

# North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation Mky

## Southern and Northern Stations

Ambient Air Quality Monitoring

Validated Report

1<sup>st</sup> November – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Report No.: DAT20607- Revision 2

Report issue date: 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Maintenance contract: MC950

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Southern and Northern Stations  
Report No:DAT20607- Revision 2**

North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation

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Revision History			
Revision	Report ID	Date	Analyst
0	DAT20607	28/12/2023	Amin Nikpay
1	DAT20607	05/02/2024	Amin Nikpay
2	DAT20607	08/02/2024	Amin Nikpay

\*Note: Please see Appendix 3 for details of amendments

**Report by:** Amin Nikpay



**Signatory:** Elmira Parto



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## Executive Summary

North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation has commissioned Acoem Australasia to conduct air quality monitoring for the Mackay Dust Monitoring Program. The monitoring stations at Southern and Northern sites are each equipped with an E-Sampler. Both E-samplers were equipped to measure TSP until 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020 when the E-Sampler heads at both stations were changed to measuring PM<sub>10</sub>.

The air quality stations were commissioned in July 2016.

This report presents the data collected from the Southern and Northern stations.

Data capture for Southern station was 100% and Northern station was 100%.

The PM<sub>10</sub> monthly average for Southern station was 13 µg/m<sup>3</sup> with a standard deviation of 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

The PM<sub>10</sub> monthly average for Northern station was 16 µg/m<sup>3</sup> with a standard deviation of 12 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

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## 1.0 Introduction

Acoem Australasia was commissioned by North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation to provide monitoring and data reporting for the Mackay Dust Monitoring Program at Southern and Northern monitoring stations, located in Mackay Harbour, QLD, Australia as detailed in Table 1.

Acoem Australasia commenced data collection from both stations on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

The data presented in this report:

- Describes air quality measurements;
- Compares monitoring results;
- Has been quality assured.

## 2.0 Monitoring and Data Collection

### 2.1. Siting Details

Station locations and siting details are described below.

**Table 1: Southern and Northern Stations Siting**

Site Name	Geographical Coordinates	Height Above Sea Level (m)
Northern	21° 06' 4.18" S 149°13'26.10" E	5m
Southern	21° 06' 22.3" S 149°13'28.4" E	5m

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**Figure 1: Southern and Northern Monitoring Stations Location**



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## 2.2. Monitored Parameters

Table 2 below details the parameters monitored and the instruments used at the Southern and Northern stations. Appendix 1 defines any abbreviated parameter names used throughout the report.

**Table 2: Parameters Measured at the Southern and Northern Monitoring Stations**

Parameter Measured	Instrument and Measurement Technique
PM <sub>10</sub>	Met One E-Sampler – light scatter aerosol monitor

## 2.3. Data Collection Methods

Table 3 shows the methods used for data collection.

**Table 3: Methods**

Parameter Measured	Data Collection Methods Used	Description of Method
PM <sub>10</sub> (E-Sampler)	Met One E-Sampler Operation Manual	Met One E-Sampler Operation Manual

### 2.3.1. Data Acquisition

Data is logged by the E-sampler at each monitoring site. Each E-sampler is equipped with a 4G modem for remote data collection. The recorded data is remotely collected from the E-samplers on a daily basis (using Airodis™ version 5.2.4) and stored at Acoem Australasia's Environmental Reporting Services (ERS) department in Melbourne, Australia. Data samples are logged in 5-minute intervals.

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## 2.4. Data Validation and Reporting

### 2.4.1. Validation

The Acoem Australasia ERS department performs daily data checks to ensure maximum data capture rates are maintained. Any equipment failures are communicated to the responsible field engineers for urgent rectification. Acoem Australasia ERS maintains two distinct databases containing non-validated and validated data respectively.

The validated database is created by duplicating the non-validated database and then flagging data affected by instrument faults, calibrations and other maintenance activities. The data validation software requires the analyst to supply a valid reason (e.g., backed by maintenance notes, calibration sheets, etc) in the database for flagging any data as invalid.

