

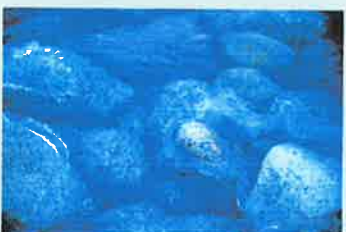
Veolia Environmental Services (Australia) Pty Ltd.

Re: EPL– Annual Assessment of Woodlawn Bioreactor & Intermodal Facility Monitoring Data.

Report – 8 April 2010.

(Ref: E2W-083 R001)

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Environmental & Groundwater Consulting

Client: Veolia Environmental Services (Australia) Pty Ltd

**Project: EPL - Annual Assessment of
Woodlawn Bioreactor and Intermodal Facility Monitoring Data**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	INTRODUCTION	4
2.0	BACKGROUND	4
3.0	LANDFILL DESIGN, OPERATIONS AND HISTORY.....	4
4.0	ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING	6
4.1	Site Location.....	7
4.2	Climate.....	7
4.3	Topography	7
4.4	The Landfill/Void Area	7
4.5	Geology and Hydrogeology	8
4.6	Groundwater Recharge and Discharge Areas	9
4.7	Hydrology	10
5.0	AVAILABLE MONITORING DATA AND REPORTS	11
5.1	Available Water Monitoring Data and Assessment Strategy	11
5.2	Assessment of Noise and Air Monitoring Data.....	12
5.3	Information Review	12
6.0	LICENSING AND MONITORING OBJECTIVES - WOODLAWN BIOREACTOR....	13
6.1	Surface and Groundwater Monitoring.....	13
6.2	Leachate Management	14
6.2.1	<i>Volumes in ED3</i>	14
6.3	Air and Dust Monitoring.....	14
6.4	Landfill Gas Collection and Monitoring.....	15
6.5	Noise Monitoring	15
6.6	Metereological Monitoring	15
7.0	LICENSING AND MONITORING OBJECTIVES - INTERMODAL FACILITY	15
7.1	Surface Water Monitoring.....	15
7.2	Air.....	16
7.3	Waste.....	16
7.4	Noise Limits.....	16
7.5	Dust Control.....	17
8.0	WATER MANAGEMENT - WOODLAWN BIOREACTOR.....	17
8.1	Void	18
9.0	THE WOODLAWN BIOREACTOR SYSTEM AND MONITORING NETWORKS....	18
9.1	Void	18
9.1.2	<i>Monitoring Well Network</i>	18
9.1.3	<i>Surface Water (Void)</i>	19
9.2	Evaporation Dam 3 (ED3).....	19
9.2.1	<i>Monitoring Well Network</i>	19

9.2.2	<i>Surface Water Monitoring Locations</i>	20
9.3	Air and Gas Monitoring Locations	20
10.0	INTERMODAL FACILITY SYSTEM AND MONITORING NETWORK	20
10.1	Surface Water	21
10.2	Dust	21
10.3	Noise	21
11.0	ASSESSMENT OF WOODLAWN BIOREACTOR MONITORING RESULTS	21
11.1	Woodlawn Bioreactor	21
11.2	Review of Current Groundwater Monitoring Data	21
11.2.1	<i>Hydraulics and Flow Regime</i>	22
11.2.2	<i>Groundwater Quality and Trends</i>	23
11.2.3	<i>Well Construction Issues</i>	25
11.2.4	<i>Adequacy of the Groundwater Monitoring Network</i>	25
11.2.5	<i>Analytical Testing and Monitoring Issues</i>	26
11.2.6	<i>Recommendations (Groundwater)</i>	26
11.3	Assessment of Surface Water Monitoring Data	27
11.3.1	<i>Surface Water Quality Results</i>	28
11.3.2	<i>Discussion of Results</i>	28
11.3.3	<i>Adequacy of the surface water monitoring network</i>	29
11.3.4	<i>Recommendations (Surface Water)</i>	29
11.4	Dust	29
11.5	Landfill Gas Management	30
11.5.1	<i>Sub-surface Gas</i>	30
11.5.2	<i>Surface Gas</i>	30
11.5.3	<i>Landfill Gas Flare</i>	31
11.5.4	<i>Landfill Gas Fired Generator</i>	31
12.0	ASSESSMENT OF THE INTERMODAL FACILITY MONITORING RESULTS	31
12.1	Review of Current Surface Water Monitoring Data	31
12.1.1	<i>Water Quality and Trends (Surface Water)</i>	32
12.1.2	<i>Adequacy of the Monitoring (IMF)</i>	32
12.1.3	<i>Analytical Testing and Monitoring Issues (IMF)</i>	33
12.2	Noise and Dust	33
12.3	Recommendations (IMF)	33
13.0	COMPLAINTS	34
14.0	POLLUTION STUDIES AND REDUCTION PROGRAMS	34
15.0	LIMITATIONS	35
16.0	REFERENCES	36

