



Government of South Australia
 Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges
 Natural Resources Management Board



BIGG's Soil Moisture Monitoring in Grazing Systems project: *Lessons Learnt*

www.bigggroup.org.au

22 February 2018



Natural Resources
 Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges



Natural Resources
 SA Murray-Darling Basin



**National
 Landcare
 Programme**



COOPERS
 OF MT. PLEASANT
 FARM SUPPLIES

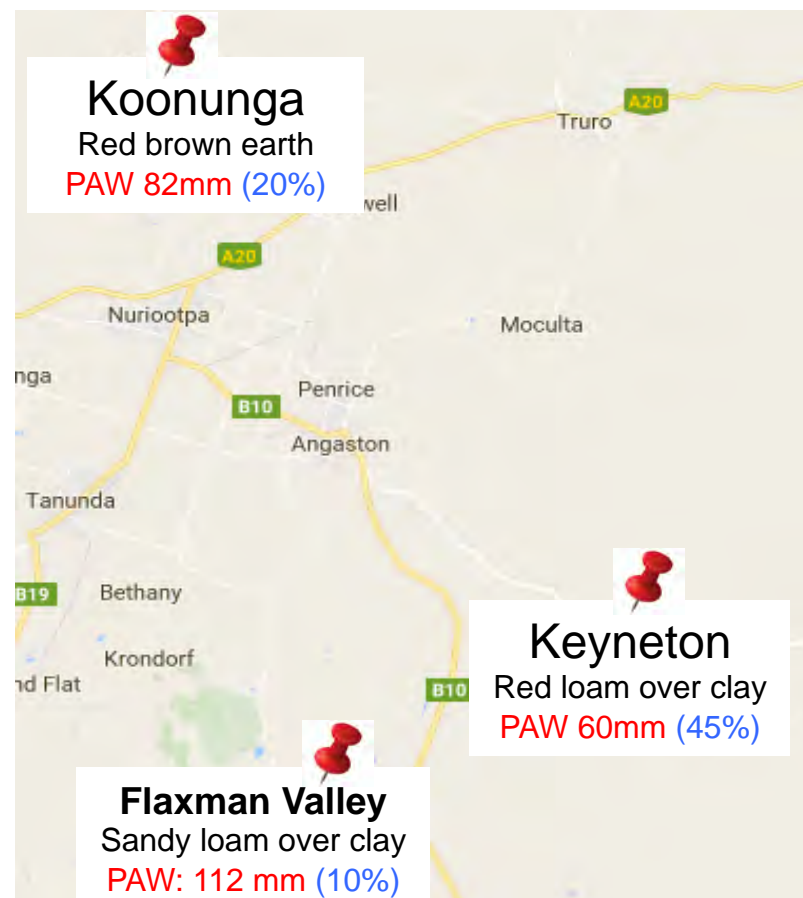
RURALSOLUTIONSSA





Project background

- 2013: Soil moisture & weather stations established in Barossa grazing systems
- Various equipment installed over time





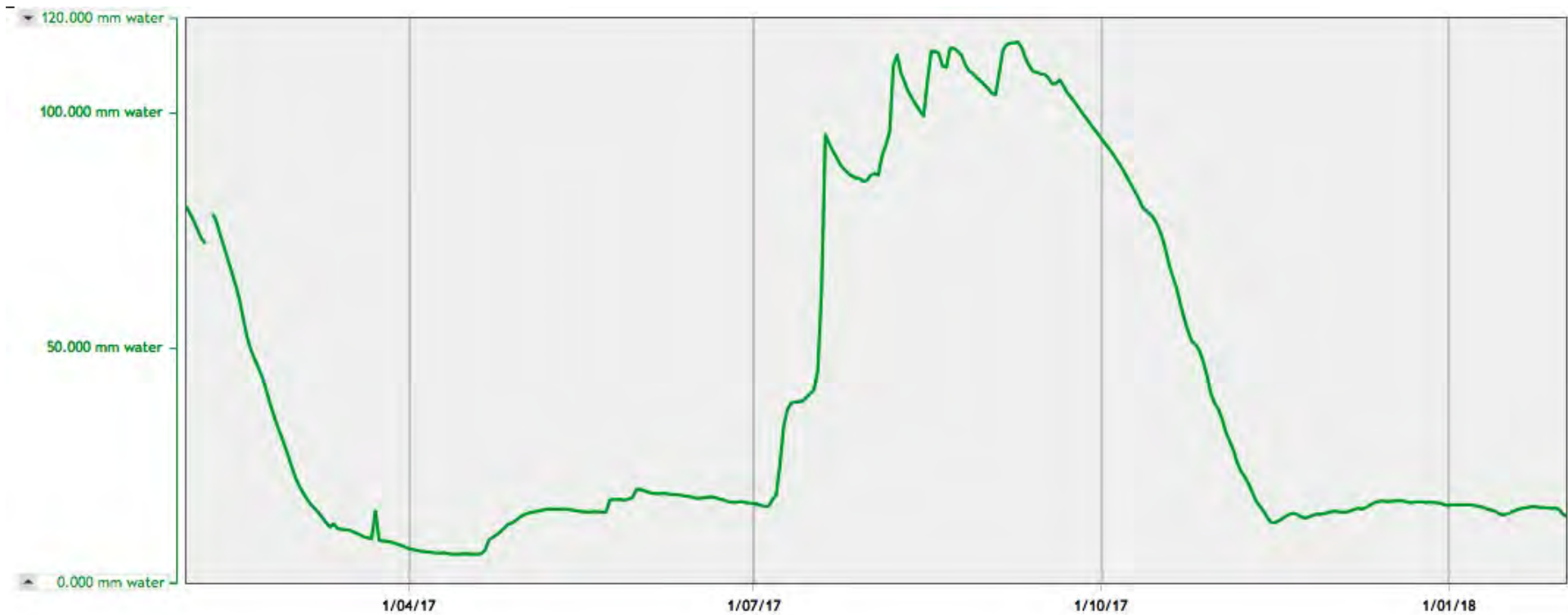
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1. Plant Available Water: Site comparison across years – Flaxman Valley

