

Northern Adelaide Plains Prescribed Wells Area Groundwater Monitoring Status Report 2003

Hajrudin Zulfic and Daniel Wohling

Report DWLBC 2004/41



Knowledge and Information Division

Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation

25 Grenfell Street, Adelaide

GPO Box 2834, Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone +61 8 8463 6946

Fax +61 8 8463 6999

Website www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au

Disclaimer

Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation and its employees do not warrant or make any representation regarding the use, or results of the use, of the information contained herein as regards to its correctness, accuracy, reliability, currency or otherwise. The Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation and its employees expressly disclaims all liability or responsibility to any person using the information or advice.

© Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity 2004

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968 (Cwlth), no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, GPO Box 2834, Adelaide SA 5001

Foreword

South Australia's natural resources are fundamental to the economic and social well-being 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 the 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, Knowledge and Information Division
Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation*



CONTENTS

FOREWORD	I
SI UNITS COMMONLY USED WITHIN TEXT	VII
1 INTRODUCTION	1
2 CLIMATE	3
3 SUMMARY OF AQUIFERS	5
3.1 <i>Shallow Quaternary Aquifers</i>	5
3.1.1 Q4 AQUIFER	5
3.2 <i>Tertiary Aquifers</i>	5
3.2.1 FIRST TERTIARY AQUIFER (T1)	5
3.2.2 SECOND TERTIARY AQUIFER (T2)	6
3.2.3 THIRD TERTIARY AQUIFER (T3)	6
3.2.4 FOURTH TERTIARY AQUIFER (T4)	6
4 MONITORING NETWORKS.....	7
5 WATER LEVEL ANALYSIS	10
5.1 <i>Quaternary Aquifers</i>	10
5.2 <i>T1 Aquifer</i>	16
5.3 <i>T2 Aquifer</i>	16
5.4 <i>T3 and T4 Aquifers</i>	23
6 SALINITY ANALYSIS	26
6.1 <i>Quaternary Aquifers</i>	26
6.2 <i>Tertiary Aquifers</i>	26
6.2.1 T1 AQUIFER	26
6.2.2 T2 AQUIFER	27
6.2.3 T3 AND T4 AQUIFERS	27
7 CONCLUSIONS	30
8 REFERENCES	31
9 APPENDIX A	33
10 APPENDIX B	37



CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.	Average monthly rainfall (mm)	3
Table 2.	Current monitoring wells	7
Table 3.	Perched Aquifer: groundwater level trend.....	11
Table 4.	Q1 Aquifer: groundwater level trend	12
Table 5.	Q2 Aquifer: groundwater level trend	13
Table 6.	Q3 Aquifer: groundwater level trend	14
Table 7.	Q4 Aquifer: groundwater level trend	15

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.	NAP Prescribed Wells Area Locality Plan.....	2
Figure 2.	Monthly rainfall and cumulative deviation	4
Figure 3.	Water level observation bores - Quaternary Aquifers	8
Figure 4.	Water level observation bores - Tertiary Aquifers	9
Figure 5	Potentiometric surface map - T1 Aquifer, September 2002	17
Figure 6.	Potentiometric surface map - T1 Aquifer, March 2003.....	18
Figure 7.	Residual map of potentiometric surfaces September 2002/2001 - T1 Aquifer.....	19
Figure 8.	Residual map of potentiometric surfaces March 2003/2002 - T1 Aquifer	20
Figure 9.	Potentiometric surface map - T2 Aquifer, September 2002	21
Figure 10.	Potentiometric surface map - T2 Aquifer, March 2003.....	22
Figure 11.	Residual map of potentiometric surfaces September 2002/2001 - T2 Aquifer.....	24
Figure 12.	Residual map of potentiometric surfaces March 2003/02 - T2 Aquifer	25
Figure 13.	Salinity map - T1 Aquifer, latest salinity records 1999 - 2003	28
Figure 14.	Salinity map - T2 Aquifer, latest salinity records 1999 - 2003	29



SI UNITS COMMONLY USED WITHIN TEXT

Name of unit	Symbol	Definition in terms of other metric units	
Millimetre	mm	10^{-3} m	length
Metre	m		length
Kilometre	km	10^3 m	length
Hectare	ha	10^4 m ²	area
Microlitre	µL	10^{-9} m ³	volume
Millilitre	mL	10^{-6} m ³	volume
Litre	L	10^{-3} m ³	volume
Kilolitre	kL	1 m ³	volume
Megalitre	ML	10^3 m ³	volume
Gigalitres	GL	10^6 m ³	volume
Microgram	µg	10^{-6} g	mass
Milligram	mg	10^{-3} g	mass
Gram	g		mass
Kilogram	kg	10^3 g	Mass

Abbreviations Commonly Used Within Text

Abbreviation	Name	Units of measure
TDS	= Total Dissolved Solids (<i>milligrams per litre</i>)	mg/L
EC	= Electrical Conductivity (<i>micro Siemens per centimetre</i>)	µS/cm
PH	= Acidity	
δD	= Hydrogen isotope composition	‰
CFC	= Chlorofluorocarbon (<i>parts per trillion volume</i>)	pptv
δ ¹⁸ O	= Oxygen isotope composition	‰
¹⁴ C	= Carbon-14 isotope (<i>percent modern Carbon</i>)	pmC
Ppm	= Parts per million	
Ppb	= Parts per billion	



1 INTRODUCTION

The Northern Adelaide Plains (NAP) Prescribed Wells Area (PWA) covers an area of approximately 800 km² centred 30 km north of Adelaide (Fig. 1). The area was proclaimed in 1976 in response to the intensive pumping during the 1960s, which formed the cones of depression in the main Tertiary aquifers. The region is comprised of fertile soils that overlie a series of sand, gravel and limestone aquifers inter-bedded with clay layers. These aquifers are the main source of water for irrigation in an area that is reliant on industry and horticultural crops.

The Tertiary and Quaternary sediments that constitute the area's aquifers are up to 600 m thick. The main source of recharge to the system is from the Mt Lofty Ranges, which lie to the east of the NAP PWA. Rainfall events in the ranges recharge the fractured rock system and in turn, the water filters down gradient towards the coast, recharging the aquifer system beneath the plains.

Two major problems are identified with the current level of groundwater use in the region. These are water level decline and an increase in groundwater salinity levels. The capacity of the groundwater resources is not sufficient to meet the current demands for water use in the area. The current level of groundwater use in the NAP PWA exceeds what is considered to be a sustainable yield from the aquifer system. A figure for an acceptable safe yield is hard to quantify due to the complexity of the aquifer system, however it is reliant on regular monitoring of groundwater levels, salinity trends and extraction rates. Therefore, regular monitoring reports are essential to advise of current trends in groundwater level, use and salinity, enabling steps to be taken that ensure the system does not become overstressed to the point of degradation.

The available data has been analysed and presented in this report as potentiometric surface and salinity maps for the most utilised T1 and T2 Aquifers, as well as representative hydrographs for all aquifers (Quaternary and Tertiary).

The Resource Allocation Division in DWLBC is currently finalising licensing and reporting requirements for establishing ASR wells in the Northern Adelaide Plains PWA. This is to be finalised for the beginning of the 2004–05 water use year and will enable reporting on volumes stored and recovered through ASR wells in subsequent groundwater monitoring reports.

At the time of preparing this report information concerning extraction demand for irrigation and industrial use was not available. Considerable work has been undertaken reconciling records within the Resource Allocation Division of groundwater use in the Northern Adelaide Plains PWA. This information will be available in the future reports providing a more comprehensive assessment of pumping impacts on the groundwater system.



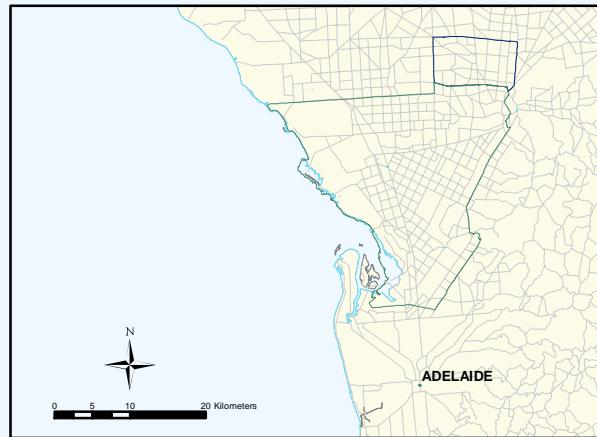
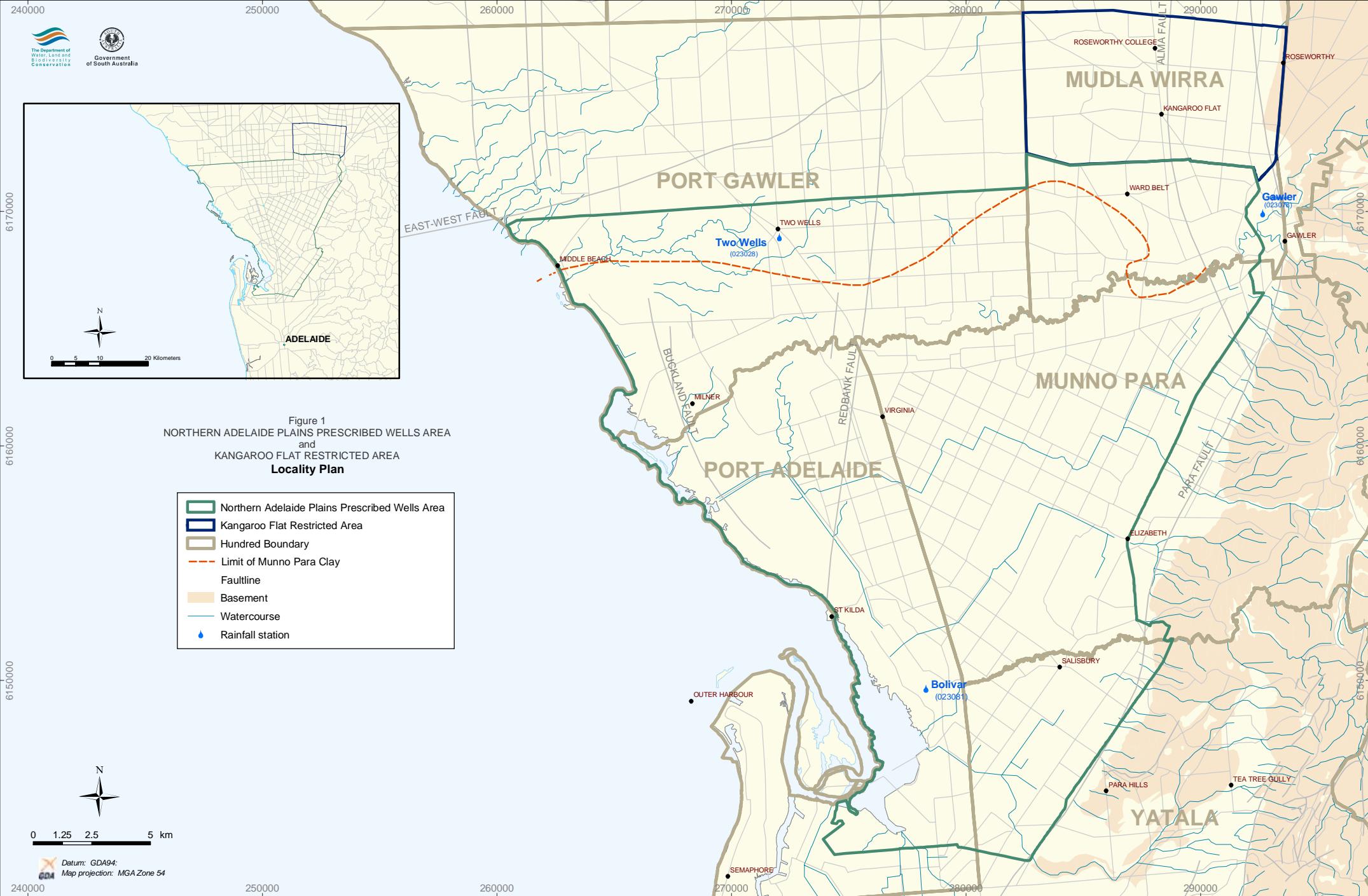


Figure 1
NORTHERN ADELAIDE PLAINS PRESCRIBED WELLS AREA
and
KANGAROO FLAT RESTRICTED AREA
Locality Plan

- [Green line] Northern Adelaide Plains Prescribed Wells Area
- [Blue line] Kangaroo Flat Restricted Area
- [Brown line] Hundred Boundary
- [Dashed red line] Limit of Munno Para Clay
- [Grey line] Faultline
- [Light brown area] Basement
- [Blue line] Watercourse
- [Blue dot] Rainfall station



2 CLIMATE

The Mediterranean type of climate is characterised by winter dominant rainfall. Three rainfall stations were selected as representative of the rainfall pattern throughout the area: Two Wells (station 23028), Gawler (station 23078) and Bolivar (station 23081). Annual average rainfalls for selected stations are 400, 473 and 445 mm, respectively. The average monthly rainfall is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Average monthly rainfall (mm)

Station	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Two Wells	18	16	19	34	46	52	47	47	40	36	24	22
Gawler	18	16	24	40	55	62	56	56	52	43	27	23
Bolivar	21	15	27	31	45	56	57	51	46	47	23	23

The rainfall records are available for a period of over 120 years for Two Wells station and 140 years for Gawler station; however, there is no data for this station between 1924 and 1969. For the Bolivar station, the recording of rainfall started in the early seventies. Figure 2 shows the monthly rainfall and cumulative deviation from each monthly mean obtained from these stations for the period 1973–2003.

All three stations show similar short-term trends such as above-average rainfall during the 1973–75, 1978–80 and 1992 periods and below-average rainfall during the 1976–77, 1982–1985 and 1990–92 periods (Fig. 2).

Over the sample period Two Wells has had generally below average rainfall. Gawler station has experienced generally below average rainfall until 1993 then a period of above average rainfall. The Bolivar station shows that over the sample period the rainfall has been generally average.

As the aquifer systems are not responsive to incident rainfall, this analysis may be a useful tool in analysing trends in groundwater extraction behaviour rather than recharge trends.

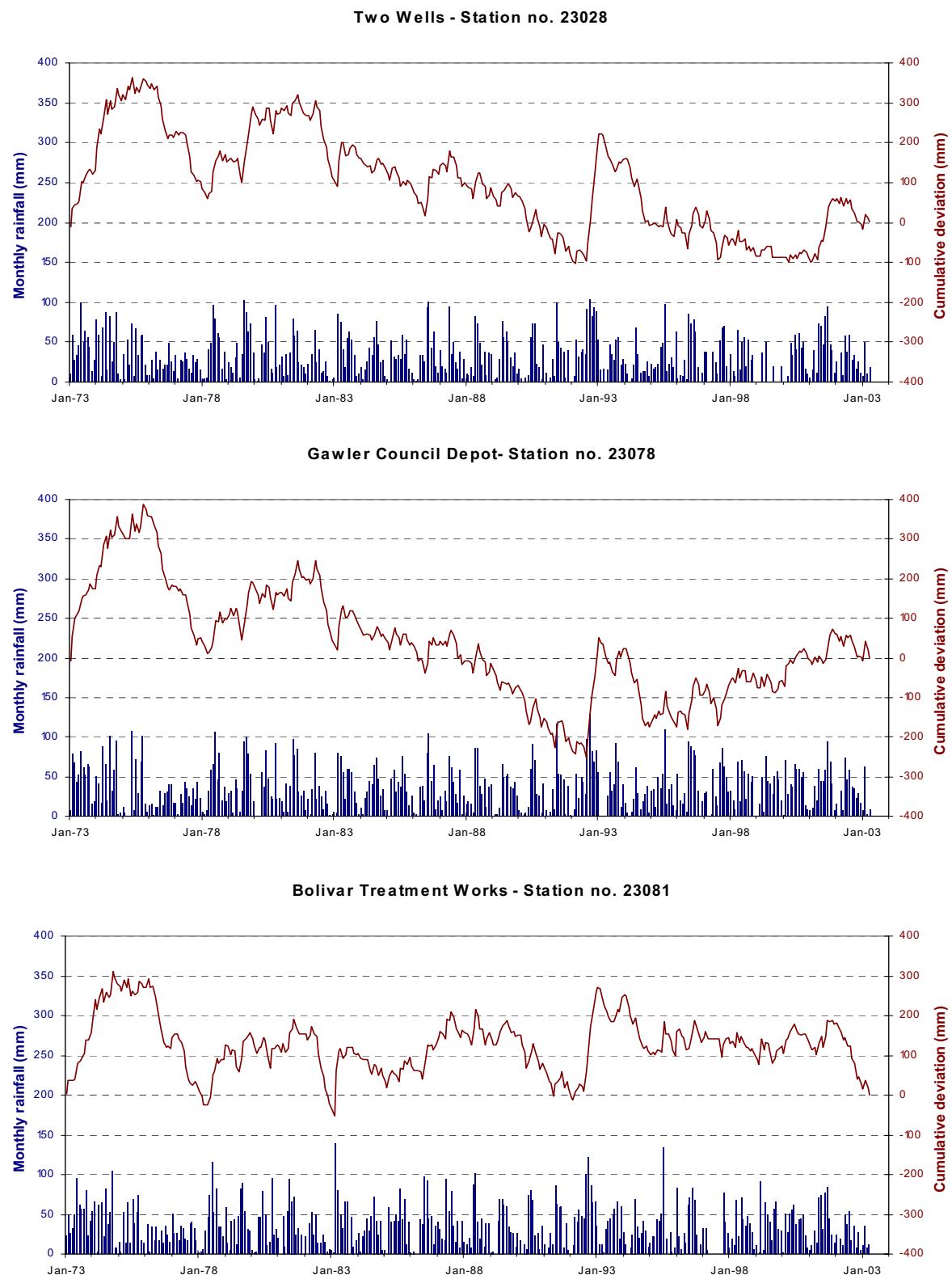


Figure 2. Monthly rainfall and cumulative deviation

3 SUMMARY OF AQUIFERS

The first major hydrogeological assessment of the NAP was undertaken by Shepherd, (1968 and 1975), who described it as a complex hydrogeological system. Since then the description of the hydrostratigraphy shown in Appendix A, has not considerably changed. Generally, two aquifer systems, Quaternary and Tertiary are recognised in the area.

Quaternary sediments containing mainly four, in some areas up to six, aquifers while the Tertiary Aquifers contain up to four aquifers (Gerges, 2001). Both the Quaternary and Tertiary Aquifers were designated identifiers in order of increasing depth.

3.1 Shallow Quaternary Aquifers

The main lithology of the Quaternary sediments is mottled clay and silt interbedded with sand, gravel and thin sandstone layers (Hindmarsh Clay). The shallowest Perched Aquifer is irregular in occurrence and exists because the infiltrating surface water is hindered by a confining layer. The distribution of this aquifer over the area is not well known. Underneath this aquifer there are mainly up to three Quaternary Aquifers (Q1–Q3) over most of the region and are represented by sands, gravels and sandstones. However, in the southern area five or six Quaternary Aquifers have been recognised. Below the shallow Quaternary Aquifers, the Hindmarsh Clay generally forms a confining layer to the underlying lower Q4 Aquifer.

3.1.1 Q4 AQUIFER

The Q4 Aquifer, called the Carisbrooke Sand Aquifer, occurs over the whole area, except within 4–5 km of the coast. The Q4 Aquifer consists of multicoloured, poorly sorted, fine to medium-grained quartz sand and silt, with some clay and thin gravel beds. In some areas it is hydraulically connected to the overlaying Q3 Aquifer or to the underlying T1 Aquifer along the Little Para River.

3.2 Tertiary Aquifers

The Tertiary sediments contain several confined aquifer systems, each may comprise various sub-aquifers. These aquifers are designated T1, T2, T3 and T4 in order of increasing depth.

The aquifers exhibit large variations in thickness, lithology, salinity distribution and yield. The first and second Tertiary Aquifers (T1 and T2) are recognised as superior aquifers in terms of salinity and yield.

3.2.1 FIRST TERTIARY AQUIFER (T1)

The first Tertiary Aquifer (T1) is defined as the saturated and permeable Tertiary sediments intersected above the Munno Para Clay member. An exception is the area located a few kilometres north of Gawler River and west of Red Banks Fault, where the

SUMMARY OF AQUIFERS

Munno Para Clay is absent and the T1 Aquifer is directly overlying the T2 Aquifer, forming virtually one aquifer.

In the northeast of the NAP the T1 Aquifer is absent (Fig. 4).

The T1 Aquifer may consist of several stratigraphic units, varying in lithology and thickness. The first Tertiary Aquifer in the NAP area consists of two major sub-aquifers (Gerges, 1987):

- Sub-aquifer T1a — consists of Hallett Cove Sandstone and Dry Creek Sand, and permeable portions of the 'Croydon facies' and is hydraulically connected to the Carisbrooke Sand (Q4) Aquifer (along Little Para River area only).
- Sub-aquifer T1b — consists of limestone of the upper Port Willunga Formation.

