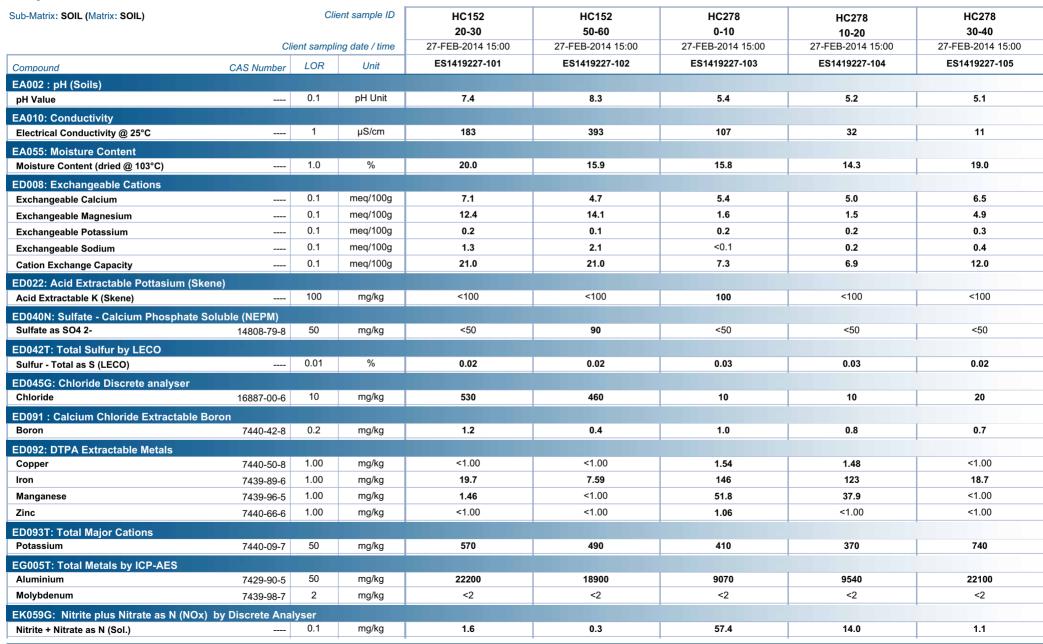




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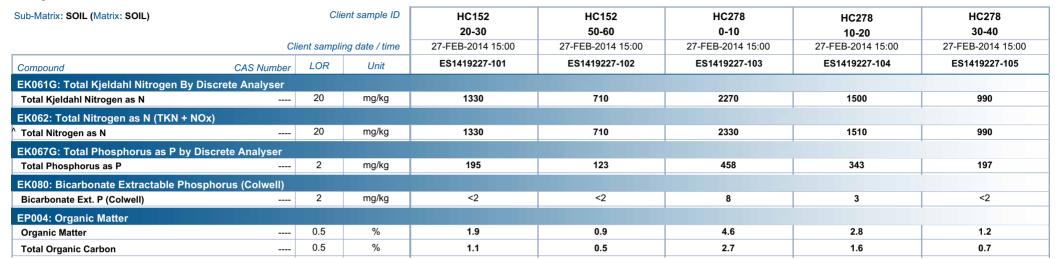




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Project : HUM

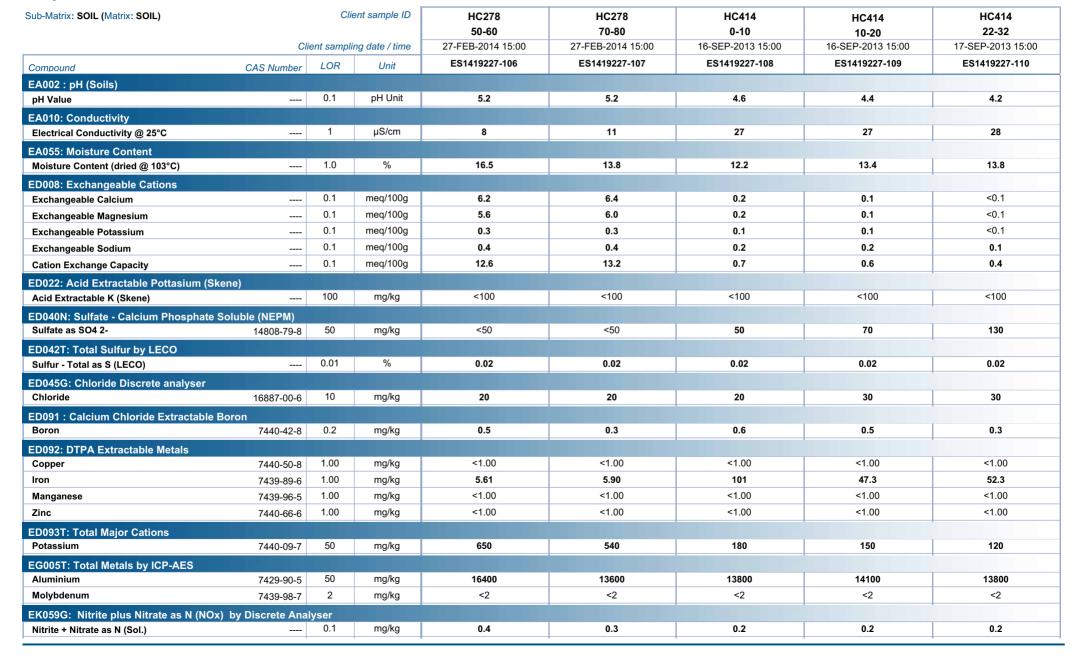




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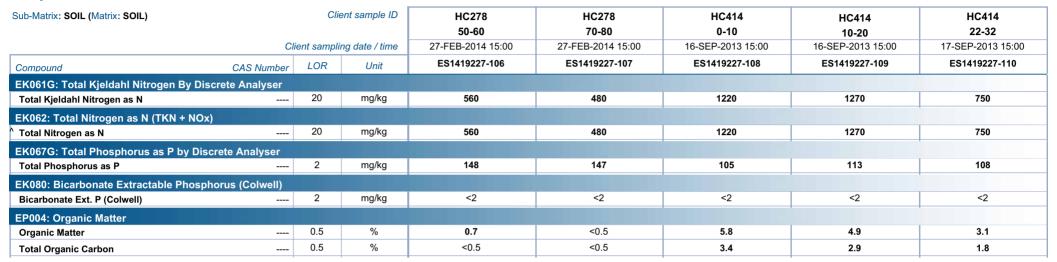




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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : HUM







# **CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS**

Work Order : EB1443988 Page

Client : **EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN** Laboratory : Environmental Division Brisbane

Contact : MR TIMOTHY ROHDE Contact : Customer Services EB

Address : 1/4 87 WICKHAM TERRACE Address : 2 Byth Street Stafford QLD Australia 4053

SPRING HILL QLD 4000

 Telephone
 : 07 3839 1800
 Telephone
 : +61-7-3243 7222

 Facsimile
 : 07 3839 1866
 Facsimile
 : +61-7-3243 7218

Project : Hume QC Level : NEPM 2013 Schedule B(3) and ALS QCS3 requirement
Order number : ---- Date Samples Received : 08-Oct-2014 14:05

Order number : ---- Date Samples Received : 08-Oct-2014 14:05

C-O-C number : ---- Date Analysis Commenced : 10-Oct-2014

Sampler : NEIL CUPPLES Issue Date : 17-Oct-2014 17:29

No. of samples received : 20

Quote number : ---- No. of samples analysed : 20

This report supersedes any previous report(s) with this reference. Results apply to the sample(s) as submitted.

This Certificate of Analysis contains the following information:

- General Comments
- Analytical Results



Site

NATA Accredited Laboratory 825

Accredited for compliance with ISO/IEC 17025.

