

WestConnex M4-M5 Link Ambient air quality monitoring results

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GLOSSARY

Term	Description
CH ₄	Methane
CO	Carbon monoxide
NMHC	Non-methane hydrocarbons
NO	Nitric oxide
NO ₂	Nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	Oxides of nitrogen
O ₃	Ozone
ppb	Parts per billion
ppm	Parts per million
PM ₁₀	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 10 µm
PM _{2.5}	Airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 2.5 µm
THC	Total hydrocarbons
µg/m ³	Micrograms per cubic metre

1 Introduction: Understanding local air quality

WestConnex is undertaking air quality monitoring within local areas in close proximity to the proposed M4-M5 Link motorway. Monitoring stations have been established to measure the existing air quality conditions. The data collected through our monitoring program provides a baseline for the current air quality conditions along the project corridor. The data is being collected as part of the environmental assessment process for the M4-M5 Link project.

2 Monitoring air quality

To support the development and assessment of the M4-M5 Link, three ambient air quality monitoring stations have been established along the project corridor. Data from these three stations supplements the multiple long-term monitoring stations operated by NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and Roads and Maritime Services. Air quality specialists have been commissioned to operate and maintain the monitoring network during the planning phase of the project. A map of the monitoring station locations across the M4-M5 Link project area is provided below in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1 M4-M5 Link air quality monitoring station locations



3 Monitoring methodology

Air quality monitoring is undertaken in accordance with Australian standards and guidelines. Specific pollutants are monitored and reported against the relevant air quality goals in the National Environment Protection Measure (Ambient Air Quality). Meteorological conditions are also monitored locally to give a greater understanding of the conditions that may influence air quality outcomes. For more information on the pollutants measured and monitoring methodology visit www.westconnex.com.au.

A data verification process is carried out to ensure high quality data capture. The data verification process includes:

- Removal of clearly incorrect data
- Corrections for instrument drift
- Corrections for offsets
- Removal of data acquired during calibration periods
- Removal of data during servicing, maintenance and equipment breakdown periods.

The above process can cause data gaps, and may be one reason why there is some data missing in the graphs provided.

The instruments measuring pollutants are subject to some variability and the results should be read within this context.

4 Results

A summary of air quality results from the M4-M5 Link monitoring network is provided below. Results of CO, NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} concentrations are provided and results are also represented graphically. The solid red line in each of the figures corresponds to the respective criteria or advisory reporting standard for that pollutant as stated in the NSW *Approved Methods* (NSW DEC, 2005).

Data from the M4-M5 Link air quality monitoring sites were compared to the free, 24 hour average data available from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) web site. Data were obtained for the OEH sites Chullora, Rozelle and Earlwood and the results are shown in **Section 4.5**.

4.1 Ramsay Street, Haberfield

The site was decommissioned in November 2017, and no data was collected from this time onwards.

4.2 City West Link, Rozelle

A summary of the air quality results from the City West Link monitoring station in Rozelle is provided in **Table 1**.

Table 1 City West Link summary statistics for air pollutants

Statistics	CO (ppm) 8 hour rolling average values	NO ₂ (ppb) 1 hour average values	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³) 24 hour average values	PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³) 24 hour average values
<i>Standard</i>	9	120	50	25
Average value	0.3	18.6	23.1	9.1
Maximum value	0.6	57.2	58.0	18.8
Minimum value	0.1	1.4	9.3	3.1

Note: All monitoring instruments have an uncertainty associated with each measurement. This is normally described as \pm a specific value. Due to this, negative values could be reported at very low ambient concentrations.

Reporting

Data availability was greater 99% for the majority of air quality parameters.

An exceedance in 24hr rolling average values for PM₁₀ in NSW EPA criteria was recorded on 19th March 2018 at 02: Rozelle (see **Figure 4**). Exceedance levels of PM₁₀ were recorded at all nearby OEH stations as well as at Site 03: St Peters at this time (see **Figure 8**). This is therefore suggested to be a regional particulate matter event, potentially due to bushfire activity in the Greater Sydney regional area at the time.