Tables

- Table 1A: Summary Statistics for Groundwater Wells (MB1 - MB8, MB10 - MB 17, ED3B, WM1, WM3 - WM7, P38, P44, P45, P58, P59, P100, MW8S, MW8D, MW9S, MW10S)
- Table 1B: Woodlawn Groundwater Level Data (from MB wells)
- Table 2: Summary Statistics for Surface Water (Site Discharges - Site 115, Spring 2, Site 105, Site WM201)
- Table 3: Summary Statistics for Surface Water (Dams, Creeks, Site Operations - Site WM200, Site WM202, Site WM203, Pond 2, Pond 3)
- Table 4: Summary Statistics for Intermodal Facility - Crisps Creek (Site 110, Site 150, Site 130)

Figures

- Figure 1: Site Location and Systems
- Figure 2: Site Layout and Monitoring Locations
- Figure 3A: Site Layout and Inferred Groundwater Flow Regime
- Figure 3B: EPL Monitoring Locations
- Figure 4: Summary of Aquifer Units at Woodlawn Bioreactor
- Figure 5: Hydrogeological Model - Woodlawn Bioreactor
- Figure 6: Layout of ED-3 and New Well Locations (2007)

Appendices

- Appendix A: Woodlawn Bioreactor and Intermodal Facility Monitoring Locations (EPL 11436, EPL 11455)
- Appendix B: Woodlawn Monitoring Locations, Geology and Well Construction Information
- Appendix C: Woodlawn Monitoring - Sampling Locations and Analyses (Veolia)
- Appendix D: Groundwater Quality Graphs - Woodlawn Bioreactor (MB1 - MB8, MB10 - MB17, EDB3, WM1, WM3 - WM7, MW8S, MW8D, MW9S, ED3B)
- Appendix E: Surface Water Quality Graphs - Woodlawn Bioreactor (Site 115, Spring 2, Site 105, WM200 - WM203, Pond 2, Pond 3, Leachate Pond, Leachate Recirculation System)
- Appendix F: Surface Water Quality Graphs - Intermodal Facility (Site 110, Site 130, Site 150)
- Appendix G: Dust Monitoring Data - Woodlawn Bioreactor and Intermodal Facility
- Appendix H: Sub-Surface (H1) and Surface Gas Monitoring Results (H2) - Woodlawn Bioreactor
- Appendix I: Landfill Gas Flare and Engine Results - Woodlawn Bioreactor
- Appendix J: Monitoring Point 18 - ED3 Volumes 2008/2009 - Woodlawn Bioreactor
- Appendix K: Summary of Non-Compliances for the 2008/09 Reporting Period

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Earth2Water Pty Ltd (E2W) was engaged by Veolia Environmental Services Pty Ltd (Veolia) to review and assess the 2008 and 2009 monitoring data for the Woodlawn Bioreactor and Intermodal Facility sites in relation to the annual Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) requirements.

Veolia operates the Woodlawn Bioreactor site (WB) under EPL number 11436, while the Intermodal Facility (IMF) is separate and under EPL number 11455. These EPL's are combined in this annual report (2008-09), which is the third annual monitoring period for the WB and IMF EPL's.

The WB site occupies approximately 3,000 hectares and encompasses the Woodlawn Mine Lease, which is governed and reported separately by E2W for the Site Mine Lease (SML 20, Figures 1 and 2).

