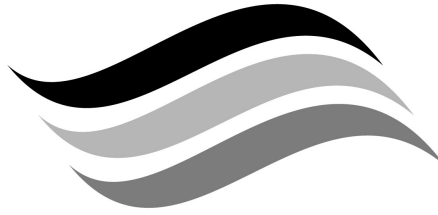


GROUNDWATER
(BORDER AGREEMENT)
ACT MARCH 2002
FULL CHEMICAL ANALYSIS
SAMPLING PROGRAM

DWLBC
Report
2003/11



**The Department of
Water, Land and
Biodiversity
Conservation**

Groundwater (Border Agreement) Act March 2002 Full Chemical Analysis Sampling Program

Daniel Wohling

*Water Policy
Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation*

January 2003

Report DWLBC 2003/11



Government
of South Australia

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Foreword

South Australia's natural resources are fundamental to the economic and social wellbeing of the State. One of the State's most precious natural resources, water is a basic requirement of all living organisms and is one of the essential elements ensuring biological diversity of life at all levels. In pristine or undeveloped situations, the condition of water resources reflects the equilibrium between rainfall, vegetation and other physical parameters. Development of these resources changes the natural balance and may cause degradation. If degradation is small, and the resource retains its utility, the community may assess these changes as being acceptable. However, significant stress will impact on the ability of a resource to continue to meet the needs of users and the environment. Understanding the cause and effect relationship between the various stresses imposed on the natural resources is paramount to developing effective management strategies. Reports of investigations into the availability and quality of water supplies throughout the State aim to build upon the existing knowledge base enabling the community to make informed decisions concerning the future management of the natural resources thus ensuring conservation of biological diversity.

Bryan Harris

Director, Resource Assessment Division
Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation

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ABSTRACT

The Groundwater (Border Agreement) Act 1985 was introduced to protect the groundwater resources along a 40 km wide strip of the South Australian and Victorian State border. The Border Groundwater Agreement Review Committee (BGARC) uses this legislation as a framework for the management of 22 zones of this region. These 22 zones along the State border are referred to as the Designated Area. The BGARC recommends that in addition to the regular 3 monthly water level and salinity groundwater monitoring program, sampling for full chemical analysis be undertaken every six years.

Groundwater samples analysed for a range of chemical parameters were taken from a network of monitoring wells in March 2002 from two separate aquifer systems, namely, the Tertiary Limestone Aquifer (TLA) and the Tertiary Confined Sand Aquifer (TCSA) within the Designated Area.

This report presents the result of the sampling and full chemical analysis program undertaken in March 2002 throughout the Designated Area in both South Australia and Victoria.

A strong correlation between electrical conductivity and chloride concentration annual trends exists in the Designated Area. This relationship is expected, as chloride is the dominant anion in groundwater chemistry.

Vegetation clearance and irrigation impacts, such as the recycling of salts and the mobilisation of historic salt stored in the soil profile, are thought to be the primary reasons for the long term increase in electrical conductivity of groundwater in parts of the Designated Area. The affect of below average rainfall for the past 8-10 years may also be a contributing factor for the increasing electrical conductivity levels in areas of the Designated Area, for example, where runaway holes and drainage wells are present. Decreasing electrical conductivity trends in the Designated Area are thought to be from the migration of zones of better quality water.

It is recommended that a comprehensive land use map be compiled for the entire Designated Area to attain a thorough understanding of the relationships between land use and groundwater quality. It is also recommended that a review of the adequacy of the current networks and an associated salinity risk assessment be undertaken.

INTRODUCTION

The groundwater resources within a 40 km wide strip of land along the State border of South Australia and Victoria are jointly managed by the authorities in each State under the Groundwater (Border Agreement) Act 1985. This area is referred to as the Designated Area and comprises 22 management zones, as shown in Figure 1.

There is almost total reliance on the groundwater resources within the Designated Area for irrigation, stock, domestic, industrial and municipal supplies, which are sourced from two main aquifer systems. The upper Tertiary Limestone Aquifer (TLA) is the principal aquifer used for groundwater extraction in the Designated Area, while the deeper Tertiary Confined Sand Aquifer (TCSA) has limited groundwater extraction and is used primarily for municipal supplies. The relationship between these two aquifers is illustrated in Figure 2.

A good understanding of the chemical nature of the groundwater contained in the TLA and the TCSA is an important aspect of management of these groundwater resources, particularly in relation to spatial variability and any temporal water quality changes.

Regular three monthly monitoring of the groundwater resources is undertaken within the Designated Area for total dissolved salts, and on a six yearly basis for a full range of chemical parameters (i.e. major cations, anions and nutrients).

The previous full chemical analysis sampling program undertaken in March 1996 within the Designated Area was reported by Brown and Sinclair Knight Merz (1998) and provided details for spatial and temporal water quality trends, groundwater chemistry types and relationships between land use and possible water quality impacts.

This report presents the result of the sampling and full chemical analysis program undertaken in March 2002 throughout the Designated Area in both South Australia and Victoria.

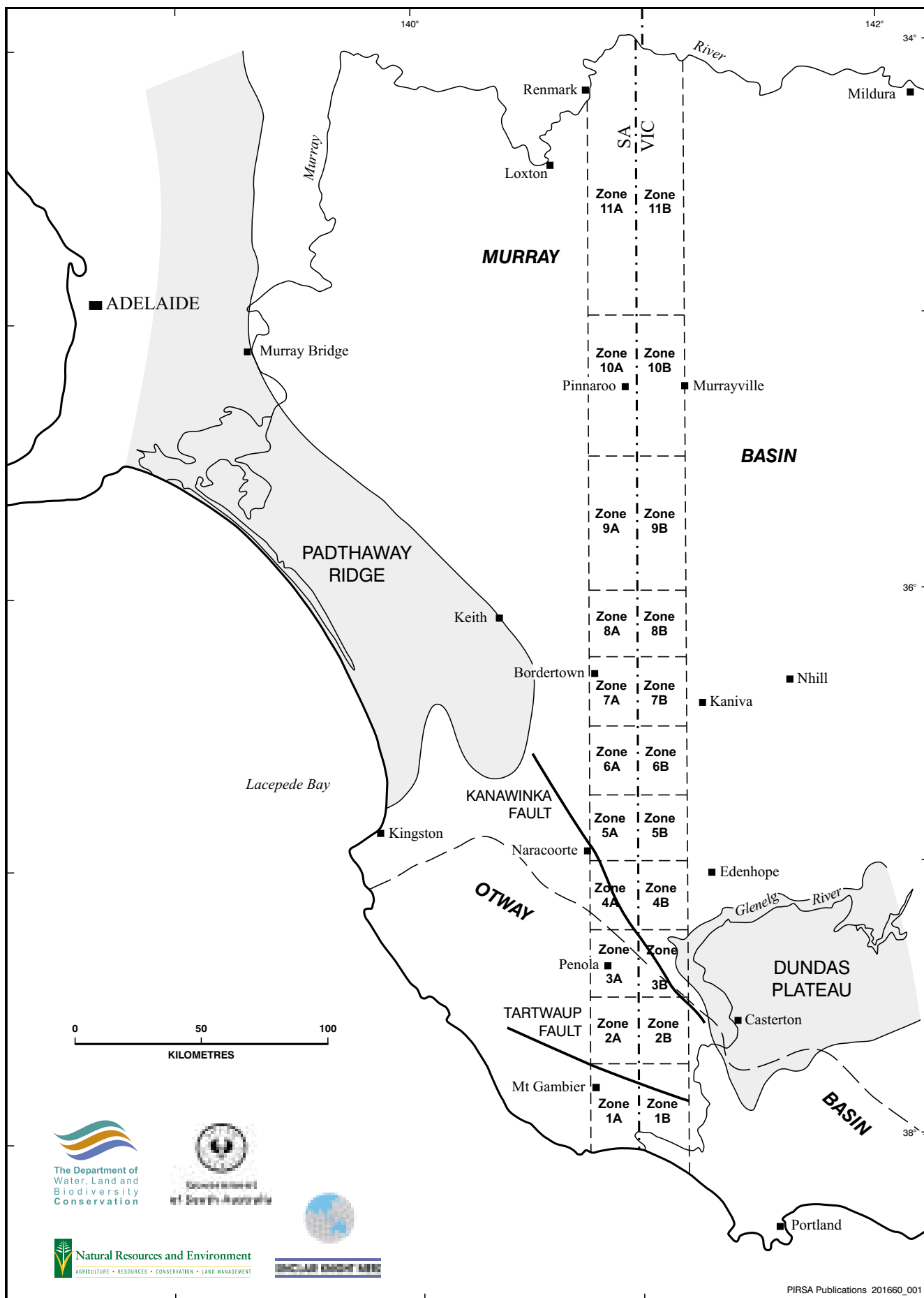
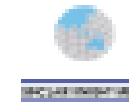


Figure 1 Locality plan (underlying hydrogeology).

HYDROSTRATIGRAPHIC UNITS OF THE OTWAY AND MURRAY BASINS



| AGE | | OTWAY BASIN | | MURRAY BASIN | | HYDRO-STRATIGRAPHIC UNIT | COMMENTS | | |
|------------|-------|-----------------|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| | | ROCK UNIT | ENVIRONMENT LITHOLOGY | ROCK UNIT | ENVIRONMENT LITHOLOGY | | | | |
| TERTIARY | Q | PLEISTOCENE | | Limestone, sand clay Lagoonal. | Woorinen Sand | Aeolian | Quaternary aquitard | Consists of Blanchetown Clay, Shepparton Fm, Woorinen Sand | |
| | | PLIOCENE | Padthaway Fm Bridgewater Fm Coomandook Fm | Lacustrine, beach ridge. | Loxton-Parilla Sand | Qtz sand, minor clay stranded beach ridges. Inter-ridge fluvio-lacustrine deposits marl. Restricted marine shelf. | | | Pliocene sands aquifer |
| | | MIOCENE | HEYTESBURY GROUP | Gambier Limestone | Fossiliferous limestone Open marine platform | Bookpurnong Formation | Fossiliferous limestone. Shallow marine platform | Upper Tertiary aquitard | |
| | | OLIGOCENE | | Marl | | Duddo Limestone | | | |
| | | EOCENE | NIRRANDA GROUP | Gellibrand Marl | Marl and dolomite | Ettrick Marl | Grey-green glauconitic marl. Shallow marine-lagoonal | Lower tertiary aquitard | Olney Formation is time equivalent of Dilwyn Formation. |
| | | | | Narrawaturk Marl | Glauconitic fossiliferous marl | | | | |
| | | | WANGERRIP GROUP | Mepunga Formation | Sand | Renmark Clay | Carbonaceous silts, sands, clays, lignitic. | Tertiary confined sand aquifer | |
| | | | | Dilwyn Clay | Interbedded sequence of sand, gravel, clay, fluvial deltaic | | | | |
| | | | | Dilwyn Sand | | | | | |
| | | | | Dilwyn Clay | | Renmark Sand | | Tertiary confined sand aquifer | |
| | | | Dilwyn Fm (Undiff) | Pember Mudstone Prodelta muds | Renmark Clay | | | | |
| | | | | | Renmark Group undifferentiated | | | | |
| CRETACEOUS | LATE | SHERBROOK GROUP | Timboon Sand | | | | Cretaceous aquifer/aquitard system | Cretaceous aquifer system present in Otway Basin, separated from Murray Basin by Padthaway Ridge. | |
| | | | Pebble Point Fm | Claystone | | | | | |
| | | | Belfast Mudstone | | | | | | |
| | EARLY | OTWAY GROUP | Eumeralla Fm | Shales, lacustrine volcanogenic sand, clay fluvial | | | | | |
| | | | Pretty Hill Sandstone | | | | | | |
| Є/O | | KANMANTOO GROUP | | Metamorphic and igneous | | | Hydraulic basement | Forms basement highs of Padthaway Ridge and Dundas Plateau. | |

Figure 2 Hydrostratigraphic units of the Otway and Murray Basins.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the full chemical analysis sampling program were to:

- Monitor and review in detail the groundwater quality data from the Designated Area, and together with available preceding data for the two aquifer systems determine any impacts affecting the groundwater resources.
- Identify knowledge gaps delineated by the spatial and temporal water quality trends in the TLA and by the spatial water quality relationships in the TCSA.
- Identify any groundwater management concerns for the aquifers in the Designated Area.
- Update the groundwater quality databases in both states to maintain a record of the results and to add to the temporal water quality records for the individual monitoring wells.

