

Measure to Monitor

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

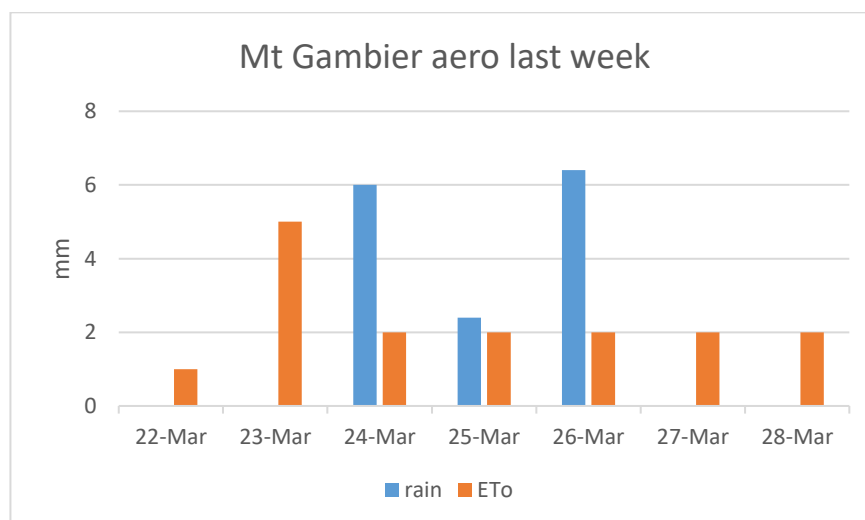
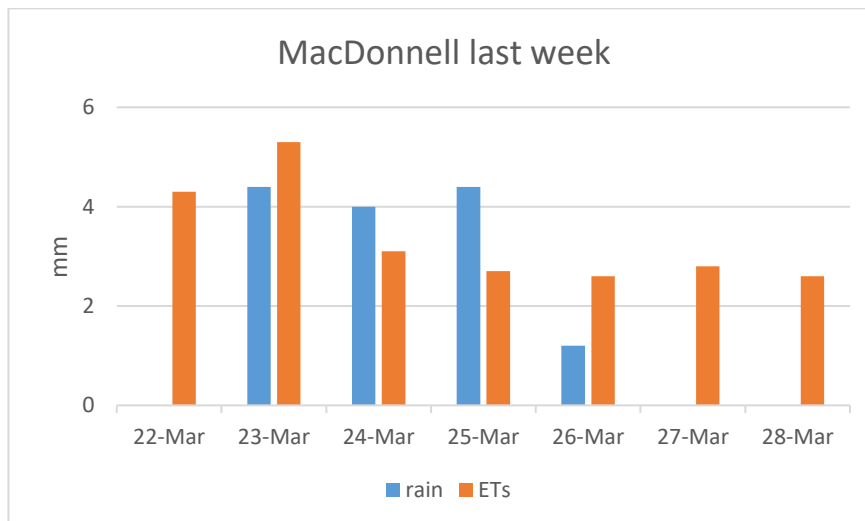
A weekly review of irrigation sensor and pasture growth data to improve irrigation scheduling throughout the year.

29th 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	3.3	14.0
Mt Gambier aero	2.3	14.8

