

Situation Analysis – West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

Background Drawing from the initial Practice Change Project workshop and various publications, the following is a situation analysis of the West Gippsland CMA. It includes the key NRM issues, organisational structure, the resource condition targets and management action targets that have been identified. The purpose of the situation analysis is to provide an overview of the West Gippsland catchment for circulation among the ten regions involved in the project. This will enable the participating regions to better understand each others situations.

The Region

Geography The West Gippsland Region, legislatively defined by the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994, extends from the Gippsland Lakes to west of Warragul, and from the Great Dividing Range to Wilsons Promontory. The area is 17,685 square kilometres. Unlike regions with a single major city, the West Gippsland population is dispersed between several regional centres in the vicinity of the South Gippsland, Strzelecki, Bass and Princes Highways. The region includes seven municipalities; all of Latrobe City; substantial parts of Wellington, Baw Baw and South Gippsland Shires; a heavily populated portion of Bass Coast Shire; and small sparsely populated areas of Delatite and East Gippsland Shires.

Demographics A population of approximately 169,000 people.

Land uses

- Total Public land 40%
- Parks 15.5%
- State Forests 22.5%

NRM issues The region is subject to social, economic and environmental trends that will affect how we manage our natural resource base into the future. These include:

- Expanding urban fringe
- Increasing demand on water
- Climate change influencing weather patterns, sea levels and flooding
- Land subsidence from extractive industries
- Intensification of the traditional primary industry base
- Diversification of agribusiness
- Changing economics and politics of agriculture
- Industrial restructure and downsizing
- Ageing of the farming community
- Changing land use
- Increasing threats from pest plants and animals

Situation Analysis – West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

In addition to the above, our region has been subject to very significant fires in recent times with over 330,000 hectares of the catchment being burnt in the 2006/007 fires. Considerable resources and activity will be focussed on fire recovery and fire rehabilitation over the next five years along with work examining how we might mitigate the fire risk into the future.

The Regional NRM Organisation

History

The WGCMA has been established to provide integrated management of land and water resources within the Region. The Authority was established on 1 July 1997 following a Statewide review of catchment management structures and is one of 10 such organisations in Victoria.

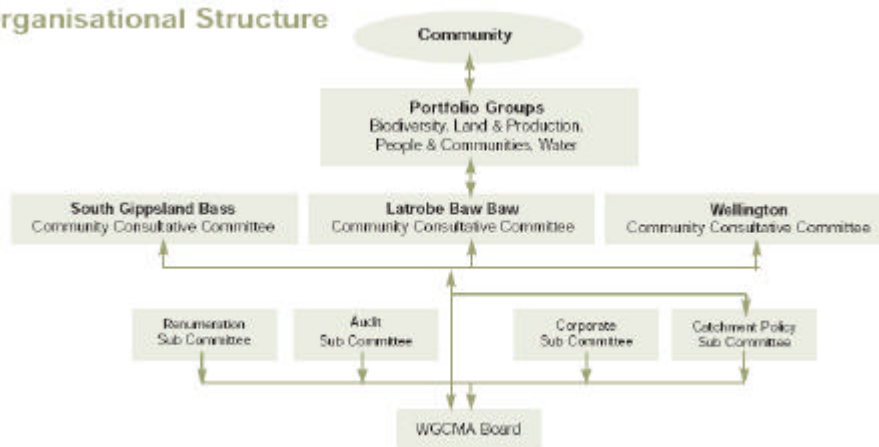
Organisational arrangements

The State Government has established a catchment management system to effectively implement integrated catchment management as a tool for ecologically sustainable development of our natural resource based industries, the protection of land and water resources and the conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