Validation is performed by the Acoem Australasia ERS operator, and the validation is reviewed. All data is checked and graphs and reports are generated based on the verified five-minute data.

### 2.4.2. Reporting

The reported data is in a Microsoft Excel format file named *“NQBP Mky Southern and Northern Stations Data Report November 2023.xlsx”*.

The Excel file consists of six worksheets:

1. Cover
2. 5 Minute Data Averages
3. 15 Minute Data Averages
4. 1 Hour Data Averages
5. 24 Hour Data Averages
6. Valid Data Exception Tables

The data contained in these reports is based on Australian Eastern Standard Time. Data is for all parameters measured continuously.

All averages are calculated from the five-minute data. Averages are based on a minimum of 75% valid readings within the averaging period. Averaging periods of eight hours or less are reported for the end of the period, i.e., the hourly average 02:00am is for the data collected from 1:00am to 2:00am. One-hour averages are calculated based on a clock hour. One day and one-year averages are calculated based on calendar days.

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## 2.5. Calibrations and Maintenance

### 2.5.1. Units and Uncertainties<sup>1</sup>

The uncertainties for each parameter have been determined by the manufacturer's tolerance limits of the equipment's parameters, and by the data collection standard method.<sup>2</sup>

The reported uncertainties are expanded uncertainties, calculated using coverage factors which give a level of confidence of approximately 95%.

**Table 4: Units and Uncertainties**

Parameter	Units	Resolution	Uncertainty <sup>1</sup>	Measurement Range
PM <sub>10</sub> (E-Sampler)	µg/m <sup>3</sup>	1 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	± 10% to gravimetric method <sup>2</sup>	0 to 65 mg/m <sup>3</sup>

### 2.5.2. Maintenance

Scheduled maintenance is completed every 2 months by Acoem Australasia.

#### 2.5.2.1. Calibration & Maintenance Summary Tables

The last calibrations for the following parameters were performed on the indicated dates. Data supplied after this time is subject to verification, to be performed at the next calibration cycle.

Note: Maintenance and calibration dates may differ, as calibrations may be less frequent than scheduled maintenance visits.

<sup>1</sup> Uncertainties are calculated based on the full measurement range unless stated otherwise

<sup>2</sup> Manufacturer's stated accuracy for nephelometer when calibrated for local particulate type.

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## 2.5.3. Maintenance Notes

### 2.5.3.1. NQBP Mky Northern

- Scheduled 2 monthly maintenance was performed on 06/10/2023. Checks were performed on E-Sampler.

### 2.5.3.2. NQBP Mky Southern

- Scheduled 2 monthly maintenance was performed on 06/10/2023. Checks were performed on E-Sampler.

Table 5 indicates when the particulate equipment was last maintained/calibrated.

**Table 5: Southern and Northern Stations Maintenance Table**

Station	Parameter	Date of Last Maintenance	Maintenance Type	Date of Last Calibration
Southern	PM <sub>10</sub>	06/10/2023	2 Monthly	06/10/2023
Northern	PM <sub>10</sub>	06/10/2023	2 Monthly	06/10/2023

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## 3.0 Results

### 3.1. Data Capture

Data capture is calculated from 5-minute data, and refers to the amount of available data collected during the report period.

The percentage of data captured is calculated using the following equation:

$$\text{Data capture} = (\text{Reported air quality data} / \text{Total data}) \times 100\%$$

Where:

- Reported air quality data = Number of instrument readings which have been verified through a quality assured process and excludes all data errors, zero data collection due to calibration, failures and planned and unplanned maintenance.
- Total data = Total number of samples (instrument readings) expected for the sampling period. Total data is calculated based on the same averaging period as “reported air quality data” and the duration of the corresponding report period. e.g., for 5-minute data collected over a month of 31 days, the total data would be equal to 12 (5-minute samples in an hour) x 24 (hours in a day) x 31 (days in a month) = 8928 samples.

Table 6 below displays data capture statistics for November 2023. **Bold** values in the table indicate data capture below 95%.

