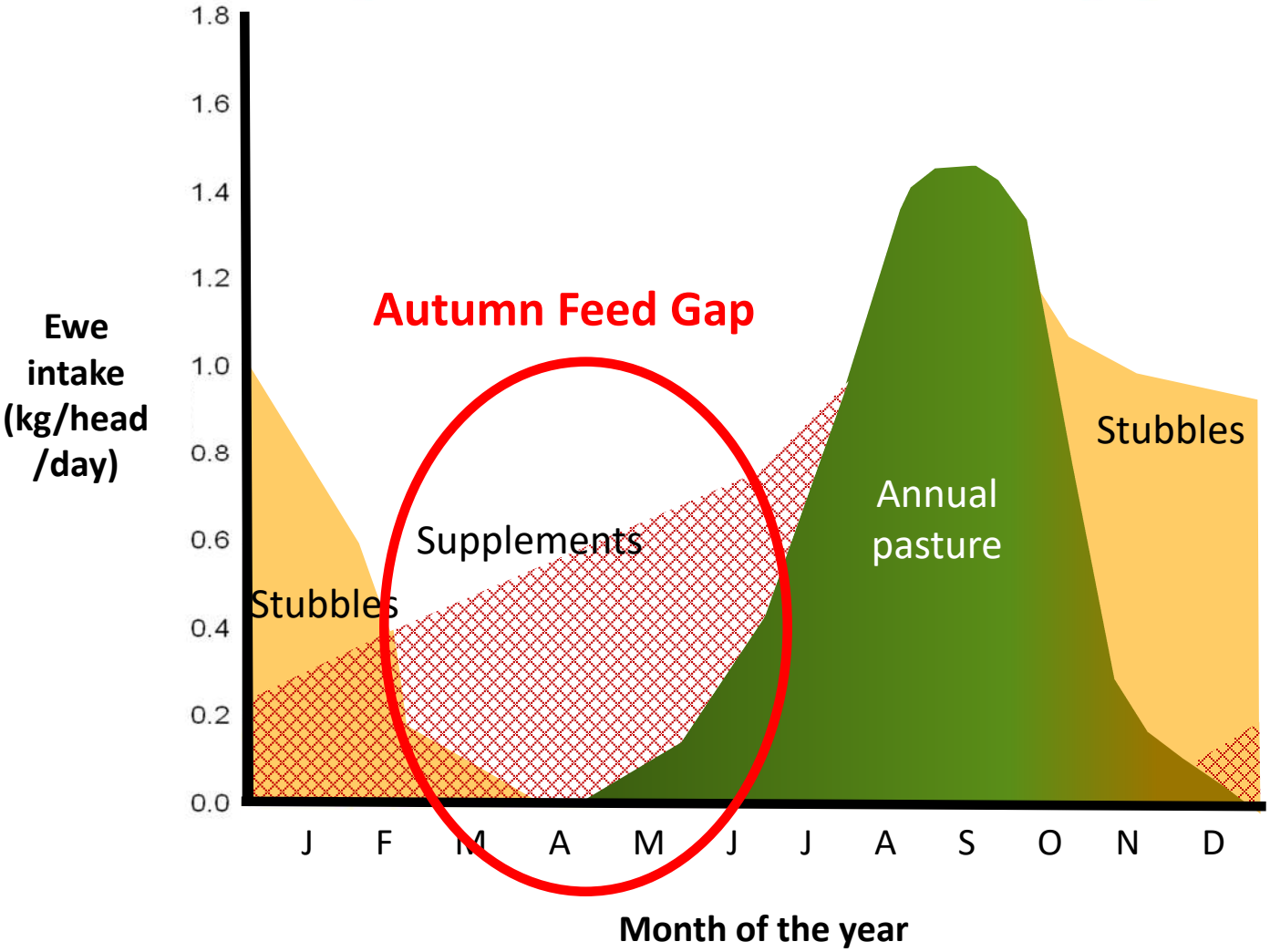
Use of nitrogen fertiliser to support salinity tolerance and promote edible biomass production in saltbush (*Atriplex nummularia*) forage systems.

