## Do you have a salinity meter in your glove box?

What is the quality of water my livestock are drinking? Why has there been an increase in my stock water consumption? How do I keep my livestock healthy? What is the salinity level in my bore, wedge hole, tank, troughs?

If you find yourself asking these questions regularly perhaps it is time to consider purchasing your own Electrical Conductivity (EC) meter to measure the salinity of your water. Pocket sized meters are available which are appropriate for use around the farm and are not expensive.

Here are some of the potential uses:

- **Bore Monitoring**: Monitoring bore water quality is important for livestock health across the seasons. Extreme salinity levels in unconfined aquifers contribute to rusting of metal confined bore casings. Bore failure and high salinity levels can occur very suddenly.
- **Shandying**: If you shandy water, an EC meter allows you to monitor the salinity level of the output water.
- **Unconfined aquifer** salinity can vary significantly, depending on weather, season, depth to water table and adjacent land use.
- Mains water: Keep ahead of seasonal changes, especially in times of drought.
- Water troughs and tanks: Monitor for any spikes in salinity levels.
- Lower Lakes: Track salinity changes over time with wind and weather variations.
- Paddocks and soils: Identify salinity hotspots that affecting plant growth.
- In the domestic setting: Identifying when rainwater tanks need first-flush devices, identifying when the water salinity will impact on hot water services.

