

# Measure to Monitor

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

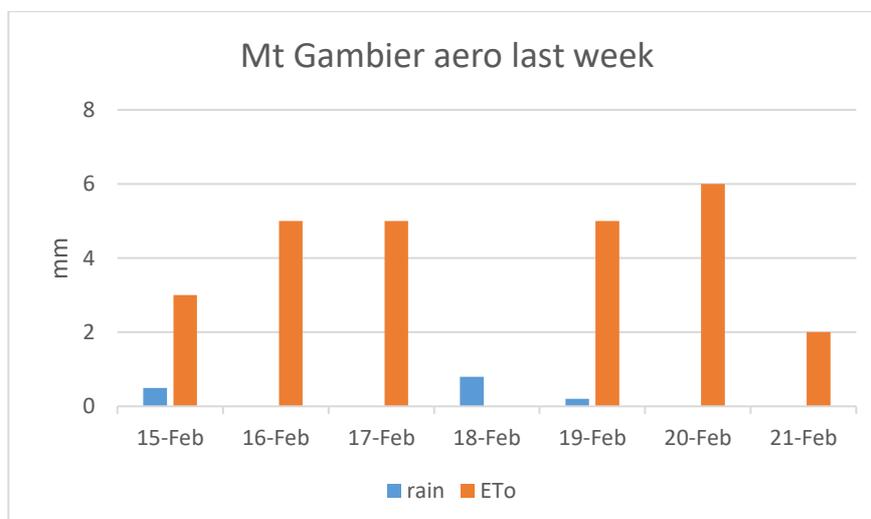
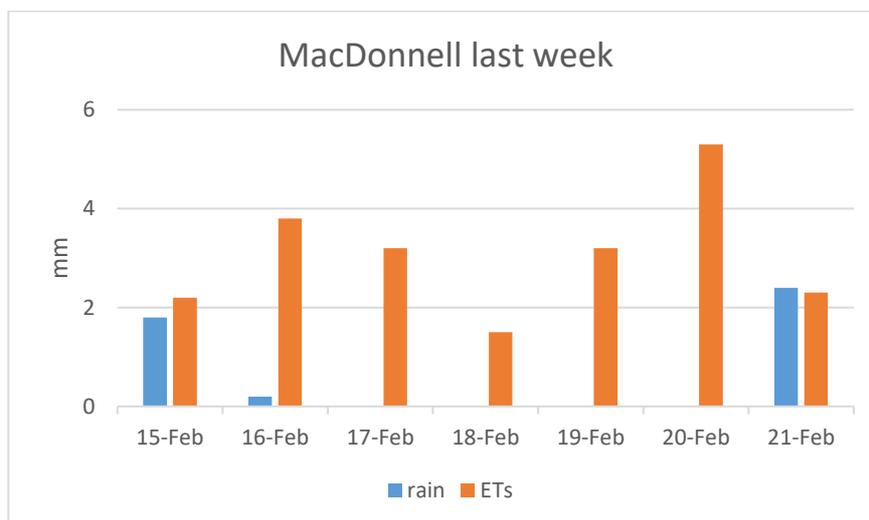
A weekly review of irrigation sensor and pasture growth data to improve irrigation scheduling throughout the year.