This EPL report provides a review and assessment of the dust, air, surface and groundwater monitoring data obtained from Veolia's Bioreactor and Intermodal Facility from 6 September 2008 to 5 September 2009. The report includes historic and recent monitoring data, conceptual models, data assessment, conclusions and where required, recommendations to improve future monitoring.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) regulates numerous waste management and disposal facilities in NSW. The DECC issues licenses which both permit and regulate waste disposal activities. Licence conditions typically include requirements to monitor leachate quality, surface and groundwater quality in and around landfill sites.

This report provides Veolia with an independent technical review of the monitoring data and results obtained to date (2004 to 2009).

E2W's scope of work included the review of available technical reports, historic and current monitoring data (dust, air and water), well monitoring networks, surface water storages, hydrogeology and other related environmental information. This scope of work has enabled an assessment of the monitoring data from both the Woodlawn Bioreactor and Intermodal Facility.

In November 2007, E2W provided Veolia with a comprehensive assessment of the site's water monitoring systems, entitled *Status of Water Monitoring Systems at the Woodlawn Bioreactor Site*. This report sub-divided the site into ten 'systems' or sub-sites to simplify the large and complex site (e.g. mine void, South, North and West Tailing Dams, Evaporation Dams 1, 2 and 3, Waste Rock Dump, Plant Area and Intermodal Facility) based on local landform aspects (Figure 1).

3.0 LANDFILL DESIGN, OPERATIONS AND HISTORY

The Woodlawn Mine was a typical large-scale open cut and underground mine operation. The mine infrastructure included the construction, operation and maintenance of the following:

- Waste Rock Dump (WRD)
- Tailings Dams

- On-site ore processing facilities (Plant Area)
- Evaporation Dams (ED1, 2 and 3)
- Underground operations
- Open-pit operations

The former mining components at Woodlawn still exist and are illustrated on Figures 1 and 2. A summary of the site history is outlined in Table 3.1.

The Woodlawn Bioreactor occupies the mine void (to 200 mbgl) and comprises approximately 25 million cubic metres of landfill space. Landfilling and gas collection commenced in late 2004.

