



Figure 5: Impact of current use – historical water levels, seawater front movement and salt levels.

Since 1993, several management strategies have been implemented to limit the adverse effects of seawater intrusion that have occurred as a result of excessive extraction. These strategies include pumping restrictions and limitations on issuing new entitlements. Hence it is likely that the metered use of some 47 000 megalitres during the 2001-2002 dry period does not represent the maximum demand possible.

Even with these restrictions in place, some parts of the aquifer system are overdeveloped and this has resulted in falling water levels in the coastal zone followed by seawater intrusion. The draft amended Plan will need to assess the limits of groundwater extraction and to develop strategies for managing the aquifer system.