HYDROGEOLOGY

Two sedimentary basins, as shown in Figure 1, form the underlying hydrogeology in the Designated Area. The Otway Basin occurs to the south and Murray Basin to the north, both being formed during the Cainozoic period. The sediments occurring in these two basins are similar in character, but are separated by an axial high extending from the Dundas Plateau in the east to the Padthaway Ridge to the west (Walker *et al.*, 2001).

There are 3 main aquifer systems, as shown in Figure 2, in the Designated Area:

- 1) The Tertiary Limestone Aquifer (TLA), comprising mainly cemented limestone ranging from clayey marl to karstic limestone. This is called the Gambier Limestone in the Otway Basin and is overlain by the Bridgewater, Coomandook and Padthaway Formations. The equivalent of the Gambier Limestone in the Murray Basin is called the Murray Group Limestone.
- 2) The Tertiary Confined Sand Aquifer (TCSA), comprising of a series of sand and gravel called the Dilwyn Formation in the Otway Basin and the Renmark Group in the Murray Basin. The depth to the confining bed that overlies the TCSA ranges from less than 30 m to in excess of 240 m along the Designated Area, and
- 3) The Pliocene Sands Aquifer (PSA), consisting mainly of the Loxton-Parilla Sands. This aquifer is not found extensively through the Designated Area and is restricted in occurrence, mainly in the northern part of the Designated Area, due to the Loxton-Parilla Sands being unsaturated through most of the Designated Area.

There are two distinct aquitards that occur within the hydrogeological sequence in the Designated Area (Fig. 2):

- 1) The Lower Tertiary Aquitard, consisting of clay and marl, is the confining bed overlying the TCSA and allows limited groundwater leakage between the TLA and TCSA.
- 2) The Upper Tertiary Aquitard, consisting of the Bookpurnong Beds, a calcareous clay and silty sand deposition, occurs largely to the north and north eastern parts of the Murray Basin, (Walker *et al.*, 2001). The Upper Tertiary Aquitard is the confining bed that overlies the TLA in Hydrogeological Province 3, discussed below, above which lies the PSA.

The Designated Area has been divided into 3 hydrogeological provinces to describe the varying hydraulic nature of the TLA (Fig. 3).

Province 1 is located to the south of the Kanawinka Fault, therefore occurring mainly in the Otway Basin. Here, the TLA is characterized as an unconfined aquifer having the Gambier Limestone overlain by the Bridgewater, Coomandook and Padthaway Formations.

Province 2 is to the north of the Kanawinka Fault, occurring in the Murray Basin. Here, the TLA is unconfined with the Murray Group Limestone at the surface or overlain by the Loxton-Parilla Sands.

Province 3 is the region of the Murray Basin where the Murray Group Limestone is confined. This is due to the presence of the Upper Tertiary Aquitard that separates the TLA and PSA and allows limited vertical leakage between the two aquifers. Confinement of the TLA can also occur due to cementation of the Upper Parilla Sands.

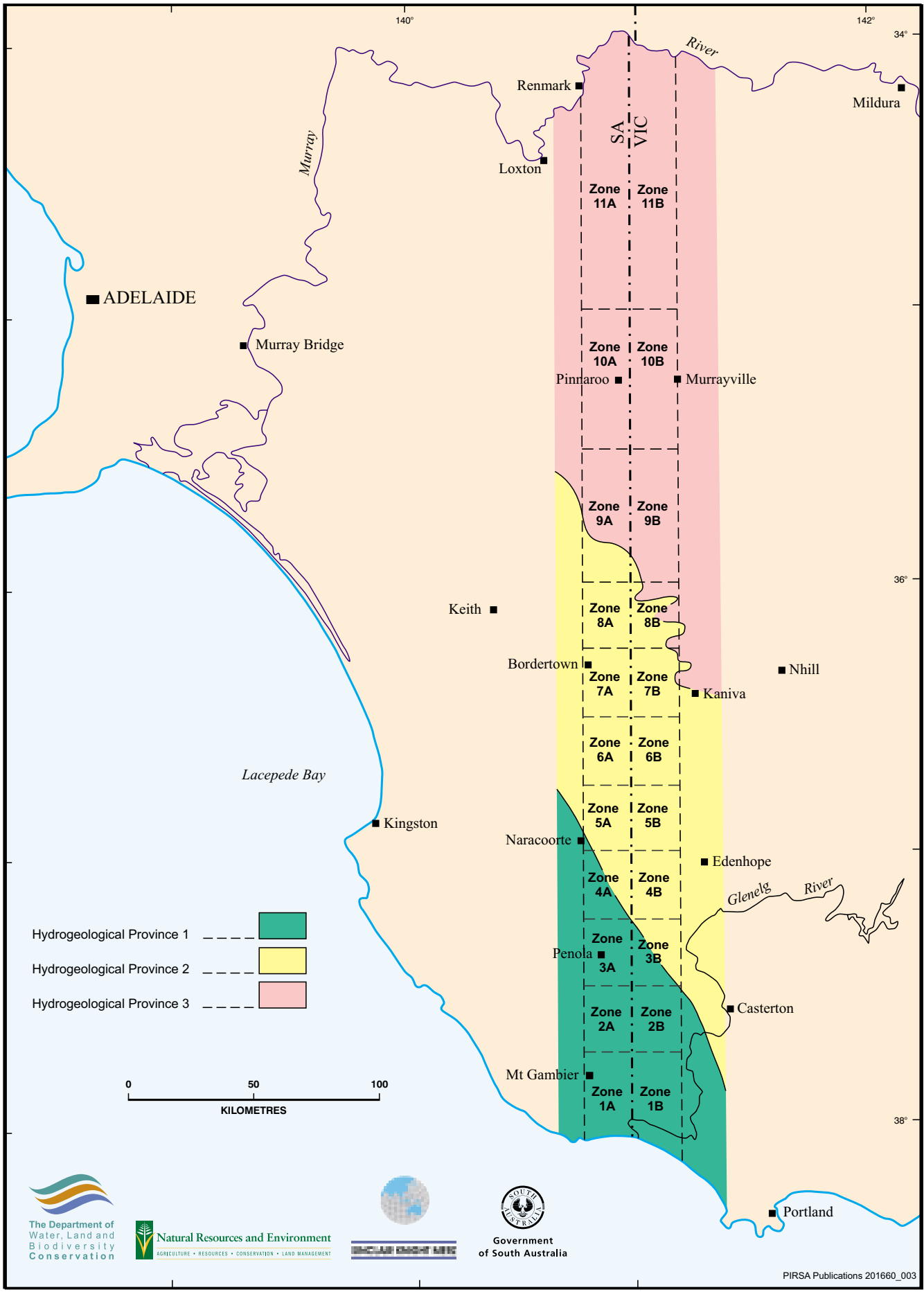


Figure 3 Hydrogeological provinces of the Designated Area.

Groundwater flow direction in the TLA can be generalized into:

- a) a northeast to southwest flow in the south of the Designated Area,
- b) an east to west flow in the central regions and
- c) a southeast to northwest flow in the north of the Designated Area (Walker *et al.*, 2001).

For the TCSA, the primary recharge area is the Dundas Plateau and from there, the groundwater flows to the south, west, and north in a radial manner (Walker *et al.*, 2001). There is the potential for leakage or mixing of groundwater between the TLA and TCSA within the Designated Area. In the area south of Mount Gambier, there is a potential for upward leakage from the TCSA to the TLA as there is a positive head difference between the two aquifers. Hence there is potential for the TCSA to recharge the TLA. North of Mount Gambier, the potential leakage is downward as there is a negative head difference between the two aquifers. Therefore there is the potential for groundwater from the TLA to recharge the TCSA in this area.

A key knowledge gap for the Designated Area is the hydraulic interconnectivity between the two main aquifer systems. Potentiometric head differences between the confined and unconfined aquifers are known, however the hydraulic and spatial nature of the confining bed are not fully understood.

METHODOLOGY

A total of 171 wells were sampled during the March 2002 sampling period, including wells in both the TLA (147 wells) and TCSA (24 wells) (Fig. 4). The wells sampled were sought from a combination of both South Australian and Victorian locations to give a snapshot of the groundwater quality in the Designated Area.

All South Australian wells were sampled by pumping and followed the Australian sampling protocol (W.R.M.C 1991) to ensure the samples were representative of the aquifer. Sampling in Victoria was undertaken using a combination of pumped, bailed, tank and tap samples.

All groundwater samples from South Australia and Victoria were analysed for a range of parameters, as shown in Appendix A, at Australian Laboratory Services therefore ensuring consistent analytical methods. The analytical data was then used to determine spatial distributions in the Designated Area in both the TLA and TCSA systems. Through comparison with historical data from the Designated Area, temporal trends were also analysed. Land use patterns were studied in conjunction with the results found in spatial and temporal trends in groundwater quality to determine those practices, if any, impacting on the groundwater system.

The spatial and temporal analysis of the data involved entering the data into ArcView 3.2, a GIS software package. For use in ArcView 3.2, concentrations less than their minimum reportable analytical concentration were assumed to be zero.

Monitoring well locations

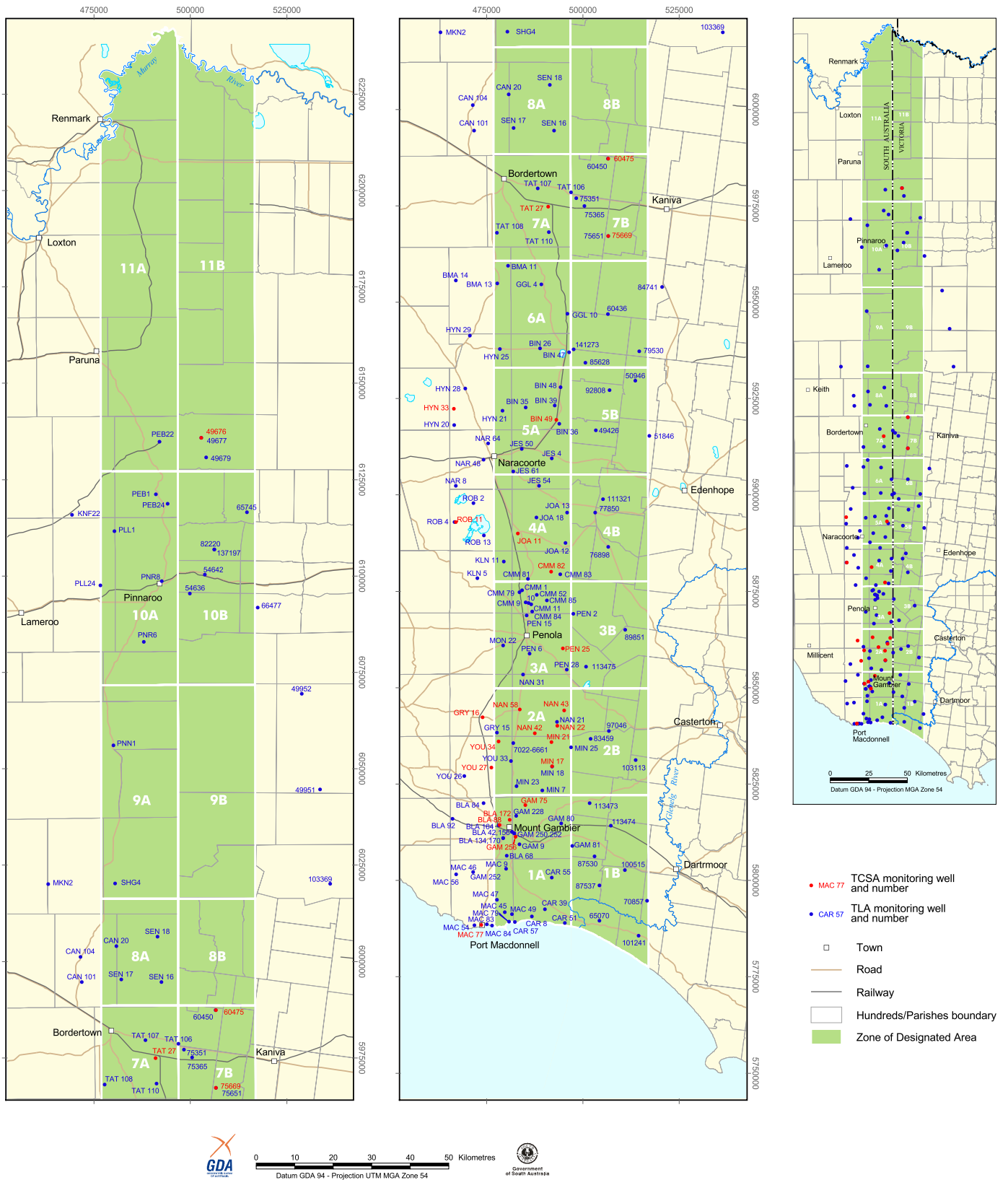


Figure 4

RESULTS

Spatial Groundwater Quality Distributions

TERTIARY LIMESTONE AQUIFER (TLA)

1) Electrical Conductivity (EC)

Electrical conductivity (EC) is a measure of the ability of water to conduct an electrical current. This increases with increasing salinity or Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) content of the water.

