



A fresh future for water

Denmark River — Salinity Situation Statement

Salinity recovery of the Denmark River — promising signs and a way forward

The key findings of the salinity situation statement are that:

- Annual salinity at the Mt Lindesay gauging station peaked at 1520 mg/L TDS in 1987 and has, on average, been declining since.
- Salinity in an average year is now about 700 mg/L at Mt Lindesay.
- Plantations established since 1988 are expected to further reduce the salinity of the river water but not enough to reach the drinking water target.
- There are feasible options to meet the 500 mg/L TDS target including tree planting, pasture establishment, revegetation and engineering works.
- Meeting the 500 mg/L target still means variability from about 400–800 mg/L.
- Most management options focus actions in the Upper Denmark catchment.

Salinity trends in the Denmark River

The Denmark River is currently used as a water source for the town of Denmark on the South Coast, and has the potential to become a major new water supply to support the ongoing development of the Denmark–Albany area.

The annual demand for Denmark is 400 000 kL (0.4 GL), but the river has the potential to yield up to 20 GL from a new damsite in the future.

