

POLOKWANE 2003

Map Author - W.H. du Toit
 GIS Specialist - A.J.J. du Toit
 Cartographer - F. Jonck

Assisted by:
 P.S. Meyer (Consultant), F. Jonck and E. Botes

Edited by:
 E. Braune, J. Olman, P. Seward and Z.M. Dlamini (Consultant)

This map was approved by the Director-General of the Department: Water Affairs and Forestry.

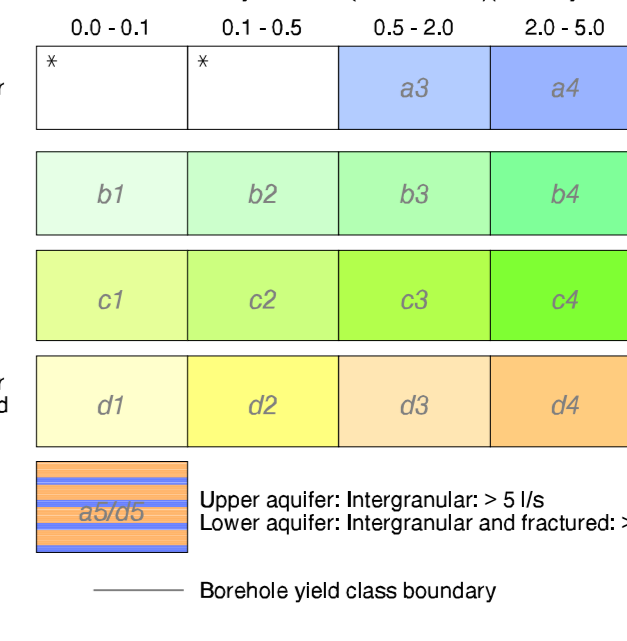
The groundwater occurrence and groundwater quality maps were compiled by W.H. du Toit. The schematic cross-sections were compiled by P.S. Meyer, A.J.J. du Toit, and F. Jonck. The lithology was adapted by W.H. du Toit and P.S. Meyer from the 1:250 000 scale, Ellersburg (1988), Thabazimbi (2003) and Polokwane (2003) maps, published by the Council for Geoscience. Borehole data were obtained from the National Groundwater Data Base (NGDB) and from GFM Consultants.

hile distribution map. Precipitation and elevation data were obtained from the Computing Centre for Water Research, University of Natal, and compiled by M. Muller. Information on roads, rivers, towns, international and provincial boundaries were obtained from the Chief Directorate: Surveys and Mapping, Department: Land Affairs, and edited by the Department: Water Affairs and Forestry. Permission from these respective institutions to make use of their information is gratefully acknowledged. Borehole data were obtained from the National Groundwater Data Base (NGDB) and from GFM Consultants.

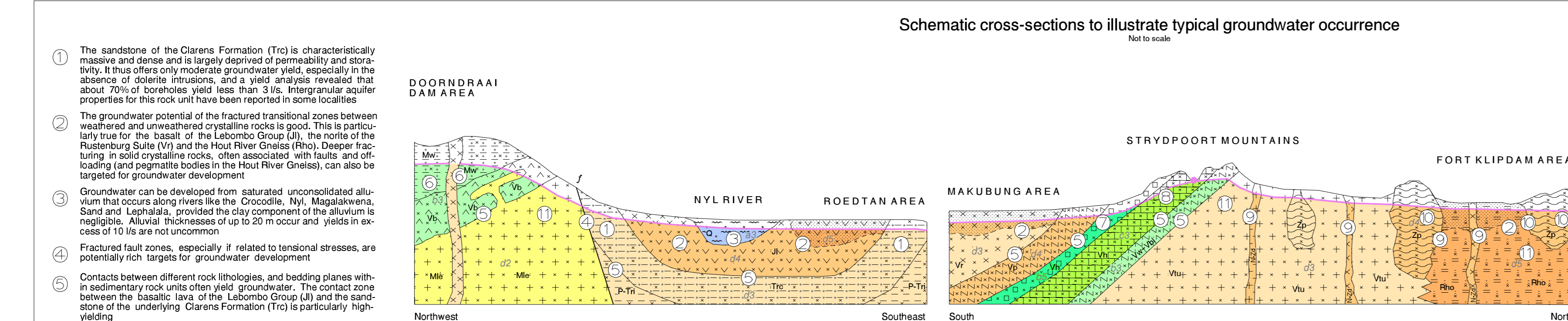
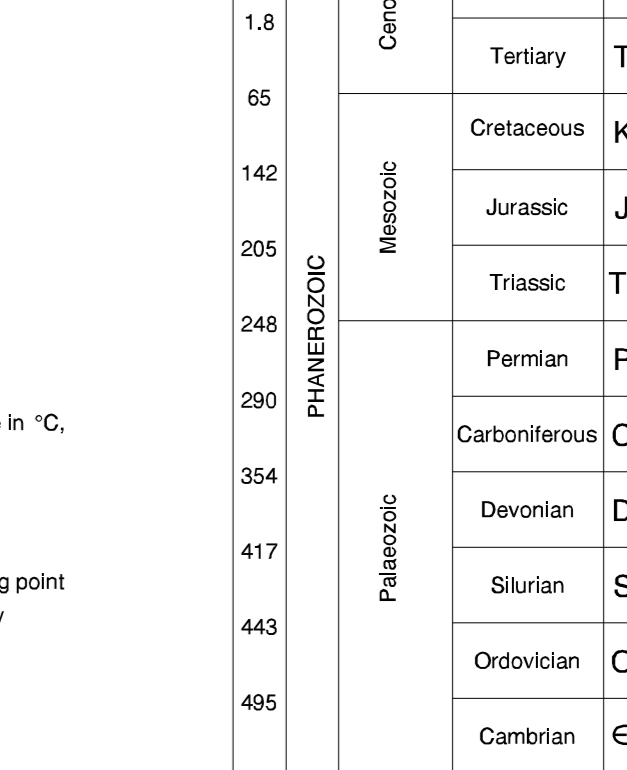
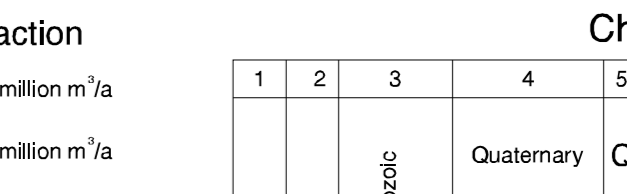
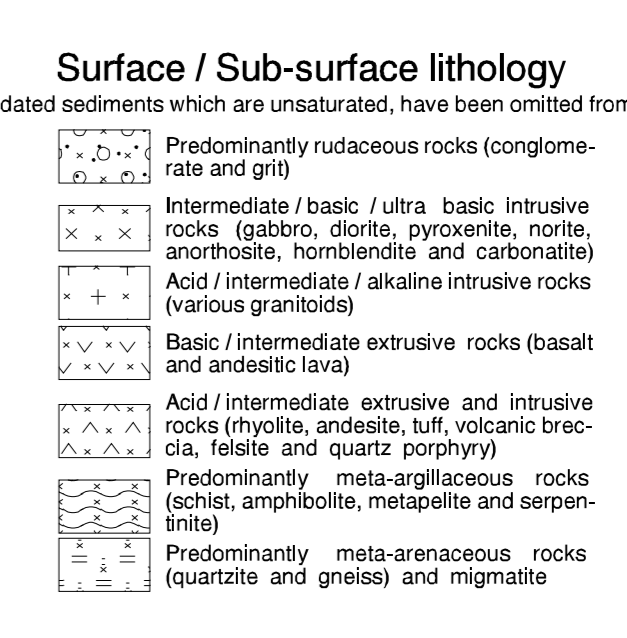
Principal groundwater occurrence

