

# Bendigo and Tarras groundwater allocation study 2010

Purpose:  
To propose groundwater allocation limits based on  
technical findings.

# Computer Groundwater Model

3D set of flow equations

We use all available knowledge to build it:

- Geology (bore logs & maps)
- Geophysics (Glass Earth ER)
- Topography
- Soils, rainfall & evapotranspiration
- Groundwater levels
- River levels & flows
- Consented water takes (water meters)



# Computer Groundwater Model

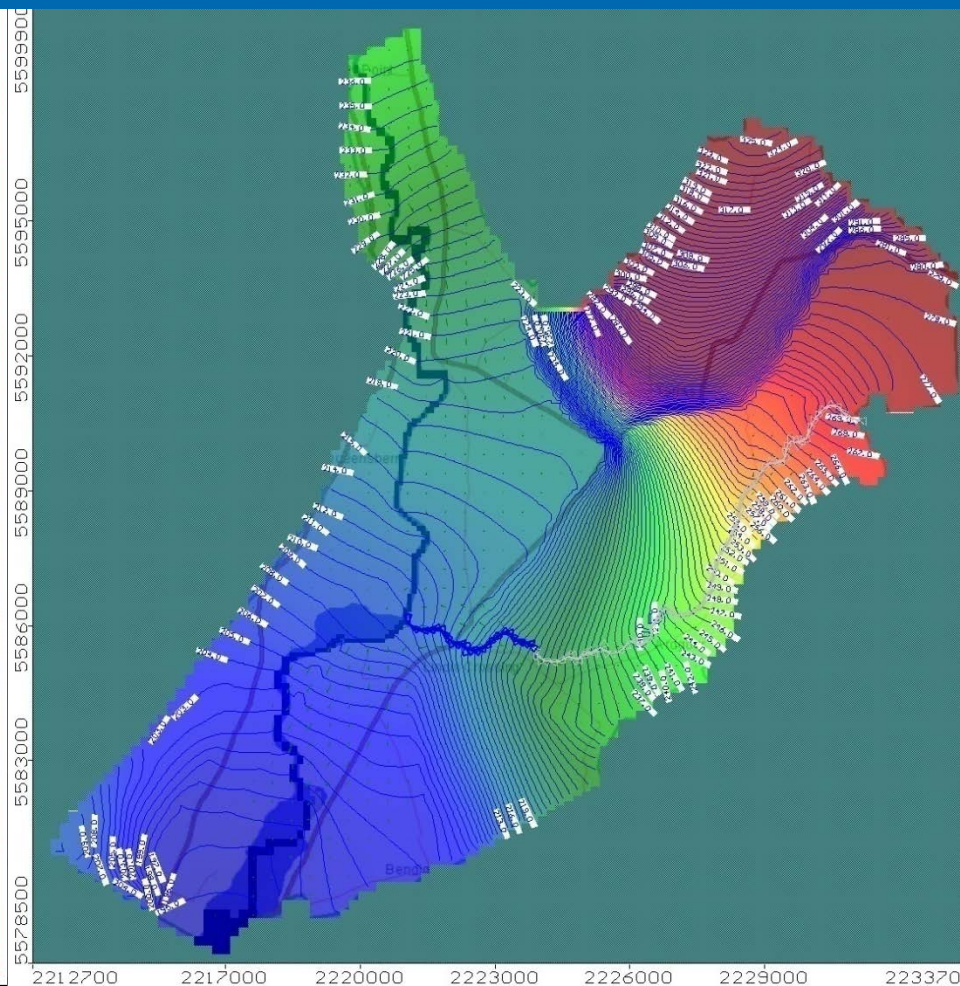
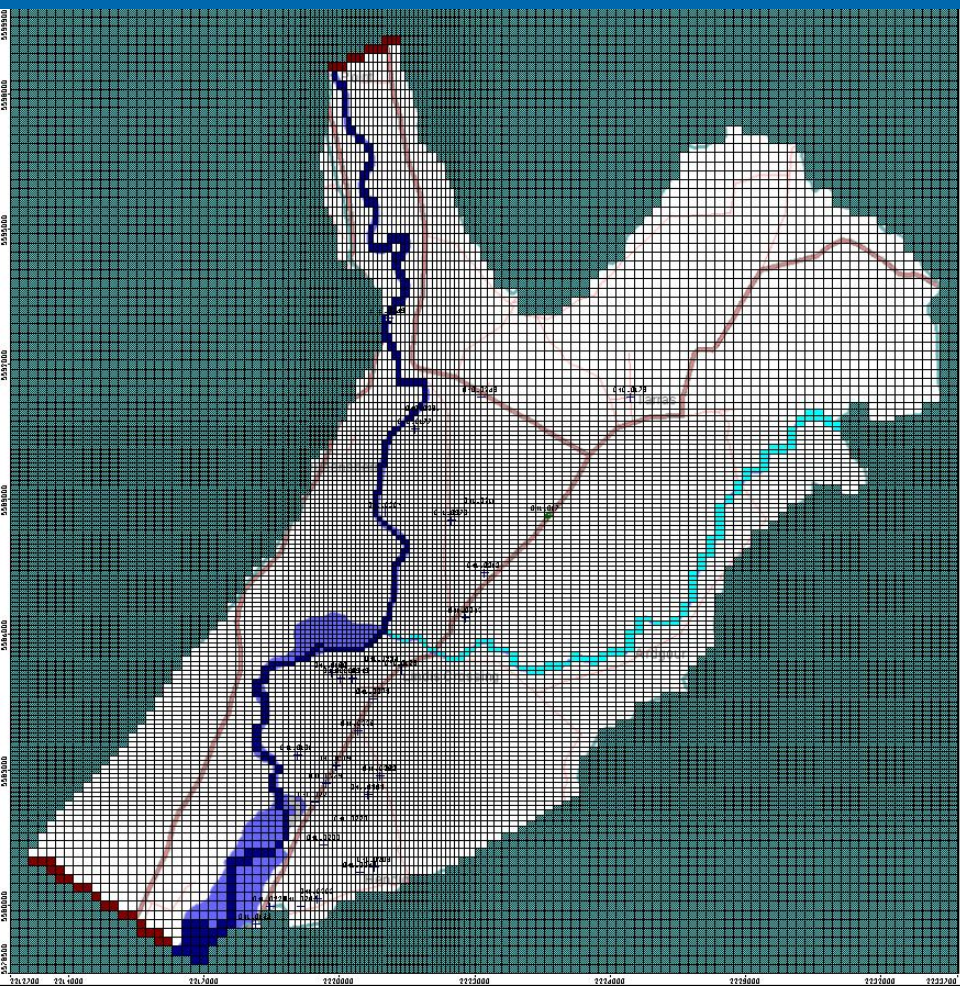
Build



