TODOROSKI AIR SCIENCES

LAKE MACQUARIE – WYONG

REVIEW OF MONTHLY AMBIENT AIR QUALITY DATA

NOVEMBER 2013

NSW Environment Protection Authority

29 March 2015

Job Number 14030303

Lake Macquarie – Wyong

Review of Monthly Ambient Air Quality Data

November 2013

Author(s): Aleks Todoroski   Dan Kjellberg

Position: Director   Atmospheric Scientist

DOCUMENT CONTROL

Report Version	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed by
DRAFT - 001	29/04/2015	D. Kjellberg	A. Todoroski
FINAL - 001	29/04/2015	D. Kjellberg	

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF APPENDICIES

Appendix A – How to read a windrose
Appendix B – Monitoring Data (Graphical)
Appendix C – Monitoring Data (Tabulated)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared by Todoroski Air Sciences for the NSW Environment Protection Authority (NSW EPA) and presents ambient air quality monitoring data recorded in the Lake Macquarie - Wyong region for the month of November 2013. The results indicate that the air quality was generally good in the Lake Macquarie - Wyong region during November.

The data summary (shown below) indicates that in November 2013, Wyong recorded data above the PM_{10} criteria, and both Wyong and Wallsend recorded data above the $PM_{2.5}$ advisory reporting standard. Further details are provided in the report. The 24-hour average data are provided in the Appendices.

Lake Macquarie - Wyong Air Quality Pictorial Summary - November 2013
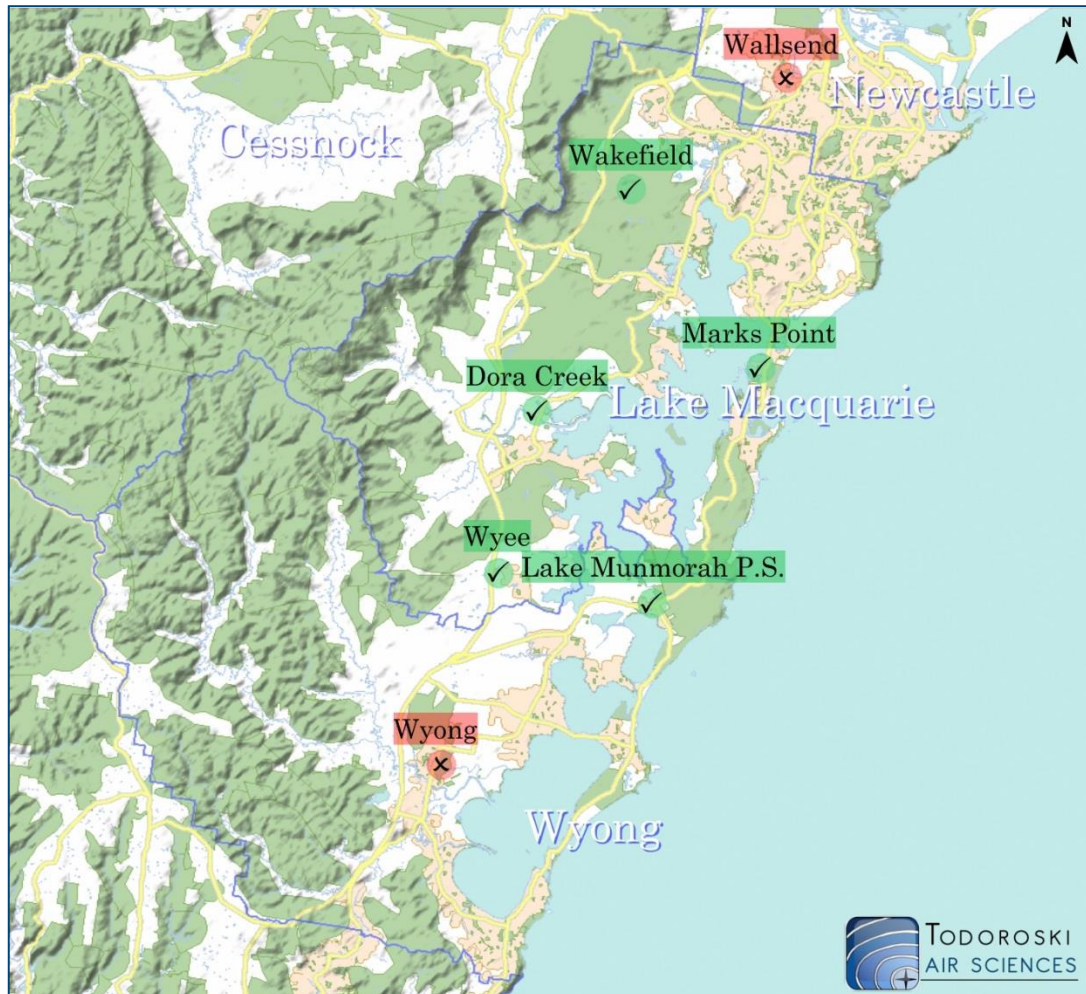
Lake Macquarie – Wyong Air Quality Tabular Summary - November 2013

Site	PM_{10} (µg/m³) 24-hour average	$PM_{2.5}$ (µg/m³) 24-hour average	SO_2 (µg/m³) 24-hour average	NO_2 (µg/m³) 1-hour average	SO_2 (µg/m³) 1-hour average
	Air Quality Impact Criteria				
	50	25*	228	246	570
Wallsend	✔	✘	✔	✔	✔
Wyong	✘	✘	✔	✔	✔
Dora Creek	-	-	✔	✔	✔
Marks Point	-	-	✔	✔	✔
Lake Munmorah P.S.	-	-	✔	✔	✔
Wyee	-	-	✔	✔	✔
Wakefield HVAS	✔	-	-	-	-

✔ - All data below applicable criteria
✘ - At least one elevated level above applicable criteria
   - - Not applicable
HVAS - High Volume Air Sampler
* - Advisory reporting standard for $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations (refer to Section 5.1)

1   INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared by Todoroski Air Sciences on behalf of the NSW EPA. It provides a summary and analysis of the available ambient air quality and meteorological data collected in the Lake Macquarie - Wyong region during November 2013.

2   PROJECT SCOPE

The following outlines the scope of work for this project.

✦   Provide a monthly report written in plain English to the NSW EPA summarising and analysing available air quality data and meteorological information.

✦   The report will be published on the EPA's website and will assess the available data from monitoring stations operated by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) at Wyong and Wallsend, and by industry at Lake Munmorah public school, Wyee, Marks Point, Dora Creek and Wakefield.

✦   The aim is to provide a simplified report that is accessible and contains results that would be clearly understood by the general public.

The work is for the period from September 2013 to June 2015.

3   THE PURPOSE OF AMBIENT MONITORING

It is important to note that the data presented in this report are from both EPA and Industry monitoring sites. The EPA and the industry sites collect data for different purposes and this needs to be understood when comparing the data to the criteria.

EPA monitoring sites are specifically designed to measure the likely levels of pollutants that the general population in the area would experience (i.e. an underlying population exposure level), whereas industry monitoring sites are specifically designed to measure maximum levels in a particular location that may be affected by a particular industry.

Data from EPA sites can be compared with national air quality standards. Where the levels measured at EPA monitoring sites are above the national standards on a prolonged and consistent basis, this indicates that some investigation of the potential cause of the issue may be warranted to determine whether any action on a regional level would reduce or better manage the pollutant levels. In the case of PM_{10}, it is noted that the national standards permit five days annually above the criteria to allow for events such as bushfires and dust storms.

Data from industry monitoring sites can be compared with EPA impact assessment criteria. Where the levels measured at industry monitoring sites are above the impact assessment criteria on a prolonged and consistent basis, this indicates that further investigation is warranted to determine whether industry is responsible, and if so whether action to reduce or better manage the pollutant can be taken.

Whether there is any harmful effect on an individual due to an air pollutant will depend on many additional factors, and not just on the measured level of a pollutant. These factors include the total exposure to the pollutant, individual circumstances (age, health, body mass, levels of pollutants at work), levels of other pollutants in the area, and many other factors.

Where pollutant levels are below the criteria generally, harm would not be expected to occur, but it does not follow that harm automatically occurs when pollutant levels are above the criteria.

The criteria serve to highlight potential issues with the levels of pollutants that may warrant more detailed examination. The criteria may also serve to prioritise action in various areas, for example areas with the highest pollutant levels and highest populations or highest exposure would be expected to receive priority action.

3.1 More about air quality

More information about air quality can be found via the following links:

+ The Air Quality Index (AQI) was developed by the NSW EPA as an easily understood means of rating the pollutant level relative to its pollutant criteria.
    o http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/AQMS/aboutaqi.htm

+ Aqicn.org provides a near real-time AQI values for monitoring locations around the world. It should be noted that the AQI presented on this website is calculated differently to the NSW EPA AQI and is less stringent than those used in Australia, thus a direct comparison may not be valid.
    o http://aqicn.org/map/world/

+ The NSW OEH website air quality page provides hourly updates of the AQI and data readings from the NSW EPA monitoring sites, and can provide daily forecasts for Sydney and alerts for elevated levels at Wallsend and Wyong, for example. The web tool also presents near real-time wind and pollutant data readings overlaid on regional maps for the Upper Hunter and Newcastle.
    o http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/aqms/aqi.htm

+ The Lower Hunter Particle Characterisation Study aims to determine the composition of particulate samples collected at monitoring sites at Beresfield, Newcastle, Stockton and Mayfield, and to identify the potential major sources of fine particulates in Newcastle and the Lower Hunter. Progress reports are published on the OEH website provided below.
    o http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/aqms/lowhunterparticle.htm

+ The Air Emissions in My Community web tool presents the estimated emission quantities of various substances and their sources by postcode (and larger) sized areas in an easy to use graphical interface. This is one of the best inventories of emissions that is available, but it is important to appreciate that it cannot include all sources of emissions. It is important to also understand that pollutant emissions are not the same as the pollutant levels that this report presents. Emissions in a given area are one of several important factors that affect pollutant levels in an area, for example the dispersion of the emissions in the atmosphere and how the emissions are released are critical in determining the air quality pollutant levels.
    o http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/air/airemissionsapp/airemissionswebtool.aspx

+ The NSW Health website provides information on how air pollution affects health and steps for reducing your air pollution and limiting your exposure.
    o http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/air/Pages/default.aspx

