

UPL site status 22 May 2022

According to on-site measurements a totally unpredicted amount of 263 mm of rain fell on the site between 7am on Saturday 21st May and 9am on Sunday 22nd May resulting in the PCD overflowing around 8.40pm at its normal spillway. As at 12.00 noon on 22 April it is still overflowing, due to large volumes of stormwater still entering from the surrounding catchment area.

Various specialists and the engineering team worked collectively through Saturday together with UPL to monitor the site and the PCD to ensure that the situation was managed appropriately. We are still monitoring the situation.

The PCD has retained its integrity, all the engineering interventions have held and the flow out of the PCD has been controlled via the protected spillway, safely into the tributary. Water quality sampling was undertaken prior to and at the time of this spill, and will also be supplemented with sampling down the entire system today. These samples will be comprehensively tested both for contaminants and toxicity as soon as possible.

Estimates from the freshwater experts indicate that the water from the PCD, on dilution to the tributary, is below NOEC. The last set of independent analytical data has shown low levels of residual pesticides present in the PCD, and low overall toxicity. As of early morning on 22nd May approximately 1500L/s is flowing down the tributary with 60L/s exiting the PCD . Preliminary modelling, using the most recent available toxicity testing results and the dilution model prepared as part of the dilution proposal recently made to the Water Cohort , indicates that adequate dilutions are being achieved.

Based on what DCLM have indicated they could receive, 8 tankers were taken offsite yesterday, and 10 are intended to be taken off today. They are operating at maximum capacity and staying open until 7pm this evening. DCLM are monitoring weather conditions and advising UPL on a daily basis as to whether they are able to remain open and as to their capacity.

A detailed report, reviewing the water quality and volumes, will be issued in due course.