4.3 St Peters Public School, St Peters

A summary of the air quality results from the St Peter Public School monitoring station in St Peters is provided in **Table 2**.

Table 2 St Peters summary statistics for air pollutants

Statistics	CO (ppm) 8 hour rolling average values	NO ₂ (ppb) 1 hour average values	PM ₁₀ (µg/m ³) 24 hour average values	PM _{2.5} (µg/m ³) 24 hour average values
Standard	9	120	50	25
Average value	0.3	10.9	30.9	10.2
Maximum value	0.7	30.4	66.9	19.3
Minimum value	0.1	1.9	13.8	4.3

Note: All monitoring instruments have an uncertainty associated with each measurement. This is normally described as \pm a specific value. Due to this, negative values could be reported at very low ambient concentrations.

Reporting

Data availability was greater than 99% for all air quality parameters.

Exceedances in 24-hour rolling average values for PM₁₀ in NSW EPA criteria were recorded on 4th, 19th and 20th March 2018 at site 03: St Peters School (see **Figure 4**). Elevated levels of PM₁₀ were not seen at any other nearby OEH stations or at site 02: Rozelle at this time. This is therefore suggested to be a highly localised Particulate Matter event, potentially due to construction activities immediately nearby the site. Exceedance levels of PM₁₀ were recorded at site 02: Rozelle and at all nearby OEH stations on 19th March (see **Figure 8**). Exceedance levels of PM₁₀ were recorded at Chullora OEH station on 20th March, with elevated levels at recorded at 02: Rozelle and other OEH stations at this time. This is therefore suggested to be a regionalised airborne Particulate Matter event, potentially due to bushfire activity in the Greater Sydney regional area at the time.

4.4 Time series

The time series for the various pollutants during the reporting period are provided below. Pollutant concentrations are also averaged over the periods stated for short-term air quality criteria in the NSW Approved Methods. Where appropriate, the corresponding criterion is shown as a solid red line.

Figure 2 CO concentrations at M4-M5 Link sites (eight hour rolling average)