#### Signatories

This document has been electronically signed by the authorized signatories indicated below. Electronic signing has been carried out in compliance with procedures specified in 21 CFR Part 11.

: 1 of 10

Signatories Position Accreditation Category

Andrew Matheson Senior Chemist Brisbane Inorganics
Kim McCabe Senior Inorganic Chemist Brisbane Inorganics

Satishkumar Trivedi 2 IC Acid Sulfate Soils Supervisor Brisbane Acid Sulphate Soils

Page : 2 of 10 Work Order : EB1443988

Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : Hume



#### **General Comments**

The analytical procedures used by the Environmental Division have been developed from established internationally recognized procedures such as those published by the USEPA, APHA, AS and NEPM. In house developed procedures are employed in the absence of documented standards or by client request.

Where moisture determination has been performed, results are reported on a dry weight basis.

Where a reported less than (<) result is higher than the LOR, this may be due to primary sample extract/digestate dilution and/or insufficient sample for analysis.

Where the LOR of a reported result differs from standard LOR, this may be due to high moisture content, insufficient sample (reduced weight employed) or matrix interference.

When sampling time information is not provided by the client, sampling dates are shown without a time component. In these instances, the time component has been assumed by the laboratory for processing purposes.

Key: CAS Number = CAS registry number from database maintained by Chemical Abstracts Services. The Chemical Abstracts Service is a division of the American Chemical Society.

LOR = Limit of reporting

^ = This result is computed from individual analyte detections at or above the level of reporting

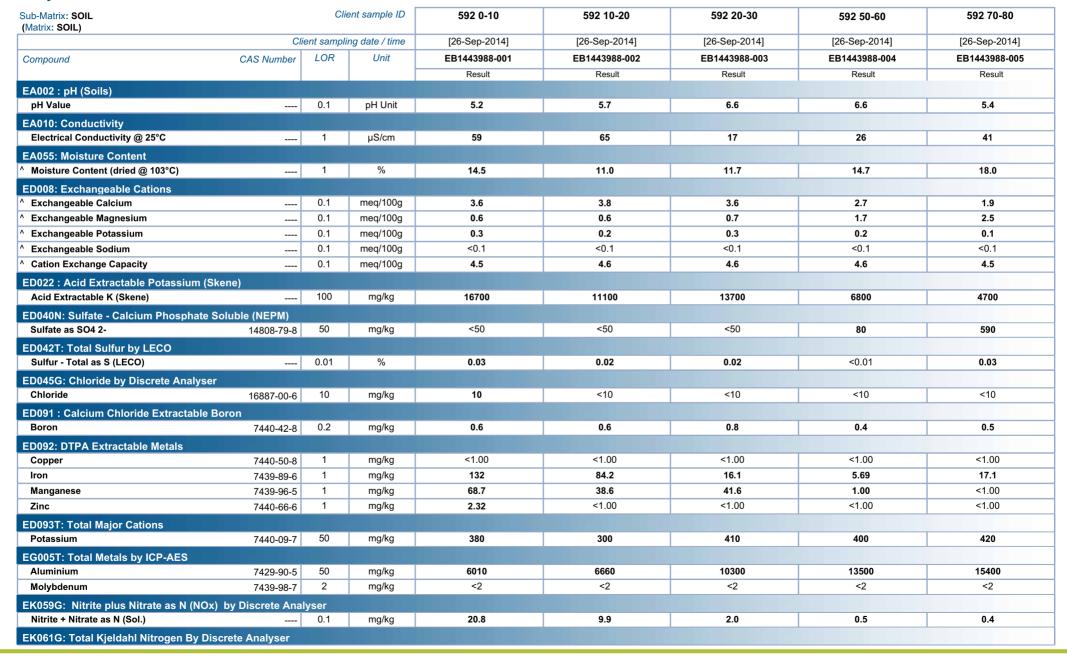
ø = ALS is not NATA accredited for these tests.

• ED007 and ED008: When Exchangeable AI is reported from these methods, it should be noted that Rayment & Lyons (2011) suggests Exchange Acidity by 1M KCI (Method 15G1) is a more suitable method for the determination of exchange acidity (H+ + AI3+).

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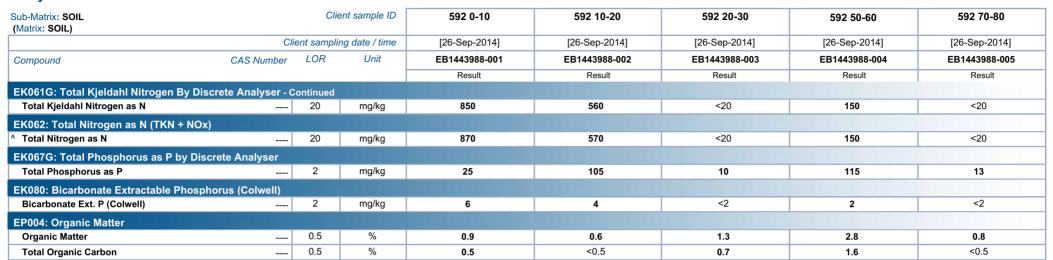
Project : Hume



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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : Hum



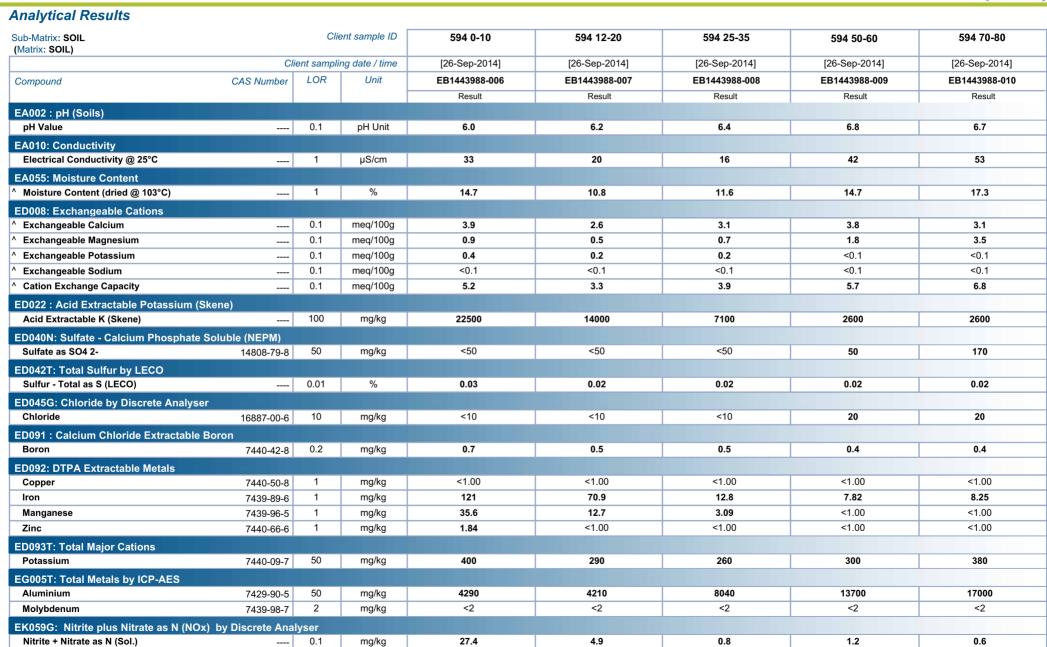


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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

EK061G: Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen By Discrete Analyser

