

# Measure to Monitor

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

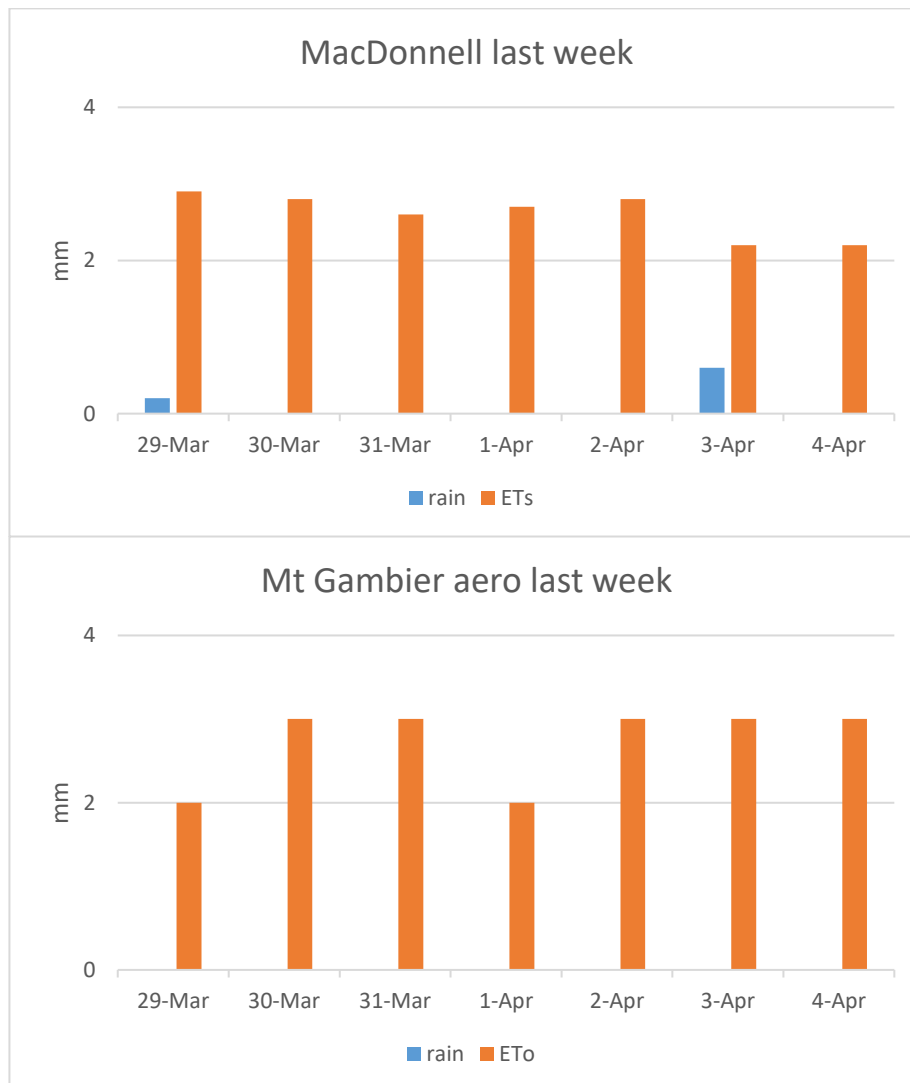
A weekly review of irrigation sensor and pasture growth data to improve irrigation scheduling throughout the year.

**5<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

Brought to you by DairySA

## Previous 7 days ~ average Evapotranspiration & Rainfall

	ETo's (mm/day)	Rainfall (mm)
MacDonnell	2.6	0.8
Mt Gambier aero	2.7	0



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 Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Soil moisture is holding well with the lower ET values and less irrigation. John is starting to dry down for winter.



#### Mt Schank

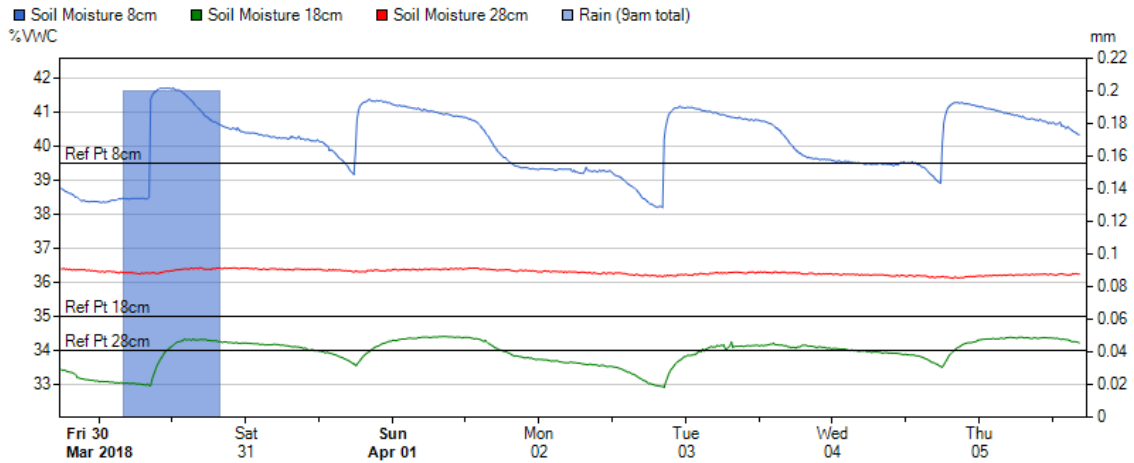
These sensors are still very wet – no change here.