Calibrate



Simulate



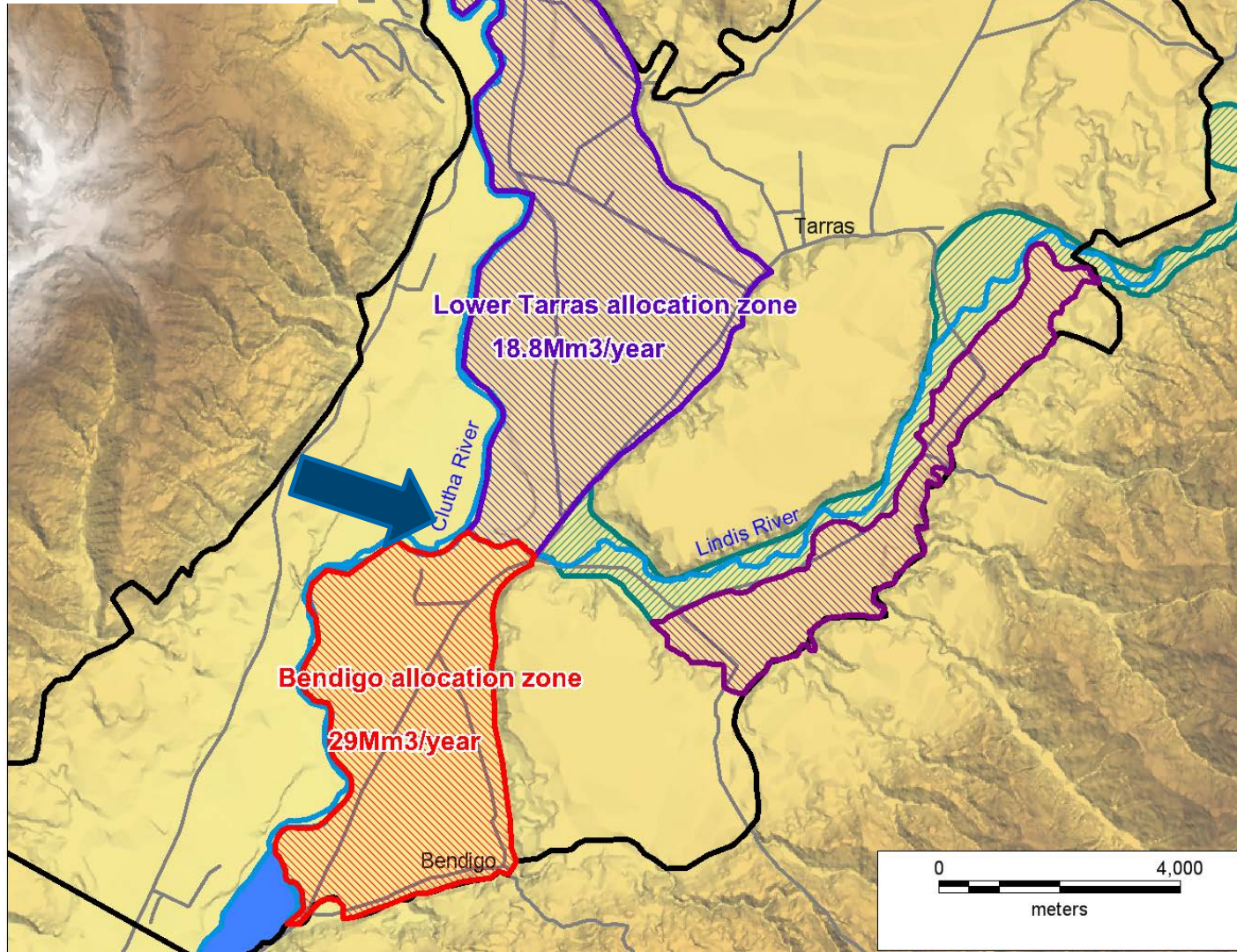


# Simulation Results

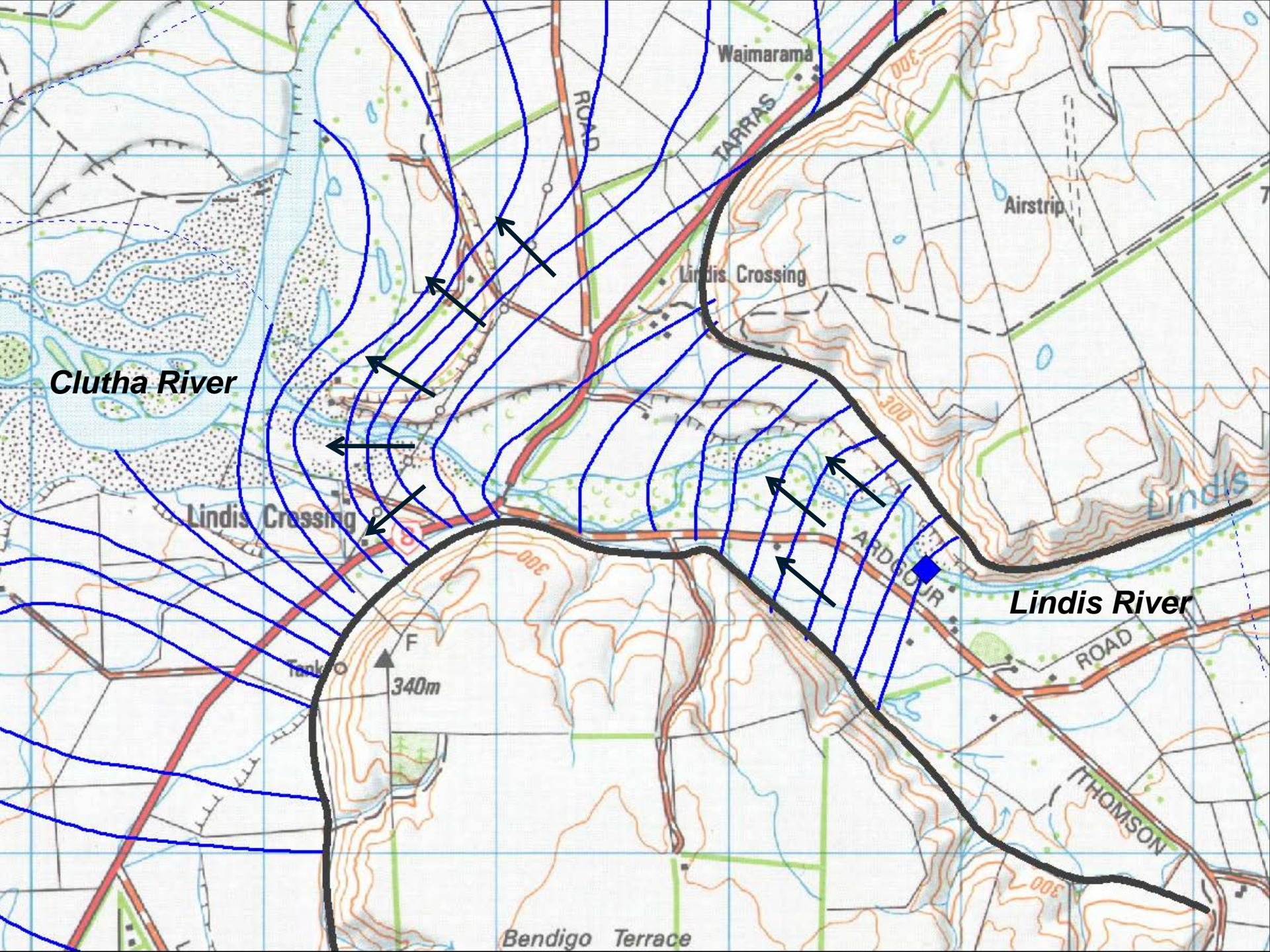
- Lower Tarras & Bendigo aquifers are closely linked to the Clutha River
- There is plenty of water available in the Clutha River & in these terraces, but not where the Lindis meets the Clutha
- The impact of all groundwater pumping on the Lindis is currently ~90 l/s
- During low flow, this dries the river bed up by ~500m

Allocation zones

- Lower Tarras allocation zone
- Bendigo allocation zone
- Ardgour Valley allocation zone
- Lindis Alluvial Ribbon Aquifer
- Roads
- Clutha River and Lindis River
- Entire groundwater basin