Sarah Rich, Ed Barrett-Lennard, Joshua Hendry,

Matt Wilmot and Hayley Norman

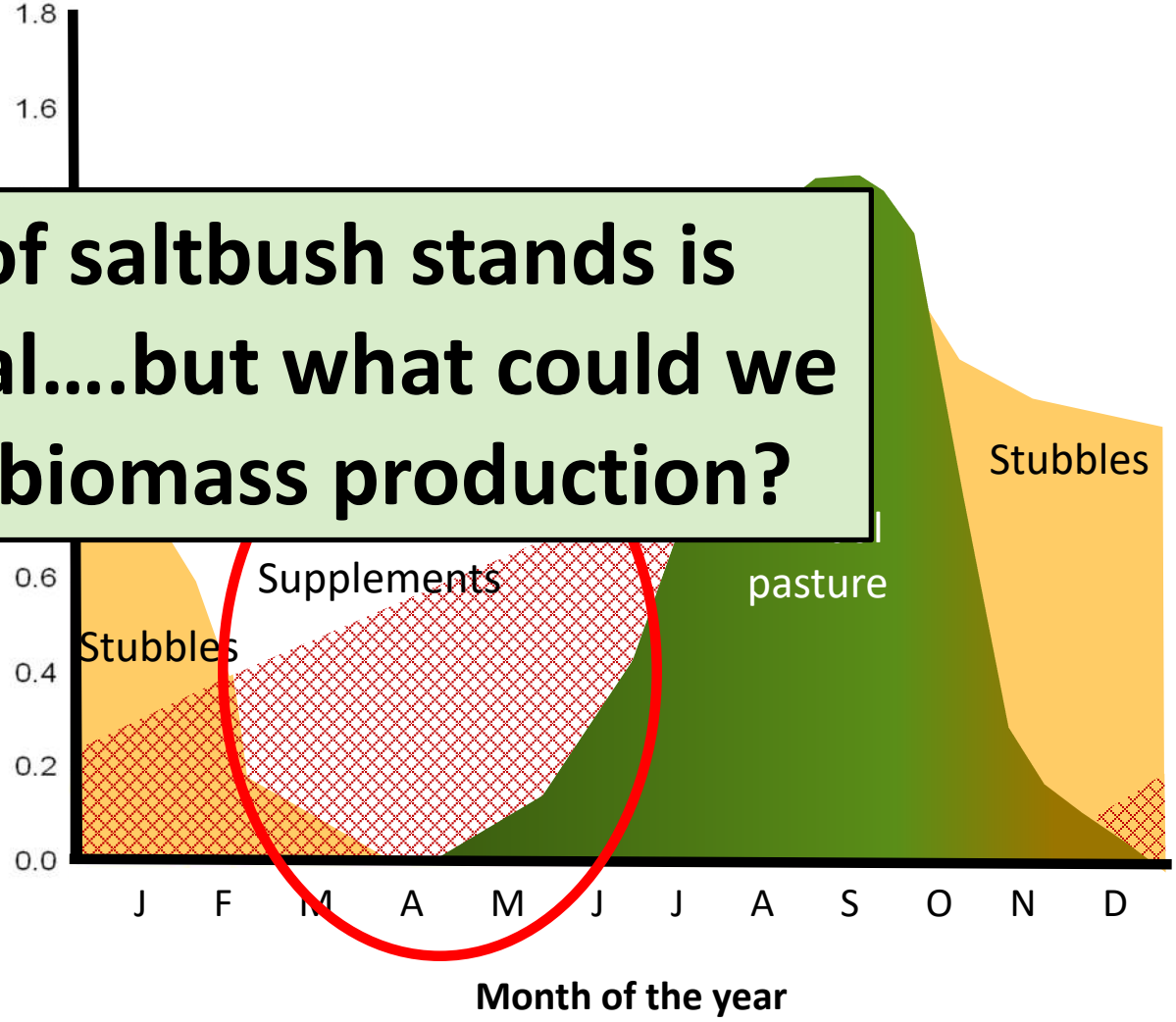
Saltbush as a perennial forage to fill the autumn feed gap



Dean Thomas, AusFarm modelling

Saltbush as a perennial forage to fill the autumn feed gap

Management of saltbush stands is usually minimal….but what could we do to increase biomass production?