**Table 6: Monthly Data Capture for Southern and Northern stations**

Station	Parameter	Data Capture (%)
Southern	PM <sub>10</sub>	100
Northern	PM <sub>10</sub>	100

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## 3.2. Air Quality Summary

Table 7 below presents some statistical parameters for Southern and Northern stations. The standard deviation is calculated based on the 5-minute averaged data.

**Table 7: General statistics**

Station	Parameter	Time Period	Average ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )	Standard Deviation ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
Southern	PM <sub>10</sub>	1 month	13	10
Northern	PM <sub>10</sub>	1 month	16	12

### 3.2.1. Air Quality Categories

Air quality categories rather than an air quality index have been adopted to align with a Nationally consistent method of reporting of air quality data.

Each air quality measurement from a monitoring station is assigned an air quality category rating based on comparison of the measurement value against the relevant air quality guideline. Five colour-coded air quality categories are used, being 'Good' (Blue), 'Fair' (Green), 'Poor' (Purple), 'Very Poor' (Red) or 'Extremely Poor' (Black). Values greater than the air quality guideline will be appear as 'Poor', 'Very Poor' or 'Extremely Poor'.

The Air Quality Categories rating is based on 1-hour averages values.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 8: Colour-coded Categories for Air Quality Categories<sup>4</sup>**

Not available	Good <50	Fair 50-100	Poor 100.1-200	Very poor 200.1-600	Extremely poor >600
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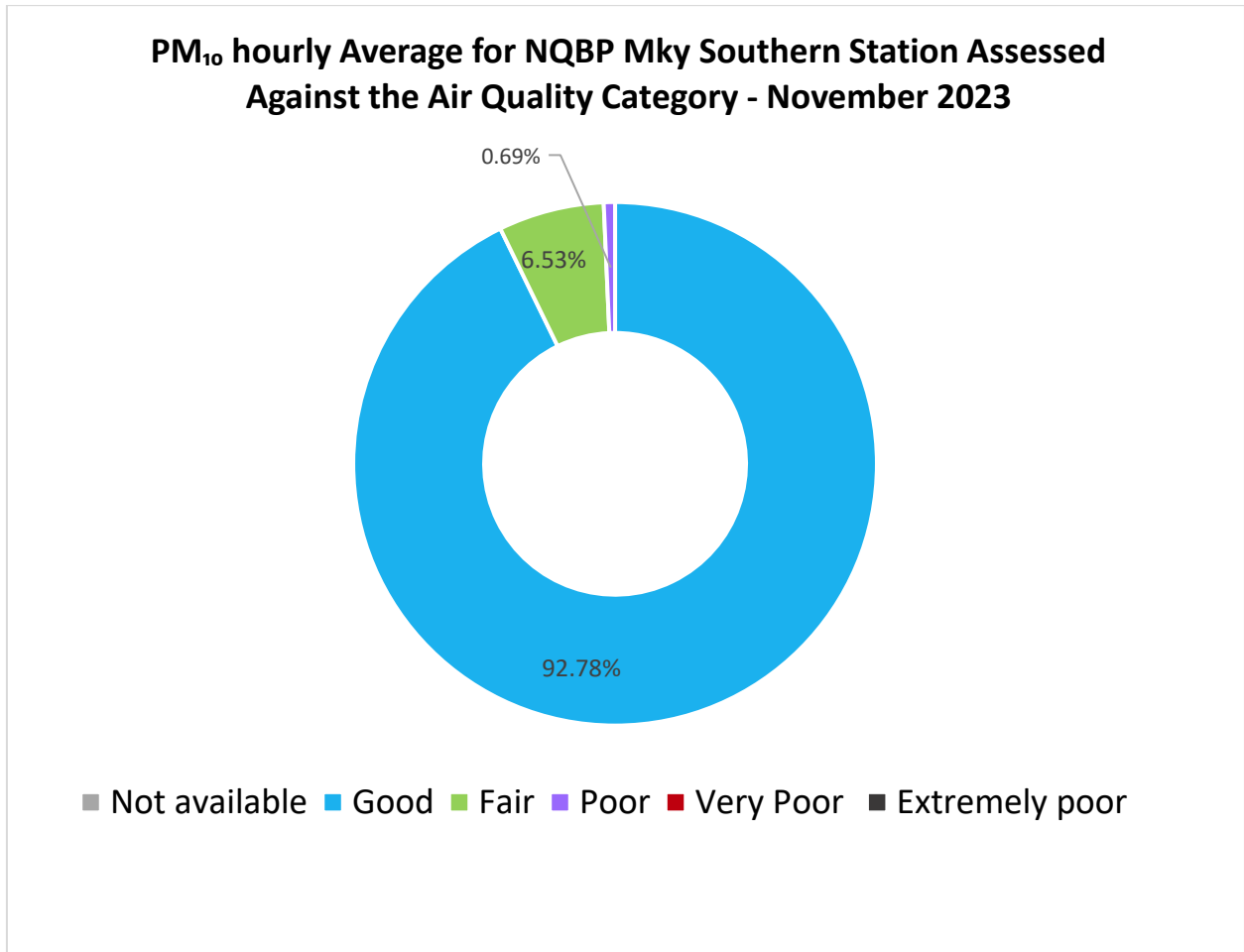
The PM<sub>10</sub> 1-hour average values for the reporting month at the Northern and Southern stations were assessed against the air quality category rating, and the pie chart on the next pages presents the percentage of the time for which a specific air quality category was identified.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/management/monitoring/air/air-monitoring/air-quality-categories>