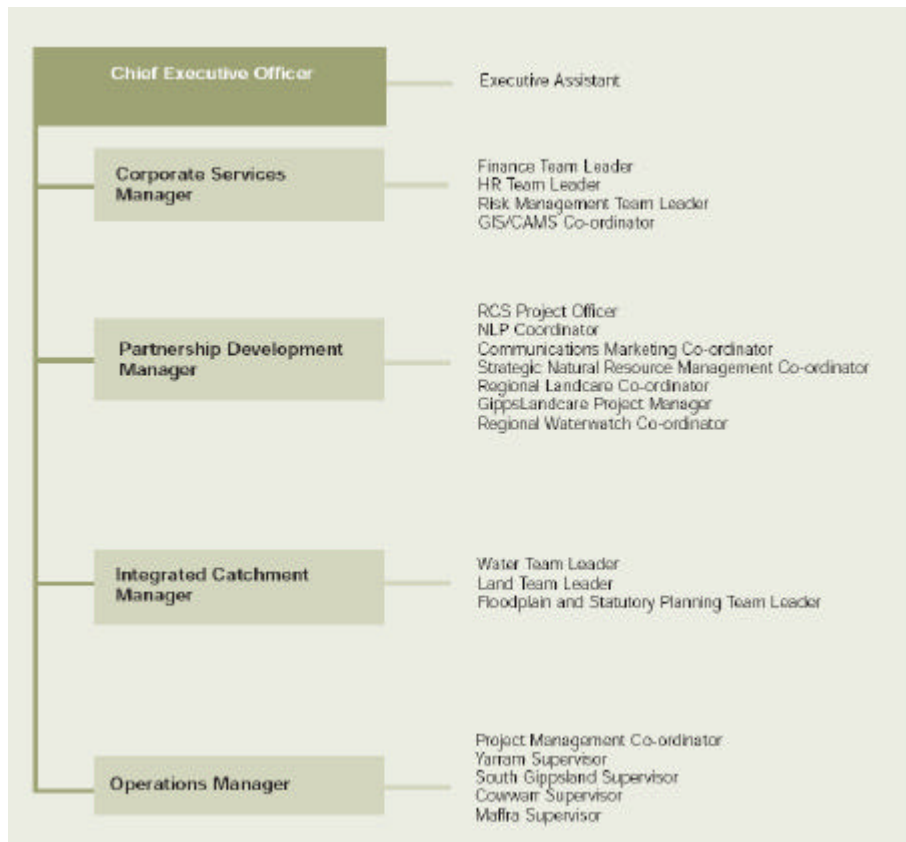
As part of this framework, CMAs were created to maximise community involvement in the framework and ensure transparency in decision making on these issues.

The WGCMA is directed by a skills based Board appointed by Government and is responsible for strategic and policy direction for the integrated management of land, biodiversity and water through South, Central and West Gippsland. It operates under the legislative base of the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 and the Water Act 1989.

Organisational Structure



Situation Analysis – West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority



Key functions

As part of the development of our Strategic Plan and to deliver on our vision and meet our objectives we have identified Key Areas of Focus.

1. WGCMA will lead development and implementation of the Regional Catchment Strategy and action plans that support it, and fulfil other obligations for which we are directly accountable.
2. WGCMA will work with other stakeholders to develop catchment plans that meet the present and future needs of each catchment ecosystem.
3. WGCMA will actively consult, recruit and inform the wider community, with a focus on other agencies, landowners, and interest groups.
4. WGCMA will monitor, measure and report on activities and outcomes useful to inform catchment management and the community.
5. WGCMA will, where necessary and possible, take collaborative or direct action to protect and enhance the catchments.
6. WGCMA seeks to continually improve information systems, governance and operational practices through the informed and integrated work of competent and satisfied staff.

Situation Analysis – West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

Budget (2005/06)

Revenue from Government \$13,872,000
 Other Revenue \$2,777,000
Total Revenue \$16,649,000
Total Expenses \$16,670,000
 Net result from operating activities (\$21,000)

The NRM Planning Process

History

The first Regional Catchment Strategies, developed in 1997, have now been renewed to show the way forward for the next five years. The West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority Board established a project management framework for the review and renewal of the West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy. Knowledge and understanding of the stakeholder perceptions of the 1997 Regional Catchment Strategy development process and document, progress against actions and changes in institutional arrangements, were used to develop the Regional Catchment Strategy renewal process with appropriate stakeholder engagement.

