



BETWEEN the TWO RIVERS

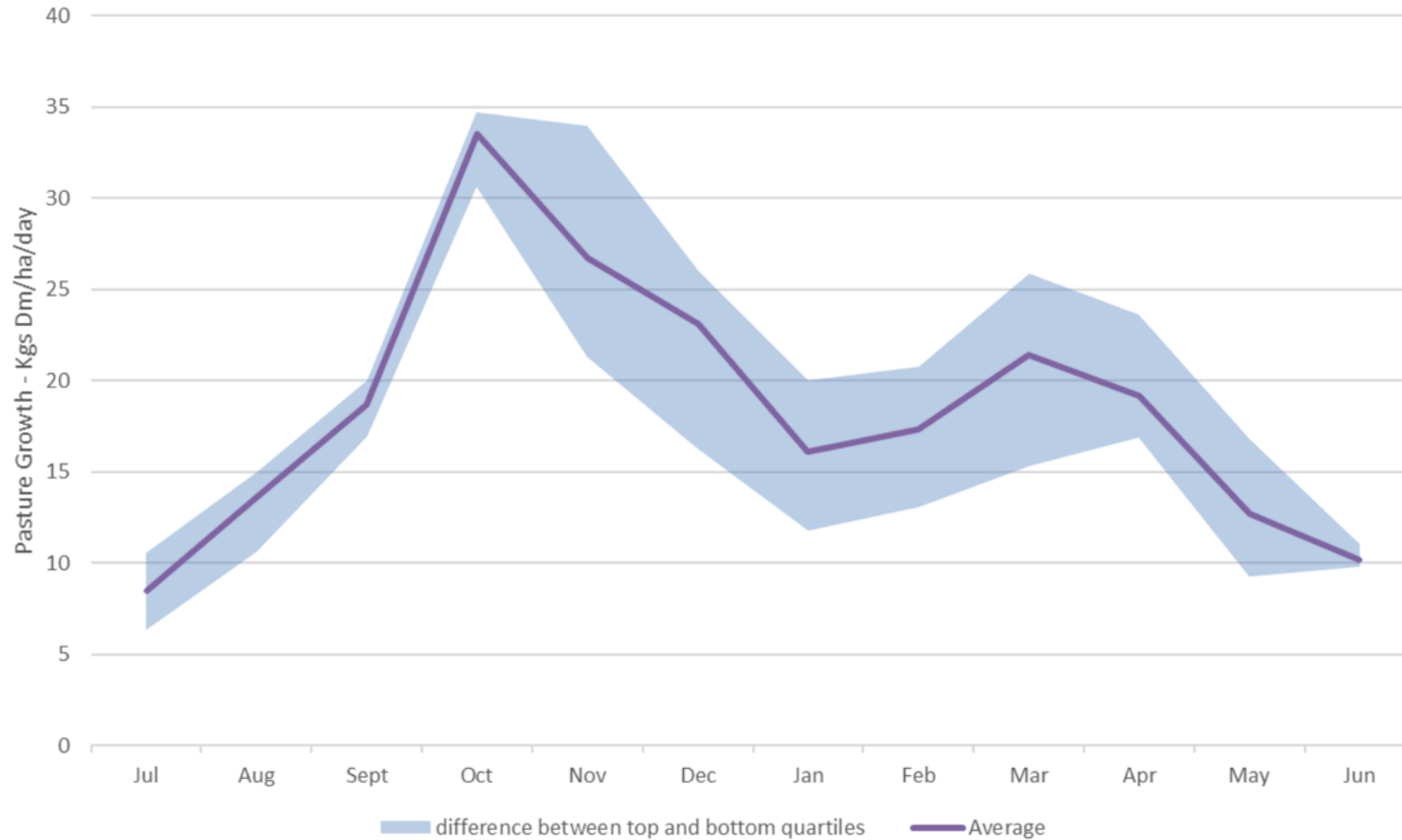
How are we tracking? &
What levers can we pull

