

Appendix A: Descriptions of Salinity Management Areas

Upland areas

The **Walhalla** Salinity Management Area covers the densely forested northern part of the region where vegetation is primarily native. This Salinity Management Area was defined as the extent of the treed area to the north of the West Gippsland CMA region. This is by far the largest zone, yet the most homogeneous. This Salinity Management Area is almost completely forested and thus already highly effective at recharge control. Walhalla covers an area of 578,239 hectares.

The **Trafalgar** Salinity Management Area covers the area north of the Strzelecki Ranges and south of the forested zone of Walhalla. The eastern boundary is hydrogeological and follows Traralgon and Rintoul Creeks. Little is known about the Trafalgar area from a salinity perspective as there has been no monitoring carried out and little attention paid to it in the past as it was not part of the Lake Wellington SMP or the South Gippsland Salinity Strategy. It covers the gap between the Walhalla Salinity Management Area, the South Gippsland basin and the MID. Trafalgar covers an area of 207,241 hectares.

South Gippsland Basin

The area covering the South Gippsland Basin was divided into three Salinity Management Areas: Foster, Port Albert and Wilsons Promontory. It is highly likely that the Foster and Port Albert areas will be able to be divided into smaller Salinity Management Areas once further information about the hydrogeological flow systems that operate in the region becomes available.

The **Foster** Salinity Management Area covers the western half of the South Gippsland basin. The boundary between Foster and Port Albert is a catchment boundary. There are no suitable major river boundaries in the area. Foster covers an area of 286,043 hectares. The major landuse in this area is grazing, predominantly dryland.

The **Port Albert** Salinity Management Area covers the eastern half of the South Gippsland basin. The Strzelecki Ranges to the north provide a hydrogeological divide for both the Foster and Port Albert Salinity Management Areas. Port Albert covers an area of 246,490 hectares. The major landuse in this area is grazing, predominantly dryland, with areas of irrigation around Yarram.

The **Wilsons Prom** Salinity Management Area covers the Wilson's Promontory National Park. The area is predominantly native bushland and forest. As with the Walhalla Salinity Management Area, the existing native vegetation in the area is highly effective for recharge control. Wilsons Prom covers an area of 48,245 hectares.

Latrobe Basin

The **Rosedale** Salinity Management Area covers the area south of the Latrobe River and north of the Ranges. It is bounded in the south east by the Reeve Salinity Management Area. Rosedale covers an area of 72,212 hectares. Rosedale is predominantly under dryland grazing, with some areas of irrigation along the Princes Highway.

The **Reeve** Salinity Management Area covers the catchment of Lake Reeve. The salinity in the coastal Lake Reeve is predominantly ocean induced with groundwater flow from the northern part of the catchment down into Lake Reeve. The decision to use the catchment as the Salinity Management Area boundary reflects the information currently available as to how the salinity in Lake Reeve occurs. Reeve covers an area of 54,084 hectares. Significant areas of the Lake Reeve catchment are public land used for nature conservation and resource protection. There are also large areas of private land used for dryland grazing, particularly between Seaspray and Golden Beach.

Lake Wellington Catchment (including the Macalister Irrigation District)

The groundwater flow systems operating in the MID are well understood. Extensive research has been carried out since salinity was first identified as a problem in the area around the middle of the last century. The MID was divided into a number of groundwater subregions (GSRs) based on hydrogeological boundaries. The salinity management plan covers a larger area than the MID and the GSRs have had to be extended to form Salinity Management Areas covering not only the irrigated MID but also the surrounding dryland areas that are part of the same groundwater flow system.

The **Nambrok** Salinity Management Area covers the Nambrok Groundwater Subregion of the Macalister Irrigation District. It is bounded to the north by the Thomson River and to the south by the Latrobe River. The Groundwater Subregion (GSR) has been extended out as far as the edge of the cleared area so that it intersects the Walhalla Salinity Management Area. Nambrok covers an area of 60,701 hectares. The western part of the Nambrok Salinity Management Area is predominantly dryland while the area within the MID is predominantly irrigated dairy enterprises.

The **Heyfield** Salinity Management Area covers the Heyfield Groundwater Subregion. It is bounded to the north by the Macalister River and to the south by the Thomson River. The GSR has been extended out as far as the edge of the cleared area so that it intersects the Walhalla Salinity Management Area. Heyfield covers an area of 31,537 hectares. The Heyfield Salinity Management Area is predominantly characterised by irrigated dairy enterprises in the eastern part and dryland grazing to the west.

The **Maffra** Salinity Management Area covers the Maffra Groundwater Subregion. It is bounded to the south west by the Macalister River and to the north east by the topographic high between

the Macalister and Avon River floodplains. The GSR has been extended out as far as the edge of the cleared area so that it intersects the Walhalla Salinity Management Area. Maffra covers an area of 16,921 hectares. The Maffra Salinity Management Area is mostly irrigated dairy enterprises with some dryland grazing outside the MID.

The **Boisdale** Salinity Management Area covers the Boisdale Groundwater Subregion. It is bounded to the north by the Avon River and to the south by the topographic high between the Macalister and Avon River floodplains. The GSR has been extended out as far as the edge of the cleared area so that it intersects the Walhalla Salinity Management Area. Boisdale covers an area of 11,597 hectares. Landuse in Boisdale within the MID boundary is predominantly irrigated dairy with some small areas of cropping. Outside the MID it is predominantly dryland.

The **Clydebank** Salinity Management Area covers the Clydebank Groundwater Subregion. It is bounded by Lake Wellington to the east, the Latrobe, Thomson and Avon Rivers and a topographic high between the Maffra and Boisdale Groundwater Subregions. The GSR has been extended out as far as the edge of the cleared area so that it intersects the Walhalla Salinity Management Area. Clydebank covers an area of 23,512 hectares. Irrigation enterprises in Clydebank are predominantly dairy. Over half the Salinity Management Area is dryland grazing.

The **Bengworden** Salinity Management Area covers the dryland region to the north east of Lake Wellington. It includes the part of the Bengworden areas that is outside the WGCMA boundary in order to look at the area holistically. Bengworden covers an area of 49,875 hectares. Bengworden is predominantly dryland with small pockets of irrigation.

The **Stratford** Salinity Management Area covers the area between the Boisdale Salinity Management Area and the Bengworden Salinity Management Area. Little is known about this area as only small areas of salinity at the southern end of the Salinity Management Areas have been mapped. Stratford covers an area of 60,314 hectares. Landuse in Stratford is predominantly dryland grazing.

The **Wellington** Salinity Management Area covers Lake Wellington, Lake Coleman and surrounding land. Land and water salinity in this area is due to the opening of the permanent entrance at Lakes Entrance and the resultant increasing salinisation of the Gippsland Lakes. Wellington covers an area of 19,773 hectares. Wellington consists predominantly of lakes and wetlands, with limited grazing around Lake Coleman.