NRM plan

The West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy has been developed and accredited. They have used individual strategies such as River Health to create targets and actions that are relevant. This will stop the West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy from dating quickly.

Resource condition targets

Asset	Resource Condition Targets (RCTs)
River Health Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 366 km of river with improvement in 1 rating in riparian condition • 227 additional landholders involved in river health improvements • 87 km of river with improvement in physical form sub-index • 53 high value assets protected from erosion • Contribute towards 42ha & 108ha of spartina removed from Corner Inlet & Andersons Inlet respectively • Improving water quality attainment towards SEPP (Waters of Victoria) & schedules in 42 high value reaches • Maintain/improve floodplain & wetland condition & connectivity from 2005 baseline in 32 high value reach areas • 18 reaches with an improvement of freshwater dependant focal species • 95 km of river in good to excellent condition (based on ISC assessment by 2011) • Heritage River status maintained for the Thomson River below the Thomson dam to Cowwarr Weir • 20 km of river in good to excellent condition (from 1999 ISC baseline of moderate condition) • Improved flow regimes achieving environmental objectives in 15 high value reaches

Situation Analysis – West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain representative river & ecologically healthy river status for the Tarra River & the upper Latrobe River • Protection of pristine environmental values of the Wilsons Promontory National Park • Ecologically healthy river status achieved for the Traralgon Creek by 2021 • 179 km of fish passage opened up 																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				
Water Quality	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Management Unit</th> <th>Reach</th> <th>Site</th> <th>Establish</th> <th>Maintain</th> <th>Improve</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>WG03</td><td>9</td><td>225221</td><td>TN TP Tb EC pH DO</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>WG03</td><td>11</td><td>225209</td><td></td><td>TN TP Tb EC pH DO</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>WG03</td><td>14</td><td>225230</td><td>TN TP Tb EC pH DO</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>WG04</td><td>7</td><td>225247</td><td></td><td>EC pH DO</td><td>TN TP Tb</td></tr> <tr><td>WG04</td><td>8</td><td>225204</td><td></td><td>TN TP Tb EC pH DO</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>WG07</td><td>20</td><td>225201</td><td></td><td>TN TP Tb EC pH DO</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>WG07</td><td>21</td><td>225224</td><td></td><td>TN TP Tb EC pH DO</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>WG07</td><td>27</td><td>225218</td><td>TN TP Tb EC pH DO</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>WG08</td><td>4</td><td>225231</td><td></td><td>EC pH DO</td><td>TN TP 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Salinity Irrigated areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCT I1: Less than 2% increase in the area of <2m depth to water table from Jan 2003 levels in Clydebank management area – 16 yrs • RCT I2: Greater than 11% decrease in the area of <2m depth to water table from Jan 2003 levels in Nambrook management area – 16 yrs • RCT I3: Greater than 7% decrease in the area of <2m depth to water table from Jan 2003 levels in Heyfield management area – 16 yrs • RCT I4: Greater than 23% decrease in the area of <2m depth to water table from Jan 2003 levels in Maffra management area – 16 yrs • RCT I5: Greater than 23% decrease in the area of <2m depth to water table from Jan 2003 levels in Boisdale management area – 16 yrs • RCT I6: Greater than 50% reduction in soil salinity around existing and new Groundwater Control Pumps in Clydebank, Nambrook Heyfield management area – 15 yrs from pump start 																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				