Lochie MacGillivray



Between the Two Rivers

Pasture Growth 2008-2025

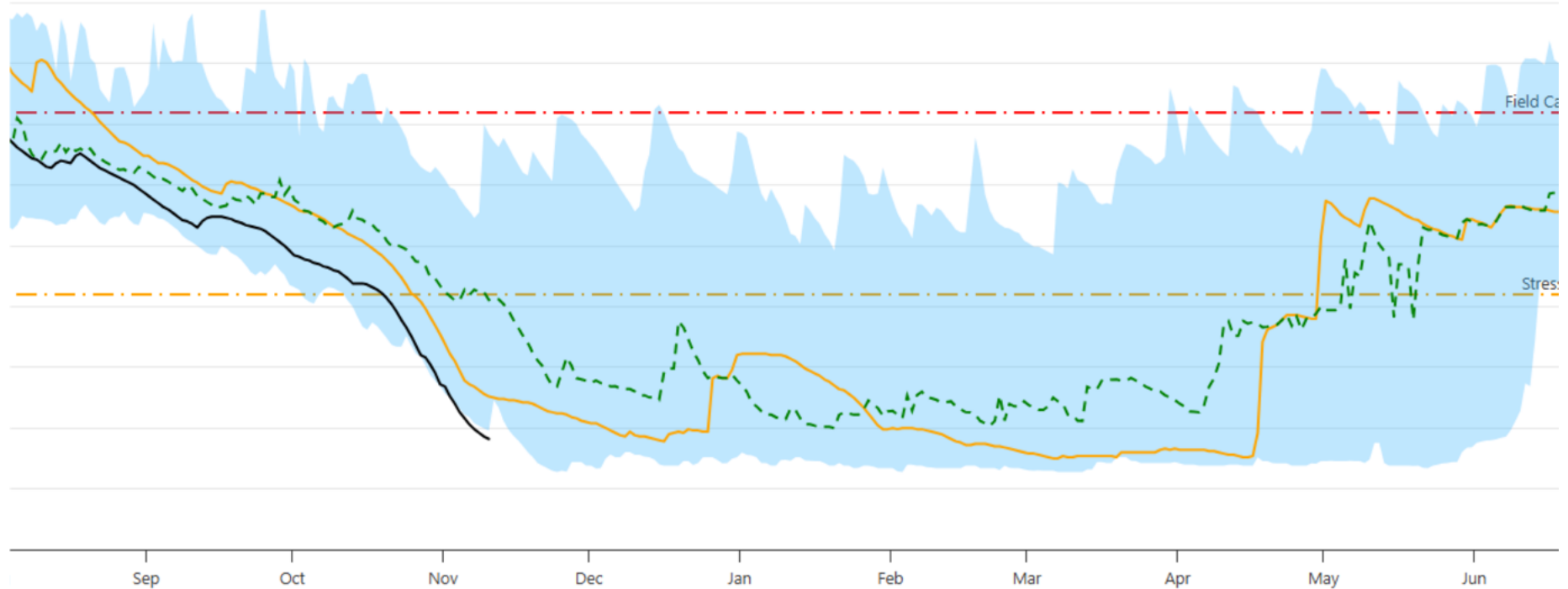


Sample of Farms B2R			
Month	Bottom Quartile	average	This year
Jul	6	9	2
Aug	11	14	11
Sept	17	19	19
Oct	31	34	25
Nov	21	27	19
Dec	16	23	14
Jan	12	16	?
Feb	13	17	
Mar	15	21	
Apr	17	19	
May	9	13	
Jun	10	10	

Soil Moisture for Crownthorpe

— Current Year — Previous Year (2024/2025) - - Median (22-year record)