Dean Thomas, AusFarm modelling

Response to salt and N - glasshouse

- 2 yr old potted shrubs
- leached soil of minimal nutritional value
- 5 levels of nitrogen (N)
- 3 salinity levels (NaCl)
- 2 months of nutrient solution treatment

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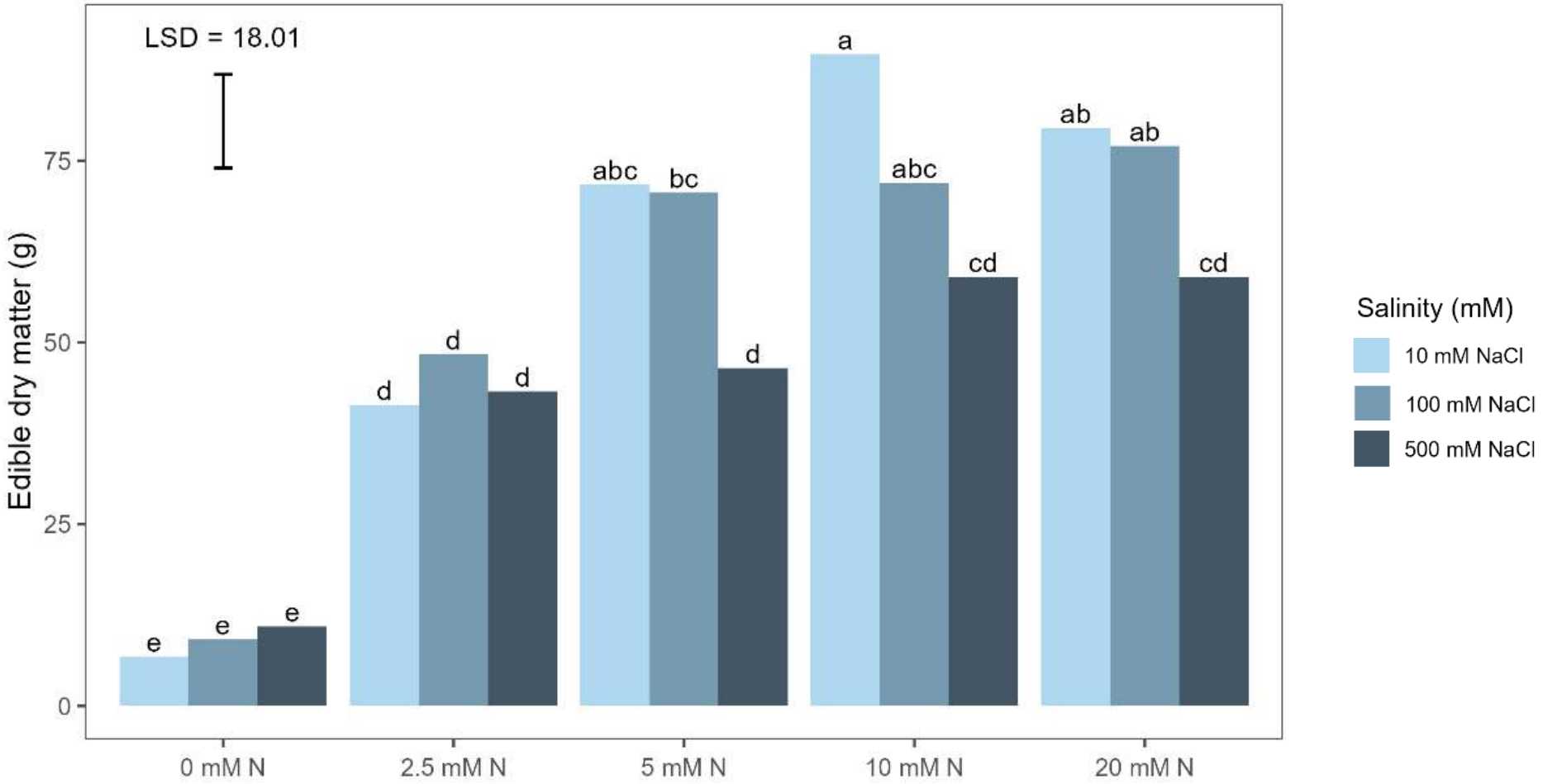
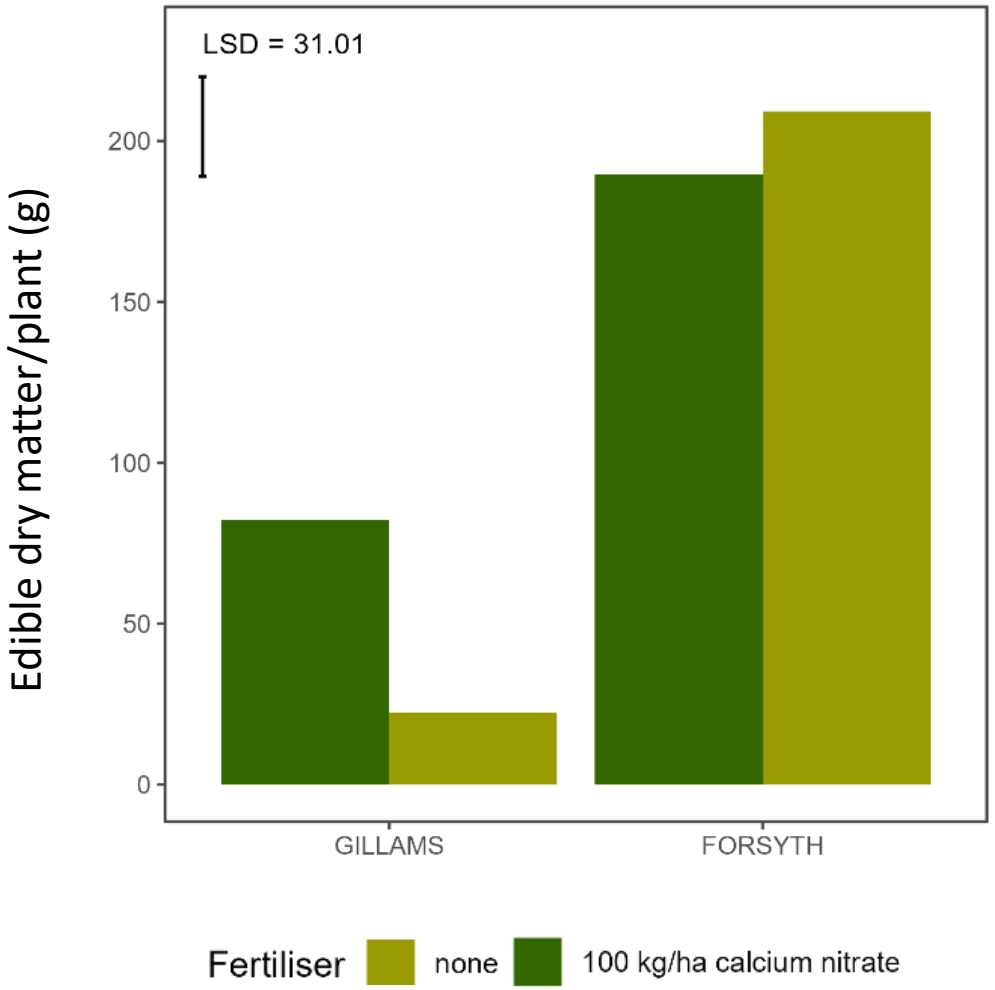


Field response to N application is varied



Conclusion

- Saltbush does produce edible biomass in response to N, although amounts above 5 mM did not significantly increase production
- N will support salinity tolerance in saltbush
- Field results will vary, potentially due to rooting depth
- Produces could utilise test strip prior to fertilisation or use N fixing pasture