4   AIR QUALITY MONITORING SITES

Figure 4-1 and **Table 4-1** summarise the locations and recorded parameters of the monitoring sites in the Lake Macquarie - Wyong region in November 2013.
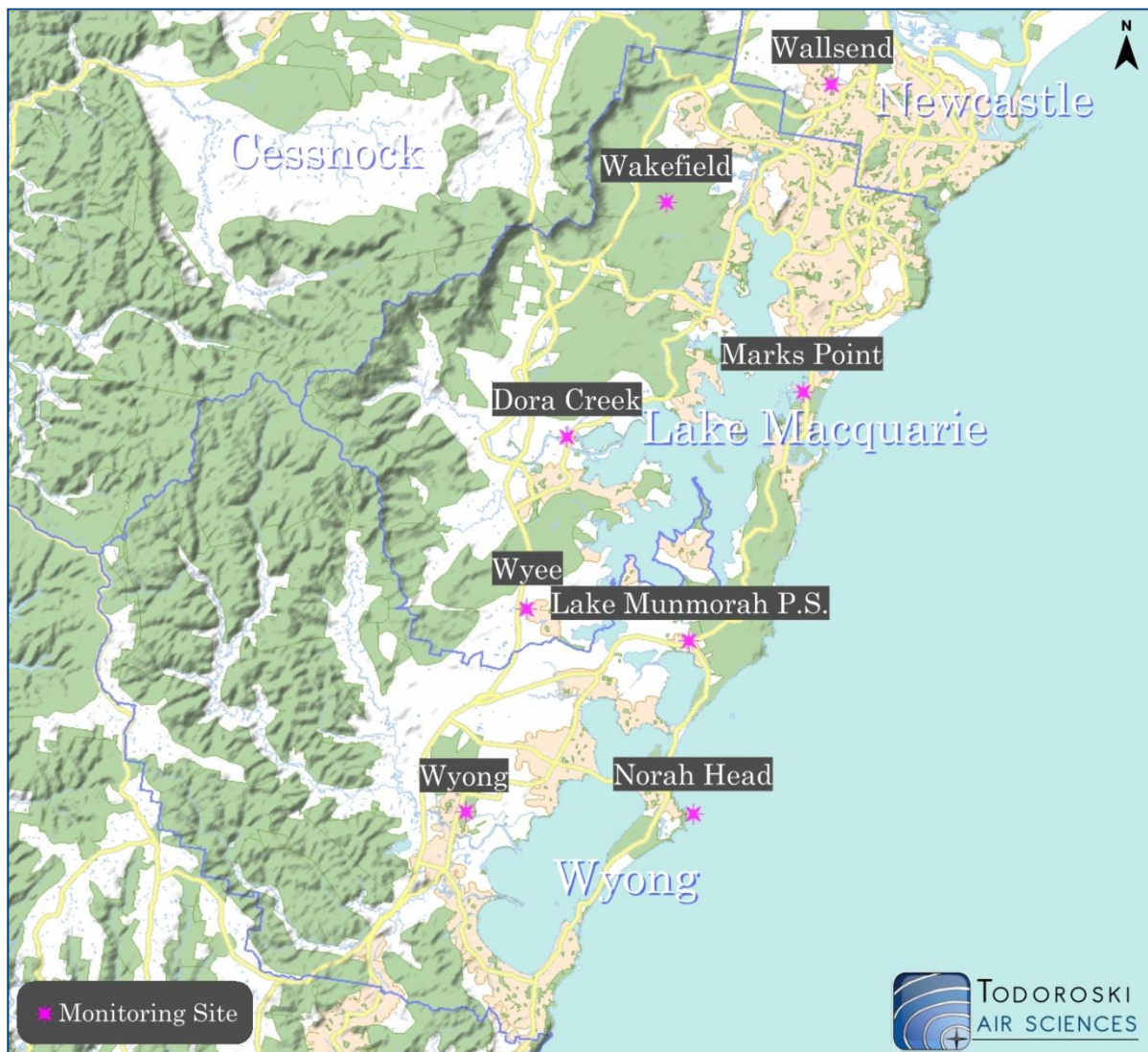
Figure 4-1: Monitoring site locations

Table 4-1: Monitoring sites

Monitoring Station	Type	Recorded Parameters	Recording Periods
Wallsend	NSW EPA site	PM_{10} (TEOM), $PM_{2.5}$, NO_2, SO_2, WS, WD	Hourly/Daily
Wyong	NSW EPA site	PM_{10} (TEOM), $PM_{2.5}$, NO_2, SO_2, WS, WD	Hourly/Daily
Marks Point	Industry site	NO_2, SO_2, WS, WD	Hourly
Wyee	Industry site	NO_2, SO_2, WS, WD	Hourly
Dora Creek	Industry site	NO_2, SO_2, WS, WD	Hourly
Lake Munmorah P.S.	Industry site	NO_2, SO_2	Hourly
Norah Head	BOM weather station	WS, WD	Hourly
Wakefield HVAS	Industry site	PM_{10} (HVAS)	Every 6th Day

PM_{10} - Particulate matter < 10μm
$PM_{2.5}$ - Particulate matter < 2.5μm
TEOM - Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalance
    (which samples air continuously)

NO_2 - Nitrogen dioxide
SO_2 - Sulfur dioxide
HVAS - High volume air sampler (which samples
    for a 24-hour period every 6 days)

WS - Wind speed
WD - Wind direction
BOM - Bureau of
    Meteorology

5   AIR QUALITY CRITERIA

The sections below identify the key pollutants currently being monitored at the Lake Macquarie - Wyong air quality monitoring sites and the applicable air quality criteria.

5.1 Particulate matter

Particulate matter consists of particles of varying size and composition. The total mass of all particles suspended in air is defined as the Total Suspended Particulate matter (TSP). The upper size range for TSP is nominally taken to be 30 micrometres (µm) as in practice particles larger than 30 to 50µm will settle out of the atmosphere too quickly to be regarded as air pollutants.

The TSP is defined further into two sub-components. They are PM_{10} particles, particulate matter with aerodynamic diameters of 10µm or less, and $PM_{2.5}$, particulate matter with aerodynamic diameters of 2.5µm or less.

Table 5-1 summarises the air quality goals that are relevant to particulate pollutants as outlined in the NSW Environment Protection Agency (EPA) document "*Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW*" (**NSW DEC, 2005**).

Table 5-1: EPA air quality impact assessment criteria

Pollutant	Averaging Period	Criterion
Total suspended particulates (TSP)	Annual	90µg/m^3
Particulate Matter < 10µm (PM_{10})	Annual	30µg/m^3
	24-hour	50µg/m^3

Source: **NSW DEC, 2005**

5.1.1 $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations

The NSW EPA currently do not have impact assessment criteria for $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations, however the National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) has released a variation to the National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) (**NEPC, 2003**) to include advisory reporting standards for $PM_{2.5}$ (see **Table 5-2**). As with the NEPM goals, the advisory reporting standards apply to the average, or general exposure of a population, rather than to "hot spot" locations such as industry monitoring sites.

Table 5-2: Advisory standard for $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations

Pollutant	Averaging Period	Concentration
Particulate Matter < 2.5µm ($PM_{2.5}$)	24-hour	25µg/m^3
	Annual	8µg/m^3

Source: **NEPC, 2003**

5.2 Other air pollutants

Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) is reddish-brown in colour (at high concentrations) with a characteristic odour and can irritate the lungs and lower resistance to respiratory infections such as influenza. NO_2 belongs to a family of reactive gases called nitrogen oxides (NO_x). These gases form when fuel is burned at high temperatures, and mainly originates from motor vehicles, power generators and industrial boilers (**USEPA, 2013**). NO_x may also be generated by blasting activities. It is important to note that when formed, NO_2 is generally a small fraction of the total NO_x generated.

Sulfur dioxide (SO_2) is a colourless, toxic gas with a pungent and irritating smell. It commonly arises in industrial emissions due to the sulfur content of the fuel. SO_2 can have impacts upon human health and the habitability of the environment for flora and fauna. SO_2 emissions are a precursor to acid rain, which can be an issue in the northern hemisphere; however it is not known to be an issue in NSW.

Table 5-3 summarises the air quality goals for NO_2 and SO_2.

Table 5-3: Air quality impact assessment criteria for air pollutants

Pollutant	Averaging period	Criterion
NO_2	1-hour	246μg/m^3
	Annual	62μg/m^3
SO_2	10-minute	712μg/m^3
	1-hour	570μg/m^3
	24-hour	228μg/m^3
	Annual	60μg/m^3

Source: **NSW DEC, 2005**

5.3 Summary of applicable criteria for this assessment

The particulate and gaseous pollutants monitored in the Lake Macquarie – Wyong region have air quality criteria which are averaged over short and long time periods. Annually averaged criteria require a full year of data.

As this report only looks at one month of ambient air quality data, the annual average criteria are not applicable. The SO_2 10-minute average criterion was not included as 10-minute monitoring data are not available. Therefore the criteria relevant to this assessment are those averaged over the shorter time periods (1-hour and 24-hours).

Table 5-4 summarises the applicable air quality criteria for this assessment.

Table 5-4: Air quality impact assessment criteria used in this assessment

Pollutant	Averaging Period	Type	Concentration
Particulate Matter < 10μm (PM_{10})	24-hour	Criterion	50μg/m^3
Particulate Matter < 2.5μm ($PM_{2.5}$)	24-hour	Advisory Reporting Standard	25μg/m^3
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2)	1-hour	Criterion	246μg/m^3
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_2)	1-hour	Criterion	570μg/m^3
	24-hour	Criterion	228μg/m^3

6   METEOROLOGICAL MONITORING DATA

Representative wind speed and direction data have been obtained from the Lake Macquarie - Wyong air quality monitoring stations. The data are presented as a series windroses. For an example of how to read a windrose, refer to **Figure A-1** in **Appendix A**.

Figure 6-1 presents the November 2013 windroses for Wallsend, Dora Creek, Marks Point, Wyee, Norah Head and Wyong.

The figure shows that the meteorological stations recorded winds which varied depending on the local influence of environmental features such as terrain, vegetation and buildings. Overall the stations

Todoroski AIR SCIENCES | info@airsciences.com.au | O2 9874 2123

recorded a similar underlying trend of winds which originated from the south-southwest to south-southeast directions.

The Norah Head weather station recorded wind speeds which were generally higher than those recorded at the other stations. This is expected as the Norah Head weather station is located in an unsheltered coastal location.
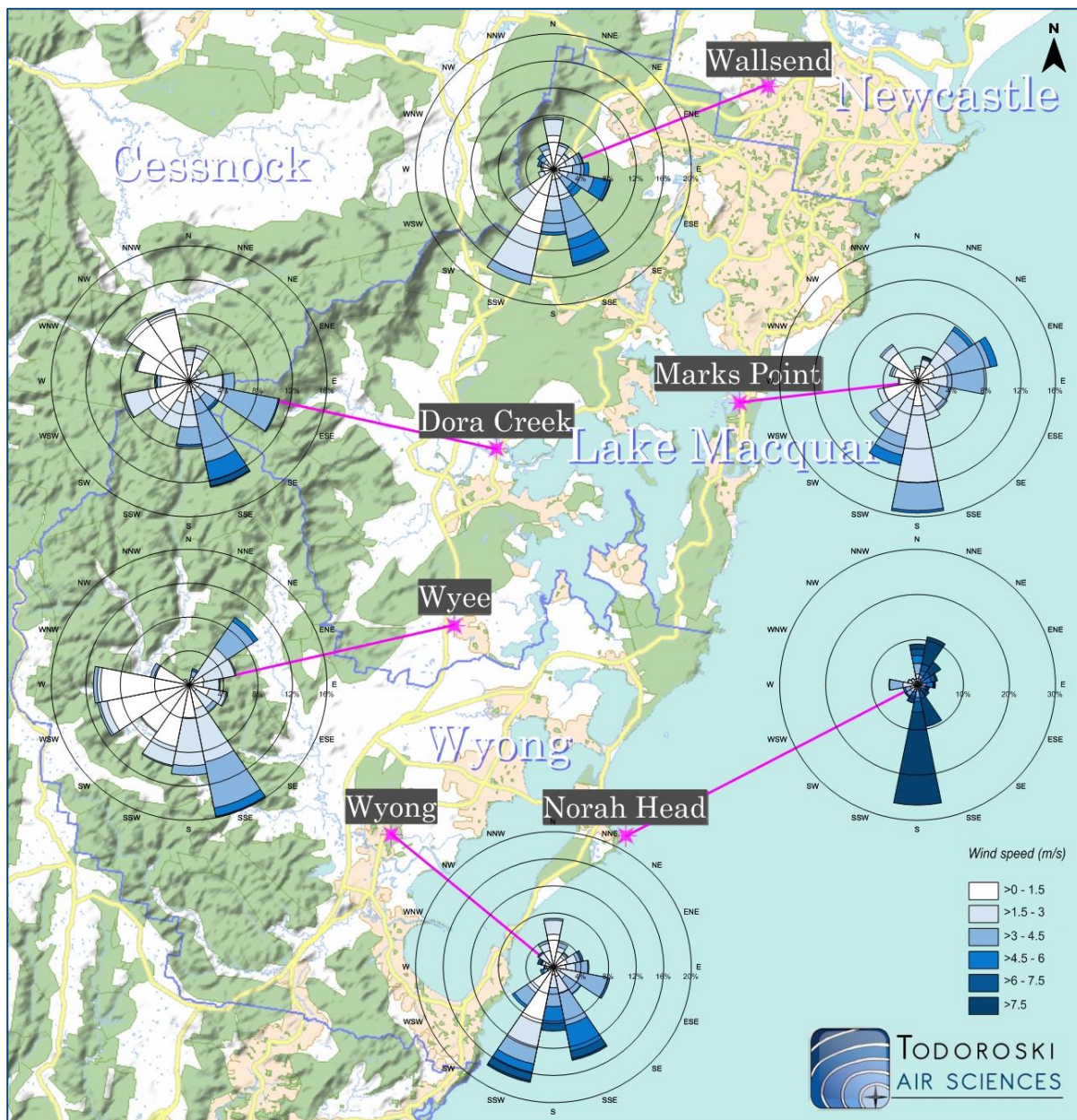

Figure 6-1: November windroses – Wallsend, Dora Creek, Marks Point, Wyee, Norah Head and Wyong

The meteorological stations recorded a similar underlying trend of southerly winds in November 2013. Norah Head experienced higher wind speeds, typical of its unsheltered coastal location.