Situation Analysis – West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCT I7: No increase in the area of 2m depth to water table within the Sale urban boundary (assumed to be negligible) in Clydebank management area – 15 yrs • RCT I8: No net loss of native vegetation in all areas – 5 yrs
Salinity Dryland areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCT D1: Less than a 10% increase in area of <2m depth to water table from 2002 levels, in Port Albert management area – 15 yrs • RCT D2: Greater than a 9% decrease in the area of <2m depth to water table from 2002 levels, in Foster management area – 15 yrs • RCT D3: Greater than an 8% decrease in the area of <2m depth to water table from 2003 levels, in Bengworden management area – 15 yrs • RCT D4: To maintain the area of <2m depth to water table at 2003 levels, in Reeve, Trafalgar, and Stratford management areas - 15 yrs • RCT D5: A 10% reduction in the area of <2m depth to water table in urban areas at risk of salinity – Rosedale and Port Albert – 15 yrs • RCT D6: No net loss of native vegetation in strategic recharge areas contributing to saline discharge, in all management areas – 5 yrs
Salinity Surface Water and Ocean Induced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCT S1: For Clydebank Morass, increase in the period of time water salinity is below 4,000µS/cm from 27% to 35% of the time – 15 yrs • RCT S2: For Dowd Morass, increase in the period of time water salinity is below 1,500µS/cm from 55% to 60% of the time – 15 yrs • RCT S3: For Lake Coleman, increase in the period of time water salinity is below 4,000µS/cm from 4% to 10% of the time – 15 yrs • RCT S4: For Lake Wellington, increase in the period of time the SEPP objective of a median salinity of 12,500µS/cm is attained (as required under Schedule F3 of the SEPP WoV) – 15 yrs • RCT S5: For natural watercourse in all areas, (except for those below 5.1-5.11), maintain the current compliance levels with SEPP salinity requirements (or ANZECC guidelines where the SEPP doesn't apply) – 15 yrs • RCT S5.1: Avon River at Stratford: increase to >98% compliance (currently 94%) with the SEPP 90th percentile salinity guidelines – 15 yrs • RCT S5.2: Latrobe River at swing Bridge: Increase to >98% compliance (currently 96%) with the SEPP 90th percentile salinity guidelines – 15 yrs • RCT S5.3: Thomson River at Swing Bridge: increase to >98% compliance (currently 94%) with the SEPP 90th percentile salinity guidelines – 15 yrs • RCT S5.4: Bundalaguah Main Drain at outfall: Increase to >65% compliance (currently 54%) with the SEPP 90th percentile salinity guidelines – 15 yrs • RCT S5.5: Nuntin Creek at outfall: Increase to >30% compliance (currently 21%) with the SEPP 90th percentile salinity guidelines – 15 yrs • RCT S5.6: Perry River at Perry Bridge: Increase to >50% compliance (currently 35%) with the SEPP 90th percentile salinity guidelines – 15 yrs • RCT S5.7: Merrimans Creek at Prospect Rd: increase to >80% compliance (currently 67%) with the SEPP 90th percentile salinity guidelines – 15 yrs • RCT S5.8: Andersons Creek at Yallourn North Rd: increase to >50% compliance (currently 26%) with the SEPP 90th percentile salinity guidelines – 15 yrs

Situation Analysis – West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCT S5.9: Bennetts Ck at Jeeralang Rd: increase to >85% compliance (currently 82%) with the SEPP 90th percentile salinity guidelines – 15 yrs • RCT S5.10: Flynns Ck at Princes Hwy: increase to >70% compliance (currently 60%) with the SEPP 90th percentile salinity guidelines – 15 yrs • RCT S5.11: Sheepwash Ck at Princes Hwy: increase to >20% compliance (currently 16%) with the SEPP 90th percentile salinity guidelines – 15 yrs • RCT Heart Morass: should be determined in consultation with the land manager once technical information is available • RCT Curtin's Flat: should be determined in consultation with the land manager once technical information is available • RCT Lake Kakydra: should be determined in consultation with the land manager once technical information is available • RCT Sale Common: should be determined in consultation with the land manager once technical information is available • RCT Lake Reeve: should be determined in consultation with the land manager once technical information is available • RCT Other Wetlands: should be determined in consultation with the land manager once technical information is available
Native Vegetation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the year 2040, formally protect the current extent of 100% of Endangered and Rare, 90% of Vulnerable and 35% of Depleted and Least Concern EVCs in the Gippsland Plain and Strzelecki Bioregions. • By the year 2040 formally protect 100% of Endangered and Rare (current extent), 60% Vulnerable (current extent) and 15% of Depleted and Least Concern (pre European Cover) EVCs in the Highlands Southern Fall and East Gippsland Lowlands Bioregions. • By the year 2050, extend EVCs with a with a current level of 0% cover to 5% of their former range • By the year 2050, extend EVCs with a current level of >0% to 9% cover to 10% of their former range • By the year 2050, extend EVCs with a current level of 10% to 34% cover to 35% of their former range • By the year 2050, extend EVCs with greater than 35% cover extended where strategically important

