

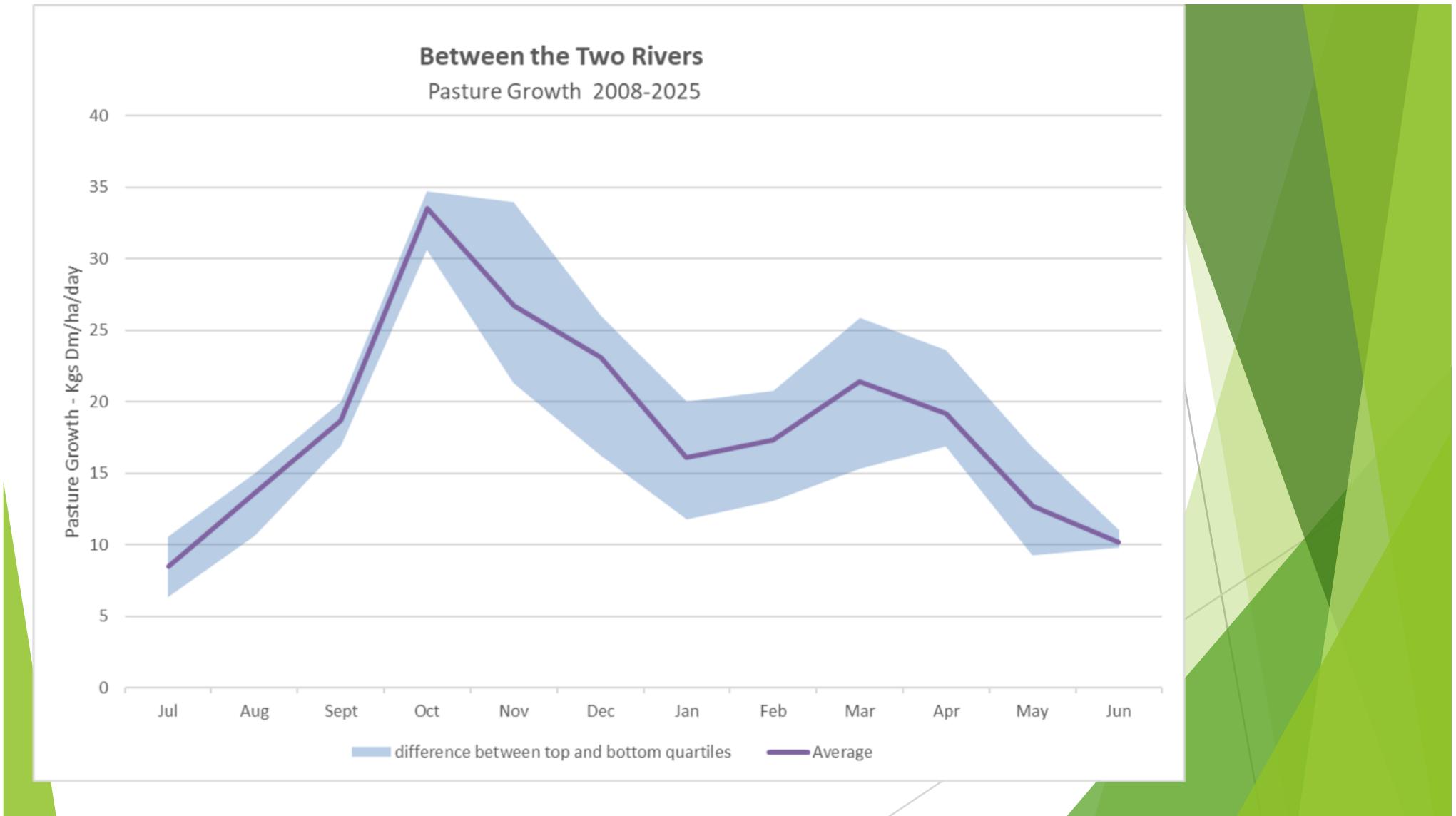
How are we tracking? &  
What levers can we pull

