

Measure to Monitor

(a sub-project of Smarter Irrigation in SA)
South East, South Australia

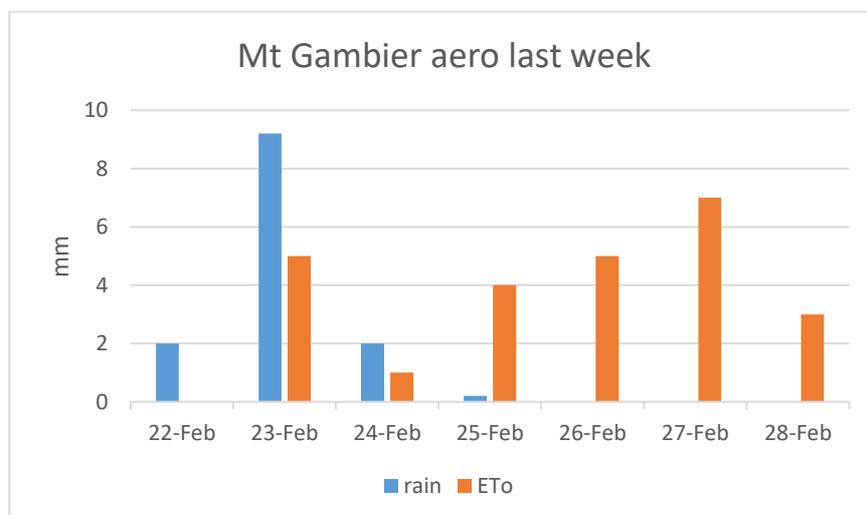
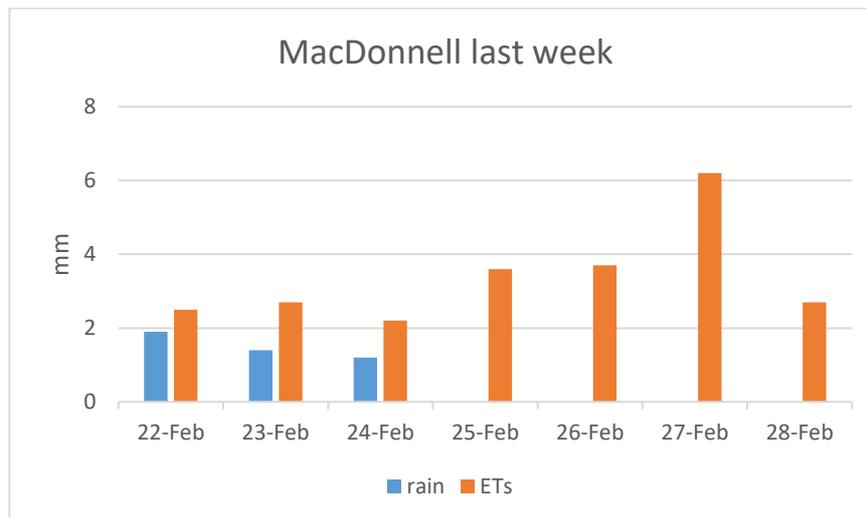
A weekly review of irrigation sensor and pasture growth data to improve irrigation scheduling throughout the year.

