



LINKAGES

11. LINKAGES across Objectives, Targets and Actions

11.1 Relationship to the National framework for targets

Through the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council, there is a national framework of targets for which regions need to set their own regional targets. The national framework contains three broad types of targets:

- Aspirational targets - aspirational statements about the desired condition of the natural resources in the longer term, used to guide regional planning and set a context for more measurable short-term targets.
- Resource condition targets - specific and measurable targets for the condition of catchment assets and their values, often with a timeframe in the range of 10-20 years.
- Management action targets - short term targets relating mainly to actions or capacity-building, which contribute to achievement of the resource condition targets and aspirational targets.

In this RCS, we have developed a framework of objectives (comparable to aspirational targets), targets (comparable to resource condition targets) and actions (comparable to management action targets).

Within the national framework, there is also an identified minimum set of “matters for targets” for which all regions must set targets in order to gain accreditation. These matters for targets have been addressed in this RCS as shown in the table in Section 11.2.



11.2 Summary of RCS objectives, targets and actions in the National framework

Matters for targets and other key issues addressed within the RCS	RCS Objectives (comparable to “Aspirational Targets”)	RCS Targets (comparable to “Resource Condition Targets”)	RCS Actions (comparable to “Management Action Targets”)
Land salinity (National matter for target)	LO2 - Protect and improve the health of land	LT2 - No more than a 10 per cent increase (from 2004 levels) in the area with shallow water tables (<2m) and the area of saline discharge	LA4 - Undertake detailed mapping and modelling of salinity hotspots as a basis for completing and implementing the regional Salinity Management Plan
Soil condition (National matter for target)	LO2 - Protect and improve the health of land	LT2 - No more than a 10 per cent increase (from 2004 levels) in the area with shallow water tables (<2m) and the area of saline discharge LT3 - The structure and biological health of the region's soils maintained LT5 - 'Long-term' rabbit control achieved on 400,000 ha of rural land by 2008 LT7 - Increase the area for which rural land use matches land capability	WA6 - Map the land-based sources of nutrients, sediments and other pollutants to waterways, Port Phillip Bay and Western Port and develop and implement a Regional Water Quality Improvement Plan to address the major sources LA2 - Develop a comprehensive risk assessment of rural and urban-rural land use compared to land capability LA3 - Develop and apply a comprehensive risk assessment of soil health as a basis for development of a Regional Soil Health Plan LA4 - Undertake detailed mapping and modelling of salinity hotspots as a basis for completing and implementing the regional Salinity Management Plan LA10 - Design and deliver programs to achieve adoption of environmental management systems across 25 per cent of the region's commercial horticulture, viticulture, dairying and intensive animal enterprises LA9 - Implement the regional weed and rabbit action plans
Ecologically significant invasive species (National matter for target)	WO5 - Ensure the management of water resources minimises risks to natural ecosystems, public land, private assets and public safety LO5 - Provide a high-quality network of parks and open space across urban and rural areas managed for community and environmental benefit BO5 - Encourage intelligent use of introduced flora and fauna species with minimal impacts on indigenous habitats and species	LT4 - No establishment of 'new and emerging' weed species, and no further spread of 'high-priority established' weeds LT5 - 'Long-term' rabbit control across 400,000 ha of rural land by 2008 BT9 - No human-induced reduction in species diversity for the freshwater, estuarine and marine environments of the region	BA8 - Assess the risks to biodiversity from pest plants and animals, and establish integrated management programs to reduce the impact of environmental weeds and pest animals on native vegetation and fauna BA13 - Develop and implement programs to prevent the introduction and spread of marine pests in the region