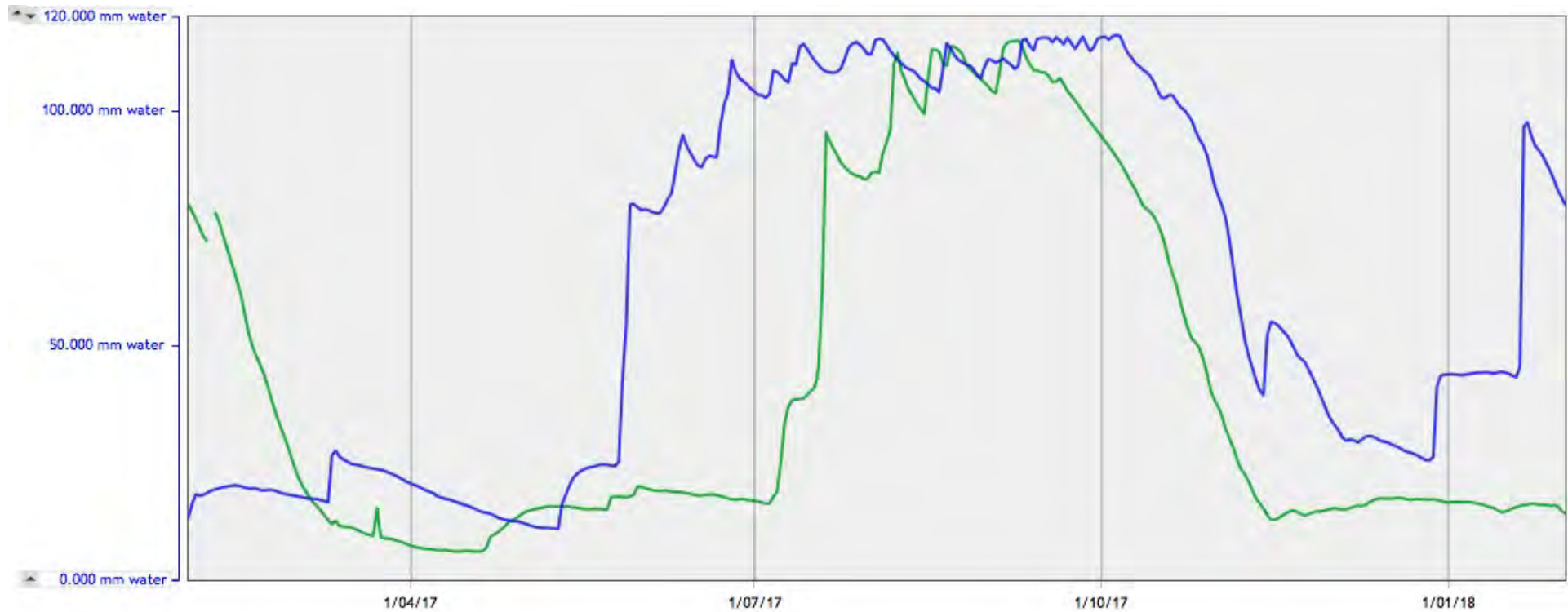


Plant Available Water: Flaxman Valley 2017



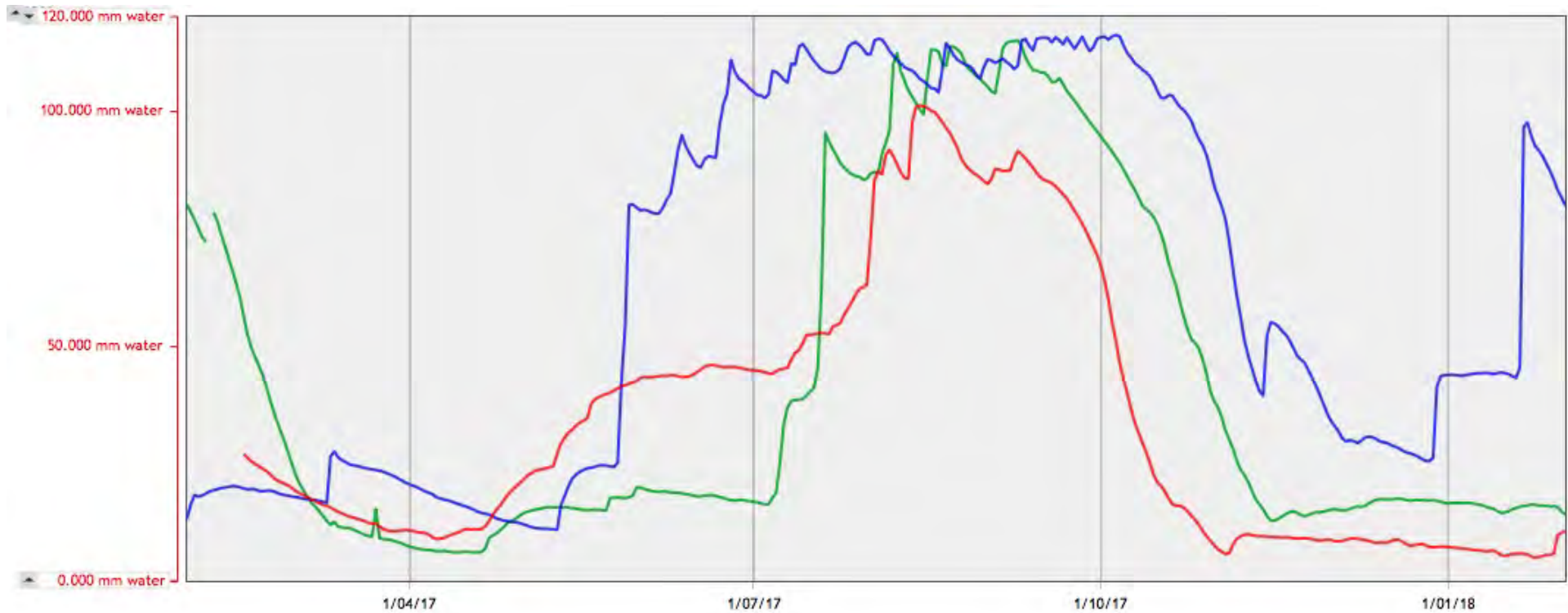


Plant Available Water: Flaxman Valley 2017 2016



