

Environmental Matters

Geelong Refinery

Record updated on 11 December 2024

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Table – 2023-24 Environmental Matters

Date	Activity	Licence Condition	Description	Outcome
14 November 2024	Community Complaint	G_02	Resident alerted the Refinery to a persistent nuisance siren sound. Source was identified as an air compressor fan awaiting repair. Issue was mitigated to the satisfaction of enquirer.	The incident was reported to the EPA.
12 November 2024	Discharge of treated water to Bay	General Environmental Duty (GED)	As a result of a leak on a unit at the refinery, Viva Energy utilised its emergency response capabilities and deployed firefighting foam. As per refinery procedures this water was stored in a purpose-built control discharge facility at the refinery and has been treated. The treated water has been tested, is below licence limits and is now being released via one of the refinery's EPA-licensed outfalls. It is anticipated that the discharge of the treated water will continue for up to 3 weeks.	The incident was reported to EPA and a plan for treating, testing and discharging the water has been developed in consultation with Viva Energy's contractors, environmental auditor and the EPA. The plan has been designed to meet Viva Energy's General Environmental Duty to take preventative action to minimise risk of harm to human health and the environment. The treated water is below ecological screening levels, is below the refinery's licence limits and complies with the General Environmental Duty. There is no impact to the receiving environment.
28 October 2024	Visible Plume	OL_DA02	A release from a column top at the Bitumen Manufacturing Complex was discharged to atmosphere causing a visible plume. No off-site impacts were observed and no complaints received.	The incident was reported to the EPA.
18 October 2024	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. Booming and recovery activities were implemented to contain the hydrocarbon and prevent further discharge.
15 October 2024	Contaminated discharge water	OL_DW02	Annual Mean Copper and Zinc concentrations were reported as exceeding licence limits at Refinery W5 Outfall for the period FY24. There was no impact to marine or plant life observed.	The incident was reported to the EPA.
30 September 2024	Q3 water testing results	OL_DW02	From July to September, 595 laboratory tests were conducted on water discharged from the refinery.	100% of water test results were within licence limits.
30 September 2024	Q3 water recycling results	OL_DW02	From July to September, 63% of the water used at the refinery was recycled water.	283,553 ML of potable water was saved.
30 June 2024	Q2 water testing results	OL_DW02	From April to June, 637 laboratory tests were conducted on water discharged from the refinery.	100% of water test results were within licence limits.
30 June 2024	Q2 water recycling results	OL_DW02	From April to June, 65% of the water used at the refinery was recycled water.	287,797 ML of potable water was saved.
31 March 2024	Q1 water testing results	OL_DW02	From January to March, 642 laboratory tests were conducted on water discharged from the refinery.	100% of water test results were within licence limits.
31 March 2024	Q1 water recycling results	OL_DW02	From January to March, 64% of the water used at the refinery was recycled water.	301,988 ML of potable water was saved.
5 March 2024	Fluoride exceedance	OL_DA1	Temperature drop on unit resulted in elevated Fluoride concentration at time of monthly stack test.	The incident was reported to the EPA. The unit was returned to normal operations. Re-test met licence limit.
31 January 2024	Contaminated discharge water	OL_DW2	A redundant pipeline leak resulted in product dripped to water.	The incident was reported to the EPA. The line was repaired.
19 January 2024	Community Complaint		Community complaint regarding high flaring and a smoky plume emanating from the refinery Flare, to relieve excess gas generated by loss of salt cooling water due to seagrass blockage.	The incident was reported to the EPA. Flare operated as intended until blockage cleared and operations restored.

29 November 2023	SO2 exceedance	OL_DA01.27	During unit changeover to investigate pressure issue, conditions at the refinery 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.
6 November 2023	SO2 exceedance	OL_DA01.27	During unit changeover for exchanger repair, conditions at the refinery 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.
22 October 2023	Outfall discharge exceeded licence limit (temperature)	OL_DW2	Temperature difference from ambient reported at Refinery Outfall W4 exceeding the licence limit. There was no impact to marine or plant life observed.	The incident was reported to the EPA. Subsequent readings returned to within licence limits.

Key:

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