Figure 5 gives an electrical conductivity range for each well sampled in the TLA for the Designated Area along with contours of electrical conductivity.

Generally Zones 1A and 1B have an EC below 1000 $\mu\text{S/cm}$, while Zones 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B have an increased EC ranging from 1000 $\mu\text{S/cm}$ to 2000 $\mu\text{S/cm}$. The increasing trend continues through Zones 4A and 4B over a sharp salinity gradient with several wells recording salinities up to 5000 $\mu\text{S/cm}$. Hydrogeological Province 1 corresponds to the area of lowest salinity groundwater of the Designated Area. The sharp salinity gradient that occurs through Zones 4A and 4B, as described above, also closely aligns with the Kanawinka Fault and Hydrogeological Province 2 to the north of this fault.

From Zones 5A and 5B through to the middle of Zone 8A, the EC varies from areas higher than 5000 $\mu\text{S/cm}$ to less than 2000 $\mu\text{S/cm}$. Hydrogeological Province 2 is located in this highly variable environment. Between Zones 8A and 8B to the middle of Zones 10A and 10B, the EC value for the groundwater remains within 1000 to 2000 $\mu\text{S/cm}$, however the number of wells sampled in this region of the Designated Area gives insufficient data to allow accurate interpretation. From the middle of Zones 10A and 10B to the start of Zones 11A and 11B, the EC again rises with one well having an EC of 6870 $\mu\text{S/cm}$. Hydrogeological Province 3 is located above Zones 8A and 8B and as described above, the TLA is confined and overlain by the PSA.

Table 1 shows the electrical conductivity water quality guidelines for human drinking water, irrigation purposes and ideal livestock conditions. Of the wells sampled in the Designated Area, approximately half are of an acceptable EC concentration for human drinking water (less than 1820 EC units).

Table 1. Electrical Conductivity Water Quality Guidelines

| EC Water Quality Guidelines (units=mS/cm) | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|--------|
| <i>Drinking</i> | <i>Irrigation</i> | <i>Livestock (ideal)</i> | |
| < 910 (good) | Varies according to crop type and other factors | Sheep | 10 510 |
| 910-1820 (acceptable) | | Beef cattle | 7 100 |
| > 1820 (poor) | | Dairy cattle | 5 360 |
| | | Horses | 7 000 |
| | | Pigs | 3 600 |

Source: NHMRC 1996 and ANZECC Nov 1992.

**TLA – Electrical conductivity
March 2002**

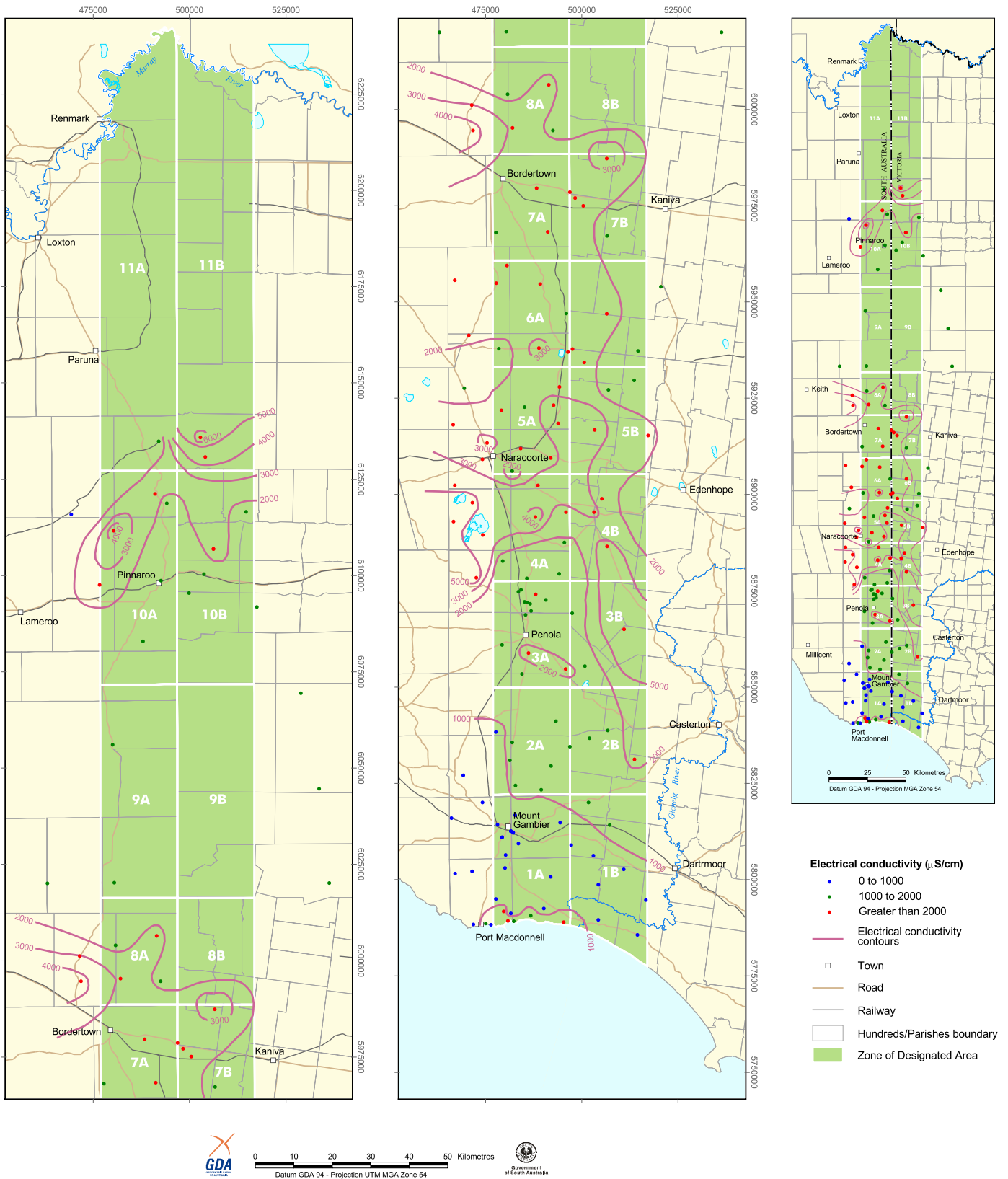


Figure 5

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The EC is an important consideration for irrigation waters. Increased EC causes the osmotic pressure of the soil solution to increase causing reduced accessibility to water by the plants possibly leading to slowing of plant growth. The guideline values for EC that are provided vary for different irrigation regimes, crop types and tolerance, soil types and climatic conditions (ANZECC 1992).

For the land in Zones 1A and 1B, the EC is quite low and therefore should be quite suitable for most irrigation practices on the soils found in the region. For the remainder of the Designated Area, the groundwater quality varies from areas requiring minor salinity management to isolated areas where irrigation salinity limits are exceeded and would not be possible even for quite salt tolerant crops.

The livestock water quality guidelines vary over a large range of values, being dependent on the type of livestock involved, condition of the livestock and time the livestock be subjected to the water. For much of the Designated Area, except in the northern most part of the area, the EC concentration should be suitable for most types of stock.

2) Chloride (Cl)

Figure 6 gives a chloride concentration range for each well sampled in the TLA for the Designated Area along with chloride concentration contours for the entire area.

Generally, the chloride concentration is below 500 mg/L in Zones 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B and 3A, with the majority of wells in this region of the Designated Area having a chloride level below the aesthetic drinking water quality guideline of 250 mg/L (Table 2). This region of low chloride concentration aligns with Hydrogeological Province 1 and, similarly to EC, a sharp chloride gradient occurs across the Kanawinka Fault.

Table 2. Chloride Water Quality Guidelines

| Chloride Water Quality Guidelines | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| <i>Drinking</i> | <i>Irrigation</i> | <i>Livestock</i> |
| 250 mg/L (Aesthetic) | 30–700 mg/L | Not Available |

Source: NHMRC 1996 and ANZECC Nov 1992.

North of the Kanawinka Fault in Hydrogeological Province 2, the chloride concentration rises to a concentration of 2400 mg/L in Zone 3B. This high value is however isolated with the majority of wells having concentrations ranging from less than 500 mg/L to around 1500 mg/L. There are 4 wells in Zones 4A, 5A and 5B where the chloride concentration does not exceed the drinking water quality guideline of 250 mg/L.

In Hydrogeological Province 3, where the PSA overlays the TLA, the chloride concentration decreases from around 1000 mg/L to less than 500 mg/L. However, from the middle of Zones 10A and 10B to the beginning of Zones 11A and 11B, the chloride concentration again rises with one well having a concentration of 1930 mg/L in Zone 11B.

In relation to irrigation guidelines, the chloride concentrations in the Designated Area are difficult to summarize due to the wide range of acceptable concentrations and that they are dependent on irrigation management and crop type. However towards the south of the

**TLA – Chloride concentration
 March 2002**

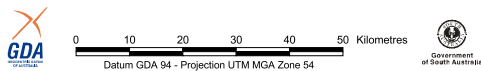


Figure 6

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Designated Area, being Zones 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B and 3A, the concentrations are low and are suitable for most irrigation crops.

3) Fluoride (F)

Figure 7 shows the fluoride concentrations for each well sampled in the TLA within the Designated Area. There was no distinguishing spatial trend in groundwater fluoride concentrations. Six wells have fluoride concentrations exceeding the drinking water quality guideline of 1.5 mg/L, refer to Table 3. Of these six, 4 located in the region of Zones 4A and 4B and 1 in Zone 11B fall within the concentration range of 1.5 to 4 mg/L which requires caution if used for drinking water due to danger of dental fluorosis. The sixth well to exceed the 1.5 mg/L guideline is located in Zone 3B and has a concentration exceeding the 4 mg/L guideline for drinking water, above which there is a risk of skeletal fluorosis.

Table 3. Fluoride Water Quality Guidelines

| Fluoride Water Quality Guidelines | | |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| <i>Drinking</i> | <i>Irrigation</i> | <i>Livestock</i> |
| 1.5 mg/L (dental) | 1 mg/L | 2 mg/L |
| 4 mg/L (skeletal) | | |

Source: NHMRC 1996 and ANZECC Nov 1992.

Most of the wells have fluoride concentrations that fall below the irrigation water quality guideline of 1 mg/L. There is one well located near Port MacDonnell in Zone 1A and there are 7 wells located in and around Zones 3B, 4A, 4B and 5A with concentrations greater than the irrigation guideline. A further 4 wells in Zones 10A, 10B, 11A and 11B (a less sampled area of the Designated Area) have high fluoride concentrations.

Four wells in the Designated Area have fluoride concentrations exceeding the livestock water quality guideline of 2 mg/L. These are located in Zones 3B, 4B, and two just outside Zone 4A. Excess fluoride has similar effects on livestock as on humans.