A semi-confining bed comprising the remaining part of Croydon facies separates both Sub-aquifers but information about its extent is very limited. The T1a and T1b Aquifers are considered to be hydraulically connected and are therefore referred to as just the T1 Aquifer.

East of the Alma Fault the T1 Aquifer may be connected with the undifferentiated Tertiary sands; this hydraulic connectivity is considered to be minor.

3.2.2 SECOND TERTIARY AQUIFER (T2)

The second Tertiary Aquifer comprises saturated and permeable Tertiary sediments intersected below the Munno Para Clay member. The T2 Aquifer occurs throughout the entire NAP PWA. It consists of well-cemented limestone of lower Port Willunga Formation.

In the area north of the Gawler River and east of the Redbank Fault (Fig. 4), the Munno Para Clay and the T1 Aquifer are not present and the Q4 Aquifer overlies the T2 Aquifer.

In the area between the Alma Fault and Para Fault lithology suggests that this aquifer consists mostly of undifferentiated Tertiary quartz-sand and minor clay. Assuming hydraulic connectivity occurs across the Alma Fault it is considered that these sediments are the continuation of the T2 Aquifer. A better understanding of this portion of the Tertiary Aquifer system will occur as further investigation are undertaken.

3.2.3 THIRD TERTIARY AQUIFER (T3)

The distribution of the T3 Aquifer is not well known, but it is considered to occur over most of the NAP as a thin sandy layer with an average thickness of 5 m (Gerges, 2001). Few records relating to the T3 Aquifer are available from drillholes in the Port Gawler and Virginia areas. At the old Virginia Primary School site, the T3 Aquifer consisting of Aldinga Member and Chinaman Gully Formation sands was intersected at 215 m and the water level rose to 5 m above ground level (PTA 88, unit number 6628–15843 – backfilled in June 2003).

3.2.4 FOURTH TERTIARY AQUIFER (T4)

The fourth Tertiary Aquifer consists mainly of South Maslin Sand and occasionally North Maslin Sand.

4 MONITORING NETWORKS

The groundwater monitoring well network for the Northern Adelaide Plains (NAP) Prescribed Wells Area (PWA) was established in the early 1960s, in order to monitor groundwater levels and salinity. The purpose of the monitoring network is to observe the aquifer's responses to groundwater extraction and identify areas that may be under stress due to over-pumping of groundwater or areas that may be at risk of salinisation. From analysis of the monitoring data, steps can be taken to ensure the groundwater resource is not overstressed to the point of irreversible degradation.

The number of wells monitoring water levels, particularly in the Tertiary Aquifers (T1 and T2) has been increasing in response to groundwater extraction for irrigation purposes. Between 2000 and 2002 the monitoring network was upgraded with 20 new and two replacement monitoring wells. In 2003 the monitoring network was upgraded with five replacement monitoring wells completed in the T1 and T2 Aquifers, while two wells in the T1 Aquifer were rehabilitated. Seven wells were backfilled in the T1, T2 and T3-T4 aquifers, five of which were replaced.

Currently there are a total of 163 monitoring wells throughout the NAP PWA and Kangaroo Flat Restricted Area that monitor groundwater levels. The Groundwater Group within the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC) carries out the monitoring on a three-monthly basis.

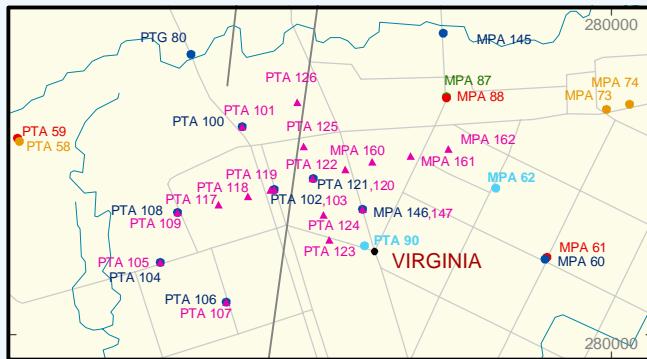
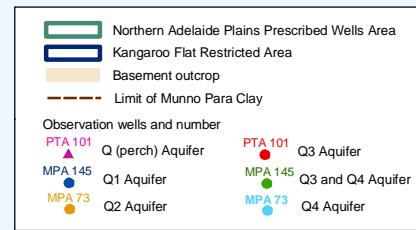
The number of monitoring wells monitoring each aquifer is presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Current monitoring wells

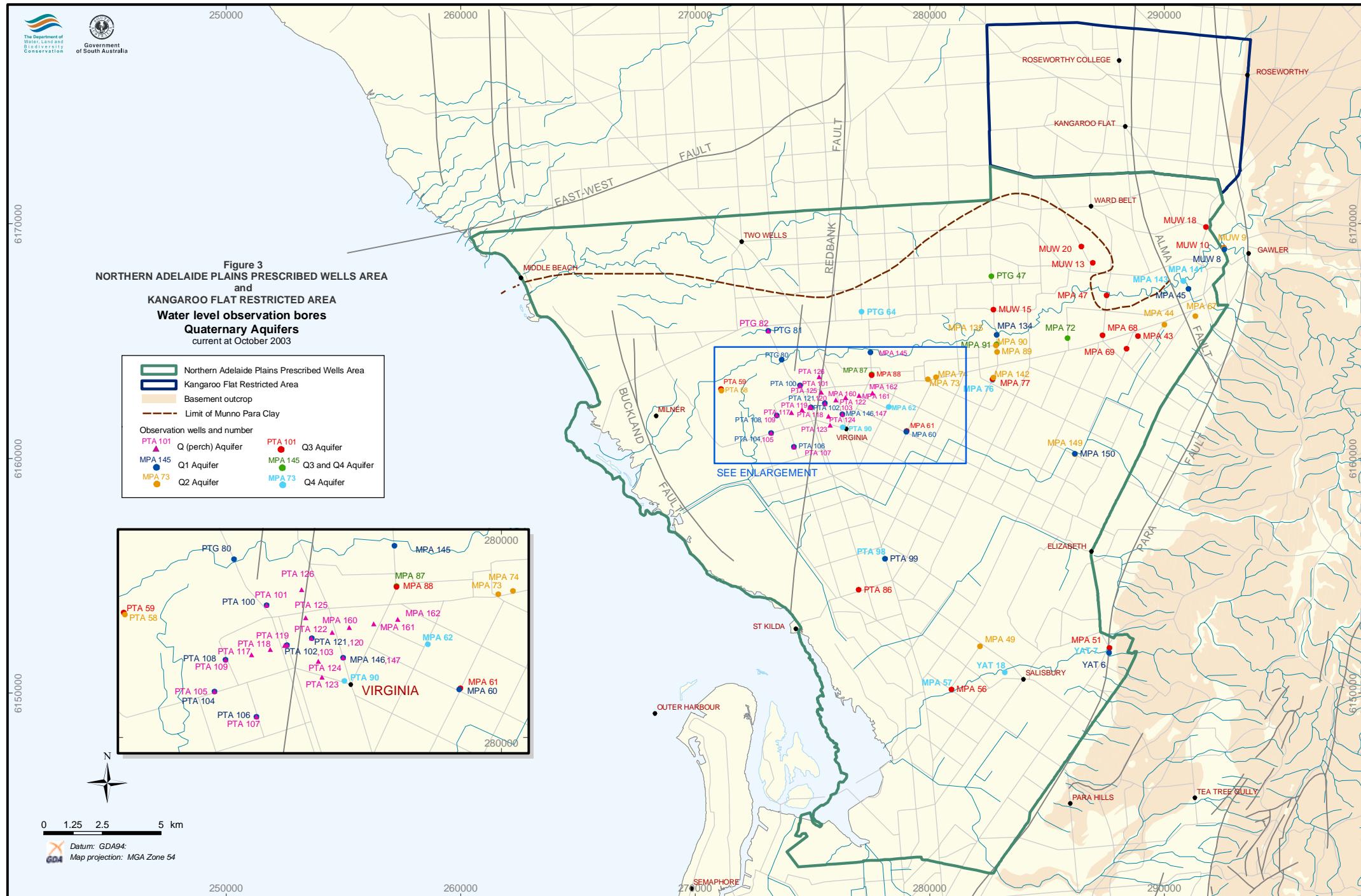
AQUIFER		Government owned wells	Privately owned wells	TOTAL
Quaternary	Perched	19	–	19
	Q1	17	–	17
	Q2	12	–	12
	Q3	16	–	16
	Q3 + Q4	4	–	4
	Q4	10	–	10
Tertiary	T1	22	8	30
	T2	45	6	51
	T3-T4	4	–	4
Total		149	14	163

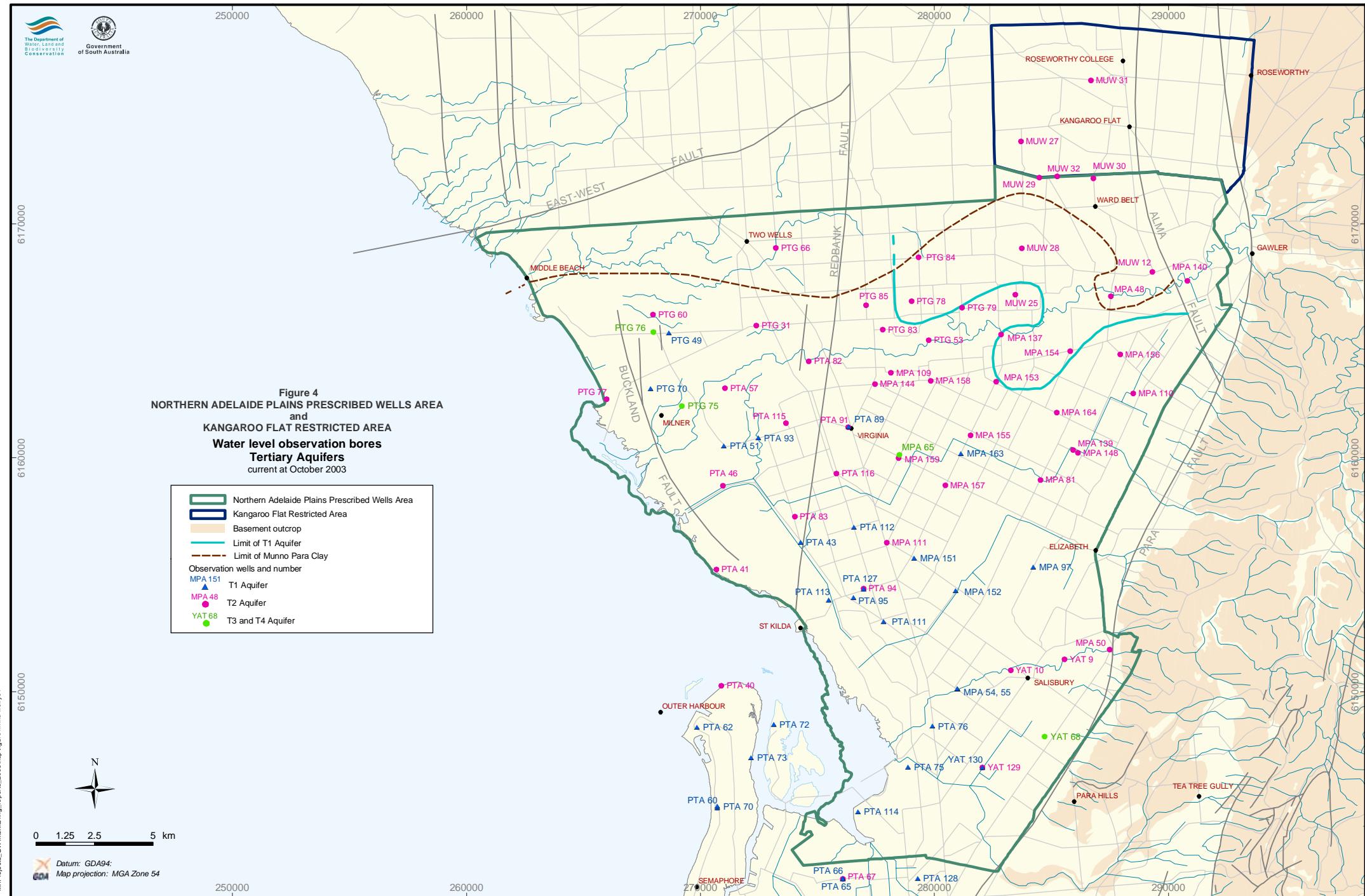
The locations of current water level monitoring wells for all Quaternary and Tertiary Aquifers are presented in Figures 3 and 4 respectively.

Figure 3
NORTHERN ADELAIDE PLAINS PRESCRIBED WELLS AREA
and
KANGAROO FLAT RESTRICTED AREA
Water level observation bores
Quaternary Aquifers
current as October 2003



 Datum: GDA94:
Map projection: MGA Zone 54





5 WATER LEVEL ANALYSIS

The 2002 monitoring status report analyses in detail long and short term water level trends for all Quaternary and the T1 and T2 Aquifers. This report only highlighted changes in water levels during the last year. Representative hydrographs for all aquifers are presented in Appendix B. Water level trends for the T1 and T2 Aquifers have also been analysed by constructing residual maps that is subtracting seasonal potentiometric surfaces September 01 from September 02 and March 02 from March 03 (Figs 8 and 11).

5.1 Quaternary Aquifers

The locations of current water level monitoring wells for all Quaternary Aquifers are presented in Figure 3.

There are a total of 78 wells monitoring the Quaternary Aquifers. The Perched (watertable) Aquifer is being monitored by 19 wells, Q1 Aquifer by 17 wells, Q2 Aquifer by 12 wells, Q3 Aquifer by 16 wells and Q4 Aquifer (Carisbrooke Sand Aquifer) by 10 wells. Four wells are completed in both Q3 and Q4 Aquifers.

In the last year (September 2001-02 and March 2002-03) water level data shows that the water level trends declined in a number of the monitoring wells in all Quaternary aquifers (Tables 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7). There are a number of potential causes for this decline but a lack of detailed supporting groundwater use information across the NAP makes it difficult to identify the primary cause.

When water trends are analysed for the period 1999 to 2002 a rise in order of 0.3-0.6 m/y was observed in the Perched, Q1 and Q4 Aquifers recorded declining water level trends (Zulfic, 2002).

However, water level data recorded during the last year shows that all six wells analysed for the period September 2001-02 and six out of 16 for the March 2002-03 period in the Perched Aquifer recorded an average decline in water level of 0.14 and 0.03 m/y respectively (Table 3, App. B).

For the same period the majority of monitoring wells completed in the Q1 Aquifer (12 out of 14 and 9 out of 15 respectively), recorded a decline in water level, with average decline of 0.31 and 0.14 m/y respectively (Table 4).

During the last year the majority of the monitoring wells completed in the Q2 and Q3 Aquifers recorded a decline in water levels (Tables 5 and 6). Calculated average decline for September 2001-02 was 0.18 and 0.32 m/y respectively, while for March 2002-03 it was 0.28 and 0.36 m/y respectively.

In the Q4 Aquifer (Carisbrooke Sand Aquifer) 3 out of 8 analysed monitoring wells showed a decline in water level with an average rise of 0.01 m/y for the period September 2001-02, and an average decline of 0.02 m/y for March 02-03 (Table 7).

WATER LEVEL ANALYSIS

Table 3. Perched Aquifer: groundwater level trend

Aquifer	Observation Well No.	Unit No.	September 01 September 02	March 02 March 03	Comments
Perched	MPA 147*	6628-20002	-0.14	0.08	
Perched	MPA 160*	6628-20752	-	-	Not all SWL readings available
Perched	MPA 161*	6628-20753	-	-0.49	
Perched	MPA 162*	6628-20754	-	0.14	
Perched	PTA 101	6628-19992	-0.02	0.09	
Perched	PTA 103	6628-19998	-0.12	-0.35	
Perched	PTA 105	6628-20000	-0.48	0.14	
Perched	PTA 107	6628-20004	-0.02	0.16	
Perched	PTA 109	6628-20006	-0.05	0.19	
Perched	PTA 117*	6628-20746	-	0.24	
Perched	PTA 118*	6628-20747	-	0.14	
Perched	PTA 119*	6628-20748	-	-0.16	
Perched	PTA 120*	6628-20749	-	-0.25	
Perched	PTA 122*	6628-20751	-	-0.27	
Perched	PTA 123*	6628-20755	-	0.37	
Perched	PTA 124*	6628-20756	-	0.26	
Perched	PTA 125*	6628-20757	-	-0.74	
Average groundwater trend (m/yr)		-0.14	-0.03		

Negative values mean groundwater level is declining

Positive values mean groundwater level is rising

* Wells drilled in November 2001

Table 4. Q1 Aquifer: groundwater level trend

Aquifer	Observation Well No.	Unit No.	September 01 September 02	March 02 March 03	Comments
Q1	MPA 45	6628-1951	-0.51	-0.73	
Q1	MPA 60	6628-2515	0.21	0.18	
Q1	MPA 145	6628-19994	-0.87	-0.44	
Q1	MPA 146	6628-20001	-0.27	0.24	
Q1	MPA 150	6628-20170	-0.21	-0.01	
Q1	MUW 8	6628-1734	-	-	Missing SWL readings
Q1	PTA 99	6628-19657	-0.09	-0.11	
Q1	PTA 100	6628-19991	0.06	0.08	
Q1	PTA 102	6628-19997	-0.19	-0.18	
Q1	PTA 104	6628-19999	-0.59	-0.54	
Q1	PTA 106	6628-20003	-0.29	0.06	
Q1	PTA 108	6628-20005	-0.06	0.12	
Q1	PTA 121*	6628-20750	-	-0.24	
Q1	PTG 80	6628-19993	-1.24	-0.49	
Q1	PTG 81	6628-19995	-0.10	-0.21	
Q1	YAT 6	6628-5143	-0.19	0.22	
Average groundwater trend (m/yr)			-0.31	-0.14	

Negative values mean groundwater level is declining

Positive values mean groundwater level is rising

* Wells drilled in November 2001

WATER LEVEL ANALYSIS

Table 5. Q2 Aquifer: groundwater level trend

Aquifer	Observation Well No.	Unit No.	September 01 September 02	March 02 March 03	Comments
Q2	MPA 44	6628-1937	-0.03	-1.17	
Q2	MPA 49	6628-4911	-1.00	-0.60	
Q2	MPA 67	6628-2039	-0.07	-0.36	
Q2	MPA 73	6628-1143	0.29	0.01	
Q2	MPA 74	6628-1521	0.24	-0.05	
Q2	MPA 89	6628-1501	0.26	-0.05	
Q2	MPA 90	6628-1472	0.32	-	Missing SWL readings
Q2	MPA 142	6628-15492	0.31	0.06	
Q2	MPA 149	6628-16439	-0.42	-0.19	
Q2	MUW 9	6628-1735	-1.91	-0.21	
Q2	PTA 58	6628-2219	0.06	-0.26	
Average groundwater trend (m/yr)			-0.18	-0.28	

Negative values mean groundwater level is declining

Positive values mean groundwater level is rising

Table 6. Q3 Aquifer: groundwater level trend

Aquifer	Observation Well No.	Unit No.	September 01 September 02	March 01 March 03	Comments
Q3	MPA 43	6628-1403	-0.03	-0.33	
Q3	MPA 47	6628-1372	-0.29	-0.19	
Q3	MPA 51	6628-4998	-2.61	0.04	
Q3	MPA 56	6628-4902	-1.00	-0.41	
Q3	MPA 61	6628-2516	0.23	0.37	
Q3	MPA 68	6628-1408	0.02	-0.02	
Q3	MPA 69	6628-1422	-0.04	-0.07	
Q3	MPA 77	6628-1556	0.37	0.28	
Q3	MPA 88	6628-1161	0.13	0.61	
Q3	MUW 10	6628-1736	-0.15	-0.11	
Q3	MUW 13	6628-1336	-0.29	-0.25	
Q3	MUW 15	6628-1346	0.06	-0.03	
Q3	MUW 18	6628-1595	-0.28	-0.08	
Q3	MUW 20	6628-846	-0.05	-0.22	
Q3	PTA 59	6628-2220	-1.77	-0.17	
Q3	PTA 86	6628-15847	0.54	0.51	
Average groundwater trend (m/yr)		-0.32	0.00		

Negative values mean groundwater level is declining

Positive values mean groundwater level is rising

Table 7. Q4 Aquifer: groundwater level trend

Aquifer	Observation Well No.	Unit No.	September 01 September 02	March 02 March 03	Comments
Q4	MPA 57	6628-4903	0.21	0.12	
Q4	MPA 62	6628-2517	-1.02	1.48	
Q4	MPA 76	6628-2721	0.22	0.04	
Q4	MPA 141	6628-16714	-0.38	-0.65	
Q4	MPA 143	6628-19219	-0.40	-0.64	The same site as MPA 141-not calculated for average trend
Q4	PTA 90	6628-15841	0.19	0.11	
Q4	PTA 98	6628-19656	0.96	-1.06	
Q4	YAT 7	6628-7010	0.34	0.07	
Q4	YAT 18	6628-5050	-0.43	-0.3	
Average groundwater trend (m/yr)		0.01	-0.02		

Negative values mean groundwater level is declining

Positive values mean groundwater level is rising

5.2 T1 Aquifer

In the Hallett Cove Sandstone – Dry Creek Sand (T1a Aquifer) and upper Port Willunga Formation (T1b Aquifer) there is a total of 30 observation wells. Twenty one wells are located inside the NAP PWA, while nine wells are part of both the NAP and Metropolitan Adelaide observation networks (Fig. 4). Potentiometric surface contour maps of the first Tertiary Aquifer (T1) for September 2002 and March 2003 have been considered representative of the winter and summer potentiometric surface and are presented in Figures 5 and 6 respectively.

