

Appendix H: Implications of *Our Water Our Future*

■ **Table 90: Implications of *Our Water Our Future* and how they've been addressed in the Plan**

<i>Our Water Our Future</i> reform	Purpose	Implications/Actions	Where addressed in the Plan
Water Use Licence (pg 72, 88)	<p>Minimise off-site impacts of irrigation through improved irrigation practice.</p> <p>Existing Irrigation – a licence, based on minimum standards set out in Land and Water Management Plans (LWMPs), to use a set amount of water on given area of land.</p> <p>New/redeveloped Irrigation – a licence, based on best practices outlined in Irrigation Development Guidelines, to use a set amount of water on a given area of land.</p>	<p>Highlights the need to incorporate minimum irrigation standards in Land and Water Management Plans.</p> <p>There is a management action in the plan to develop Irrigation development guidelines.</p> <p>Future standards may require improvements in irrigation system performance within an agreed timeframe.</p>	Section 6.4.3 Irrigation Management Program (policy and knowledge gaps)
Plantation Forestry Assessment (pg 35)	Plantation development zones and controls will be established to provide catchment managers with information on how to balance environmental and economic benefits from plantations (eg. salinity control or forestry) against the impacts of water resources.	Once impact zones are completed they will need to be considered when setting targets for tree establishment.	Section 6.5.6 Tree and Native Vegetation Program
Environmental Water Reserve (pg 18, 44) – Additional Thomson and Macalister Flows	The aim of achieving additional Thomson and Macalister Flows through distribution system upgrades in the MID.	Channel automation, improved delivery schedules need to be considered with options for flood irrigation system improvements and system conversion.	Section 6.4.3 Irrigation Management Program
Environmental Water Reserve (pg 18, 44) – Additional Thomson and Macalister Flows	Additional flows will be allocated to the Thomson and Macalister Rivers to improve stream condition (pg 58).	In stream salinity issues will be incorporated into improved environmental flows technical investigations and policy decisions. The flows allocated for the Thomson River are 10,000ML plus 8,000ML from system savings. The flows allocated for the Macalister River are 5,000ML by the end of 2006 plus system savings of 2,000ML.	Section 6.4.6 Surface Drainage Program
Environmental Water Reserve (pg 18, 44) – Additional Thomson and Macalister Flows	A 10 year monitoring program is proposed to assess the benefits of additional flows (pg 60).	Monitoring of salinity levels in natural water courses will aid assessment of surface water salinity and Resource Condition Targets.	Section 6.5.3 Salinity Mapping (Table 40)
Environmental Water Reserve (pg 18, 44) – Management of Groundwater	<p>In highly allocated or stressed aquifers a water supply protection area will be declared and a GMP prepared.</p> <p>Limited new licences will be released for groundwater extraction. Special rules may be established for areas where salinity requires groundwater extraction.</p>	May impact on the sub-surface drainage program once it is legislated.	Section 6.4.5 Sub-surface Drainage Program (barriers to adoption)
Environmental Contribution (pg 129)	A legislated requirement for urban and rural water authorities to make an Environmental Contribution to sustainable water management activities.	Funds raised may be directed towards future actions in the Salinity Management Plan.	Section 6.11 Total cost of Plan
Sustainable Water Strategies (pg 26, 48)	Regional strategies to inform regional water security planning.	West Gippsland Salinity Management Plan will inform Water Strategy development.	Section 1.1 Planning Framework
State Water Inventory (pg 26)	A high level inventory of Victoria's water resources for long term statewide water resource planning.	West Gippsland Salinity Management Plan may inform and interact with the Water Inventory.	Section 1.1 Planning Framework