

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	List of Tables	xix
	List of Figures	xxi
	List of Symbols and Acronyms	xxv
1.	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 Statement of the problem	1
	1.2 Background	2
	1.3 Objectives of the project	4
	1.4 Approach	4
2.	FIELD SITES, MONITORING AND MODELLING	6
	2.1 Field sites location and experimental layout	6
	2.1.1 Kleinkopjé	6
	2.1.2 New Vaal	9
	2.1.3 Syferfontein	11
	2.2 Cropping systems	15
	2.2.1 Kleinkopjé	15
	2.2.2 New Vaal	17
	2.2.3 Syferfontein	17
	2.3 Soils	19
	2.4 Water qualities	20
	2.4.1 Kleinkopjé	22
	2.4.2 New Vaal	23
	2.4.3 Syferfontein	24
	2.5 Monitoring the field water and salt balance	25
	2.5.1 Atmospheric Evaporative Demand	25
	2.5.2 Crop growth and nutritional status	26
	2.5.3 Soil water balance	27
	2.5.4 Salt balance	28
	2.6 Monitoring groundwater levels and quality	29

2.6.1	Kleinkopjé	30
2.6.2	New Vaal	32
2.6.3	Syferfontein	34
2.7	Modelling	35
2.7.1	Soil Water Balance modelling	35
2.7.2	Model description	36
2.7.3	Model validation	37
3.	CROP PRODUCTION AND PLANT NUTRITION	38
3.1	Crop production	38
3.1.1	Kleinkopjé	38
3.1.2	Syferfontein	49
3.1.3	New Vaal	53
3.2	Plant nutrition	59
3.2.1	Sufficiency ranges (SR)	59
3.2.1.1	Kleinkopjé	60
3.2.1.2	New Vaal	64
3.2.1.3	Syferfontein	65
3.2.2	Potato nutrition	65
3.2.3	Potassium (K) nutrition	66
3.2.4	Interpreting soil test results – fertilizer recommendations	71
4.	SOIL CHEMICAL PROPERTIES	75
4.1	Temporal and spatial variation in soil chemical properties	75
4.2	Gypsum	90
4.2.1	Gypsum quantification	94
5.	GROUNDWATER MONITORING	98
5.1	Kleinkopjé Colliery	99
5.1.1	Water levels	99
5.1.2	Groundwater quality	101
5.2	New Vaal Colliery	108

5.2.1	Water levels	108
5.2.2	Groundwater quality	110
5.3	Syferfontein Colliery	115
5.3.1	Water levels	115
5.3.2	Groundwater quality	115
6.	FIELD SCALE MODELLING OF CROP GROWTH, SOIL WATER AND SALT BALANCES	123
6.1	Crop growth	123
6.2	Soil solution	128
6.3	Comparison between SWB simulations and S and Ca analyses results	130
6.4	Runoff quantity and quality	136
6.5	Soil water and salt balance	139
6.5.1	Kleinkopje	139
6.5.2	New Vaal	146
6.5.3	Syferfontein	148
7.	THE IMPACT OF LARGE SCALE IRRIGATION ON GROUNDWATER RESOURCES	152
7.1	Field Water Balance	152
7.2	Modelling groundwater impact of large-scale irrigation in the Mpumalanga Coalfields	153
7.2.1	Model description	153
7.2.2	Characteristics of the Mpumalanga Coalfields aquifers	155
7.2.3	Scenario simulation	156
8.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	162
9.	REFERENCES	166
10.	CAPACITY BUILDING	171
11.	TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER	172

APPENDICES

The appendices for this report appear on a CD which is inserted at the back of this report.

APPENDIX A:	Irrigation water qualities	1
APPENDIX B:	Plant analyses	18
APPENDIX C:	Soil chemical analyses	45
APPENDIX D:	Soil water and runoff chemical analyses	85
APPENDIX E:	Fertilizers	131
APPENDIX F:	Herbicides	138
APPENDIX G:	Model validations	144
APPENDIX H:	Potato quality study	151
APPENDIX I:	Groundwater	158
APPENDIX J:	New Vaal -waterlogging	174