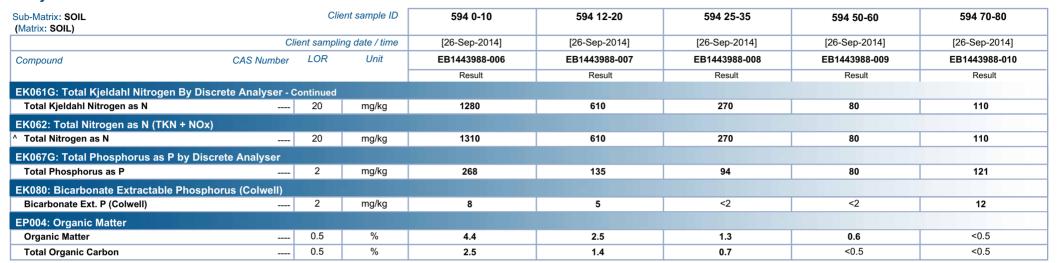
Project : Hume



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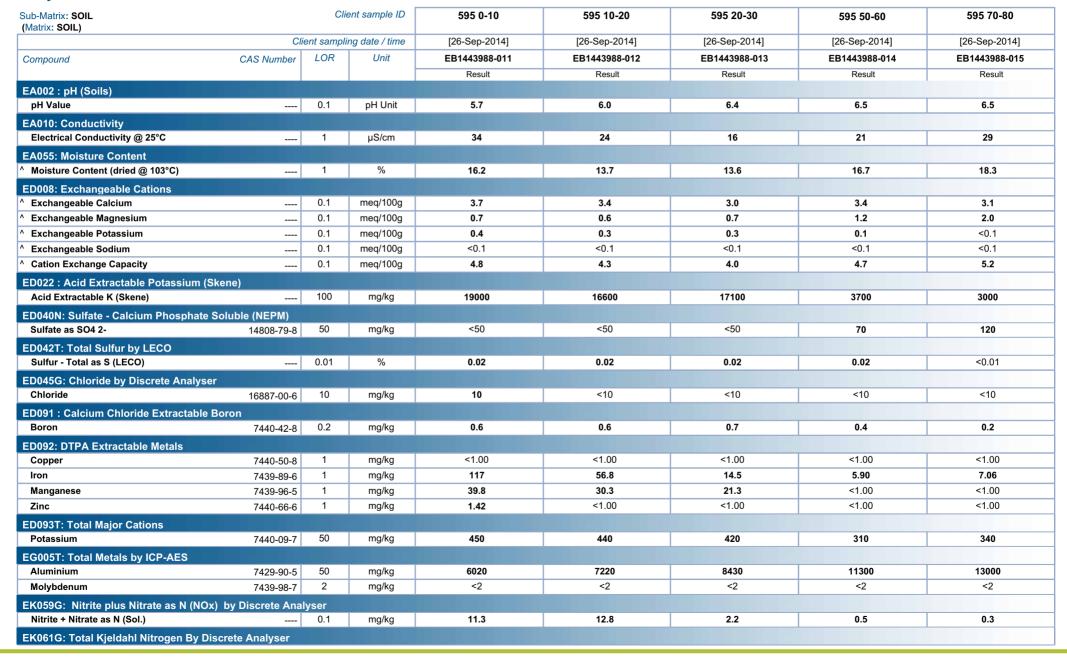




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Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project : Hume

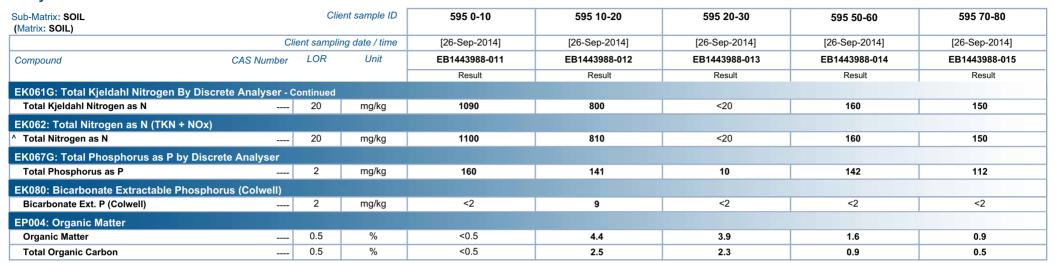




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Project : Hume

Molybdenum

Nitrite + Nitrate as N (Sol.)

7439-98-7

0.1

EK059G: Nitrite plus Nitrate as N (NOx) by Discrete Analyser

EK061G: Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen By Discrete Analyser

mg/kg

mg/kg

<2

14.6

<2

8.8

<2

2.7

<2

0.2

<2

0.3



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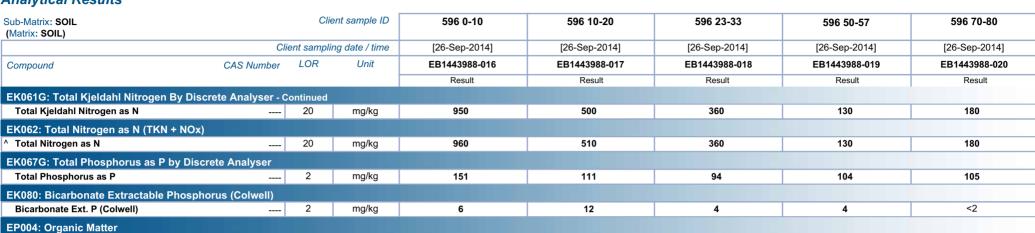
Client : EMGA MITCHELL MCLENNAN

Project · Hum

# Analytical Results

Organic Matter

Total Organic Carbon



3.5

2.0

2.2

1.2

1.9

1.1

1.0

0.6

%

%

0.5

0.5



1.0

0.6

Appendix F		
BSAL site verification assessment crite	oria and mothods	
DOAL Site verification assessment crite		



Table F.1 describes the BSAL verification assessment criteria and methods used for analysis of the application area.

Table F.1 BSAL site verification assessment criteria and methods used

Assessment item	Reference in Interim Protocol	Assessment criteria	Assessment method
Reliable water source			
Within area mapped using Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) data as having 350 millimetres (mm) and above rainfall 9 out of 10 years?	Page 4	The site is within the mapped area.	Project area overlaid on the New South Wales (NSW) Office of Water (NOW) (2013a) assessment layer.
Overlying a groundwater source declared by NOW as highly productive groundwater?	Page 4	The site is within the mapped area.	Project area overlaid on the NOW (2013b) assessment layer.
Within the area mapped by NOW as being within 150 metres (m) of a highly reliable surface water supply?	Page 4	The site is within the mapped area.	Project area overlaid on the NOW (2013c) assessment layer.
Soils and landscape verifica	tion		
1. Is slope less than or equal	Page 21	Slope ≤ 10%.	Site observations made using a hand held clinometer.
(≤) to 10%?			GIS analysis of slope using a digital elevation model (DEM) created from light detection and ranging (LIDAR) data.
2. Is there less than (<) 30% rock outcrop?	Page 22	Less than 30% rock outcrop.	Presence of outcropping bedrock was recorded in the field as an average density within a 10 m radius surrounding the core hole.
			Visual assessment recorded on a soil and land information system (SALIS) data card using the method described by McDonald et al. (2009).
3. Does ≤20% of area have unattached rock fragments greater than (>) 60 mm in diameter?	Page 22	Less than or equal to 20% of the area has unattached rock fragments >60 mm in diameter.	Unattached surface rock fragments with an average maximum dimension larger than 60 mm were recorded in the field as an average density within a 10 m radius surrounding the core hole.
			Visual assessment recorded on a SALIS data card using the method described by McDonald et al. (2009).
4. Does ≤ 50% of the area	Pages 22	Gilgais with depression depth	Initial visual assessment for presence.
have gilgais >500 mm deep?	and 23	(vertical interval) greater than 500 mm cover ≤ 50% of site.	None noted.
5. Is slope <5%?	Page 21	Slope <5%.	Site observations made using a hand held clinometer.
			GIS analysis of slope using a DEM created from LIDAR data.
6. Are there nil rock outcrops?	Page 22	No rock outcrops.	Presence of outcropping bedrock was recorded in the field as an average density within a 10 m radius surrounding the core hole.
			Visual assessment recorded on a SALIS data card using the method described by McDonald et al. (2009).