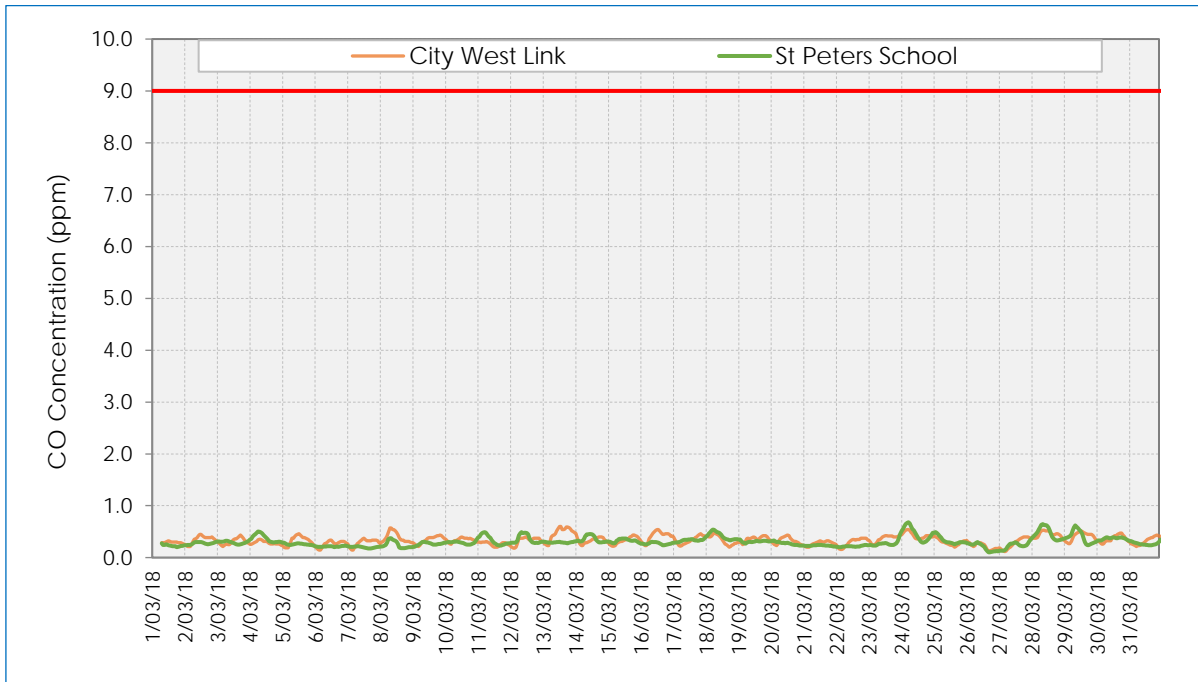


Figure 3 NO₂ concentrations at M4-M5 Link sites (one hour average)

