



MALTA RESOURCES AUTHORITY



**Groundwater Body Code**

MT009

**Groundwater Body Name**

Mellieha Coastal Groundwater Body

**Reference Year**

2004

**General Characteristics**

**Location**

The Mellieha Bay aquifer lies between the Marfa Ridge to the north and the Mellieha Ridge to the south. It is bounded by the Ghar Baqrat fault to the North and the Ras il-Griebeg fault to the south.

The surface catchment area supports two small, but intensively cultivated areas of alluvial soil along the valleys of Il-Mieli and L-Ghadira to the North and the valley of Il-Hofra and the lower slopes of Qasam Barrani to the south of the median anticlinal ridge.

<b>Area</b>	2.9km <sup>2</sup>
<b>Main Aquifer</b>	Upper Coralline Limestone
<b>Main Aquifer Type</b>	Fractured Carbonate Media
<b>Groundwater Horizon</b>	1
<b>Maximum Length</b>	1.8km
<b>Maximum Width</b>	5.0km
<b>Mathematical centre of groundwater body</b>	442100, 3980400
<b>Hydro-geological characteristics</b>	
<b>Stratigraphy</b>	Tertiary—Miocene
<b>Mean Annual Precipitation</b>	524mm
<b>Mean Aquifer Thickness</b>	n/a
<b>Main Recharge Source</b>	Precipitation
<b>Mean Annual Recharge</b>	0.7hm <sup>3</sup>
<b>Pressures</b>	
<b>Main Land-Use Features (Corinne Landcover 2000)</b>	
<b>Discontinuous urban fabric</b>	8%
<b>Agriculture with significant area of natural vegetation</b>	60%
<b>Schlerophyllous vegetation</b>	14%
<b>Sparsely vegetated areas</b>	18%
<b>Other Pressures</b>	
<b>Water Abstraction Purpose</b>	Irrigation
<b>Artificial Recharge</b>	No
<b>Possible Associated Aquatic Ecosystems</b>	Ghadira Wetlands