

## 5 Conclusion

The inclusion of the five new bores in the monitoring program has meant there is now a comprehensive groundwater monitoring network that covers the Bet Bet targeted area. This provides a means to assess hydrogeological processes contributing to the dryland salinity issues in the area, as well as to monitor any overall changes in groundwater trends and salinity levels that may result from new management options implemented in the future. These processes include:

- strong seasonal groundwater recharge reflecting local climatic conditions across the whole targeted area. (this is evident in the hydrographs located in Appendix 1)
- the area of highest salinity is in the low-lying, discharge areas associated with break-of-slope, with the majority of saline discharge occurring in streams
- the main groundwater flow systems in the Bet Bet targeted area are all local scale systems
- the new bores indicate that the central catchment area has the highest groundwater salinity.

Many of the groundwater investigation bores established in the late 1980s and early 1990s have lapsed (e.g. 5159, 5090-91). This is unfortunate, as it would have provided useful information relating to groundwater response to low rainfall years followed by high rainfall years.