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DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY SOUTH AUSTRALIA



REPT.BK.NO. 85/61 STUART HIGHWAY, PUMP-TESTING CONSTRUCTION WATER SUPPLIES, MARLA TO N.T. BORDER

- Highways Department -

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

by

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GROUNDWATER AND ENGINEERING

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DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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ABSTRACT

Thirteen wells were pump-tested on the Marla to NT Border section of the Stuart Highway. All but two wells were in fractured rock aquifers. Most of these showed drawdowns linear with the square root of time, and consequently longterm yields are generally much smaller than airlift yields.

Six of these wells were found to have longterm yields greater than 0.5 L/s.

INTRODUCTION

This report describes the pump-testing of thirteen wells on the Marla to NT Border section of the new Stuart Highway.

The drilling programme and geology will be discussed in detail in a report to be produced later, (Gerges, 1986). Briefly this area is underlain by crystalline rocks, and most wells tested tap fracture aquifers.

Well details are summarized in Table 1.

PUMP-TESTING

All wells were tested with helical rotor pumps installed and run by Highways Department crews. The Department of Mines and Energy provided supervision.

Initially tests were conducted by technical personnel under remote supervision of a geologist.

It was found from experience that in order to get useful results from tests in fractured rock environments it was advisable to have a geologist on site.

Details of tests are discussed in Appendix-A.

Results are summarized in Table 2.

TABLE 1
WELL DRILLING DETAILS

Unit No.	Permit No.	Depth (m)	SWL (m)	Casing (m)	Slots (m)	Air lift Yield	Aquifers	Locality
							11	
55 44 WW 135	93397	108	6.3	6	- .	1.2	Fractured pC* 10-16	Twin Hill
140	93824C	62	5.8	6	-	4	Fractured pC* 40-70 75-80	W. of Twin Hill
148	93392	80	33	32	-	4.5	Fractured slates 9-26	Tarcoonyinna Creek
55 45 ww 45	93603	57	7	6	-	7	Fractured pC* 9.6 11.6	Dyke Hill
47	93606	30	7.7	3	-	2.2	Fractured pC* 8.6-22	Dyke Hill
50	93817	24	8.6	24	8.8-21.8 14.8-27.9	3.2	Alluvial sand 15-23	Marryat River
51	93602	67	10.7	41	34.3-41	4.2	Alluvial sand 14-25, 51	Marryat River
52	93599	99	15.4	34	17.2-23.7	0 . 75	Fracture pC 18-28, 47	Marryat River
53	93600	103	6.3	27	18–27	0.75	Fracture pC 13-16, 76	Marryat River
54	93601	99	7	13	·	1.1	Fractured pC 6-22	Marryat River
57	93594	34	4.7	22	2.5-22	1.1	Weathered & Fractured pC* 6-9, 31-42	Eateringinna Creek
58	93609	53	5	16	6-16	2.2	Weathered & Fractured pC* 6.5-7, 13-30	Eateringinna Creek
59	93612	39	5.5	13	6.5-13	2	Weathered & Fractured pC* 7-17	Eateringinna Creek
60	93611	39	5.5	18.5	6.5-18.5	1.2	Weathered & Fractured pC*	Eateringinna Creek

^{*} pC, Crystalline basement



TABLE 2 ESTIMATED WELL YIELDS

Unit No.		Estimated we Yield	ell yields Time	Comments	Salinity mg/L
55 44 WW	135	0.5L/s 0.3L/s	26 days 100 days	Possible source of camp or concrete water	925
	140	2.6L/s 1.9L/s 1.4L/s	100 days 200 days 1 year		1 125
	148	0.6L/s 1.9L/s 1.4L/s	100 days 200 days 1 year	•	4 035
55 4 5 ww	45	5.2L/s 4.5L/s 3.3L/s	150 days 200 days 1 year		485
	48	0.37L/s 0.26L/s	100 days 200 days	Interference from 5545WW44 would further reduce yields	655
	50	3.8L/s 3.0L/s 2.3L/s	100 days 200 days 1 year		4 600
	51	2.2L/s	100 days	To be used as a standby well only	
	52	No useful su	upply	•	
	53	<0.4L/s	100 days	Most optimistic possible estimate	19 300
	54	0.6L/s 0.5L/s	140 days 500 days		4 180
	57 °	No useful s	upply		8 700
	58	0.28L/s	100 days	Approximate	16 000
	59	0.25L/s	100 days	Optimistic estimate	30 800
	60	0.lL/s	100 days	Approximate	22 000

DISCUSSION

In most of the wells tested drawdown increases linearly with the square root of time, and as a result estimated long term yields are generally much less than the observed airlift yields.