<sup>4</sup> Colour scheme and pie chart type has been changed to reflect the website of North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation.

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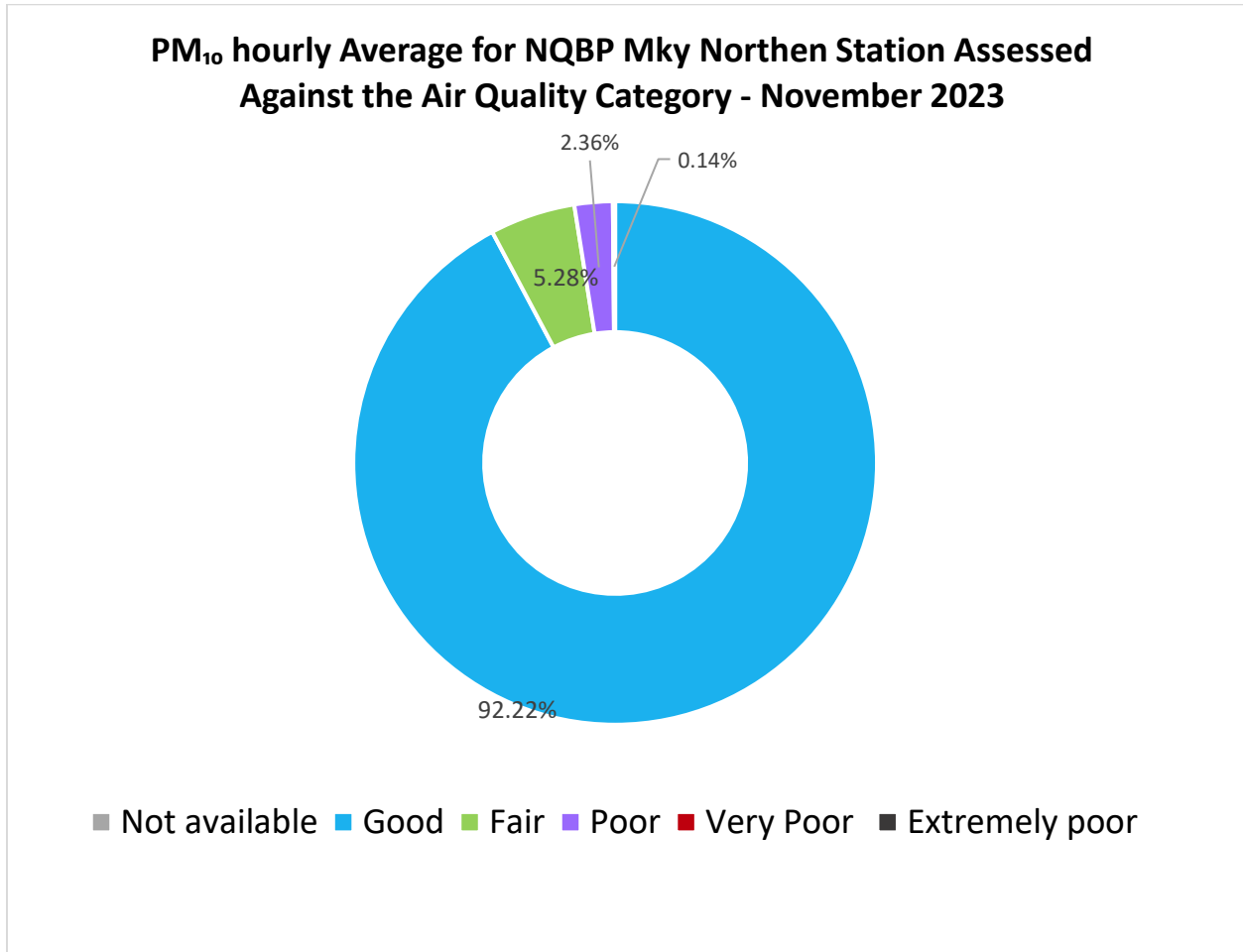