Table 3.1 Milestones and History

Date	Event
1978	Woodlawn open cut mine activities commence.
22.12.1982 (aerial)	Plant Area and dams present. North and South Tailings are constructed and used for tailings/water storage. West Tailings Dam is under construction, together with the Waste Rock Dump. Plant Collection Dam/Lagoon is full of water - irregular area.
9.06.1987 (aerial)	North, South Tailings Dams full of water, tailings comprising ~20% of avail. area. ED1 under construction, with Waste Rock Dam being raised (several benches visible) and includes leachate sump. Dolerite stockpile is visible on west side of mine void. Bunding structure visible at Plant Collection Dam with minor water. Raw Water Dam has been constructed and is full of water. The ED3 area comprises a series of small dams.
1989	Expansion and development of plant infrastructure. Open cut mine workings reach ~ 200 m depth, underground mining commenced.
15.07.1989 (aerial)	ED1 construction complete and full of water. Construction of ED3 South is a work in progress. Dolerite stockpile is increasing in size. West Tailings Dam has been constructed and is full of water. Plant Collection Dam is full of water.
11.09.1990 (aerial)	West Tailings Dam larger, full of water, tailings occupy approx. 10% of avail. area. ED2 has been constructed and now full of water. ED3 construction practically completed (dry). Plant Collection Dam is enlarged and full of water.
30.09.1991	Tailings in the North and South Tailings Dams cover approx. 50% of the available surface area. A new section is being added to the SW corner of the West Tailings Dam. Lower benches of Waste Rock Dam appear revegetated. ED3 North is being constructed and nearly completed (dry).
11.09.1994 (aerial)	ED3 North and South are complete and full of water. New SW addition to West Tailings Dam is complete and full of water. North Tailings Dam is subdivided in smaller cells on west side and through centre. ED2 has a defined internal bund on the NW corner (visible from 1990). Waste Rock Dump is being rehabilitated and revegetated. Water visible at the bottom of the mine void.
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Date	Event
5.10.1995 (aerial)	Rehabilitation/revegetation of Waste Rock Dump is nearing completion.
11.11.1996 (aerial)	ED1 and 2 have high water levels. ED3 is also full.
March 1998	Administrators appointed to Denehurst Ltd.
17.09.2004 (aerial)	Water in ED1, 2 and 3 at low levels. Tailings in North, South and West Tailings Dams have consolidated.
October 1999	Commission of Inquiry - Woodlawn Waste Management Facility.
November 2000	Minister grants consent for Woodlawn.
February 2002	Revised EIS prepared.
August 2002	Minister grants Development Approval for Clyde Transfer Terminal.
February 2003	Land and Environment Court Hearing into Clyde Transfer Terminal.
September 2003	Construction of Bioreactor and Intermodal Facility complete.
December 2003	Clyde Waste Transfer Terminal (Special Provisions) Act (2003) passed by State Government.
Jan - June 2004	Construction of the Clyde Transfer Terminal.
October 2004	Wind Farm DA and EIS lodged.
September 2004	Landfill gas collection system installed at base of void. First waste load delivered to site.
February 2005	Mining operations plan (MOP) approved.
May 2005	Planning focus meeting held on the Alternative Waste Technology proposal.
June 2005	First stage of gas extraction system and flaring initiated.
October 2005	Wind Farm DA approved.
November 2005	Mixing of acid mine drainage and landfill leachate in the void sump, discharged to ED3 North and South.
January 2006	Construction of first power generator hub commenced.
April 2006	Environment, Safety and Quality accreditation gained.
August 2006	Power generator hub completed.
July 2007	Application for temporary storage of leachate in ED3 from void. Construction of segregated dams (ED3 lagoons) within ED3 for temporary storage. Bioreactor has received 970,000 tonnes of waste since commencement.
September 2007	Approximately 40 m of waste placed in landfill since commencement. (pit base from 200 to 160 m below perimeter). Leachate level of approximately 10 - 15 m below waste level.
November 2007	Comprehensive assessment of water monitoring programs submitted by E2W. AWT DA Approved. Gold medal - WMAA National Landfill Excellence Awards.
February 2008	Commissioning of first landfill gas generator - power generation commenced.
April 2008	Woodlawn Bioreactor Energy official opening.
November 2008	Commissioning of second landfill gas generator.
June 2009	Sealing of the northern portal.
August 2009	Woodlawn Bioreactor presented the Society of Chemical Industry Australia 2009 Plant of the Year.

Note: aerial = historical information sourced from an aerial photograph.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The environmental setting of the site, including topography, soils, hydrology, geology and hydrogeology are described in the following sub-sections.

The main site features and hydrogeology are also included in Figures 1, 2, 3A, 4 and 5.

4.1 Site Location

Woodlawn Mine is located ~7 km west of Tarago, approximately 8.5 km south-west of Lake Bathurst and around 7.5 km east of Lake George. Situated 250 km south-west of Sydney, the mine site is approximately midway between Goulburn and Canberra. The land is situated within the Mulwaree Local Government Area (Woodward-Clyde, February 1999).

The Woodlawn Mine is situated on a property formerly owned by Denehurst Pty Ltd, which has a land area of approximately 3,000 hectares. The property includes the mine void, waste rock dump, tailings dams, evaporation ponds, disused mining infrastructure and surrounding rural land and pine forest. The area surrounding the property is characterised by large rural holdings which are lightly timbered with stands of woodland. A sewerage treatment plant is located on Collector Road adjacent to the site.

The closest township to the mine site is Tarago. It is a small rural service centre consisting of a railway station, school, hotel, small commercial centre and a number of residences.

4.2 Climate

The long-term climatic data at Woodlawn indicates that evaporation exceeds rainfall on an annual basis. The total rainfall recorded between July 2008 and June 2009 was 608 mm; which is lower than the 22 year average for the July to June period of 642 mm. The total rainfall for 2008 was 604 mm.

The average evaporation (17 year average) at the site is 1420 mm/year (AEMR, 2003). The evaporation rates significantly exceed annual rainfall, making evaporation processes very effective for onsite water management.