In most cases the available drawdowns are quite small, and estimation of available drawdowns is of great importance to the estimation of long term yields.

For poor yielding wells the top of the aquifer can often be found during pump-testing. With high yielding wells this may not be practicable and it may be necessary to rely on the driller's record of waters cut.

Generally water does not become evident until the drill bit is $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 metre below the water bearing fracture.

Futher, the driller has other responsibilities and is unable to give his full attention to recording water data.

The only way to ensure that the necessary data is recorded to have a competent person, observing the drilling at all times.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Wells should be pumped at the rates shown in Table 2.

Drilling programmes in this type of environment require close supervision.

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SENIOR GEOLOGIST

REFERENCE

GERGES, N.Z., (1986). 'Stuart Highway, Drilling for construction Water, Marla to N.T. Border. SADME unpublished report in prep.

APPENDIX A PUMP-TESTING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Permit No.	Unit No.	Locality	Page No.
93392 93397 93594 93599 93600 93601 93602 93603 93606 93609 93611 93612 93824C 93817	5544WW148 WW135 5545WW57 5545WW52 53 54 51 45 48 58 60 59 5544WW140 5545WW50	Tarcoonyinna Ck. Twin Hill Eateringinna Ck. Marryat River """" Dyke Hill Dyke Hill Eateringinna Ck. """"	A-1 A-3 A-5 A-6 A-7 A-8 A-10 A-11 A-13 A-14 A-16 A-18 A-19 A-21
Table A1 A2 A3 A4 A5 A6 A7 A8 A9 A10	Schedule of p	TABLES Dumping 5544WW148 " 5544WW135 " 5545WW57 " 5545WW54 " 5545WW45 " 5545WW48 " 5545WW58 " 5545WW58 " 5545WW59 " 5545WW59 " 5545WW50	A-1 A-3 A-5 A-8 A-11 A-13 A-14 A-16 A-18 A-21
Fig. No.		FIGURES Title	Drwg. No.
A-1 A-2 A-3 A-4 A-5 A-6 A-7 A-8 A-9 A-10 A-11 A-12 A-13 A-14 A-15 A-16 A-17 A-18 A-19 A-20	Pump-test on "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" "" ""	5544WW148, semi-log 148, /t 135, semi-log 135, /t 5545WW57, semi-log 57, /t 53, semi-log 53, /t 54, semi-log 54, /t 51, /t 51, semi-log 45, /t 48, /t 58, semi-log 58, /t 60, semi-log 60, /t 59, semi-log 59, /t	\$18357 8 9 60 61 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 70 1 2 3 4

A-21	Pump-test	on	5544WW140,	semi-log	S18377
A-22	11	П	5544WW140,	√t	8
A-23	11	11	5545WW50,	semi-log	9.
A-24	II	11	50,	√t	80
			•		
			·		

Well 5544WW148

Introduction

This well was first tested on 28/5/84. Because of doubts, as to the interpretation of the results from the first test a second test was conducted on 28/9/84. All test pumping is shown below in table A-1.

TABLE A-1
Schedule of pumping well 5544WW148

Time	Date	Pumping Rate	Comments
1040	28/5/84	2 L/s	"Stage I"
1220	n'	3 L/s	"Stage II"
1400	11	4.6 L/s	"Stage III"
1540	II	Pump stopped	5
0935	29/5/84	4.0 L/s	Constant rate test
0855	30/5/84	Pump stopped	No recovery measurements
0800	28/9/84	2.2 L/s	Second test
0800	29/9/84	Pump stopped	

Response

The semi-log plot of drawdown (Fig. A-1) is a downward-steepening curve from about 20 minutes, suggesting double boundary conditions. The plot of drawdown against the square root of time (Fig. A-2) confirms this. At about 800 minutes the downward trend steepens, suggesting a reduction in the transmissivity of the fracture system away from the well.