Management action targets

Asset	Management Action Targets (MATs)
River Health Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 314 km of exotic vegetation removed • 42 km of existing indigenous native vegetation enhanced and/or improved • 343 km of riparian land revegetated and fenced • 42 km of remnant vegetation protected • 59 km of worksite maintenance and weed control • Morwell river diversion commissioned • 13 km of structural bank protection work • 30 km of instream habitat rehabilitated (incl LWD replacement, removal of debris, grade control structures) • Bed stability investigations undertaken in 4 high value reaches • 7 fishing platforms constructed • 7 reaches monitored for bank erosion

Situation Analysis – West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 reaches of aquatic weed control (focus on Spartina) • Contribute towards 16 existing GRMWP sites • 24 additional GRMWP sites established and monitored against the SEPP (WoV) & schedules • 40 new Waterwatch volunteers identified, supported and undertaking monthly monitoring • Investigate water quality impacts from major industry within 4 priority reaches • 7 reaches where flooding & drainage assets are investigated, improvements to maintenance and operations identified and implemented • 4 dairy effluent audits completed • 1 forestry audit completed • High priorities of storm water management plans implemented in 12 high value reaches • 2 waste water management systems commissioned • 2 sewerage scheme feasibility studies completed • East & West Gippsland Water Quality Management Plans finalised and implemented • South Gippsland Water Quality Management Plan developed and implemented • Annual support of the Nooramunga & Corner Inlet monitoring project • High priorities of the Lake Glenmaggie Water Quality and Biodiversity management plan implemented • Review and implement the Macalister Irrigation District Nutrient Reduction Plan • High priority actions of the West Gippsland Salinity Management Plan implemented in 4 priority sub catchment areas • Develop and implement the Corner Inlet & Nooramunga Marine Coastal Park, Cape Liptrap Coastal Park, & the Bunerong Coastal Park management plans • 1 Wetland Strategy developed for the West Gippsland region • 14 reaches where floodplain and wetland studies or mapping are undertaken • 18 reaches targeted for European Carp control programs • Thomson and Macalister taskforce recommendations implemented • Manage the environmental water reserve for the Thomson and Macalister Rivers to ensure achievement of environmental objectives defined in the white paper • Thomson and Macalister monitoring evaluating and reporting program developed and implemented • Develop and implement the Anderson Inlet Fisheries Management Plan • One ecological risk assessment completed • Environmental flow assessment of the Latrobe River completed • 4 stream flow management plans developed • Develop and implement the Tarra Bulga National Park Management Plan • Develop and implement the Wilsons Promontory marine protected areas management plan Neighbourhood Environment Improvement Plan developed for Traralgon Creek
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Situation Analysis – West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstate flows to the Thomson River around Horseshoe Bend Tunnel, and to the Morwell River around the piped section 314 km of exotic vegetation removed
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAT 01 Complete audit of all road stream crossings • MAT 02 Conduct Ecological Risk Assessment • MAT 03 Develop a DWMP • MAT 04 Develop and implement Risk Management Plan for drinking water supply • MAT 05 Education and awareness raising activity • MAT 06 Extension and support following EPA audits • MAT 07 Extension and support for preparation of WFPs on dryland farms • MAT 08 Extension and support for preparation of WFPs on horticultural farms • MAT 09 Implement DWMP • MAT 10 Increased education and training for Private Farm Forestry • MAT 11 Investigate potential pesticide contamination of surface and groundwaters from horticultural use • MAT 12 Support water quality monitoring through GRWMP • MAT 13 Support water quality monitoring through Waterwatch • MAT 14 Undertake audit of compliance with Code of Forest Practices for Timber Production for native forest • MAT 15 Undertake audit of compliance with Code of Forest Practices for Timber Production for plantations • MAT 16 Undertake EPA audits of all dairy farms • MAT 17 Preparation of WFPs for high river connectivity dairy farms • MAT 18 Preparation of WFPs for high river connectivity horticultural farms • MAT 19 Install, commission or upgrade wastewater treatment plant • MAT 20 Develop and implement Traralgon Creek NEIP • MAT 21 Develop Latrobe River Environmental Flow requirements • MAT 22 Preparation of WFPs for high river connectivity dryland farms (Central Gippsland High Elevation) • MAT 23 Preparation of WFPs for high river connectivity dryland farms (Central Gippsland lowland) • MAT 24 Preparation of WFPs for high river connectivity dryland farms (East Gippsland High elevation) • MAT 25 Preparation of WFPs for high river connectivity dryland farms (East Gippsland lowland) • MAT 26 Preparation of WFPs for high river connectivity dryland farms (South Gippsland lowland) • MAT 27 Environmental Management Plan developed and implemented • MAT 28 Investigation of the Major recycling scenario for Gippsland • MAT 29 Implement Alpine National Park (Bogong unit) Management Plan • MAT 30 Implement Alpine National Park (Cobberas-Tingaringy unit) Management Plan • MAT 31 Implement Alpine National Park (Wonnangatta -Moroka) Management Plan