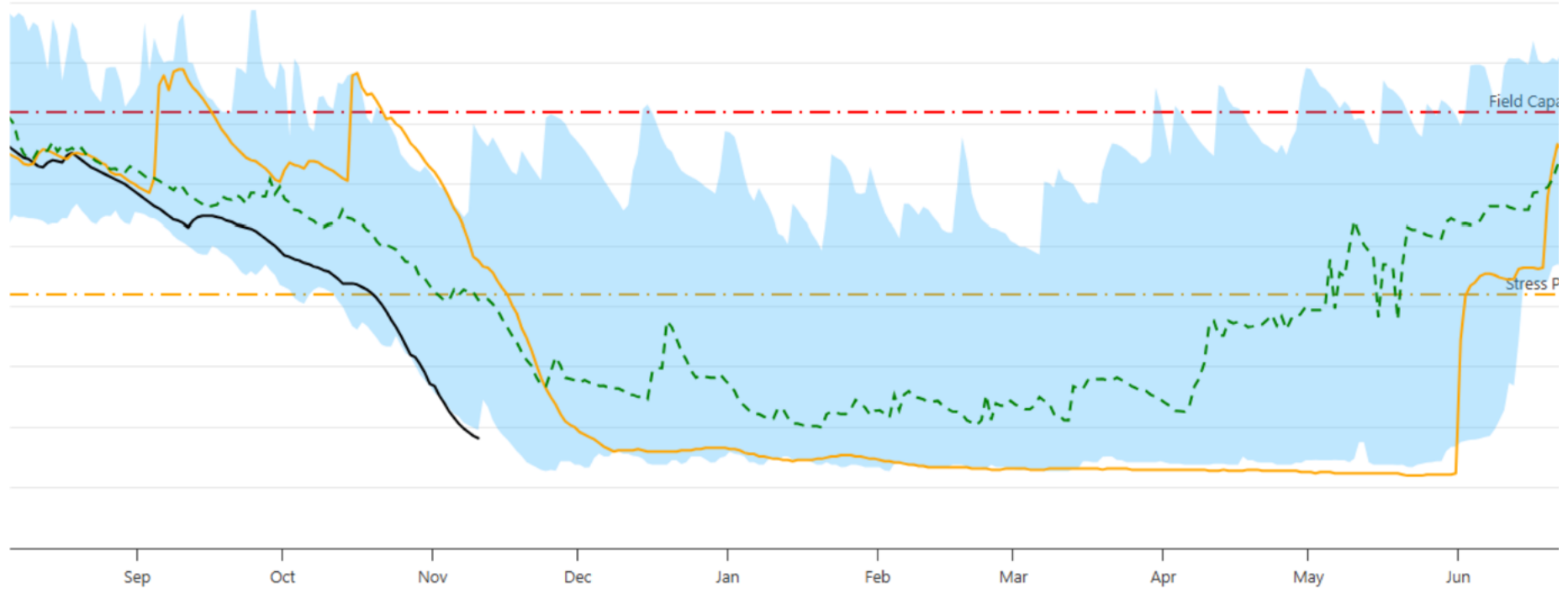
Where we are compared to last year



Soil Moisture for Crownthorpe

— Current Year — Previous Year (2019/2020) - - Median (22-year record)

Where we are compared to 2019





80.5mm

Rain to reach Field Capacity.



34%

Probability of rain occurring for the month ahead to reach field capacity is based on historic rainfall data for this rainfall site.

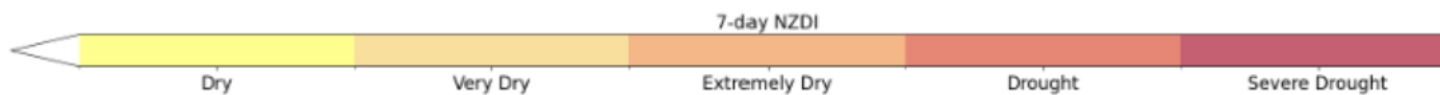
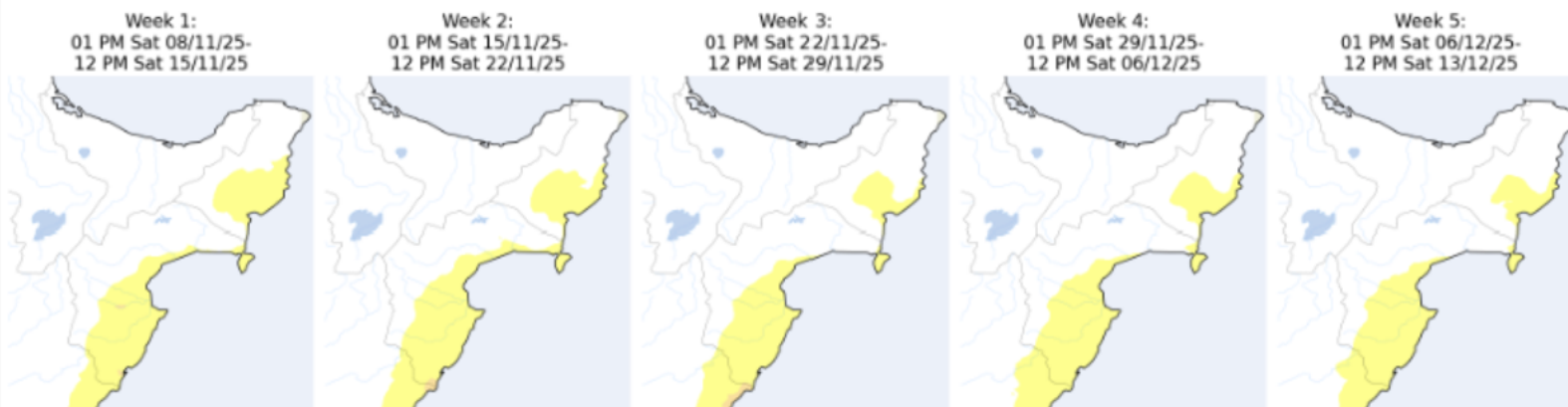


