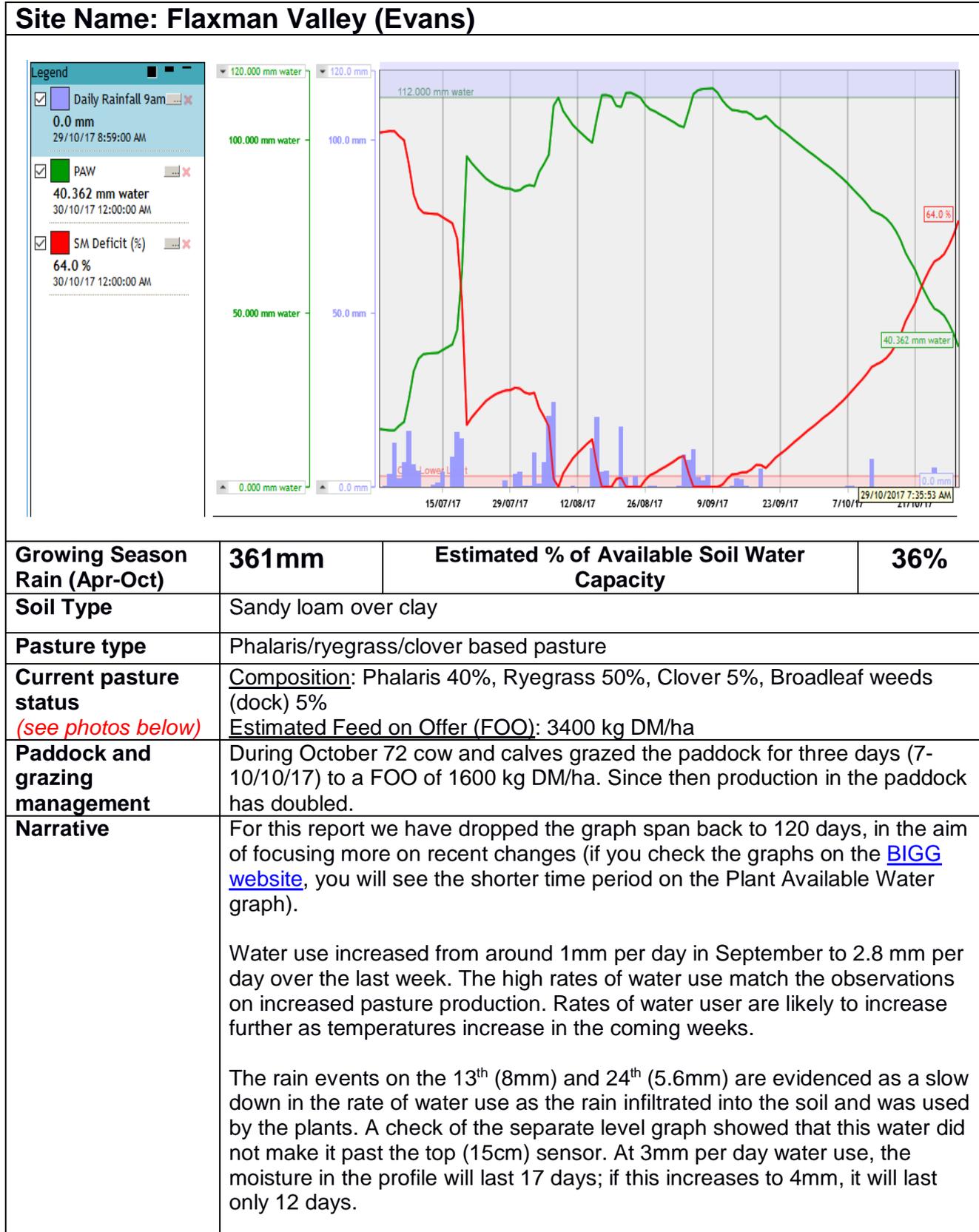
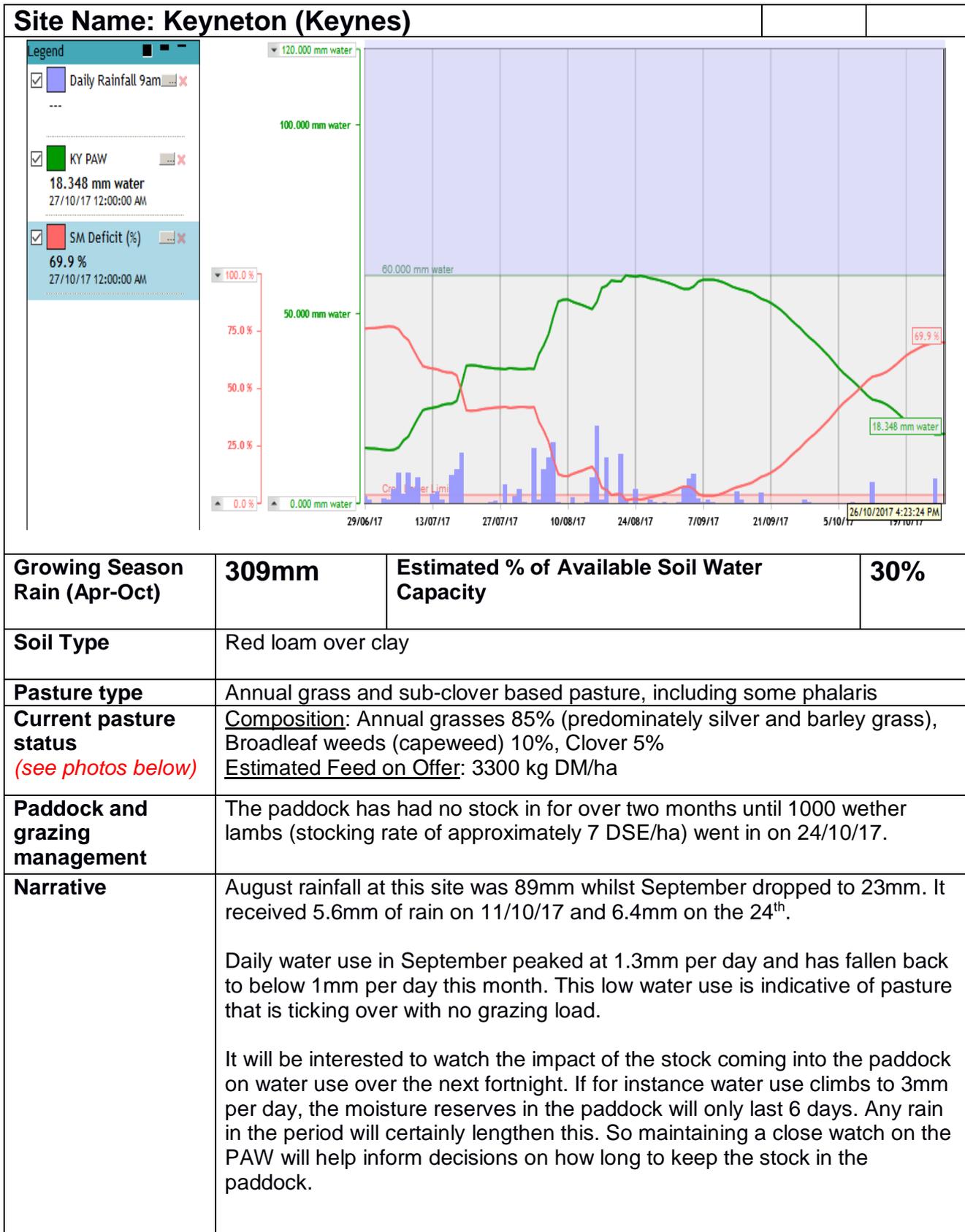