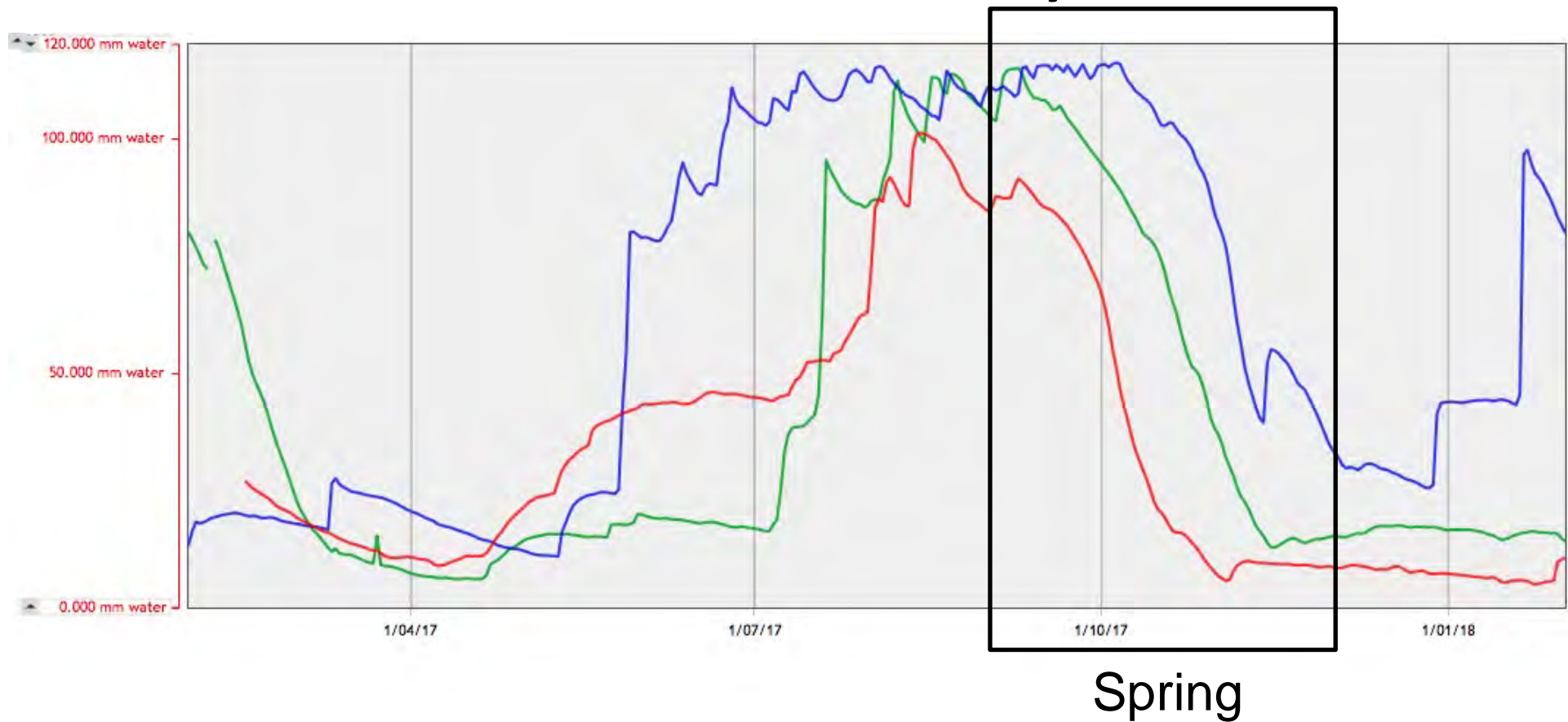


Plant Available Water: Flaxman Valley 2017 2016 2015





Plant Available Water: Flaxman Valley 2017 2016 2015