4) Iron (Fe)

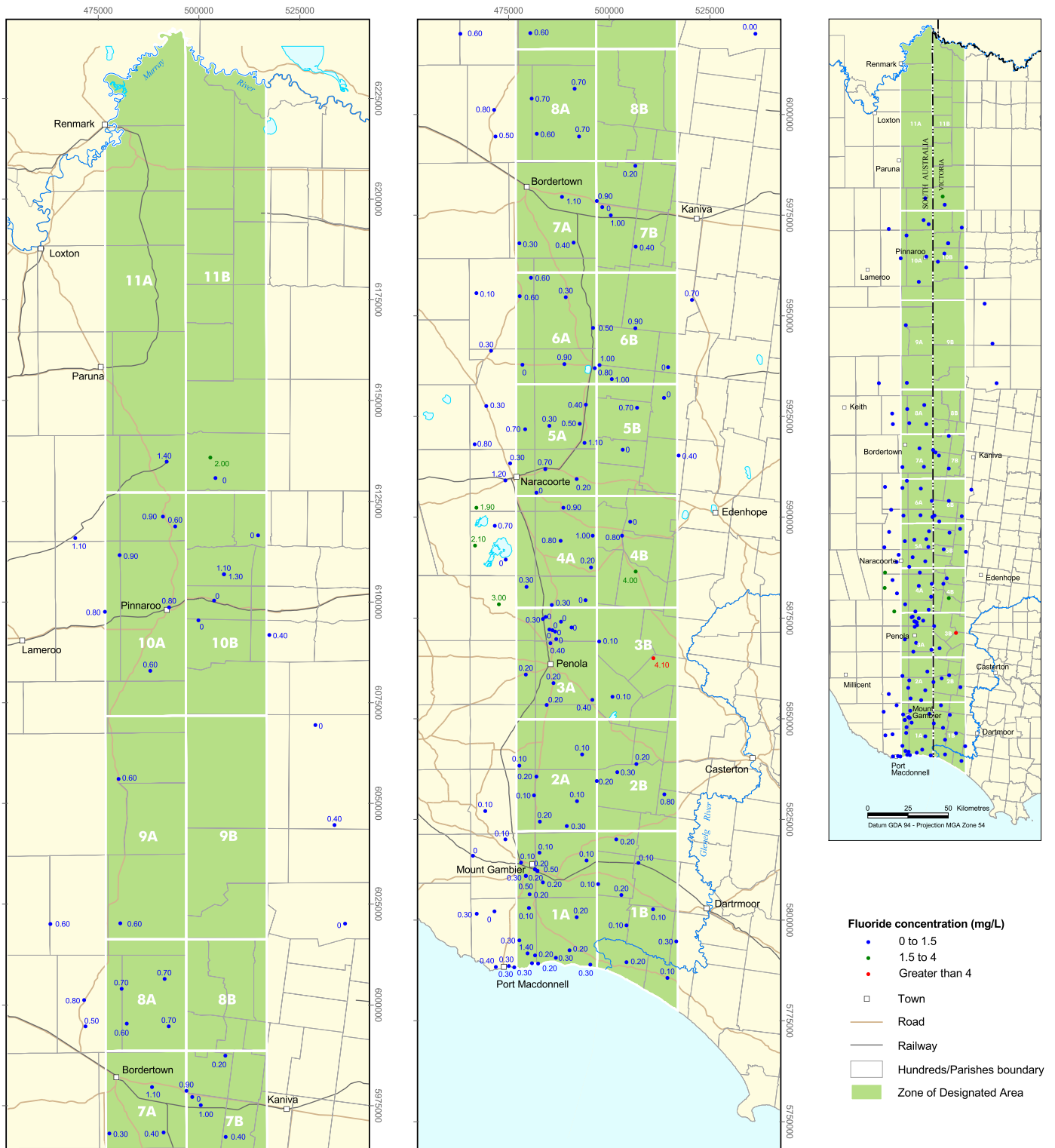
Figure 8 provides the iron concentrations for each well sampled in the TLA within the Designated Area and shows little spatial trend. Nineteen wells have iron concentrations above the acceptable drinking water quality guideline of 0.3 mg/L, refer to Table 4. This guideline is an aesthetic value based on the taste threshold. At higher concentrations iron staining can occur, whilst iron bacteria can cause corrosion, taste and odour (NHMRC 1996).

Table 4. Iron Water Quality Guidelines

| Iron Water Quality Guidelines | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <i>Drinking</i> | <i>Irrigation</i> | <i>Livestock</i> |
| 0.3 mg/L (Aesthetic) | 1 mg/L | Not Available |

Source: NHMRC 1996 and ANZECC Nov 1992.

**TLA – Fluoride concentration
 March 2002**



Fluoride concentration (mg/L)

- 0 to 1.5
- 1.5 to 4
- Greater than 4
- Town
- Road
- Railway
- Hundreds/Parishes boundary
- Zone of Designated Area

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 Datum GDA 94 - Projection UTM MGA Zone 54

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**TLA – Iron concentration
 March 2002**

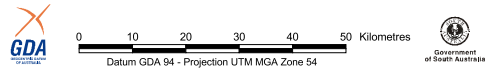


Figure 8

Four wells in the Designated Area have iron concentrations above the irrigation water quality guideline of /L. These 4 wells display no spatial grouping, while the remaining wells have concentrations below the guideline and are suitable for irrigation waters. Above this guideline, the excess iron can cause blockage of irrigation equipment.

5) Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR)

The Sodium Adsorption Ratio is a guide used to indicate the threat of using high sodium concentrations in irrigation waters. Through a process known as cation exchange, water high in sodium concentration and low in calcium and magnesium concentrations can destroy the soil structure as clay particles are dispersed (Fetter, 1994).

The Sodium Adsorption Ratio is expressed as:

$$SAR = (Na^+) / [(Ca^{2+}) + (Mg^{2+})/2]^{0.5}$$

Table 5 shows the SAR categories, their values and the potential risk for soil structure if that water is used for irrigation purposes.

Table 5. Sodium Adsorption Ratio Water Quality Guidelines

| Sodium Adsorption Ration Water Quality Guidelines | | |
|--|------------|---|
| <i>Category</i> | <i>SAR</i> | <i>Potential risk for soil dispersion</i> |
| S1 | 0 to 10 | Low |
| S2 | 10 to 18 | Medium |
| S3 | 18 to 26 | High |
| S4 | > 26 | Very high |

Source: Fetter, 1994.

Figure 9 shows the SAR values for each well sampled in the TLA for the Designated Area. The majority of wells sampled in the Designated Area have SAR's in the S1 category, being of low potential risk for soil structure. A group of wells in Zones 4A and 4B display SAR's in the S2 category, representing a medium hazard to soil structure. Beyond this, there are a few other wells scattered throughout the Designated Area that have a SAR in the S2 category. No wells in the Designated Area have SAR greater than a S2 category, that is, no wells have high or very high-risk soil dispersing irrigation waters.

6) Nitrate + Nitrite as Nitrogen (NO₃ + NO₂ as N)

The summation of NO₃ + NO₂ (as N) is generally referred to as NO_x (as N) and therefore for the remainder of this report the term NO_x (as N) will be used.

Figure 10 provides the NO_x (as N) concentrations for each well sampled in the TLA for the Designated Area. Generally lower concentrations occur towards the north of the Designated Area.

Table 6 shows the nitrate and nitrite (as N) water quality guidelines for drinking, irrigation and livestock uses.

**TLA – Sodium Adsorption Ratio
 March 2002**

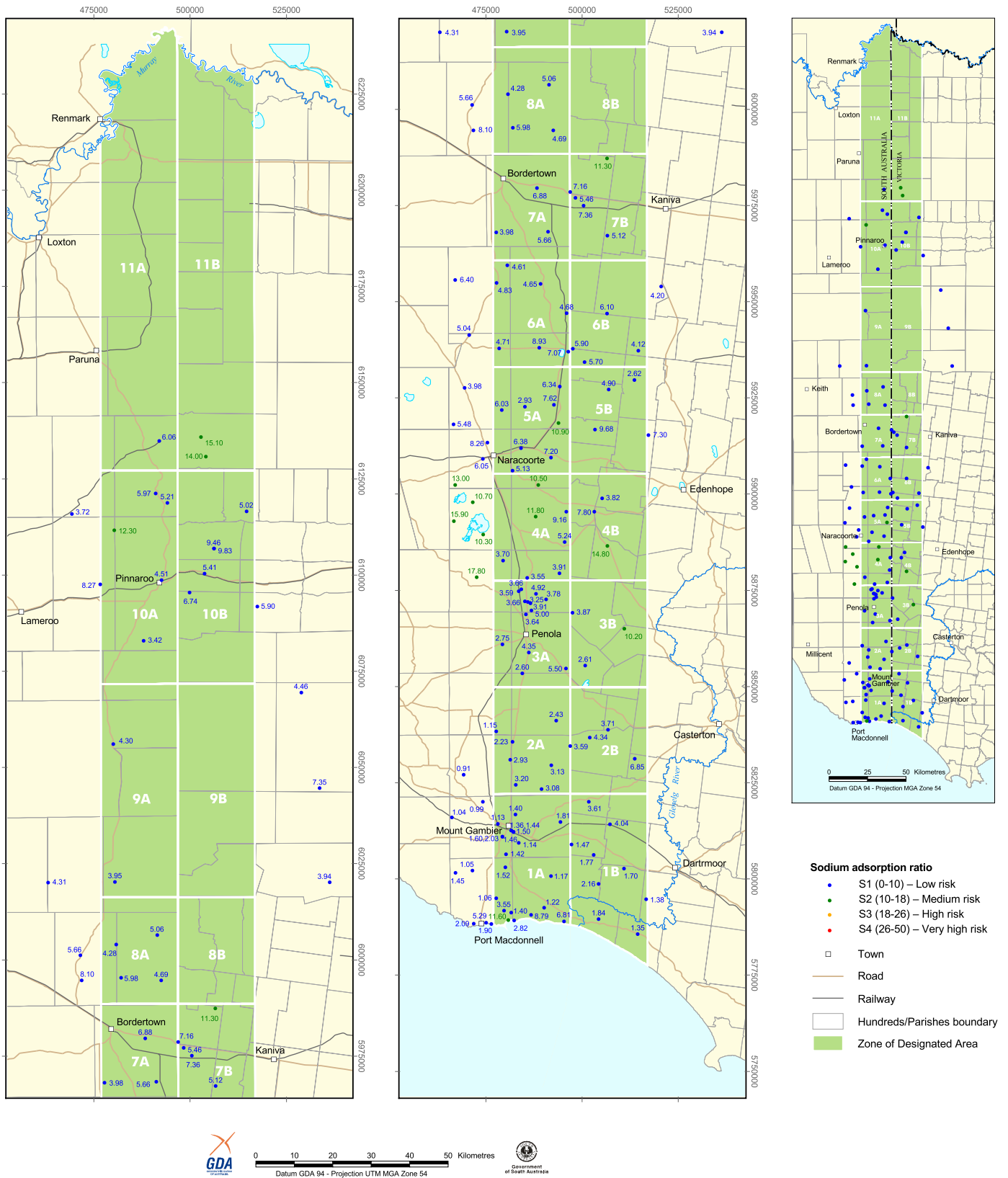


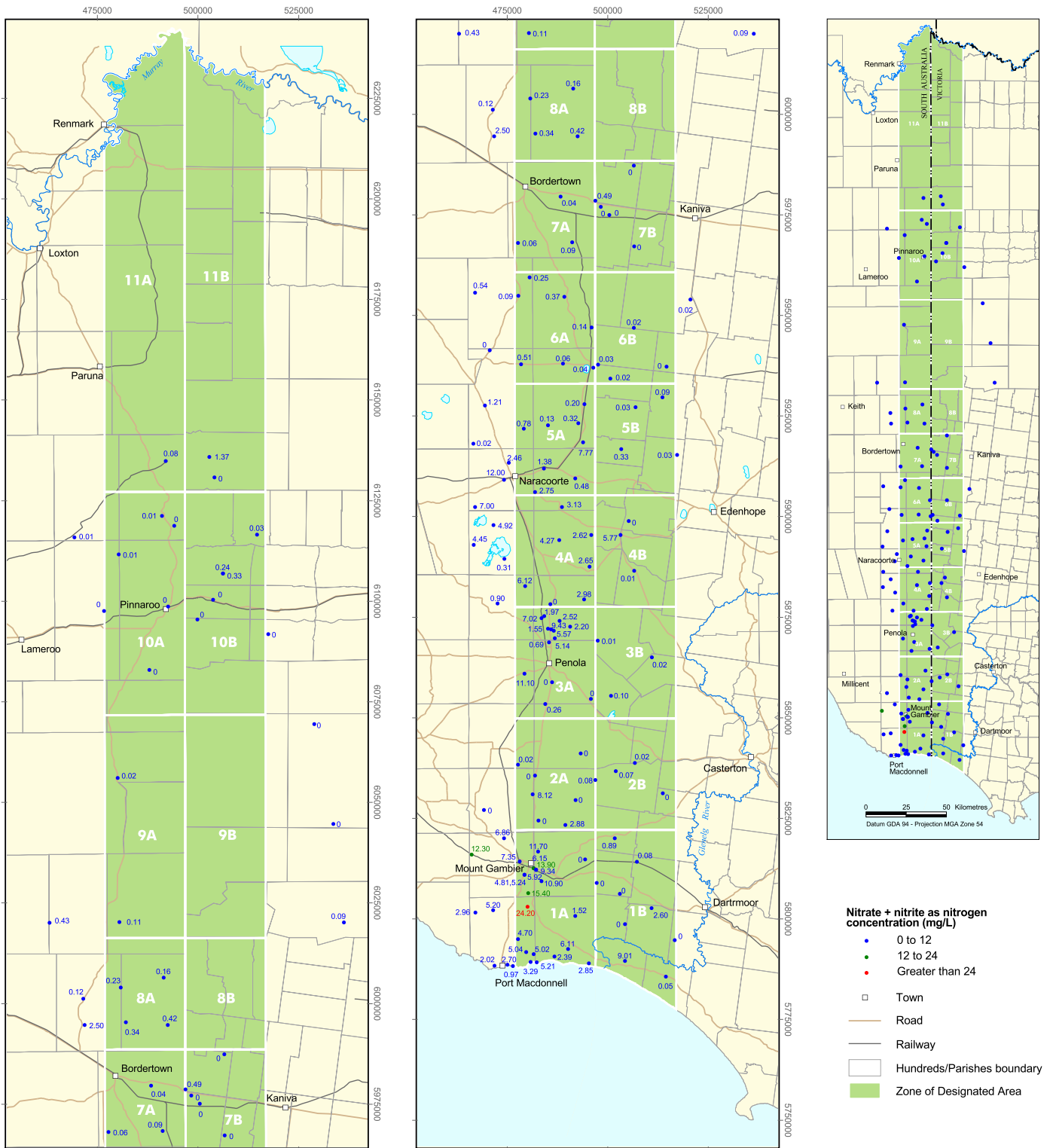
Figure 9

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**TLA – Nitrate + nitrite as nitrogen concentration
 March 2002**