The same effect can be observed in the recovery (Fig. A-2).

From Figure A-2 the well equation below was derived for pumping at the test rate.

$$s = 1.1 + 3.37 /t$$

where s is drawdown in metres t is time in days

Long Term Yield

Recovery measurements (Fig. A-2) show that the above equation is valid in the medium term.

Assuming an available drawdown of 12 m the following yields are estimated:

- 0.6 L/s for 100 days
- 0.45 L/s for 200 days
- 0.34 L/s for 1 year

5544WW135 (Twin Hills)

Introduction

The well was pumped as shown in Table A-2.

TABLE A-2 Schedule of Pumping 5544WW135

Sta Time		Sto Time		Rate	· .	Comme	ents	
1120	5/7/84 7/7/84	1120	6/7/84	1.51	L/s		reduced forked	when
1540	27/7/84	1540	28/7/84	0.59 1	L/s			

Response

The first tests showed a straight line semi-log response, followed by rapid steepening as the aquifer dewatered (Fig. A-3).

The last test showed a generally straight-line semi-log plot with possible steepening at the end of the test.

Recovery

The t/t^1 plot of residual drawdown (Fig. A-3) initially follows a straight line, curving up toward the origin for t/t_1 less than 2 (that is after about 1 day).

The $\sqrt{t-t_1}$ plot of recovery (Fig. A-4) clearly shows the presence of double boundary conditions.

Well Equation and Long Term Yield

Using the recovery the following equation has been derived.

$$s = 2.80 + 1.43 \text{ O/t}$$

where s is drawdown in metres

t is time in days

Q is pump rate in L/s

From this the following yields have been estimated:

for 26 days, 0.5 L/s for 100 days, 0.3 L/s

Therefore the well is of little use as a supply of construction water, but could possibly be used for camp or concrete water.

Well 5545WW57 (Eateringinna Creek)

Introduction

The well was tested as shown in Table A-3.

TABLE A-3
Schedule of Pumping 5545WW57

Star Date	<u>Time</u>	Stop Date	Time	Rate L/s	Comments
8/7/84	1800	9/7/84	0546	3.8	Test stopped, problems with probe.
9/7/84	1202	9/7/84	1440	4.8	Test abandoned, pump- forked.
26/7/84	1041	27/7/84	0841	1.8	

Response

The first two tests showed a rapidly increasing drawdown when drawdowns reached about 2 to 3 metres.

To avoid this the well was pumped at a relatively low rate for the final test.

The semi-log plot of drawdown (Fig. A-5) follows a gently sloping straight line up to 500 minutes when it begins to curve downward.

This may either be because of aquifer dewatering or double-boundary conditions.

Recovery

The plot of t/t_1 (Fig. A-5) follows a straight line trending toward 0.15 m residual drawdown at infinite time, then flattened out at about 0.17 m. It appears that the aquifer has been permanently dewatered.

The plot of $\sqrt{t-t_1}$ (Fig. A-6) confirms this.

Conclusion

This well has no useful long term yield.

Well 5545WW52.

Introduction

The well was pumped at $0.6\ \text{L/s}$ for $40\ \text{minutes}$ when the pump, which was set at $54\ \text{m}$, began to fork.

At 52 minutes the well was pumping at 0.3 L/s.

Conclusion

The well has no useful supply.

Well 5345WW53.

Introduction

The well was pumped at about 0.8 L/s starting at 12.35 hours on 3/8/84.

After 4 hours the water level had reached the pump intake.

Well performance was so poor that no further testing was needed.

Response

Neither the semi-log or √t plots of drawdown (Figs. A-7 & A-8) are linear, and the drawdown is hard to interpret.

An inflection point is evident at 40 m drawdown, corresponding to the aquifer recorded by the driller at 47 m. Another inflection point at 25 m drawdown suggests an unrecorded aquifer at 31 m.

Making the optimistic assumption that a linear extrapolation at the semi-log plot at drawdown can be used the 100 day yield would still be less than $0.4~\rm L/s.$

Conclusions

While the hydraulics of the aquifer are uncertain it is clear that the well has no useful yield.

Well 5345WW54.

Introduction

The well was pumped as shown in Table A-4.

