



## Livestock watering tips

Develop a water plan and reticulation scheme even if it takes 5 years to put in place.

### Daily water requirements

Daily water requirements for different classes of livestock are outlined in table 2. When estimating how much water should be allowed the following factors must be considered:

- Salinity of water
- Size of stock
- Species of stock
- Time of year
- Feed type
- Lactating animal
- Walking distance

### Water budgeting

When determining total water requirements, consider spillage, evaporation, cleaning, and seepage from dams in addition to stock requirements.

### Water troughs

Location is important for pasture utilisation. A central location in the paddock is ideal. Long troughs are not needed, provided flow rate is good. Troughs of 2.4m - 3.6m in length are recommended. Use portable troughs that can be shifted with stock to reduce costs.

### Flow rate into the trough - *This is the key*

Livestock should be able to come in and get a drink without waiting for water. Flow rates are outlined in table 3.

Animal	Litres per day
<b>SHEEP</b>	
Weaner	2-4
Adult dry sheep - grassland - saltbush	2-7 4-14
Ewes with lambs	4-10
<b>CATTLE</b>	
Weaners	25-50
Dry stock	35-80
Lactating cow - grassland - saltbush	40-100 70-140

Table 2: Livestock daily consumption

Mob size (DSE)	Suggested flow rate L per second
1000-2000	1-1.5
2000-3000	1.5-2
3000-5000	2-3
Greater than 5000	3

Table 3: Required flow rates

## DSE ratings for various classes of livestock

DSE stands for 'dry sheep equivalent' and is a standard unit used to compare the feed requirements of classes of livestock and to assess the carrying capacity of a farm or paddock.

The standard DSE is the amount of feed required by a 50 kg Merino sheep (wether or nonlactating, non-pregnant ewe) to maintain its weight at fat score 2.5.

Expressed in metabolisable energy or mega- joules/day one DSE is equivalent to 7.6 MJ/day. DSE ratings for stock types are shown in the table

	Mature ewes		Pregnant (last month)		Lactating		Average for year
	Dry	Single	Twin	Single	Twin		
40kg	0.9	1.2	1.4	2.6	3.7	1.5	
50kg	1.0	1.4	1.6	2.7	3.9	1.6	
60kg	1.2	1.6	1.9	2.9	4.4	1.8	
<b>Growing Lambs</b>							
Growth (g/day)	50	100	150				
20kg	0.6	0.8	1.0				
30kg	0.9	1.1	1.3				
40kg	1.0	1.3	1.5				
<b>Wethers</b>							
50kg	1.0						
60kg	1.2						
70kg	1.4						