Extractions from T1 Aquifer occur from three distinctive areas: the Little Para River, Penrice (ICI) – SAMCOR and Waterloo Corner area, creating two cones of depression during summer (Fig. 6) in the Penrice and Waterloo Corner areas. The cone of depression in the Penrice area is permanent, while the potentiometric surface in the Waterloo Corner area recovers to near its pre-pumping level during winter. This has changed the local flow pattern from a general west direction to a radial flow toward the centre of the cone.

Analysed hydrographs from the heavy pumping areas where long-term records exist (App. B) show fluctuations from seasonal extraction and an overall decline in potentiometric surface (aquifer pressure).

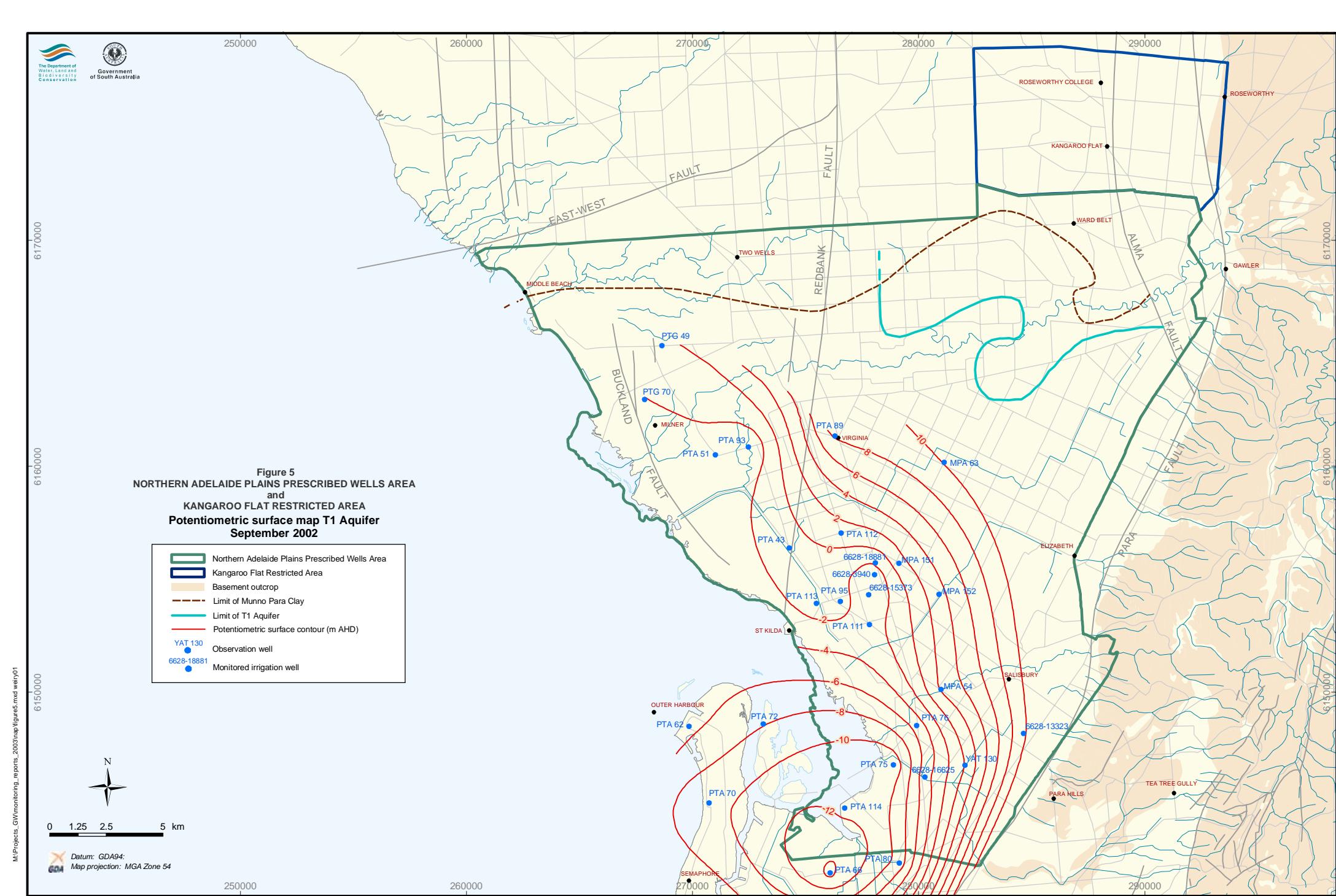
The residual map of potentiometric surfaces September 2002/2001 (Fig. 7) shows that the potentiometric surface in September 2002 has declined in most of the area extracting from the T1 Aquifer. The largest decline, about 5 m, was recorded in the area of the Penrice cone of depression, in the vicinity of the monitoring well PTA 75. In the Waterloo Corner area, the potentiometric surface declined more than 2 m in the centre of the cone of depression. This suggests that due to continuation of pumping during the winter of 2002, the summer (2002) cone of depression did not recover to the level recorded in September 2001.

The residual map of potentiometric surfaces March 2003/2002 (Fig. 8) shows that the potentiometric surface rose about 2 m in the area of the Waterloo Corner cone of depression, while it declined about 3 m in the area of the Penrice cone of depression. A slight decline in the potentiometric surface is present northwest of the Waterloo Corner area.

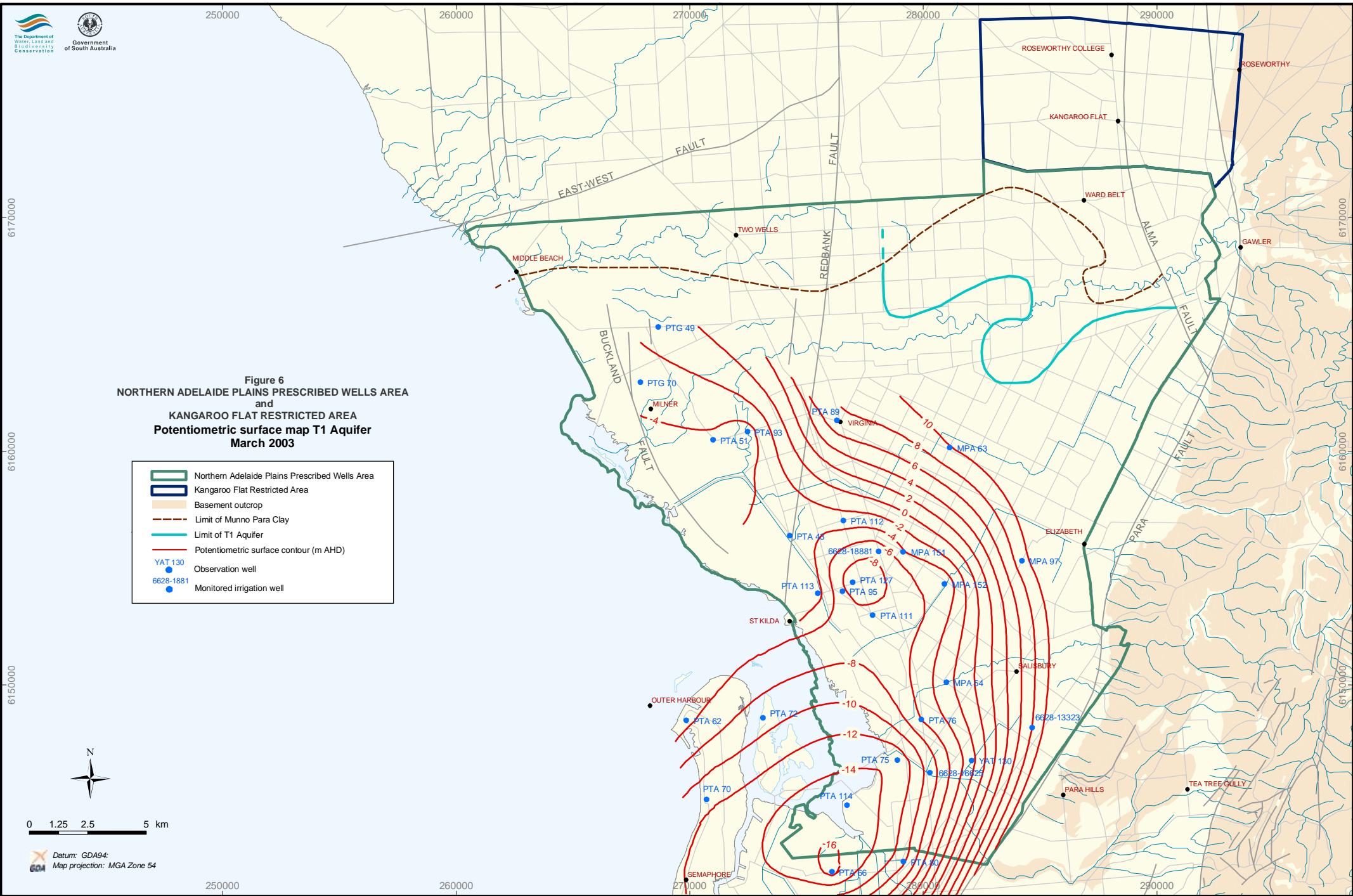
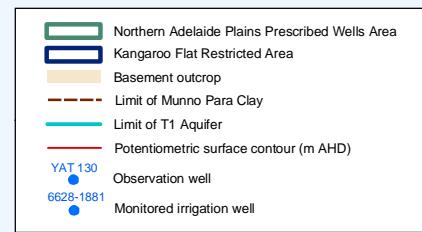
5.3 T2 Aquifer

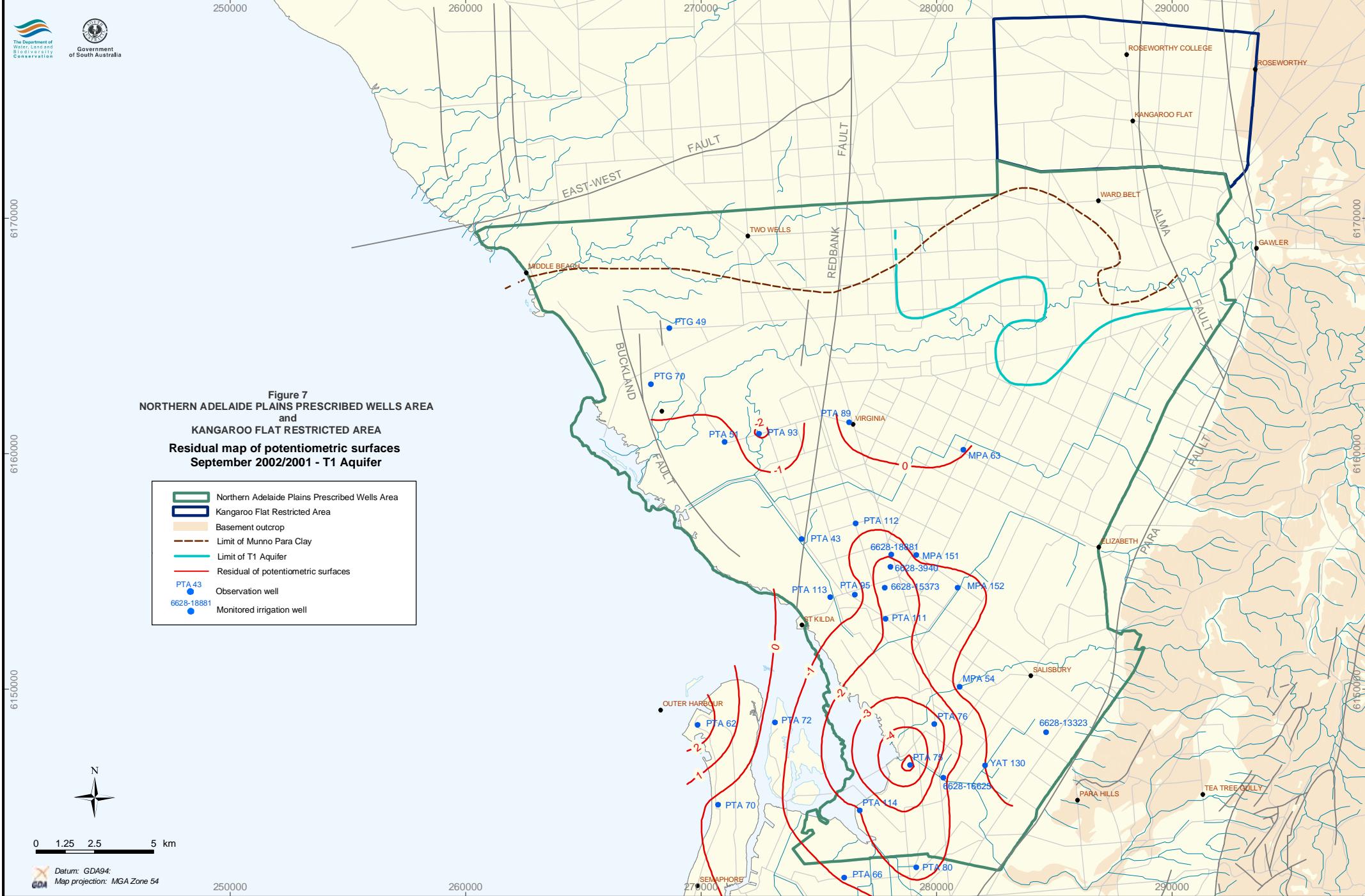
The T2 Aquifer (lower Port Willunga Formation) is monitored by a total of 51 wells, four of which are completed in the undifferentiated Tertiary sediments. Forty-six monitoring wells are located within the NAP PWA, 3 wells are in the Kangaroo Flat Restricted Area and two wells are part of both the NAP and Metropolitan Adelaide monitoring networks (Fig. 4).

The T2 Aquifer occurs throughout the entire prescribed wells area. The latest potentiometric surface maps for September 2002 and March 2003 (Figs 9 and 10) show a regional cone of depression formed in the Virginia – Angle Vale area. Generally, during the winter season, the T2 Aquifer recovers but does not reach the pre-development groundwater level. Until March 1999 the centre of the cone of depression was close to



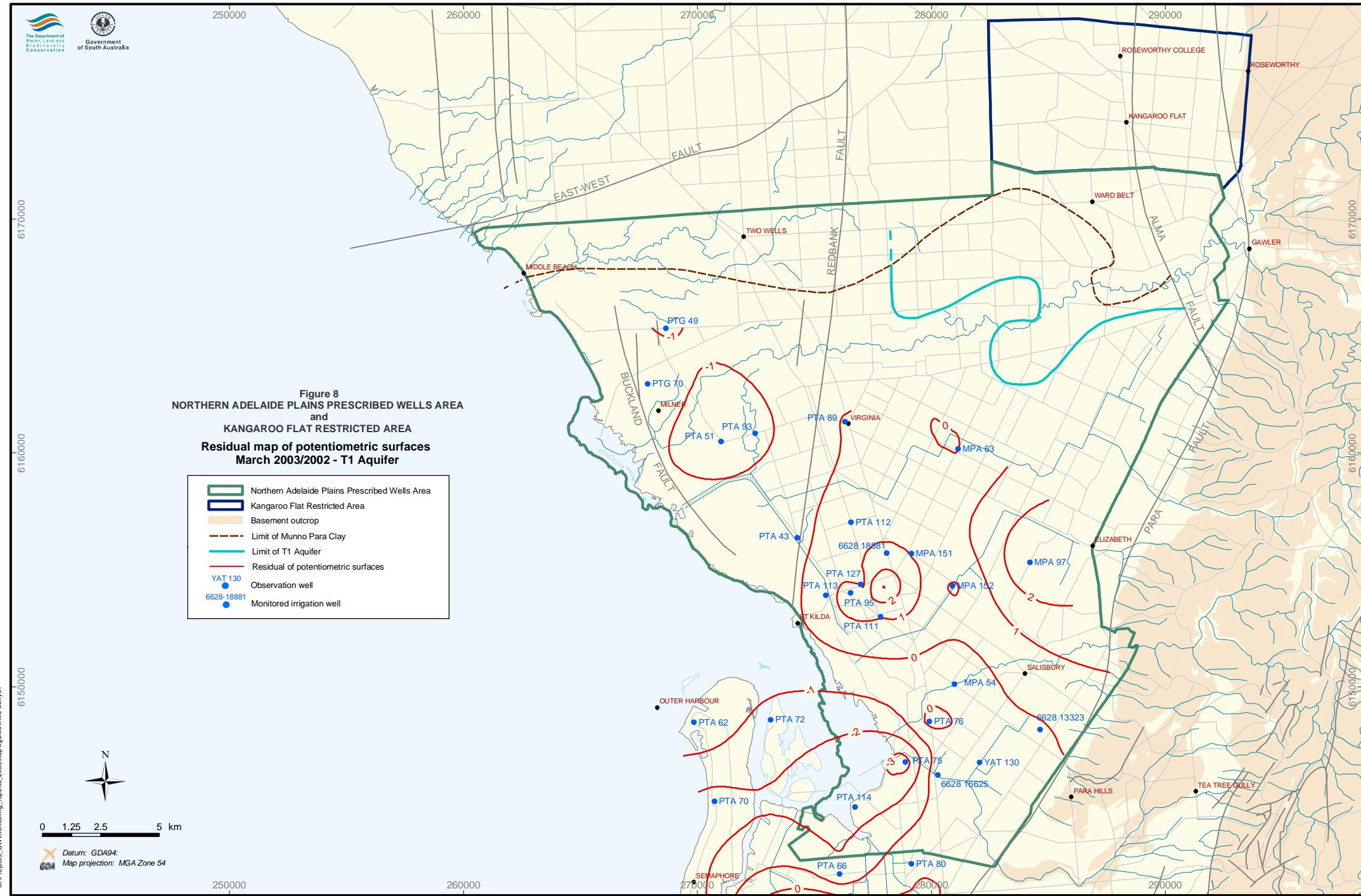
**Figure 6
NORTHERN ADELAIDE PLAINS PRESCRIBED WELLS AREA
and
KANGAROO FLAT RESTRICTED AREA
Potentiometric surface map T1 Aquifer
March 2003**

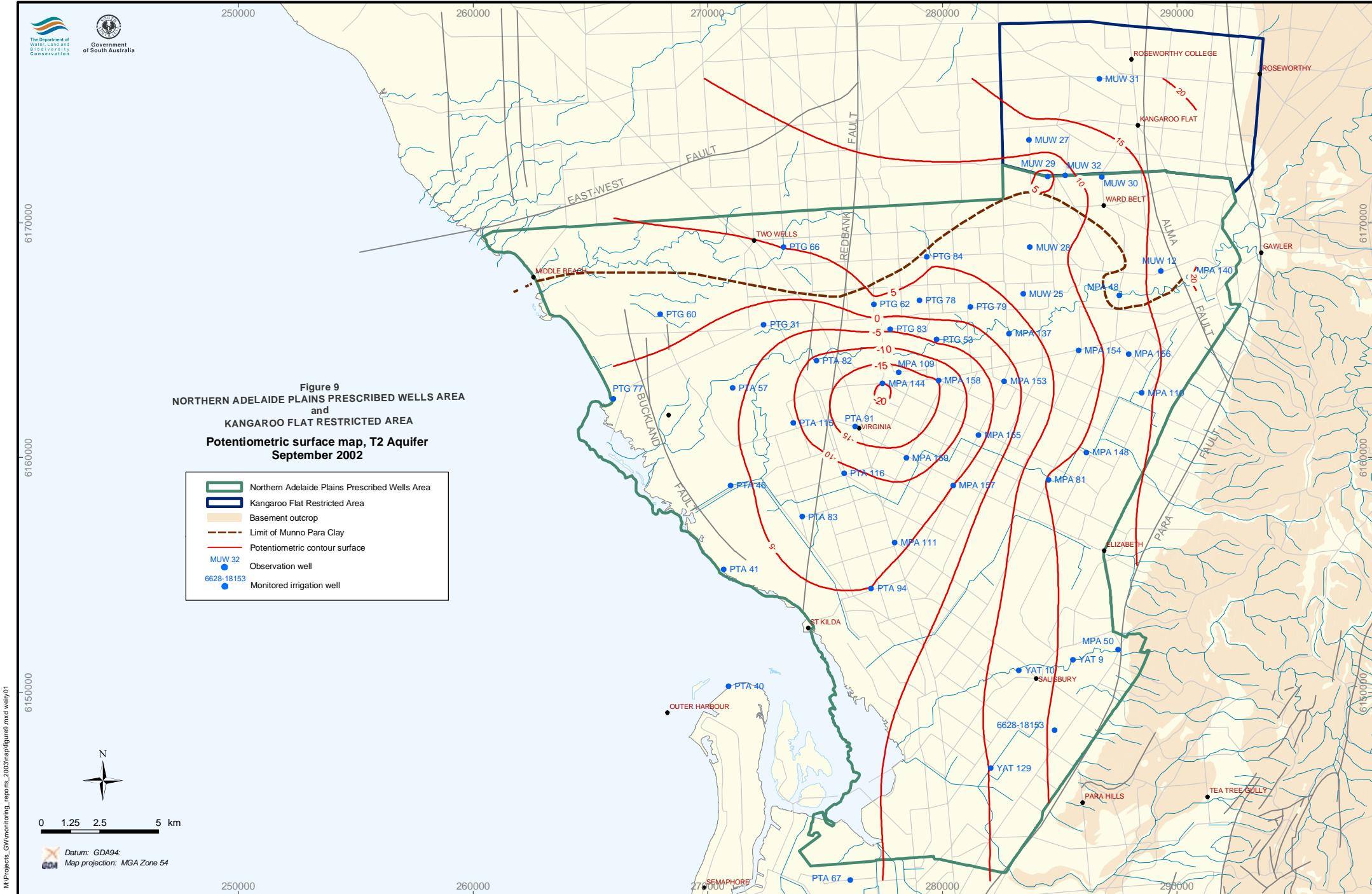






 Government
of South Australia





6170000
6160000
6150000
6140000
6130000
6120000
6110000

Figure 10
NORTHERN ADELAIDE PLAINS PRESCRIBED WELLS AREA
and
KANGAROO FLAT RESTRICTED AREA
Potentiometric surface map, T2 Aquifer
March 2003

- [Green line] Northern Adelaide Plains Prescribed Wells Area
- [Blue line] Kangaroo Flat Restricted Area
- [Light brown area] Basement outcrop
- [Dashed line] Limit of Munno Para Clay
- [Red line] Potentiometric contour surface
- [Blue dot] Observation well
- MUW 29
- 6628-18153
- Monitored irrigation well



250000 260000 270000 280000 290000

270000
SEMAPHORE

280000
PTA 67

290000
YAT 129

6170000
6160000
6150000
6140000
6130000
6120000
6110000

Virginia and the monitoring well PTA 91. Since then, the centre of the cone has moved about 2 km northeast and it is now in the vicinity of the monitoring well MPA 144.