Matters for targets and other key issues addressed within the RCS	RCS Objectives (comparable to “Aspirational Targets”)	RCS Targets (comparable to “Resource Condition Targets”)	RCS Actions (comparable to “Management Action Targets”)
Significant native species and ecological communities (National matter for target)	WO5 - Ensure the management of water resources minimises risks to natural ecosystems, public land, private assets and public safety LO3 - Ensure sensitively located and functional urban areas with minimal impacts on the region's biodiversity, water resources and heritage values LO4 - Match rural land-use, development and management to land capability and minimise impacts on the region's biodiversity, water resources and heritage values BO1 - Achieve a net gain in the quantity and quality of indigenous vegetation BO2 - Maintain the diversity of indigenous habitats and species in terrestrial, aquatic and marine environments BO3 - Achieve sustainable populations of indigenous flora and fauna species BO4 - Improve connectivity and long-term security of indigenous habitats and species BO5 - Encourage intelligent use of introduced flora and fauna species with minimal impacts on indigenous habitats and species	WT15 - No net loss in the extent and health of wetlands of each existing type WT18 - A net gain in the extent and quality of native coastal vegetation, as measured by habitat hectares LT10 - Increase the environmental quality of parks and other public land, and the community satisfaction with these features BT1 - The total extent of indigenous vegetation increased to at least 35% of the region by 2030 BT2 - At least 95% of the region's ecological vegetation classes (EVC) represented to at least 10% of their pre-1750 extent by 2030 BT3 - A net gain in the quality and extent of native vegetation in the region, with the total "habitat hectares" increased by 10% by 2030 BT4 - All ecological vegetation classes in the region to have at least 15% of their current extent protected by 2030 BT5 - Reduce the number of threatened flora species to less than 250 by 2030, and reduce the number of threatened fauna species to less than 100 by 2030, with no further regional extinctions BT7 - Increase the diversity of native species in modified landscapes and aquatic systems BT8 - Achieve a net gain in the extent and quality of seagrass communities by 2020 and retain the extent of all other broad marine habitat classes in the region at 2004 levels BT9 - No human-induced reduction in species diversity for the freshwater, estuarine and marine environments of the region	WA32 - Implement Wetland Management Plans for all three Ramsar wetland areas in the region (Port Phillip – Western Shoreline, Western Port and Edithvale-Seafood) WA37 - Develop and implement plans to increase the extent and quality of coastal ecological vegetation classes BA1 - Finalise and implement the regional Native Vegetation Plan including programs to protect, maintain or enhance existing high quality vegetation, increase connectivity and revegetate heavily-depleted native vegetation types BA2 - Strengthen the controls on the clearing of native vegetation and ensure adequate implementation and enforcement BA3 - Undertake a program of education, training and support for local government and other organisations to achieve consistency in the understanding and application of operational guidelines for vegetation protection and other mechanisms to achieve net gain BA4 - Undertake further mapping of native vegetation extent to assist vegetation protection measures by State government, local government and community groups BA5 - Assess and map the habitat hectare values of native vegetation in the region BA6 - Increase the area and quality of heavily depleted vegetation types protected in parks/reserves or under covenant programs BA7 - Develop and implement mechanisms to offset native vegetation clearance and achieve a net gain in habitat hectares BA8 - Assess the risks to biodiversity from pest plants and animals, and establish integrated management programs to reduce the impact of environmental weeds and pest animals on native vegetation and fauna BA9 - Develop and implement Biodiversity Action Plans, Flora and Fauna Guarantee Action Statements and recovery programs for threatened species and communities in the region's terrestrial and aquatic systems

Matters for targets and other key issues addressed within the RCS	RCS Objectives (comparable to “Aspirational Targets”)	RCS Targets (comparable to “Resource Condition Targets”)	RCS Actions (comparable to “Management Action Targets”)
Inland aquatic ecosystem integrity – rivers (National matter for target)	<p>WO1 – Ensure efficient management of water resources with minimal new impact on natural hydrological processes</p> <p>WO2 - Protect and improve the environmental health and social and economic values of waterways and wetlands</p> <p>WO4 - Improve water quality in waterways, aquifers, wetlands, estuaries, bays and seas</p> <p>WO5 - Ensure the management of water resources minimises risks to natural ecosystems, public land, private assets and public safety</p> <p>LO3 - Ensure sensitively located and functional urban areas with minimal impacts on the region's biodiversity, water resources and heritage values</p> <p>LO4 - Match rural land-use, development and management to land capability and minimise impacts on the region's biodiversity, water resources and heritage values</p> <p>BO2 - Maintain the diversity of indigenous habitats and species in terrestrial, aquatic and marine environments</p>	<p>WT1 - Average potable water consumption per person to be reduced by 15% by 2010</p> <p>WT2 - The volume of recycled water used in the region increased to 20% of the total treated volume by 2010</p> <p>WT3 - Diversions from all waterways to be within Sustainable Diversion Limits by 2015</p> <p>WT5 - Maintain the condition of the 13% of the region's rivers that are currently in excellent condition</p> <p>WT6 - Improve the condition of the region's waterways so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 50% of all natural waterways will be in good or excellent condition by 2014 All natural waterways will be in good or excellent condition by 2025 <p>WT7 - Progressive improvement in the condition of waterways across the region as measured by the Index of Stream Condition, including beds and banks, streamside zone and aquatic life</p> <p>WT8 - Improve the water quality in rivers and streams so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 80% of monitoring sites attain SEPP objectives or regional targets by 2009 All monitoring sites attain SEPP objectives or regional targets by 2030 <p>WT10 - No loss of hydraulic capacity and environmental values of flood plains</p> <p>BT7 - Increase the diversity of native species in modified landscapes and aquatic systems</p> <p>BT9 - No human-induced reduction in species diversity for the freshwater, estuarine and marine environments of the region</p>	<p>WA1 - Implement the relevant directions of the 'White Paper –Securing our water future together'</p> <p>WA2 - Determine, and ensure compliance with Sustainable Diversion Limits and Bulk Water Entitlements for the region.</p> <p>WA3 - Implement the State Government's policy for the establishment of diversion caps and an environmental reserve for the region's rivers</p> <p>WA4 - Complete Stream Flow Management Plans for priority waterways plus additional waterways as required</p> <p>WA5 - Develop local stream flow management rules for waterways where Stream Flow Management Plans are not required</p> <p>WA6 - Map the land-based sources of nutrients, sediments and other pollutants to waterways, Port Phillip Bay and Western Port and develop and implement a Regional Water Quality Improvement Plan to address the major sources</p> <p>WA7 - Implement the Port Phillip and Westernport Regional River Health Strategy.</p> <p>WA15 - Investigate the hydrological and ecological relationships between ground and surface waters and develop catchment-based water budgets</p> <p>WA18 - Continue regular assessment of the Index of Stream Condition across the region.</p> <p>BA12 - Develop and implement Fishery Management Plans for the region</p> <p>BA14 - Investigate and record the diversity of native freshwater fish species in the region and the extent and health of the populations, and establish links between this data and planning approval processes</p>

