7 CLIMATE

7.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides further climate-related information for the Supplementary Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), in response to various submissions on the EIS. The information presented builds on the EIS, Volume 1, Chapter 7 Climate and should be read in conjunction with the EIS chapter. This chapter provides further information on weather station sites and bushfire management.

7.2 METHODOLOGY OF ASSESSMENT

Taroom and Miles are the locations of the closest Bureau of Meteorology sites to the MLA areas with sufficient long-term climatic data. Climatic data from Taroom and Miles Bureau of Meteorology sites and the Jondale weather station were used in the EIS given the large area covered by the Project, including the proposed CSM water supply pipelines, and also to gain a greater understanding of the regional weather patterns across the broader area surrounding the MLA areas. The Jondale weather station is owned by the Wandoan Joint Venture, with management of the equipment by Ecowise Environmental.

The Bureau of Meteorology's Woleebee Nevasa weather station (site 035081) is located in close proximity to the Project area. The purpose of this station is to provide rainfall data to accompany nearby river height monitoring stations. The station only collects rainfall data, and this data is not continuous, with between 1 and 24 observations per day (Bureau of Meteorology 2008). The data from the Woleebee Navasa weather station was not of suitable quality for the purposes of the EIS.

The long-term rainfall trends at the Woleebee Nevasa weather station are similar to the rainfall trends presented in the EIS Volume 1, Chapter 7 Climate, sections 7.2 and 7.3, being an annual average of 606 mm, with the majority of these falls occurring during the summer months (Bureau of Meteorology 2009). However, incomplete data from the Woleebee Nevasa weather station from approximately 2003 until present, means the Woleebee Nevasa weather station cannot directly be compared to the Jondale weather station.

7.3 RAINFALL

7.4 TEMPERATURE

7.5 HUMIDITY

7.6 WIND CONDITIONS

7.7 NATURAL HAZARDS

7.8 POTENTIAL ISSUES AND IMPACTS

As discussed in the EIS, Chapter 7 Climate, section 7.7.3, the majority of the Project area and surroundings is classified as being 'low bushfire hazard'. The agricultural nature of the site, including low fuel loads, contributes to the low bushfire hazard rating.

Measures to manage the risk of bushfires will include maintaining appropriate fuel loads on WJV owned land, through cattle grazing and other means, and ensuring appropriate buffer distances and fire breaks around asset protection zones, including WJV, public and other privately owned assets. These and other measures to manage bushfire risks will be contained in a bushfire management procedure under the Project's land and biodiversity management plan, as further described in the EIS and Supplementary EIS Volume 1, Chapter 17A Terrestrial Ecology.

The bushfire management procedures will also address matters associated with the likely direction of bushfire attack and environmental values that may limit mitigation options. The procedure will apply to the MLA areas, the biodiversity offset areas and other WJV owned land associated with the Project.

7.9 REFERENCES

Bureau of Meteorology, 2008. *Basic Climatological Station Metadata – Woleebee Nevasa,* Australian Government, compiled 15 January 2008.

Bureau of Meteorology, 2009. Monthly rainfall – Woleebee Navasa. Australian Government. Available from http://www.bom.gov.au/jsp/ncc/cdio/weatherData/av?p_nccObsCode=18&p_display_type=dataFile&p_stn_num=035081. Accessed on 1 June 2009.