

# Environmental Matters

Geelong Refinery

Record updated on: 02 May 2024

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

**Table – 2023-24 Environmental Matters**

Date	Activity	Licence Condition	Description	Outcome
31 March 2024	Q1 water testing results	OL_DW02	From January to March, 642 laboratory tests were conducted on water discharged from the refinery.	99.7% 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.	250,947 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.
31 December 2023	Q4 water testing results	OL_DW02	From October to December, 651 laboratory tests were conducted on water discharged from the refinery.	99.7% of water test results were within licence limits.
31 December 2023	Q4 water recycling results	OL_DW02	From October to December, 66% of the water used at the refinery was recycled water.	250,947 ML of potable water was saved.
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.
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.

Key:

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