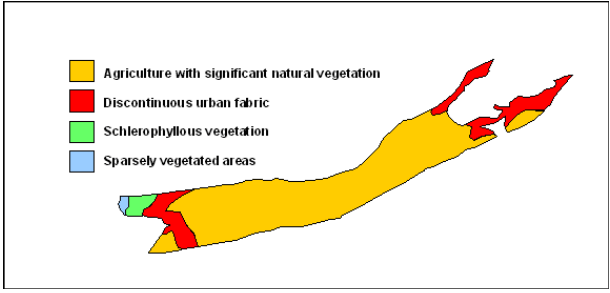
 MALTA RESOURCES AUTHORITY		
Groundwater Body Code		
MT005		
Groundwater Body Name		
Pwales Coastal Groundwater Body		
Reference Year		Corinne Landcover 2000
2004		
Hydrogeological Characteristics		
Aquifer Description		
<p>The Upper Coralline Limestone aquifer forms a low block between ridges, with its base rising slightly to the west, with a limited area perched above sea level, while to the east it is in direct contact with the sea. This groundwater body is partly contained in alluvial fill towards the centre of the graben.</p>		
Mean Aquifer Thickness	n/a	
Soil Type and Indicative Thickness	Main soil type is Terra Soils. Indicative thickness 60cm	
Mean Hydraulic Conductivity	2.93E-6m/s	
Mean Annual Groundwater Level Amplitude	n/a	
Pressures—Quantitative Status		
Mean Annual Recharge (Natural and Artificial)	0.70hm ³	
Mean Annual Groundwater Demand	0.69hm ³	
Balance	0.01hm ³ (Groundwater resources are insufficient to sustain agricultural demand in overlying catchment area)	
WSC Groundwater Sources	None	
Registered Private Groundwater Sources	74 boreholes and 2 springs	
Pressures—Qualitative Status		
Principal Diffuse sources of Pollution	Intensive Agricultural Activities	
Principal Point sources of Pollution	Animal Husbandry Activities	
Nitrate Content in Groundwater	Not known but expected to be fairly high due to agriculture and low depths to the piezometric surface.	
Chloride Content in Groundwater	High	
Pesticide Content in Groundwater	No data available; however the karstic nature of the aquifer makes it highly vulnerable to pesticide pollution.	
Other Pollutants	n/a	
Direct discharges to Groundwater	No direct discharges have been permitted	
Associated Aquatic Ecosystems-sites under investigation		
<p>The catchment area of the Pwales aquifer encloses the Saline marshland at Is-Simar. It has been a protected area since 1993 and supports one of the most important saline marshlands in the Maltese Islands for birds and the Maltese killifish, as well as its important marshland vegetation. It has also been internationally designated as a wetland of international importance in view of the Ramsar Convention. The degree of dependence of this eco-system on groundwater is currently being investigated.</p>		
Preliminary Risk Assessment		
<p>Groundwater Body is at risk of failing to achieve the Environmental Objectives of the Regulations both from the point of view of criteria related to the achievement of 'good' quantitative and qualitative status. It should be noted that the groundwater body is also expected to be at risk of failing to achieve the objectives set in the Nitrates Regulations.</p>		