

24 April 2026

Community Update | Navigation Creek Investigation | Burrells Road and Quirkies Lane Area

Dear Resident,

On 11 April 2026, GM³ received a report through its community contact line regarding groundwater emergence and an odour in Navigation Creek at Burrells Road and corner with Quirkies Lane, Menangle. Our staff attended the site immediately to investigate and confirmed the presence of groundwater discharge and a gas odour emanating from the creek.

Investigations have revealed the issue is the result of sandstone strata gas interacting with an old 1950s-era exploration borehole located near the creek activated due to subsidence. The release is now concentrated at that borehole.

GM³ would like to reassure nearby residents that there is no risk to public health or safety associated with the issue being investigated. We are working closely with relevant Government Agencies.

Remediation works are planned to commence during standard operating hours (7:00am to 5:00pm). At this stage, the duration of these works is not yet confirmed; however, progress will be closely monitored, and updates will be provided as further information becomes available.

Planned Works and Current Controls

At this stage, the planned works will focus on managing the water and gas discharge from the historical borehole via sealing downhole (i.e. grouting). As these works progress, impacts such as odour, water and gas discharge are expected to reduce.

Monitoring is being undertaken 24/7, with a range of controls implemented to minimise impacts. These include noise attenuation measures (such as noise blankets), sediment controls, vegetation management, and visual screening.

Temporary electronic signage is also in place to advise of any changed traffic conditions with access limited for residents only on Quirkies Lane. A continued on-site presence is being maintained to support safe, responsive, and effective management of the works.

Water and Environmental Monitoring and Summarised Results.

1. Water samples have been collected, and initial field testing indicates the water quality is consistent with groundwater from the Hawkesbury Sandstone.

Daily monitoring is ongoing, sediment controls have been implemented, and further mitigation or remediation measures will be introduced as required based on the outcomes of these assessments.

This part of the Navigation Creek is typically dry outside of heavy rainfall events.

The discharge is currently being contained and diluted within a large dam downstream in Navigation Creek, which is **limiting the movement of water beyond this point.**

Based on the monitoring results to date and the controls in place, **no impacts to downstream areas have been identified.**

We understand that landholders may have questions or concerns, and we want to reassure you that the creek is being actively monitored and managed. Should any changes be identified, additional measures will be implemented promptly. We will continue to keep the community informed as monitoring continues.

2. Monitoring has identified that the gas discharged is originating from the strata and is primarily composed of methane and carbon dioxide. There may also be very small amounts of other gases present (<0.1%), which can occasionally result in an odour. Gas levels are significantly below health limits with no elevated levels detected near residences. Precautionary controls are in place to maintain safety with ongoing monitoring remaining in place.

3. Rehabilitation will commence once the historic borehole is sealed.

We appreciate your understanding and patience while these works are being undertaken. We will continue to keep you informed of any changes that may impact landholders downstream of the discharge location.

If you would like to speak with a member of our project team, please contact the GM³ Community Team on 1800 102 210 (24/7) or via email at community@gm3.au.

Yours sincerely,

Kind regards,

GM3 Project Team – Appin Mine