Spring



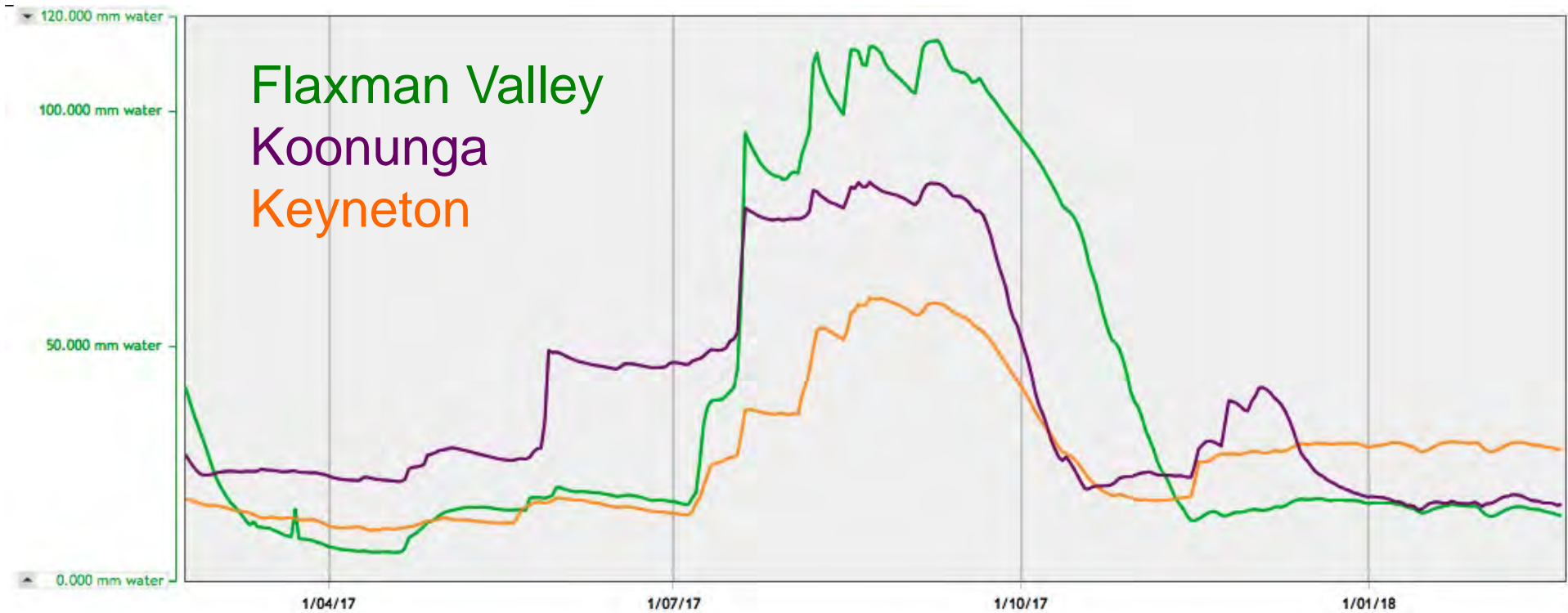
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2. Plant Available Water: Comparison between sites – 2017