**Figure 2: Hourly PM<sub>10</sub> Averages for NQBP Mky Southern Station Assessed Against the Air Quality Category**

92.78% of time during the reporting period presented by the Air Quality Category are classified as Good, 6.53% time are classified as Fair, 0.69% of time are classified as Poor, 0.00% of time are classified as Very Poor, 0.00% of time are classified as Extremely Poor and 0.00% of time are classified as Not Available.

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**Figure 3: Hourly PM<sub>10</sub> averages for NQBP Mky Northern Station Assessed Against the Air Quality Category**

92.22% of time during the reporting period presented by the Air Quality Category are classified as Good, 5.28% of time are classified as Fair, 2.36% of time are classified as Poor. 0.14% of time are classified as Very Poor, 0.00% of time are classified as Extremely Poor and 0.00% of time are classified as Not Available.



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**3.3. Tabulated Data**

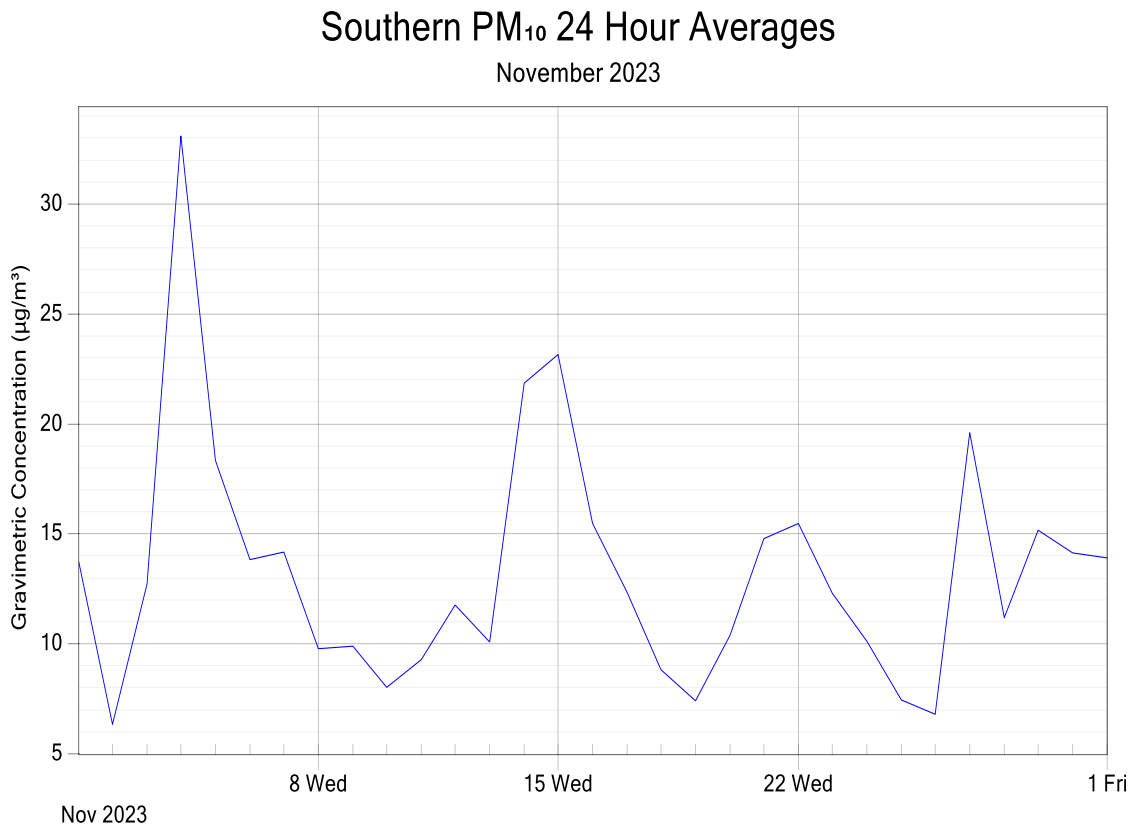
Table 9 details the daily averages for PM<sub>10</sub> measured at Southern and Northern.