1st March 2018

Brought to you by Nigel Fleming, SARDI, ph (0401) 122 136

Previous 7 days ~ average Evapotranspiration & Rainfall

	ETo's (mm/day)	Rainfall (mm)
MacDonnell	3.4	4.5
Mt Gambier aero	3.6	13.4

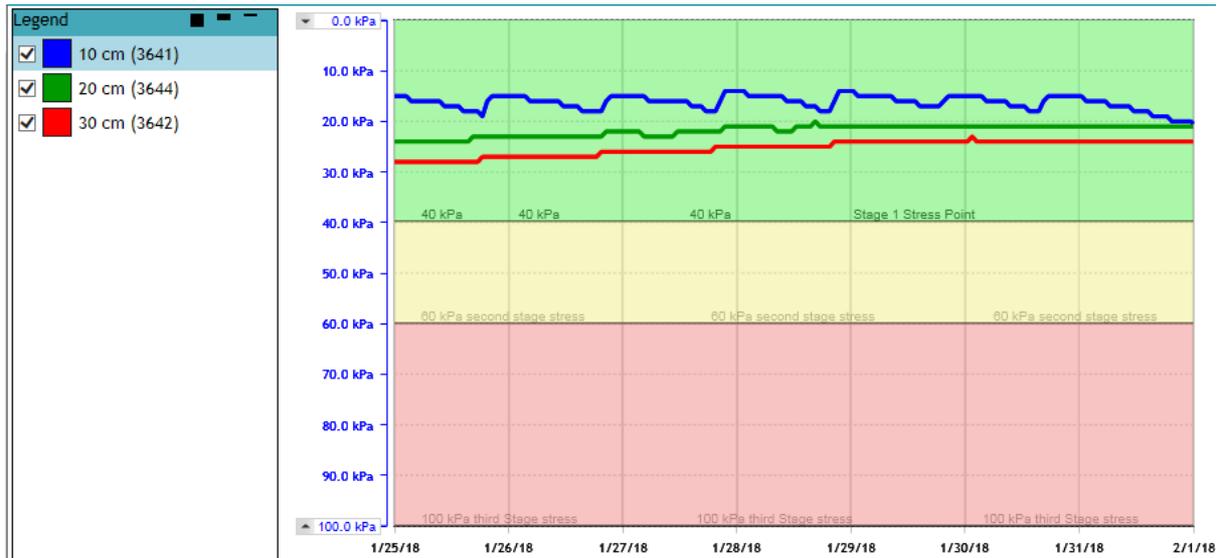


Some rain last week. ETo fairly consistent around 4 mm/day, up to 7 mm with a warm day on Tuesday (35°C).

What are the irrigation sensors telling us:

Allendale East:

Sensors are producing clean data and tracking nicely - all within the desired moisture range. Soil moisture increasing slightly at all depths – most likely reflecting lower ET values over the last week.

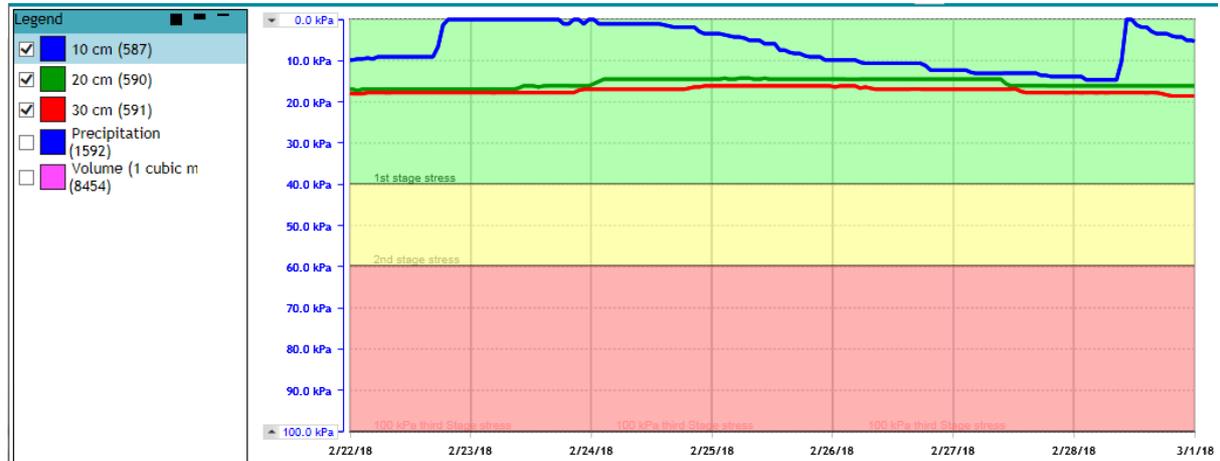


This trend can be clearly seen by looking at the last two weeks of data – the ground is getting gradually wetter.



Mt Schank

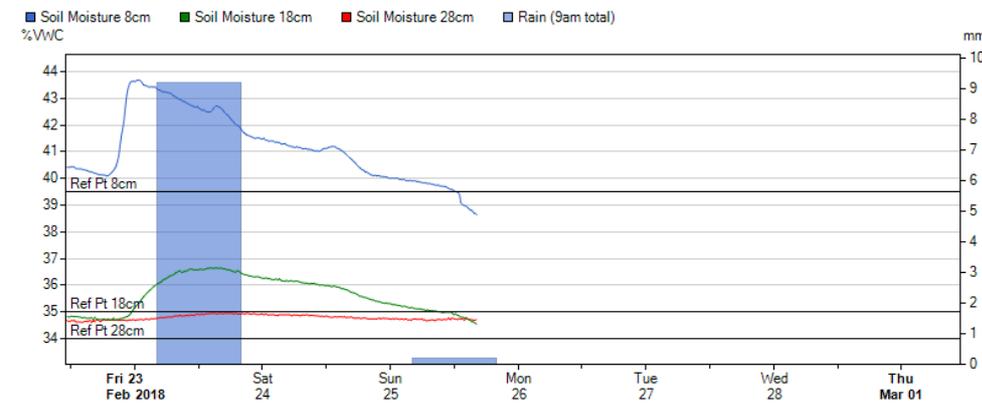
The sensors are tracking similarly to last week.