Lochie MacGillivray



## Between the Two Rivers

Pasture Growth 2008-2025

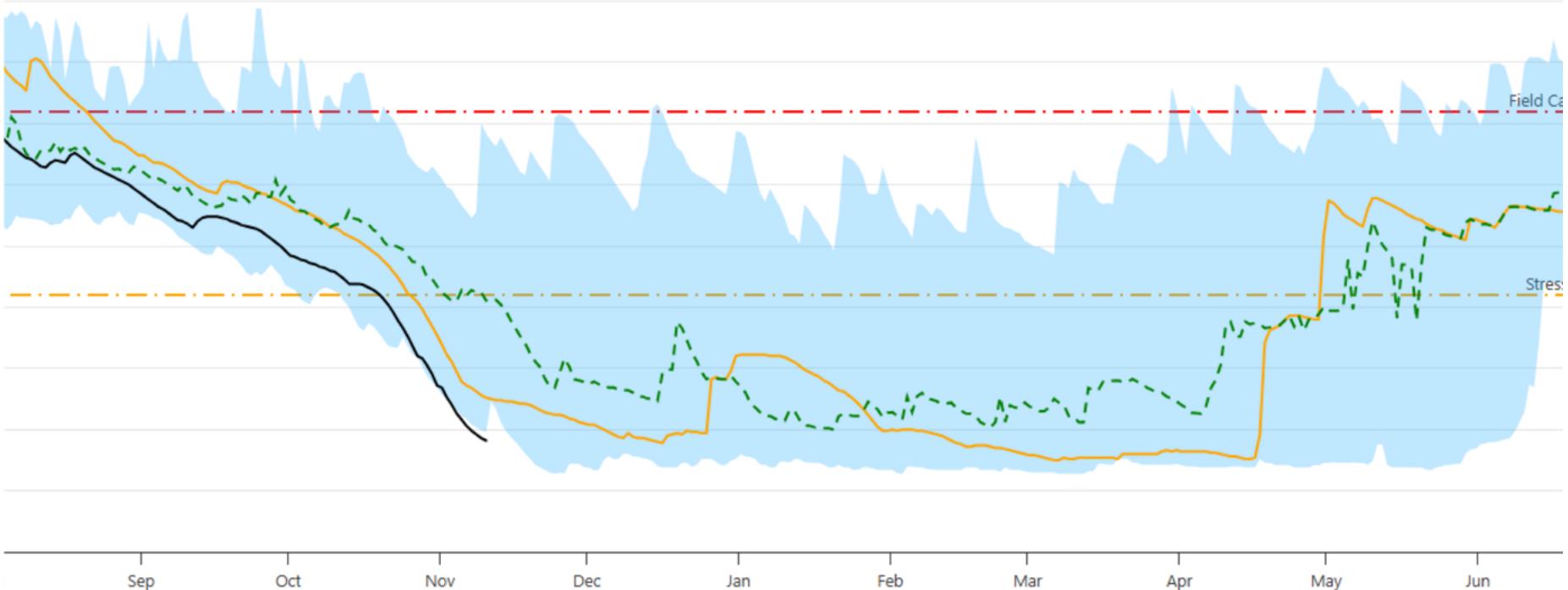


Sample of Farms B2R			
Month	Bottom Quartile	average	This year
Jul	6	9	2
Aug	11	14	11
Sept	17	19	19
Oct	31	34	25
Nov	21	27	19
Dec	16	23	14
Jan	12	16	?
Feb	13	17	
Mar	15	21	
Apr	17	19	
May	9	13	
Jun	10	10	