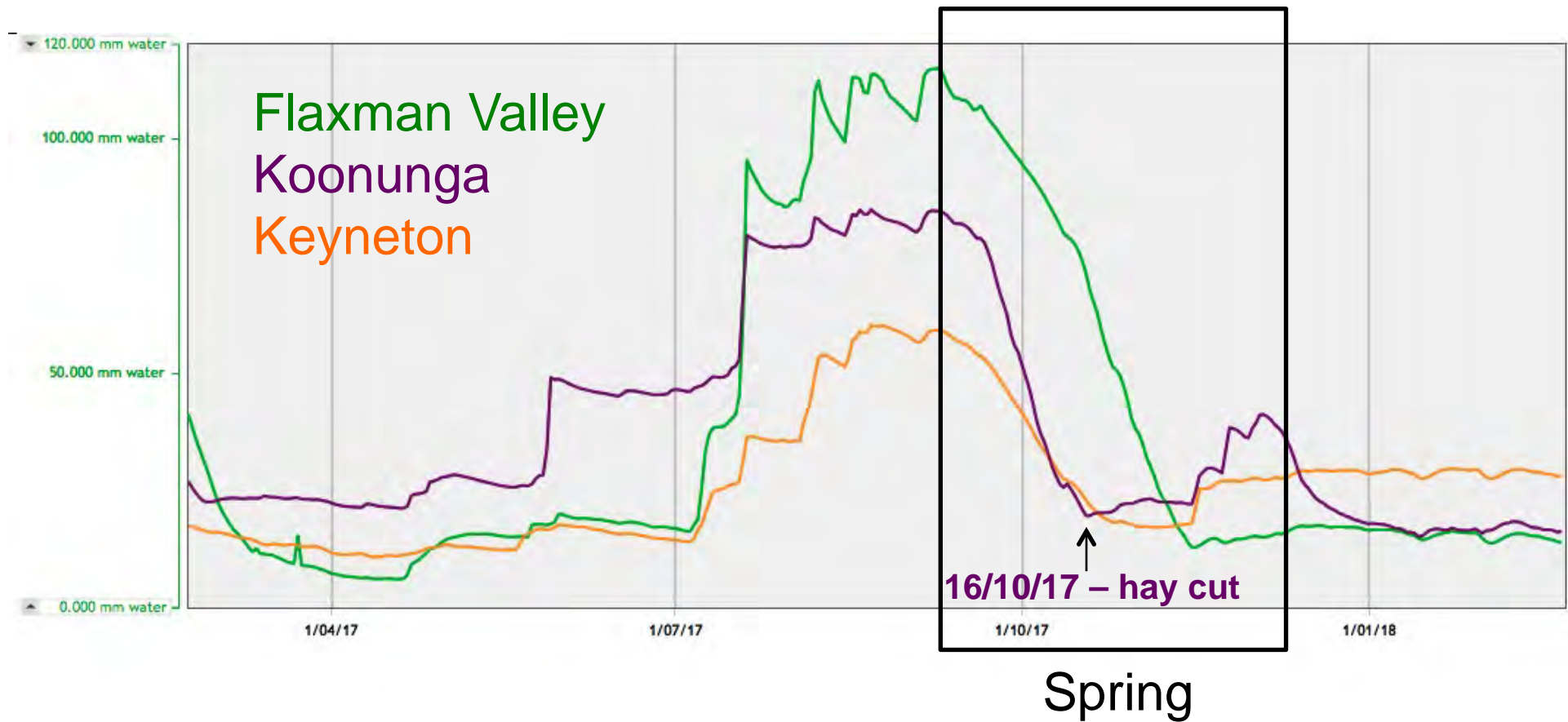


Plant Available Water: all sites 2017





Plant Available Water: all sites 2017

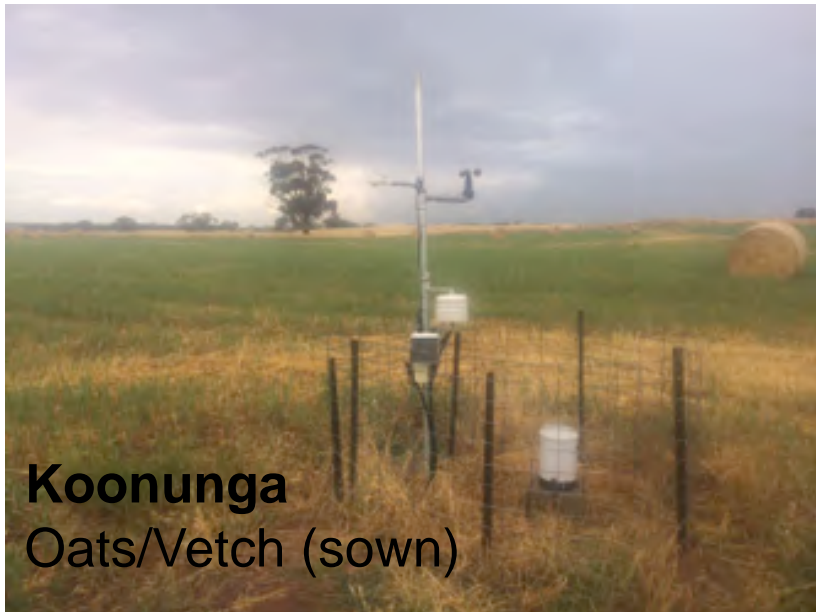


