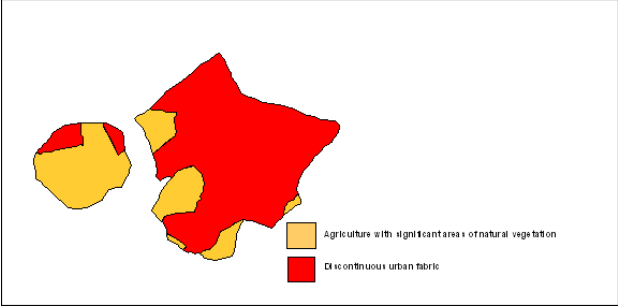
 <b>MALTA RESOURCES AUTHORITY</b>		
<b>Groundwater Body Code</b>		
MT018		
<b>Groundwater Body Name</b>		
Victoria-Kercem Perched Groundwater Body		
<b>Reference Year</b>		
2004		Corinne Landcover 2000
<b>Hydrogeological Characteristics</b>		
<b>Aquifer Description</b>		
<p>The outcropping aquifer formation in the Victoria-Kercem region is the Upper Coralline Limestone. Due to its lithographic nature and its sensitivity to weathering this formation hosts a generalized aquifer. The UCL formation varies considerably in thickness due to erosion and attains a maximum thickness of 46m in the region. The rather small thickness of this formation on the plateaus has made possible the direct exploitation of water resources by shallow wells. The outcrops of the Upper Coralline Limestone acts as a generalized recharge area for the underlying groundwater body.</p>		
<b>Mean Aquifer Thickness</b>	22.5m	
<b>Soil Type and Indicative Thickness</b>	Carbonate Raw Soils dominate while their indicative thickness lies between 21-30cm.	
<b>Mean Hydraulic Conductivity</b>	2.93E-6m/s	
<b>Mean Annual Groundwater Level Amplitude</b>	n/a	
<b>Pressures—Quantitative Status</b>		
<b>Mean Annual Recharge (Natural and Artificial)</b>	0.58 hm <sup>3</sup>	
<b>Mean Annual Groundwater Demand</b>	0.14 hm <sup>3</sup>	
<b>Balance</b>	0.25 hm <sup>3</sup>	
<b>WSC Groundwater Sources</b>	None	
<b>Registered Private Groundwater Sources</b>	32 boreholes	
<b>Pressures—Qualitative Status</b>		
<b>Principal Diffuse sources of Pollution</b>	Agriculture, Leaks from sewerage system	
<b>Principal Point sources of Pollution</b>	n/a	
<b>Nitrate Content in Groundwater</b>	No data available but expected to be high due to sewage leaks and use of fertilizers	
<b>Chloride Content in Groundwater</b>	No data available	
<b>Pesticide Content in Groundwater</b>	No data available; however karstic nature of the aquifer makes it highly vulnerable to pesticide pollution.	
<b>Other Pollutants</b>	n/a	
<b>Direct discharges to Groundwater</b>	No direct discharges have been permitted	
<b>Associated Aquatic Ecosystems</b>		
No sites enclosing groundwater dependent eco-systems have been identified.		
<b>Preliminary Risk Assessment</b>		
The Groundwater body is probably at risk of failing to achieve the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive in relation to its qualitative status due to the impacts deriving from the two main land-use types in its catchment area.		