TABLE A-4
Schedule of Pumping

<u>Time</u>	Date	Rate	Comments
1310 0210 0942	4/8/84 5/8/84 "	0.5 L/s 1.1 L/s) 1.6 L/s)	Rate increased to draw water level below top
1110	if	1.3 L/s	aquifer. Rate reduced to stop pump from forking.
1437	11		Pump stopped

Response

Testing and interpretation of this well are complicated by the presence of two aquifers.

During the first step the drawdown rapidly reached about 1.3 m, then appeared to stabilize, apparently due to dewatering of a fracture, before declining to 1.8 m. (Fig A-9)

In the second step dewatering the upper fractures of the upper aquifer caused the water level to decline fairly rapidly to 5.8 m, then flatten apparently because of dewatering of another aquifer.

In the third step the capacity of the upper aquifers was exceeded and water level fell rapidly. The balance of the water came from the bottom aquifer which shows double boundary characteristics, and the plot of drawdown versus the square root of time since the start of the third step is nearly linear (Fig. A-10)

In the fourth step the pumping rate was reduced to allow the contribution of the bottom aquifer to be estimated and to prevent the water level from reaching the pump.

The initial recovery when pumping was stopped was quite rapid, confirming the small capacity of the bottom aquifer.

The shape of the t/t_1 plot confirms that the dominant upper aquifer has radial flow.

Long Term Yields

The recovery plot suggests that this well should have a useful long term yield.

No useful well equation can be derived because of the effects of dewatering fractures in the upper aquifer.

Conservative estimates of yield based on available drawdowns achieved during pump-testing are as follows:

- 0.5 L/s for 500 days
- 0.6 L/s for 140 days

Well 5545WW51.

Introduction

The well was pumped at 2.57 L/s, starting at 1405 hours on 31/7/84 for 1425 minutes. The pumping rate was then increased to 3.27 L/s (the maximum for the pump) for a further 20 minutes.

Response

The semi-log plot of drawdown (Fig. A-11) follows a straight line with $\Delta s = 0.25$ m up to about 20 minutes, flattens to align with $\Delta s = 0.16$ m to 500 minutes and then appears to steepen to a line of $\Delta s = 0.28$ m.

Recovery

The semi-log plot of t/t_1 appears to follow three straight line segments, the last of which has been distorted by a pulse due to changing atmospheric pressure.

The late stages of recovery trend to the right of the origin, that is minor leakage or delayed drainage to the aquifer has occurred.

Well Equation

The linear semi-log (Fig. A-11) plot corresponds to an equation:

 $s = Q (0.55 + 0.12 \log t)$

where s is drawdown in m

t is time in days

Q is discharge in L/s

However in view of the fact that the aquifer is probably a relatively narrow channel (see 5545WW50) a more conservative equation

s = 0.42 Q + 0.14 Q/t may be appropriate. However this does not take account of possible interference from 5545WW50.

Long Term yield

It is suggested that this well only be used as a standby for 5545WW50 and should be equipped to pump 2L/s.

Well 5545 WW45.

Introduction

The pump-test on this well was repeated because it was necessary to test it at a higher rate.

The schedule of pumping is shown in Table A-5.

TABLE A-5
Schedule of Testing 5545WW45

Time Date Rate	
0820 30/7/84 5.2 L/s 0442 31/7/84 0810 24/9/84 11.3 L/s 0801 25/10/84	Pump broke down. Pump stopped.

Response

In the first test (Fig. A-13) the well showed normal behaviour for a fissure-aquifer, drawing down slowly to 0.43 m and then more rapidly to 0.48 m when it appears to have been stabilized by dewatering a fracture.

The second test was marred by a bad start and fluctuations in water level throughout the test.

Drawdowns remained almost constant at 1.45 m for much of the test before dewatering a fracture and drawing down more rapidly.

The recovery from both tests was similar. (Fig. A-13) The $\sqrt{t-\sqrt{t_1}}$ plot rises rapidly and trends toward a point above the origin, indicating that some radial flow is occurring. (That is that the aquifer is behaving as a leaky rather than a non-leaky strip-aquifer). Unfortunately there is no method available to quantify this.

Long Term Yield

An equation for pumping rates less than that of the first test has been derived as follows.