TODOROSKI AIR SCIENCES | info@airsciences.com.au | 02 9874 2123

7 AMBIENT AIR QUALITY MONITORING DATA

7.1 Preamble

The monitoring data in this report are presented in raw form as provided to Todoroski Air Sciences by the NSW EPA.

The 24-hour average data presented in this report have been averaged using the 1-hour average readings. Days which contain less than 75% data (less than 18 hours of 1-hour average data) have not been included in this report.

All of the monitoring data provided to Todoroski Air Sciences are presented in this report. The data are shown in the results and appendices as relevant. Hourly data are presented in a graphical format in **Appendix B** and 24-hour average data are presented in tabulated format in **Appendix C**.

7.2 Analysis of Monitoring Data

Table 7-1 presents a summary of the maximum pollutant levels measured during November 2013. The results indicate that the Wyong monitoring site recorded a 24-hour average PM_{10} level above the criterion of $50\mu g/m^3$, and both the Wyong and Wallsend monitoring sites recorded 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ levels above the advisory reporting standard of $25\mu g/m^3$. All other data recorded in November were below the relevant criteria.

Table 7-1: Maximum pollutant levels - November 2013

Site	PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$) 24-hour average	$PM_{2.5}$ ($\mu g/m^3$) 24-hour average	SO_2 ($\mu g/m^3$) 24-hour average	NO_2 ($\mu g/m^3$) 1-hour average	SO_2 ($\mu g/m^3$) 1-hour average
	Air Quality Impact Criteria				
	50	25*	228	246	570
Wallsend	45.7	**25.7**	6.8	43.2	39.3
Wyong	**70.2**	**55.8**	11.8	58.3	49.8
Dora Creek	-	-	7.8	47.3	59.4
Marks Point	-	-	8.2	44.3	49.3
Lake Munmorah P.S.	-	-	1.4	39.2	2.2
Wyee	-	-	0.2	54.2	1.2
Wakefield HVAS	13.6	-	-	-	-

* Advisory reporting standard for $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations (refer to Section 5.1)

- Not applicable

7.3 PM_{10}

Figure 7-1 presents all of the 24-hour average PM_{10} monitoring results recorded in the Lake Macquarie - Wyong region in November 2013.

Relative to the Air Quality Index, as shown by the coloured bands in the figure, PM_{10} levels were generally very good or good in November 2013. The Wallsend monitoring site recorded very good or good levels 92% of the time, and fair levels 8% of the time. The Wyong monitoring site recorded very good to good levels 89% of the time, fair levels 7% of the time, and poor levels on one day.

The Wyong monitoring site recorded a 24-hour average PM_{10} level above the criterion of $50\mu g/m^3$ on 3 November 2013. **Section 8** examines the situation on this day in more detail. All other PM_{10} data

recorded at the Lake Macquarie - Wyong monitoring sites were below the 24-hour average PM_{10} criterion level in November 2013.

Figure B-1 to **Figure B-2** in **Appendix B** present the 1-hour average PM_{10} data in graphical form for each individual site. There is no criterion that applies to 1-hour average PM_{10} levels and these 1-hour results are not intended to be compared with the PM_{10} criterion. It is a normal occurrence, and it is expected that in the normal environment 1-hour average PM_{10} levels will fluctuate more significantly than 24-hour average PM_{10} levels.

7.4 PM2.5

Figure 7-2 presents all of the 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ monitoring data recorded in the Lake Macquarie - Wyong region in November 2013.

Relative to the Air Quality Index, as shown by the coloured bands in the figure, the data indicate that $PM_{2.5}$ levels were generally very good or good in November 2013. The Wallsend monitoring site recorded one day with poor levels, and very good to good levels for the remainder of the time in November. The Wyong monitoring site recorded very good or good levels 89% of the time, fair levels 7% of the time and one day with hazardous levels.

The Wallsend and Wyong monitoring sites recorded 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ levels above the advisory reporting standard of $25\mu g/m^3$ on 3 and 8 November 2013 respectively. **Section 8** examines the situation on these days in more detail. All other $PM_{2.5}$ data recorded at the Lake Macquarie - Wyong monitoring sites were below the advisory reporting standard in November 2013.

Figure B-3 to **Figure B-4** in **Appendix B** present the 1-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ data in graphical form for each individual site. There is no criterion that applies to 1-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ levels and these 1-hour results are not intended to be compared with the $PM_{2.5}$ advisory reporting standard. It is a normal occurrence, and it is expected that in the normal environment 1-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ levels will fluctuate more significantly than 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ levels.

7.5 Nitrogen dioxide NO2

Figure 7-3 presents the 1-hour average NO_2 monitoring data recorded in the Lake Macquarie - Wyong region in November 2013.

Relative to the Air Quality Index, as shown by the coloured bands in the figure, the data indicate the NO_2 levels were very good all of the time at all of the monitors.

All data were below the applicable criterion on all days.

7.6 Sulfur dioxide SO2

Figure 7-4 presents the 1-hour average SO_2 monitoring data recorded in the Lake Macquarie - Wyong region in November 2013.

Relative to the Air Quality Index, as shown by the coloured bands in the figure, the data indicate the SO_2 levels were very good all of the time at all of the monitors.

All data were below the applicable criterion on all days.
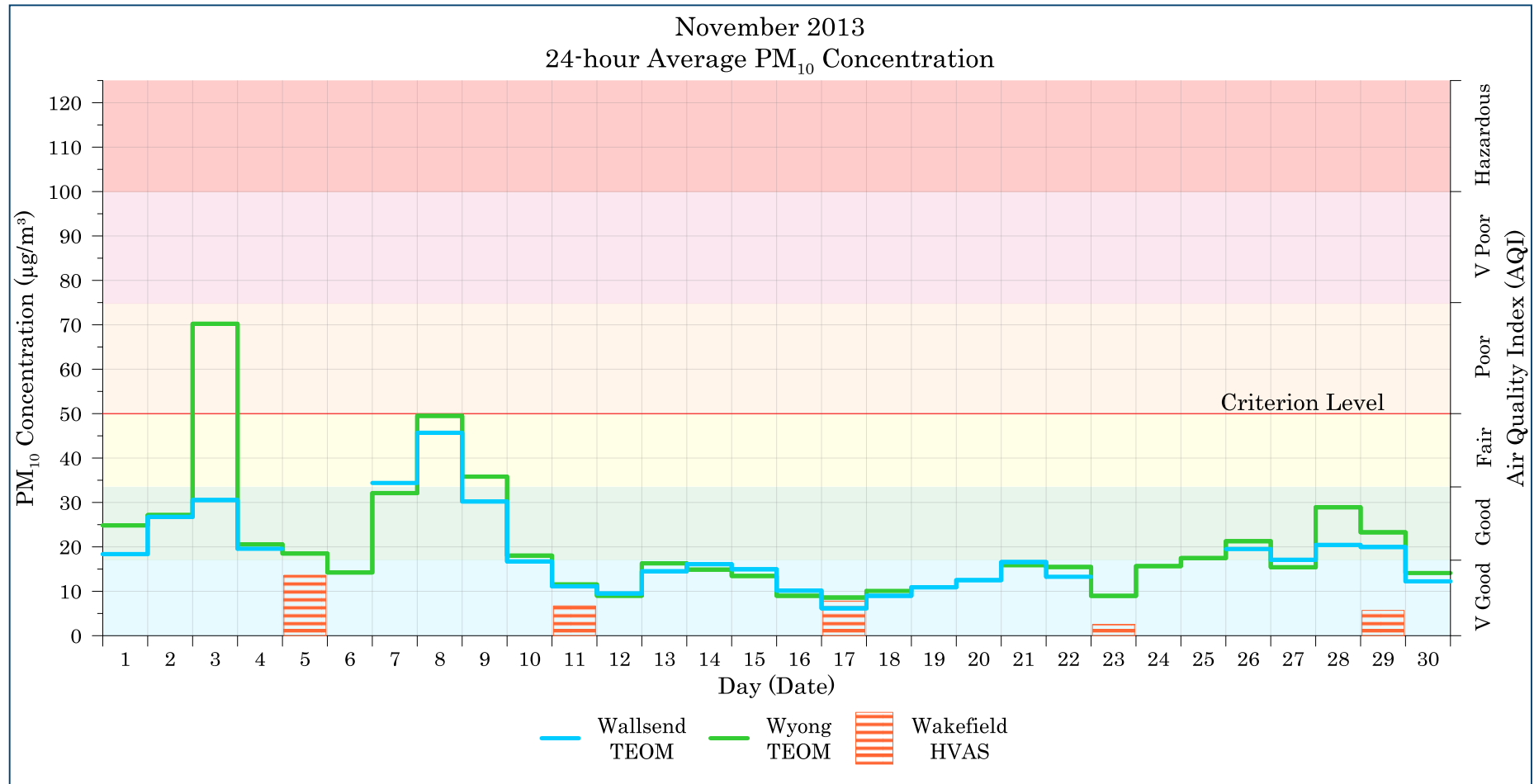
Figure 7-1: Lake Macquarie - Wyong 24-hour average PM$_{10}$ levels – November 2013

PM$_{10}$ levels recorded in November were very good to good 89% and 92% of the time at Wyong and Wallsend respectively. The Wyong monitoring site recorded one day with poor PM$_{10}$ levels above the 24-hour average criterion of 50µg/m^3. All other data recorded at the Lake Macquarie - Wyong monitoring sites were below the criterion in November.

