

■ CIF5121 – Managing soil salinity in groundwater irrigated vineyards.

Project participants link monitoring to practice change

Feedback from participants in the NPSI/SARDI South East Salinity Monitoring Network suggests an improved capacity in the monitoring and management of soil salinity.



NPSI/SARDI salinity monitoring network participant, Kerry DeGaris, informs other irrigators of her experience with soil water extractors.

From soil to wine – Dan Newson is the regional viticulturist for a family owned wine company in the South East of South Australia. He frequently reports to managers on vineyard performance and his involvement in NPSI research has helped communicate the link between soil condition and the volumes and quality of fruit produced. “The availability of readily visualised soil data has helped me explain, to both my technical staff and managers, the impact of water management decisions on our soil and our product. It allows me to make more informed decisions on when to apply

flushing irrigations to maintain the quality of this product.”

What happens in the rest of the season? – Kerry DeGaris is a vineyard manager for a large corporate wine company in the South East of South Australia. Her involvement in NPSI funded research introduced the opportunity for more frequent measures of soil condition. “We monitor our salt status through annual plant and fruit measures and supplement with soils tests every five years. The tools

introduced in the NPSI project allow more frequent measurement on the soil and a much quicker turn around time on data. The combination of these tools with our

traditional sampling schedule means our management practices are becoming more preventative rather than reactive