**Table 9: Southern and Northern Stations Data Table**

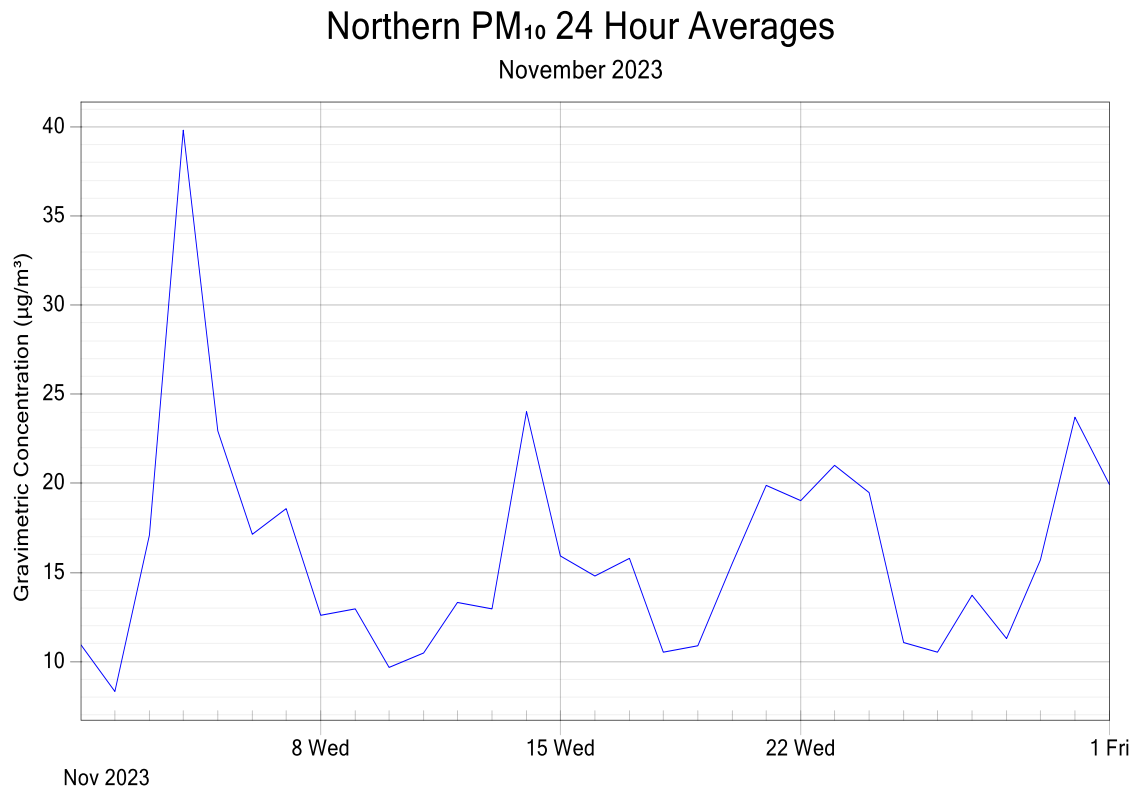
Date	Southern (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Northern (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )
1/11/2023	14	11
2/11/2023	6	8
3/11/2023	13	17
4/11/2023	33	40
5/11/2023	18	23
6/11/2023	14	17
7/11/2023	14	19
8/11/2023	10	13
9/11/2023	10	13
10/11/2023	8	10
11/11/2023	9	10
12/11/2023	12	13
13/11/2023	10	13
14/11/2023	22	24
15/11/2023	23	16
16/11/2023	15	15
17/11/2023	12	16
18/11/2023	9	11
19/11/2023	7	11
20/11/2023	10	16
21/11/2023	15	20
22/11/2023	15	19
23/11/2023	12	21
24/11/2023	10	19
25/11/2023	7	11
26/11/2023	7	11
27/11/2023	20	14
28/11/2023	11	11
29/11/2023	15	16
30/11/2023	14	24