The cone of depression formed in the Kangaroo Flat area during the summer irrigation season highlights another distinctive groundwater extraction area. This cone of depression was observed for the first time in March 2001 but was not present during winter until September 2002 (Fig. 9). The data used for generating the potentiometric surface map September 2002 and the residual map September 2002/2001 (Fig. 11), shows that the potentiometric surface declined over most of the area extracting from the T2 Aquifer (up to 6 m in the centre of the main cone of depression, in the vicinity of monitoring wells MPA 144 and MPA 158). However, the largest decline of 12.7 m was observed in the Kangaroo Flat area (monitoring well MUW 29). The overall decline suggests an increase in pumping during the winter of 2002 over most of the area extracting from the T2 Aquifer, particularly in the Kangaroo Flat area. Continuation of such a rate of pumping during the winter in the Kangaroo Flat area may cause this seasonal cone of depression to become permanent.

The residual map of potentiometric surfaces March 2003/2002 (Fig. 12) was generated and it shows that the potentiometric surface declined over most of the area extracting from the T2 Aquifer. The decline of the potentiometric surface in the centre of the cone was just under 5 m, but the highest decline of 7 m was recorded about 2.5 km east of the centre of the cone of depression in the vicinity of the recently constructed monitoring well MPA 158. A decline of the potentiometric surface (about 3 m) was recorded in the Bolivar area in the vicinity of the monitoring well PTA 94.

Care should be taken in the interpretation of the “bull’s eyes” (aquifer pressure raised) around the monitoring well PTA 116 on both residual maps. This is a newly constructed monitoring well and water levels were recorded and used for the first time for generating potentiometric surface maps September 2002 and March 2003.

Selected T2 hydrographs with the longest period of records (App. B) generally show the overall decline of potentiometric surface.

5.4 T3 and T4 Aquifers

A total of four wells monitor the T3 and T4 Aquifers (Fig. 4). Two of these monitoring wells (PTG 75 and PTG 76) are artesian while the other two monitoring wells (MPA 65 and YAT 68) have a potentiometric surface below ground level.



The Department
of Environment
and Water
Biodiversity
Conservation

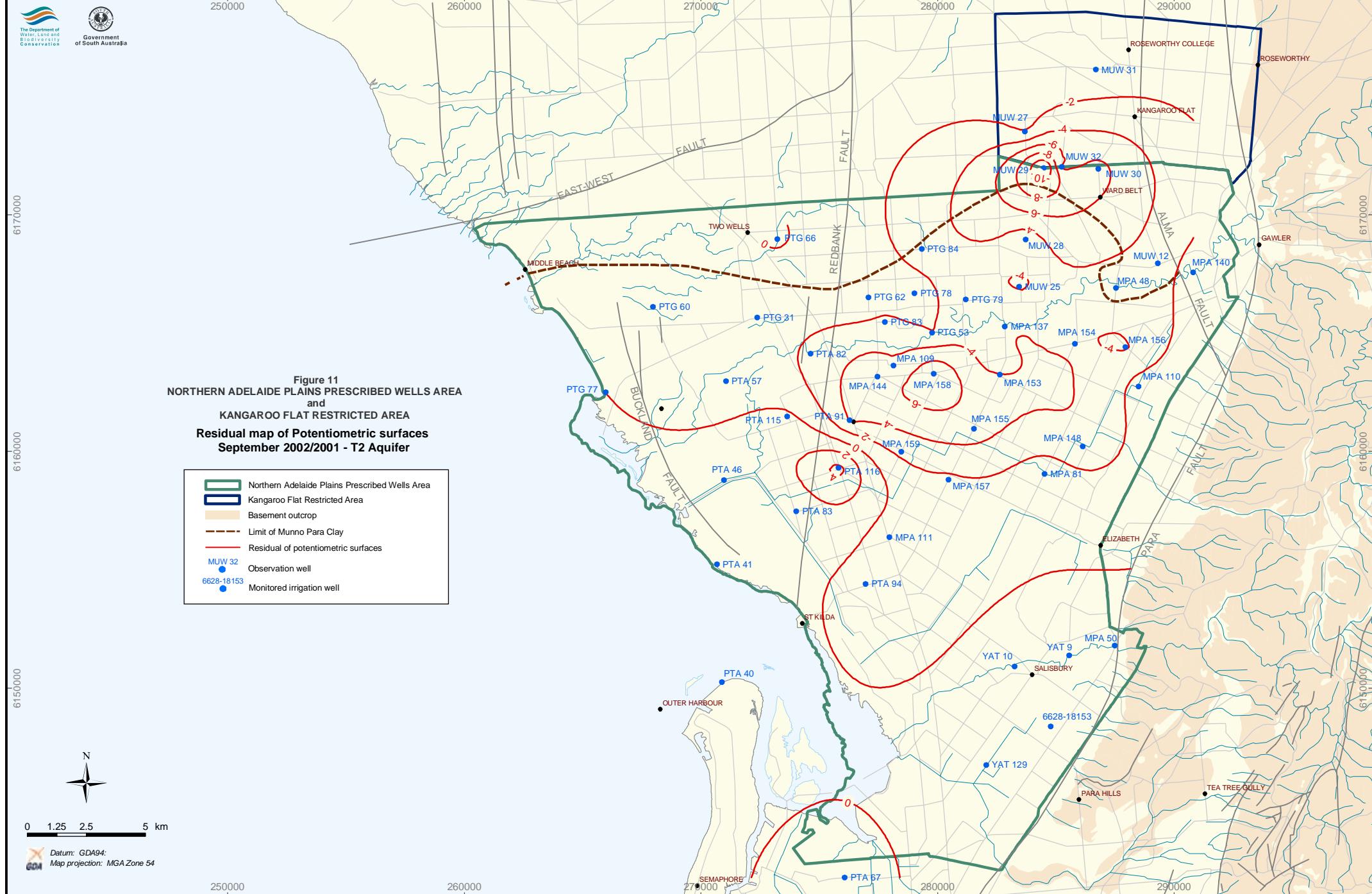
Government
of South Australia

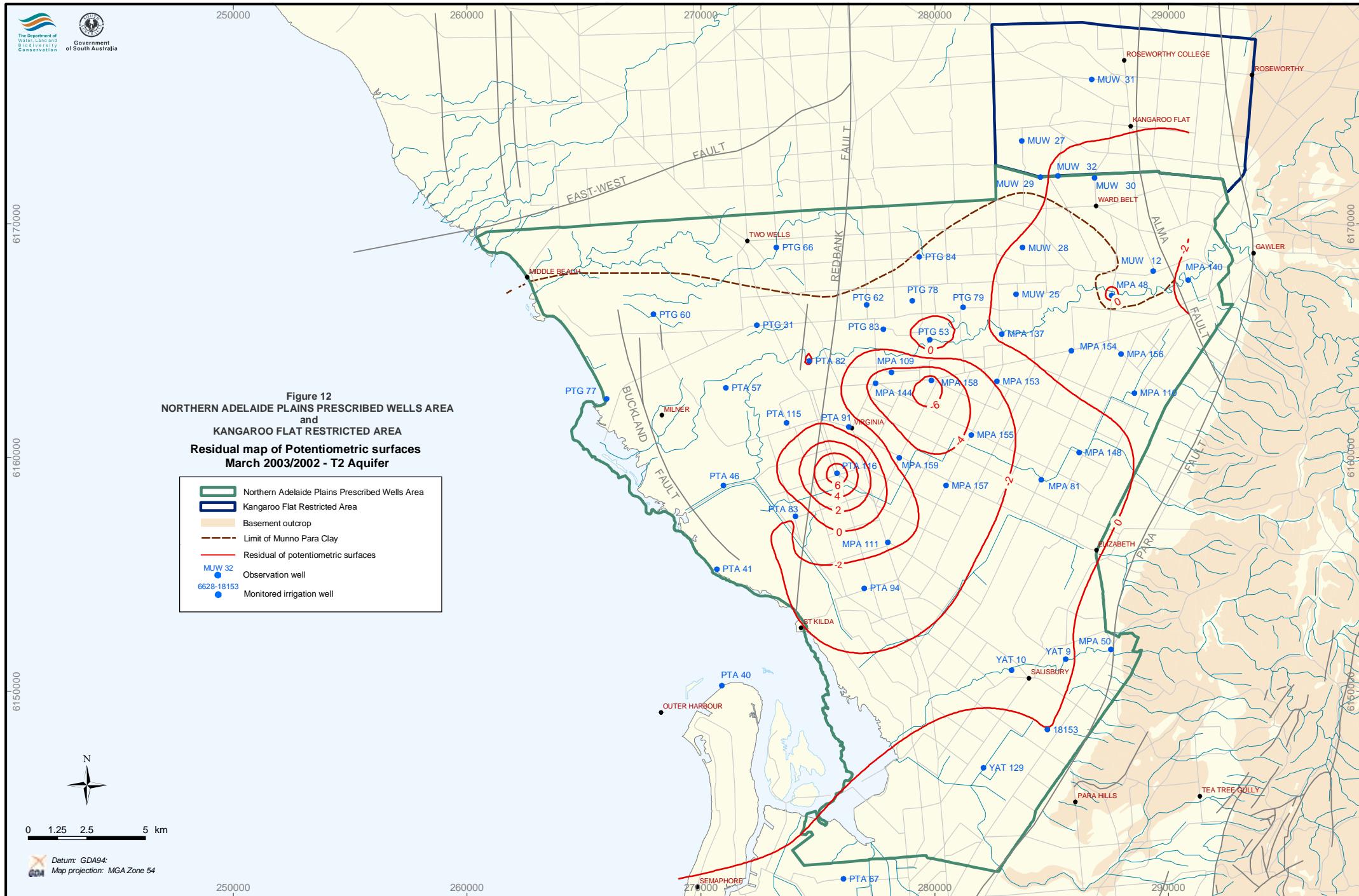
Figure 11
NORTHERN ADELAIDE PLAINS PRESCRIBED WELLS AREA
and
KANGAROO FLAT RESTRICTED AREA
Residual map of Potentiometric surfaces
September 2002/2001 - T2 Aquifer

- [Green Box] Northern Adelaide Plains Prescribed Wells Area
- [Blue Box] Kangaroo Flat Restricted Area
- [Light Brown Box] Basement outcrop
- [Dashed Line] Limit of Munno Para Clay
- [Red Line] Residual of potentiometric surfaces
- [Blue Dot] Observation well
- [Blue Dot with Number] Monitored irrigation well



0 1.25 2.5 5 km
 Datum: GDA94:
Map projection: MGA Zone 54





6 SALINITY ANALYSIS

A network consisting of Quaternary and Tertiary monitoring wells was established in the early 1960s for salinity monitoring in the area. Mainly production (equipped) wells have been selected for water sampling and salinity examination. The network was monitored regularly until the mid–late 1970s, but since then no regular sampling has been conducted in the area. At present, under regulation of the Water Allocation Plan (section 8, principle 4) all water licensees are required to submit an annual water sample from equipped production wells. Since June 1998 the number of sampled irrigation wells has been increasing each year. This should provide better data enabling a more comprehensive analysis of salinity trends in the area. Also, at the end of the irrigation season 2002/03, Groundwater Group of DWLBC has conducted water sampling of most of the Q4, T1, T2 and T3 – T4 SWL observation wells for full chemical analyses.

Latest available salinity records from January 1999 to June 2003 for monitoring and irrigation wells have been used to generate salinity distribution maps for the T1 and T2 aquifers.

6.1 Quaternary Aquifers

The salinity levels in the uppermost Quaternary Aquifers (Perched, Q1, Q2) are generally high and variable. Salinity varies from 2000 to 18 000 mg/L as you move towards the coast. Salinity decreases with depth and in the Q3 Aquifer ranges between 1500 and 3000 mg/L, with only few above that range and one extremely high (12 200 mg/L) in the Waterloo Corner area. However, in some areas, such as in the vicinity of the Gawler and Little Para Revers, the shallow Quaternary Aquifers (Q1–Q3) have low salinity in the range 400–1500 mg/L. In the perched watertable only four monitoring wells have salinity <2000 mg/L, while the rest of the records show much higher salinity of up to 14 000 mg/L. Monitoring of the perched watertable has been established recently (January 2000) in the area northwest of Virginia. The lower Quaternary Aquifer, Carisbrooke Sand Aquifer (Q4), is present over most of the region. Groundwater salinity within the Q4 Aquifer ranges from 400–1500 mg/L and is occasionally up to 3000–7500 mg/L (Two Wells and Waterloo Corner Area).

6.2 Tertiary Aquifers

The underlying Tertiary sediments contain several aquifer systems that exhibit significant variations in thickness, lithology, salinity distribution and yield. There are two main deep aquifers, the T1 and T2 Aquifers, which act as a primary source of irrigation water in the region.

6.2.1 T1 AQUIFER

The T1 Aquifer is the main source of irrigation water in the area south of Waterloo Corner. In 1999 salinity was analysed for a representative group of 37 T1 Aquifer irrigation wells (Schuster and Gerges, 1999; Gerges, 2001). The outcome of this analysis shows that

generally average water salinity in the T1 Aquifer has increased by between 200–800 mg/L, and occasionally up to 6000 mg/L over the last 30 years, particularly near Waterloo Corner.

Latest groundwater salinities obtained from sampling done between 1999 and 2003 for 274 monitoring and irrigation wells have been used to generate a salinity distribution map (Fig. 13). Salinity ranges from ~500–2000 mg/L. Of the 273 sampled wells, 256 wells have salinity less than 2000 mg/L and 225 wells (82%) have salinity less than 1500 mg/L. Seventeen wells that have salinity >2000 and up to 5611 mg/L are located in the vicinity of Waterloo Corner. Corroded casing and leakage of shallow saline groundwater to the T1 Aquifer could be responsible, directly or indirectly, for the wells with highly saline groundwater.

