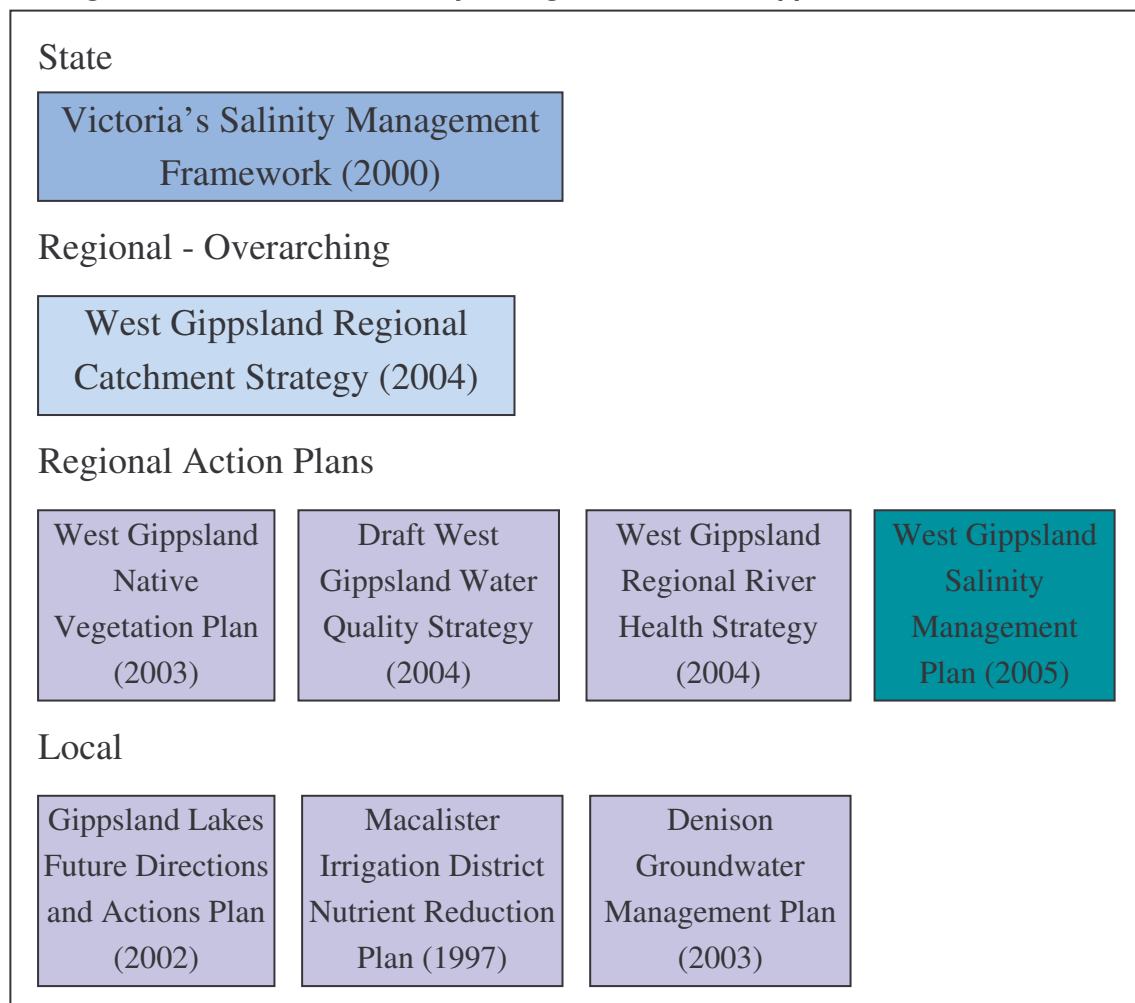


1.1 Planning framework

The key elements of the planning framework for this plan are shown in Figure 2. This salinity plan is an “action plan” of the West Gippsland Regional Catchment Strategy (2004) which provides the overarching framework for natural resource management for the region. Other “action plans” under the Regional Catchment Strategy also impact on salinity including those listed in Figure 2.

■ Figure 2: Framework for Salinity Management in West Gippsland



This plan provides a detailed blue print for salinity management in the region which builds on the broad strategic direction provided by the Regional Catchment Strategy and integrates the overlapping management issues detailed in other action plans. In addition to the local planning framework, this plan has also been moulded by the State and National salinity policies. The Government released Victoria's Salinity Management Framework: Restoring our Catchments in August 2000. This is the current Victorian management framework for salinity and provides the overarching direction for salinity management in the State. The Framework provides the impetus for the review and renewal of the States accredited salinity management plans including the Lake Wellington Catchment Salinity Management Plan. Many of the ideas and goals stated in the State's salinity framework have been used in the development of this plan.

More recently, the Victorian Government has released its “White Paper” on water reform (*Our Water Our Future*) that impacts on many of the local issues related to salinity management, particularly irrigation management (DSE, 2004). Some of the concepts in *Our Water Our Future* have been used to develop this salinity plan and are summarised in Appendix H. Also, this plan will help inform several new developments proposed in *Our Water Our Future* such as “sustainable water strategies” for regional water security planning and the proposed State Water Inventory.