Nitrate + nitrite as nitrogen concentration (mg/L)

- 0 to 12
- 12 to 24
- Greater than 24

□ Town
 — Road
 — Railway
 □ Hundreds/Parishes boundary
 ■ Zone of Designated Area

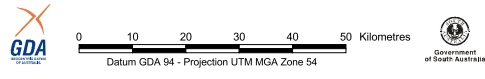


Figure 10

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Table 6. Nitrate + nitrite as nitrogen Water Quality Guidelines

| Nitrate + Nitrite as nitrogen Water Quality Guidelines | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------|
| <i>Drinking</i> | <i>Irrigation</i> | <i>Livestock</i> |
| ~12 mg/L (infants) | Not Available | 40 mg/L |
| ~24 mg/L (adults) | | |

Source: NHMRC 1996 and ANZECC Nov 1992.

No specific NO_x (as N) drinking water guidelines are available. To use the NO_x (as N) analytical results for determination of drinking water quality, a determination was made using the published NO₃ and NO₂ guideline concentrations (as explained in Appendix B). It should be noted that these guidelines are somewhat arbitrary and are subject to the individual NO₃ and NO₂ concentrations that have not been analysed and reported. Future water quality testing in the Designated Area should include individual analysis for nitrate and nitrite concentrations. The guidelines assigned to the NO_x (as N) parameter are 12 mg/L for infants aged younger than 3 months and 24 mg/L for children and adults (Table 6). Above the later value, water becomes unsuitable for drinking.

Four wells have concentrations exceeding the combined drinking water quality guideline of 12 mg/L for infants, while 1 of these exceeds the guideline limit set for adults of 24 mg/L. All occur in Zone 1A to the south of Mount Gambier. This is an area where high concentrations of NO_x (as N) have previously been recorded and caution is needed if the groundwater is used as a potable supply. The elevated NO_x (as N) concentrations are attributed to a range of different causes ranging from septic tank effluent leaking into the TLA to varying industrial and agricultural land uses.

All wells in the Designated Area fall below the combined NO_x (as N) guideline of 40 mg/L for stock water.

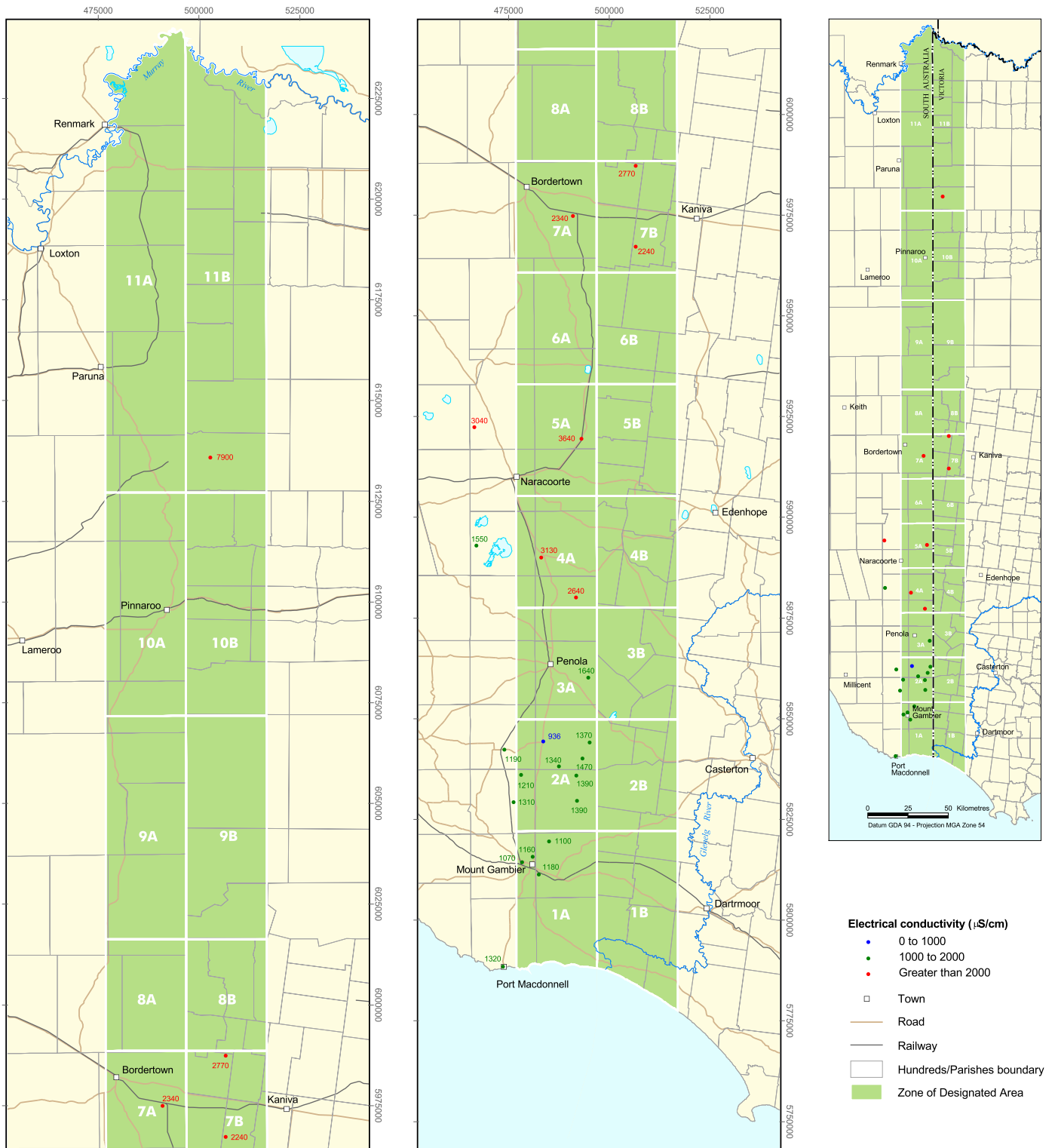
TERTIARY CONFINED SAND AQUIFER (TCSA)

Due to the limitations of data for the TCSA, the process of a comprehensive spatial analysis could not be undertaken. The limitations of the data extends to only 3 wells in Victoria, two of which are in Zone 6B and one in Zone 11B. While in South Australia there is a concentration of wells sampled in Zones 1A and 1B with only a few wells sampled elsewhere in the Designated Area. Therefore only a brief analysis follows.

1) Electrical Conductivity (EC)

Figure 11 shows the electrical conductivity for each well sampled in the TCSA of the Designated Area. Unlike the TLA, there is only one well for the TCSA with an EC less than 1000 µS/cm, located in Zone 2A. In the south of the Designated Area, namely Zones 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B and 3A, the EC ranges between 900 and 2000 µS/cm, while towards the north the EC is greater than 2000 µS/cm with the exception of one well to the west of Zone 4A. Groundwater to the south of Zone 4A is suitable for drinking water and is used for several town water supplies.

**TCSA – Electrical conductivity
 March 2002**



Electrical conductivity ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)

- 0 to 1000
- 1000 to 2000
- Greater than 2000

□ Town
 — Road
 — Railway
 □ Hundreds/Parishes boundary
 ■ Zone of Designated Area

GDA
 Datum GDA 94 - Projection UTM MGA Zone 54
 0 10 20 30 40 50 Kilometres
 Government of South Australia

Figure 11

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2) Chloride (Cl)

The chloride concentrations are shown in Figure 12 for each well sampled in the TCSA of the Designated Area. In Zones 1A and 2A, the chloride concentration is generally below 200 mg/L. From Zone 3A through to 11B, the sparse data implies that the chloride concentration increases to the north exceeding the drinking water quality guideline of 250 mg/L.

As with the analysis for the TLA, the irrigation guideline covers a wide range of acceptable concentrations that are dependent on irrigation management and crop type and therefore it is difficult to summarise groundwater of the Designated Area in relation to the guideline. However, chloride concentrations are generally low (except 1 well in 11B) and should be suitable for most irrigation practices.

3) Fluoride (F)

Figure 13 provides the fluoride concentration for each well sampled in the TCSA of the Designated Area. Of the wells sampled in the TCSA, only one well located in Zone 7B has an exceptionally high fluoride concentration (2.5 mg/L), which is above the drinking water quality guideline of 1.5 mg/L. The remaining wells show no spatial distribution pattern and range in concentration from 0.1 to 1.4 mg/L.

Four wells in the TCSA have fluoride concentrations exceeding the irrigation water quality guideline. One well is located in Zone 5A, two are located in Zones 7A and 7B, while the fourth is situated in Zone 11B and show no spatial trend.

Only one well located in Zone 7B has a fluoride concentration in excess of the livestock water quality guideline of 2 mg/L.

4) Iron (Fe)

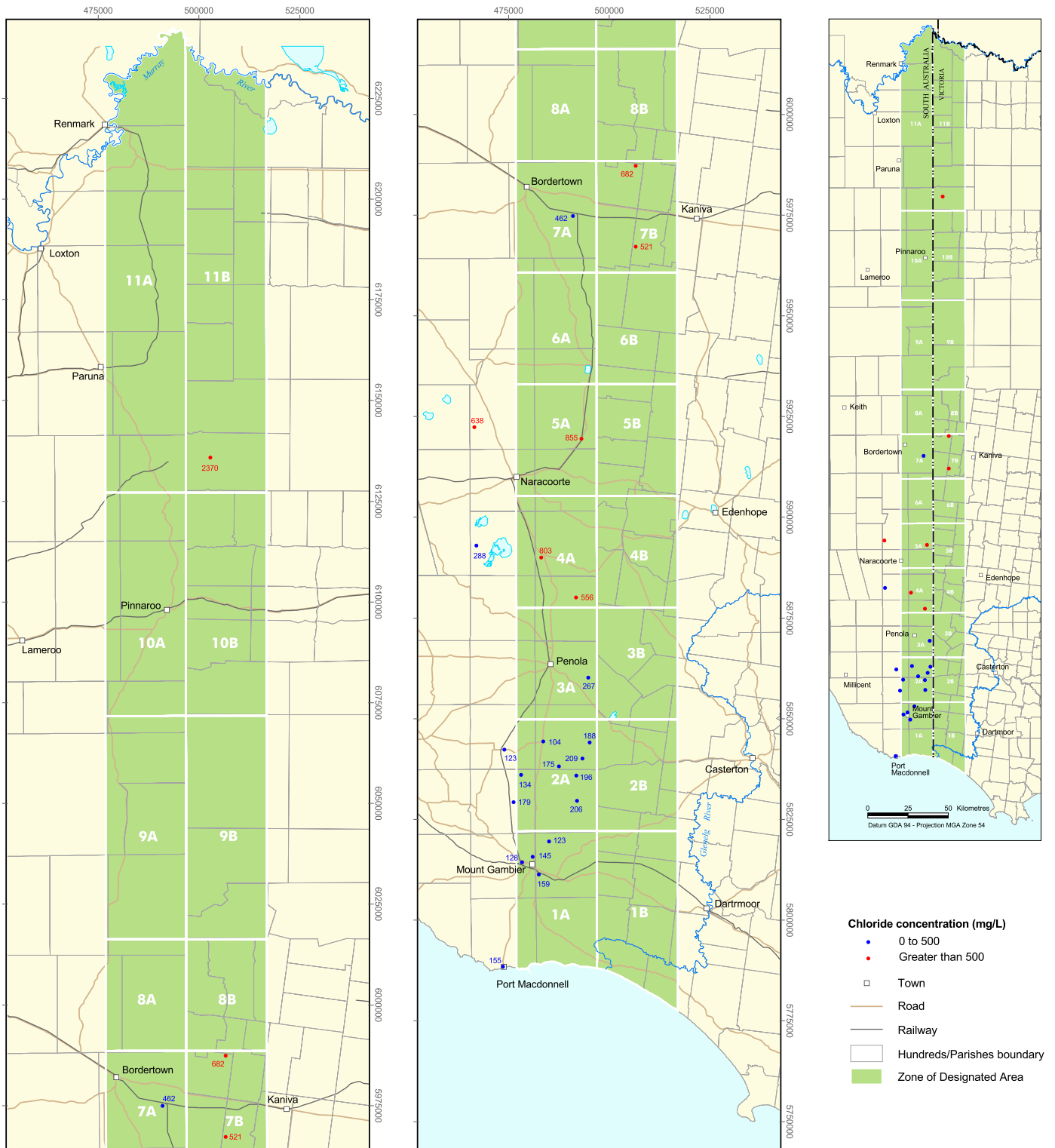
Figure 14 shows the iron concentration for each well sampled in the TCSA within the Designated Area. Again no spatial distribution can be distinguished for iron in the TCSA due to the limited data. Three of the wells sampled in the TCSA have iron concentrations exceeding the guideline for drinking water of 0.3 mg/L. These are located in Zones 4A, 5A and 7B.