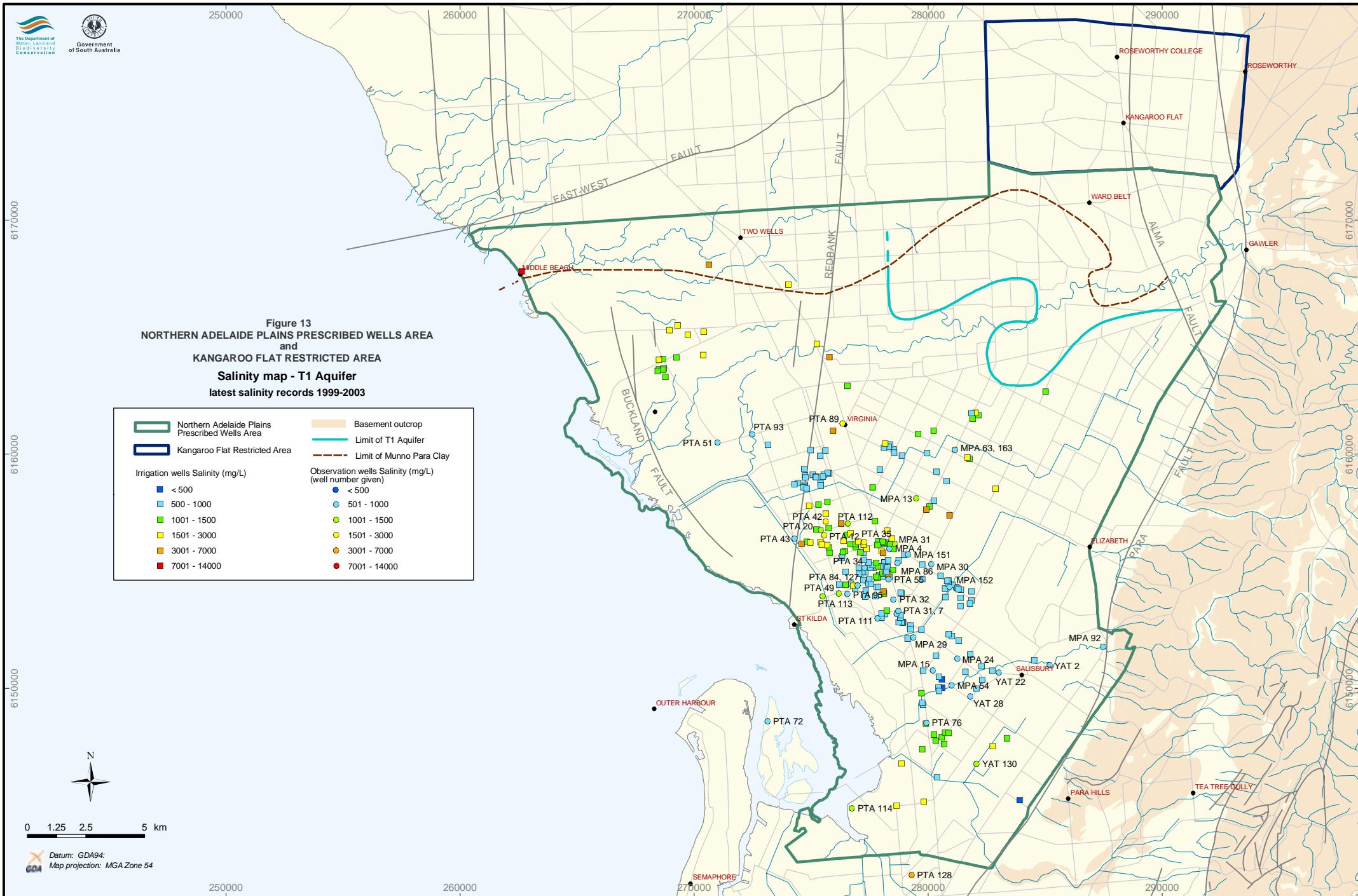
6.2.2 T2 AQUIFER

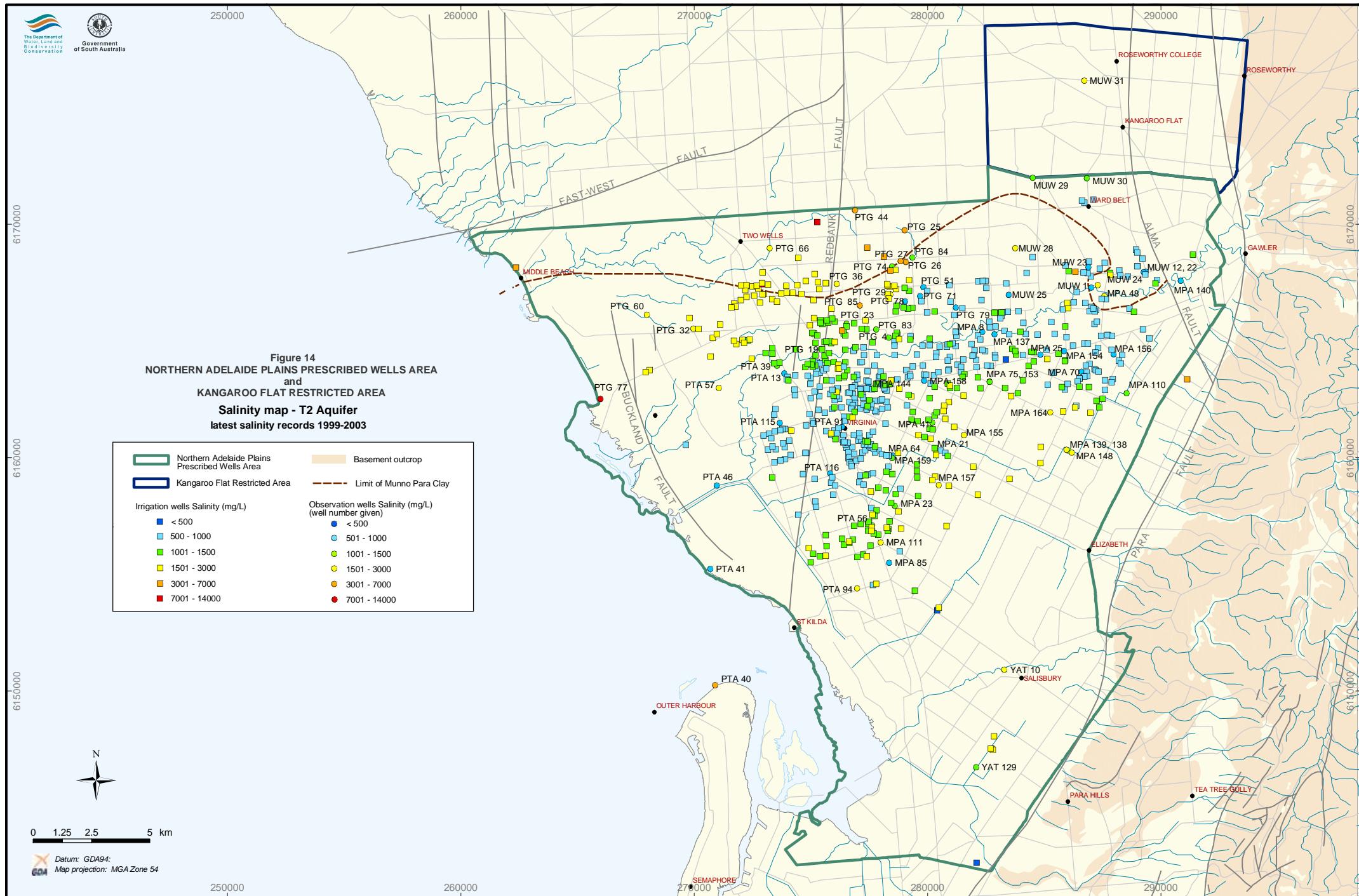
Salinity levels range from 600 mg/L in the Gawler River area to >3000 mg/L to the north and south. In 1999, salinity was analysed for a representative group of 162 T2 Aquifer irrigation wells (Schuster and Gerges, 1999; Gerges, 2001). The outcome of this analysis shows that, generally, the average water salinity in the T2 Aquifer has increased by 200 mg/L during last 30 years of pumping along some areas of the Gawler River. However, evidence suggests that in some areas negligible salinity increase has occurred (Gerges, 2001).

The salinity distribution map for the T2 Aquifer (Fig. 14) was generated using the latest groundwater salinities collected between 1999 and 2003. Salinities range mostly from ~500–2000 mg/L. Of the 713 sampled wells, 657 wells have salinity less than 2000 mg/L and 559 wells (78%) have salinity less than 1500 mg/L. Only 56 wells have salinity greater than 2000 mg/L, which is less than 8%.

6.2.3 T3 AND T4 AQUIFERS

Distribution of groundwater salinity within the two deep Tertiary Aquifers, known as T3 and T4, is not well known for most of the NAP area. Information available indicates that those Tertiary Aquifers contain groundwater of very high salinity of up to 80 000 mg/L, which is unsuitable for any irrigation purpose.





7 CONCLUSIONS

Most of the monitoring wells in the Quaternary and Tertiary Aquifers exhibited a decline in water levels after the 2001-02 irrigation season.

Analyses of the monitoring data over the period September 2001-02 show that the average decline in water levels was 0.14, 0.31, 0.18 and 0.32 m/y for the perched, Q1, Q2 and Q3 aquifers respectively. Only Carisbrooke Sand Aquifer (Q4) recorded a rise in water level over the same period, on average 0.01 m/y. However, during the period March 2002-03, an even larger number of monitoring wells in all Quaternary Aquifers recorded a decline in water levels with an average decline of 0.03, 0.14, 0.28, 0.36 and 0.02 m/y for the perched and Q1-Q4 aquifers respectively.

The residual maps of potentiometric surfaces September 2002/01 show that the potentiometric surfaces in September 2002 have declined in most of the area where there is extraction from the T1 and T2 Aquifers. However, the largest decline was recorded in the Kangaroo Flat area (extracting from the T2 Aquifer), forming for the first time a distinctive cone of depression during the winter season.

The residual maps of potentiometric surfaces March 2003/02 show that the potentiometric surfaces in March 2003 have declined in most of the area where there is extraction from the two most utilised Tertiary aquifers. However, the potentiometric surface recorded a recovery of about 2m in the area of the Waterloo Corner cone of depression where groundwater is being extracted from the T1 aquifer.

Analysis of salinity trends could not be done for this report as no regular groundwater sampling was conducted since mid-late 1970s. Since June 1998, the number of sampled irrigation wells has been increasing each year. This should provide better data enabling a more comprehensive analysis of salinity trends in the area that will be presented in the future reports.

8 REFERENCES

- Gerges, N.Z., 1987. Underground water resources of Adelaide Metropolitan area with the latest understanding of recharge mechanism. In: Australian Water Resources Council Conference, groundwater system under stones, Brisbane, pp. 141-151.
- Gerges, N.Z., 2001. Northern Adelaide Plains groundwater review. South Australia. Department for Water Resources. Report Book, 2001/013.
- Northern Adelaide and Barossa Catchment Water Management Board, 2000. Water Allocation Plan — Northern Adelaide Plains Prescribed Wells Area. South Australia. Northern Adelaide and Barossa Catchment Water Management Board.
- Schuster, C.D. and Gerges, N.Z., 1999. Initial investigation of the salinity impact of leaking wells, Northern Adelaide Plains Prescribed Wells Area. South Australia. Department of Primary Industries and Resources. Report Book, 99/005.
- Shepherd, R.G., 1968. The hydrogeology of the Northern Adelaide Plains Basin. Mining Review, Adelaide, 125:8-20.
- Shepherd, R.G., 1975. Northern Adelaide Plains groundwater study, stage 2, 1968–74. South Australia. Department of Mines. Report Book, 75/38.
- Shepherd, R.G., 1978. Underground water resources of South Australia. South Australia. Department of Mines and Energy. Bulletin, 48.
- Zulfic, H. and Gerges, N.Z., 2000. Virginia Pipeline Scheme drilling observation wells for the Irrigation Management Plan. South Australia. Department of Primary Industries and Resources. Report Book, 2000/025.
- Zulfic, H., 2002. Northern Adelaide Plains Prescribed Wells Area groundwater monitoring report 2002. South Australia. Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation. Report DWLBC 2002/14.

9 APPENDIX A



STRATIGRAPHY AND HYDROSTRATIGRAPHY



Stratigraphy and hydrostratigraphy of the Northern Adelaide Plains

AGE		STRATIGRAPHY		HYDROSTRATIGRAPHY		
	Unit	Lithology	Unit	Description		
Quaternary	Holocene	St Kilda Formation	Shallow marine deposits including shell beds, sands and clay (coastal areas).	Unconfined Aquifer	Unconfined aquifer; groundwater salinity at least equal to seawater.	
	Late Pleistocene	Pooraka Clay	Alluvial clays, silts and sands.	Aquitard	Confining bed.	
		Glanville Formation	Shallow marine deposits including sand and shell beds (adjacent to coast).	Aquifer	Contains highly saline groundwater.	
	Late to Early Pleistocene	Hindmarsh Clay	Fluviatile and alluvial clays, silts, sands and gravels in outwash areas. Occurs over almost whole of basin.	Aquitard Q1 Aquifer Q2 Aquifer Q3 Aquifer	Up to three semi-confined aquifers. Relatively saline groundwater, except near streams, and low yields. Domestic and stock use.	
	?Pliocene/ Pleistocene	Carisbrooke Sand	Fluviatile, alluvial, multicoloured fine sands and silts with some clay and thin gravel beds in outwash areas. Occurs over whole area except within 4–5 km of the coast.	Q4 Aquifer	Confined aquifer; not widely developed because of low yields. Possible hydraulic connection with T1 Aquifer in some areas (near Little Para River).	
Tertiary	Late Pliocene	Hallett Cove Sandstone – Dry Creek Sand	Limestone, calcareous sandstone and sands of marine deposition. Usually abundantly fossiliferous. Occurrence generally restricted to an area south of Two Wells.	T1 Aquifer	T1a	Confined aquifer; developed for irrigation stock and domestic purposes.
	Early Pliocene	Croydon facies (member)	Silt, bryozoal and glauconitic		Aquitard	Semi-confining aquitard where present
	Middle Miocene	Port Willunga Formation (upper part)	Fossiliferous sandy limestone, fine grained, occurring south of Two Wells.		T1b	Confined aquifer; developed mainly for irrigation. Salinity ranges between 500–2000 mg/L.
		Munno Para Clay (member)	Blue-grey, sandy, shelly clay, missing in some coastal areas and north of Two Wells.	Aquitard	Confining bed to the T2 Aquifer.	
	Early Miocene to Late Eocene	Port Willunga Formation (lower part)	Undifferentiated Tertiary sediments, mainly continental. White quartz sand and gravel in places with ferruginous matrix. Fluvial and alluvial. – Marginal marine influence. Between Alma and Para fault. Port Willunga Formation equivalent.	T2 Aquifer	Confined aquifer. Considered as continuation of the T2 Aquifer.	
			Fossiliferous limestone with sands and sandstones, grading to a dense siliceous unit towards the base.		Confined aquifer, salinity ranges between 500–2000 mg/L in the Gawler River area to >3000 mg/L to the north and south. Developed mainly for irrigation.	
	Late Eocene	Chinaman Gully Formation	Dark-brown to black lignitic silt and clay.	Aquitard T3 Aquifer	Aquitard; Confining bed; Chinaman Gully sands–aquifer.	
		Blanche Point Formation	Marls, siltstone, limestone, fossiliferous and glauconitic.	Aquitard	Generally confining bed, but may be a low-grade aquifer in some areas.	
	Late to Middle Eocene	South Maslin Sand	Marginal marine sands, glauconitic and poorly fossiliferous.	T4 Aquifer	Confined aquifer, highly saline.	
	Middle Eocene	Clinton Formation	Grey to blue clay, carbonaceous and silty.	Aquitard	Confining bed where present.	
		North Maslin Sand	Pebbly quartz-sand, slightly clayey, pyritic, carbonaceous; fluviatile and estuarine deposition. Contains thin impure lignite in places.	T4 Aquifer	Confined aquifer, highly saline.	
Proterozoic	Undifferentiated Adelaidean	Slates, quartzite, dolomites, tillites, shales and limestone.		Fractured Rock Aquifer		