Matters for targets and other key issues addressed within the RCS	RCS Objectives (comparable to “Aspirational Targets”)	RCS Targets (comparable to “Resource Condition Targets”)	RCS Actions (comparable to “Management Action Targets”)
Inland aquatic ecosystem integrity – wetlands (National matter for target)	<p>WO1 - Ensure efficient management of water resources with minimal new impact on natural hydrological processes</p> <p>WO2 - Protect and improve the environmental health and social and economic values of waterways and wetlands</p> <p>WO4 - Improve water quality in waterways, aquifers, wetlands, estuaries, bays and seas</p> <p>WO5 - Ensure the management of water resources minimises risks to natural ecosystems, public land, private assets and public safety</p> <p>LO3 - Ensure sensitively located and functional urban areas with minimal impacts on the region's biodiversity, water resources and heritage values</p> <p>LO4 - Match rural land-use, development and management to land capability and minimise impacts on the region's biodiversity, water resources and heritage values</p>	<p>WT8 - Improve the water quality in rivers and streams so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 80% of monitoring sites attain SEPP objectives or regional targets by 2009 All monitoring sites attain SEPP objectives or regional targets by 2030 <p>WT9 - No loss of hydraulic capacity and environmental values of flood plains</p> <p>WT15 - No net loss in the extent and health of wetlands of each existing type</p> <p>WT16 – Progressively improve the overall health and social value of natural wetlands, including those that are nationally and internationally recognised</p>	<p>WA6 - Map the land-based sources of nutrients, sediments and other pollutants to waterways, Port Phillip Bay and Western Port and develop and implement a Regional Water Quality Improvement Plan to address the major sources</p> <p>WA7 - Implement the Port Phillip and Westernport Regional River Health Strategy.</p> <p>WA28 - Develop and apply an Index of Wetland Condition method to determine the overall health of wetlands in the region and establish a benchmark to measure change into the future.</p> <p>WA29 - Consolidate and distribute data on regional wetlands to relevant stakeholders, including local government, landholders and Kulin people</p> <p>WA30 - Develop a Regional Wetland Plan to establish and implement priorities for investment.</p> <p>WA31 - Develop planning policy and protocols that contribute to the protection of wetlands, and incorporate them in relevant planning schemes</p> <p>WA32 - Implement Wetland Management Plans for all three Ramsar wetland areas in the region (Port Phillip – Western Shoreline, Western Port and Edithvale-Seaford)</p>

Matters for targets and other key issues addressed within the RCS	RCS Objectives (comparable to “Aspirational Targets”)	RCS Targets (comparable to “Resource Condition Targets”)	RCS Actions (comparable to “Management Action Targets”)
Estuarine and marine habitat integrity (National matter for target)	<p>WO3 - Protect and improve the environmental health and social and economic values of estuarine, coastal and marine systems</p> <p>WO4 - Improve water quality in waterways, aquifers, wetlands, estuaries, bays and seas</p> <p>BO2 - Maintain the diversity of indigenous habitats and species in terrestrial, aquatic and marine environments</p>	<p>WT8 - Improve the water quality in rivers and streams so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 80% of monitoring sites attain SEPP objectives or regional targets by 2009 All monitoring sites attain SEPP objectives or regional targets by 2030 <p>WT21 - Improve water quality in estuaries, bays and seas so that all monitoring sites attain State environment protection policy objectives or regional targets by 2030</p> <p>WT22 - Reduce the average annual nitrogen levels entering Port Phillip Bay by 1000 tonnes by 2006</p> <p>WT23 - Reduce, by 2015, the total sediment load annually entering Western Port, as measured against existing benchmarks</p> <p>WT24 - Reduce the amount of litter and other gross pollutants entering Port Phillip Bay and Western Port by 70% by 2015</p> <p>BT8 - Achieve a net gain in the extent and quality of seagrass communities by 2020 and retain the extent of all other broad marine habitat classes in the region at 2004 levels</p> <p>BT9 - No human-induced reduction in species diversity for the freshwater, estuarine and marine environments of the region</p> <p>BT10 - Total annual seafood catch by both commercial and recreational fisheries to be maintained at ecologically sustainable levels</p>	<p>WA6 - Map the land-based sources of nutrients, sediments and other pollutants to waterways, Port Phillip Bay and Western Port and develop and implement a Regional Water Quality Improvement Plan to address the major sources</p> <p>WA34 - Communicate the requirements of contingency plans for oil spills to all relevant stakeholders</p> <p>WA41 - Continue to investigate marine ecosystems and the links with key threatening processes and identify an appropriate set of indicators and targets</p> <p>WA42 - Research the health of and risks to estuaries in the region</p> <p>WA44 - Implement the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan with a focus on reducing the annual nitrogen input into Port Phillip Bay by 1,000 tonnes per year and review and extend the plan to address additional risks to the Bay</p> <p>WA46 - Initiate research and major integrated programs to identify the specific sources and reduce the inputs of sediments, nutrients and other pollutants to Western Port</p> <p>WA47 - Refine and implement key actions in municipal Stormwater Management Plans to reduce inputs of sediments, nutrients, toxicants and litter to the bay</p> <p>WA48 - Implement ammonia reduction work at the Eastern Treatment Plant by 2007</p> <p>WA51 - Ensure adoption of best management practices for marine dredging</p> <p>WA52 - Regularly review the marine pollution contingency plans to ensure world's best practice procedures are incorporated</p> <p>WA53 - Develop and implement a coordinated monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework regarding the condition of the region's marine environment, risk and effectiveness of actions</p> <p>BA11 - Develop and implement Action Plans for the region's 8 Marine Protected Areas and other areas with special values</p> <p>BA12 - Develop and implement Fishery Management Plans for the region</p> <p>BA13 - Develop and implement programs to prevent the introduction and spread of marine pests in the region</p>