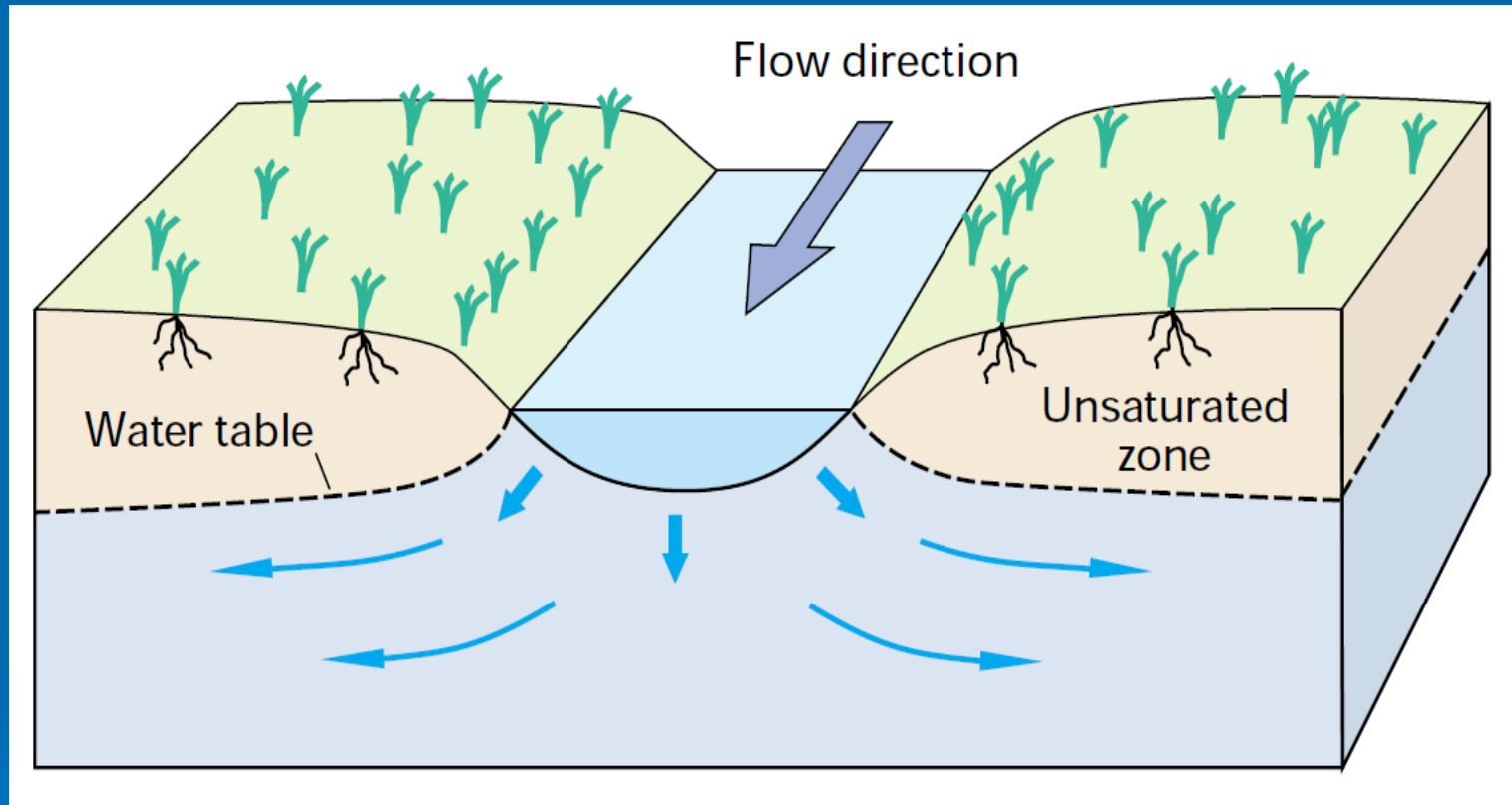









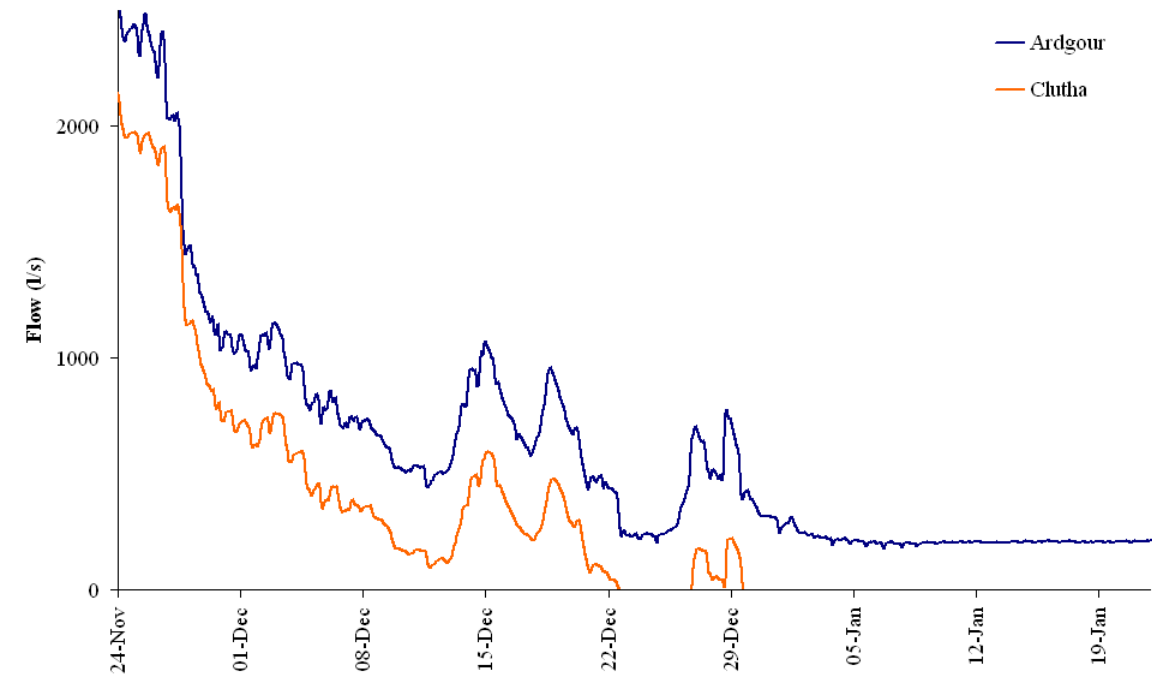
As the Lindis River emerges from the valley, it loses flow to the ground



The rate of loss depends the level of the river, and also the groundwater level in the fan

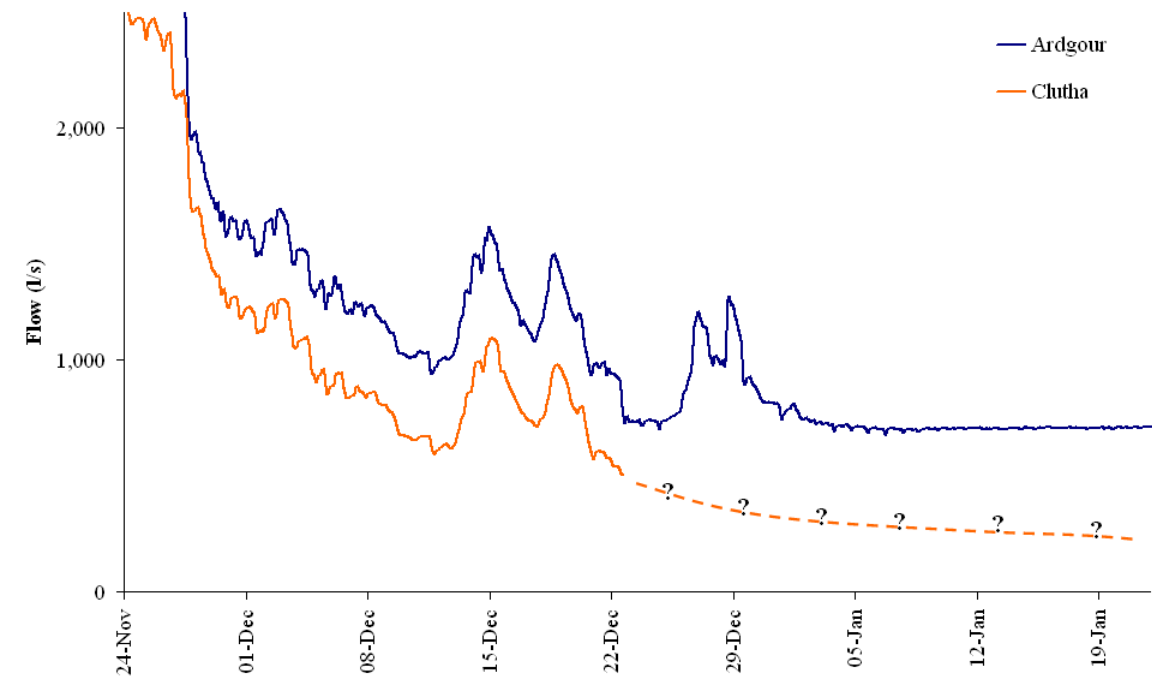
- When the rate of groundwater drainage is greater than the rate of inflow, the Lindis River goes dry
  - This can happen:
    - If Lindis River flow is low (flow < 350 l/s)
    - If groundwater losses are high (pumping)
    - ? Naturally in a prolonged recession?
- 