**22<sup>nd</sup> February 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	3.1	4.4
Mt Gambier aero	3.7	1.5

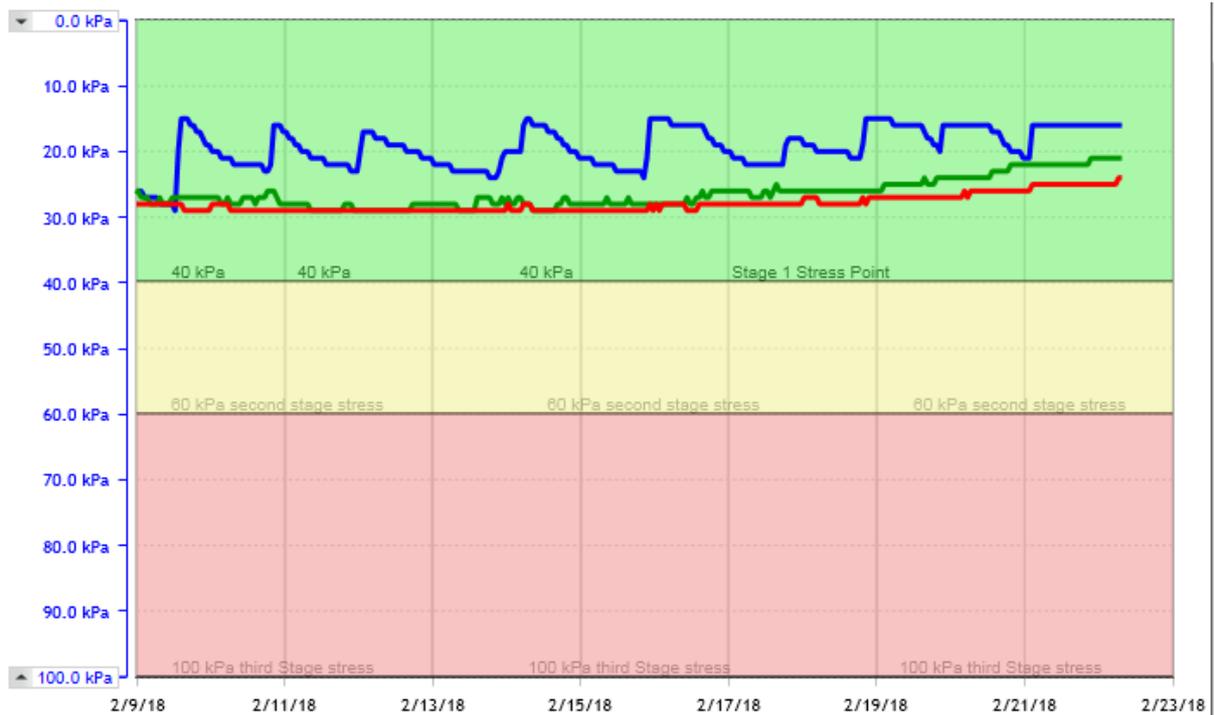


Little rain last week. ETo fairly consistent during the week at 3 to 4 mm/day – consistently lower than previous weeks.

## What are the irrigation sensors telling us:

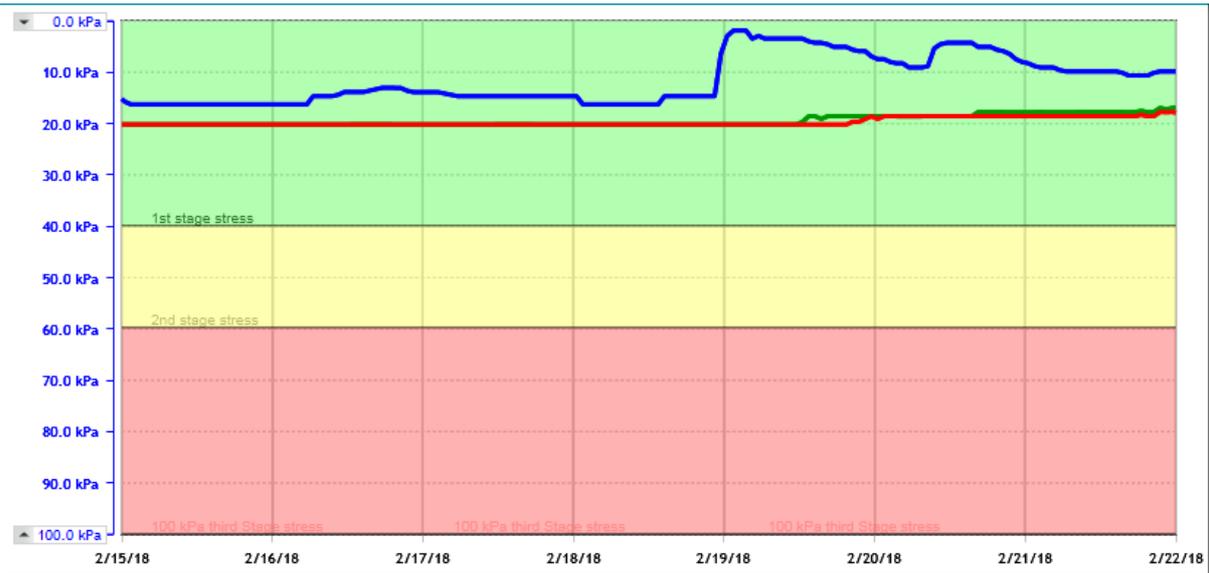
### Allendale East:

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.



### Mt Schank

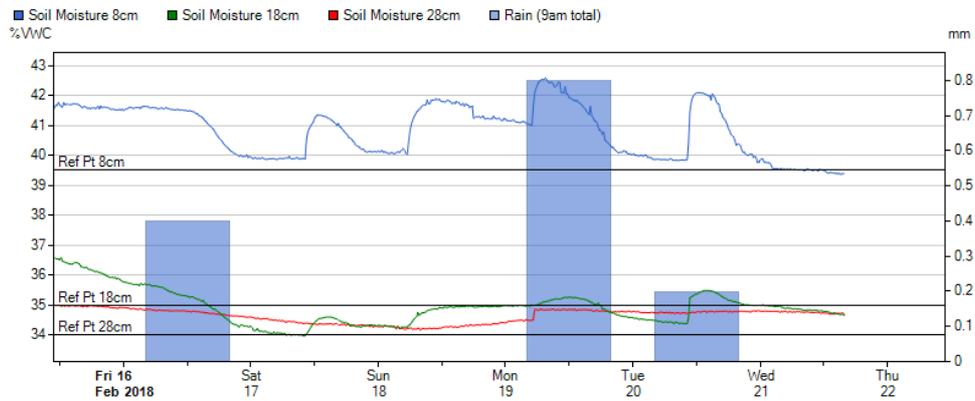
The sensors are tracking similarly to last week, except that there was more movement in the 10cm sensor and a little movement in the lower sensors. Could this be the end of a long bedding-in process for the sensors, and they are starting to read normally?