Table F.1 BSAL site verification assessment criteria and methods used

Assessment item	Reference in Interim Protocol	Assessment criteria	Assessment method
7(a). Does soil have moderate fertility?	Page 23 and Page 28, Appendix 2, Table 6	Fertility ranking of moderate.	Fertility ranking initially assigned to each soil type using the Interim Protocol, Appendix 2, Table 6, which is a ranking of inherent soil fertility based on the Australian soil classification (ASC) (Isbell 2002). This table is an adaptation of Table 8.2 in Murphy et al. (2007) and correlates the ASC with the approximate equivalent Great Soil Groups (Stace et al. 1968).
			Additional analysis of agricultural fertility characteristics were made with reference to Table 8.2 in Murphy et al. (2007). This analysis was based on laboratory analysis results for samples collected in the soil survey. Soil fertility was categorised based on a combination of pH, electrical conductivity (EC), chloride (Cl), plant available water capacity (PAWC), macronutrients, micronutrients, cation exchange capacity (CEC), exchangeable sodium percentage (ESP) and organic carbon. This analysis was made using the agricultural industry benchmarks of Baker and Eldershaw 1993, DERM 2011 and Peverill, Sparrow and Reuter 1999.
7(b). Does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	Page 23 and Page 28, Appendix 2, Table 6	Fertility ranking of moderately high or high.	Fertility ranking initially assigned to each soil type using the Interim Protocol, Appendix 2, Table 6, which is a ranking of inherent soil fertility based on the ASC (Isbell 2002). This table is an adaptation of Table 8.2 in Murphy et al. (2007) and correlates the ASC with the approximate equivalent Great Soil Groups (Stace et al. 1968).
			Additional analysis of agricultural fertility characteristics were made with reference to Table 8.2 in Murphy et al. (2007). This analysis was based on laboratory analysis results for samples collected in the soil survey. Soil fertility was categorised based on a combination of pH, EC, CI, PAWC, macronutrients, micronutrients, CEC, ESP and organic carbon. This analysis was made using the agricultural industry benchmarks of Baker and Eldershaw 1993, DERM 2011 and Peverill, Sparrow and Reuter 1999.
8. Is effective rooting depth to a physical barrier greater than or equal to (≥) 750 mm?	Pages 25 and 26	Rooting depth to a physical barrier ≥750 mm?	A visual assessment was made during the field inspection (and recorded on a SALIS data card) for presence of compacted layers and/or pans as defined by McDonald and Isbell (2009) pp 192-195. These comprise gravelly/rocky layers that include both coarse fragments (defined in McDonald et al. (2009) pp 139-143) and segregations (defined in McDonald and Isbell (2009) pp 195-198). That is, soil horizons >100 mm thick containing >20% (volume) of coarse fragments and/or segregations >60 mm in diameter.
9. Is soil drainage better than poor?	Pages 23 and 24.	Soil drainage better than poor.	Soil drainage rankings are defined in McDonald and Isbell (2009) and were recorded in the field on a SALIS data card.
10. Does the pH range from 5 to 8.9 if measured in water or 4.5 to 8.1 if measured in calcium chloride, within the upper 600 mm of soil profile?	Page 24	pH between 5 and 8.9, measured in water, within the uppermost 600 mm of the soil profile.	pH was measured by laboratory analysis in a 1:5 soil:water suspension, in accordance with method 4A1 in Rayment and Lyons (2011).

Table F.1 BSAL site verification assessment criteria and methods used

Assessment item	Reference in Interim Protocol	Assessment criteria	Assessment method
11. Is salinity (ECe) ≤4 deciSiemens (dS)/m or are chlorides <800 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) when gypsum is present, within the uppermost 600 mm of the soil profile?	Page 25	Salinity (ECe) ≤4dS/m or chlorides <800 mg/kg when gypsum is present, within the uppermost 600 mm of the soil profile.	Two methods of measuring soil salinity were used:  electrical conductivity of a 1:5 soil:water suspension (EC1:5), measured in dS/m (Method 3A1, Rayment & Lyons 2011); and  concentration of soluble chloride (CI) in a 1:5 soil:water suspension, measured in mg/kg (Method 5A2, Rayment & Lyons 2011).
			EC 1:5 was converted to electrical conductivity in a saturated extract (ECe) by using a conversion factor dependent on the field texture of the soil. The conversion factor was based on Slavich and Petterson (1993).
12. Is effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier ≥750 mm?	Pages 25 and 26	pH (1:5 soil:water) is between 5.0 and-8.9 ECe <4dS/m (or chlorides <800mg/kg when gypsum is present) ESP <15 Ca:Mg ratio >0.1	Measured in laboratory analysis.
Minimum area			
Contiguous area is ≥20 hectares (ha).	Page 27	A contiguous area equal to or exceeding 20 ha.	GIS analysis of the soil polygon or subject landform feature.

Appendix G	
Detailed BSAL site verification assessments	



# Table G.1 BSAL verification assessments for detailed sites

Criteria		Site number and ASC	
	15 - Acidic-Mottled Dystrophic Grey Kandosol	32 - Acidic Dystrophic Brown Kandosol	44 - Bleached Mesotrophic Yellow Kandosol
Reliable water source - Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Within the area mapped using Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) data as having 350 mm and above rainfall 9 out of 10 years?	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area
Overlying a groundwater source declared by NSW Office of Water (NOW) as highly productive groundwater?	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source
Within the area mapped by NOW as being within 150 m of a highly reliable surface water supply?	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources
Soils and landscape verification - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is the slope ≤10%	3%	3%	9%
Is there <30% rock outcrop?	0%	0%	0%
Does ≤20% of area have unattached rock fragments >60 mm diameter?	0%	0%	0%
Does ≤50% of area have gilgais >500 mm deep?	0%	0%	0%
Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Is slope between 5% and 10%? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	3% Slope + Mod. low fert.	3% Slope + Mod. low fert.	9% Slope + Mod. low fert.
Is slope <5%? And are there SOME rock outcrops? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	3% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	3% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	9% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.
Is slope <5%? And are there NIL rock outcrops? And does soil have moderate fertility?	3% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	3% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	9% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.
All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is effective rooting depth to a physical barrier ≥750 mm?	Barrier at 500 mm (<20% coarse frags)	Barrier at 550 mm (rock)	No barrier ≤750 mm
Is soil drainage better than poor?	Imperfect	Moderately well	Imperfect
Is pH <sub>water</sub> 5-8.9 within the upper 600 mm?	5.1-5.4	4.5-4.4	5.9-7.2
Is salinity within the upper 600 mm (ECe) ≤4 dS/m or chloride <800 mg/kg when gypsum is present?	0.09-0.13ECe + Cl <10-30	0.99-0.12 ECe + Cl <10-40	1.15-0.65 ECe + Cl 40-200
ls effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier ≥750 mm?	Barrier at 150 mm (ESP 29%)	Barrier at 0 mm (pH 4.5)	No barrier ≤750 mm
Minimum area - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Does the biophysical resource have a contiguous area of ≥20 ha?	>20 ha	>20 ha	>20 ha
Is the site BSAL?	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL
Comments on pass failure criteria	Failed fertility, physical barrier and chemical barrier criteria	Failed fertility, physical barrier, pH and chemical barrier criteria	Failed fertility criteria