## ■ Monitored flow

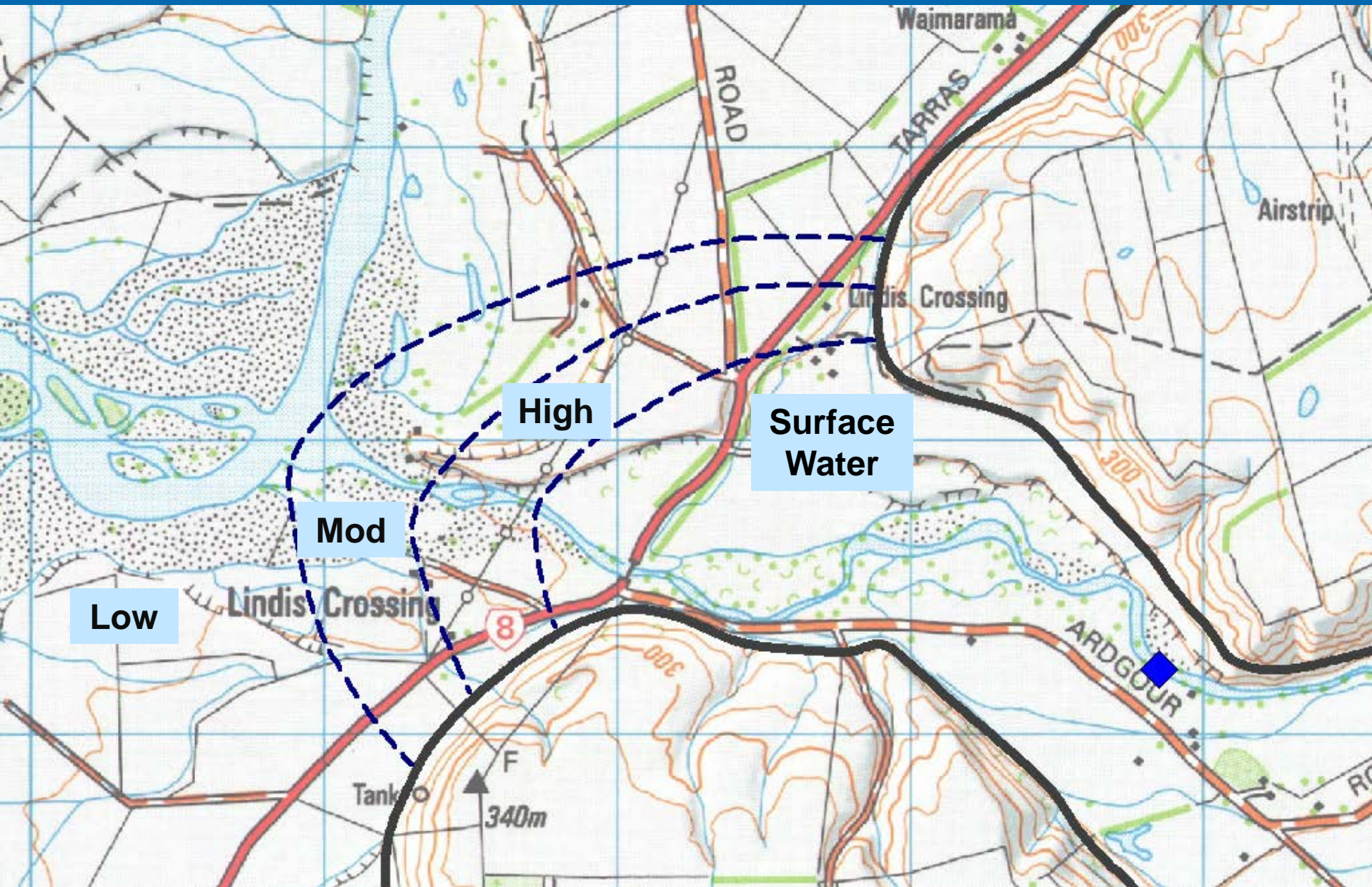
The river dries up below the bridge



## ■ Enhanced flow

We don't know for sure if groundwater levels below the bridge will sustain flow over a prolonged dry period

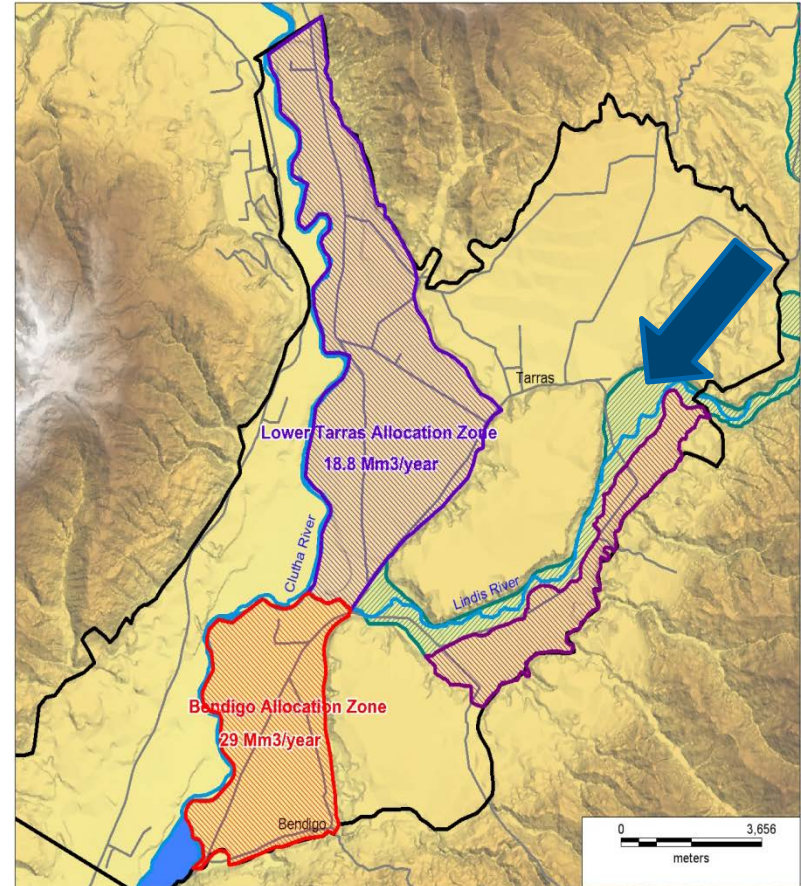
# Effect of pumping on river





# Lindis Alluvial Ribbon Aquifer

- Effective from April 2010 (PC1C)
- Implications
  - GW takes within aquifer are managed as surface water
  - GW takes are included in primary allocation
  - Takes are subject to surface water restrictions i.e. minimum flows and rationing
  - Permitted taking for domestic and stock water are excluded



# Sources of water

- Current availability of water:
  - Lindis River (*fully allocated*)
  - Lindis Alluvial Ribbon Aquifer (*fully allocated*)
  - Ardgour Valley allocation zone (*depends on location*)
  - Clutha River (*allocation available*)
  - L.Tarras allocation zone (*allocation available*)
  - Bendigo allocation zone (*allocation available*)
- Need to management all these sources together - interconnected