Matters for targets and other key issues addressed within the RCS	RCS Objectives (comparable to “Aspirational Targets”)	RCS Targets (comparable to “Resource Condition Targets”)	RCS Actions (comparable to “Management Action Targets”)
Coastal habitat integrity (National matter for target)	<p>WO3 - Protect and improve the environmental health and economic values of estuarine, coastal and marine systems</p> <p>WO4 - Improve water quality in waterways, aquifers, wetlands, estuaries, bays and seas</p>	<p>WT17 - Reduce the proportion of coast in the region where environmental values, recreational beaches, Indigenous cultural values and public infrastructure are at high risk from accelerated coastal erosion and other degrading processes.</p> <p>WT18 - A net gain in the extent and quality of native coastal vegetation as measured by habitat hectares</p>	<p>WA35 - Map areas susceptible to inundation in Port Phillip Bay, and Western Port.</p> <p>WA36 - Map the occurrence of coastal acid sulphate soils and develop overlays for inclusion in relevant planning schemes</p> <p>WA37 - Develop and implement plans to increase the extent and quality of coastal ecological vegetation classes</p> <p>WA38 - Ensure planning schemes in coastal areas reflect the content of the Victorian Coastal Strategy</p> <p>WA39 - Audit coastal public facilities and develop guidelines for coastal infrastructure that reflect environmental and social values and provide for public access and use</p> <p>WA40 - Identify coastal areas with significant stormwater and sewage effluent discharge directly to the bays and implement programs to manage the quantity and quality of these discharges</p> <p>WA49 - Implement priority litter management programs that include installation of gross pollutant traps at key sites on drainage systems</p>

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<p>Nutrients in aquatic environments (National matter for target)</p>	<p>WO4 – Improve water quality in waterways, aquifers, wetlands, estuaries, bays and seas</p>	<p>WT8 - Improve the water quality in rivers and streams so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 80% of monitoring sites attain SEPP objectives or regional targets by 2009 All monitoring sites attain SEPP objectives or regional targets by 2030 <p>WT21 - Improve water quality in estuaries, bays and seas so that all monitoring sites attain State environment protection policy objectives or regional targets by 2030</p> <p>WT22 - Reduce the average annual nitrogen levels entering Port Phillip Bay by 1000 tonnes by 2006</p>	<p>WA6 - Map the land-based sources of nutrients, sediments and other pollutants to waterways, Port Phillip Bay and Western Port and develop and implement a Regional Water Quality Improvement Plan to address the major sources</p> <p>WA9 - Complete an audit of stormwater management plan implementation for all municipalities and design and implement a program to address key gaps</p> <p>WA10 - Meet best practice standards in urban stormwater discharges in new urban areas</p> <p>WA17 - Review and implement a surface and ground water quality monitoring system to ensure adequate and coordinated coverage across the region, including reservoirs, high discharge areas, bays and seas, high rainfall events and nutrient loads</p> <p>WA40 - Identify coastal areas with significant stormwater and sewage effluent discharge directly to the bays and implement programs to manage the quantity and quality of these discharges</p> <p>WA44 - Implement the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan with a focus on reducing the annual nitrogen input into Port Phillip Bay by 1,000 tonnes per year and review and extend the plan to address additional risks to the Bay</p> <p>WA45 - Investigate and pilot ways for new nitrogen inputs to Port Phillip Bay to be offset by reduced inputs from elsewhere</p> <p>WA46 - Initiate research and major integrated programs to identify the specific sources and reduce the inputs of sediments, nutrients and other pollutants to Western Port</p> <p>WA47 - Refine and implement key actions in municipal Stormwater Management Plans to reduce inputs of sediments, nutrients, toxicants and litter to the bay</p>