Site photos

23/11/17



Flaxman Valley
Annual grasses/Phalaris/Clover



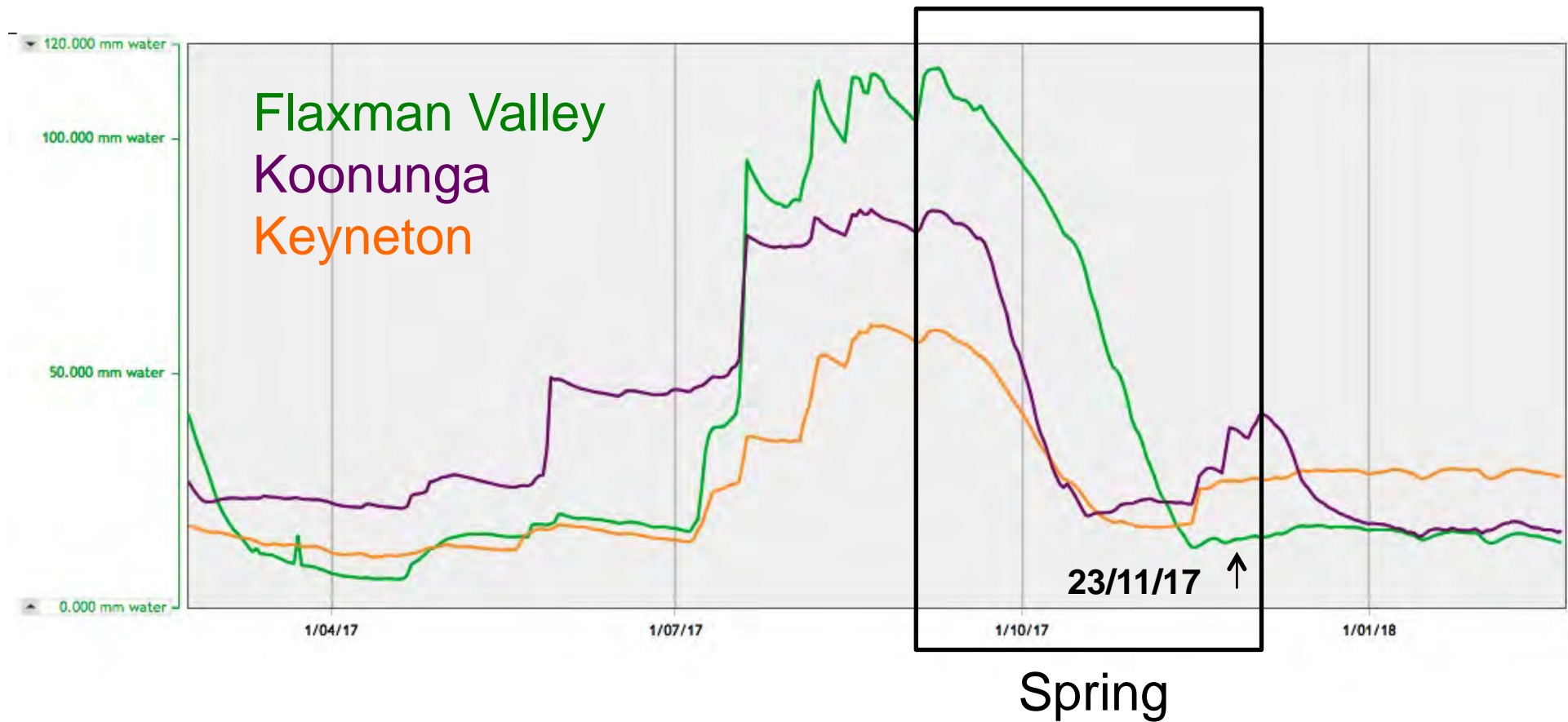
Koonunga
Oats/Vetch (sown)