One well located in Zone 7B has a concentration marginally above the irrigation guideline of 1 mg/L for iron. The remaining wells have iron concentrations suitable for irrigation purposes.

5) Nitrate + Nitrite as Nitrogen (NO₃ + NO₂ as N)

Figure 15 provides the NO_x (as N) concentration for each well sampled in the TCSA within the Designated Area. No spatial pattern is exhibited in the Designated Area for the combined concentration of NO_x (as N). Only 4 wells, 2 from South Australia in Zones 1A and 4A, and 2 from Victoria in Zones 7B and 11B have measurable concentrations and all well below both the drinking and irrigation water quality guidelines.

**TCSA – Chloride concentration
 March 2002**



- Chloride concentration (mg/L)**
- 0 to 500
 - Greater than 500
 - Town
 - Road
 - Railway
 - Hundreds/Parishes boundary
 - Zone of Designated Area

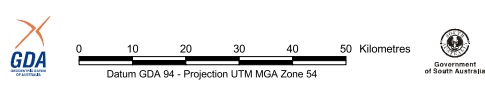


Figure 12

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**TCSA – Fluoride concentration
 March 2002**

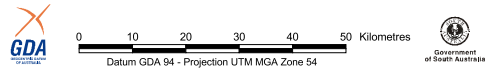
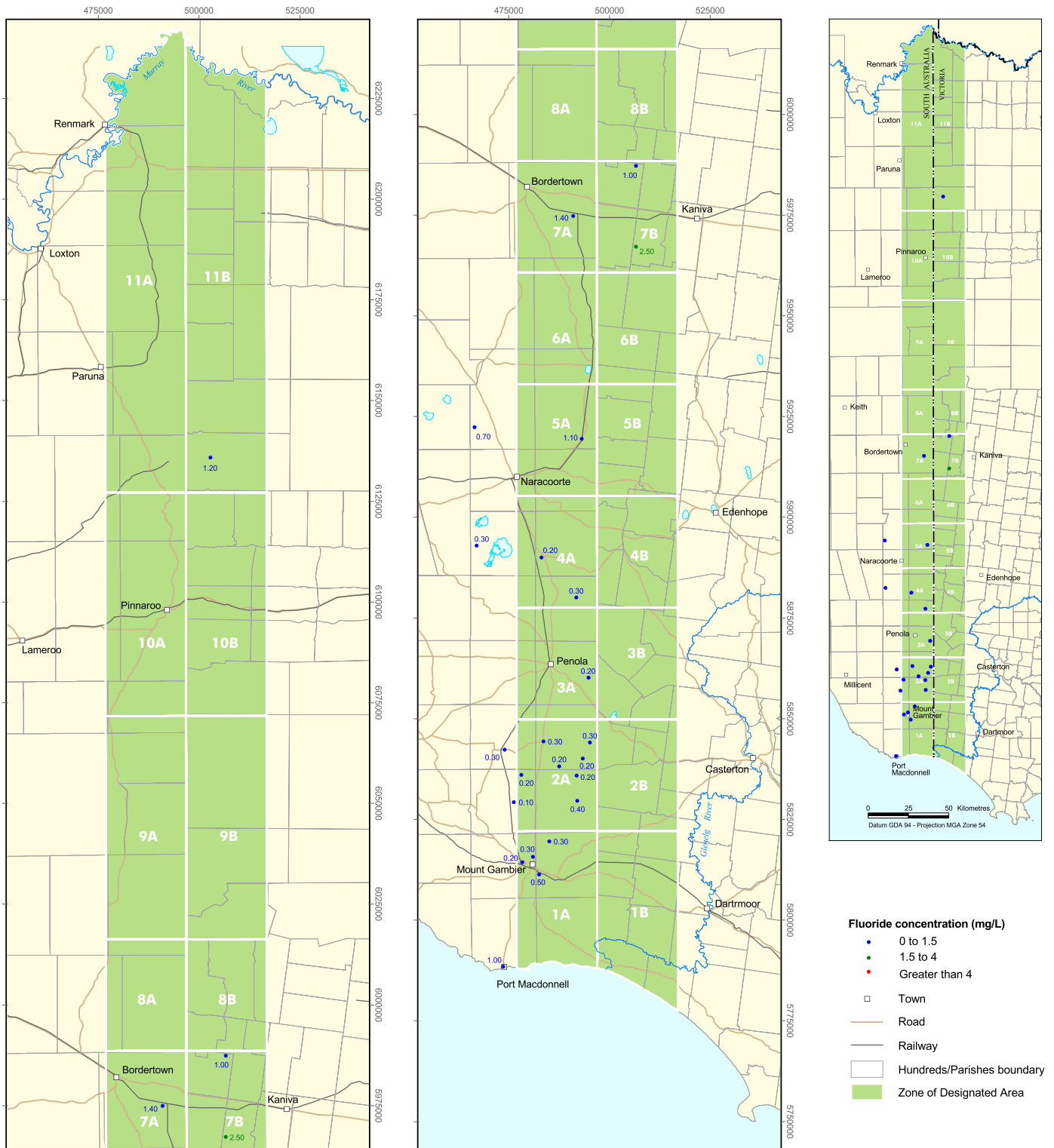


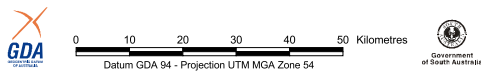
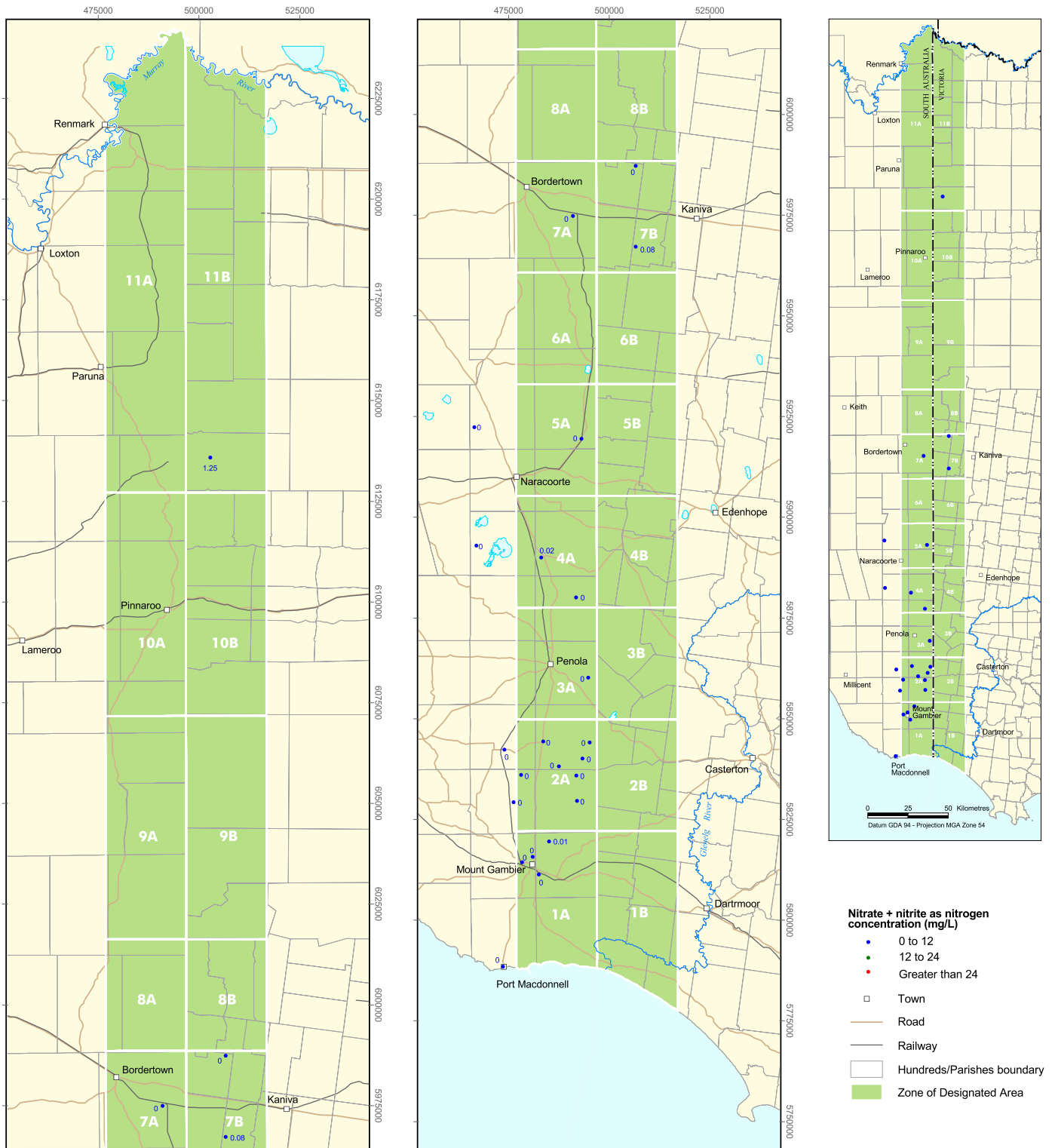
Figure 13

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**TCSA – Nitrate + nitrite as nitrogen concentration
 March 2002**



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TEMPORAL GROUNDWATER QUALITY TRENDS - TLA

Temporal groundwater quality trends in EC and chloride concentrations were examined for the TLA. The analysis was carried out on wells having data records over a period greater than 5 years and typically with more than 4 measurements.

For the purposes of this trend analysis:

- an annual EC trend between -10 to 10 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ is regarded as a negligible change, and
- a variation of -5 to 5 mg/L is regarded as negligible for chloride concentrations.

These assumptions have been made to allow for natural fluctuations and possible errors in sampling, analysis or conversion.

South Australia

Of the 106 wells sampled from the TLA in the South Australian region of the Designated Area during March 2002, 80 had sufficient historical data to be used for a temporal analysis of EC, while only 38 had sufficient historical chloride data. Two wells had historical Cl data but not historical EC data.

Figure 16 shows the annual electrical conductivity trend as at March 2002 in the TLA for the Designated Area. Forty-five of the eighty wells assessed for temporal EC trends show a negligible change over time and there is no apparent spatial distribution. An increasing trend is shown for 27 of the EC wells, with increases of up to 176 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}/\text{yr}$.

Figure 17 shows the annual chloride concentration trend as at March 2002 in the TLA of the Designated Area. Thirty of the thirty-eight wells used for temporal Cl analysis display a negligible annual trend. There are 4 wells located in Zones 4A, 5A and 6A that have an increasing Cl trend of up to 21 $\text{mg}/\text{L}/\text{yr}$, while the remaining 4 wells exhibit a decreasing Cl trend and are located in Zones 2A, 3A and 5A.

There is a strong correlation between EC trends and Cl trends across the South Australian Designated Area. As Cl is the dominant anion in the groundwater, this relationship is expected.