35.5mm

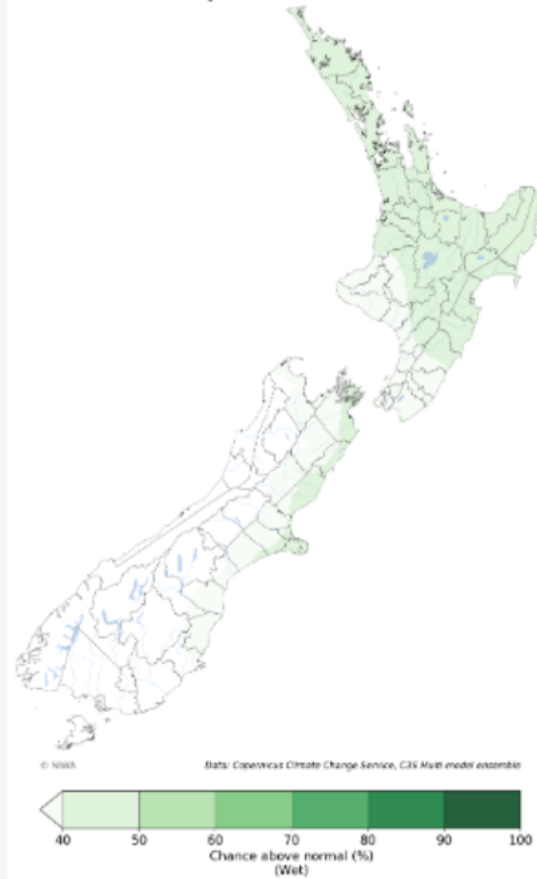
Rain to reach Stress Point.

HBRC KPI's

NIWA35
Forecast weekly maximum NZDI
Ensemble mean
Model initiation: 00 UTC Sat 08/11/2025



**Probabilistic Precipitation Tercile Forecast
December 2025 - February 2026**



To quote
Toddy

Without a plan a
void is often created

This void tends to be
filled with anxiety

Key conclusions form a post drought survey

Farms become resilient when farmers become resilient (not the other way around)



Resilient farmers

Actively managed a plan

Communicated this plan

Engaged in the community.

Definition of resilience= time taken to get back to business as usual after an adverse event

Why a formal plan

- ▶ The plan made them
 - ▶ Decisive and determined in their actions
 - ▶ Proactive and timely
 - ▶ Not afraid to make the hard decisions and felt confident in doing so
 - ▶ Typically, they were back to BAU fast
- ▶ For other stakeholders
 - ▶ Gave them confidence knowing that decisions were being made
 - ▶ Gave a sense of direction so that they too could plan ahead



Without an actively managed plan



Decisions inclined to be intuitive



Intuitive decisions tend to be late and more reactionary



They also tend to be bigger steps rather than small micro steps done by those with active plans



Bigger & fewer steps are higher risk compared with smaller & more timely ones

What to do



Plan and match scenarios.



Watch your neighbours, BUT their answer IS NOT necessarily yours.



Get the calculator, give your self space and time.



Don't put it off... please!



Enquire and be innovative.



Develop multiple courses, for pre and post rain

Low hanging fruit.

Make the
decisions on the
information
today

Do the sums on
feeding out,

Understand the
relative
percentage
intake.

“ring fence” key
stock...

Early weaning



Store now vs
hold and kill
much later

Cull early

Monitor live
weights

Temporary Solar
pumps?

Fence dams?
Siphon water ,
timers and shut
offs



Talk to friends, neighbours and trusted advisors. Just doing so really helps.... (trust me on this!)



It also might inspire others.



Don't forget to include staff in the process



Take time out for recreation , a round of golf with some mates etc...a surf??



Try and be in the moment with family/ children