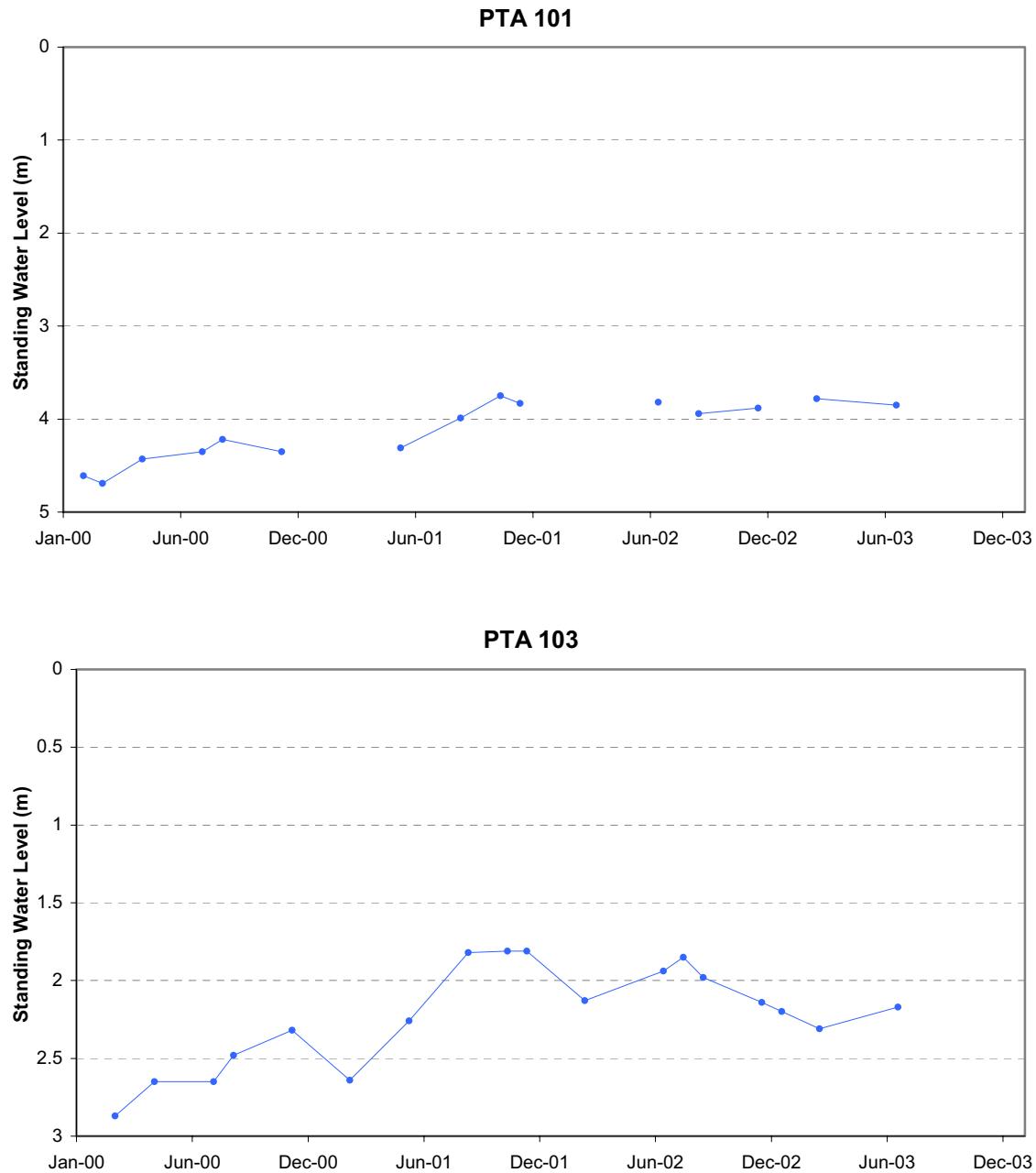
10 APPENDIX B



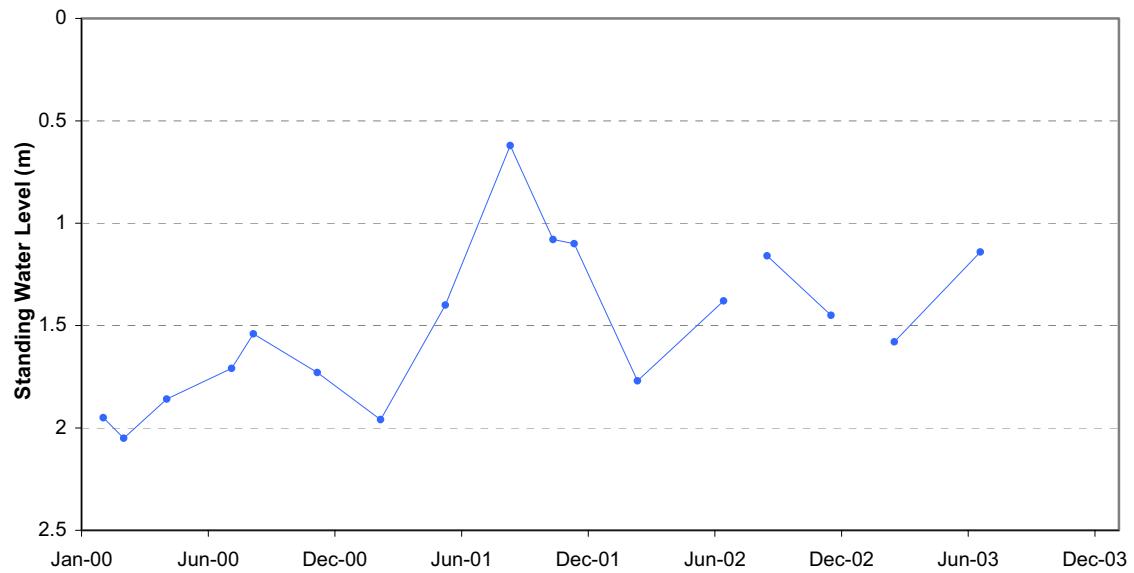
GROUNDWATER HYDROGRAPHS



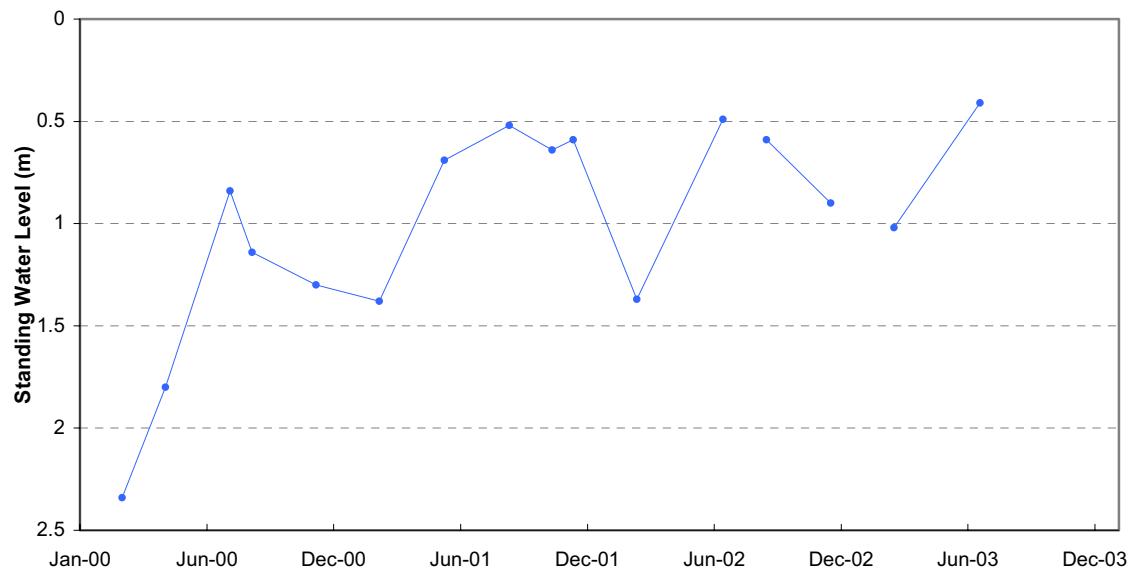
Perched Aquifer hydrographs

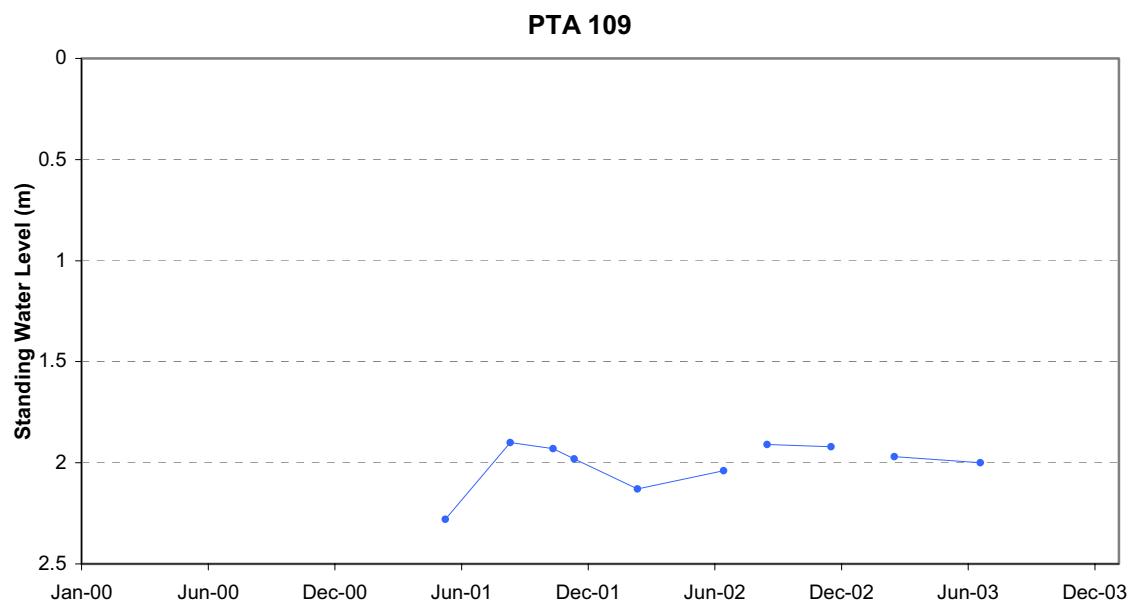


PTA 105

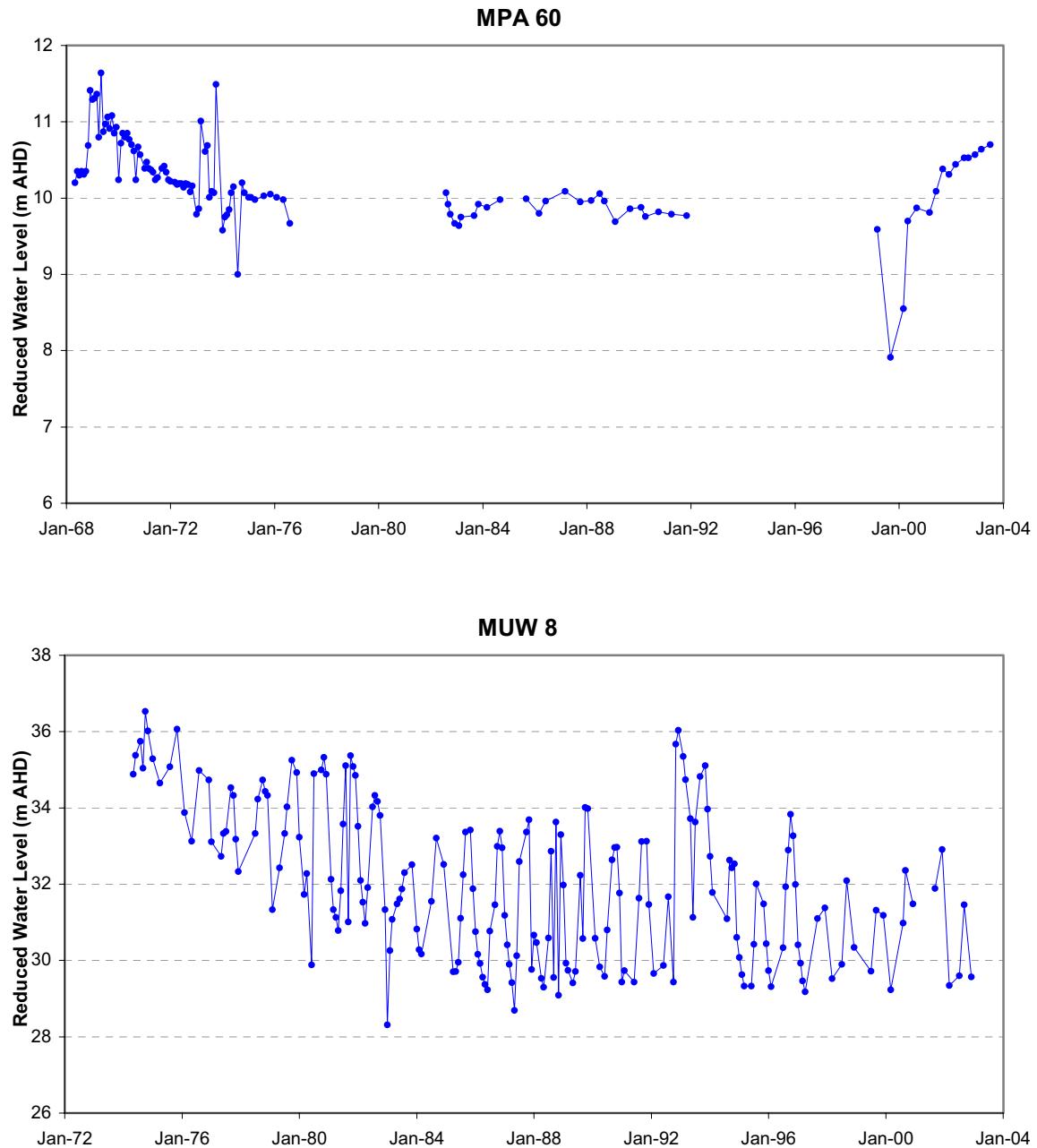


PTA 107

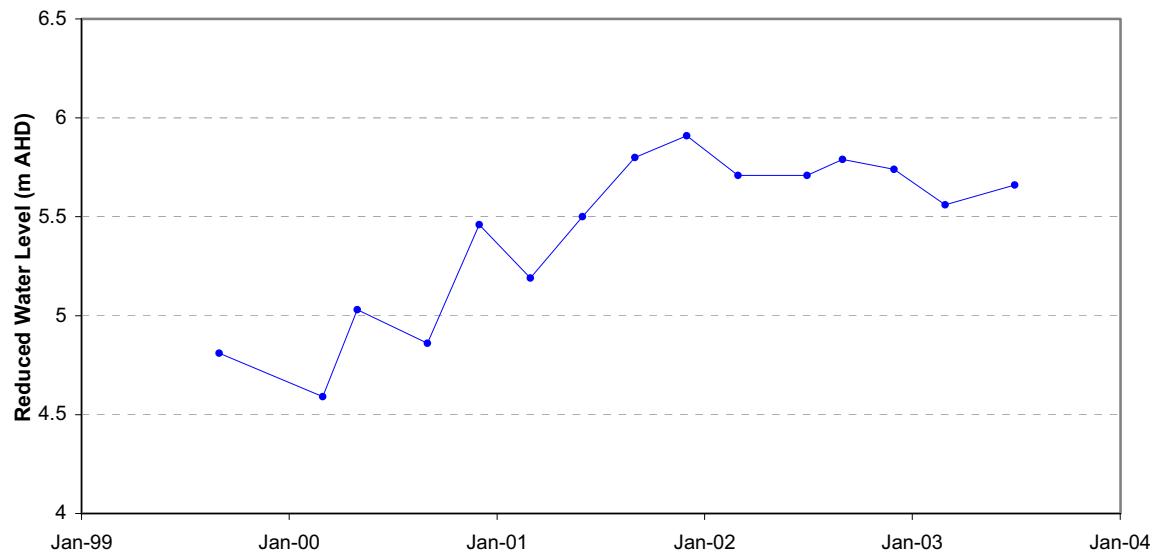




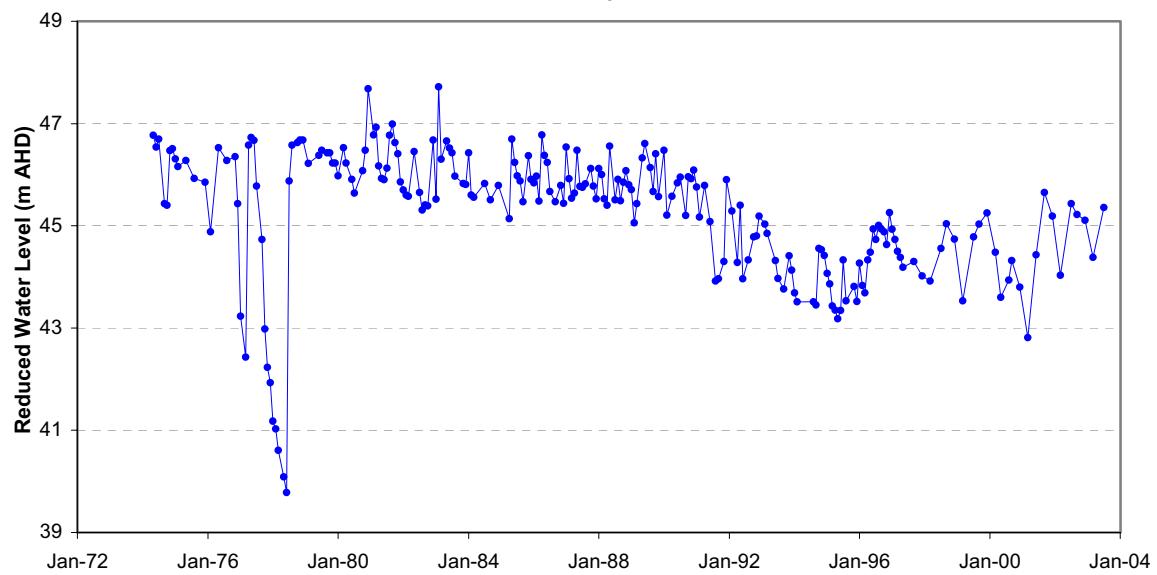
Q1 Aquifer hydrographs



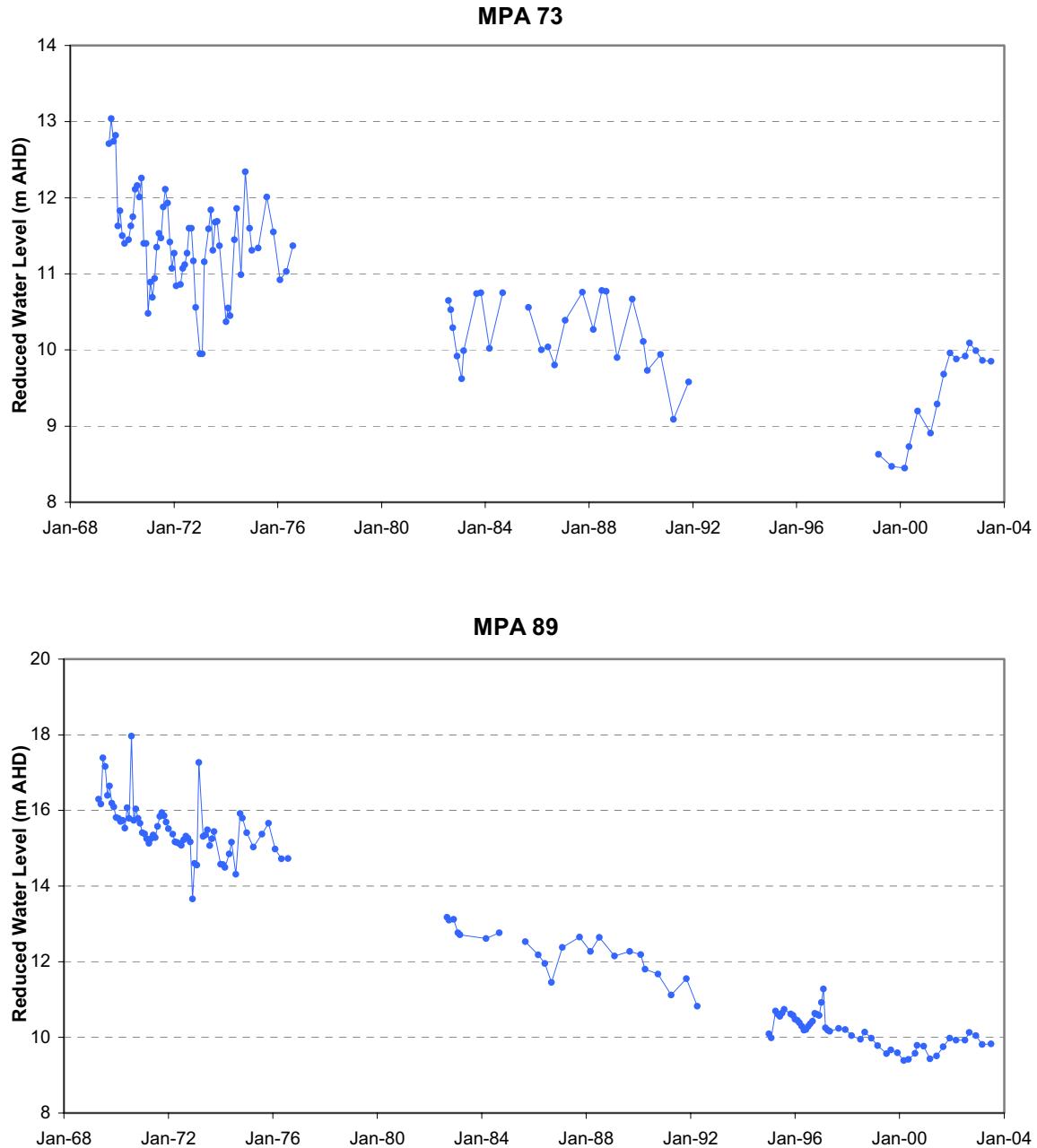
PTA 99



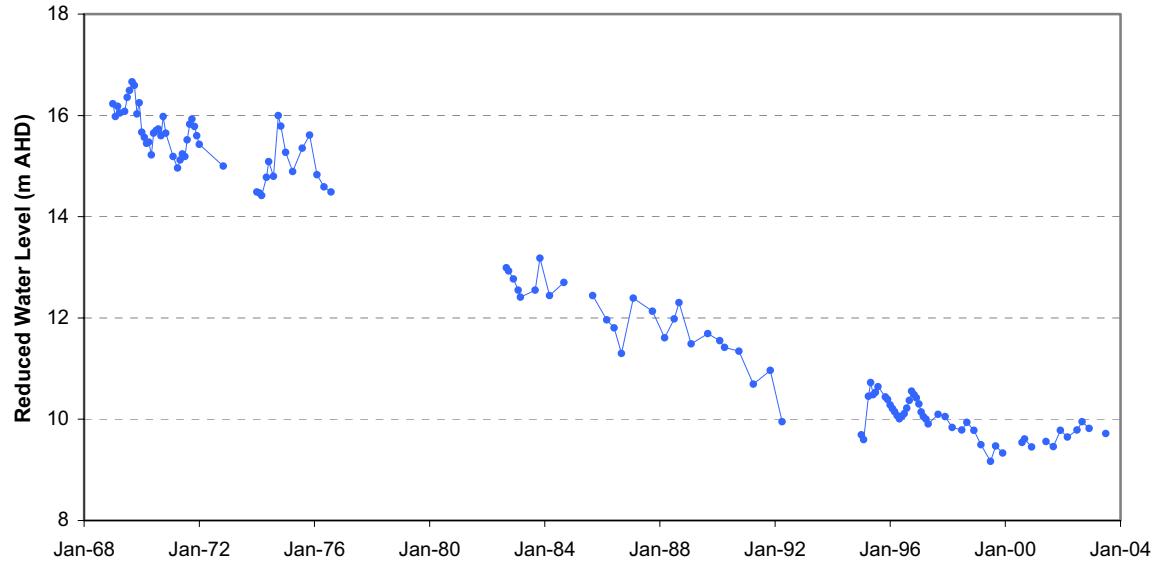
YAT 6