TODOROSKI AIR SCIENCES | info@airsciences.com.au | 02 9874 2123

November 2013
24-hour Average PM$_{2.5}$ Concentration
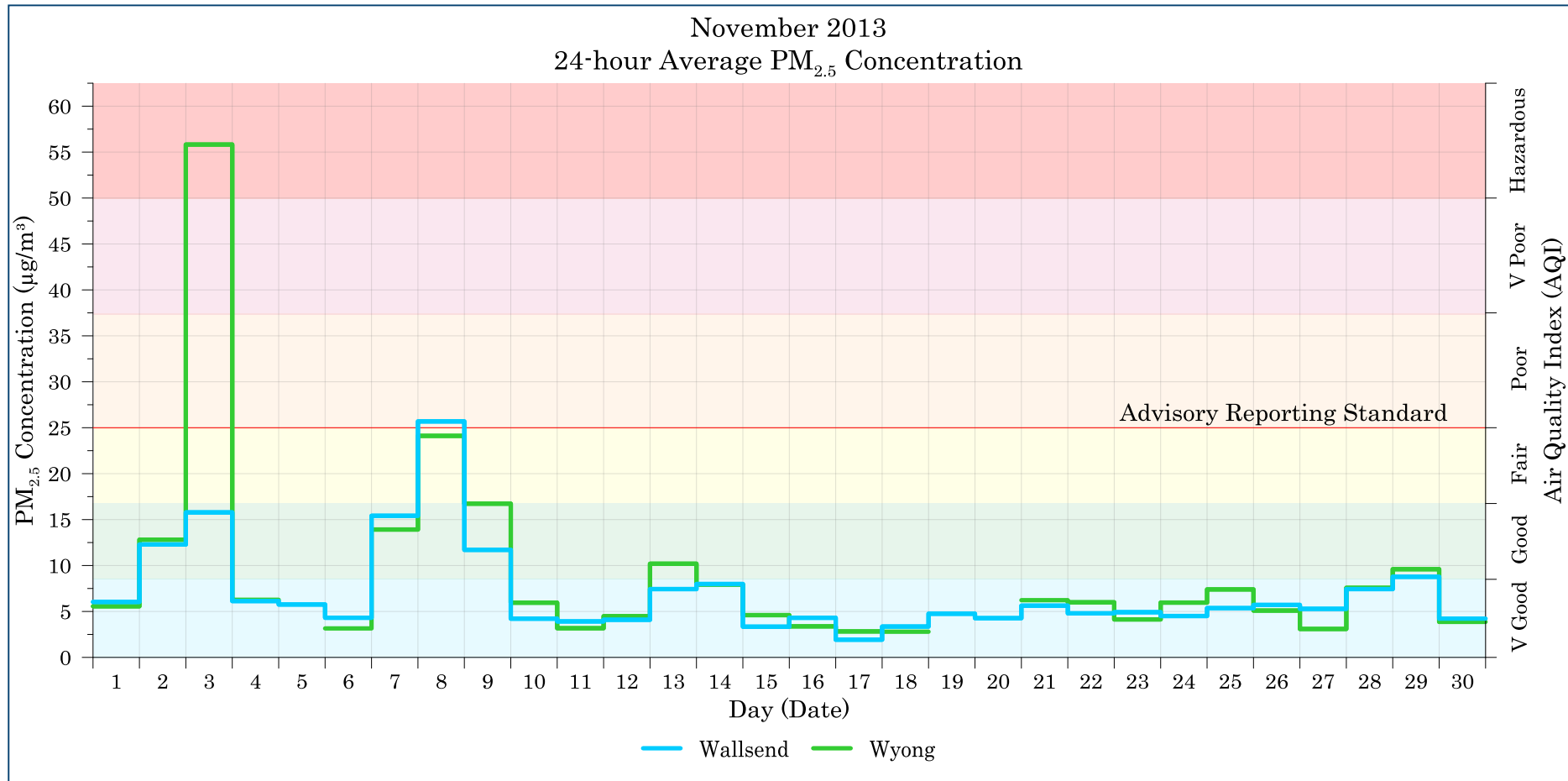
Figure 7-2: Lake Macquarie - Wyong 24-hour average PM$_{2.5}$ levels – November 2013

PM$_{2.5}$ levels recorded in November were very good to good 89% and 73% of the time at Wyong and Wallsend respectively. The Wallsend monitoring site recorded one day of poor levels and the Wyong monitoring site recorded one day of hazardous levels, both of which were above the 24-hour average advisory reporting standard of 25µg/m^3. All other data recorded at the Lake Macquarie - Wyong monitoring sites were below the advisory reporting standard in November.

Figure 7-3: Lake Macquarie - Wyong 1-hour average NO₂ levels – November 2013

All data recorded at the Lake Macquarie - Wyong monitoring sites were below the 1-hour average NO₂ criterion level of 246µg/m³ in November 2013. Measured levels of NO₂ were very good at all monitors at all times.

TODOROSKI AIR SCIENCES | info@airsciences.com.au | O2 9874 2123

Figure 7-4: Lake Macquarie - Wyong 1-hour average SO₂ levels – November 2013

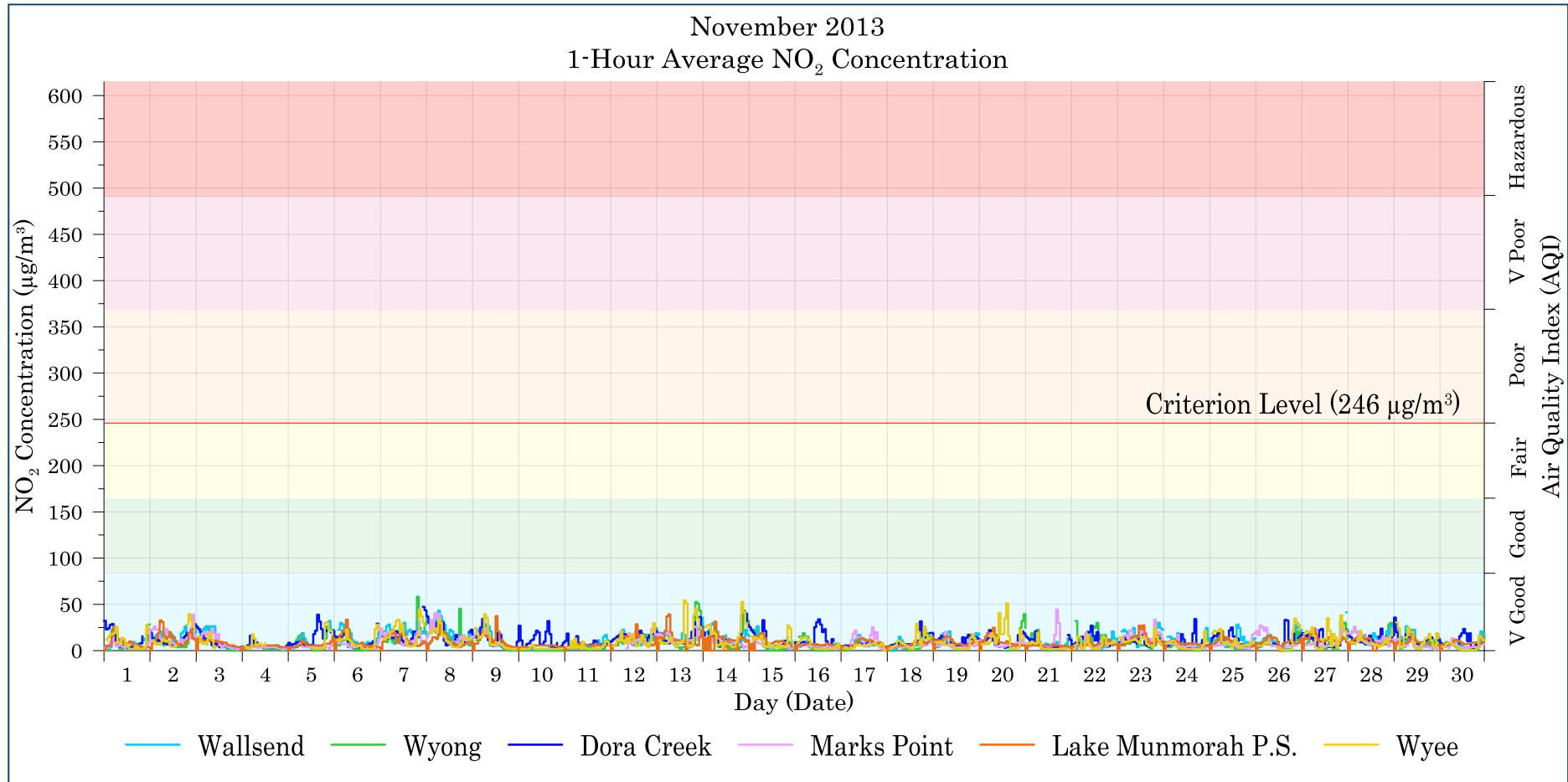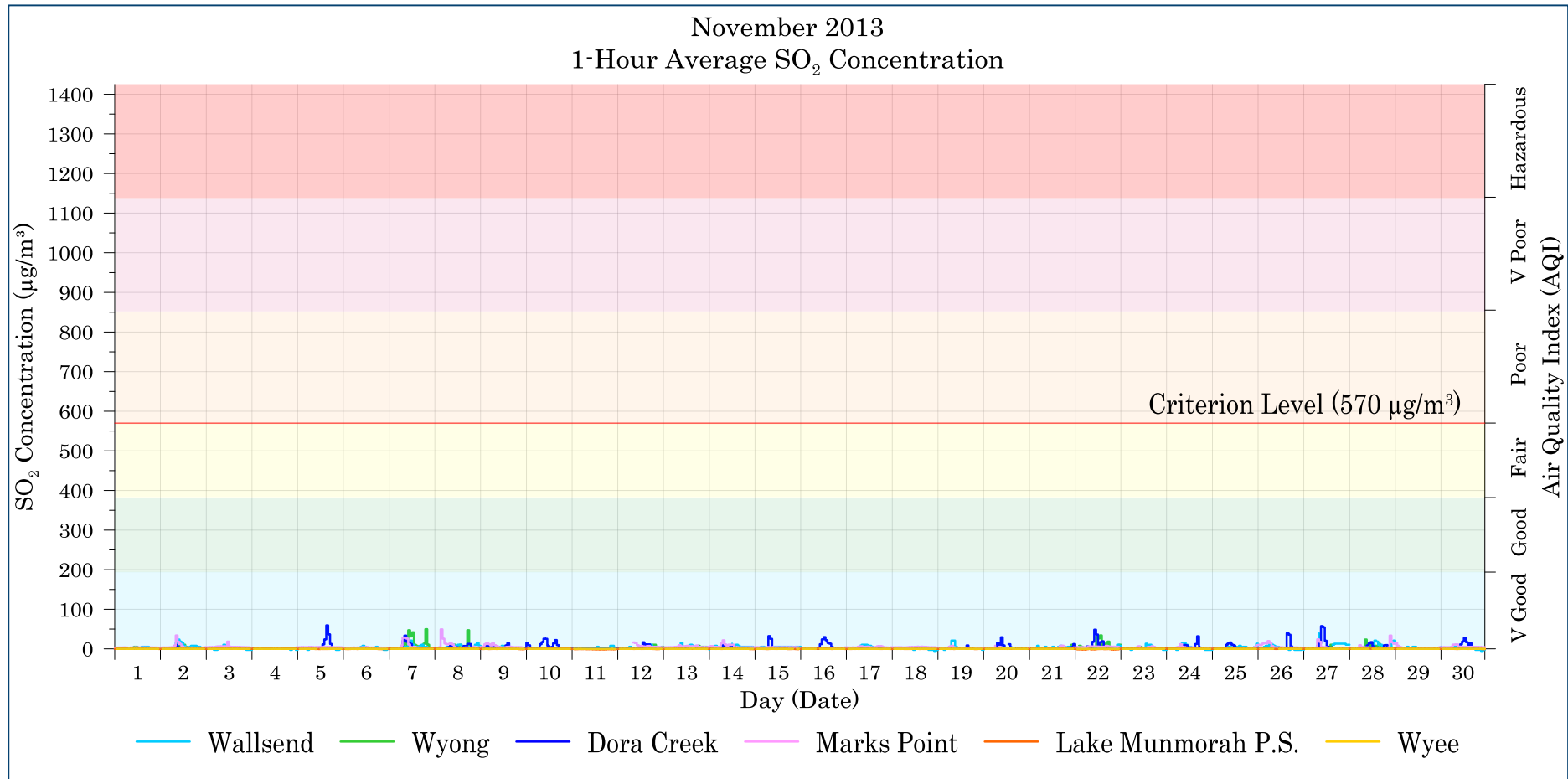All data recorded at the Lake Macquarie - Wyong monitoring sites were below the 1-hour average SO₂ criterion level of 570µg/m³ in November 2013. Measured levels of SO₂ were very good at all monitors at all times.

8 ANALYSIS OF ELEVATED POLLUTANT LEVELS

8.1 Wyong - 3 November 2013

✦ 24-hour average PM_{10} level of 70.2µg/m³

✦ 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ level of 55.8µg/m³

Figure 8-1 presents a plot of the 1-hour average PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ levels recorded at Wyong on 3 November. The wind speed and wind direction data recorded at Wyong and the PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ data recorded at Wallsend have also been included.

The figure shows that the Wyong monitoring site recorded elevated PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ levels on 3 November 2013, primarily between 4am and 10am. These levels occurred during a period of relatively still winds in the early morning when dispersion conditions would have been poor.

The data presented in **Figure 8-1** show that at 8am, 9am and 3pm, the $PM_{2.5}$ levels recorded by the Beta Attenuation Monitor (BAM) at Wyong were higher than the PM_{10} levels recorded by the co-located TEOM monitor. By definition, $PM_{2.5}$ is a subcomponent of PM_{10}, and so it is not possible for there to be more $PM_{2.5}$ than PM_{10} in the air at any place at the same time. However it is not unusual to measure higher levels of $PM_{2.5}$ than PM_{10} on occasions, due to differences between measurement technologies and potentially other technical issues.