**Eight Mile Creek (pivot 6)**

**Dry Area**

Data looks good, although a bit of scratchiness showing up in the 8cm data. Slight increases in water content over the week at 18cm and 28cm, most likely reflecting lower ET values last week.

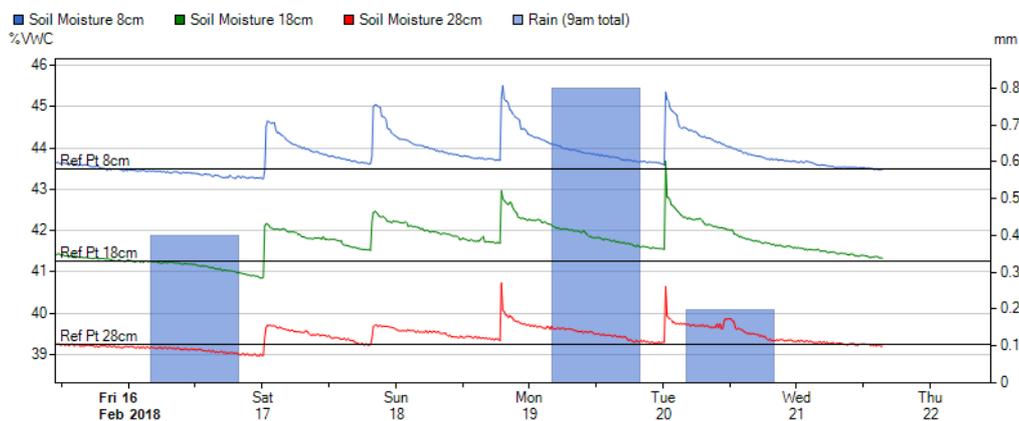


**Normal Area**

There is a problem with these sensors, which we are working to fix.

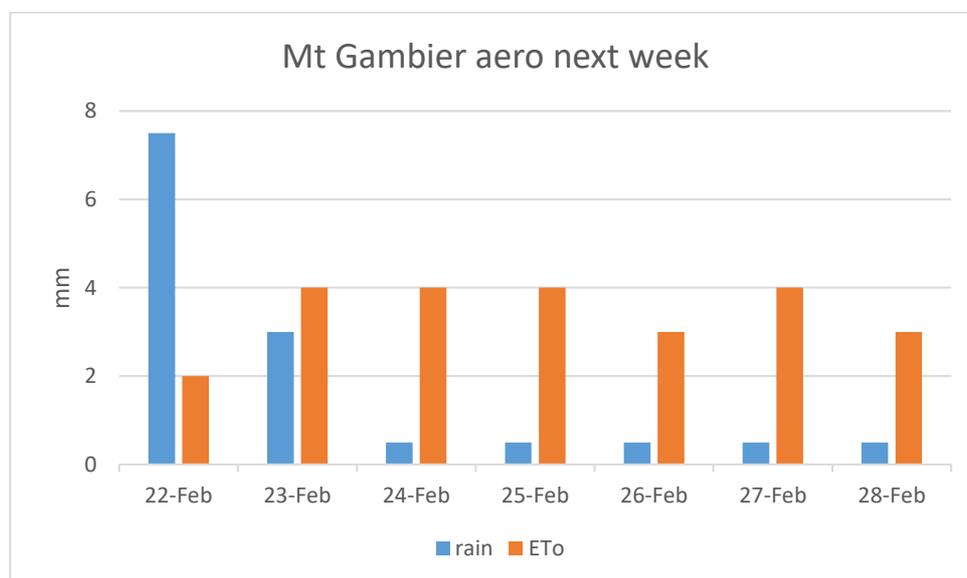
## Wet Area

Tracking the same as last week.



## Next 7 days ~ average Evapotranspiration & Rainfall

	ETo (mm/day)	Rainfall (mm)
Mt Gambier aero	3.4	13



## Summary for the coming week

Rain predicted today, then traces through the week. Predicted maximum of 31° tomorrow, then mid 20's for the rest of the week. The Yield data for last week showed an ET value of 0mm for Sunday 18 February. This was not the case, as BOM data showed an ET value of 2.0mm. I think this was due to a

minor glitch in the app. As specified in the fine print, The Yield try to be as reliable as possible, but sometimes they will be wrong. This seems reasonable to me.

Irrigators needed to have applied on average 25mm 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 11mm. As we are getting through the irrigation season, it seems that water requirement is generally 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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