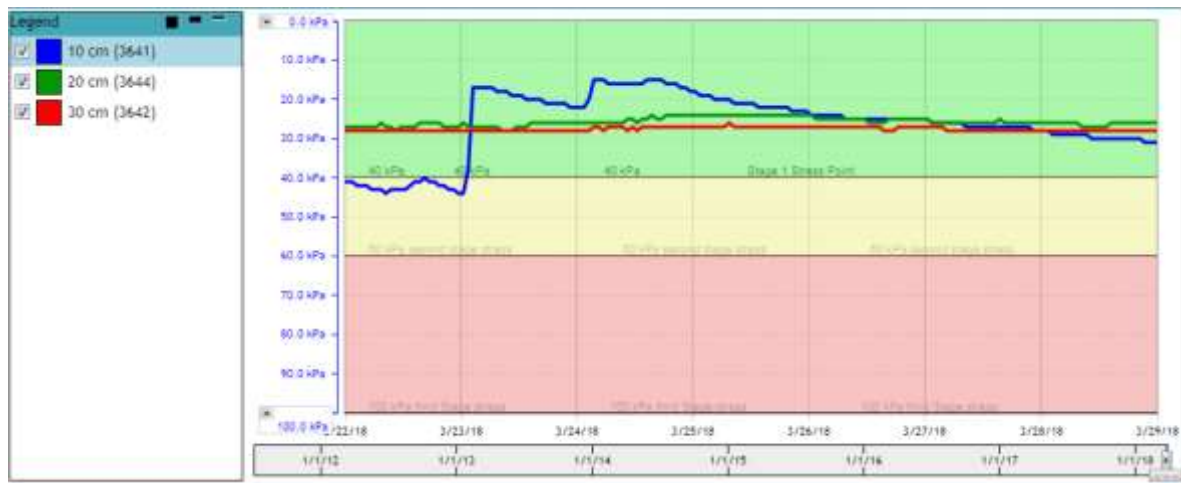


Around 15mm rain was recorded at both sites last week. Average ET at MacDonnell was 3.3mm/day and 2.3mm/day at Mt Gambier. It is unusual to have lower ET values at Mt Gambier, although there was not a lot of difference. Less wind at Mt Gambier, perhaps?

What are the irrigation sensors telling us:

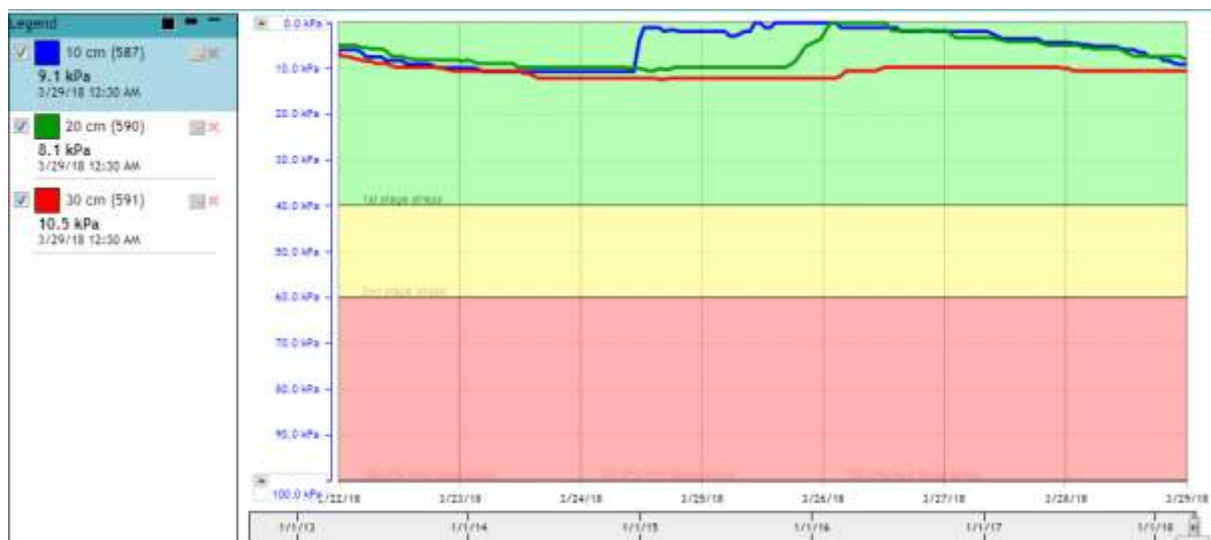
Allendale East:

Sensors are working well. It looks like there was an irrigation on Friday 23rd, and perhaps some rain effect after that. Soil moisture is holding well with the lower ET values and less irrigation.