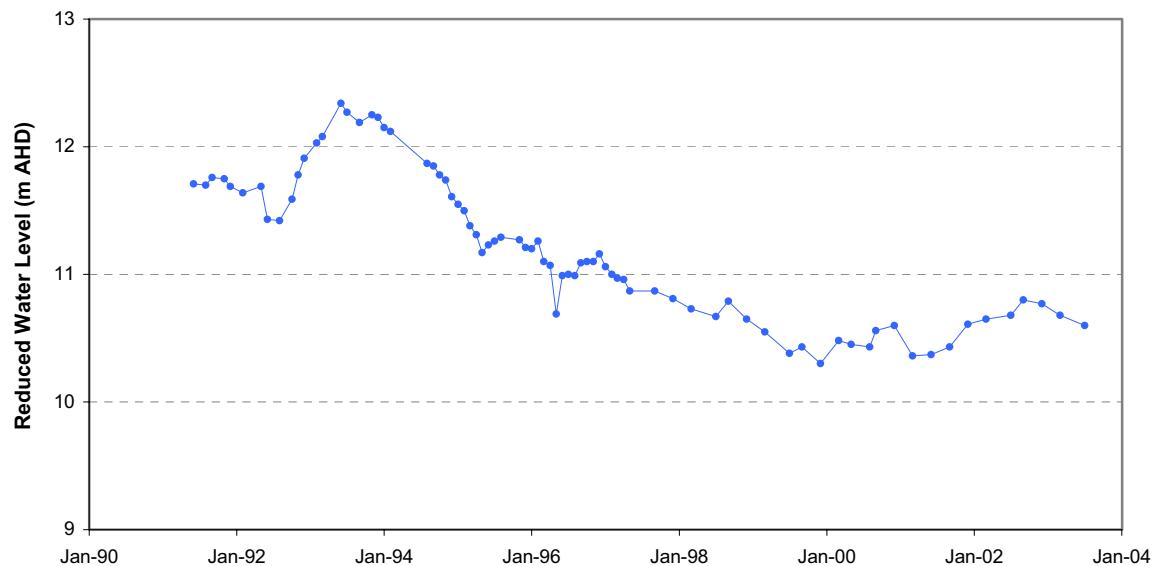
Q2 Aquifer hydrographs



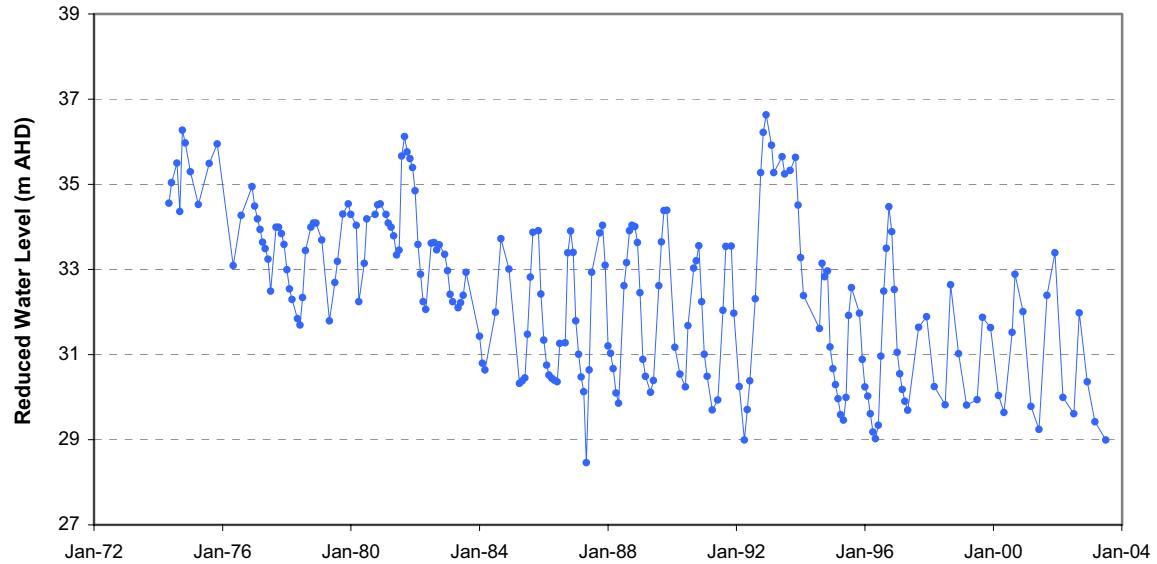
MPA 90



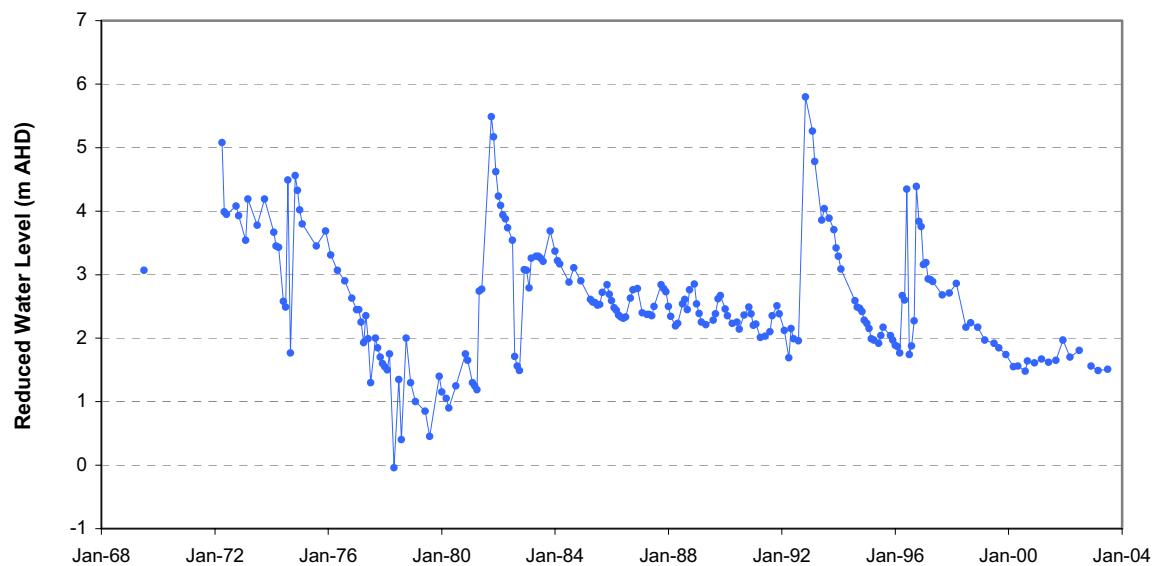
MPA 142



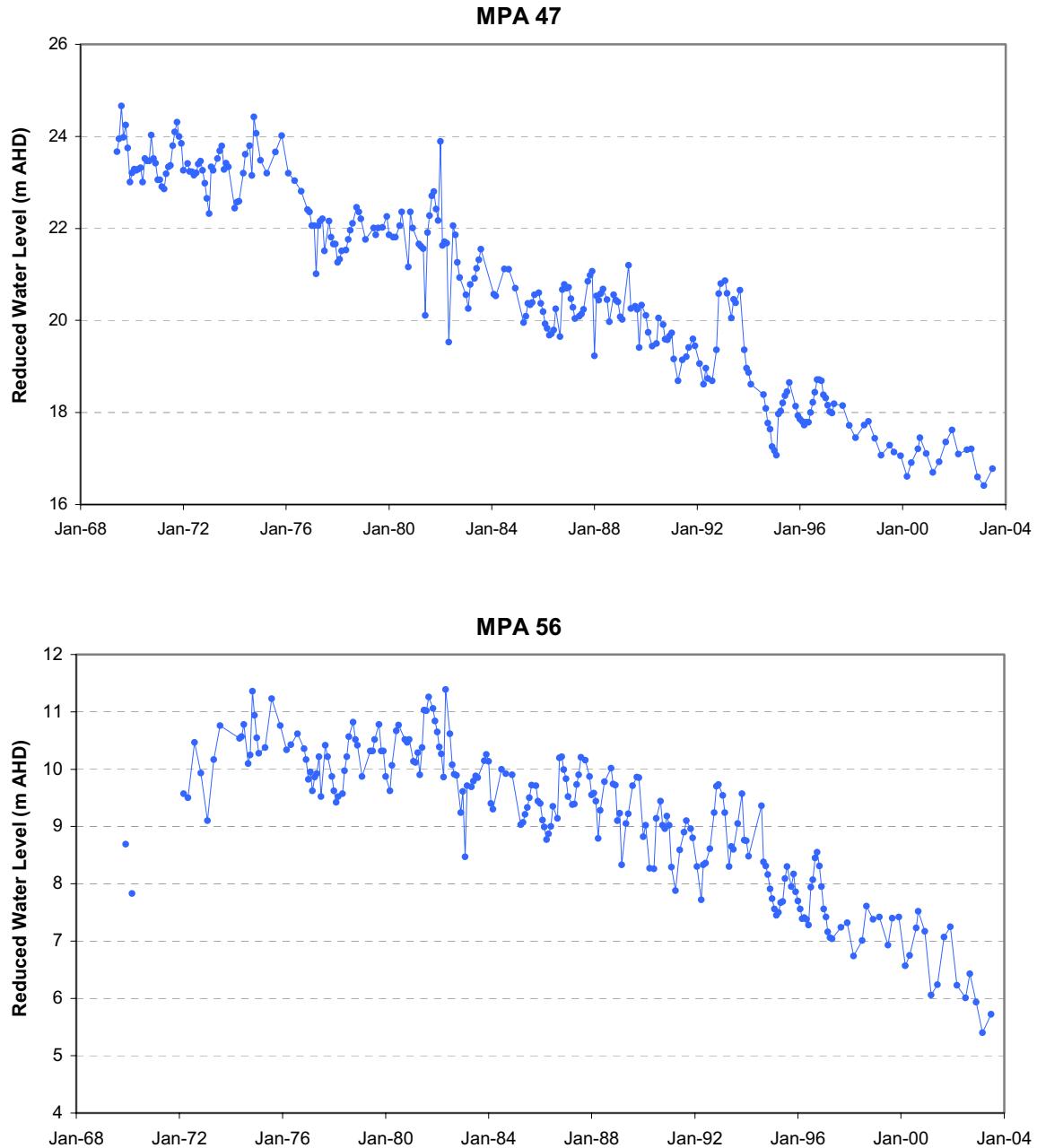
MUW 9



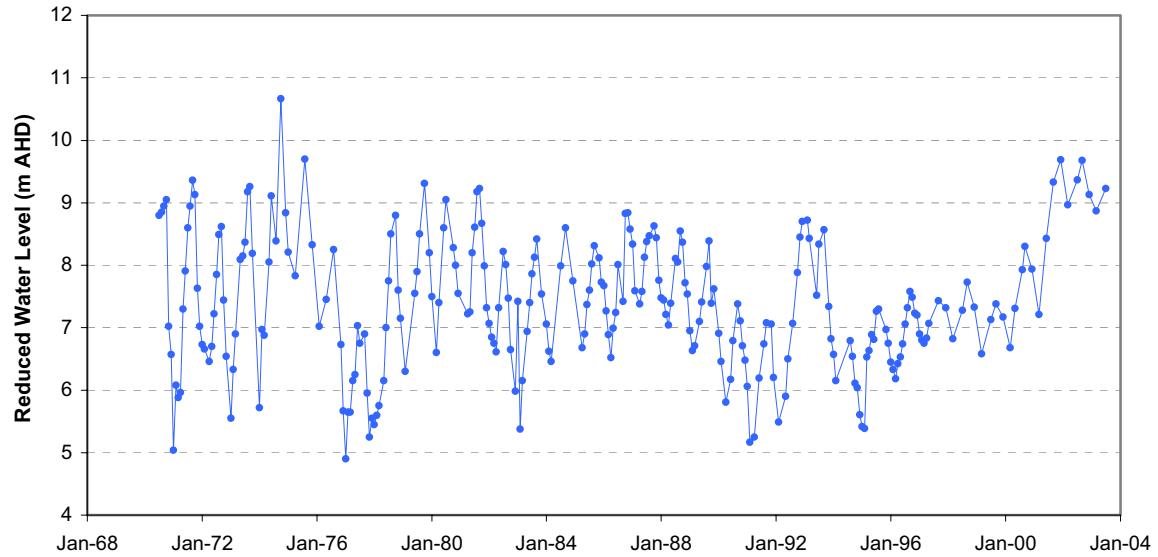
PTA 58



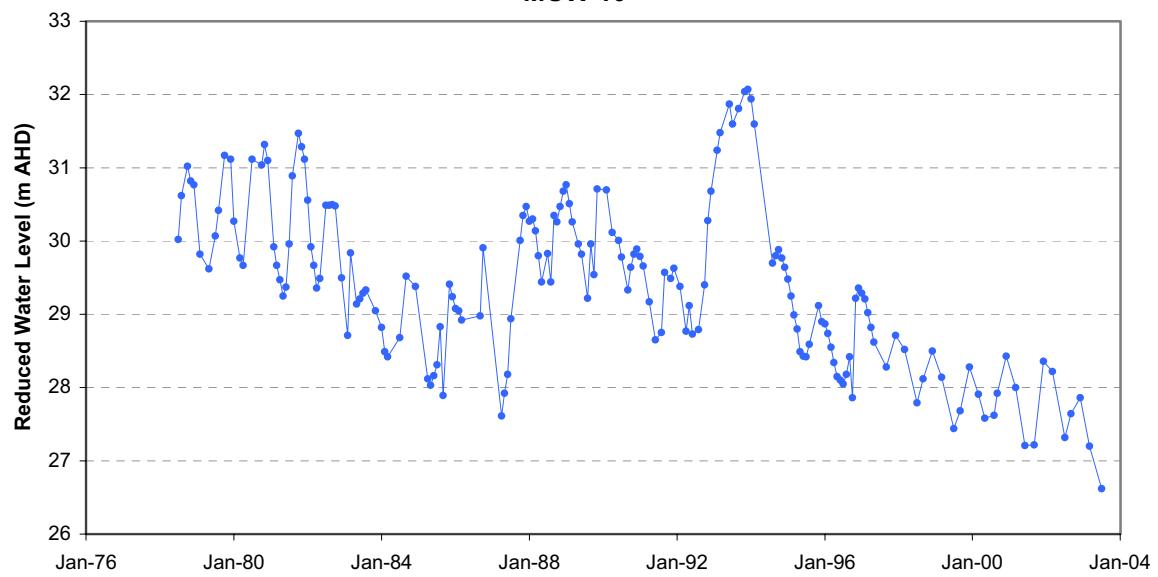
Q3 Aquifer hydrographs

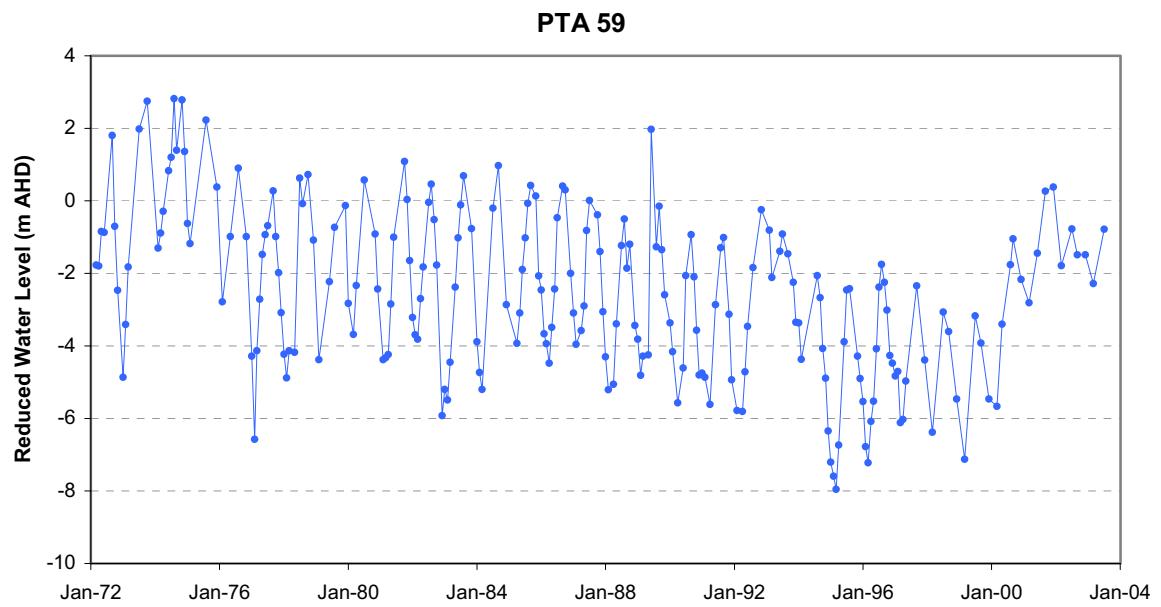


MPA 88

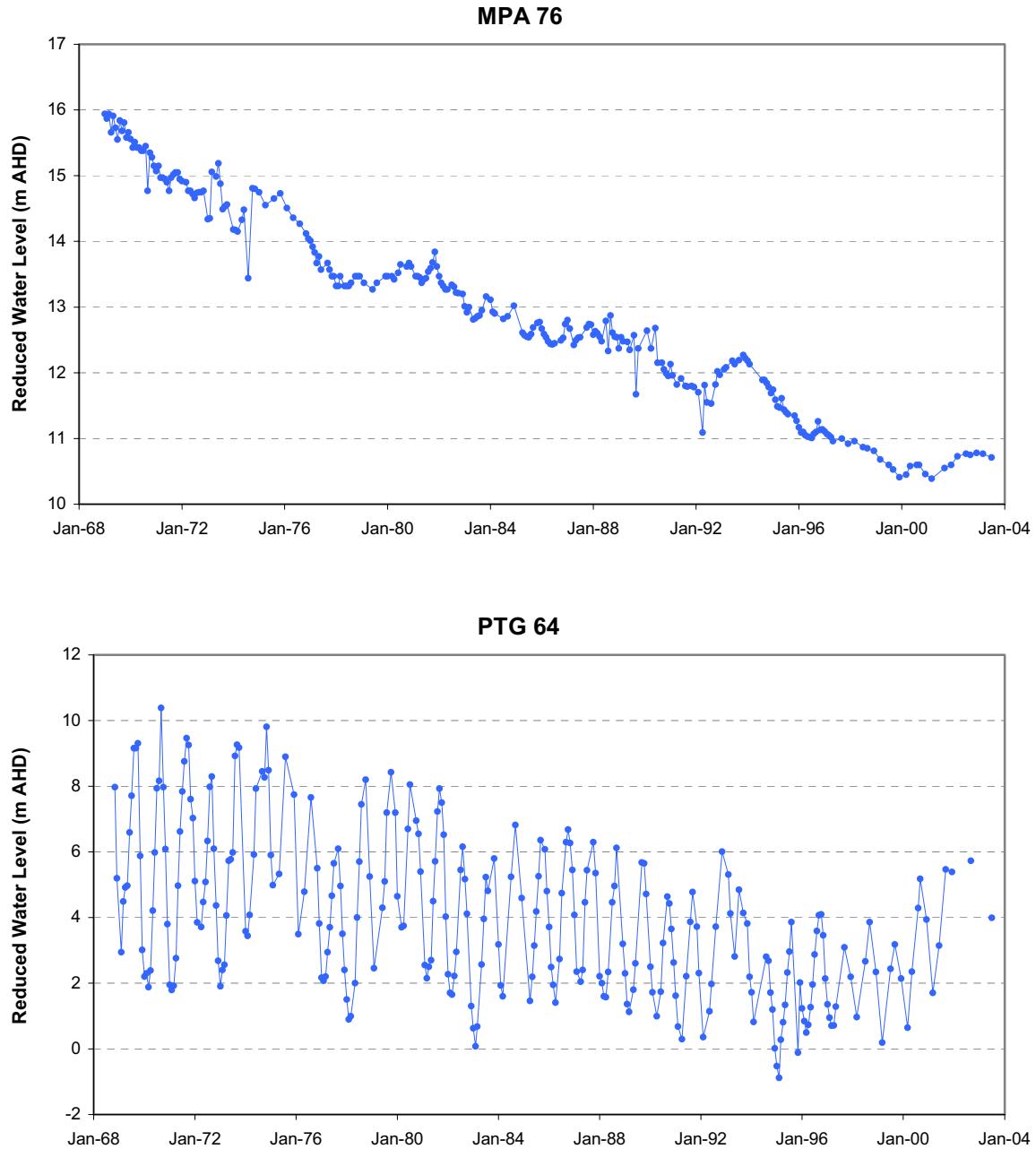


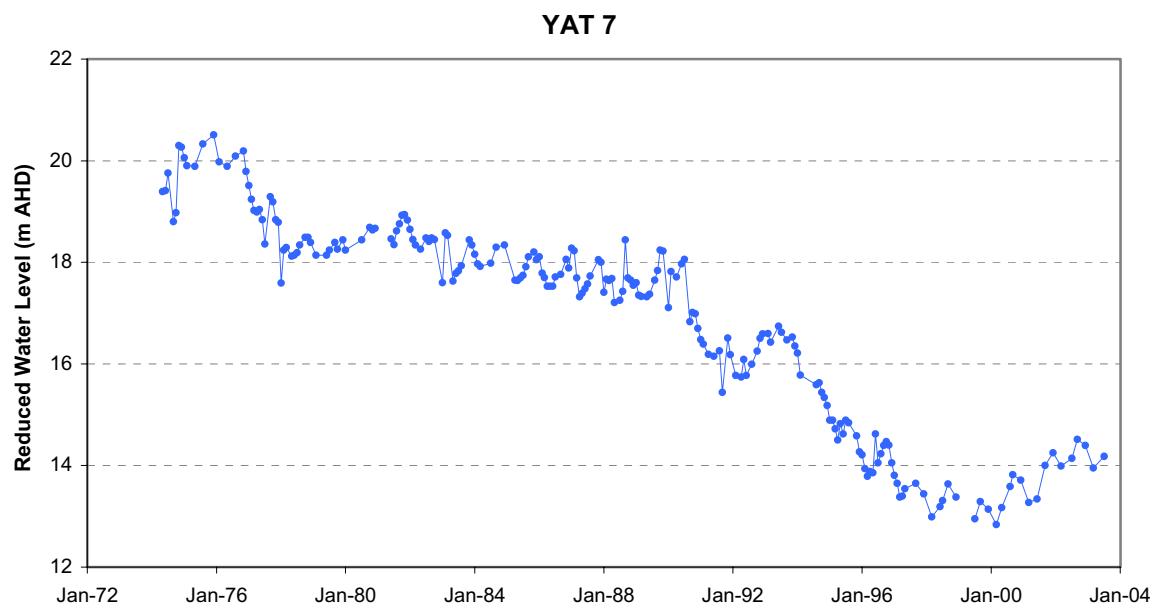
MUW 10



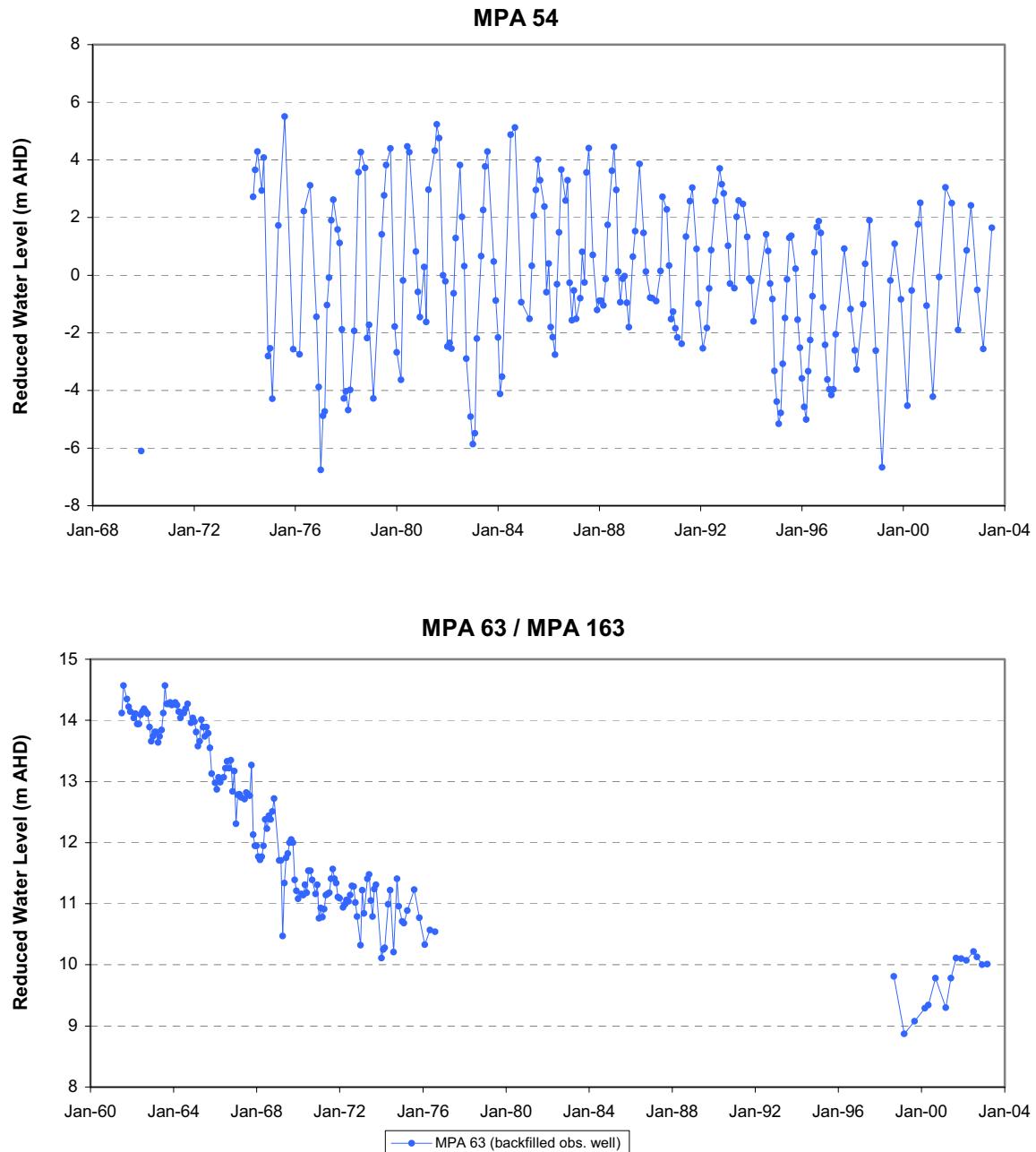


Q4 Aquifer hydrographs

