

# Environmental Matters

Geelong Refinery

Record updated on: 27 November 2023

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This table is regularly updated with environmental initiatives, monitoring and compliances, as well as any licence breaches.

**Table – 2022-23 Environmental Matters**

Date	Activity	Licence Condition	Description	Outcome
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.
30 September 2023	Q3 water testing results	OL_DW02	From July to September, 650 laboratory tests were conducted on water discharged from the refinery.	99.7% of water test results were within licence limits.
30 September 2023	Q3 water recycling results	OL_DW02	From July to September, 63% of the water used at the refinery was recycled water.	250,947 ML of potable water was saved.
8 September 2023	Visible plume	OL_DA2	During operational changes, unit conditions at the refinery resulted in a short-lived visible plume at the sulphur stack. There was no exceedance of the licence limit for SO <sub>2</sub> and no impact to the community.	The incident was reported to the EPA. The unit was returned to normal operations.
8 September 2023	Contaminated discharge water	OL_DW02	Total Suspended Solids concentration reported at Refinery W5 Outfall 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
13 July 2023	Contaminated discharge water	OL_DW02	During restart of process units following maintenance activities, water temperature was exceeding licence limits at refinery 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. Operational changes were implemented to reduce temperature until all process units were returned to service.
7 July 2023	Contaminated discharge water	OL_DW02.05	During restart of process units following maintenance activities, visible hydrocarbon was observed 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.
30 June 2023	Q2 water testing results	OL_DW02	From April to June, 645 laboratory tests were conducted on water discharged from the refinery.	99.8% of water test results were within licence limits.
30 June 2023	Q2 water recycling results	OL_DW02	From April to June, 62% of the water used at the refinery was recycled water.	253,596 ML of potable water was saved.
28 June 2023	SO2 exceedance	OL_DA01.27	During operational changes, unit 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.
2 June 2023	Community Complaint		Community complaint regarding unpleasant odour from the refinery.	The incident was reported to the EPA. Operational procedures will be updated to prevent reoccurrence.
14 May 2023	Community Complaint		Industrial neighbour complaint regarding offensive odour. Odour was related to gas and liquid passing unlit flare.	The incident was reported to the EPA. The discharge was ceased and operational procedures and monitoring requirements were updated to prevent reoccurrence.
9 April 2023	Outfall discharge exceeded licence limit (temperature)	OL_DW2	Temperature difference from ambient reported at Refinery Outfall 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.
31 March 2023	Q1 water testing results	OL_DW2	From January to March, 661 laboratory tests were conducted on water discharged from the refinery.	99.7% of water test results were within licence limits.

31 March 2023	Q1 water recycling results	OL_DW2	From January to March, 61% of the water used at the refinery was recycled water.	279,899 ML of potable water was saved.
16 March 2023	Outfall discharge exceeded licence limit (chlorine)	OL_DW2	Chlorine concentration reported at Refinery Outfall 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.
12 February 2023	Contaminated discharge water	OL_DW2.5	An exchanger leak resulted in hydrocarbon being discharged from one of the refinery outfalls. Sheen was observed at the outfall. There was no impact to marine or plant life observed.	The incident was reported to the EPA. The discharge ceased and the unit subsequently repaired.
24 January 2023	Contaminated discharge water	OL_DW2.5	Extreme rainfall across Geelong resulted in overflow of stormwater containing some hydrocarbons. A hydrocarbon sheen and spotting was observed at the Refinery W1 and W5 outfalls.	The incident was reported to EPA. Containment measures were deployed and the discharge was contained.
19 January 2023	Contaminated discharge water	OL_DW2.5	A valve leak at the Refinery jetty resulted in a spill of fuel oil into Corio Bay. A hydrocarbon sheen was observed and seagrass impacted along the foreshore. There was no impact to marine life observed.	The incident was reported to external authorities including Ports Victoria and EPA. A foreshore clean-up was completed to remove all shoreline impacts. Operational procedures will be updated to prevent reoccurrence.
17 January 2023	Outfall discharge exceeded licence limit (maximum temperature)	OL_DW2	High ambient air and water temperatures resulted in elevated temperatures reported at Refinery Outfall W4 that exceeded licence limit.	The incident was reported to the EPA. Conditions returned to normal.
31 December 2022	Q4 water testing results	OL_DW2	From September to December, 656 water outfall tests were conducted on water discharged from the refinery.	99.9% of water test results were within licence limits.
31 December 2022	Q4 water recycling results	OL_DW2	From September to December, 62% of the water used at the refinery was recycled water.	231,065 ML of potable water was saved.
22 December 2022	Contaminated discharge water	OL_DW2.5	After heavy rainfall, some hydrocarbon was discharged with the waste water from the refinery outfalls	This exceedance was self-reported to the EPA.
11 December 2022	SO2 exceedance	OL_DA1.13	During operational changes, unit 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.

Key:

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