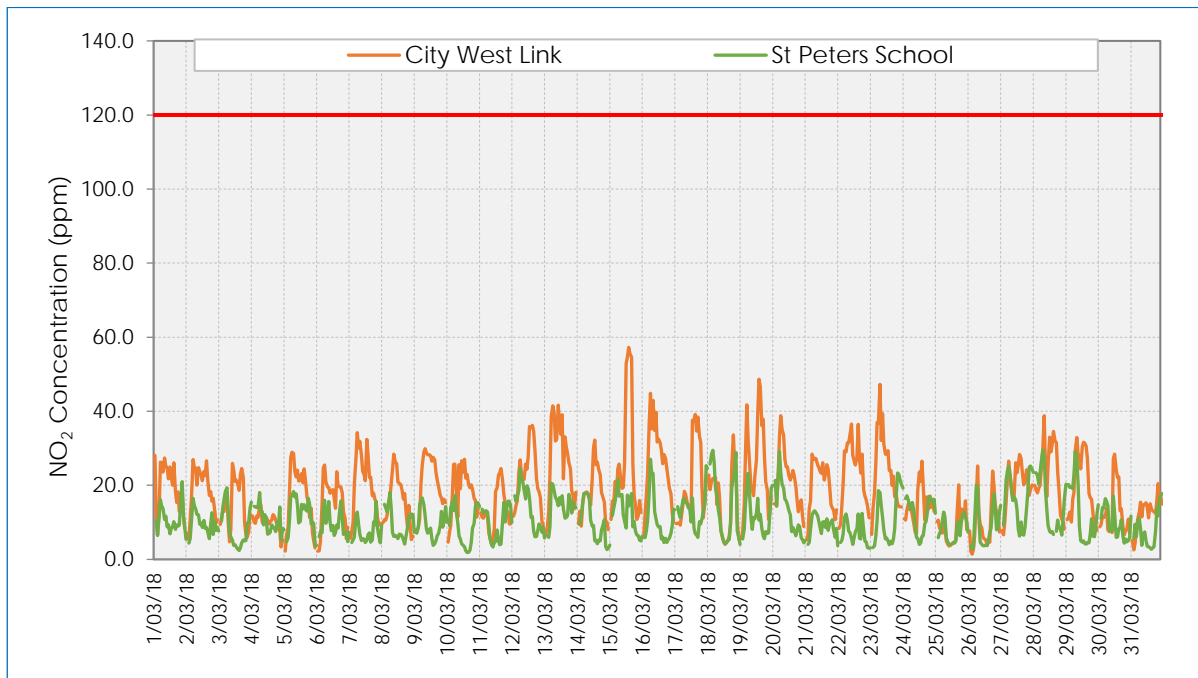
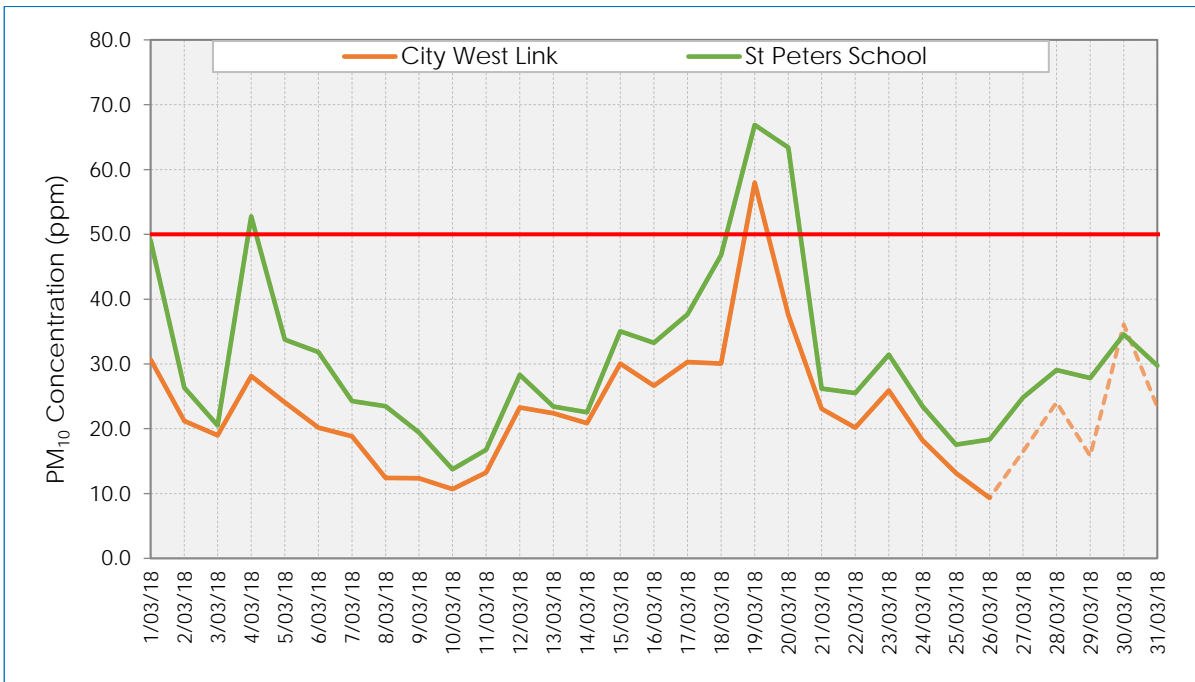