Eight Mile Creek (pivot 6)

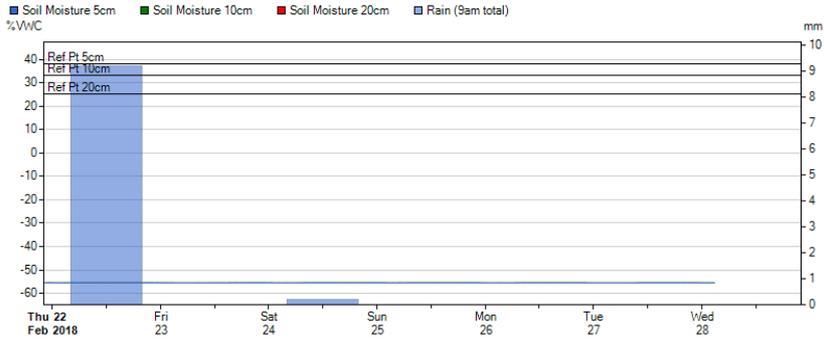
Dry Area

These sensors failed on Sunday afternoon. The data had begun to look a little strange last week – peaks from the surface sensor were more rounded, unlike the sharp peaks from a few weeks ago. We hope to resolve the problem as soon as possible, as this site has been very valuable up to now.



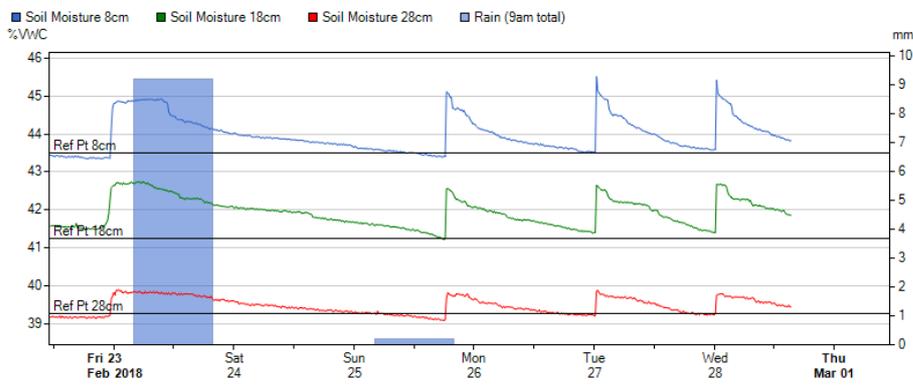
Normal Area

These sensors are still not functioning. We had discussed moving sensors from the Wet Area to here, as data from the Wet Area is not being used to schedule irrigations and the site could be sacrificed to support a more valuable one. The Wet Area sensors could be moved to either the Normal Area, or the Dry Area if needed.



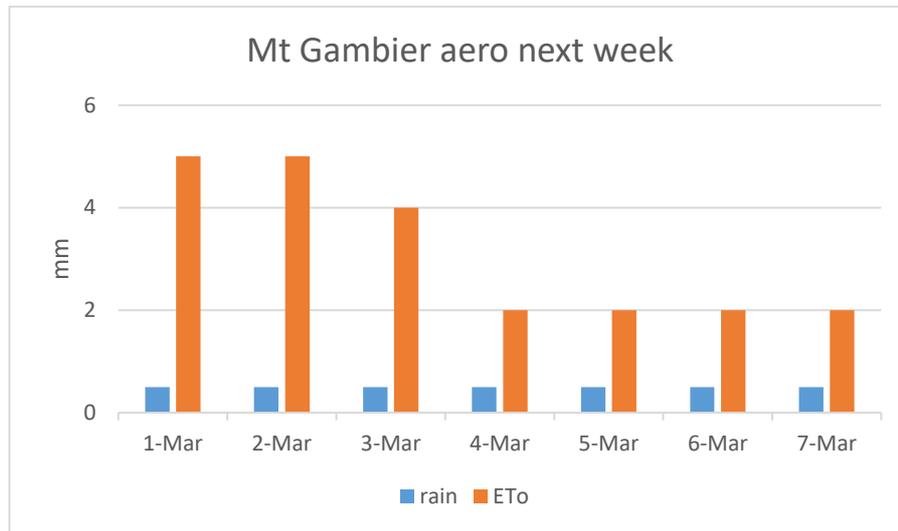
Wet Area

Tracking the same as last week.



Next 7 days ~ average Evapotranspiration & Rainfall

	ETo (mm/day)	Rainfall (mm)
Mt Gambier aero	3.1	3.5



Summary for the coming week

Traces of rain through the week. ET 4-5 mm/day until Sunday, then down to 2 mm/day. Temperatures in the low to mid 20's for most of the week, predicted maximum of 30° next Wednesday.

Irrigators needed to have applied on average 12 mm of irrigation water for last week. The predicted weekly pasture water use (ET minus rainfall) for the Mt Gambier area in the next week is 19 mm. It is now autumn, and the irrigation requirements seems to be winding down.

* These figures are approximate and do not take into account rainfall on farm*

The intention of this service is not for the information to be used in isolation when making decisions about irrigation scheduling. ETo provides a relatively objective estimate of plant water use and provides another handy 'tool in the irrigation scheduling tool box.' Information in this email is only a guide and should only be used in conjunction with other tools including updated weather information.

For improved accuracy, the collection and use of individual farm rainfall measurements is advised.

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