

4 New monitoring bores

Five new groundwater monitoring bores have been installed in the Bet Bet targeted area. These have been strategically placed to help fill the information gaps in the area. The majority of the current monitoring bores occur in clusters around Granite Hill, the Yalong Road discharge site, the Blackbottom Road discharge site and north of the Bet Bet targeted area on the Sunraysia Highway. These are monitored monthly by DPI staff.

Almost 12 months of recorded data has been collected so far, and while this does indicate a fall in groundwater level in all of these bores, there is still limited data from which to determine any long-term groundwater trend. It will be interesting to see how the bores respond to a wet winter-spring period.

Table 2 Bore information for new bores drilled in the Bet Bet targeted area

Bore no.	Bore depth (m)	Depth to watertable (m) (November 2003)	EC ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) (November 2003)
60248	17.5	3.8	4850
60249	17.5	7.7	14 420
60250	22.0	7.4	5220
60251	22.0	13.8	13 890
60252	16.0	7.2	6540

The results from the bores drilled (Table 2) indicate that groundwater salinity levels are the highest in the fractured sedimentary rock groundwater flow systems. The salinity levels are highest in the central catchment area around Lexton. This could be attributed to evaporative concentration in shallow groundwater systems associated with the fractured sedimentary and metamorphic ranges that circle the Lexton township. The information to date indicates that a high salt load leaves the Bet Bet targeted area. Currently a new study is being conducted that measures the total salt loads leaving this area. This new project is in its infancy, therefore that data is not yet available.