4.3 Topography

The natural ground surface surrounding the mine void lies at an elevation of approximately 800 m AHD, with the base elevation of the mine void at approximately 630 m AHD. The landfill site is situated on a ridge which forms part of the Great Dividing Range (GDR). The topography of the surrounding area comprises rounded hills that rise up to approximately 1,000 m AHD, particularly to the north and south of the landfill site (Figures 1 and 3A).

The Woodlawn Mine property lies at the head of the Allianoyonyiga and Crisps Creek catchments. Allianoyonyiga Creek is upstream of the Lake George catchment, while Crisps Creek connects to the Mulwaree River.

4.4 The Landfill/Void Area

The Bioreactor lies within the former Woodlawn Mine site and is located ~500 m south of Collector Road on top of a ridge line which forms part of the GDR (Figure 1).

The landfill site occupies an area of approximately 38 ha of Woodlawn's 3,000 ha. The landfill site comprises the open cut mine void, the access road into the site and an area to the north-east of the void where the associated site facilities (i.e. weighbridge and site office) are located. A waste rock dump and a number of tailings dams are located to the south and south-east of the landfill site. Hickory's Paddock lies to the east and disused mine facilities are located to the north-east. Evaporation ponds are located to the north-west of the landfill site (Figure 1).

The open cut mine void, where land filling has commenced, has an approximate volume of 25 million cubic metres and a depth of ~200 m. The void consists of several benches, a haul road and sediment ponds. The base of the void contains highly acidic sulphate-rich water.

The base of the void is at approximately 630 m relative to the Australian Height Datum (AHD), while the lowest point of the void rim is around 800 m AHD (Woodward-Clyde, February 1999).

4.5 Geology and Hydrogeology

The hydrogeology of the site is dominated by the hard rock geology and mine/landfill activities. The regional groundwater flow regime has been altered by the mine void, which induces large inward hydraulic gradients. The various water storages (i.e. Tailings and Evaporation Dams) also influence the flow regime by recharging and mounding the water table.

The inferred groundwater flow regime for the site is presented in Figure 1. The geology and inferred hydrogeology is presented in Figures 1, 4 and 5.

The regional geological setting comprises volcanic rocks which form part of the Lachlan Fold Belt of south-eastern NSW. The geological sequence of the site itself includes Ordovician and Siluro-Devonian lithified volcanogenics, volcanoclastics, as well as sedimentary shales and sandstones. These units are regionally faulted and jointed with a synclinal-anticlinal fold pattern, which results in a significant lack of continuity in the horizontal plane (URS, November 2004).

The hydrogeology of the mine void and surrounding area is largely dominated by volcanic rocks within which the mineralised zone occurs. The rock mass is generally of low permeability but fractures and joints, where interconnected, create minor storage areas and some secondary permeability. These provide a modest water supply to horizontal drains drilled around the mine void and some exploration drill holes. Pre-mining regional groundwater gradients were not established, but investigations show the regional water table to be a subdued reflection of surface topography with gradients away from the GDR towards Crisp Creek and Lake George (Woodward-Clyde, February 1999).

The basement rocks generally exhibit low hydraulic conductivity. Rock permeability is due almost entirely to fractures. The low bedrock surrounding the mine void exhibits low bulk permeability due to the action of metamorphism and hydrothermal fluids, which have sealed the primary porosity of the bedrock. It has been observed that seepages from the base of the open cut primarily occur through two fault/fracture zones (the 690 etc.) located on opposite ends of the pit. Seepage is also known to occur via old exploration drill holes and horizontal drain holes, which were designed to relieve hydraulic pressures from the pit walls.

Secondary permeability potentially exists where the rocks have been sheared by faulting, or where the rock exhibits cooling fractures (dolerites). However, the secondary porosity has been largely sealed by clays formed during the weathering of mineral compounds in the basement rocks.

Aquifer tests have been carried out in selected horizontal bores, piezometers and monitoring bores within the void and surrounding area to determine the permeability and transmissivity of the bedrock. The results indicate low to extremely low values of transmissivity, with some of the monitoring bores taking a week or more to fully recover after purging of a single bore volume (Woodward-Clyde, February 1999).

