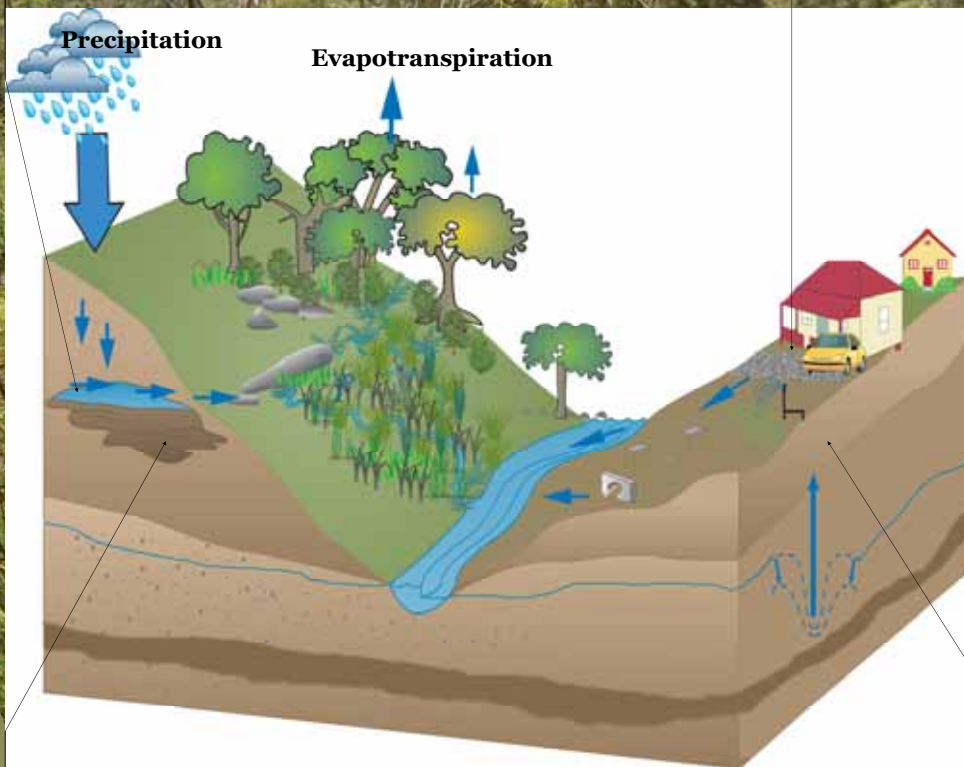


Swamps - water regulators in the landscape

Water infiltrates the permeable sandstone forming an aquifer (underground water supply) above impermeable layers of claystone or shale. Fractures in the rock delivers ground water to deeper levels. Thus groundwater moves both horizontally and vertically.

In a catchment with a lot of development much less water enters the groundwater system. Rain flows off hard surfaces such as roads and roofs and is often piped directly to creeks through the stormwater system. This causes a rapid increase in volumes and velocities in the creeks for a short time that causes erosion and reduces water quality.



Water can move horizontally along these impermeable layers coming to the surface where the layers outcrop. It is here that seeps and springs will form. Under the right conditions a swamp may form.

Extraction of groundwater lowers the water table. This will affect the level of water in streams especially during dry weather. The amount of water available to seeps, springs and swamps can be significantly reduced.