Availability of groundwater and rates of extraction vary widely from place to place. It may take heavy rains (every 5-15 years) to replenish groundwater reservoirs. They can be used in the meantime, but with care, as the future is uncertain:

- Demand may be much lower in rural areas where only small amounts of drinking and livestock water are taken.

Demand varies depending on need:
- Extraction for agricultural, industrial and urban use can be intensive and demanding.
- Demand for water is likely to rise, especially for agricultural, industrial and urban use.
- The environment is becoming increasingly urbanised and degraded.
- Climate change is real but its effects are not always predictable.
- Replenishment may increase, decrease or stay the same, and will vary from place to place.
- Monitoring of groundwater use, quality and levels will become increasingly important.

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