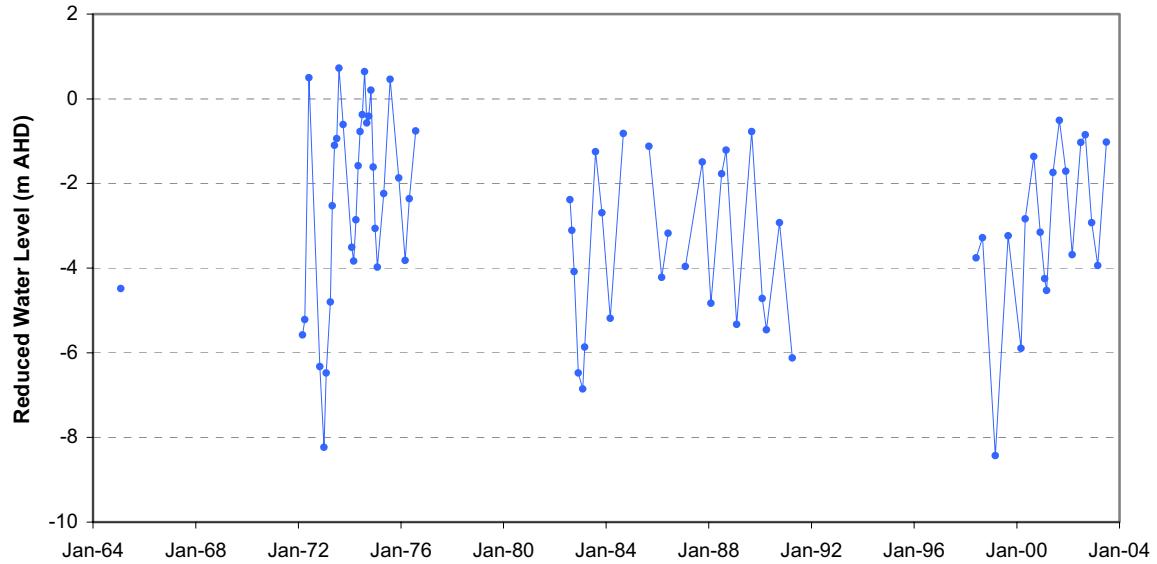




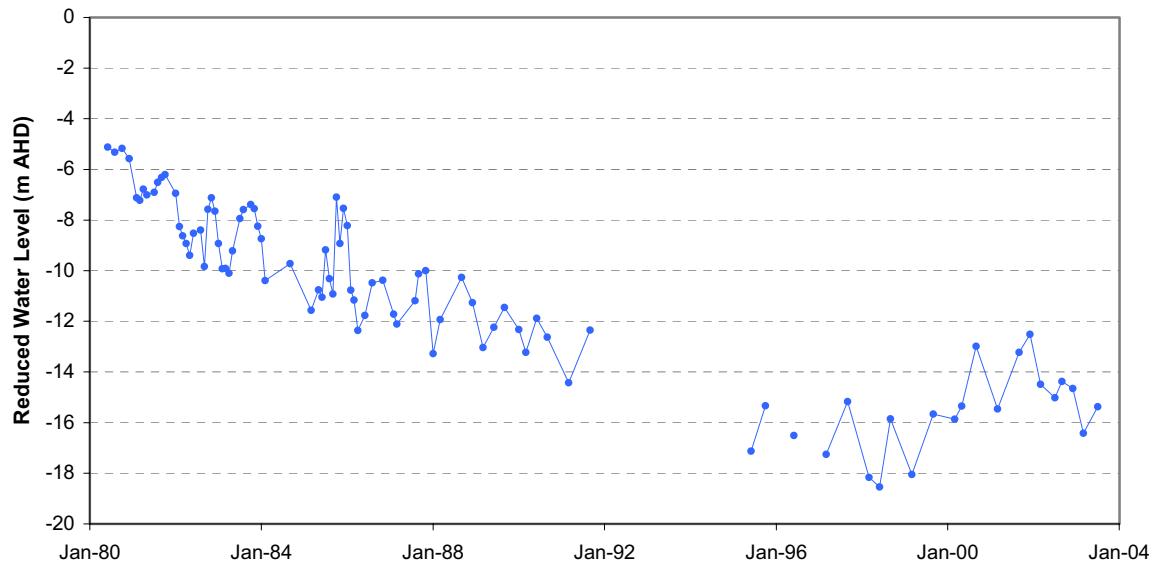
T1 Aquifer hydrographs

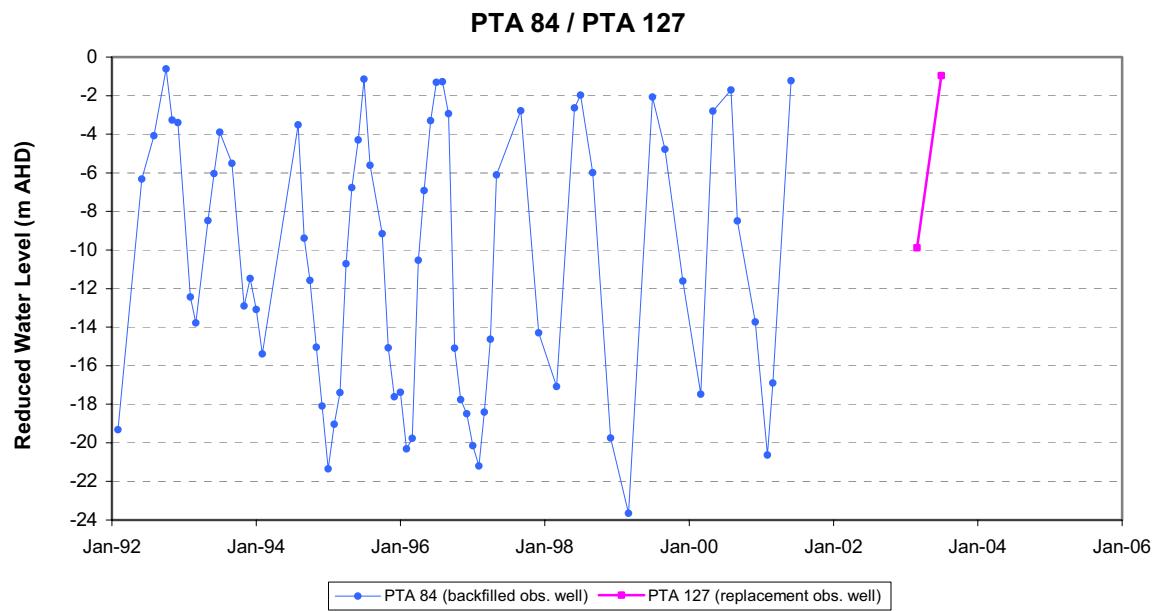


PTA 43

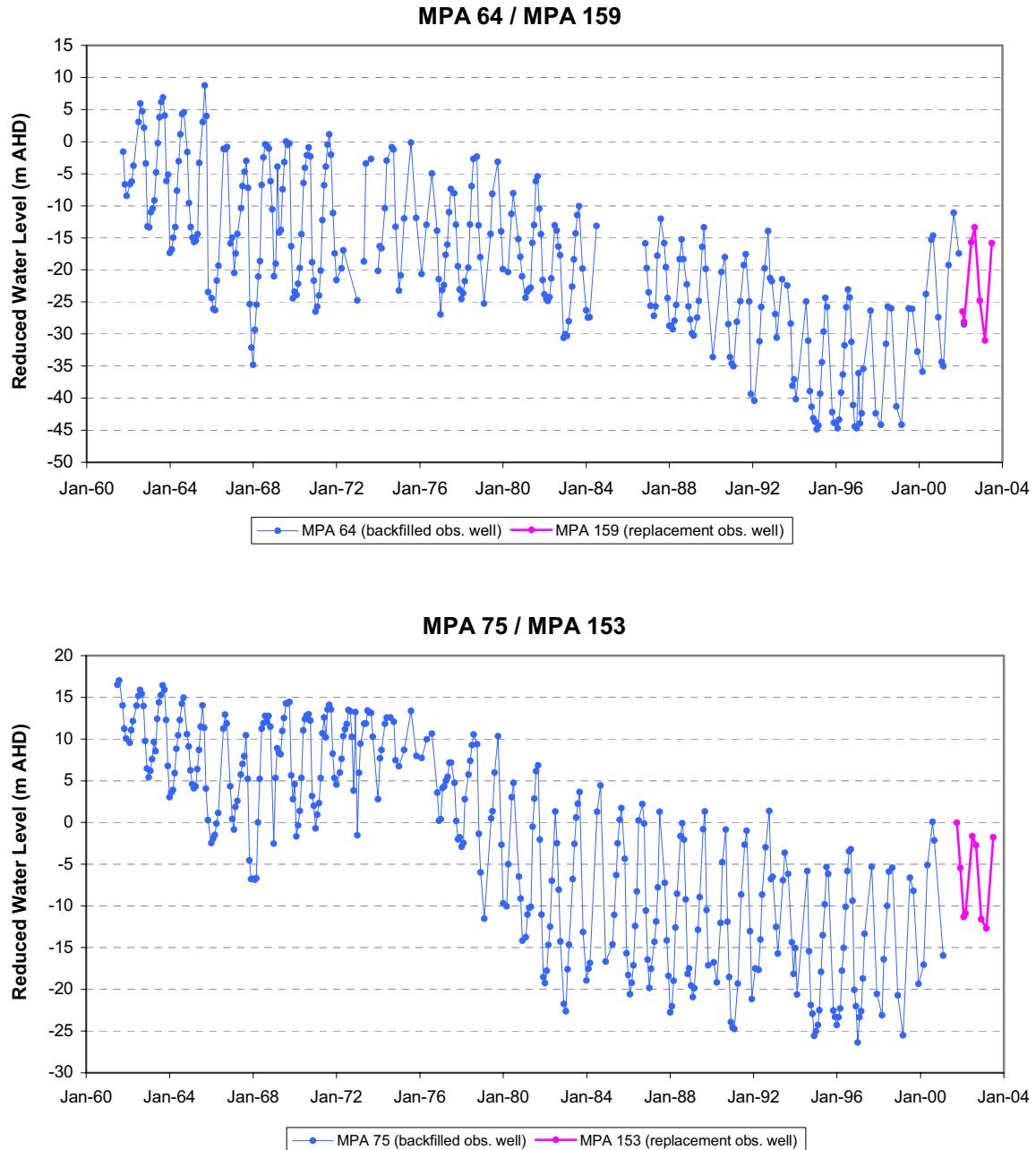


PTA 66

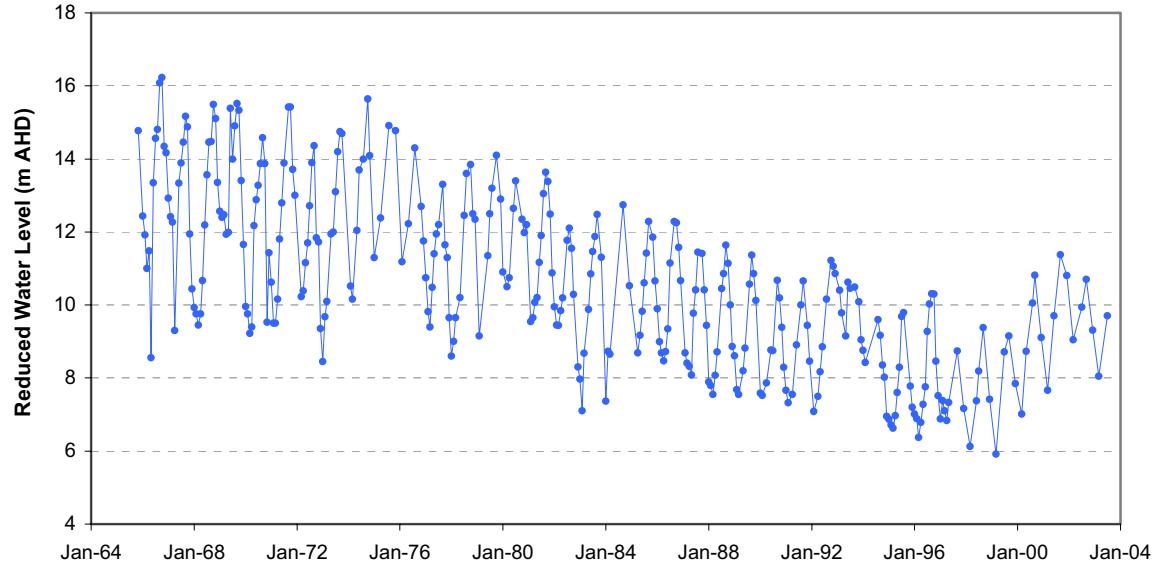




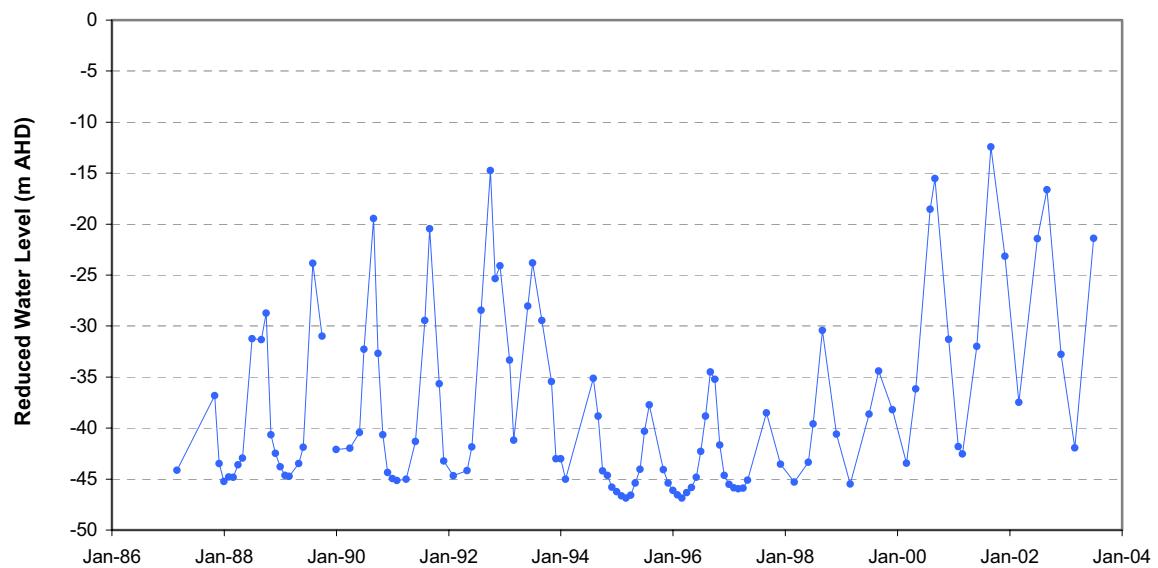
T2 Aquifer hydrographs

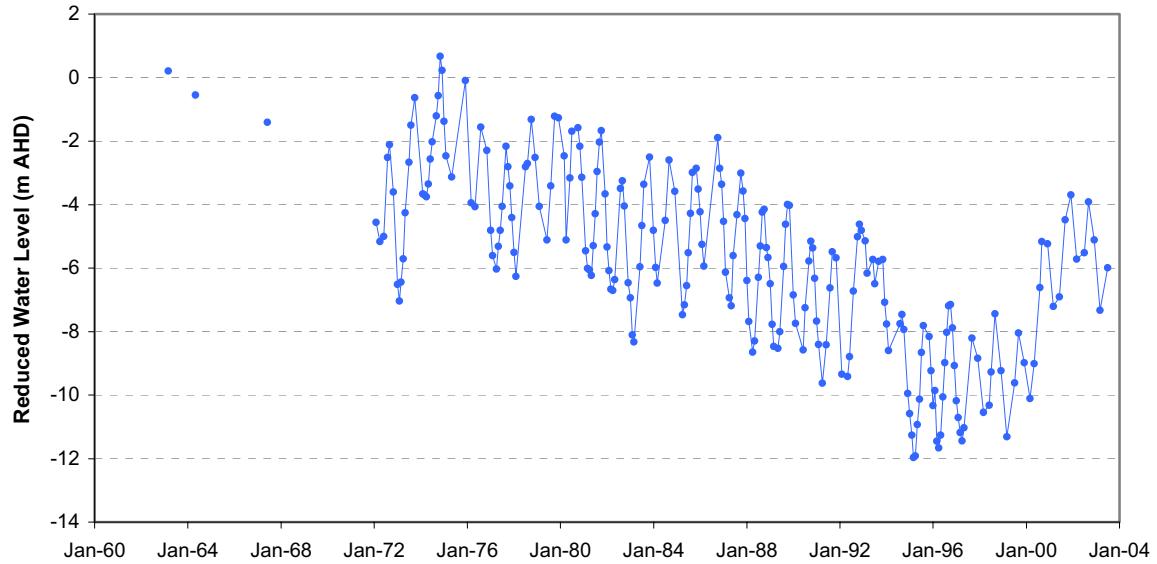
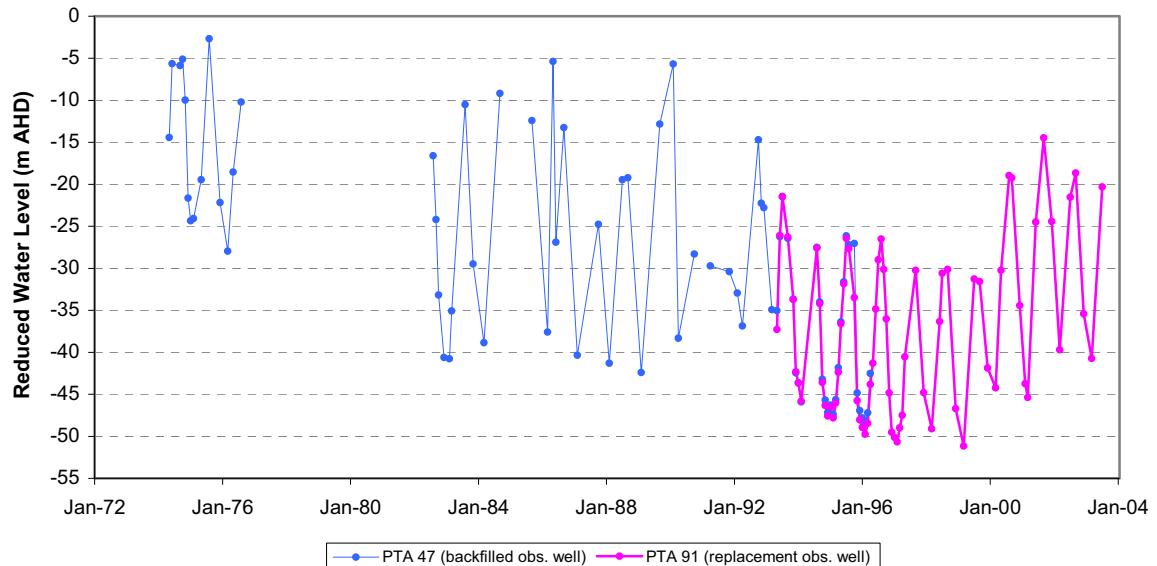


MPA 81

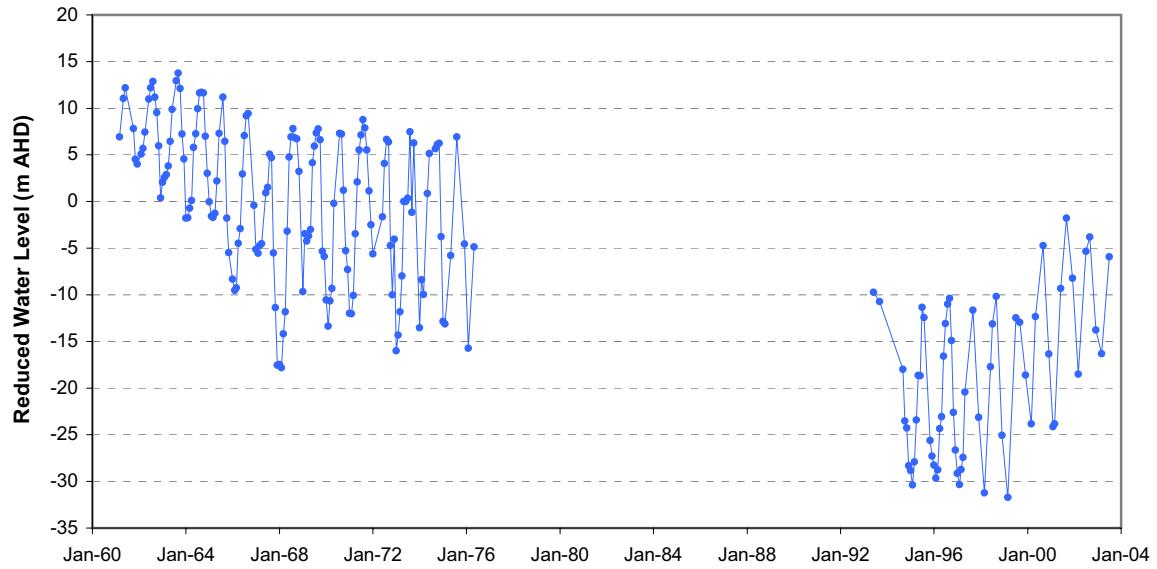


MPA 109



PTA 46**PTA 47 / PTA 91**

PTG 53



PTG 62 / PTG 85