## Soil Moisture for Crownthorpe

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

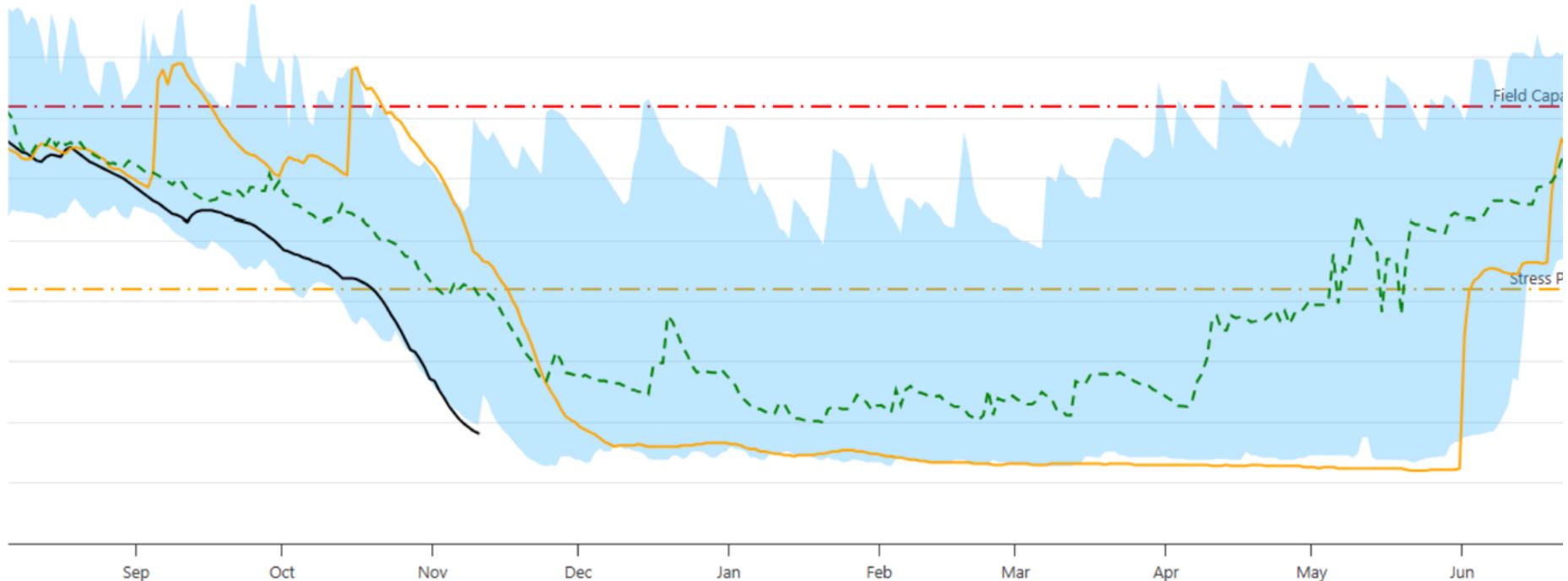
Where we are compared to last year



## 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**



Week 1:  
01 PM Sat 08/11/25-  
12 PM Sat 15/11/25



Week 2:  
01 PM Sat 15/11/25-  
12 PM Sat 22/11/25



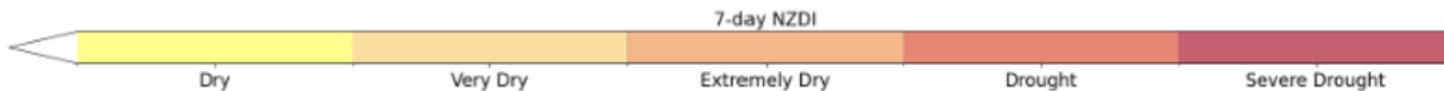
Week 3:  
01 PM Sat 22/11/25-  
12 PM Sat 29/11/25

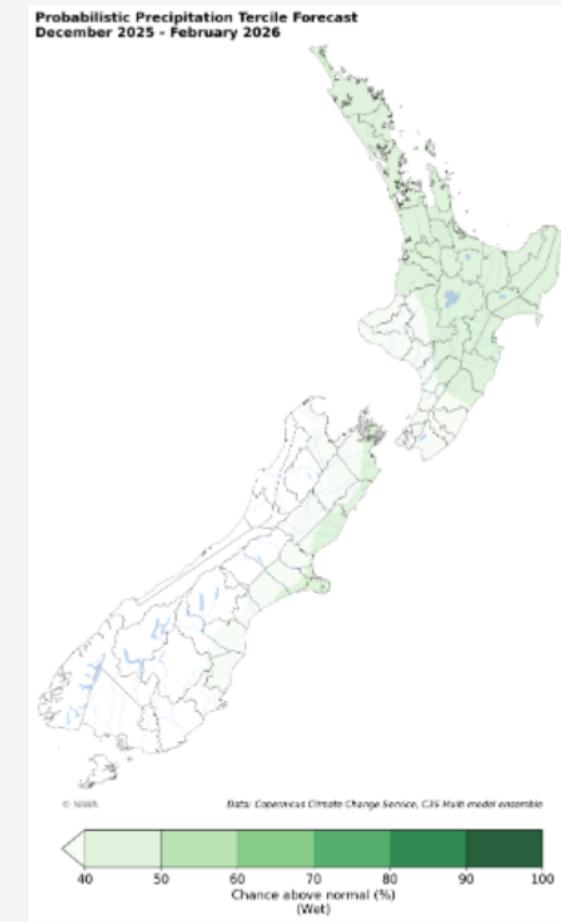


Week 4:  
01 PM Sat 29/11/25-  
12 PM Sat 06/12/25



Week 5:  
01 PM Sat 06/12/25-  
12 PM Sat 13/12/25





To quote  
Toddy

Without a plan a  
void is often created

This void tends to be  
filled with anxiety

## Key conclusions from 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