Figure 8-2 presents satellite images of the Lake Macquarie - Wyong area and surrounding regions at approximately 2:50pm on 2 November and 3:40pm on 3 November 2013 (**NASA, 2015**). The figure shows that there were numerous bushfires to the west of Wyong, as indicated by the red dots.

The satellite images show that the bushfire smoke travelled toward the Wyong monitoring site at the time of the images. It is likely that the elevated PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ levels recorded at Wyong on 3 November 2013 were caused by the bushfire smoke from fires to the west of the Wyong region.

The data indicate that on this day there was a bushfire that caused poor levels of PM_{10}, and hazardous levels of $PM_{2.5}$ at the Wyong monitoring site.

8.2 Wallsend - 8 November 2013

✦ 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ level of 25.7µg/m³

Figure 8-3 presents a plot of the 1-hour average $PM_{2.5}$, wind speed and wind direction data recorded at Wallsend on 8 November 2013. The 1-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ levels recorded at Wyong have also been included.

The data presented in **Figure 8-3** show that $PM_{2.5}$ levels recorded at both monitors were elevated for the majority of 8 November, regardless of the wind conditions or location of the monitors. This suggests that there may have been a regional event which impacted the particulate levels recorded by all the monitors.

Figure 8-4 presents satellite image of the Lake Macquarie - Wyong area and surrounding regions on 8 November 2013 (**NASA, 2015**). It can be seen from the satellite image that there were numerous

bushfires burning to the west of the monitoring locations, as indicated by the red dots. There were also bushfires present further north of the Lake Macquarie – Wyong region on 8 November.

Given the presence of the bushfires and the smoke plume presented in **Figure 8-4**, it is likely that bushfire smoke from the fires to the west of the Lake Macquarie - Wyong region impacted the elevated 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ level recorded at Wallsend on 8 November.

Figure 8-1: Analysis of elevated PM$_{10}$ levels on 3 November 2013 - Wyong

The Wyong monitoring site recorded elevated PM$_{10}$ and PM$_{2.5}$ levels likely associated with bushfire smoke from fires to the west of the Wyong region.

Source: NASA, 2015

Figure 8-2: Satellite images of Lake Macquarie - Wyong and surrounding regions on 2 and 3 November 2013
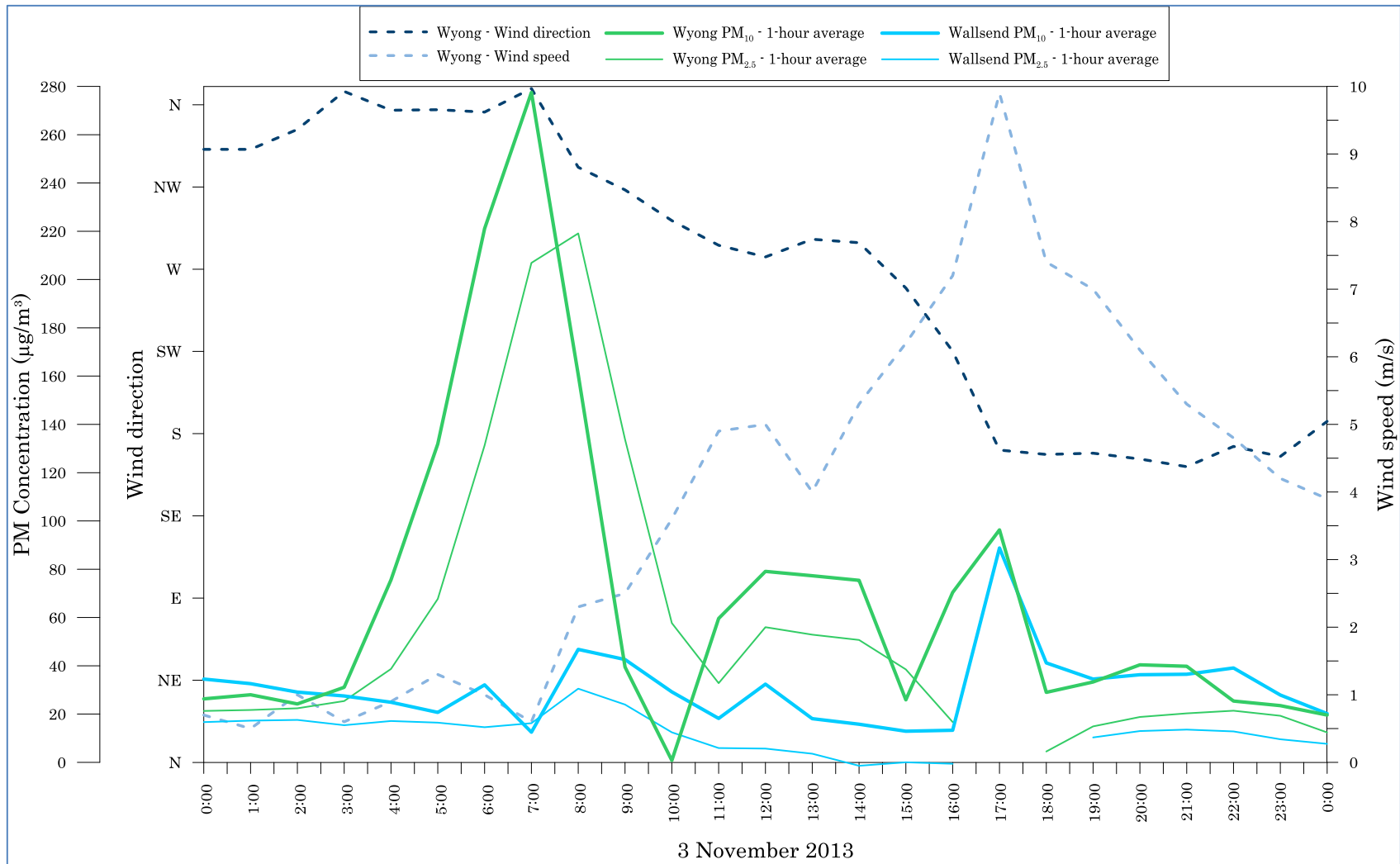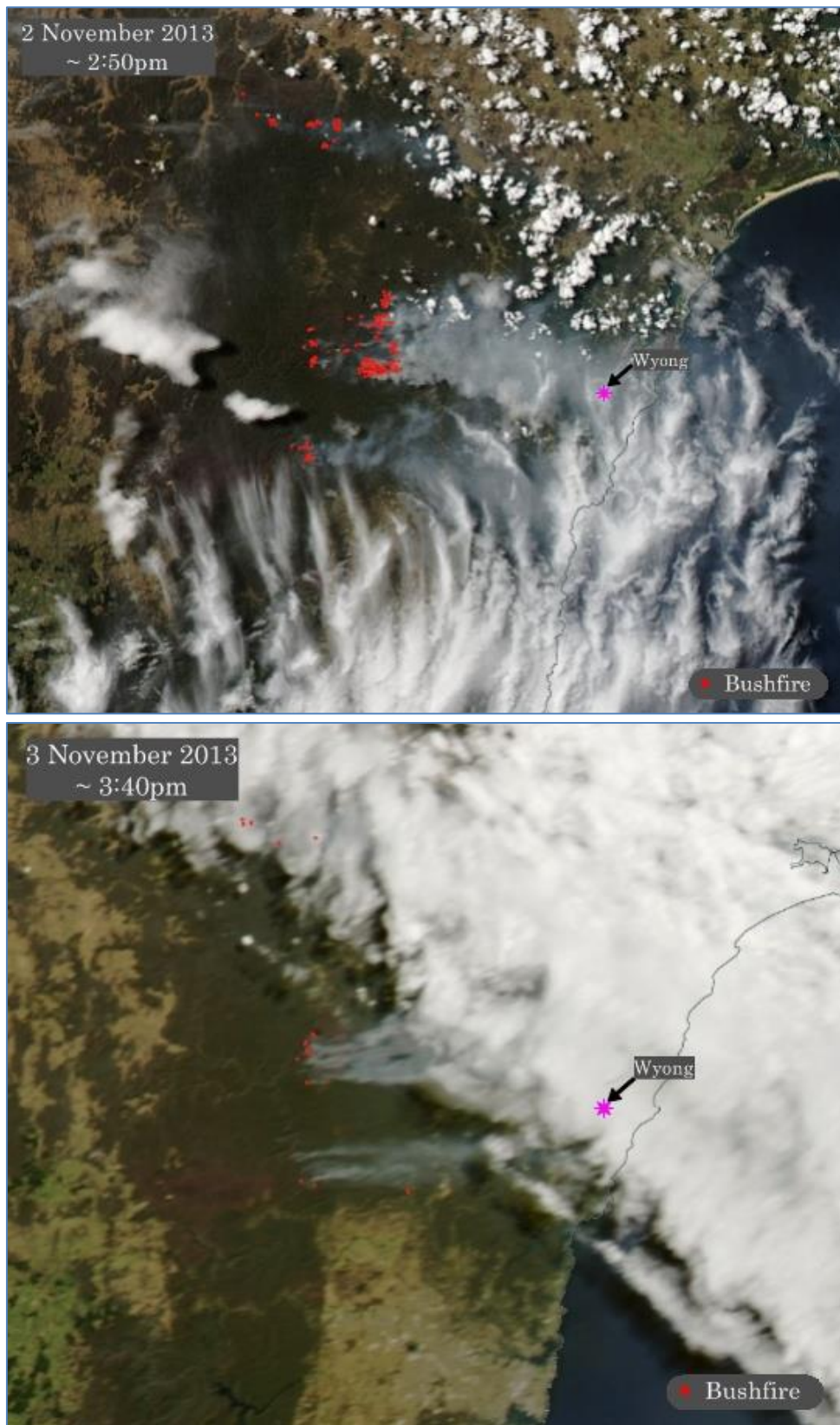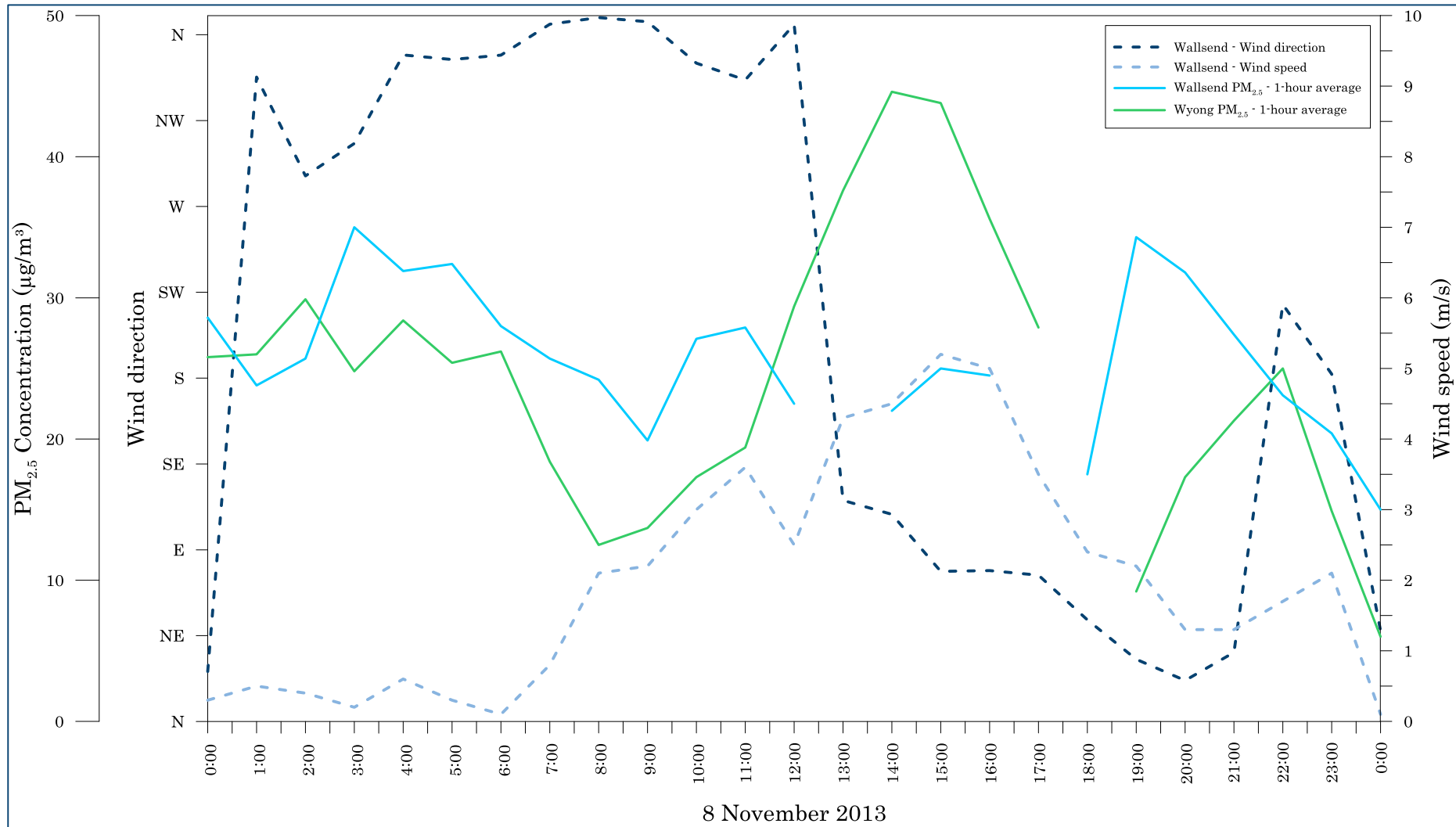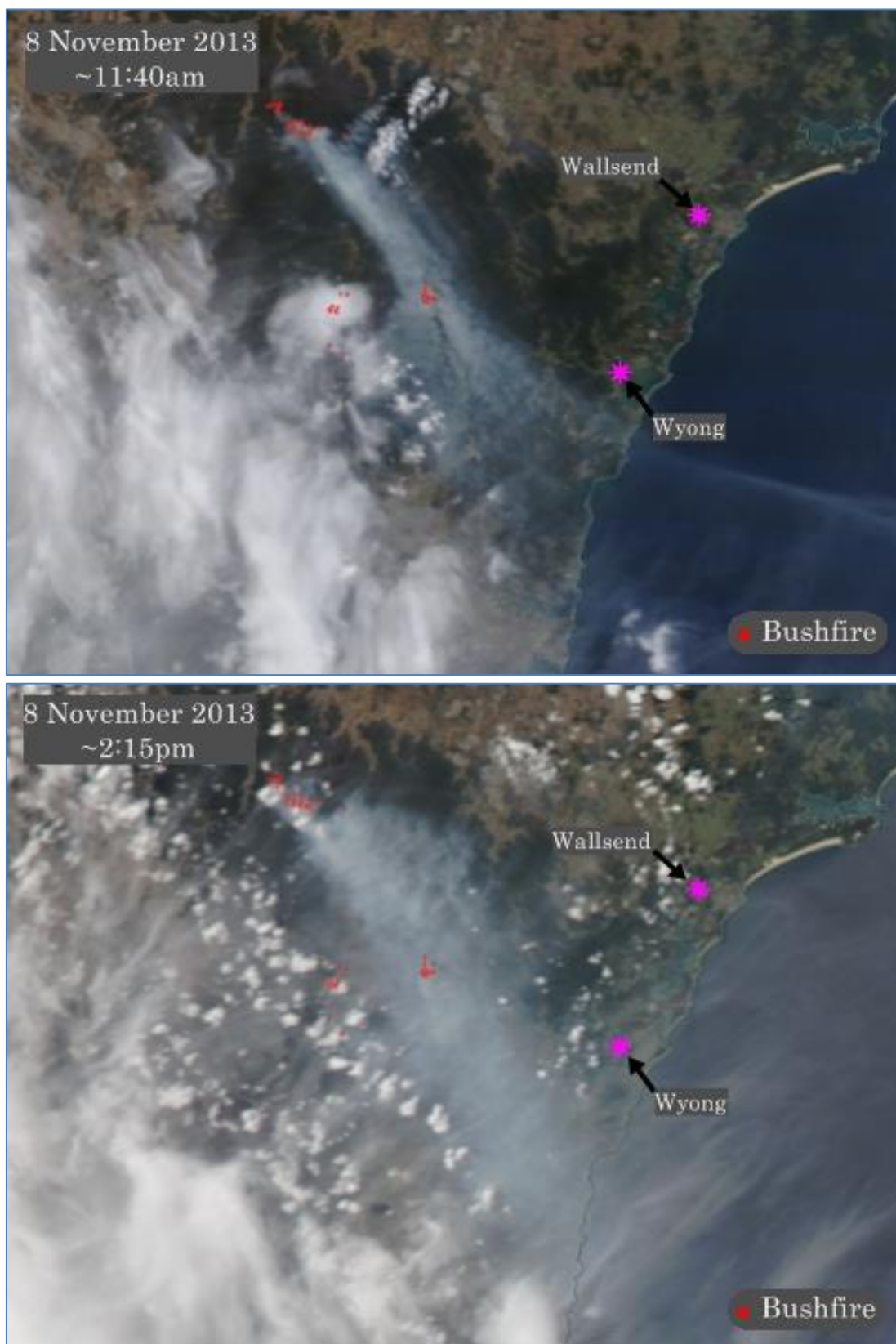
Figure 8-3: Analysis of elevated PM₂.₅ level on 8 November 2013 - Wallsend