## Eight Mile Creek (pivot 6)

### Dry Area

The sensors are working well. Three waterings last week have maintained soil moisture. We are still seeing some leaching, with the 28cm sensor reading slightly above the reference line (wetter than usual).

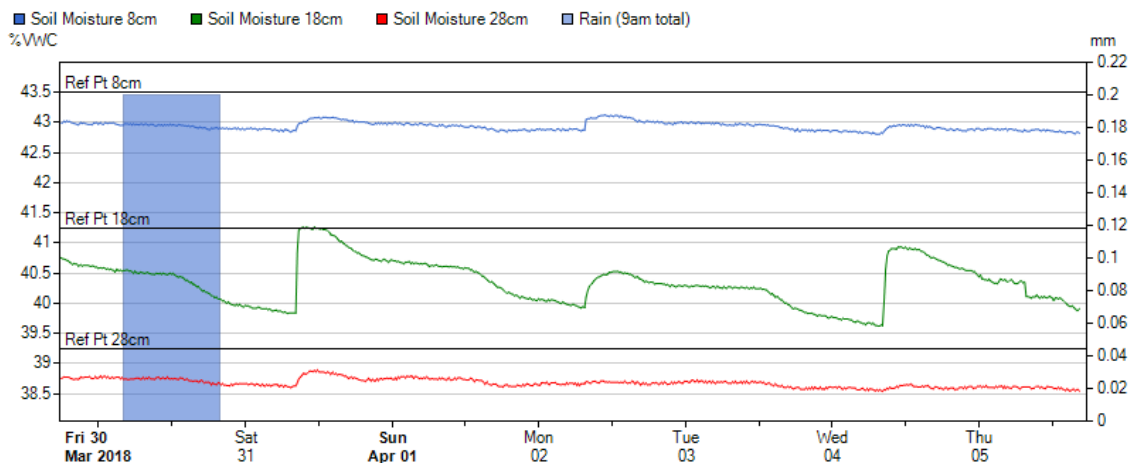


### Normal Area

These sensors are still out of action.

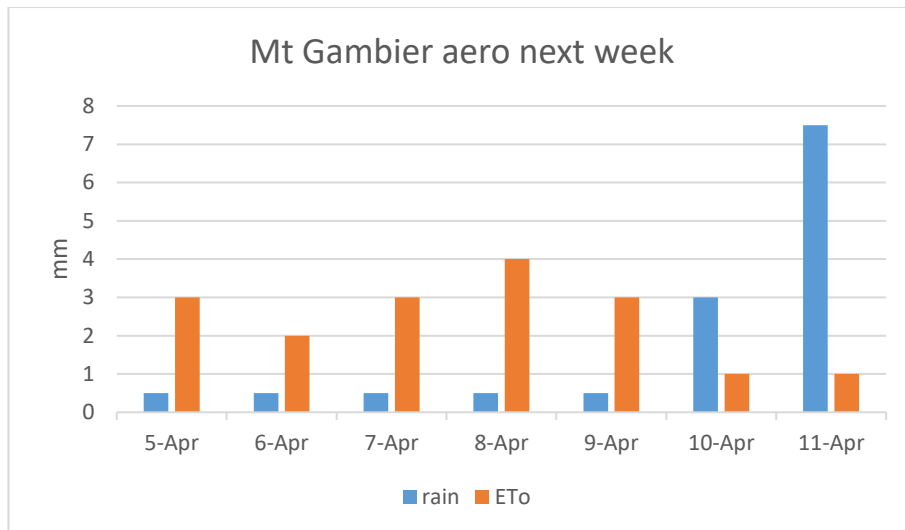
### Wet Area

Three irrigations here on Saturday, Monday and Wednesday. Soil moisture here is gradually dropping off and is slightly drier than the reference points at all depth.



## Next 7 days ~ average Evapotranspiration & Rainfall

	ETo (mm/day)	Rainfall (mm)
Mt Gambier aero	2.4	13.0



### Summary for the coming week

Rain is forecasts towards the end of next week. Predicted ET of 2.4mm/day reflects the time of year and cooler conditions.

Predicted maximum temperatures are in the high 20's late in the weekend through to Wednesday.

The predicted weekly pasture water use (ET minus rainfall) for the Mt Gambier area in the next week is 4mm.

\* 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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