### 3.4. Graphic Representations

Validated PM<sub>10</sub> data was used to construct the following monthly graphic representations.



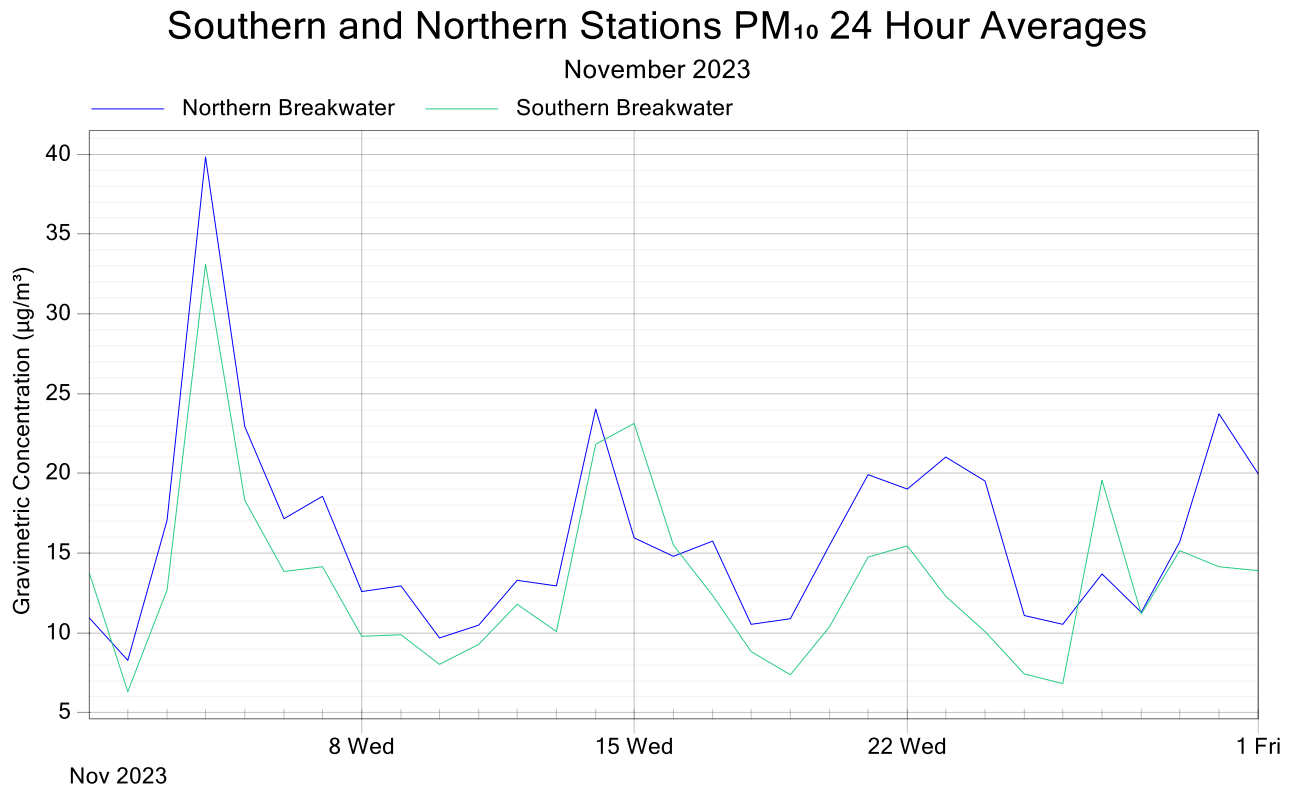
**Figure 4: Southern station PM<sub>10</sub> 24 Hour Averages**