Mt Schank

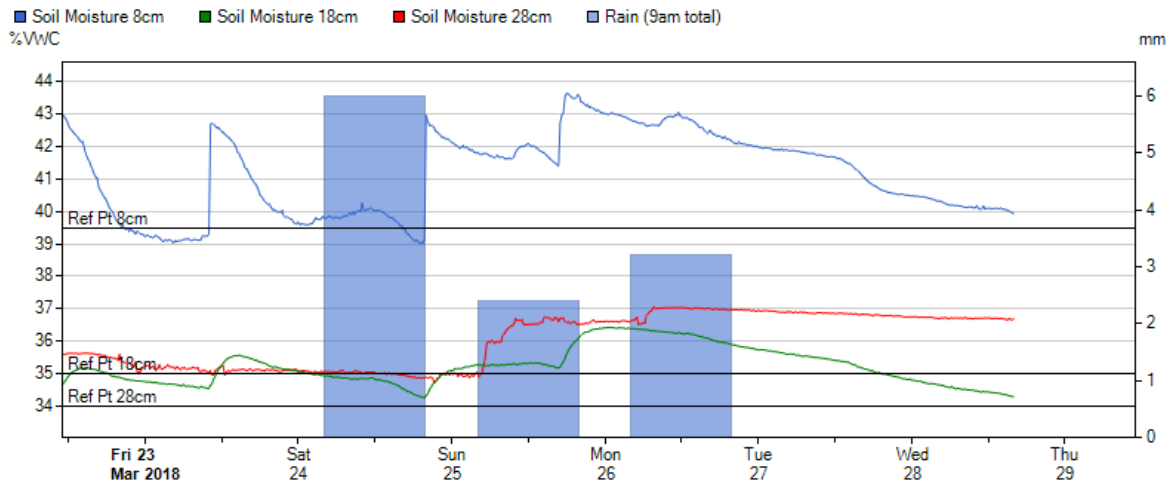
These sensors are still very wet – no change here.



Eight Mile Creek (pivot 6)

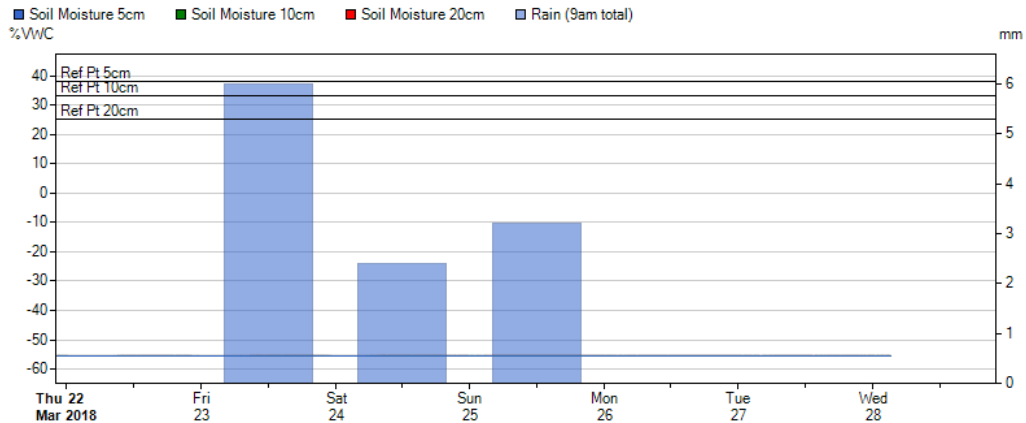
Dry Area

The sensors are working well. Three waterings last week (or two waterings and rain late on Sunday) have maintained soil moisture. The rain has allowed some leaching, with the 28cm sensor reading slightly above the reference line (wetter than usual).