The time dependent term was derived from the late stages of the second test and the recovery and was used to extrapolate from the end of the first test.

$$s = Q(0.03 + 0.063/t)$$

s is in m

Q is in L/s (<5.2 L/s)

t is time in days

Assuming that total available drawdown is 4 m discharges are as follows:

150 days 5.2 L/s 200 days 4.5 L/s 1 year 3.3 L/s Well 5545WW48.

Introduction

This well was tested to determine whether it could be pumped concurrently with 5545WW45.

The well was pumped as shown in Table A-6.

TABLE A-6 Schedule of pumping 5545WW48

Time	Date	Rate	Comments
1053 1113 0554	22/9/84 22/9/84 23/9/84	0.9 L/s 3.4 L/s	Rate stepped up. Pump stopped (out of fuel!).

Response

The first step produced a drawdown of less than 0.05 m at 20 minutes.

The plot of the drawdown in the second step versus the square root of time (Fig. A-14) follows a straight line up to 400 minutes when the drawdown steepens, apparently due to dewatering a fracture 0.6 m below the water table.

The steepening of the curve at 0.6 m prevents the writing of a simple equation.

Yields can be calculated simply by using an equation for the first segment of the drawdown curve with the available drawdown reduced to allow for the steepening of slope below 0.6 m.

$$s = Q(0.06 + 0.21/t)$$

Proven available drawdown is 1.0 m, which must be reduced to 0.8 in the above equation.

The following yields have been estimated:

Interference from 5545WW45 would reduce the long term yield still further.

The well is not worth equipping except as a mechanical standby.

Well 5545WW58.

Introduction

The well was pumped as shown in Table A-7.

TABLE A-7 Schedule of Pumping 5545WW58

Time	Date	
0935	8/8/84	Pumping started at 1.15 L/
1035	8/8/84	Rate stepped up to 1.75 L/
1135	8/8/84	" " 2.37 L/
1235	8/8/84	" " 2.9 L/
2015	8/8/84	" down to 2.70 L/
0835	9/8/84	" " " 2.45 L/
0905	15/9/84	Pump started at 2.2 L/
1000	16/9/84	Pump stopped.

The second test was needed because the recovery from the first test showed that recirculation had occurred.

Response

The driller reported two aquifers, one from 6 to 9 m with an airlift yield of 0.75 L/s and a deeper aquifer at 31 m yielding an additional 1.4 L/s.

In the first test the pumping rate was varied to allow the yield of each aquifer to be estimated separately.

The yield of the lower aquifer is much smaller than the top aquifer's, in contrast to the driller's estimate. (Fig. A-15 & A-16)

Recovery

The recovery from the first test was invalidated by recirculation of the discharge water.

The recovery from the second test clearly shows the presence of double boundary conditions.

Long Term Yield

The exact behaviour of the aquifer is difficult to predict, since the dewatering of the top aquifer is hard to model.

A reasonable approximation can be made as follows.

The one day yield would be approximately 2.8 L/s. Since double boundary conditions are present the yield will be roughly proportional to the square root of time.

Therefore the 100 day yield will be about 0.28 L/s.

Although this is not an exact answer it is clear that the well is not worth equipping.

Well 5545WW60.

Introduction

The well was pumped on 26/9/84 as shown in Table A-8.

TABLE A-8 Schedule of Pumping

Time Started	Time Stopped	Rate	Step
0800	0834	1.00 L/s	1
0834	0905	1.62 L/s	2
0905	1300	1.32 L/s	3
1300	0800	1.13 L/s	4

Aquifer Details

The driller reported that the aquifer was between 7 and 17 m and described it as 'sands and gravels'.

Gneiss outcrops in the nearby creek bed and bank, and it seems more likely that the aquifer is weathered and fractured gneiss.

Response

At the beginning of the first step the rate of drawdown was rapid, then was slowed down by drainage from the aquifer (Fig. A-17).

In the second step the capacity of the aquifer was exceeded and drawdowns increased rapidly. The aquifer is clearly thinner than reported by the driller.

The third and fourth steps both show an initial rise when the pumping rate was reduced followed by a decline as the rate at which the aquifer yielded water declined to less than the pumping rate. This rapid decline in yield is explained by the recovery (Fig. A-18) which clearly shows the presence of double boundary conditions.