The Wallsend monitoring site recorded elevated PM$_{2.5}$ levels likely associated with bushfire smoke from fires to the west of the Lake Macquarie - Wyong region.

Figure 8-4: Satellite images of Lake Macquarie - Wyong and surrounding regions on 8 November 2013

9 CONCLUSIONS

The results indicate that the monitoring stations recorded very good to good air quality for the majority of the time.

On 3 November the Wyong monitoring site recorded 24-hour average PM_{10} levels above criterion of 50µg/m³, and 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ levels above the advisory reporting standard of 25µg/m³. It is likely that the elevated PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ levels recorded on this day were primarily due to smoke from bushfires in the area to the west of the Wyong region.

On 8 November the Wallsend monitor recorded 24-hour average $PM_{2.5}$ levels above the advisory reporting standard of 25µg/m³. It is likely that the $PM_{2.5}$ levels recorded at the monitor were impacted by smoke emitted from bushfires in the area surrounding the Lake Macquarie - Wyong region.

Relative to the Air Quality Index:

+ The measured levels of NO_2 were very good at all monitors at all times;

+ The measured levels of SO_2 were very good at all monitors at all times;

+ The measured levels of $PM_{2.5}$ were generally very good or good in November. Wallsend experienced one day with poor levels and Wyong recorded hazardous levels on one day; and,

+ The measured PM_{10} levels were generally very good or good in November. Wyong recorded poor levels on one day.

On this basis it can be concluded that the air quality in the Lake Macquarie – Wyong region was generally good in November 2013, with the first half of the month being impacted by bushfire activity.

TODOROSKI AIR SCIENCES | info@airsciences.com.au | 02 9874 2123

10 REFERENCES

NEPC (2003)

"Variation to the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure for Particles as $PM_{2.5}$", National Environment Protection Council, May 2003.

NSW DEC (2005)

"Approved Methods for the Modelling and Assessment of Air Pollutants in NSW", Department of Environment and Conservation (NSW), August 2005.

USEPA (2013)

Health Effects of Pollution, United States Environmental Protection Agency website, <http://www.epa.gov/region07/air/quality/health.htm>, accessed May 2013.

NASA (2015)

NASA Worldview Alpha website. <https://earthdata.nasa.gov/labs/worldvew/>, accessed March 2015

TODOROSKI AIR SCIENCES | info@airsciences.com.au | O2 9874 2123

Appendix A

How to read a windrose

TODOROSKI AIR SCIENCES | info@airsciences.com.au | 02 9874 2123
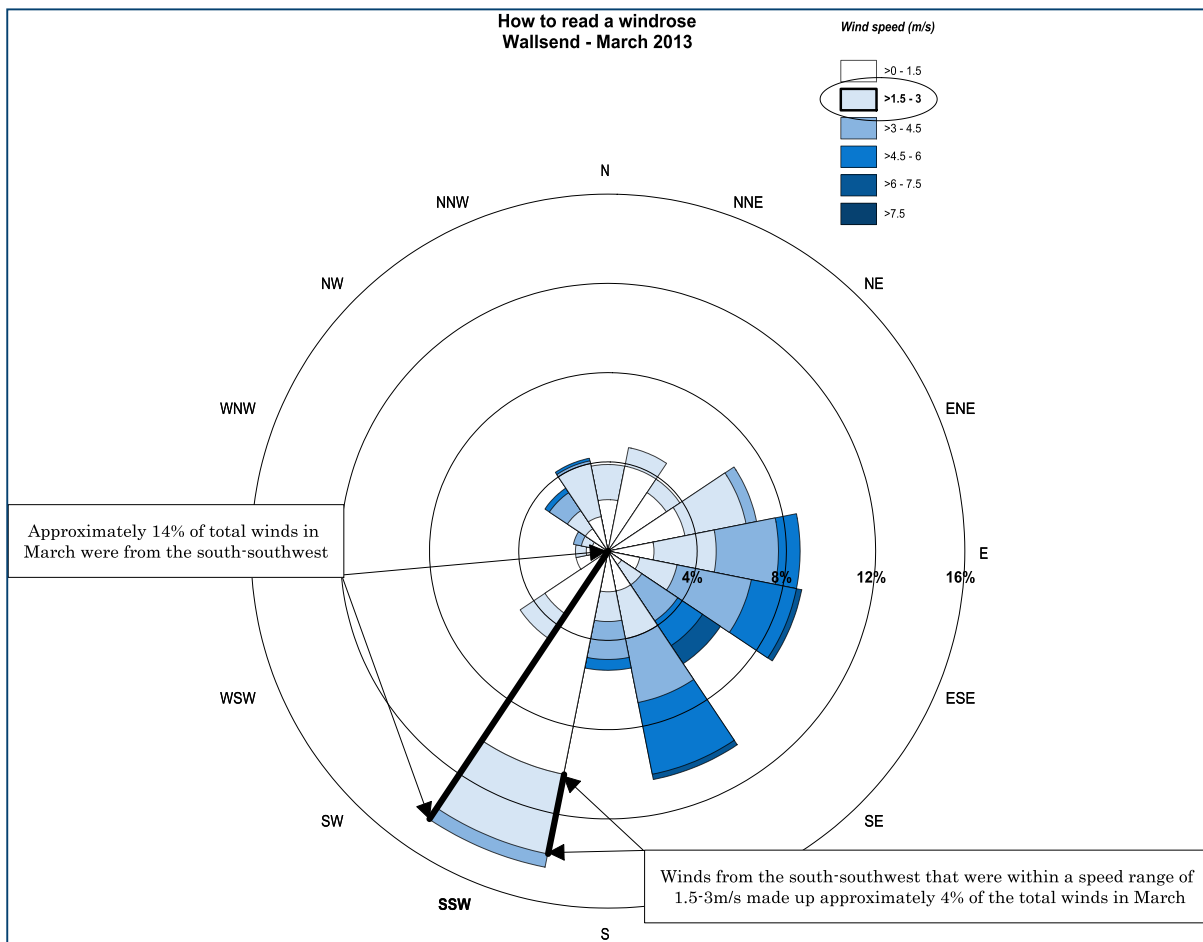
Figure A-1: How to read a windrose