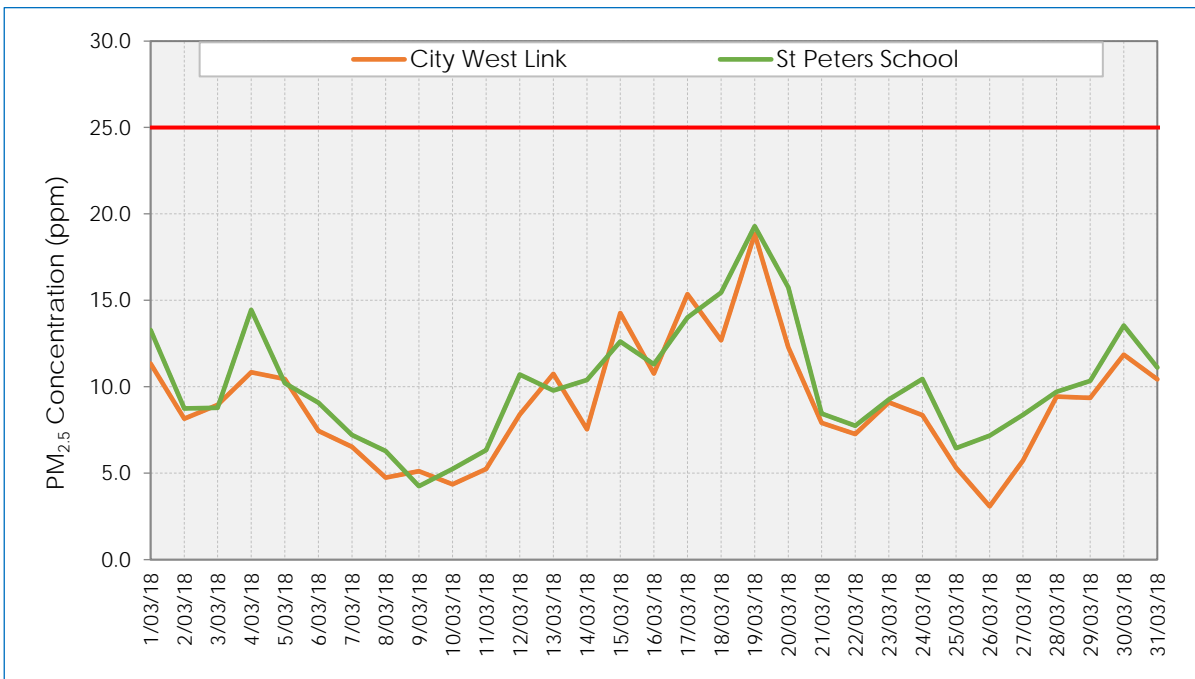


