

6.3 Introduction to the Management Actions

There are five major programs recommended to address the three major types of salinity affecting West Gippsland:

- the Irrigation Salinity Management Program,
- the Dryland Salinity Management Program,
- the Ocean Induced Salinity Management Program,
- the Surface Water Salinity Management Program and
- the Community and Agency Engagement Program.

The following sections of the plan detail the proposed management actions for each of the five major programs.

Water quality in rivers and lakes is addressed through a combination of irrigated, dryland and ocean induced management options. A reduction in the watertable level in salt affected land will have a positive impact on surface water salinity through a reduction in the salinity of runoff water flowing over once saline land and a reduction in the direct discharge of saline groundwater to rivers and streams.

Each of the following five sections outlines the 5-year Management Action Targets for the management of irrigation, dryland and ocean induced salinity in West Gippsland (Sections 6.4, 6.5 and 6.6 respectively) as well as for management of surface water salinity (Section 6.7) and Community and Agency Engagement (Section 6.8). Resource Condition Targets (RCTs) are also detailed which outline the medium term targets for the condition of resources in 15 years. These RCTs are to be achieved through a combination of Management Action Targets.

The **Irrigation Salinity Management Program** is divided into five sub-programs:

- Irrigation Management Program (recharge reduction)
- Vegetation Program (recharge reduction and discharge enhancement)
- Sub-surface Drainage Program (discharge enhancement)
- Surface Drainage Program (recharge reduction)
- Living with Salt Program (live with the problem)

The **Dryland Salinity Management Program** is divided into six sub-programs:

- Whole Farm Planning (overarching planning tool)
- Salinity Mapping and Investigation Program (determining the extent of the problem)
- Perennial Pasture Program (recharge reduction)
- Tree Program (recharge reduction and discharge enhancement)
- Groundwater Pumping Program (discharge enhancement)
- Living with Salt Program (live with the problem)

The **Ocean-Induced Salinity Management Program** is divided into two sub-programs:

- Surface Drainage (Structures) Program (preventing the passage of saline water)
- Surface Drainage (Sea walls) Program (preventing the passage of saline water)

The **Surface Water Salinity Management Program** is divided into two sub-programs:

- Salinity Mapping Program (determining the extent of the problem)
- Environmental Flows Program

The **Community and Agency Engagement Program** is a stand alone program.

Each of the five sections begins with a summary of the management action targets and resource condition targets followed by a discussion of the overall strategy. Each sub-program describes the proposed mechanisms for adoption, barriers and knowledge gaps and recommended management actions. An economic analysis of the management actions has only been conducted where sufficiently detailed data exists. The section ends with a discussion on the cost sharing arrangements, roles and responsibilities and the recommended monitoring and evaluation program.