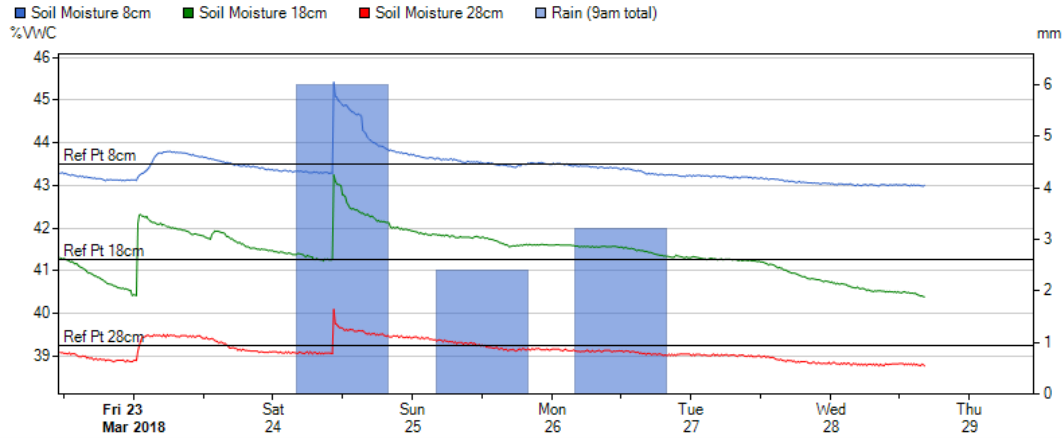
Normal Area

These sensors are still out of action.



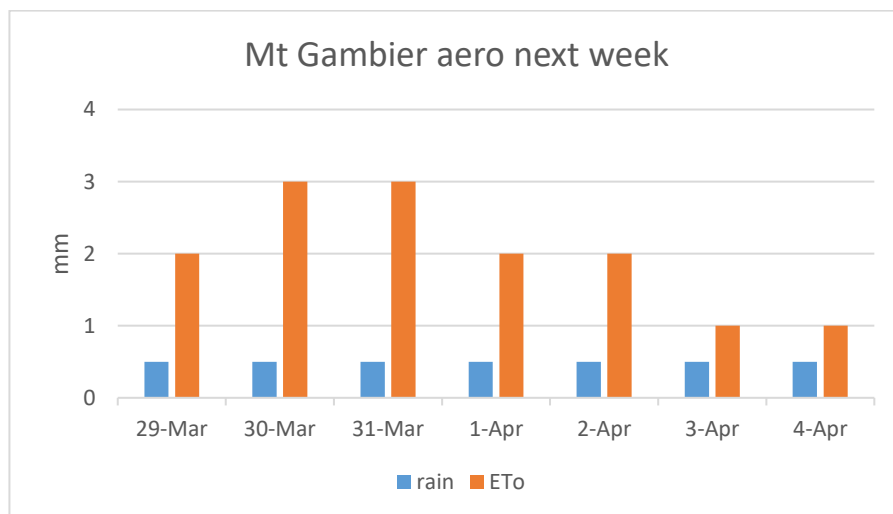
Wet Area

Two irrigations here(?) on Friday and Saturday. Soil moisture here is gradually dropping off and is slightly drier than the reference points at all depth. Rain here late in the weekend has only slowed the rate of drying, rather than increasing soil moisture.



Next 7 days ~ average Evapotranspiration & Rainfall

	ETo (mm/day)	Rainfall (mm)
Mt Gambier aero	2.0	3.5



Summary for the coming week

Traces of rain all week. Predicted ET of 2mm/day reflects the time of year and cooler conditions. Predicted maximum temperatures are in the low 20's until Tuesday, then 25° next Wednesday. The predicted weekly pasture water use (ET minus rainfall) for the Mt Gambier area in the next week is 10.5mm.

* 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.

The Smarter Irrigation for Profit project is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources as part of its Rural Research and Development for Profit Program, DairySA and Dairy Australia.