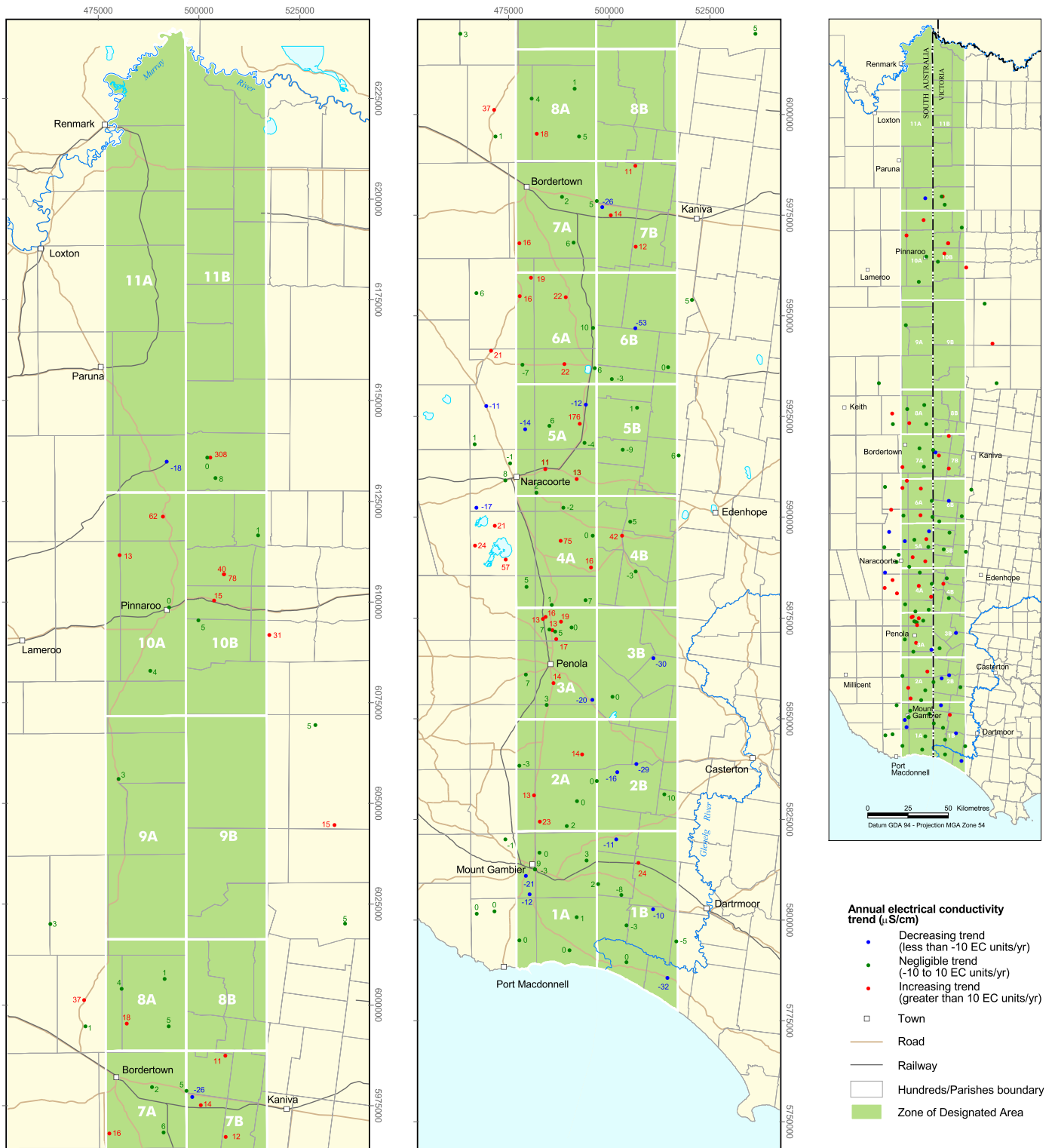
Victoria

Of the 41 wells sampled from the TLA in the Victorian region of the Designated Area during March 2002, 39 had sufficient historical data to be used for a temporal analysis of EC and 25 of these wells also had historical chloride data.

Eleven of the 39 wells with historical EC records exhibit temporal increases ranging up to 308 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}/\text{yr}$. Eight of the 39 wells exhibit decreasing trends and the remaining 20 exhibit negligible changes in EC over the sampling period.

Three of the 25 wells with historical Cl data showed increases of up to 87 $\text{mg}/\text{L}/\text{yr}$. Two of the 25 wells have a decreasing Cl trend, while 20 of the wells showed negligible trends.

TLA – Annual electrical conductivity trend as at March 2002



Annual electrical conductivity trend ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)

- Decreasing trend (less than -10 EC units/yr)
- Negligible trend (-10 to 10 EC units/yr)
- Increasing trend (greater than 10 EC units/yr)
- Town
- Road
- Railway
- Hundreds/Parishes boundary
- Zone of Designated Area

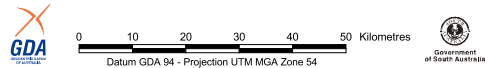


Figure 16

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TLA – Annual chloride concentration trend as at March 2002

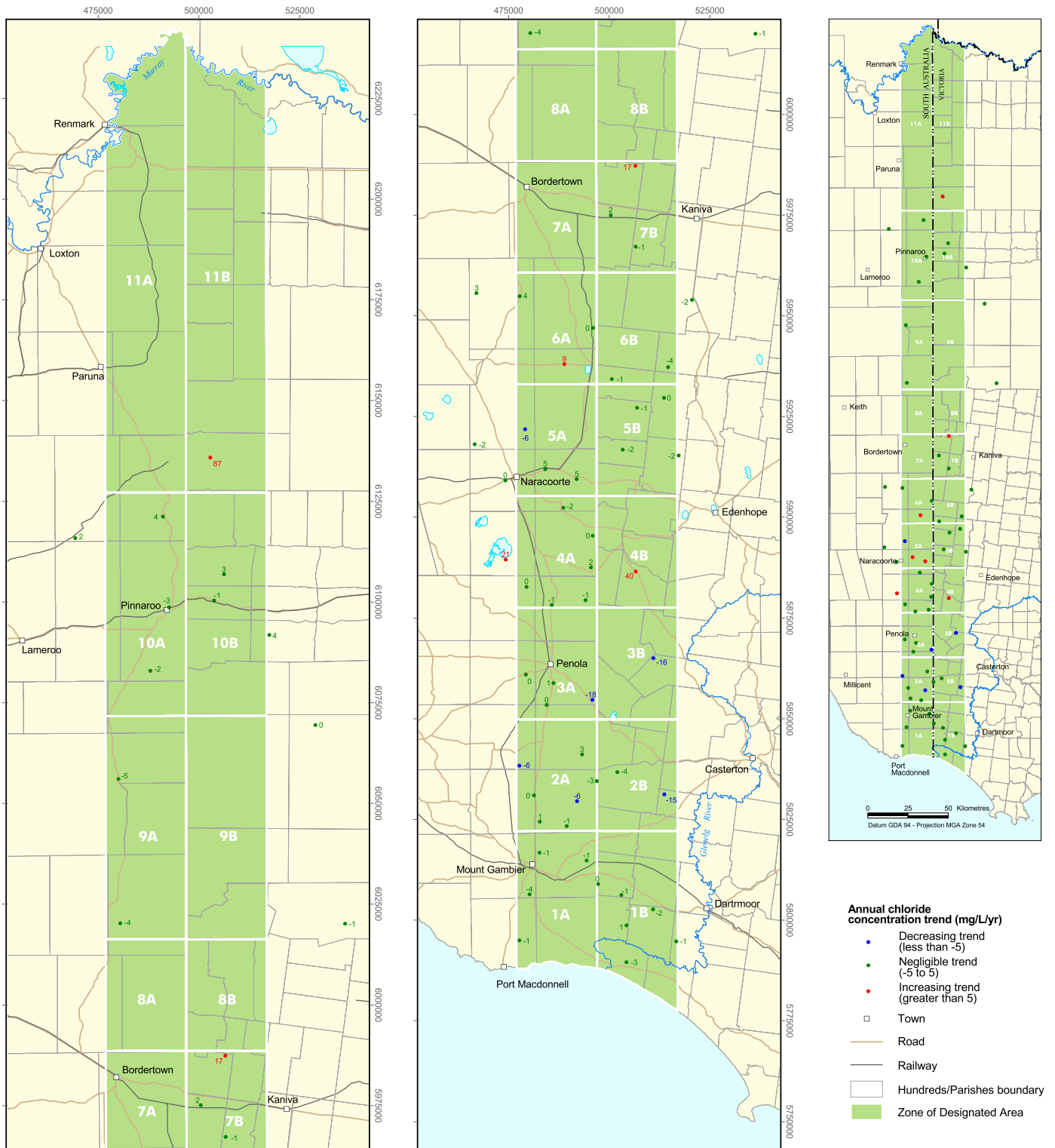


Figure 17

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DISCUSSION

There is a strong correlation between EC and chloride trends in the Designated Area. Chloride is a dominant anion and therefore this relationship should be expected.

The historic clearance of land is a primary cause for the annual EC increases in the Designated Area (Leaney *et al.*, 1999). Historically natural vegetation covered the land. This vegetation had a deep root system, used considerable water, kept the water table far beneath the land surface and salts were stored at and beneath the root zone. When the native vegetation was cleared and replaced by shallower rooted pastures and crops, an increased amount of soil water could recharge the groundwater system. This had the affect of flushing the salt store through to the water table, raising the water table level and dissolving salts in the profile as the water table rose, increasing the salt store in the groundwater.

The second primary cause for the annual EC increase in the Designated Area is irrigation practices. When groundwater is used for irrigation, the recycling of salts in the shallow soil profile occurs. As the crop uses water, salt is left in the profile which is then flushed into the groundwater during subsequent recharge events. The mobilisation of the historic salt store occurs as irrigation waters pass through the soil profile dissolving the salt store. The mobilised salt is then flushed through to the groundwater during subsequent recharge events. The salts concentrate in the groundwater and a recycling affect occurs as the groundwater is again drawn up for irrigation.

These two processes, the historic clearance of land and irrigation practices are considered to be the main causes of the increasing salinity in groundwater of the Designated Area. (Leaney *et al.*, 1999; Leaney and Herczeg 1999).

The southeast has also experienced a drier than average past 8 to 10 years which may also be a contributing factor to an increase in groundwater salinity in localised areas of the Designated Area. For example, in periods of normal to above average rainfall, low salinity surface water is abundant in localised areas and is discharged down sinkholes and drainage refreshing the groundwater system. During the past 8 to 10 years, the abundance of fresh surface water has been low due to lower rainfall, therefore not allowing the groundwater system to be refreshed.

Around Bool Lagoon, 3 wells display increasing EC trends. Evaporation from the exposed water table could be contributing to the salinity increase in this area.

Four wells in the Designated Area have temporal increases in Cl, three of which are located in creek catchment areas and the fourth located at Bool Lagoon.

The reason for an annual EC decrease is the possible migration of zones of better quality water. A decreasing trend is apparent in two wells to the south of Mount Gambier. One of these wells is located along the southern margin of the Blue Lake while the second is located a further 4-5km south of the Blue Lake. Stormwater from Mount Gambier is channeled into drainage wells and naturally occurring sinkholes from various sites across the city. These sites act as point source recharge zones to the aquifer system, allowing fresher surface water to mix with existing groundwater.

The chemical parameters for the TLA have been examined for each of the zones and Table 7 gives an indication as to the state of each of these zones. As shown, most of the zones in the Designated Area have acceptable quality groundwater, with salinity ranging from less than 1000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ generally up to 4000 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$.

The groundwater quality is generally acceptable for most drinking and agricultural purposes in the areas south of Zones 4A and 3B, the groundwater then rises in salinity above Zones 4A and 3B to Zones 8A and 8B and is unsuitable in regions for a potable supply. Between Zones 8A and 8B and Zones 10A and 10B the groundwater becomes less saline and again suitable for most purposes including potable supplies. North of Zones 10A and 10B the groundwater becomes very saline.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The groundwater quality distribution the Designated Area is related to climatic conditions, regional and local hydrogeology as seen with the sharp change in salinity across the hydrogeological boundaries and localized land use impacts.

Some increasing groundwater trends are evident in the Designated Area and need to be monitored. It is not clear whether these increasing trends are due to natural vegetation clearance or irrigation induced impacts.

The current 6 yearly full chemical analysis program should be continued to monitor longer term water quality change. The regular 3 monthly EC water quality monitoring program also needs to be maintained as EC changes are evident and need to be monitored and regularly reviewed.

A more comprehensive land use plan for the Designated Area is required to attain a better understanding of the processes and relationships between land use and groundwater condition.

There is a need to strategically improve the TCSA network to give an increased data set that provides for an improved knowledge of this aquifer system.

A review of the adequacy of the current network and associated salinity risk assessment needs to be undertaken.

