



5 September 2018

Pump Test Results

Recently the Shire of Esperance engaged a hydrogeologist to undertake pumping tests at Lot 12 Kirwan Road to determine the speed of groundwater movement.

The results indicate that the Pallinup Siltstone is moderately permeable with groundwater flow velocity at the site, calculated at 39 metres pa. This means that ground water would take about 41 years to travel the 1.6km to reach the southern boundary if a leak from a landfill cell was to occur.

Principal Hydrogeologist Phil Wharton has stated within the report that “the site is moderately permeable and suitable for the construction of leachate recovery bores, should they be needed” and there would be sufficient time to construct a bore to intercept any leachate.

There are no indications from either the test results or the groundwater-level contours that there are any zones of preferred groundwater flow beneath the site that would result from, for example, a major karstic feature such as a solution pipe.

CEO Matthew Scott said, “We will continue to follow the process and work with the EPA on the scoping document. Council is yet to make any further decisions on this project, but we wanted to make the results of the pumping tests publicly available.”

The full report from Rockwater can be found on the Shire’s website.

Ends

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Additional Facts:

The pumping test is a method used to determine the ground’s ability to transmit water. It consists of pumping groundwater from a bore (usually at a constant rate) and measuring the drawdown in the pumped and nearby monitoring bores during and after pumping. From these results, the hydraulic conductivity of the aquifer and the speed of groundwater movement can be measured.