Situation Analysis – West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAT 32 Implement Baw Baw National Park Management Plan • MAT 33 Implement Blue Rock Lake Water Quality and Biodiversity Management Plan • MAT 34 Implement Bunurong Marine and Coastal Park Management Plan • MAT 35 Implement Cape Liptrap Coastal Park Management Plan • MAT 36 Implement Coopracambra National Park Management Plan • MAT 37 Implement Corner Inlet Marine National Park Management Plan • MAT 38 Implement Corner Inlet Marine Park Management Plan • MAT 39 Implement Councils SWMP • MAT 40 Implement Croajingolong National Park Management Plan • MAT 41 Implement Errinundra National Park Management Plan • MAT 42 Implement Gippsland Lakes Ramsar Site Strategic Management Plan • MAT 43 Implement Harmers Haven Coastal Park Management Plan • MAT 44 Implement Holey Plains State Park Management Plan • MAT 45 Implement Lake Glenmaggie Water Quality and Biodiversity Management Plan • MAT 46 Implement Lake Narracan Water Quality and Biodiversity Management Plan • MAT 47 Implement Lake Wellington Wetlands Management Plan • MAT 48 Implement Mitchell River National Park Management Plan • MAT 49 Implement Moe River Investigation recommendations • MAT 50 Implement Moondarra State Park and Tyers State Park Management Plan • MAT 51 Implement Morwell National Park Management Plan • MAT 52 Implement Mount Worth State Park Management Plan • MAT 53 Implement Nooramunga Inlet Marine and Coastal Park Management Plan • MAT 54 Implement revised MID-NRP • MAT 55 Implement Sale Common Management Plan • MAT 56 Implement Shallow Inlet Management Plan • MAT 57 Implement Snowy River National Park Management Plan • MAT 58 Implement Tarra Bulga National Park Management Plan • MAT 59 Implement Thomson River Environmental Flows • MAT 60 Implement Wilsons Promontory Marine National Park Management Plan • MAT 61 Investigate current status of Special Area Plan • MAT 62 Investigate the cumulative environmental impact of groundwater disposal • MAT 63 Investigate the water quality protection achieved with harvested replanting. • MAT 64 Investigate turbidity sources • MAT 65 Investigate water quality impacts of multiple industrial discharges • MAT 66 Review and update existing SFMP • MAT 67 Support Corner Inlet Environmental Audit • MAT 68 Support rehabilitation of historic mining areas • MAT 69 Develop a Wetlands Strategy • MAT 70 Undertake audit of compliance with Code of Forest Practices
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Situation Analysis – West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