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<p>Turbidity/suspended particulate matter in aquatic environments (National matter for target)</p>	<p>WO4 - Improve water quality in waterways, aquifers, wetlands, estuaries, bays and seas</p>	<p>WT8 - Improve the water quality in rivers and streams so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 80% of monitoring sites attain SEPP objectives or regional targets by 2009 All monitoring sites attain SEPP objectives or regional targets by 2030 <p>WT23 - Reduce, by 2015, the total sediment load annually entering Western Port, as measured against existing benchmarks</p>	<p>WA6 - Map the land-based sources of nutrients, sediments and other pollutants to waterways, Port Phillip Bay and Western Port and develop and implement a Regional Water Quality Improvement Plan to address the major sources</p> <p>WA9 - Complete an audit of stormwater management plan implementation for all municipalities and design and implement a program to address key gaps</p> <p>WA10 - Meet best practice standards in urban stormwater discharges in new urban areas</p> <p>WA17 - Review and implement a surface and ground water quality monitoring system to ensure adequate and coordinated coverage across the region, including reservoirs, high discharge areas, bays and seas, high rainfall events and nutrient loads</p> <p>WA18 - Continue regular assessment of the Index of Stream Condition across the region.</p> <p>WA46 - Initiate research and major integrated programs to identify the specific sources and reduce the inputs of sediments, nutrients and other pollutants to Western Port</p> <p>WA47 - Refine and implement key actions in municipal Stormwater Management Plans to reduce inputs of sediments, nutrients, toxicants and litter to the bay</p>

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Surface water salinity in freshwater aquatic environments (National matter for target)	WO4 - Improve water quality in waterways, aquifers, wetlands, estuaries, bays and seas	<p>WT8 - Improve the water quality in rivers and streams so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 80% of monitoring sites attain SEPP objectives or regional targets by 2009 All monitoring sites attain SEPP objectives or regional targets by 2030 	<p>WA6 - Map the land-based sources of nutrients, sediments and other pollutants to waterways, Port Phillip Bay and Western Port and develop and implement a Regional Water Quality Improvement Plan to address the major sources</p> <p>WA15 - Investigate the hydrological and ecological relationships between surface waters and groundwater and develop catchment-based water budgets</p> <p>WA17 - Review and implement a surface and ground water quality monitoring system to ensure adequate and coordinated coverage across the region, including reservoirs, high discharge areas, bays and seas, high rainfall events and nutrient loads</p> <p>WA18 - Continue regular assessment of the Index of Stream Condition across the region.</p> <p>LA4 - Undertake detailed mapping and modelling of salinity hotspots as a basis for completing and implementing the regional Salinity Management Plan</p>

Matters for targets and other key issues addressed within the RCS	RCS Objectives (comparable to “Aspirational Targets”)	RCS Targets (comparable to “Resource Condition Targets”)	RCS Actions (comparable to “Management Action Targets”)
Groundwater (National matter for target)	<p>WO1 - Ensure efficient management of water resources with minimal new impact on natural hydrological processes</p> <p>WO4 - Improve water quality in waterways, aquifers, wetlands, estuaries, bays and seas</p>	<p>WT11 - Levels of extraction from each GMA in the region to be within the permissible annual volume by 2009</p> <p>WT12 - Groundwater levels in key regional aquifers to be stabilised at sustainable levels by 2025</p> <p>WT13 - Progressively increase the average value of production per megalitre of groundwater extracted</p> <p>WT14 - All groundwater monitoring sites to attain State environmental protection policy objectives or regional targets by 2030</p>	<p>WA15 - Investigate the hydrological and ecological relationships between surface waters and groundwater and develop catchment-based water budgets</p> <p>WA16 - Benchmark rural water use efficiency in major agricultural areas and increase water use efficiency by agricultural industries</p> <p>WA19 - Clarify the organisational arrangements for the management of aquifers and groundwater in this region</p> <p>WA20 - Further develop the regional risk assessment model to identify the level of risk facing groundwater assets</p> <p>WA21 - Complete Groundwater Management Plans for all GMAs with allocations that approach or exceed their permissible annual volume</p> <p>WA22 - Assess the practices and efficiency of groundwater use in GMAs and develop strategies to achieve higher efficiency and sustainable use of groundwater</p> <p>WA23 - Develop and implement groundwater quality management plans for GMAs with a high level of risk to groundwater quality</p> <p>WA24 - Develop guidelines and codes of practice for the management of risks to groundwater quality, and undertake programs with relevant land and water managers</p> <p>WA25 - In the local governments that contain GMAs, develop planning scheme guidelines/regulations to protect groundwater quality</p> <p>WA26 - Meter all significant existing groundwater extractions used for commercial and irrigation purposes and all new licenses and monitor groundwater levels within key aquifers to assess trends in relation to sustainable levels</p> <p>WA27 - Develop and implement a comprehensive regional ground water quality monitoring and evaluation program</p>