#### Table G.1 BSAL verification assessments for detailed sites

Criteria		Site number and ASC	
	133 - Acidic-Mottled Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol	183 - Palic-Acidic Paralithic Leptic Tenosol	267 - Acidic-Sodic Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol
Reliable water source - Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Within the area mapped using BoM data as having 350 mm and above rainfall 9 out of 10 years?	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area
Overlying a groundwater source declared by NOW as highly productive groundwater?	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source
Within the area mapped by NOW as being within 150 m of a highly reliable surface water supply?	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources
Soils and landscape verification - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is the slope ≤10%	14%	3%	1%
Is there <30% rock outcrop?	0%	0%	0%
Does ≤20%of area have unattached rock fragments >60 mm diameter?	0%	0%	0%
Does ≤50%of area have gilgais >500 mm deep?	0%	0%	0%
Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Is slope between 5% and 10%? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	14% Slope + Mod. low fert.	3% Slope + Mod. low fert.	1% Slope + Mod. low fert.
Is slope <5%? And are there SOME rock outcrops? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	14% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	3% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	1% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.
Is slope <5%? And are there NIL rock outcrops? And does soil have moderate fertility?	14% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	3% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	1% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.
All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is effective rooting depth to a physical barrier ≥750 mm?	No barrier ≤750 mm	Barrier at 550 mm (rock)	No barrier ≤750 mm
Is soil drainage better than poor?	Imperfect	Moderately well	Poorly
Is pH <sub>water</sub> 5-8.9 within the upper 600mm?	4.6-4.3	5.4-5.6	3.8-4.2
Is salinity within the upper 600 mm (ECe) $\leq$ 4 dS/m or chloride $<$ 800 mg/kg when gypsum is present?	0.69-0.08 ECe + Cl <10-40	0.14-0.12 ECe + Cl 10-10	0.39-0.13 ECe + Cl 10-30
Is effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier ≥750 mm?	Barrier at 0 mm (pH 4.6)	No barrier ≤750 mm	Barrier at 100 mm (ESP 16%, pH 3.8)
Minimum area - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Does the biophysical resource have a contiguous area of ≥20 ha?	>20 ha	>20 ha	>20 ha
Is the site BSAL?	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL
Comments on pass failure criteria	Failed slope, fertility, pH and chemical barrier criteria	Failed fertility and physical barrier criteria	Failed fertility, drainage, pH and chemical barrier criteria

G.2 J12055RP1

# Table G.1 BSAL verification assessments for detailed sites

Criteria		Site number and ASC	
	388 - Bleached-Mottled Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol	404 - Acidic-Mottled Dystrophic Brown Kandosol	472 - Acidic-Sodic Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol
Reliable water source - Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Within the area mapped using BoM data as having 350 mm and above rainfall 9 out of 10 years?	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area
Overlying a groundwater source declared by NOW as highly productive groundwater?	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source
Within the area mapped by NOW as being within 150 m of a highly reliable surface water supply?	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources
Soils and landscape verification - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is the slope ≤10%	7%	3%	4%
Is there <30% rock outcrop?	0%	0%	0%
Does ≤20% of area have unattached rock fragments >60 mm diameter?	0%	0%	2-10%
Does ≤50%of area have gilgais >500 mm deep?	0%	0%	0%
Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Is slope between 5% and 10%? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	7% Slope + Mod. low fert.	3% Slope + Mod. low fert.	4% Slope + Mod. low fert.
Is slope <5%? And are there SOME rock outcrops? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	7% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	3% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	4% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.
Is slope <5%? And are there NIL rock outcrops? And does soil have moderate fertility?	7% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	3% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	4% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.
All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is effective rooting depth to a physical barrier ≥750 mm?	No barrier ≤750 mm	No barrier ≤750 mm	Barrier at 110 mm (20-50% coarse frags)
Is soil drainage better than poor?	Imperfect	Imperfect	Imperfect
Is pH <sub>water</sub> 5-8.9 within the upper 600mm?	5.1-6.1	4.6-4.2	4.3-3.8
Is salinity within the upper 600 mm (ECe) $\leq$ 4 dS/m or chloride $<$ 800 mg/kg when gypsum is present?	0.20-0.67ECe + Cl 27-170	0.95-0.24 ECe + Cl 20-10	4.6-0.08 ECe + Cl 20-<10
Is effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier ≥750 mm?	No barrier ≤750 mm	Barrier at 0 mm (pH 4.6)	Barrier at 0 mm (pH 4.3 + 4.6 ECe)
Minimum area - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Does the biophysical resource have a contiguous area of ≥20 ha?	>20 ha	>20 ha	>20 ha
Is the site BSAL?	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL
Comments on pass failure criteria	Failed fertility criteria	Failed fertility, pH and chemical barrier criteria	Failed fertility, physical boundary, pH, salinity and chemical barrier criteria

# Table G.1 BSAL verification assessments for detailed sites

Criteria		Site number and ASC	
	481 - Acidic-Mottled Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol	502 - Mottled Dystrophic Yellow Kandoso	l 592 - Haplic Dystrophic Red Kandosol
Reliable water source - Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Within the area mapped using BoM data as having 350 mm and above rainfall 9 out of 10 years?	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area
Overlying a groundwater source declared by NOW as highly productive groundwater?	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source
Within the area mapped by NOW as being within 150 m of a highly reliable surface water supply?	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources
Soils and landscape verification - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is the slope ≤10%	7%	8%	1%
Is there <30% rock outcrop?	0%	0%	0%
Does ≤20% of area have unattached rock fragments >60 mm diameter?	0%	0%	0%
Does ≤50%of area have gilgais >500 mm deep?	0%	0%	0%
Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Is slope between 5% and 10%? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	7% Slope + Mod. low fert.	8% Slope + Mod. low fert.	1% Slope + Mod. low fert.
Is slope <5%? And are there SOME rock outcrops? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	7% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	8% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	1% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.
Is slope <5%? And are there NIL rock outcrops? And does soil have moderate fertility?	7% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	8% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	1% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.
All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is effective rooting depth to a physical barrier ≥750 mm?	No barrier ≤750 mm	Barrier at 350 mm (20-50% coarse frags)	No barrier ≤750 mm
Is soil drainage better than poor?	Imperfect	Moderately well	Moderately well
Is pH <sub>water</sub> 5-8.9 within the upper 600mm?	4.2-4.1	4.8-4.2	5.2-6.6
Is salinity within the upper 600 mm (ECe) $\leq$ 4 dS/m or chloride $<$ 800 mg/kg when gypsum is present?	1.56-0.18 ECe + Cl 20-<10	0.74-0.16 ECe + Cl 10-<10	0.55-0.19ECe + Cl 10-<10
Is effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier ≥750 mm?	Barrier at 0 mm (pH 4.2)	Barrier at 0 mm (pH 4.8)	No barrier ≤750 mm
Minimum area - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Does the biophysical resource have a contiguous area of ≥20 ha?	>20 ha	>20 ha	<20 ha (3.6 ha)
Is the site BSAL?	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL
Comments on pass failure criteria	Failed fertility, pH and chemical barrier criteria	Failed fertility, physical boundary, pH and chemical barrier criteria	Failed fertility and area criteria