	<p>for Timber Production for softwood plantation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAT 71 Implement the West Gippsland Salinity Management Plan • MAT 72 Implement SWMP • MAT 73 Preparation of WFPs for high river connectivity dairy farms (Central Gippsland lowland) • MAT 74 Upgrade STP
Salinity Irrigated areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IA1 Additional 10,500ha irrigated area covered by WFPs (approx 20 to 30 WFPs per year) • IA2 To convert 800 Ha/year of flood irrigation to spray irrigation • IA3 50 Ha/year of flood irrigation converted to high flow rate flood irrigation = 250ha over 5 years • IA4 All new irrigation developments using efficient irrigation techniques with minimal off-site impact • IA5 'Safe salinity' model investigation work completed and extension program begun (50ha/yr) • IB1 All research and investigation work completed and extension program commenced into perennial pasture and tree establishment • IB2 Existing extension programs provided with target areas for tree planting for salinity control • IC1.1 Continue operation and maintenance of existing pumps on an as needs basis • IC1.2 Install 2 new Groundwater Control Pumps and continue investigating pump viability at 5 additional sites • IC1.3 Investigate 5 sites for additional public groundwater pumps, review alternative disposal options for existing pumps and investigate the potential for use of alternative power sources • IC2 3 TEDS investigations and 3 Capital Grants Scheme per year starting 2005/06 • IC3 Free flowing bores reviewed and recommended actions implemented • IC4 Tile and mole drains reviewed and recommended actions implemented • ID1 MID Drain management plan complete and implemented • ID2 Research into viability of community drains complete • IE1 All landowners around operating Groundwater Control Pumps provided with advice on rehabilitation of salinity affected land • IE2 Review of suitable salt tolerant crops and pastures complete and extension program in place • IE3 Review of alternative uses of saline land and water complete and recommendations implemented • IF1.1 Continuation of current observation bore monitoring • IF1.2 Create yearly watertable depth maps for all irrigated SMAs, analyse and report to stakeholders, 5 yearly reports on trends • IF1.3 Create annual watertable depth map for Sale township • IF2.1 Continue program of soil salinity monitoring around Groundwater Control Pumps • IF2.2 5 yearly reports on soil salinity around Groundwater Control Pumps • IF3 New vegetation establishment to be compared to areas identified for salinity action

Situation Analysis – West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

<p>Salinity Dryland areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DA1 All land salinity mapping of remainder of Bengworden, Lake Reeve, Bass Hills, the Powlett catchment and the area south of Wonthaggi complete and informing management option planning • DA2 Investigations complete into threat of urban salinity in West Gippsland townships and informing management options for remediation of urban salinity • DA3 Groundwater flow systems study completed and used to determine site specific action plans incorporating salinity, biodiversity and other issues • DA4 Expected effects of the various management actions recommended in the GFS study (DA3) quantified. Management actions modified and fed into existing farm forestry, native vegetation and agronomic programs • DA5 Capability of land for management actions recommended in DA3 and DA4 assessed. Economics of implementation assessed. Management actions modified and fed into existing programs • DA6 Methods for building community capacity to implement change reviewed and innovative methods for program delivery developed. Management actions modified and fed into existing programs • DA7 Set of on-ground actions developed for each salinised area to address a number of NRM issues • DB1-4 Guidelines completed and used to assess Whole Farm Plans • DB2 Central repository complete and being used to develop Whole Farm Plans • DB3 6 courses a year for 5 years = 30 courses • DB4 Review conducted of whole farm planning across dryland areas of West Gippsland • DC1 Extent of perennial pastures in key recharge areas determined • DC2 Plan for perennial pasture establishment complete and extension program in place. 25% increase in the area of perennial pastures in strategic low rainfall areas • DD1 Economics and cost sharing study for encouraging farm forestry completed. Financial incentive program in place supported by extension program • DD2 Prioritisation process for current revegetation projects to include salinity benefits from tree planting. Extension program in place to encourage tree planting through incentives program • DD3 Provide input and support for current programs of native vegetation protection • DE1 Economic studies complete and groundwater pumping options for Rosedale and Port Albert investigated • DE2 Targeted Exploration Drilling Scheme and Capital Grants Scheme in operation • DF1 Investigation program complete and extension program in place for salt tolerant crops • DF4 Feasibility study into buy back of saline land complete and recommendations implemented • DG1.1 Continuation of current monitoring of nearly 80 observation bores in South Gippsland for water levels and salinity with progressive implementation of monitoring review recommendations. Continuation
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Situation Analysis – West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