**Figure 5: Northern station PM<sub>10</sub> 24 Hour Averages**

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**Figure 6: Southern and Northern Stations PM<sub>10</sub> 24 Hour Averages Comparison**

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## 4.0 Valid Data Exception Tables

The tables below detail all changes made to the raw data set during the validation process. An explanation of reasons given in the table can be found in Appendix 2.

**Table 10: Southern Station PM<sub>10</sub> Valid Data Exception Table**

Start Date	End Date	Reason	Change Details	User Name	Change Date
01/11/23 00:00	01/12/23 00:00	No data invalidated during the reporting period	PM <sub>10</sub>	AN	28/12/23

**Table 11: Northern Station PM<sub>10</sub> Valid Data Exception Table**

Start Date	End Date	Reason	Change Details	User Name	Change Date
01/11/23 00:00	01/12/23 00:00	No data invalidated during the reporting period	PM <sub>10</sub>	AN	28/12/23

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## 5.0 Report Summary

- Data capture for Southern station was 100% and Northern station was 100%.
- The PM<sub>10</sub> monthly average for Southern station was 13 µg/m<sup>3</sup> with a standard deviation of 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.
- The PM<sub>10</sub> monthly average for Northern station was 16 µg/m<sup>3</sup> with a standard deviation of 12 µg/m<sup>3</sup>.

-----END OF REPORT-----

## **Appendix 1 - Definitions & Abbreviations**

$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Micrograms per cubic metre at standard temperature and pressure (0°C and 101.3 kPa)
PM <sub>10</sub>	Particulates less than 10 microns equivalent in aerodynamic diameter

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## Appendix 2 - Explanation of Exception Table

**Commissioning** refers to the initial setup and calibration of the instrument when it is first installed. For some instruments there may be a stabilisation period before normal operation commences.

**Data transmission error** refers to a period of time when the instrument could not transmit data. This may be due to interference, or a problem with the phone line or modem.

**Equipment malfunction/instrument fault** refers to a period of time when the instrument was not in the normal operating mode and did not measure a representative value of the existing conditions.

**Gap in data/data not available** refers to a period of time when either data has been lost or could not be collected.

**Instrument Alarm** refers to an alarm produced by the instrument. A range of alarms can be produced depending on how operation of the instrument is being affected.

**Instrument out of service** refers to a lack of data due to an instrument being shut down for repair, maintenance, or factory calibration.

**Linear offset or multiplier** refers to when an offset or multiplier has been applied between two points where the values of the offset or multiplier are different and the correction is interpolated between the two points.

**Logger error** refers to when an error occurs and instrument readings are not correctly recorded by the logger.

**Maintenance** refers to a period of time when the logger/instrument was switched off due to maintenance.

**Power Interruption** refers to no power to the station therefore no data was collected at this time.

**Stabilisation following power interruption** refers to the start-up period of an instrument after power has been restored.



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## Appendix 3 –Amendments

This report supersedes DAT20607 Revision 1 issued on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The following changes have been made:

- The description of the colour scheme representing air quality categories in section 3.2.1 has been updated to align with the North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation website.