#### Table G.1 BSAL verification assessments for detailed sites

<u>Criteria</u>		Site number and ASC	
	594 - Mottled Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol	595 - Haplic Dystrophic Red Kandosol	596 - Mottled Dystrophic Yellow Kandosol
Reliable water source - Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Within the area mapped using BoM data as having 350 mm and above rainfall 9 out of 10 years?	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area
Overlying a groundwater source declared by NOW as highly productive groundwater?	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source
Within the area mapped by NOW as being within 150 m of a highly reliable surface water supply?	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources
Soils and landscape verification - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is the slope ≤10%	3%	4%	3%
Is there <30% rock outcrop?	0%	0%	0%
Does ≤20% of area have unattached rock fragments >60 mm diameter?	0%	0%	0%
Does ≤50%of area have gilgais >500 mm deep?	0%	0%	0%
Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Is slope between 5% and 10%? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	3% Slope + Mod. low fert.	4% Slope + Mod. low fert.	3% Slope + Mod. low fert.
Is slope <5%? And are there SOME rock outcrops? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	3% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	4% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	3% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.
Is slope <5%? And are there NIL rock outcrops? And does soil have moderate fertility?	3% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	4% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.	3% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert.
All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is effective rooting depth to a physical barrier ≥750 mm?	No barrier ≤750 mm	No barrier ≤750 mm	No barrier ≤750 mm
Is soil drainage better than poor?	Imperfectly	Moderately well	Moderately well
Is pH <sub>water</sub> 5-8.9 within the upper 600mm?	6.0-6.8	5.7-6.5	5.9-6.2
Is salinity within the upper 600 mm (ECe) $\leq$ 4 dS/m or chloride $<$ 800 mg/kg when gypsum is present?	0.31-0.30ECe + Cl <10-20	0.27-0.12ECe + Cl 10-<10	0.28-0.21ECe + Cl 10-<10
Is effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier ≥750 mm?	No barrier ≤750 mm	No barrier ≤750 mm	No barrier ≤750 mm
Minimum area - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Does the biophysical resource have a contiguous area of ≥20 ha?	>20 ha	<20 ha (3.6 ha)	>20 ha
Is the site BSAL?	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL
Comments on pass failure criteria	Failed fertility criteria	Failed fertility and area criteria	Failed fertility criteria

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# Table G.1 BSAL verification assessments for detailed sites

Criteria		Site number and ASC	
	73 - Palic-Acidic Paralithic Leptic Tenosol	83 - Palic-Acidic Paralithic Leptic Tenoso	I 126 - Palic-Acidic Paralithic Leptic Tenosol
Reliable water source - Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Within the area mapped using BoM data as having 350 mm and above rainfall 9 out of 10 years?	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area
Overlying a groundwater source declared by NOW as highly productive groundwater?	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source
Within the area mapped by NOW as being within 150 m of a highly reliable surface water supply?	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources
Soils and landscape verification - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is the slope ≤10%	14%	6%	20%
Is there <30% rock outcrop?	0%	0%	0%
Does ≤20%of area have unattached rock fragments >60 mm diameter?	0%	2-10%	0-2%
Does ≤50%of area have gilgais >500 mm deep?	0%	0%	0%
Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Is slope between 5% and 10%? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	14% Slope + Low fert.	6% Slope + Low fert.	20% Slope + Low fert.
Is slope <5%? And are there SOME rock outcrops? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	14% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Low fert.	6% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Low fert.	20% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Low fert.
Is slope <5%? And are there NIL rock outcrops? And does soil have moderate fertility?	14% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Low fert.	6% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Low fert.	20% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Low fert.
All POSITIVE RESULTS required	-		
Is effective rooting depth to a physical barrier ≥750 mm?	No barrier ≤750 mm	No barrier ≤750 mm	No barrier ≤750 mm
Is soil drainage better than poor?	Rapidly	Rapidly	Rapidly
Is pH <sub>water</sub> 5-8.9 within the upper 600mm?	4.0-4.4	4.6-4.5	4.6-4.4
Is salinity within the upper 600 mm (ECe) $\leq$ 4 dS/m or chloride $<$ 800 mg/kg when gypsum is present?	0.14-2.16 ECe + Cl <10-30	0.43-0.17 ECe + Cl <10-30	2.5-0.34 ECe + Cl <10-30
Is effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier ≥750 mm?	Barrier at 0 mm (pH 4.0)	Barrier at 0 mm (pH 4.6)	Barrier at 0 mm (pH 4.6)
Minimum area - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Does the biophysical resource have a contiguous area of ≥20 ha?	>20 ha	>20 ha	>20 ha
Is the site BSAL?	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL
Comments on pass failure criteria	Failed slope, fertility, pH and chemical barrier criteria	Failed fertility, pH and chemical barrier criteria	Failed slope, fertility, pH and chemical barrier criteria

Criteria		Site number and ASC	
	263 - Palic-Acidic Paralithic Leptic Tenosol	287 - Palic-Acidic Paralithic Leptic Tenosol	300 - Palic-Acidic Paralithic Leptic Tenosol
Reliable water source - Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Within the area mapped using BoM data as having 350 mm and above rainfall 9 out of 10 years?	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area
Overlying a groundwater source declared by NOW as highly productive groundwater?	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source
Within the area mapped by NOW as being within 150 m of a highly reliable surface water supply?	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources
Soils and landscape verification - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is the slope ≤10%	3%	9%	6%
Is there <30% rock outcrop?	0%	0%	0%
Does ≤20% of area have unattached rock fragments >60 mm diameter?	0%	0-2%	0%
Does ≤50%of area have gilgais >500 mm deep?	0%	0%	0%
Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Is slope between 5% and 10%? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	3% Slope + Low fert.	9% Slope + Low fert.	6% Slope + Low fert.
Is slope <5%? And are there SOME rock outcrops? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	3% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Low fert.	9% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Low fert.	6% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Low fert.
Is slope <5%? And are there NIL rock outcrops? And does soil have moderate fertility?	3% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Low fert.	9% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Low fert.	6% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Low fert.
All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is effective rooting depth to a physical barrier ≥750 mm?	No barrier ≤750 mm	No barrier ≤750 mm	No barrier ≤750 mm
Is soil drainage better than poor?	Rapidly	Well	Rapidly
Is pH <sub>water</sub> 5-8.9 within the upper 600mm?	4.2-4.4	5.6-5.2	4.3-4.5
Is salinity within the upper 600 mm (ECe) ≤4 dS/m or chloride <800 mg/kg when gypsum is present?	0.55-0.08 ECe + Cl <10-10	0.12-0.09 ECe + Cl <10	0.23-1.17 ECe + Cl <10-10
Is effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier ≥750 mm?	Barrier at 0 mm (pH 4.2)	Barrier at 10 mm (ESP 33)	Barrier at 0 mm (pH 4.3)
Minimum area - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Does the biophysical resource have a contiguous area of ≥20 ha?	>20 ha	>20 ha	>20 ha
Is the site BSAL?	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL
Comments on pass failure criteria	Failed fertility, pH and chemical barrier criteria	Failed fertility and chemical barrier criteria	Failed fertility, pH and chemical barrier criteria