Keyneton
Annual grasses



Plant Available Water: all sites 2017





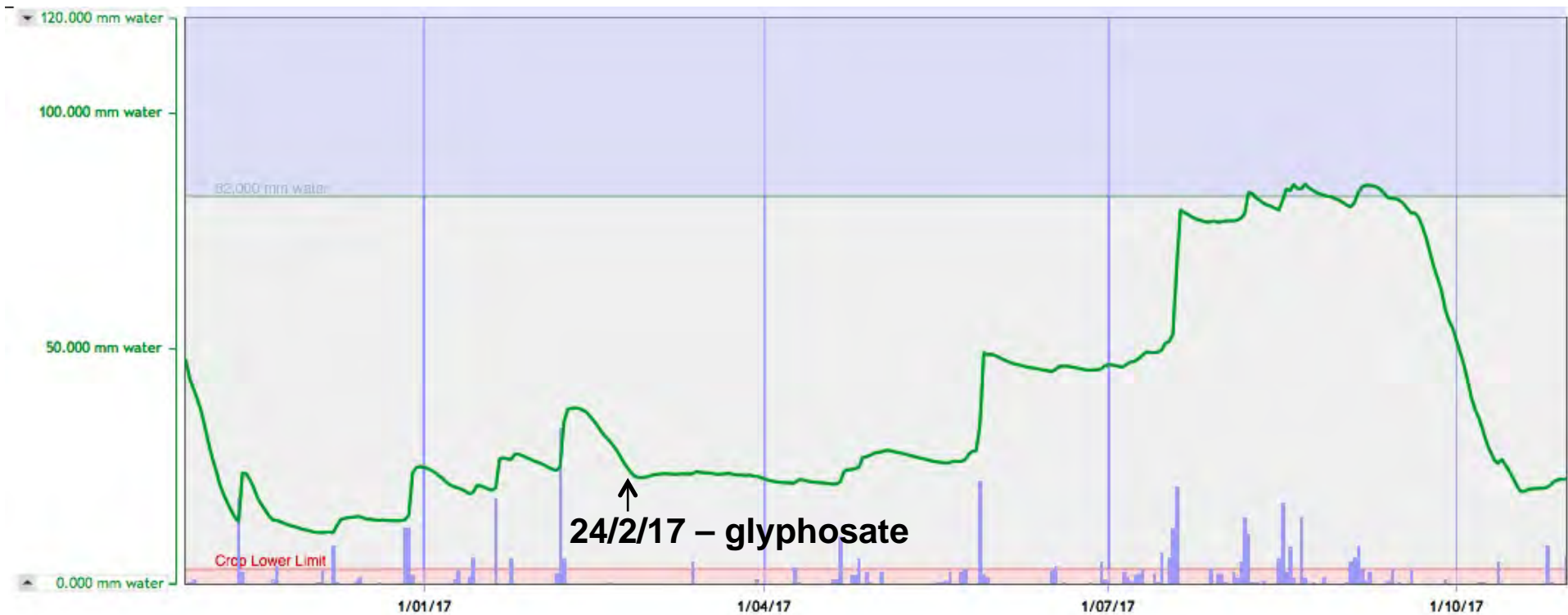
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3. Plant Available Water: Moisture conservation– Koonunga