Despite the fact that the mine void is over 180 m deep and extends for at least 160 m below the natural water table, the total groundwater inflow into the mine void is approximately 1 - 2 L/sec, seasonally fluctuating. The main seepage locations are shown in Figure 1, together with the location of the fault zones through the void (i.e. 760 and 750/790).

The inferred directions of groundwater flow in the bedrock aquifer are presented in Figure 1. Dewatering associated with mining operations has created a steep cone of depression in the void area (Woodward-Clyde, February 1999). The steep hydraulic gradients into the void are indicative of the impervious bedrock and slow seepage velocities into it (Figure 5).

Overlying the basement fractured rock aquifer on some hill-sides, are recent deposits of hillwash (colluvium) sediments, which grade laterally into alluvial sediments in the valleys. This alluvial aquifer may form a conduit through which groundwater discharges to the downstream environment.

Figure 1 shows the inferred direction of groundwater flow within the alluvial aquifer in the Crisps and Allianoyonyiga Creek catchments, based on the surface water flow system. The approximate extent of the alluvial aquifer is also presented in Figure 1.

The sedimentary deposits show highly variable permeability and generally have confined conditions at the head of the catchment. Down catchment the aquifer becomes unconfined, with discharge to the creek surface water system and boggy areas adjacent to the streams. Relatively high permeability aquifers exist where sediments occur in valley bases, and to a lesser degree, on the slopes.

Figure 4 provides a schematic view of the aquifer units present at the site. At present, the void acts as a hydraulic trap due to the steep inward hydraulic gradients (Figure 5). As the void is filled with waste, there will be a reduction to the steepness of the inward hydraulic gradients. Once the waste produces a mound, the 'void' will no longer be a hydraulic trap and gradients no longer inward.

4.6 Groundwater Recharge and Discharge Areas

Groundwater recharge to the bedrock primarily occurs through direct rainfall infiltration to open fractures and joints in areas where bedrock is exposed at the ground surface. Enhanced recharge has been observed immediately south of the mine void (adjacent to the waste rock dump) and seeps after rainfall in the southern portal (Woodward-Clyde, February 1999).

Evidence of recharge in the void is illustrated with groundwater level changes in existing piezometers located on the batters and perimeter of the void. Several piezometers (i.e. 44A and 110A) are potentially located on a fault zone and show moderate fluctuations (~10 m) during rainfall recharge. These piezometers are also in proximity to seepage locations (Figure 1, Appendix D).

The low bulk permeability of the bedrock in the mine area means significant groundwater discharge will only occur where open fracture conduits exist and permeability is sufficient to produce a significant flow rate in the context of local catchment vegetation and hydrology.

E2W interpret that Crisps Creek (one of two primary receptors) is ephemeral and generally a losing stream (in text Figure 4.6b) during dry seasons. The stream would revert to a gaining stream (in text Figure 4.6a) during wet seasons. The type of creek system will determine the discharge regime, fate and transport of groundwater pollution.

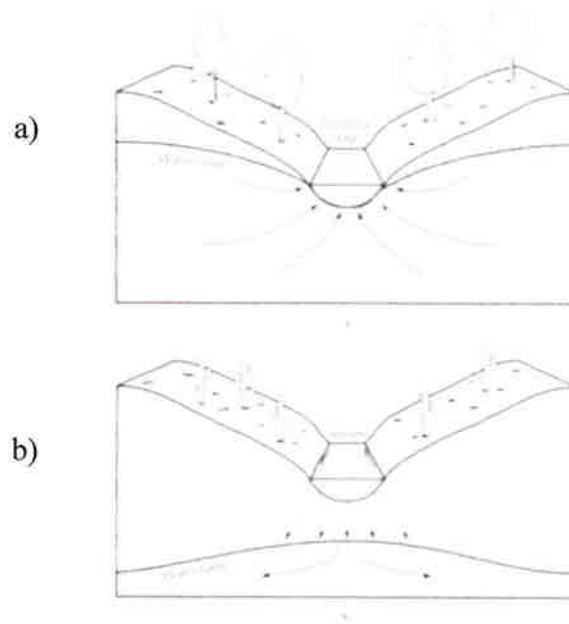


Figure 4.6: Gaining (a) and losing streams (b) typically associated with wet and dry seasons.

