

Management Target

[M TSA1]

By 2016, the EC and salt load levels for within valley sites in the Macquarie and Bogan Catchments will be:

Location	EC (percentiles)		Salt Load (percentiles)	
	50th	80th	50th	80th
Cudgegong (above Burrendong)	650	1021	21 000	73 000
Bruinbin (Macquarie above Burrendong)	363	1057	37 000	85 000
Downstream of Burrendong	240	418	184 000	277 000
Dubbo	330	622	261 900	345 800
Baroona	303	631	277 000	378 000
Marebone	407	735	120 774	197 554
Neurie Plains (Bogan)		800		

This target follows on from the river based catchment targets. This target sets out EC and salt load targets for various subcatchments within the Central West. This ensures that investment can be targeted in priority areas across the catchment.

The target is consistent with the targets outlined by the MDB Salinity Audit and NSW State Salinity Strategy. Further modelling is currently being undertaken for the catchment and the revised modelled figures will be incorporated when available.

A particular risk to the success of this catchment target is climatic conditions. A period of low flows in the river system will result in possible saline groundwater intrusions and a peak in the EC reading for that section of the river. This peak would be addressed in the long term monitoring of the EC readings in order to determine a long term trend.

The monitoring of this target will rely on the existing collection of instream EC and flow data, as collected by Department of Natural Resources.

Clarification of Terms

EC: A convenient method of measuring the salinity of water is by electrical conductivity (EC) measured in microsiemens per centimetre ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$). EC reflects the concentration of salt in the water.

Salt Load: The amount of salt carried in a specific volume of water within a certain time period.