





# Water Testing Service

Results are accompanied by advice on the suitability of the water for different agricultural applications. Further advice can be provided by Local Land Services advisory staff. We do not test or advise on the suitability of the water for human consumption.

Other tests that may be requested on the water sample include:

- Q ICP scan – useful in determining what elements are present in your water
- Q Nitrate, ammonium and phosphate – important when considering applications of fertiliser via irrigation water
- Q Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus
- Q Total Dissolved Solids
- Q Total Suspended Solids.

## Why test water?

Water quality can affect plants, soils, livestock, irrigation equipment, domestic use and general farm activities. Farm water comes from a number of different sources and so its quality varies. Knowing your water quality allows you to plan for water treatments to avoid problems caused by poor water quality. It is important to identify and correct water quality problems that may affect on-farm use and productivity.

Chemical changes cannot be detected by eye or smell and require chemical analysis to be detected. If you have any doubts about the quality of water you intend to use for irrigation, stock or domestic purposes, you should get it tested.

## When and how often?

Water quality can vary from season to season and may need to be monitored regularly. It is recommended that your water be tested before and sometimes during use. Regular monitoring will allow you to take remedial action before too much damage occurs or there is a loss of production.

Depending on the intended use of the water, the frequency of testing required will vary. Local Land Services advisory staff may be able to assist with planning when and how often to test your water.

## Using the kit

Sampling kits are available from NSW Department of Primary Industries customer service centres and offices throughout NSW and they are easy to use.

- Q Collect a water sample from the source you wish to test following the instructions on the kit
- Q Mail the kit back to the laboratory.

*Results and an invoice will be forwarded to you when testing is complete.*

**For a current price or more information contact our customer service centre on 1800 675 623, (02) 6626 1103 or visit our website at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/services/das](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/services/das)**

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