4.7 Hydrology

Allianoyonyiga and Crisps Creek are considered to be the primary receptors for discharges occurring from the Woodlawn site. The GDR bisects the void and diverts flows to south (via Allianoyonyiga Creek) to Lake George catchment and north (via Crisps Creek) to Wollondilly catchment (Figure 1 and in text Figure 4.7).

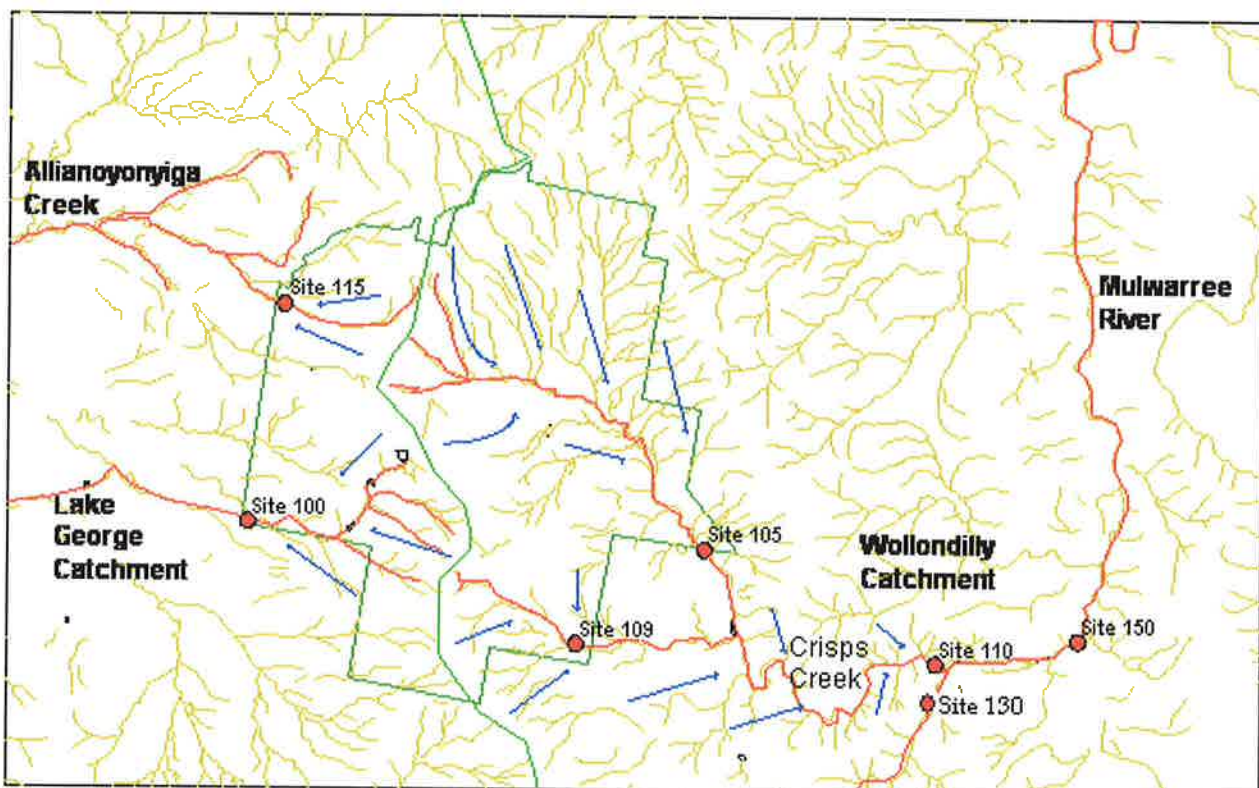


Figure 4.7: Hydrology at Woodlawn. Arrows indicate flow directions, while the light green line represents the GDR and the dark green line the site boundary. *Source: Veolia AEMR, 2006/07.*