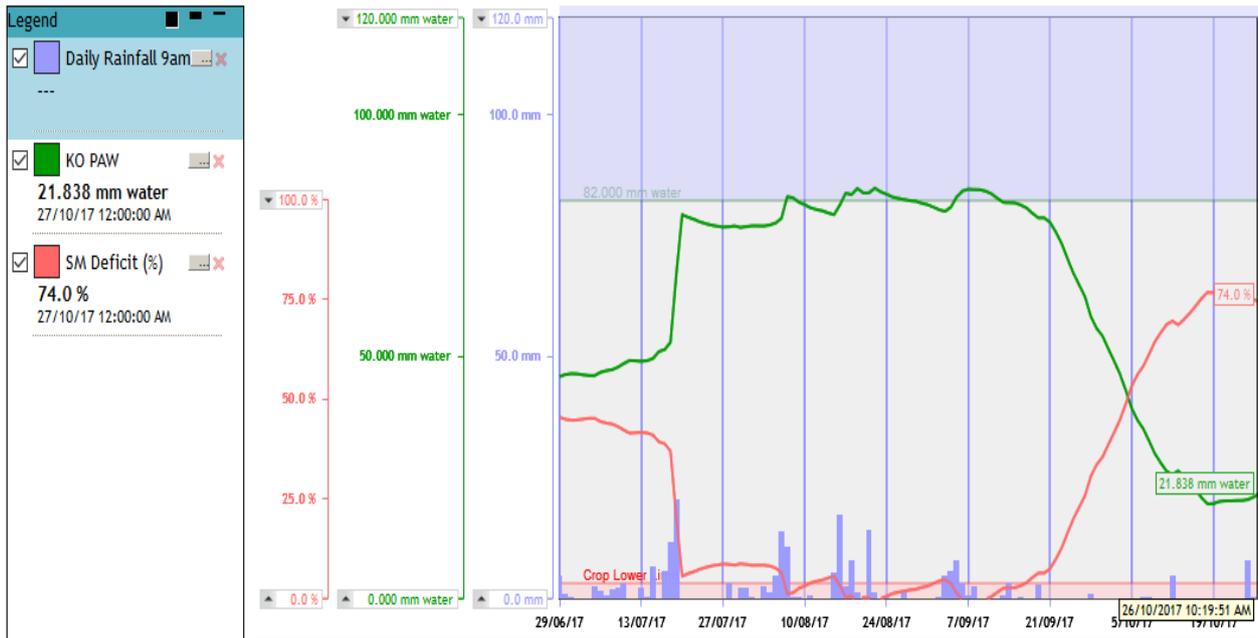