Figure 4 PM₁₀ concentrations at M4-M5 Link sites (24 hour average)



Note: Dashed line denotes results where less than 75% of the expected samples in the averaging period are available

Figure 5 PM_{2.5} concentrations at M4-M5 Link sites (24 hour average)



Note: Dashed line denotes results where less than 75% of the expected samples in the averaging period are available.

4.5 Comparison with data from OEH monitoring sites

The following graphs show the comparison – as time series of 24-hour averages - between the particulate concentrations at the M4-M5 Link sites and those at the OEH sites. The OEH data are shown as average values for the Chullora, Rozelle and Earlwood sites, with the grey shaded area giving the range of values across the three sites (i.e. the graphs show the maximum, average and minimum values for the three OEH sites). It should be noted that concentrations will vary between the WestConnex sites and OEH due to the differing nature of the sites (e.g. roadside vs background).

Figure 6 CO concentrations at M4-M5 Link sites and OEH sites (24-hour average)

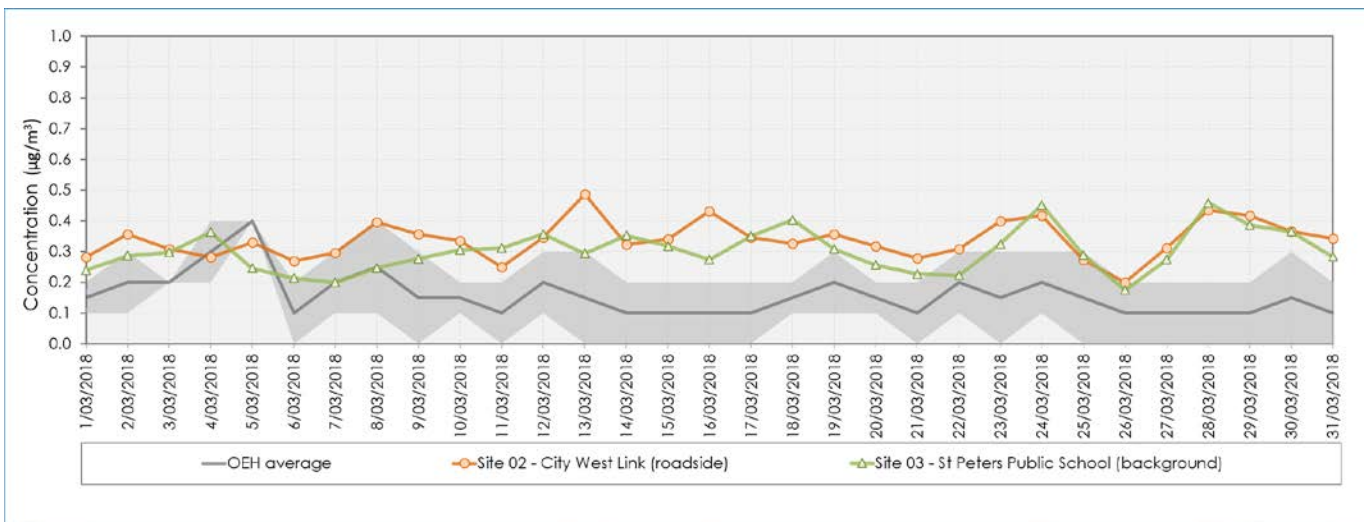


Figure 7 NO₂ concentrations at M4-M5 Link sites and OEH sites (24-hour average)

