

6.14 Adaptive Management

The management actions in this document have been recommended based on the best available information at the time. However, the actions need to be reviewed as new information comes to hand. The key sources of information that may influence the adopted management actions include monitoring data and conclusions from research and investigations. This feedback of information and re-evaluation of the management actions is often known as “adaptive management”.

The key adaptive management activities of this plan include:

- ***A monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework*** which provides information on the success or otherwise of the management actions being implemented. For example, monitoring of watertable levels and soil salinity around groundwater pumps provides information on the effectiveness of groundwater pumps for reducing land salinity. This can then help in the planning of new pumps and the operation of existing pumps.
- ***A research and investigation program*** that addresses the key knowledge gaps. For example, investigation into groundwater flow systems causing dryland salinity will provide information on the planning of salinity control options such as tree planting.
- ***A formal review of the plan every five years*** is recommended which allows all of the information gained in the previous planning cycle to be assessed and incorporated into a new set of management action targets and resource condition targets.
- ***Review of key projects on an annual basis*** are recommended to identify the key strengths and weaknesses of the adopted approach. Information from these reviews will help to guide the planning of the next round of projects. The reviews would best be conducted prior to the planning of the following year’s activities.
- ***Information sharing with other regions*** is essential to ensure that all areas build on the experiences of others. In particular, there is a strong similarity between the approach adopted to address irrigation salinity in West Gippsland and the Shepparton region.

Implementing the above approach will ensure that this salinity management plan is a living, not static, document.