	<p>of current bore monitoring funded through the salinity program. Monitoring of proposed new bores in Rosedale and Port Albert.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DG1.2 Yearly watertable depth maps for South Gippsland and the Rosedale and Port Albert townships. Annual reporting to include analysis of climate variability. 5 yearly reports to include trend analysis.
Surface Water Salinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SA1 Research and Investigation work complete including prioritisation of wetlands for further work. Monitoring regimes established in priority wetlands, management options investigated and implemented • SA2 Complete characterisation of surface water quality issues and prioritisation of key river reaches for implementation of management options • SB1 Environmental flow assessments complete. Stream flow Management Plans complete for Avon and Tarra Rivers • SC1.1 Continuation of current surface water monitoring • SC1.2 Complete 2 yearly report on compliance with SEPP to receiving waters pumps are discharging to, 5 yearly reports for other waterways • SC2.1 Continued spot salinity monitoring of Clydebank Morass. More intensive monitoring may be required prior to salinity control option implementation • SC2.2 Yearly reporting on salinity and trends to commence once control options are implemented • SC3.1 Continued monitoring of bores in and around Dowd Morass, and current continuous salinity and level monitoring • SC3.2 Yearly reporting on salinity and trends to commence once control options are implemented • SC4 Monitoring of other wetlands to be addressed following prioritisation
Ocean Induced Salinity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OA1.1 Completion of input to Dowd Morass and Lake Coleman Water Management Plans being developed by Parks Victoria. Completion of feasibility study into engineering structure in McLennan Straits and beginning of implementation if found to be feasible • OA1.2 Feasibility study into engineering options for Clydebank Morass and Dowd Morass completed. • OA1.3 Implementation of agreed engineering structures for Dowd Morass and Clydebank Morass if studies find them to be feasible • OA2 Drainage plans completed and implemented for key coastal areas affected by salinity
Community and Agency Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAT CA1: Local Government Authority engagement plan completed and implemented • MAT CA2: Community education on salinity integrated into existing programs and on-going education on salinity provided through field days and the Farm Planning process • MAT CA3.1: All R&I projects, significant strategic planning activities and significant on-ground activities have a communication strategy and results communicated to the community • MAT CA3.2: Successes of the Salinity Program publicised more widely • MAT CA4: Communications strategy developed and implemented • MAT CA5: 1 field day run each year looking at local examples of work

Situation Analysis – West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">undertaken to address salinity• MAT CA6: Agency staff and landowners alerted to the information available on the NDSP website and additional information relevant to the local setting available
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Philosophy and thinking

The WGCMA's approach to NRM is:

- focussed on partnerships with volunteer networks (eg with Landcare, Water Watch and the GINRF) and government agencies;
- focussed on the "middle bit" between policy and practice;
- within a framework of community engagement;
- based on trust and understanding of others perspectives;
- based on community aspirations and strong community ownership;
- a mix of "stick" (eg regulation) and "carrot" (education, incentive etc);
- based on science to identify changes required;
- base on recognition that there is always room for improvement;
- committed to developing and using monitoring and evaluation; and
- accepting that change takes time.

People, energy and skills

Skills that are required to better understand change

- Empathy with landholders
- Knowledge management
- Recognise what expertise are required and access knowledge
- Identify and understand different audiences and how to best engage
- Negotiation & diplomacy
- Manage expectations
- Sociology & social sciences
- Understanding or program logic – what is the link between people and impact
- Understanding of different paradigms
- Team management – making sure that we have the skills required, allocating time and budget

Expectations of involvement in project

Expectations

- Building on our capacity to better understand change
- Building regional expertise and utilising that expertise in understanding change
- Being able to better measure practice change
- Being able to share lessons with other regions
- Better able to review our internal practice change

Situation Analysis – West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

Tools

Some tools that WGCMA is interested in are tools that will:

- Simple tools such as key questions or proforma for staff to use in project development phases
- Ready reckoner – what tool for when