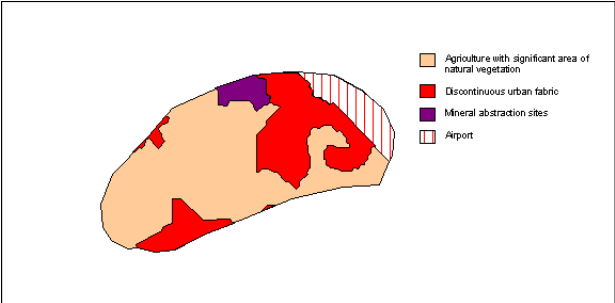
 MALTA RESOURCES AUTHORITY			
Groundwater Body Code			
MT011			
Groundwater Body Name			
Mqabba-Kirkop Perched Groundwater Body			
Reference Year		Corinne Landcover 2000	
2004			
Hydrogeological Characteristics			
Aquifer Description			
The groundwater body occurs in this syncline probably as a result of the presence of impervious marly beds at the base of the Lower Globigerina Limestone formation.			
Mean Aquifer Thickness	n/a		
Soil Type and Indicative Thickness	Terra soils dominate between Zurrieq and Mqabba whilst the indicative thickness is 55cm.		
Mean Hydraulic Conductivity	0.24E-6m/s		
Mean Annual Groundwater Level Amplitude	n/a		
Pressures—Quantitative Status			
Mean Annual Recharge (Natural and Artificial)	Not known		
Mean Annual Groundwater Demand	Not known		
Balance	Not known		
WSC Sources	None		
Registered Private Sources	8 boreholes		
Pressures—Qualitative Status			
Principal Diffuse sources of Pollution	Agriculture, Leaks from the sewerage network		
Principal Point sources of Pollution	Animal Husbandry Activities		
Nitrate Content in Groundwater	Moderately High-to High 41-300 mg/l		
Chloride Content in Groundwater	Low—less than 250 mg/l		
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			
No sites enclosing groundwater dependent eco-systems have been identified.			
Preliminary Risk Assessment			
The Groundwater body is probably at risk of failing to achieve the objectives related to its qualitative status, particularly due to the high nitrate content, most probably arising from the agricultural activities in its catchment area. The characteristics of the groundwater body should however be further investigated and if necessary verified with results obtained from chemical analyses on the groundwater.			