TODOROSKI AIR SCIENCES | info@airsciences.com.au | O2 9874 2123

Appendix B

Monitoring Data (Graphical)
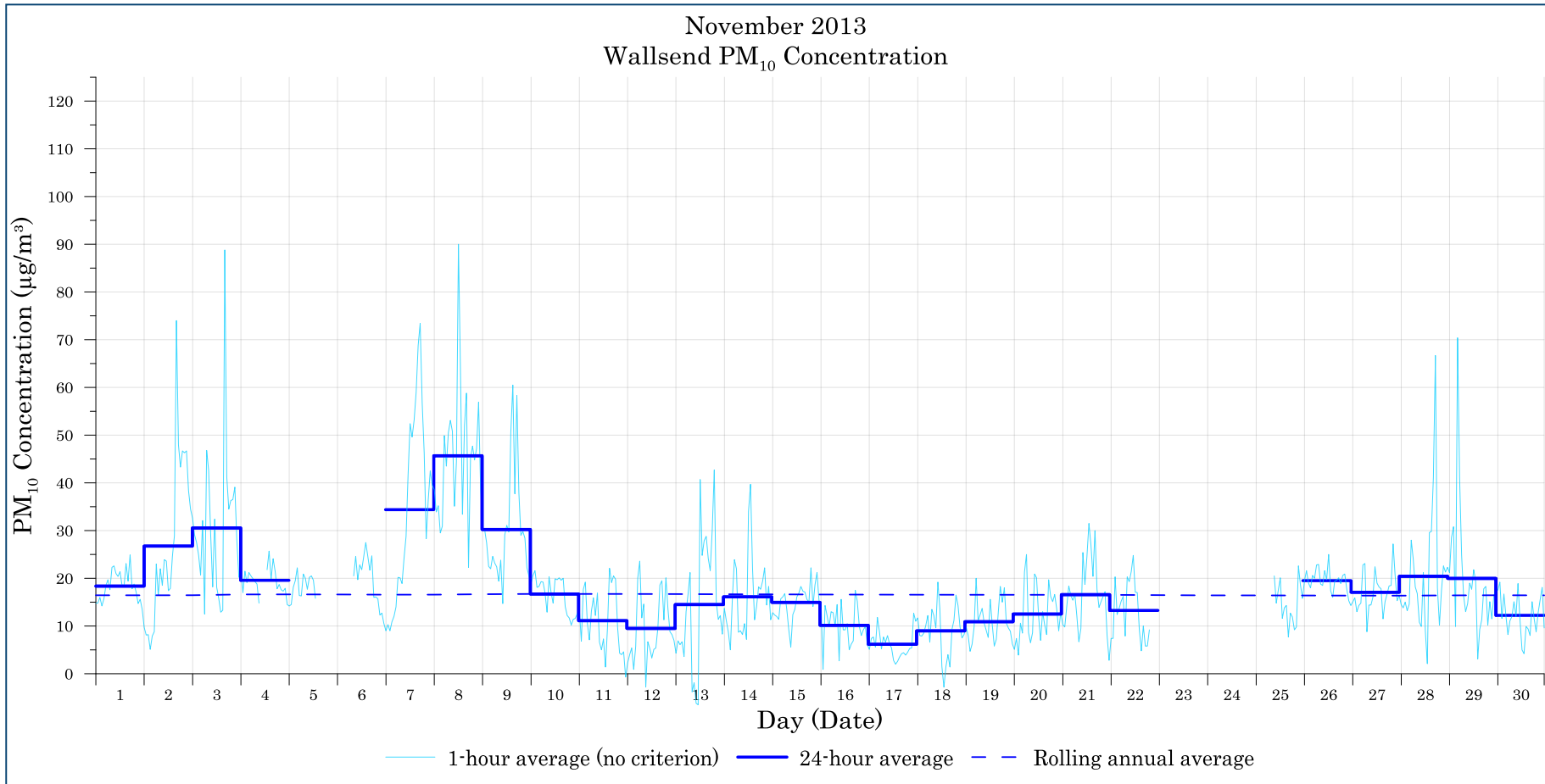
Figure B-1: Wallsend PM₁₀ concentration - November

TODOROSKI AIR SCIENCES | info@airsciences.com.au | 02 9874 2123
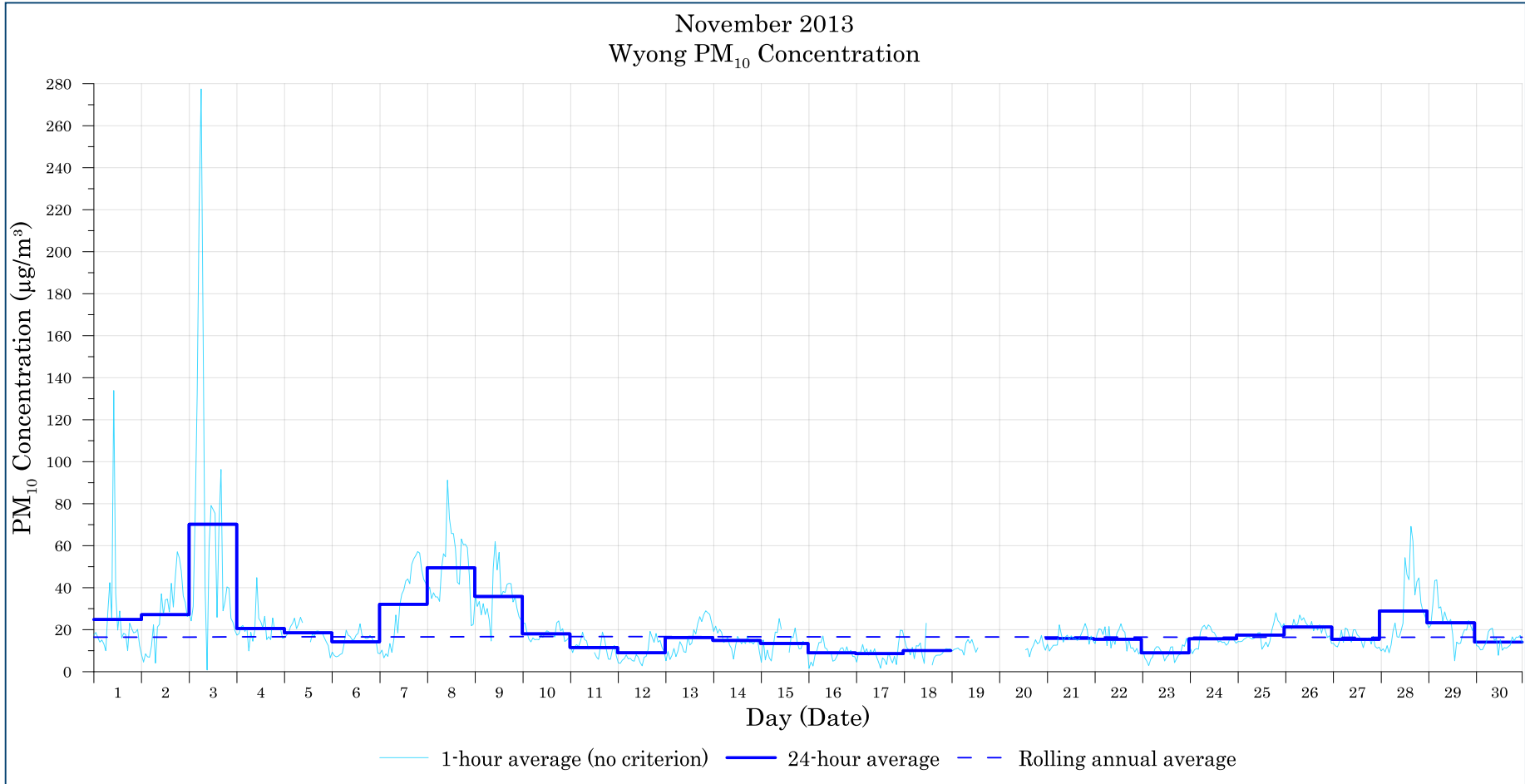
Figure B-2: Wyong PM$_{10}$ concentration - November

TODOROSKI AIR SCIENCES | info@airsciences.com.au | 02 9874 2123
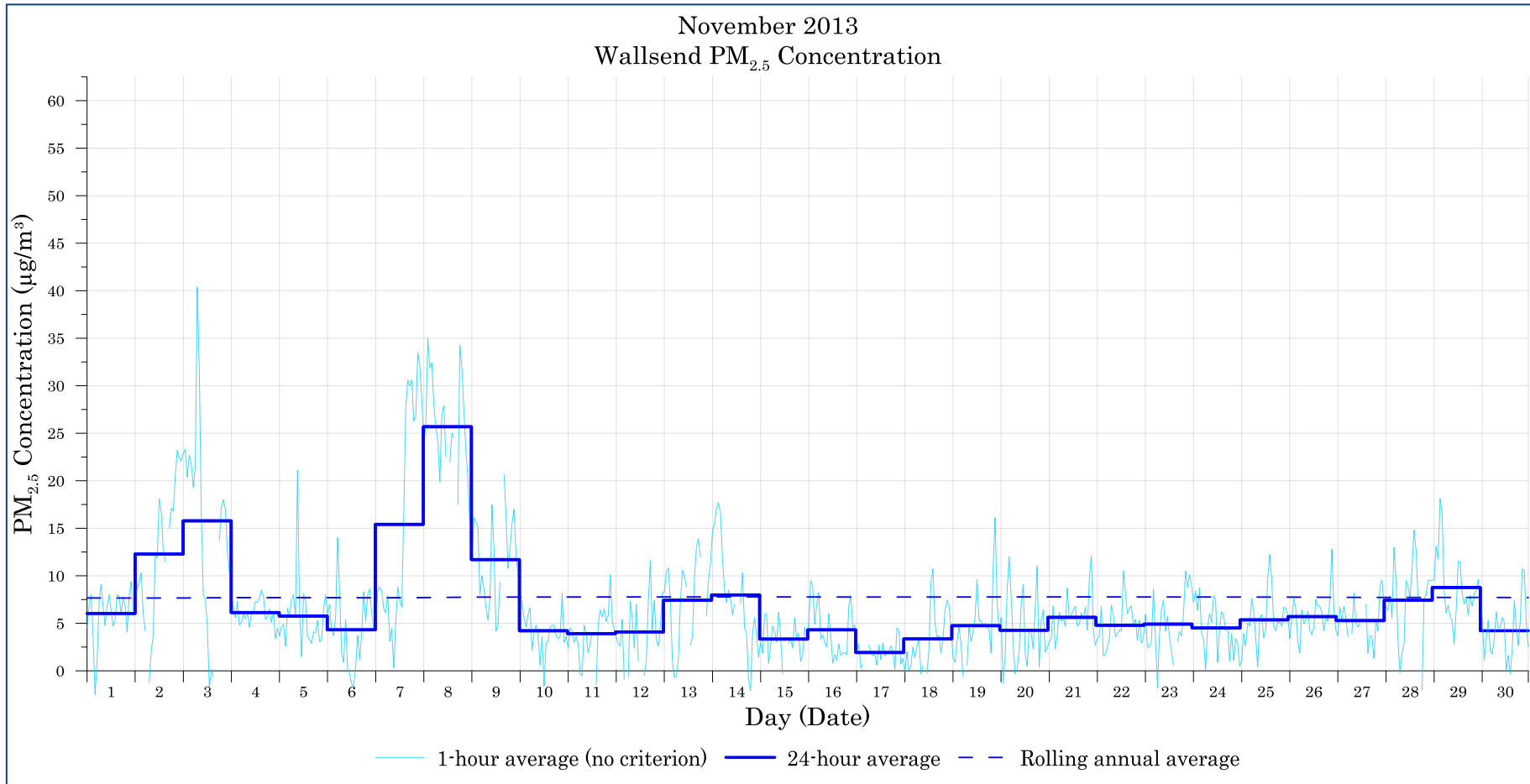
Figure B-3: Wallsend PM$_{2.5}$ concentration - November