Criteria	Site number and ASC			
	4 - Acidic-Sodic Dermosolic Redoxic Hydrosol	10 - Acidic-Sodic Tenosolic Oxyaquic Hydrosol	92 - Acidic-Sodic Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol	
Reliable water source - Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required				
Within the area mapped using BoM data as having 350 mm and above rainfall 9 out of 10 years?	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area	
Overlying a groundwater source declared by NOW as highly productive groundwater?	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	
Within the area mapped by NOW as being within 150 m of a highly reliable surface water supply?	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources	
Soils and landscape verification - All POSITIVE RESULTS required				
Is the slope ≤10%	1%	2%	1%	
Is there <30% rock outcrop?	0%	0%	0%	
Does ≤20% of area have unattached rock fragments >60 mm diameter?	0%	0%	0%	
Does ≤50%of area have gilgais >500 mm deep?	0%	0%	0%	
Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required				
Is slope between 5% and 10%? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	1% Slope + Mod. low fert.	2% Slope + Mod. low fert	1% Slope + Mod. low fert	
Is slope <5%? And are there SOME rock outcrops? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	1% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert	2% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert	1% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert	
Is slope <5%? And are there NIL rock outcrops? And does soil have moderate fertility?	1% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert	2% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert	1% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert	
All POSITIVE RESULTS required				
Is effective rooting depth to a physical barrier ≥750 mm?	No barrier ≤750 mm	No barrier ≤750 mm	No barrier ≤750 mm	
Is soil drainage better than poor?	Poorly	Well	Poorly	
Is pH <sub>water</sub> 5-8.9 within the upper 600mm?	5.1-5.6	3.7-4.0	4.4-42	
Is salinity within the upper 600 mm (ECe) $\leq$ 4 dS/m or chloride $<$ 800 mg/kg when gypsum is present?	1.60-5.5 ECe + Cl 310-1500	4.46-0.90 ECe + Cl 20-100	1.62-0.12 ECe + Cl 40-90	
Is effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier ≥750 mm?	Barrier at 200 mm (Cl 880) + 500 mm (ECe 5.5)	Barrier at 0 mm (pH 3.7)	Barrier at 0 mm (pH 4.4)	
Minimum area - All POSITIVE RESULTS required				
Does the biophysical resource have a contiguous area of ≥20 ha?	>20 ha	>20 ha	>20 ha	
Is the site BSAL?	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL	
Comments on pass failure criteria	Failed fertility, drainage, salinity and chemical barrier criteria	Failed fertility, pH and chemical barrier criteria	Failed fertility, drainage, pH and chemical barrier criteria	

Criteria	Site number and ASC		
	238 - Acidic-Sodic Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol	454 - Acidic-Sodic Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol	524 - Acidic-Sodic Kandosolic Redoxic Hydrosol
Reliable water source - Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required		•	
Within the area mapped using BoM data as having 350 mm and above rainfall 9 out of 10 years?	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area
Overlying a groundwater source declared by NOW as highly productive groundwater?	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source
Within the area mapped by NOW as being within 150 m of a highly reliable surface water supply?	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources
Soils and landscape verification - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is the slope ≤10%	2%	1%	1%
Is there <30% rock outcrop?	0%	0%	0%
Does ≤20%of area have unattached rock fragments >60 mm diameter?	0%	0%	0%
Does ≤50%of area have gilgais >500 mm deep?	0%	0%	0%
Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Is slope between 5% and 10%? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	2% Slope + Mod. low fert	1% Slope + Mod. low fert	1% Slope + Mod. low fert
Is slope <5%? And are there SOME rock outcrops? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	2% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert	1% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert	1% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert
Is slope <5%? And are there NIL rock outcrops? And does soil have moderate fertility?	2% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert	1% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert	1% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. low fert
All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is effective rooting depth to a physical barrier ≥750 mm?	Barrier at 650 mm (20-50% coarse frags)	No barrier ≤750 mm	No barrier ≤750 mm
Is soil drainage better than poor?	Poorly	Imperfectly	Poorly
Is pH <sub>water</sub> 5-8.9 within the upper 600mm?	4.5-5.1	5.2-4.8	4.6-5.3
Is salinity within the upper 600 mm (ECe) $\leq$ 4 dS/m or chloride $<$ 800 mg/kg when gypsum is present?	1.39-0.17 ECe + Cl 20-110	0.88-0.196ECe + Cl 20-150	2.88-0.31 ECe + Cl 30-440
Is effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier ≥750 mm?	Barrier at 0 mm (pH 4.5)	No barrier ≤750 mm	Barrier at 0 mm (pH 4.6)
Minimum area - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Does the biophysical resource have a contiguous area of ≥20 ha?	>20 ha	>20 ha	>20 ha
Is the site BSAL?	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL
Comments on pass failure criteria	Failed fertility, drainage, pH, physical barrier and chemical barrier criteria	Failed fertility and pH criteria	Failed fertility, drainage and pH and chemical barrier criteria

Criteria	Site number and ASC		
	264 - Acidic Lithic Leptic Rudosol	414 - Acidic Lithic Leptic Rudosol	474 - Acidic Lithic Leptic Rudosol
Reliable water source - Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Within the area mapped using BoM data as having 350 mm and above rainfall 9 out of 10 years?	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area
Overlying a groundwater source declared by NOW as highly productive groundwater? Within the area mapped by NOW as being within 150 m of a highly reliable surface water supply?	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source Project area within 150 m of many sources	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source Project area within 150 m of many sources	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source Project area within 150 m of many sources
Soils and landscape verification - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is the slope ≤10%	51%	22%	18%
Is there <30% rock outcrop?	2-10%	50-100%	2-10%
Does ≤20% of area have unattached rock fragments >60 mm diameter?	20-50% of 60-200 mm	20-50% of 60-200 mm	2-10% of 200-600 mm + 2-10% of >600 mm
Does ≤50%of area have gilgais >500 mm deep?	0%	0%	0%
Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Is slope between 5% and 10%? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	51% Slope + Low fert.	22% Slope + Low fert.	18% Slope + Low fert.
Is slope <5%? And are there SOME rock outcrops? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	51% Slope + 2-10% Outcrops + Low fert.	22% Slope + 50-100% Outcrops + Low fert.	18% Slope + 2-10% Outcrops + Low fert.
Is slope <5%? And are there NIL rock outcrops? And does soil have moderate fertility?	51% Slope + 2-10% Outcrops + Low fert.	22% Slope + 50-100% Outcrops + Low fert.	18% Slope + 2-10% Outcrops + Low fert.
All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is effective rooting depth to a physical barrier ≥750 mm?	Barrier at 170 mm (rock)	Barrier at 320 mm (rock)	Barrier at 100 mm (rock)
Is soil drainage better than poor?	Well	Rapidly	Rapidly
Is pH <sub>water</sub> 5-8.9 within the upper 600mm?	4.4-4.6	4.6-4.2	5.3-5.8
Is salinity within the upper 600 mm (ECe) $\leq$ 4 dS/m or chloride $<$ 800 mg/kg when gypsum is present?	7.22-2.46ECe + Cl 40-30	0.46-0.24 ECe + Cl 20-30	0.21-0.44 ECe + Cl 30-40
Is effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier ≥750 mm?	Barrier at 0 mm (ECe 7.22, pH 4.4)	Barrier at 0 mm (pH 4.6)	No barrier ≤750 mm
Minimum area - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Does the biophysical resource have a contiguous area of ≥20 ha?	>20 ha	>20 ha	>20 ha
Is the site BSAL?	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL
Comments on pass failure criteria	Failed slope, surface rock, fertility, physical barrier, pH, salinity and chemical barrier criteria	Failed slope, surface rock, fertility, physical barrier, pH and chemical barrier criteria	Failed slope, fertility and physical barrier criteria