BIGG Soil Moisture and Weather Station paddock report - 30.10.17





Site Name: Koonunga (Kleinigs)



Growing Season Rain (Apr-Oct)	275mm	Estimated % of Available Soil Water Capacity	25%
Soil Type	Red brown earth		
Pasture type	Oats/vetch		
Current pasture status <i>(see photos below)</i>	<u>Composition:</u> Oats 80%, Vetch 15% (Trash 5%) <u>Estimated Feed on Offer:</u> - (cut for hay)		
Paddock and grazing management	The paddock was cut to a height of 10cm on 16/10/17 and will soon be baled for hay <i>(note line on above graph which shows water use decline being halted at this timing).</i>		
Narrative	<p>This site provides an interesting insight into water use by annual crops. In an ideal situation, rainfall meets all of the needs of the growing crop and as a result, the crop grows at its maximum potential. Through September and early October, water use was very consistent and high – up to 6mm per day. When moisture starts to run out, the rate of daily water use declines – signifying moisture stress. The only change in water use evidenced at this site was due to rainfall: the crop would have used the same amount of water, it is just that water coming in helps reduce the effect of water going out.</p> <p>When the crop was cut on the 16th of October, water use came to an abrupt end: since the profile was still holding 25% of capacity, you can speculate as to whether there was the potential for even higher yield if it was left to run longer. However this must also be balanced with hay quality.</p> <p>And what of the remaining moisture that can be considered as a reserve for the next season. In some areas this is exploited with a summer crop. Another way of looking at the residual water is to say that the paddock would have coped with a higher sowing rate this season. But that is just one of the many risk return trade-offs that growers must constantly make.</p>		

Photos of paddocks monitored for soil moisture: 29/9/17 (left) and 26/10/17 (right)

Flaxman Valley (Evans)



Keyneton (Keynes)



Koonunga (Kleinigs)



Disclaimer: this report has been prepared by BIGG and TOIP Pty Ltd. It is for information only and any actions or decisions made by readers from it are at their sole discretion.