Long Term Yield

The behaviour of the aquifer is difficult to predict precisely because of the importance of aquifer dewatering. However reasonable estimate can be made assuming that yield will be proportional to the square root of time.

One day yield is about 1.2 L/s, therefore 100 day yield is about 0.12 L/s, and the well is not worth equipping.

Well 5545WW59.

Introduction

The well was pumped as shown in Table A-9.

TABLE A-9
Schedule of Pumping

Time	Date	Pump rate	Comments
0842	30/9/84	1.3 L/s	Attempted to increase pumping rate. Water level lowered and air pumped without measurable rate increase.
1332	30/9/84	2.6 L/s	
0725	11/10/84	3.0 L/s	
0800	1/10/84	3.0 L/s)	
0900	1/10/84	Pump stopped)	

Well Details

The driller reported an aquifer yielding 0.25 L/s from 6.5 to 7 m and another yielding 1.75 L/s from 17 to 30 m.

These figures do not correspond with the behaviour of the well observed during test pumping.

Response

In the first step the rate of drawdown (semi-log, Fig. A-19) slowed at about 3 m, suggesting that aquifer dewatering is stabilizing drawdowns.

Doubling the pumping rate in the second step produced an increased rate of drawdown showing that the upper aquifer at about 10 m had been dewatered. This step came close to stabilizing at about 10 m of drawdown.

According to the driller it should have been possible to increase drawdowns below 10 m.

However attempting to do this merely produced aerated water without increasing the flow, indicating that the bottom of the aquifer had been reached and water was cascading into the well.

Recovery

Initial recovery was very rapid, but became slower with time. The plot of $\sqrt{t-\sqrt{t_1}}$ (Fig. A-20) at first suggested double boundary conditions, but with increasing time recovery appears to be trending below the origin.

Long Term Yield

The recovery suggests that the well taps a double boundary aquifer of limited extent.

At best the yield would be proportional to the square root of time, that is 100 day yield will be about 0.25 L/s. However this may be over-optimistic. The well is not worth equipping.

Well 5544WW140.

Introduction

Test pumping commenced at 0737 hrs. on 20/9/84 and stopped at 0800 hrs. on 21/9/84. The average pumping rate was 4.1 L/s.

Response

After an initial rapid fall due to near well head losses drawdown was linear with the square root of time (Fig. A-21). The recovery lies on a line above and steeper than that predicted from the drawdown (Fig. A-22). This suggests that long term performance may be better than would be expected from extrapolation of the drawdown.

Long Term Yield

From the drawdown plot an equation was derived:

s = O(0.23 + 0.24/t)

where s is drawdown in m

Q is pump rate in L/s

t is time in days

The driller recorded waters cut 12 m and 16 m, the largest water cut being at 16 m.

It has been assumed that the available drawdown to the top aquifer is 5 m, after which the rate of drawdown will double to the top of the next aquifer at 16 m.

Therefore the effective available drawdown is 7 m and yields are as follows:

100 days 2.6 L/s 200 days 1.9 L/s 1 year 1.4 L/s Well 5545WW50.

Introduction

The well was pumped as shown in Table A-10.

TABLE A-10 Schedule of pumping 5545WW50

Time	Date	
0905	17/9/84	Pump started, rate 1.6L/s
1005	17/9/84	Rate increased to 2.9L/s
0900	18/9/84	Pump stopped

Water levels were observed in 5545WW51 during test, but no drawdown was detected.

Response

The plot of drawdown against log time (Fig. A-23) is roughly linear, with some down curving suggestive of double boundary conditions. The latter seems to be confirmed by the linear plot with the square root of time. (Fig. A-24)

On the other hand the plot of t/t_1 for the recovery period (Fig. 1-23) does not show clear evidence of double boundary conditions, but rather suggests the presence of delayed yield.

However for reasons as discussed for the nearby 5545WW51 it seems likely that the aquifer is a relatively narrow sand-filled channel. Therefore a square root of time extrapolation has been used.

The equation derived is

s = 0.40 Q + 0.07 Q/twhere s is in metres
Q is in L/s
t is in days

Long Term Yield

From the above equation assuming an available drawdown of 4 m the following yields can be derived:

1 year, 2.3L/s
200 days, 3.0L/s
100 days, 3,8L/s.













