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Criteria		Site number and ASC	
	152 - Mottled-Sodic Eutrophic Grey Dermosol	181 - Acidic-Sodic Eutrophic Brown Dermosol	278 - Acidic- Mottled Mesotrophic Grey Dermosol
Reliable water source - Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Within the area mapped using BoM data as having 350 mm and above rainfall 9 out of 10 years?	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area	Within the mapped area
Overlying a groundwater source declared by NOW as highly productive groundwater?	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source	Within the Nepean Groundwater Source
Within the area mapped by NOW as being within 150 m of a highly reliable surface water supply?	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources	Project area within 150 m of many sources
Soils and landscape verification - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is the slope ≤10%	3%	5%	2%
Is there <30% rock outcrop?	0-2%	0%	0%
Does ≤20% of area have unattached rock fragments >60 mm diameter?	0%	0%	0%
Does ≤50%of area have gilgais >500 mm deep?	0%	0%	0%
Only 1 POSITIVE RESULT required			
Is slope between 5% and 10%? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	3% Slope + Mod. fert	5% Slope + Mod. fert	2% Slope + Mod. fert
Is slope <5%? And are there SOME rock outcrops? And does soil have moderately high or high fertility?	3% Slope + 0-2% Outcrops + Mod. fert	5% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. fert	2% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. fert
Is slope <5%? And are there NIL rock outcrops? And does soil have moderate fertility?	3% Slope + 0-2% Outcrops + Mod. fert	5% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. fert	2% Slope + 0% Outcrops + Mod. fert
All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Is effective rooting depth to a physical barrier ≥750 mm?	Barrier at 600 mm (rock)	No barrier ≤750 mm	No barrier ≤750 mm
Is soil drainage better than poor?	Poorly	Poorly	Poorly
Is pH <sub>water</sub> 5-8.9 within the upper 600mm?	6.4-8.3	4.6-4.9	5.1-5.3
Is salinity within the upper 600 mm (ECe) $\leq$ 4 dS/m or chloride $<$ 800 mg/kg when gypsum is present?	1.64-2.4 ECe + Cl 20-530	2.4-0.13 ECe + Cl <10-260	0.05-0.56 ECe + Cl 10-20
Is effective rooting depth to a chemical barrier ≥750 mm?	No barrier ≤750 mm	Barrier at 0 mm (pH 4.6)	No barrier ≤750 mm
Minimum area - All POSITIVE RESULTS required			
Does the biophysical resource have a contiguous area of ≥20 ha?	8.6 ha	15.6 ha	1.25 ha
Is the site BSAL?	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL	NOT BSAL
Comments on pass failure criteria	Failed fertility, physical barrier, drainage and area criteria	Failed fertility, drainage, pH, chemical barrie and area criteria	r Failed drainage and area criteria

Appendix H		
Copy of SVC notification advertisement		



FRAMING and FIXOUT CARPENTERS, PAINTERS and BRICKLAYERS

Beechwood Homes South Coast require sub-contractors for the Southern Highlands area.Must have own insurance, safe work method statement, white card and licence.

Please email your resume to

receptionsth@beechwoodhomes.com.au

POSITIONS VACANT

#### **OXLEY FRAME AND TRUSS**

have a position vacant for a Heavy-Combinatio licensed Semi Driver to work locally deliverint roof trusses and wall frames as well as yan duties. Must be competent and preferabl licensed to operate a crane and forkitt.

Above award wages offered and conditions apply. Resumes should be sent attention to:

The Manager, Oxley Frame & Truss, PO Box 786, BOWRAL NSW 2576

## FURNITURE REMOVAL DRIVER

Must have MR Licence
 Experience preferred but not essential
 Please call Will
 0420 413 052

Cabinet Maker/Wood Machinest Required for quality Kitchen Manufacturer in Bowral. Top wages for the right person. Must have experience & references Apply to A & S Kitchens 4861 1453

A & S KITCHENS

ALSO Factory hand required

#### JUNIOR SALESPERSON

Long established business requires a Junior Salesperson for a permanent full time position.

Phone: 48721211

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PUBLIC NOTICES

# PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENTION TO LODGE AN APPLICATION FOR A SITE VERIFICATION CERTIFICATE UNDER CLAUSE 17C OF THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING POLICY (MINING, PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES) 2007

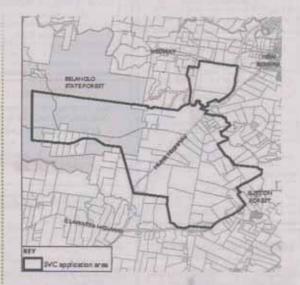
Within 30 days of today's date, Hume Coal Pty Limited (Hume Coal) (ABN 90 070 017 784) intends to apply to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment for a Site Verification Certificate for the Hume Coal Project (the project), in accordance with Clause 17C of State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007.

The proposed project involves development and operation of an underground coal mine and associated mine infrastructure, including facilities to handle, process, wash and transport coal. It is proposed that the mine will be built and operated over a minimum period of approximately 22 years, followed by around two years of closure and rehabilitation activities. It will use low impact mining methods and employ around 300 personnel at peak production.

#### SITE DESCRIPTION:

The application for a Site Verification Certificate is being made for land within and north of exploration authorisation 349 (A349), approximately 100 km south-west of Sydney and 3 km west of Moss Vale in the Wingecarribee local government area, A349 was originally granted in 1985 and is now held by Hume Coal. Underground mining will be restricted to A349, while surface facilities will be developed within and north of A349. The application area is shown below. It comprises all of the land within the boundary shown, including the following Lot/DPs and some Crown land parcels which do not have an assigned legal description.

3/1188; 4/1188; 5/1188; 1/2553; 16/2715; 17/2715; 3/11147; 7/11147; 8/11147; 1/56241; 1/88227; 1/112008; 1/124496; 1/130301; 1/160149; 1/160150; 1/162755; 2/213223; 2/214236; 2/217937; 3/244195; 4/244195; 5/244195; 1/249175; 6/250743; 7/250743; 1/250746; 7/250746; 8/250746; 10/262736; 11/262736; 19/262737; 20/262737; 21/262737; 22/262737; 23/262737; 29/262737; 29/262738; 30/262738; 31/262738; A/382162; B/382162; 1/549837; 1/556488; 1/605156; 2/605156; 11/703936; 7/703937; 10/705789; 12/705789; 17/705790; 18/705790; 20/705790; 21/705790; 1/711048; 2/711048; 3/711048; 4/711048; 5/711048; 1/718830; 1/744544; 2/746773; 1/751251; 2/751251; 3/751251; 31/751251; 32/751251; 33/751251; 37/751251; 47/751251; 48/751251; 60/751251; 62/751251; 64/751251; 65/751251; 66/751251; 71/751251; 87/751251; 88/751251; 97/751251; 98/751251; 100/751251; 101/751251; 102/751251; 105/751251; 108/751251; 113/751251; 114/751251; 117/751251; 172/751251; 173/751251; 174/751251; 1/780173; 1/783660; 6/806772; 7/806772; 2/806934; 3/806934; 2/819179; 4/826337; 6/829835; 200/839314; 1/860654; 2/860654; 4/872238; 7/874965; 2/875422; 8/883697; 1/995642, 12/1004339; 1/1008476; 1/1009075; 2/1009075; 1/1028147; 1/1029524; 2/1029524; 9/1040207; 10/1040207; 601/1041158; 11/1044116; 1/1046976; 1/1093425; 2/1093425; 1/1118652; 2/1118652; 671/1118901; 672/1118901; 2/1138694; 11/1154387; 12/1154387; 7141/1203892



#### APPLICANT DETAILS:

Hume Coal Pty Limited • Unit 7-8, Clarence House, 9 Clarence Street, Moss Vale NSW 2577

Ph: +61 2 4868 1233 \* www.humecoal.com.au

#### FURTHER INFORMATION:

Once lodged the Site Verification Certificate application will be available online at www.humecoal.com.au

A Development Application for the project will be submitted to the Minister for Planning in 2016, under Part 4, Division 4.1 of the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. It will be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) describing the project in detail, along with its potential environmental, social and economic effects and the proposed environmental safeguards. The EIS will be prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines, policies and assessment requirements issued by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. It will be made publicly available for review and

Should you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Hume Coal on 02 4868 1233 or info@humecoal.com.au.

Alternatively, visit our community office at
Shop 7, 256 Argyle Street, Moss Vale NSW or our project office at Unit 7-8, Clarence House,
9 Clarence Street, Moss Vale.





7/8 Clarence House 9 Clarence Street Moss Vale NSW 2577 Ph: +61 2 4869 8200 E: info@humecoal.com.au

### Mailing Address

Hume Coal Pty Limited PO Box 1226 Moss Vale NSW 2577