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Sustainable production	<p>LO1 - Achieve prosperous and sustainable primary production systems</p>	<p>LT1 - Increase the overall real net farm income per hectare and increase the proportion of rural land being used for profitable and sustainable agriculture</p> <p>BT10 - Total annual seafood catch by both commercial and recreational fisheries to be maintained at ecologically sustainable levels</p>	<p>LA1 - Develop a comprehensive profile and understanding of rural land ownership in the region as a basis for determining appropriate land use and management.</p> <p>LA5 - Develop and implement a strategic plan to promote productive and sustainable agriculture in the region</p> <p>LA7 - Investigate and promote market-based mechanisms that reward landholders providing environmental services</p> <p>LA8 - Capitalise on opportunities within greenhouse gas abatement programs to create carbon dioxide sinks and modify production systems</p> <p>LA10 - Design and deliver programs to achieve adoption of environmental management systems across 25 per cent of the region’s commercial horticulture, viticulture, dairy and intensive animal enterprises</p> <p>LA11 - Implement the regional Farm Forestry Action Plan to increase the area of farm forestry in the region by 25 per cent</p> <p>BA12 - Develop and implement Fishery Management Plans for the region</p>
Open space	<p>LO5 - Provide a high-quality network of parks and open space across urban and rural areas managed for community and environmental benefit</p>	<p>LT6 - All new urban development kept within urban growth and township boundaries</p> <p>LT9 - Increase the ratio of urban open space to total urban area and the connectivity between regional open space and habitat assets</p> <p>LT10 - Increase the environmental quality of parks and other public land, and the community satisfaction with these features</p>	<p>LA6 - Develop and implement urban growth area and green wedge action plans, as identified in Melbourne 2030, in line with the principles, objectives and targets of the RCS</p> <p>LA12 - Increase and extend the park system in the region, and implement best management practices for parks and other public land</p> <p>LA13 - Ensure that urban design considers landscape and catchment values through the development of performance standards for planning applications and building permits that include water sensitive design and other environmental and catchment parameters</p>

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Public infrastructure protection	<p>WO5 - Ensure the management of water resources minimises risks to natural ecosystems, public land, private assets and public safety</p>	<p>WT9 - No loss of hydraulic capacity and environmental values of flood plains</p> <p>WT10 - Timely flood warnings provided for all major waterways and risks to infrastructure minimised</p> <p>WT17 - Reduce the proportion of coast in the region where environmental values, recreational beaches, Indigenous cultural values and public infrastructure are at high risk from accelerated coastal erosion and other degrading processes.</p>	<p>WA11 - Reduce by 500 the number of properties vulnerable to a one in 100 years flood</p> <p>WA12 - All new developments constructed with floor levels at the required safety margin above one in 100 years flood levels</p> <p>WA33 - Investigate, assess and manage accelerated coastal erosion and other degrading processes at high value sites where recreation, heritage, Indigenous culture, environmental values and public infrastructure are at risk</p> <p>WA35 - Map areas susceptible to inundation in Port Phillip Bay, and Western Port</p>
Urban development	<p>LO3 - Ensure sensitively located and functional urban areas with minimal impacts on the region’s biodiversity, water resources and heritage values</p>	<p>LT6 - All new urban development kept within urban growth and township boundaries</p>	<p>WA10 - Meet best practice standards in urban stormwater discharges in new urban areas</p> <p>WA12 - All new developments constructed with floor levels at the required safety margin above one in 100 years flood levels</p> <p>LA6 - Develop and implement urban growth area and green wedge action plans, as identified in Melbourne 2030, in line with the principles, objectives and targets of the RCS</p> <p>LA13 - Ensure that urban design considers landscape and catchment values through the development of performance standards for planning applications and building permits that include water sensitive design and other environmental and catchment parameters</p>

Matters for targets and other key issues addressed within the RCS	RCS Objectives (comparable to “Aspirational Targets”)	RCS Targets (comparable to “Resource Condition Targets”)	RCS Actions (comparable to “Management Action Targets”)
Rural land management	<p>WO1 - Ensure efficient management of water resources with minimal new impact on natural hydrological processes</p> <p>LO1 – Achieve prosperous and sustainable primary production systems</p> <p>LO2 – Protect and improve the health of land</p> <p>LO3 - Ensure sensitively located and functional urban and urban-rural fringe areas with minimal impacts on the region’s biodiversity, water resources and heritage values</p> <p>LO4 - Match rural land-use, development and management to land capability and minimise impacts on the region’s biodiversity, water resources and heritage values</p> <p>BO5 - Encourage intelligent use of introduced flora and fauna species with minimal impacts on indigenous habitats and species</p>	<p>WT4 – Improved average value of irrigated agricultural production per megalitre</p> <p>WT13 – Progressively increase the average value of production per megalitre of groundwater extracted</p> <p>L T1 – Increase the overall real net farm income per hectare and increase the proportion of rural land being used for profitable and sustainable agriculture</p> <p>L T3 – The structure and biological health of the region’s soils maintained</p> <p>L T4 – No establishment of ‘new and emerging’ weed species, and no further spread of ‘high-priority established’ weeds</p> <p>L T5 – ‘Long-term’ rabbit control achieved on 400,00[0]0 ha of rural land by 2008</p> <p>L T7 - Increase the area for which rural land use matches land capability</p> <p>L T8 -All designated water supply catchments delivering water of the required quality</p> <p>BT7 - Increase the diversity of native species in modified landscapes</p>	<p>WA14 – Develop and implement Special Area Plans for water supply catchments where appropriate</p> <p>WA16 – Benchmark rural water use efficiency in major agricultural areas and promote greater water use efficiency by agricultural industries</p> <p>LA1 – Develop a comprehensive profile and understanding of rural land ownership and regional demographics as a basis for determining appropriate land use and management</p> <p>LA2 - Develop a comprehensive risk assessment of rural and urban-rural land use compared to land capability</p> <p>LA3 – Develop and apply a methodology for comprehensive risk assessment of soil health, as a basis for development of a Regional Soil Health Plan</p> <p>LA5 – Develop and implement a strategic plan to promote productive and sustainable agriculture in the region</p> <p>LA6 - Develop and implement urban growth area and green wedge action plans, as identified in Melbourne 2030, and major transport planning, in line with the principles, objectives and targets of the RCS</p> <p>LA7 - Investigate and promote market-based mechanisms that reward landholders providing environmental services</p> <p>LA8 - Capitalise on opportunities within greenhouse gas abatement programs to create carbon dioxide sinks and modify production systems</p> <p>LA9 – Implement the regional Weed and Rabbit Action Plans</p> <p>LA10 – Design and deliver programs to achieve adoption of environmental management systems across 25 per cent of the region’s commercial horticulture, viticulture, dairying and intensive animal enterprises</p> <p>LA11 - Implement a regional Farm Forestry Action Plan to increase the area of farm forestry in the region by 25 per cent</p>