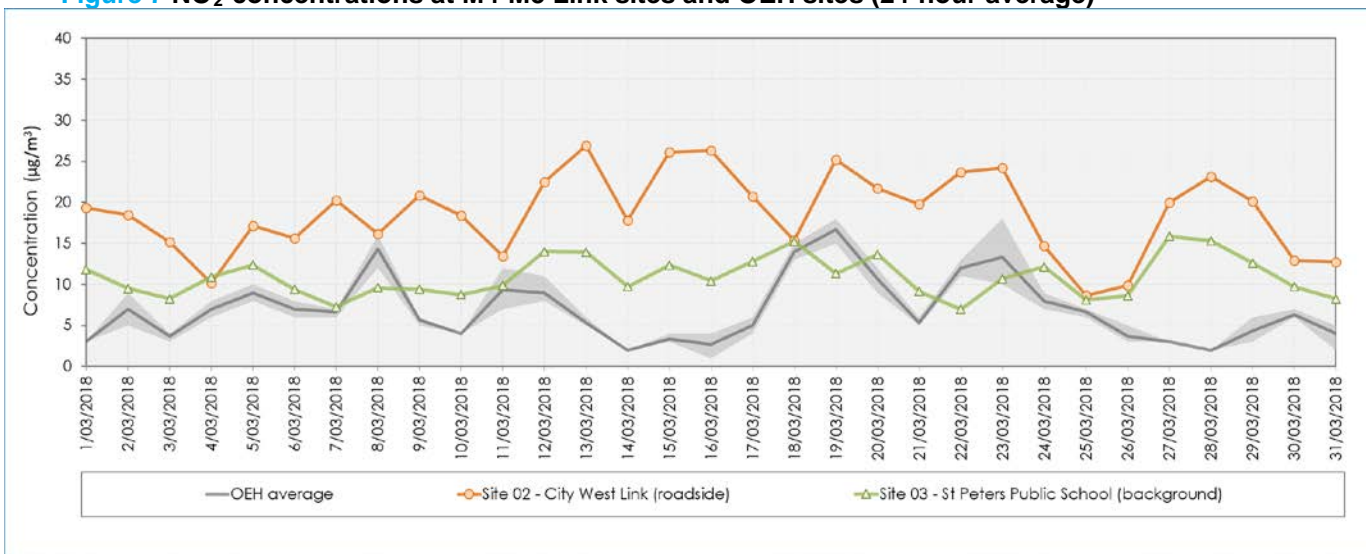
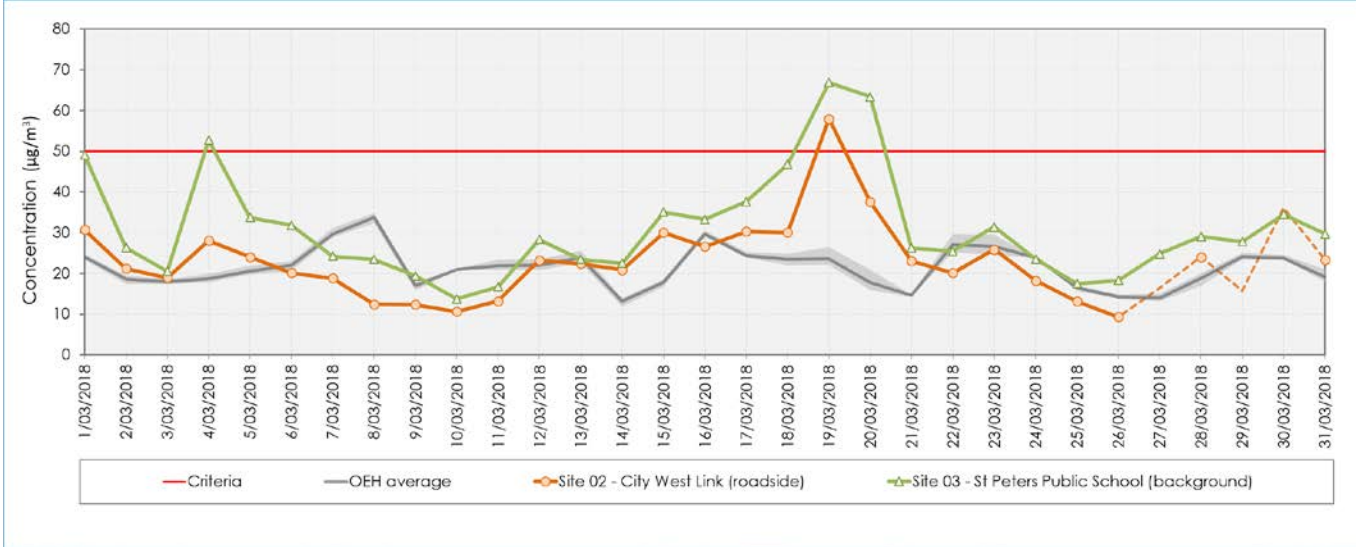
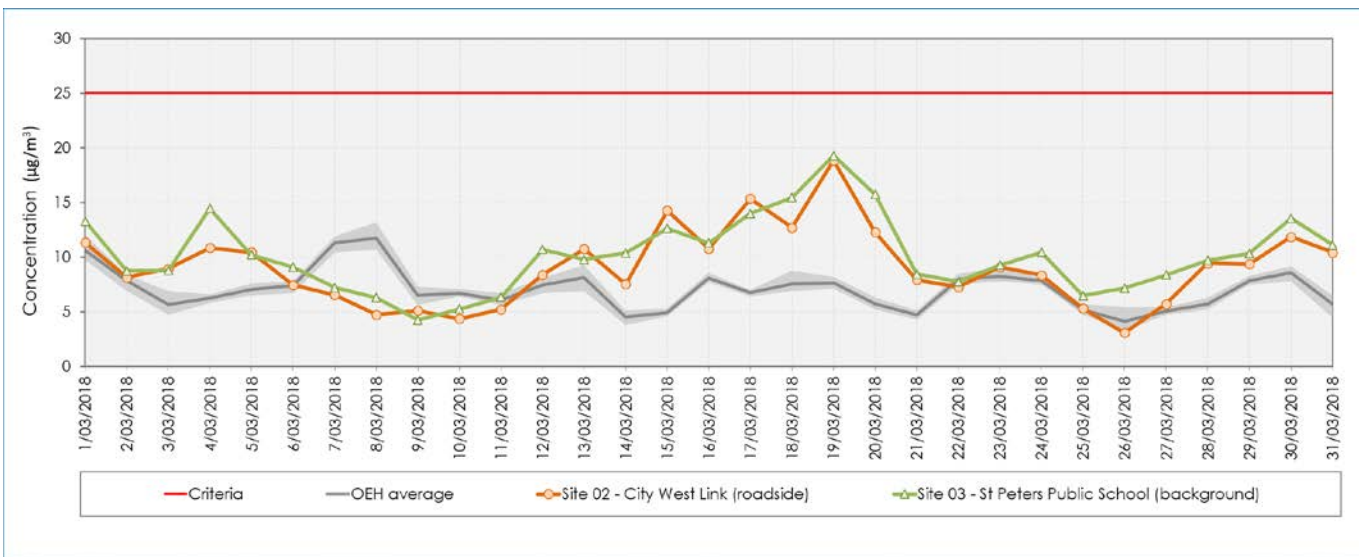


Figure 8 PM₁₀ concentrations at M4-M5 Link sites and OEH sites (24-hour average)



Note: Dashed line denotes results where less than 75% of the expected samples in the averaging period are available.

Figure 9 PM_{2.5} concentrations at M4-M5 Link sites and OEH sites (24-hour average)



Note: Dashed line denotes results where less than 75% of the expected samples in the averaging period are available.