TODOROSKI AIR SCIENCES | info@airsciences.com.au | O2 9874 2123
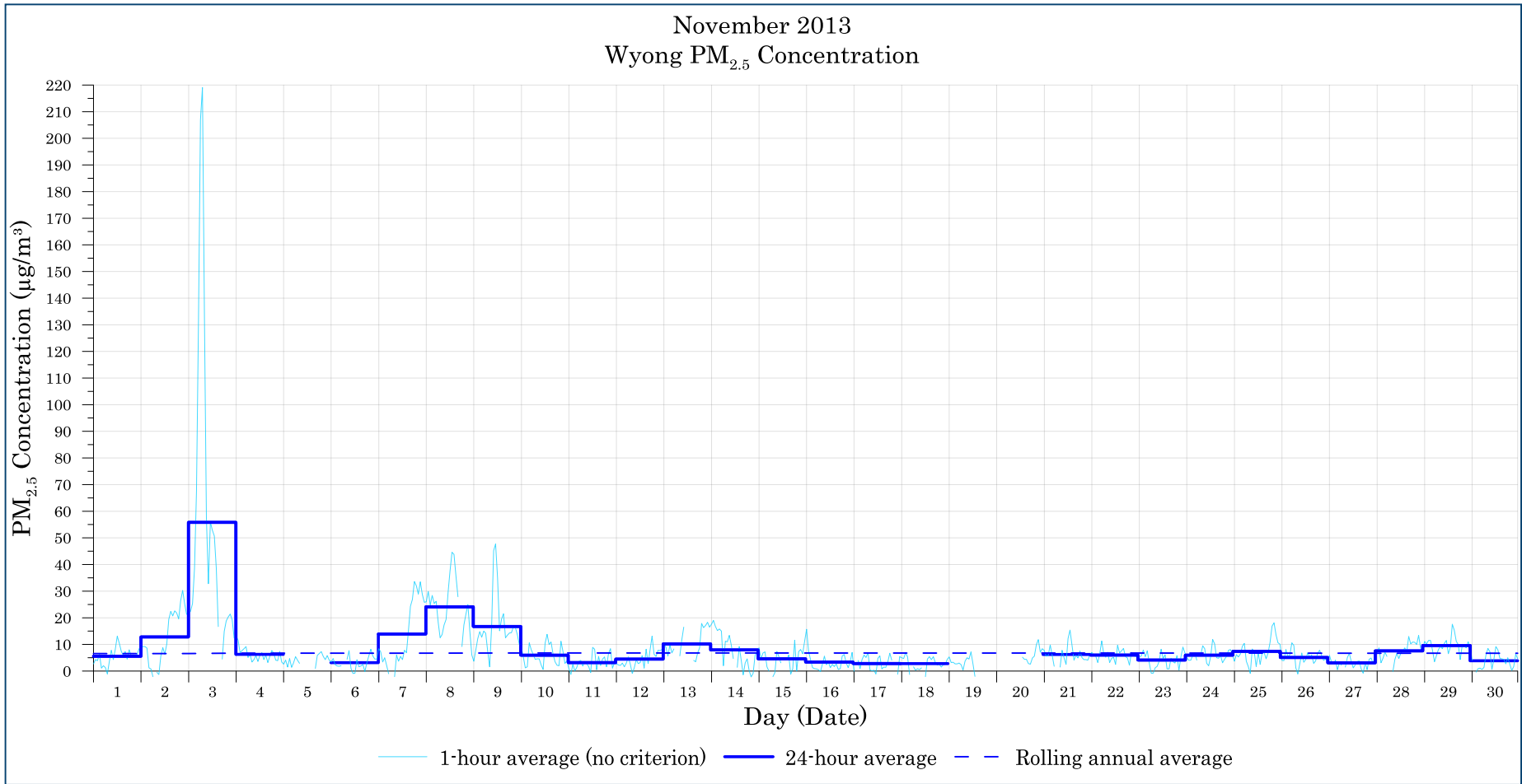
Figure B-4: Wyong PM$_{2.5}$ concentration - November

TODOROSKI AIR SCIENCES | info@airsciences.com.au | 02 9874 2123

Appendix C

Monitoring Data (Tabulated)

TODOROSKI AIR SCIENCES | info@airsciences.com.au | 02 9874 2123

Table C-1: November 24-hour average monitoring data

Date	PM$_{10}$ (µg/m³)		PM$_{2.5}$ (µg/m³)		SO$_2$ (µg/m³)					
	Wallsend	Wyong	Wallsend	Wyong	Wallsend	Wyong	Dora Creek	Marks Point	Lake Munmorah P.S.	Wyee
01/11/2013	18.4	24.8	6.0	5.6	1.9	0.6	0.0	3.4	0.6	0.0
02/11/2013	26.7	27.2	12.3	12.8	6.4	2.6	1.4	6.0	0.4	0.0
03/11/2013	30.6	70.2	15.8	55.8	0.6	1.7	0.6	5.3	0.6	0.0
04/11/2013	19.6	20.6	6.1	6.3	0.9	0.2	0.1	1.7	0.8	0.0
05/11/2013	-	18.5	5.8	-	0.0	0.0	6.3	4.2	-0.1	0.0
06/11/2013	-	14.2	4.3	3.2	1.6	0.5	0.1	3.2	-0.1	0.0
07/11/2013	34.4	32.1	15.4	13.9	4.8	11.8	5.3	6.6	1.1	0.1
08/11/2013	45.7	49.5	25.7	24.1	6.3	5.5	3.6	8.2	1.4	0.0
09/11/2013	30.2	35.8	11.7	16.7	1.9	1.6	3.3	6.4	-0.1	0.0
10/11/2013	16.7	18.0	4.2	6.0	1.1	0.0	7.5	-	0.7	0.0
11/11/2013	11.1	11.5	3.9	3.2	2.6	0.0	0.0	-	-0.9	0.0
12/11/2013	9.5	9.0	4.1	4.5	3.2	2.8	2.8	-	0.0	0.0
13/11/2013	14.5	16.3	7.4	10.2	3.2	2.5	1.8	5.5	0.1	0.1
14/11/2013	16.1	14.9	8.0	7.9	6.1	1.1	2.0	6.8	0.0	0.0
15/11/2013	15.0	13.4	3.3	4.6	4.2	0.1	2.7	4.1	-0.1	0.0
16/11/2013	10.1	9.0	4.3	3.4	1.4	0.0	5.3	2.4	0.3	0.0
17/11/2013	6.2	8.6	1.9	2.8	3.9	0.0	0.0	4.6	-0.1	0.0
18/11/2013	9.0	10.1	3.4	2.8	-0.2	0.2	0.1	4.2	-0.1	0.0
19/11/2013	10.9	-	4.8	-	3.0	-	0.5	2.9	0.1	0.0
20/11/2013	12.5	-	4.3	-	-	-	3.8	-	0.2	0.2
21/11/2013	16.6	15.9	5.6	6.2	3.9	1.7	1.1	2.9	0.7	0.0
22/11/2013	13.3	15.5	4.8	6.0	1.9	7.6	7.8	5.2	-0.8	0.0
23/11/2013	-	9.0	4.9	4.1	1.7	1.7	0.1	2.8	1.4	0.0
24/11/2013	-	15.7	4.5	6.0	2.6	0.0	3.1	3.6	0.8	0.0
25/11/2013	-	17.5	5.4	7.4	2.8	0.3	2.6	2.2	0.5	0.0
26/11/2013	19.5	21.3	5.7	5.1	2.7	0.0	3.7	6.5	0.3	0.0
27/11/2013	17.1	15.4	5.3	3.1	-	1.0	7.2	4.3	0.2	0.1
28/11/2013	20.4	28.9	7.4	7.6	6.8	5.4	3.9	5.2	0.5	0.1
29/11/2013	20.0	23.3	8.8	9.6	2.5	0.3	0.1	3.1	0.3	0.0
30/11/2013	12.2	14.1	4.2	3.9	0.0	0.0	4.5	5.3	-0.1	0.0

- Not applicable

Table C-2: November 24-hour average HVAS monitoring data

Date	PM$_{10}$ (HVAS) (µg/m³)
	Wakefield (Westside)
5/11/2013	13.6
11/11/2013	6.7
17/11/2013	7.8
23/11/2013	2.5
29/11/2013	5.7

- Not applicable

Table C-3: 3 November 2013 1-hour average monitoring data

Date	Time	WS (m/s)	WD (°)	PM$_{10}$ (µg/m³)		PM$_{2.5}$ (µg/m³)	
		Wyong		Wallsend	Wyong	Wallsend	Wyong
02/11/2013	24:00	0.7	335.6	34.5	26.3	22.1	21.3
03/11/2013	01:00	0.5	335.6	32.6	28.0	22.9	21.7
03/11/2013	02:00	1.0	346.5	29.1	24.2	23.3	22.4
03/11/2013	03:00	0.6	367.3	27.5	31.1	20.4	25.4
03/11/2013	04:00	0.9	357.0	24.9	75.6	22.7	38.7
03/11/2013	05:00	1.3	357.3	20.7	131.9	21.8	67.7
03/11/2013	06:00	1.0	356.0	32.1	221.1	19.3	131.3
03/11/2013	07:00	0.6	368.9	12.5	277.5	21.5	206.9
03/11/2013	08:00	2.3	325.8	46.8	160.6	40.4	219.1
03/11/2013	09:00	2.5	313.4	42.6	39.5	31.7	133.8

Date	Time	WS (m/s)	WD (º)	PM₁₀ (µg/m³)		PM₂.₅ (µg/m³)	
		Wyong		Wallsend	Wyong	Wallsend	Wyong
03/11/2013	10:00	3.6	296.6	29.2	0.8	16.5	57.7
03/11/2013	11:00	4.9	283.1	18.2	59.6	7.9	32.8
03/11/2013	12:00	5.0	276.7	32.4	79.1	7.6	56.0
03/11/2013	13:00	4.0	286.4	18.1	77.3	4.8	52.9
03/11/2013	14:00	5.3	284.5	15.8	75.4	-1.8	50.7
03/11/2013	15:00	6.2	259.7	12.9	25.9	0.1	38.5
03/11/2013	16:00	7.2	225.1	13.3	70.4	-0.7	16.7
03/11/2013	17:00	9.9	171.0	88.8	96.3		
03/11/2013	18:00	7.4	168.6	41.2	29.0		4.5
03/11/2013	19:00	7.0	169.3	34.5	33.3	13.7	14.9
03/11/2013	20:00	6.1	166.1	36.3	40.4	17.2	18.8
03/11/2013	21:00	5.3	161.9	36.5	39.8	18.0	20.3
03/11/2013	22:00	4.8	173.0	39.1	25.4	17.0	21.4
03/11/2013	23:00	4.2	167.5	27.9	23.5	12.7	19.3
03/11/2013	24:00	3.9	186.7	20.2	19.6	10.2	12.4
04/11/2013	01:00	4.3	182.3	22.3	17.4	8.1	13.1

- Not applicable

Table C-4: 8 November 2013 1-hour average monitoring data

Date	Time	WS (m/s)	WD (º)	PM₂.₅ (µg/m³)	
		Wallsend		Wallsend	Wyong
07/11/2013	24:00	0.3	26.2	28.6	25.8
08/11/2013	01:00	0.5	337.8	23.8	26.0
08/11/2013	02:00	0.4	286.0	25.7	29.9
08/11/2013	03:00	0.2	303.0	35.0	24.8
08/11/2013	04:00	0.6	349.4	31.9	28.4
08/11/2013	05:00	0.3	347.0	32.4	25.4
08/11/2013	06:00	0.1	349.3	28.0	26.2
08/11/2013	07:00	0.8	365.5	25.7	18.4
08/11/2013	08:00	2.1	369.0	24.2	12.5
08/11/2013	09:00	2.2	366.8	19.9	13.7
08/11/2013	10:00	3.0	345.1	27.1	17.3
08/11/2013	11:00	3.6	336.3	27.9	19.4
08/11/2013	12:00	2.5	365.4	22.5	29.4
08/11/2013	13:00	4.3	115.9	-	37.6
08/11/2013	14:00	4.5	108.6	22.0	44.6
08/11/2013	15:00	5.2	78.7	25.0	43.8
08/11/2013	16:00	5.0	79.1	24.5	35.6
08/11/2013	17:00	3.5	76.7	-	27.9
08/11/2013	18:00	2.4	53.3	17.5	-
08/11/2013	19:00	2.2	32.6	34.3	9.2
08/11/2013	20:00	1.3	21.5	31.8	17.3
08/11/2013	21:00	1.3	36.2	27.4	21.3
08/11/2013	22:00	1.7	218.6	23.1	25.0
08/11/2013	23:00	2.1	182.1	20.4	14.9
08/11/2013	24:00	0.1	47.5	15.0	6.0
09/11/2013	01:00	0.7	332.4	11.9	3.7

- Not applicable