Matters for targets and other key issues addressed within the RCS	RCS Objectives (comparable to “Aspirational Targets”)	RCS Targets (comparable to “Resource Condition Targets”)	RCS Actions (comparable to “Management Action Targets”)
Regional coordination	<p>PO1 - Enhance regional planning, coordination and resource allocation</p>	<p>PT1 - All key catchment management stakeholders participating in and agreeing on an annual ‘regional investment planning’ process to implement the RCS by 2005</p> <p>PT2 - All Victorian government agencies with key roles in catchment management are directly implementing the RCS through their annual works programs by 2006</p> <p>PT3 - At least half the region’s 38 councils to have formally adopted the RCS as a reference document, reflecting relevant sections of it appropriately in their planning schemes and implementing relevant actions through their annual programs</p> <p>PT4 - Each year to 2008, secure an increase in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proportion of available Victorian and Australian government funding for RCS programs in the region • the total amount of corporate investment in RCS programs <p>PT5 - Maintain or increase the number and geographic coverage of community groups participating in catchment management in the region, and increase the active membership of community groups by 20 per cent (from 2001 levels) by 2008</p> <p>PT6 - Increase community awareness and understanding of the condition of catchment assets and associated trends</p>	<p>PA1 - Review existing forums and committee structures and identify efficient ways to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan and conduct community involvement in integrated catchment management • facilitate coordination and share information • identify local issues and develop priority programs <p>PA2 - Establish a whole-of-region research forum</p> <p>PA3 - Establish sub-regional forums that enable local government to identify, discuss and resolve priority issues relevant to catchment management and to cooperate at a catchment scale</p> <p>PA4 - Establish forums that enable rural communities, industries and landholders to identify, discuss and resolve priority issues relevant to catchment management including rural development, land use and land management</p> <p>PA5 - Develop and implement protocols for the involvement of Indigenous groups and incorporation of Indigenous cultural values in the implementation of this RCS</p> <p>PA6 - Develop and deliver education programs for catchment management across the region</p> <p>PA7 - Align the directions and actions of the RCS with Municipal Strategic Statements and other local government processes related to catchment management</p> <p>PA8 - Implement the strategy for the support and coordination of Landcare and community groups in the Port Phillip and Western Port region</p>

Matters for targets and other key issues addressed within the RCS	RCS Objectives (comparable to “Aspirational Targets”)	RCS Targets (comparable to “Resource Condition Targets”)	RCS Actions (comparable to “Management Action Targets”)
Community capacity building	PO2 – Increase the capacity and participation of people and organisations in catchment management	<p>PT4 - Each year to 2008, secure an increase in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proportion of available Victorian and Australian government funding for RCS programs in the region the total amount of corporate investment in RCS programs <p>PT5 - Maintain or increase the number and geographic coverage of community groups in the region, and increase the active membership of community groups by 20 per cent (from 2001 levels) by 2008</p> <p>PT6 - Increase community awareness and understanding of the condition of catchment assets and associated trends</p>	<p>PA1 - Review existing forums and committee structures and identify efficient ways to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> plan and conduct community involvement in integrated catchment management facilitate coordination and share information identify local issues and develop priority programs <p>PA4 - Establish forums that enable rural communities, industries and landholders to identify, discuss and resolve priority issues relevant to catchment management including rural development, land use and land management</p> <p>PA5 - Develop and implement protocols for the involvement of Indigenous groups and incorporation of Indigenous cultural values in the implementation of this RCS</p> <p>PA8 - Implement the strategy for the support and coordination of Landcare and community groups in the Port Phillip and Western Port region</p> <p>PA 10 - In the catchments of the region, develop and begin implementing a major project that fully engages and involves key stakeholders and that attract major new funding</p>

