

6.2 Aspirational Targets

The long term aspiration targets for the region are to achieve the following:

- 50% reduction in the area of land salinity from 2003 levels in areas of irrigation induced salinity.
- 5% reduction in the area of secondary land salinity from 2003 levels in areas of dryland or ocean induced salinity affecting high value assets;
- 100% compliance with the salinity requirements of the State Environmental Protection Policy for surface water quality for priority monitored sites (Waters of Victoria – EPA, 1996);
- 50% decrease in the average salinity of Lake Wellington;
- 50% increase in the time period where the water salinity of wetlands adjacent to Lake Wellington is below 1,500 μ S/cm.

The targets are based on a compromise between what is desirable and what is achievable given the recommended level of investment. The greater reduction in land salinity in the irrigated areas relative to the dryland areas reflects:

- the greater justification for investment in salinity control in irrigated areas due to the higher value of production being protected; and
- the greater effectiveness of salinity control options available in the irrigated areas (eg groundwater pumping).

The link between Management Action Targets (MAT) and Resource Condition Targets (RCT) is shown in Table 21, Table 38 and Table 54. The link between the RCTs and the Aspirational

Targets (AT) listed above are shown in Table 19. Achievement of these RCTs will demonstrate progress towards the ATs.

■ **Table 19: RCTs that demonstrate progress towards ATs**

Aspirational Target	RCTs that demonstrate progress towards Aspirational Targets
50% reduction in the area of land salinity from 2003 levels in areas of irrigation induced salinity	RCT11, RCT12, RCT13, RCT14, RCT15, RCT16, RCT18 and RCT110
5% reduction in the area of secondary land salinity from 2003 levels in areas of dryland or ocean induced salinity affecting high value assets	RCTD1, RCTD2, RCTD3, RCTD4, RCTD6 and RCTD9
100% compliance with the salinity requirements of the State Environmental Protection Policy for surface water quality for priority monitored sites (Waters of Victoria – EPA, 1996)	RCT17 and RCTD5. MAT SC1.2 will report progress towards this target
50% decrease in the average salinity of Lake Wellington	Completion of MAT CA1.1 will signal progress towards this target
50% increase in the time period where the water salinity of wetlands adjacent to Lake Wellington is below 1,500 μ S/cm	RCT19, RCTD7 and RCTD8

The monitoring, evaluation and reporting component of the West Gippsland Salinity Management Plan will report on progress towards the Management Action Targets, the Resource Condition Targets and the Aspirational Targets (see Section 6.2).