

Part Four: Initiation and Review

4.1 Initiation

4.1.1 Completing the *Salinity & Drainage Strategy*

A number of outstanding issues from the *S&D Strategy* that require resolution will be resolved under this strategy:

- completing the *S&D Strategy* joint works program over the next three years to achieve its 80 EC reduction at Morgan;
- implementing remedial measures to some joint works schemes to ensure ongoing performance; and
- including South Australia in the new Commission A Register under Schedule C to the Agreement, with South Australia to offset the salinity impact of post-1 January 1988 developments by December 2002.

4.1.2 Finalising end-of-valley targets and monitoring framework

The partner Governments in consultation with catchment communities will finalise end-of-valley targets, along with agreed monitoring site locations. NSW, Victoria and South Australia have indicated that they will finalise end-of-valley targets by March 2002, while Queensland has indicated it will finalise its targets by March 2004. While there is a need for targets to be adaptive, they will only be changed where there is adequate justification for resolution by the Commission and endorsement by Council.

To assist in the complex process of ongoing assessment of progress towards end-of-valley targets, a monitoring network for collecting continuous flow and salinity data to agreed standards will be required. This Strategy commits the partner Governments to establishing the required end-of-valley monitoring network, with implementation by December 2001.

4.1.3 Finalising cost sharing and benefit allocation arrangements for the new joint works program

The Council will finalise cost sharing and benefit allocation arrangements for the new joint works program by March 2002, after taking advice from the Commission's high-level inter-jurisdictional working group on salt interception schemes. This will require:

- a decision on whether the new joint works program needs to deliver more than its proposed 46 EC (new information as at June 2001 suggests that a total of 61 EC may now be necessary, comprising 41 EC for offsetting the 'legacy of history' and 20 EC for SDEs); and

- the basis of cost sharing between partner Governments; and the basis for allocating salinity benefits between the Governments as SDEs and towards offsetting the 'legacy of history'.

In the interim, the new joint works program delivering 46 EC will proceed, with 31 EC allocated as 'legacy of history' offsets and 15 EC allocated as SDEs (to be shared equally 5/46 each by NSW, Victoria and South Australia)

4.1.4 Revising Schedule C

The statutory requirements of the *S&D Strategy* are specified in Schedule C to the Agreement and provide for joint salt interception works, operating a Register of Morgan salinity credits and debits, and for reporting and accountability. As this Strategy replaces the *S&D Strategy*, Schedule C will be revised to give effect to its key elements, whilst preserving the achievements of the *S&D Strategy*.

4.1.5 Developing modelling/assessment frameworks

In order to support a rigorous and timely reporting process for Council, the States and the Commission will develop a suite of hydrologic and salt mobilisation models that will allow assessment of accountable actions against the agreed baseline conditions.

4.1.6 Establishing a group to oversight Strategy implementation

The monitoring, evaluation and reporting components, essential to ensure accountability under Strategy implementation will be overseen by a *Basin Salinity Management Strategy* working group, comprising senior staff from the partner Governments with technical or policy development responsibility for salinity management.

The working group will provide the necessary quality assurance and auditing, and will liaise closely with the high-level inter-jurisdictional working group on salt interception schemes.

4.2 Review

4.2.1 Mid-term review

This Strategy will be subject to a mid-term review in 2007 to determine the utility of the Strategy for ongoing implementation. As part of the mid-term review, the current state-of-play regarding predicted 'legacy of history' impacts and the effect of intervention actions undertaken to that time (as assessed by the rolling five-year review and audit process) will be collated into a new Basin Salinity Audit.

The partner Governments will finalise end-of-valley targets and establish the necessary end-of-valley monitoring network to assist in assessing progress towards targets.



The mid-term review will confirm arrangements for the proposed extension to the new joint works program beyond 2007 to ensure that the Morgan target will be maintained. A Council statement may be made on the outcomes of the mid-term review.

4.2.2 Beyond this Strategy - post 2015

The life of this Strategy extends to 2015, however it is recognised that salinity management is a long-term challenge that will extend well beyond that date.

As this Strategy is implemented, consideration will be given to the most appropriate framework for salinity management beyond 2015. The Commission and Council will ensure that a seamless transition occurs from this Strategy to the subsequent framework.

Abbreviations

ACT	- Australian Capital Territory
BSMS	- Basin Salinity Management Strategy
CRC	- Cooperative Research Centre
EC	- Electrical conductivity
ha	- hectares
ICM	- Integrated Catchment Management
JVAP	- Joint Venture Agroforestry Program
LWMP	- Land and Water Management Plans
MDBA	- Murray-Darling Basin Agreement
MDBMC	- Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council
NDSP	- National Dryland Salinity Program
NAP	- National Action Plan
NSW	- New South Wales
R & D	- research and development
S & D	- Salinity and Drainage
SDE	- Salt disposal entitlements

This Strategy extends to 2015, but salinity management will require an appropriate framework beyond that date.