Matters for targets and other key issues addressed within the RCS	RCS Objectives (comparable to “Aspirational Targets”)	RCS Targets (comparable to “Resource Condition Targets”)	RCS Actions (comparable to “Management Action Targets”)
Reducing our ecological footprint	PO3 - Reduce the overall impact of the regional community on catchment assets	PT7 - Maintain the region's total ecological footprint at or below at the 2003 level, and reduce the average ecological footprint (per capita) for the region by 25 per cent by 2030	PA9 - Pilot and evaluate the use of methodologies including the ecological footprint as an educational and monitoring tool to drive behavioural change in key sectors of the community, and identify opportunities for regional programs to reduce the total footprint
Nitrogen	WO4 - Improve water quality in waterways, aquifers, wetlands, estuaries, bays and seas	<p>WT8 - Improve the water quality in rivers and streams so that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 80% of monitoring sites attain SEPP objectives or regional targets by 2009 All monitoring sites attain SEPP objectives or regional targets by 2030 <p>WT21 - Improve water quality in estuaries, bays and seas so that all monitoring sites attain State environment protection policy objectives or regional targets by 2030</p> <p>WT22 - Reduce the average annual nitrogen levels entering Port Phillip Bay by 1000 tonnes by 2006</p>	<p>WA6 - Map the land-based sources of nutrients, sediments and other pollutants to waterways, Port Phillip Bay and Western Port and develop and implement a Regional Water Quality Improvement Plan to address the major sources</p> <p>WA10 - Meet best practice standards in urban stormwater discharges in new urban areas</p> <p>WA44 - Implement the Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan with a focus on reducing the annual nitrogen input into Port Phillip Bay by 1,000 tonnes per year and review and extend the plan to address additional risks to the Bay</p> <p>WA45 - Investigate and pilot ways for new nitrogen inputs to Port Phillip Bay to be offset by reduced inputs from elsewhere</p> <p>WA46 - Initiate research and major integrated programs to identify the specific sources and reduce the inputs of sediments, nutrients and other pollutants to Western Port</p> <p>LA13 - Ensure that urban design considers landscape and catchment values through the development of performance standards for planning applications and building permits that include water sensitive design and other environmental and catchment parameters</p>

Matters for targets and other key issues addressed within the RCS	RCS Objectives (comparable to “Aspirational Targets”)	RCS Targets (comparable to “Resource Condition Targets”)	RCS Actions (comparable to “Management Action Targets”)
Risk assessment	<p>MO1 - Adequate, appropriate, efficient and cost effective monitoring of catchment assets, ecosystem processes, trends, risks, implementation of actions and outputs</p> <p>MO2 - Timely, rigorous, efficient and cost effective evaluation of catchment management planning and implementation</p>	<p>MT3 - Evaluation processes to assist priority setting and assess links between actions and outcomes agreed and in place by 2008</p>	<p>WA20 - Further develop the regional risk assessment model to identify the level of risk facing groundwater assets</p> <p>LA2 - Develop a comprehensive risk assessment of rural and urban-rural land use compared to land capability</p> <p>LA3 – Develop and apply a methodology for comprehensive risk assessment of soil health, as a basis for development of a Regional Soil Health Plan</p> <p>BA8 - Assess the risks to biodiversity from pest plants and animals, and establish integrated management programs to reduce the impact of environmental weeds and pest animals on native vegetation and fauna</p> <p>MA3 - Further develop an asset-risk assessment methodology and apply it consistently to catchment assets to assist integrated priority setting</p>

Matters for targets and other key issues addressed within the RCS	RCS Objectives (comparable to “Aspirational Targets”)	RCS Targets (comparable to “Resource Condition Targets”)	RCS Actions (comparable to “Management Action Targets”)
Research and investigation	<p>MO1 - Adequate, appropriate, efficient and cost effective monitoring of catchment assets, ecosystem processes, trends, risks, implementation of actions and outputs</p> <p>MO2 - Timely, rigorous, efficient and cost effective evaluation of catchment management planning and implementation</p>	<p>MT3 - Evaluation processes to assist priority setting and assess links between actions and outcomes agreed and in place by 2008</p>	<p>WA15 - Investigate the hydrological and ecological relationships between surface waters and groundwater and develop catchment-based water budgets</p> <p>WA20 - Further develop the regional risk assessment model to identify the level of risk facing groundwater assets</p> <p>WA33 - Investigate, assess and manage accelerated coastal erosion and other degrading processes at high value sites where recreation, heritage, Indigenous culture, environmental values and public infrastructure are at risk</p> <p>WA41 - Continue to investigate marine ecosystems and the links with key threatening processes and identify an appropriate set of indicators and targets.</p> <p>WA42 - Research the health of and risks to estuaries in the region</p> <p>WA46 - Initiate research and major integrated programs to identify the specific sources and reduce the inputs of sediments, nutrients and other pollutants to Western Port</p> <p>LA2 - Develop a comprehensive risk assessment of rural and urban-rural land use compared to land capability</p> <p>LA3 – Develop and apply a methodology for comprehensive risk assessment of soil health, as a basis for development of a Regional Soil Health Plan</p> <p>LA4 - Undertake detailed mapping and modelling of salinity hotspots as a basis for completing and implementing the regional Salinity Management Plan</p> <p>BA8 - Assess the risks to biodiversity from pest plants and animals, and establish integrated management programs to reduce the impact of environmental weeds and pest animals on native vegetation and fauna</p> <p>BA14 - Investigate and record the diversity of native freshwater fish species in the region and the extent and health of the populations, and establish links between this data and planning approval processes</p> <p>BA15 - Develop an inventory of urban biodiversity and undertake research, community education and involvement campaigns to promote and pilot urban practices that contribute to the health of natural ecosystems</p> <p>PA2 - Establish a whole-of-region research forum to identify gaps and the needs for research and development</p> <p>MA3 - Further develop an asset-risk assessment methodology and apply it consistently to catchment assets to assist integrated priority setting</p>