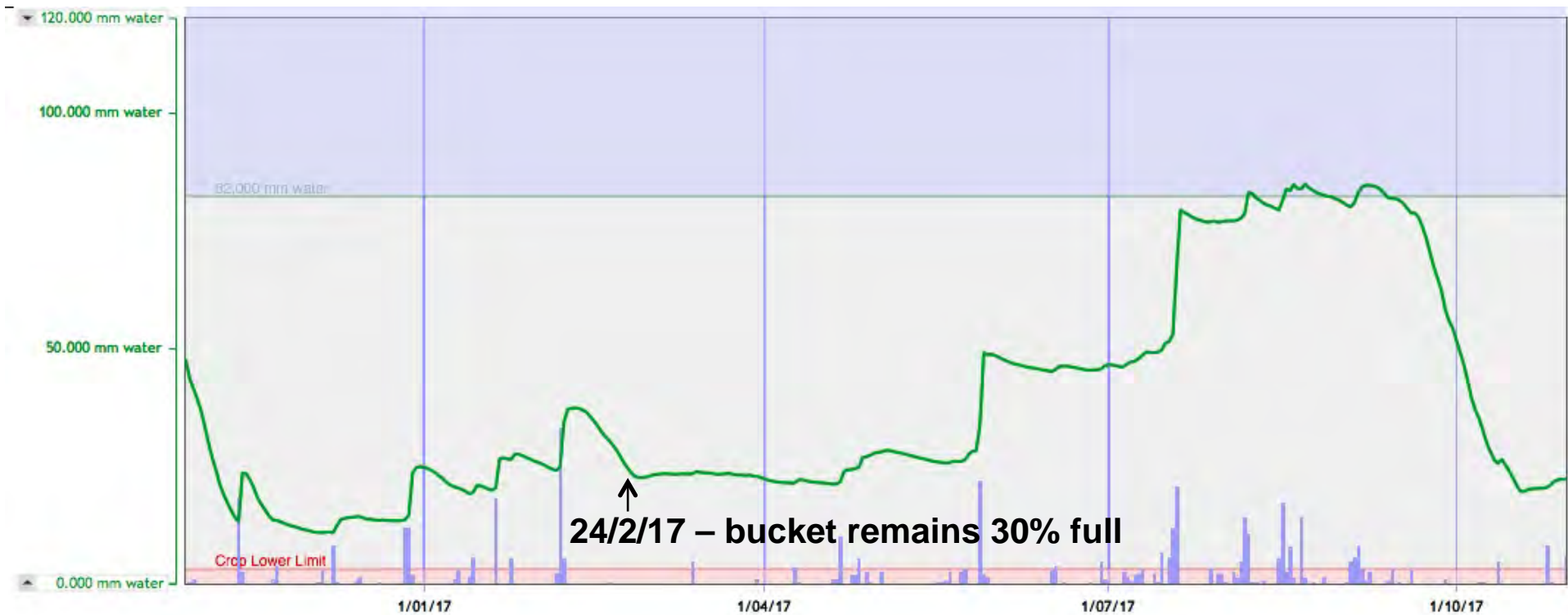


Plant Available Water: Koonunga (Nov 2016-Nov 2017)





Plant Available Water: Koonunga (Nov 2016-Nov 2017)





Summary: Lessons Learnt

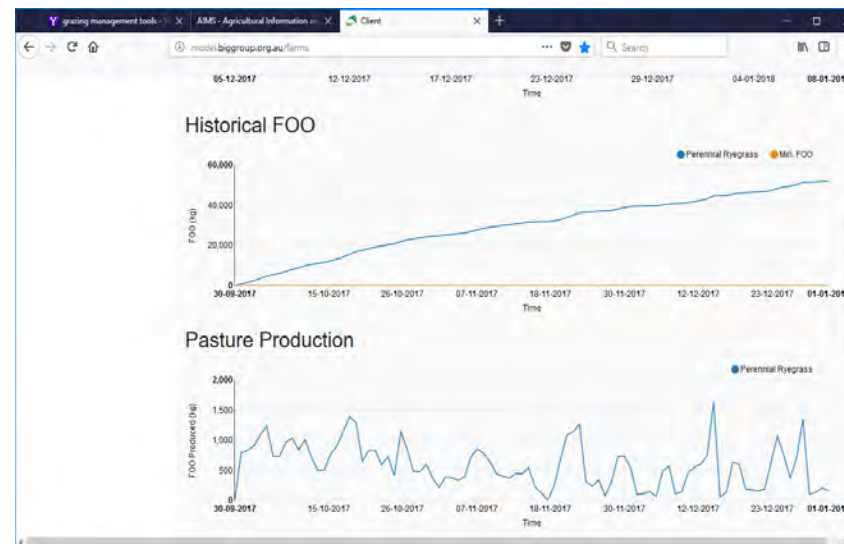
1. High moisture use variability in last 3 years
 - Highlights need for good decision making



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BIGG Pasture Growth Model





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2. Comparison of 3 sites in 2017
 - Value of a perennial in extending feed supply



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Don't forget to check the BIGG website for your local moisture and climate info!