

# Environmental Matters

Geelong Refinery

Record updated on 31 December 2025

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Table – 2025 Environmental Matters

Date	Activity	Licence Condition	Description	Outcome
31 December 2025	Q4 water testing results	OL_DW02	From October to December, 460 laboratory tests were conducted on water discharged from the refinery.	99% of water test results were within licence limits.
31 December 2025	Q4 water recycling results	OL_DW02	From October to December, 42% of the water used at the refinery was recycled water.	192,695 ML of potable water was saved.
21 November 2023	SO2 exceedance	OL_DA01.27	Due to ongoing issues relating to the external power outage the sulphur recovery unit tripped during restart resulting in the Refinery sulphur dioxide bubble limit being exceeded. There was no impact on the community. There was no sulphur detected beyond the refinery boundary based on ambient air quality monitoring data.	The incident was reported to the EPA. The unit was returned to normal operations.
20 November 2023	SO2 exceedance	OL_DA01.27	During the restart process to restore the sulphur recovery unit operation, conditions in the unit resulted in the stack sulphur limit being exceeded. There was no impact on the community. There was no sulphur detected beyond the refinery boundary based on ambient air quality monitoring data.	The incident was reported to the EPA. The unit was returned to normal operations.
13 November 2023	SO2 exceedance	OL_DA01.27	Due to an external power outage multiple units, including the sulphur recovery unit, tripped resulting in the Refinery sulphur dioxide bubble limit being exceeded. There was no impact on the community. There was no sulphur detected beyond the refinery boundary based on ambient air quality monitoring data.	The incident was reported to the EPA. The unit was returned to normal operations.
3 November 2025	Discharge outside licence limit	OL_DW02	Annual Median Zinc concentrations were reported as exceeding licence limits at Refinery W1 Outfall for the period FY25. There was no impact to marine or plant life observed.	The incident was reported to the EPA.
3 November 2025	Discharge outside licence limit	OL_DW02	Annual Mean Flow Rates were reported as exceeding licence limits at Refinery W1, W4 and W5 Outfalls for the period FY25. There was no impact to the marine environment observed.	The incident was reported to the EPA.
13 October 2025	Visible plume	OL_DA2	The Crude Distillation Unit was being returned to service from maintenance when, on 30 May during the re-start, there was instability of feed and temperature within the unit that resulted in a visible smoky plume that was observed at around 12pm for approx. 15 minutes.	The incident was reported to the EPA. The unit affected was returned to normal operations.
30 September 2025	Q3 water testing results	OL_DW02	From July to September, 455 laboratory tests were conducted on water discharged from the refinery.	100% of water test results were within licence limits.
30 September 2025	Q3 water recycling results	OL_DW02	From July to September, 30% of the water used at the refinery was recycled water.	138,391 ML of potable water was saved.
3 August 2025	Community Complaint	G_02	Community enquiry via EPA, FRV and Refinery Gatehouse regarding odour emanating from Refinery. Source identified as T251. Mitigation works completed to cease odour.	The incident was reported via the EPA.
30 June 2025	Q2 water testing results	OL_DW02	From April to June, 460 laboratory tests were conducted on water discharged from the refinery.	100% of water test results were within licence limits.
30 June 2025	Q2 water recycling results	OL_DW02	From April to June, 66% of the water used at the refinery was recycled water.	324,761 ML of potable water was saved.
25 June 2025	Community Complaint	G_02	Community enquiry via EPA regarding ongoing noise emanating from the Refinery cracker due to linework repair. Mitigation works completed to reduce noise implemented. Upcoming major maintenance event will replace linework issue.	The incident was reported via the EPA.

30 May 2025	Visible plume	OL_DA2	The Crude Distillation Unit was being returned to service from maintenance when, on 30 May during the re-start, there was instability of feed and temperature within the unit that resulted in a visible smoky plume that was observed at around 12pm for approx. 15 minutes.	The incident was reported to the EPA. The unit affected was returned to normal operations.
24 – 28 April 2025	Community Complaint	G_02	Multiple community complaints regarding persistent nuisance noise emanating from the Refinery cracker due to linework repair. Mitigation works to reduce noise implemented ahead of upcoming major maintenance event. Community was kept informed via the SMS alert service	The incident was reported to the EPA.
31 March 2025	Q1 water testing results	OL_DW02	From January to March, 450 laboratory tests were conducted on water discharged from the refinery.	100% of water test results were within licence limits.
31 March 2025	Q1 water recycling results	OL_DW02	From January to March, 64% of the water used at the refinery was recycled water.	300602 ML of potable water was saved.
30 March 2025	Community Complaint	G_02	Community complaint regarding offensive odour beyond the boundary. Source was identified as sour water build-up which was flushed to mitigate the issue.	The incident was reported to the EPA.
2 February 2025	Contaminated discharge water	OL_DW02.05	Due to extreme weather event, stormwater entrained with hydrocarbons overflowed from Controlled Discharge Facility. Visible sheen was observed at outfall W5. There was no impact to marine or plant life observed. There were no community complaints received.	The incident was reported to the EPA. Recovery activities were implemented to contain the hydrocarbon and prevent further discharge.
12 January 2025	Visible plume	OL_DA2	A lightning strike due to an extreme weather event resulted in an external power failure to the Refinery. All process units on-site tripped per safety measures, and excess hydrocarbon was vented to Flare per emergency procedures, resulting in a large smoky plume. Community was kept informed via the SMS alert service.	The incident was reported to the EPA. The units affected were returned to normal operations.

Key:

- Air
- Recycling
- Water
- Water Compliance Monitoring
- Community Complaint