

AN OVERVIEW OF THE MID MACQUARIE COMMUNITY SALINITY PRIORITISATION AND STRATEGIC DIRECTION PROJECT

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The Mid Macquarie region has identified dryland salinity as its second highest priority natural resource issue (with approximately 50,000 hectares severely affected and streams in the upper catchment recording stream water salinity at 6-7dS/m). Inadequate data, planning and community awareness has been hampering efforts to effectively deal with the problem. The Community Salinity Prioritisation and Strategic Direction Project (CSPSDP), funded by the National Heritage Trust and managed by Mid Macquarie Landcare, was implemented between 1999 and 2001 to remedy this lack of data and to ascertain community based goals related to salinity management. Outcomes of the project, including the mapping of vulnerable areas, an assessment of impacts of different management systems and the process and results of monitoring of stream water salinity, are discussed. Challenges faced in the implementation of the project are identified and future directions based on the project's results are outlined.

Presentation mode: Paper