It is imperative that a set of standard groundwater sampling procedures be adopted in both States such that pumped groundwater samples are taken for monitoring purposes to ensure integrity and accuracy of results. The practice of taking tank, tap or bailed water samples can result in erroneous monitoring data and should be discontinued, given the importance placed on these results for groundwater management purposes.

For future analytical reporting of groundwater quality, NO_3 (as N) and NO_2 (as N) should be reported individually rather than NO_x (as N). This would allow for a direct comparison against published NO_3 (as N) and NO_2 (as N) guideline concentrations.

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<http://www.fluoridation.com/skeletal.htm>

<http://www.nofluoride.com/sixa.htm>

APPENDIX A RESULTS/PARAMETERS

| Easting | Northing | Obswell Number | Sample Date | pH Value | Sodium Adsorption Ratio | Conductivity @ 25°C | Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) | Total Dissolved Solids (Estimated) | Total Dissolved Solids (Calculated) | Total Hardness as CaCO3 | Calcium Hardness as CaCO3 | Magnesium Hardness as CaCO3 | Langelier Index | Free Carbon Dioxide as CO2 | Calcium - Filtered | Magnesium - Filtered | Sodium - Filtered | Potassium - Filtered | Carbonate as CaCO3 | Bicarbonate as CaCO3 | Alkalinity as CaCO3 | Sulphate - Filtered | Chloride | Iron - Filtered | Manganese - Filtered | Silica - Filtered | Fluoride | Nitrite and Nitrate as N | Total Cations | Total Anions | Actual (Anion / Cation) | Allowed (Anion / Cation) |
|---------------|----------|----------------|-------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Difference | Difference |
| TLA SA CONT'D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 491139 | 5989155 | TAT 110 | 11-Mar-02 | 7.4 | 5.66 | 2210 | 1250 | 1440 | 1230 | 479 | 265 | 214 | 0.2 | 10.3 | 106 | 52 | 285 | 9 | <1 | 326 | 326 | 69 | 477 | <0.01 | <0.01 | 33 | 0.4 | 0.09 | 22.19 | 21.42 | 0.77 | 0.44 |
| 481916 | 5835549 | 7022-6961 | 15-Apr-02 | 7.47 | 2.23 | 1350 | 748 | 878 | 689 | 434 | 367 | 67 | 0.5 | 22.8 | 147 | 16 | 107 | 3 | <1 | 337 | 337 | 14 | 184 | <0.01 | <0.01 | 12.3 | 0.2 | <0.01 | 13.39 | 12.25 | 1.14 | 0.3 |
| 469224 | 5826972 | YOU 26 | 8-Apr-02 | 7.45 | 0.91 | 492 | 280 | 320 | 251 | 183 | 155 | 28 | -0.1 | 7.9 | 62 | 7 | 29 | <1 | <1 | 194 | 194 | 2 | 22 | <0.01 | 0.04 | 7.36 | 0.1 | <0.01 | 4.93 | 4.55 | 0.37 | 0.18 |
| 481353 | 5830904 | YOU 33 | 6-Mar-02 | 7.22 | 2.93 | 1100 | 656 | 715 | 624 | 333 | 284 | 49 | 0.1 | 3.8 | 114 | 12 | 123 | <1 | <1 | 302 | 302 | 79 | 101 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 4.77 | 0.1 | 8.12 | 12.03 | 11.23 | 0.81 | 0.28 |

| Easting | Northing | Bore ID | Sample Date | pH Value | Sodium Adsorption Ratio | Conductivity @ 25°C | Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) | Total Dissolved Solids (Estimated) | Total Dissolved Solids (Calculated) | Total Hardness as CaCO3 | Calcium Hardness as CaCO3 | Magnesium Hardness as CaCO3 | Langelier Index | Free Carbon Dioxide as CO2 | Calcium - Filtered | Magnesium - Filtered | Sodium - Filtered | Potassium - Filtered | Carbonate as CaCO3 | Bicarbonate as CaCO3 | Alkalinity as CaCO3 | Sulphate - Filtered | Chloride | Iron - Filtered | Manganese - Filtered | Silica - Filtered | Fluoride | Nitrite and Nitrate as N | Total Cations | Total Anions | Actual (Anion / Cation) | Allowed (Anion / Cation) | | | | |
|---------|----------|---------|-------------|----------|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Difference | Difference | | | | |
| 503311 | 5916753 | 49426 | 7-Mar-02 | 7.48 | 9.68 | 4390 | 2540 | 700 | 122 | 96 | 589 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 502800 | 6135800 | 49677 | 13-Mar-02 | 7.61 | 15.1 | 6870 | 3900 | 3950 | 76 | 124 | 1210 | 57 | | | | | | | <1 | 342 | 342 | 302 | 1930 | 0.21 | <0.01 | 36.8 | 2 | 1.37 | 68.09 | 67.55 | 0.54 | 1.15 | | | | |
| 504030 | 6130645 | 49679 | 6-Mar-02 | 7.75 | 14 | 4700 | 2670 | | 52 | 88 | 716 | 48 | | | | | | | | | | 154 | 1310 | 0.15 | | 33 | <0.01 | 42.19 | 45.4 | 3.21 | 0.81 | | | | | |
| 533600 | 6044500 | 49951 | 15-Mar-02 | 7.56 | 7.35 | 1990 | 1130 | 1190 | 78 | 34 | 310 | 11 | | | | | | | <1 | 296 | 296 | 88 | 444 | 0.63 | 0.05 | 37.5 | 0.4 | <0.01 | 20.5 | 20.28 | 0.22 | 0.42 | | | | |
| 528847 | 6069365 | 49952 | 5-Mar-02 | 8.13 | 4.48 | 1110 | 682 | 226 | 55 | 22 | 154 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | 51 | 236 | 0.22 | | 24.3 | <0.01 | 11.42 | 10.75 | 0.68 | 0.27 | | | | | |
| 513600 | 5929600 | 50946 | 6-Mar-02 | 7.64 | 2.62 | 1100 | 622 | | 81 | 27 | 107 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 517196 | 5915291 | 51846 | 20-Mar-02 | 7.6 | 7.3 | 2360 | 1180 | 1530 | 83 | 45 | 334 | 11 | | | | | | | <1 | 296 | 296 | 87 | 514 | 0.66 | 0.02 | 32.7 | 0.4 | 0.03 | 22.64 | 22.24 | 0.4 | 0.45 | | | | |
| 499800 | 6095350 | 54636 | 5-Mar-02 | 8 | 6.74 | 1590 | 1020 | | 58 | 33 | 259 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 503728 | 6100298 | 54642 | 6-Mar-02 | 7.67 | 5.41 | 1290 | 798 | | 51 | 26 | 191 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 506500 | 5946900 | 60436 | 21-Mar-02 | 7.52 | 6.1 | 2420 | 1240 | | 105 | 51 | 304 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 506500 | 5987200 | 60450 | 17-Mar-02 | 7.46 | 11.3 | 29870 | 15810 | | 97 | 82 | 625 | 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 504300 | 5789500 | 65070 | 6-Mar-02 | 7.76 | 1.84 | 845 | 526 | | 94 | 12 | 71 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 514606 | 6116484 | 65745 | 6-Mar-02 | 7.78 | 5.02 | 1470 | 886 | | 59 | 33 | 194 | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 517410 | 6091690 | 66477 | 14-Mar-02 | 7.29 | 5.9 | 1990 | 1190 | | 97 | 44 | 279 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 516650 | 5794850 | 70857 | | 7.81 | 1.38 | 687 | 450 | | 89 | 7 | 50 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 503030 | 5974947 | 73392 | 7-Mar-02 | 7.65 | 5.75 | 4930 | 2430 | | 96 | 70 | 285 | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 498300 | 5976950 | 75365 | 16-Mar-02 | 7.42 | 7.36 | 2830 | 1600 | | 97 | 79 | 403 | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 506600 | 5967100 | 75651 | 16-Mar-02 | 7.56 | 5.12 | 1640 | 974 | | 79 | 43 | 228 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 506600 | 5886450 | 76898 | 20-Mar-02 | 8.17 | 14.8 | 5440 | 2780 | | 56 | 107 | 823 | 36 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 503200 | 5895350 | 77850 | 20-Mar-02 | 7.24 | 7.8 | 3200 | 1740 | | 144 | 49 | 425 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 514637 | 5937252 | 79530 | 6-Mar-02 | 7.79 | 4.12 | 1380 | 834 | | 77 | 34 | 172 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 506150 | 6106760 | 82220 | 14-Mar-02 | 7.19 | 9.46 | 2700 | 1570 | | 55 | 47 | 319 | 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 502000 | 5836700 | 83459 | | 7.3 | 4.34 | 1440 | 858 | | 110 | 18 | 186 | <1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 520562 | 5953870 | 84741 | 17-Mar-02 | 7.44 | 4.2 | 1400 | 796 | | 81 | 35 | 180 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 506566 | 5934213 | 85628 | 18-Mar-02 | 7.54 | 5.7 | 2130 | 1110 | | 78 | 55 | 266 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 503000 | 5806150 | 87530 | | 7.71 | 1.77 | 849 | 510 | | 106 | 8 | 71 | <1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 504248 | 5798667 | 87537 | | 7.46 | 2.16 | 982 | 624 | | 112 | 10 | 89 | <1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 511000 | 5865000 | 89511 | 21-Mar-02 | 7.28 | 10.2 | 5170 | 2340 | | 241 | 266 | 967 | <1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 506900 | 5927100 | 92808 | 19-Mar-02 | 7.4 | 4.9 | 1870 | 984 | | 100 | 40 | 228 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 506700 | 5838700 | 97046 | | 7.82 | 3.71 | 1290 | 844 | | 107 | 16 | 156 | <1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 510900 | 5802600 | 100515 | | 7.51 | 1.7 | 860 | 510 | | 100 | 11 | 67 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 514400 | 5785600 | 101241 | | 8.05 | 1.35 | 151 | 134 | | 20 | 2 | 24 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 513700 | 5831200 | 103113 | | 8.04 | 6.85 | 2230 | 1220 | | 96 | 40 | 316 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 536265 | 6020008 | 103369 | 5-Mar-02 | 7.76 | 3.94 | 1120 | 672 | | 63 | 22 | 143 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 505200 | 5898800 | 111321 | 7-Mar-02 | 7.1 | 3.82 | 2130 | 1290 | | 198 | 24 | 214 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 501700 | 5820000 | 113473 | | 8.12 | 3.61 | 1180 | 700 | | 103 | 14 | 147 | <1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 507200 | 5814500 | 113474 | | 7.93 | 4.04 | 1380 | 802 | | 115 | 16 | 175 | <1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 500800 | 5855400 | 113475 | | 7.03 | 2.61 | 1720 | 1170 | | 204 | 16 | 144 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 506155 | 6106762 | 137197 | 14-Mar-02 | 7.12 | 5.83 | 2500 | 1442 | | 76 | 60 | 442 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 502010 | 6135800 | 137294 | 13-Mar-02 | 7.19 | 38.4 | 16800 | 15700 | | 239 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

APPENDIX B NO₃ (AS NO₃) AND NO₂ (AS NO₂) TO NO_x (AS N) DERIVATION

Determination of NOX (as N) drinking water quality guidelines

The following published drinking water quality guidelines were used (NHMRC 1996):

- NO₂ (as NO₂) = 3 mg/L
- NO₃ (as NO₃) = 50 mg/L (for infants)
- NO₃ (as NO₃) = 100 mg/L (for children and adults)

The conversion factors shown below were used to express nitrate and nitrite concentrations as nitrogen (N):

- NO₂ (as NO₂) to NO₂ (as N) = 0.304
- NO₃ (as NO₃) to NO₃ (as N) = 0.226

NO₂ (as NO₂) to NO₂ (as N) conversion:

- 3mg/L NO₂ (NO₂) x 0.304 = **0.912 mg/L NO₂ (as N)**

NO₃ (as NO₃) to NO₃ (as N) conversion:

- (Infants) 50mg/L NO₃ (NO₃) x 0.226 = **11.3 mg/L NO₃ (as N)**
- (Children/Adults) 100 mg/L NO₃ (NO₃) x 0.226 = **22.6 mg/L NO₃ (as N)**

Using the above conversions, the guidelines are:

Summation of NO₃ (as N) and NO₂ (as N) to give NOX (as N)

- Infants: NO₃ (as N) + NO₂ (as N) = 11.3 + 0.912 = 12.212 mg/L ~ **12 mg/L NOX (as N)**
- Children/Adults: NO₃ (as N) + NO₂ (as N) = 22.6 + 0.912 = 23.512 mg/L ~ **24 mg/L NOX (as N)**