Borehole yield class (median l/s)(exc. dry boreholes)

0.0 - 0.1	0.1 - 0.5	0.5 - 2.0	2.0 - 5.0	> 5.0
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Note: Groundwater occurrence indicates the aquifer type with the highest borehole yield, and does not always correlate with surface lithology.



1 The sandstone of the Clarens Formation (Tc) is characteristically massive and dense and is largely devoid of permeability and storage. It thus offers only moderate groundwater yields, especially in the absence of dolerite intrusions, and a yield analysis revealed that about 70% of boreholes yield less than 3 l/s. Intergranular aquifer properties for this rock unit have been reported in some localities.

2 The groundwater potential of the fractured transitional zones between weathered and unweathered crystalline rocks is good. This is particularly true for the basalts of the Lebombo Group (Lb), the north of the Ruderburg Suite (Rb) and the Hout River Gneiss (Rh). Deeper fracturing in acid crystalline rocks, often associated with faults and out-loading (and porphyry bodies in the Hout River Gneiss), can also be targeted for groundwater development.

3 Groundwater can be developed from saturated unconsolidated alluvium that occurs along rivers like the Crocodile, Mq, Magaliesburg, Sand and Lophotala, provided the clay component of the alluvium is negligible. Alluvial thicknesses of up to 20 m occur and yields in excess of 10 l/s are not uncommon.

4 Fractured fault zones, especially if related to tectonic stresses, are generally rich targets for groundwater development.

5 Contacts between different rock lithologies, and bedding planes within sedimentary rock units often yield groundwater. The contact zone between the basic layers of the Lebombo Group (Lb) and the sandstone of the underlying Clarens Formation (Tc) is particularly high-yielding.

6 In the sediments of the Waterberg Group (Wb) groundwater occurs in joints, bedding planes and particularly at the numerous diabase intrusive contact zones. The groundwater potential of the sediments is generally low, as about 67% of boreholes yield less than 3 l/s. However, the view may alter as a result of recent exploration revealed that yields of up to 20 l/s can be obtained in sedimentary rocks in the Vaalwater and Alma areas. These high yields are generally not related to fractures.

7 Well-developed joints and fractures occur in the competent (banded) iron formation of the Pongola Formation (Chuniesport Group (Ch), particularly in the Strydom Mountains where borehole yields in excess of 5 l/s are common. However, the yield potential of this unit elsewhere in the map area appears less favourable.

8 The yield potential of the carbonaceous rocks of the Malmatli Subgroup (Chuniesport Group (Ch)) is moderate to high, and 30% of boreholes in this rock unit yield more than 3 l/s. Groundwater occurs in fractures, joints, and/or contact zones with diabase intrusions. Numerous springs occur in this unit. The groundwater potential of the carbonaceous rocks in primary forms is generally poor.

9 The pre-Vaalian age granite-gneiss rock units in the map area have been intensively intruded by largely north-trending diabase dykes. Fractured contact zones associated with these intrusions can be utilised for groundwater development. Recent investigations have revealed that zones between 10 to 100 m from these dyke contacts in the Hout River Gneiss (Rh) are much more productive and yields in excess of 30 l/s are common.

This general hydrogeological map is part of the 1:500 000 Hydrogeological map series of the Republic of South Africa. The map is not to be used for the purpose of local borehole siting. Simplified lithology may be considered as guidelines only. Further geological information can be obtained from the Council for Geoscience. The map series is produced with AutoCAD software.

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