

Regional Weather and Climate Guide

In the last 30 years on the Eyre Peninsula

- ☁ Annual rainfall has been stable
- ☁ Dry years have occurred 12 times and wet years 11 times
- ☁ Rainfall has decreased in the autumn and spring months
- ☁ Winter rainfall has been reliable; summer has been unreliable
- ☁ The autumn break typically occurred in early to mid May on the peninsula, and south of Kimba, in late May-early June throughout much of the centre of the region and the end of June in the north
- 🌡 There have been more hot days, with more consecutive days above 40 °C



The Eyre Peninsula at a glance

The Eyre Peninsula region covers around 8.2 million hectares, of which 68% is under agricultural production. It is a major broadacre cropping region, producing cereals, pulses and oilseeds, as well as cattle, sheep and wool. The region contributed around \$590 million to the Australian economy in 2017–18.

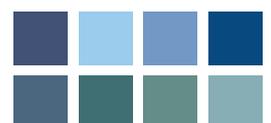
Natural Environments ■ Low Level Production ■ Dryland Production ■ Irrigated Production ■ Intensive Uses ■ Water Bodies ■

A guide to weather and climate on the Eyre Peninsula

Primary producers make decisions using their knowledge and expectations of regional weather patterns. The purpose of this guide is to provide an insight into the region's climate and an understanding of changes that have occurred through recent periods. This information can potentially assist primary producers and rural communities make better informed decisions for their business and livelihoods. This guide is part of a series of guides produced for every Natural Resource Management area around Australia.



A climate guide for agriculture
Eyre Peninsula, South Australia



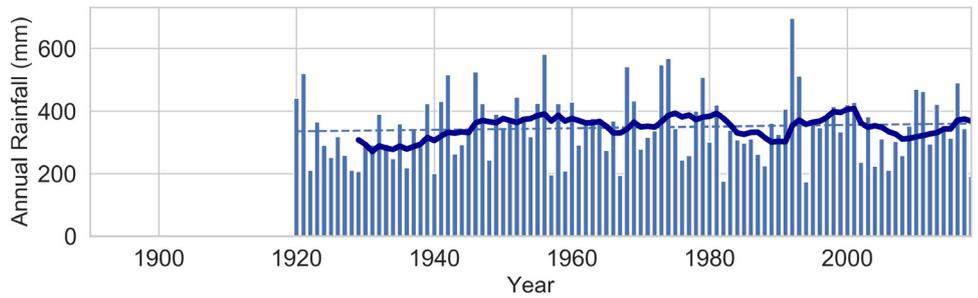


Annual Rainfall

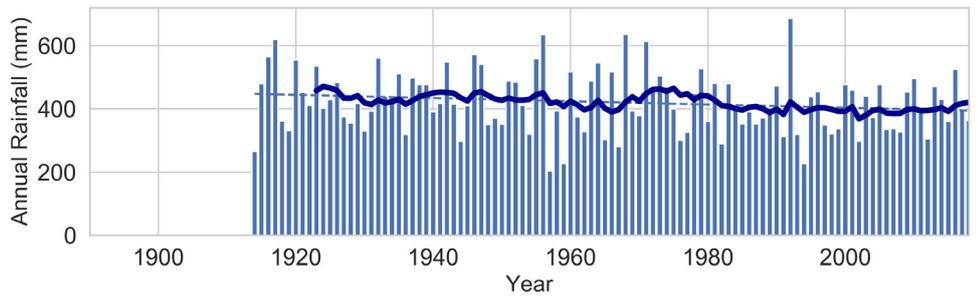
Annual rainfall on the Eyre Peninsula has been stable

Annual rainfall on the Eyre Peninsula has been stable, recording an average of around 350 mm in both the past 30 years (1989–2018) and the previous 30 years (1959–1988). The charts show annual rainfall (blue bars), with a 10-year running average (solid blue line) for Kimba and Cummins. The average annual rainfall over the past 30 years (1989–2018) was 359 mm at Kimba and 402 mm at Cummins. Although the average annual rainfall has been stable, it still fluctuates from year to year with natural variability. In the past 30 years (1989–2018), dry years (lowest 30%) have occurred 12 times and wet years (highest 30%) have occurred 11 times, while the remaining years were in the average range. Note the Millennium drought

Kimba Annual Rainfall 1920 - 2018



Cummins Annual Rainfall 1914 - 2018



accounted for five of these dry years in the recent period. During the previous 30-year period

(1959–1988), dry years occurred nine times and wet years occurred six times.

For more information on future projections, visit the Climate Change in Australia website > www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au

Want to know more about the guides? Try Frequently Asked Questions at > www.bom.gov.au/climate/climate-guides/#faqs

Eyre Peninsula winter rainfall is reliable; summer is unreliable

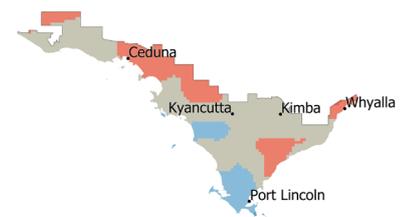
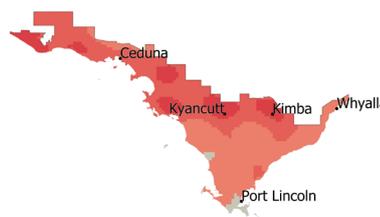
Rainfall reliability maps for the past 30 years (1989–2018) show winter rainfall has been moderately reliable across the region (blue areas), with usually only about 40 mm difference from one year to the next. This is in contrast to spring and autumn rainfall, which has been less reliable (beige and light red areas). Summer rainfall has been unreliable across the region (red areas), and although there have been some wet summers in the past 30 years, summer rainfall has not been reliable from year to year.

Winter

Spring

Summer

Autumn



Average Change In Seasonal Rainfall From Year to Year



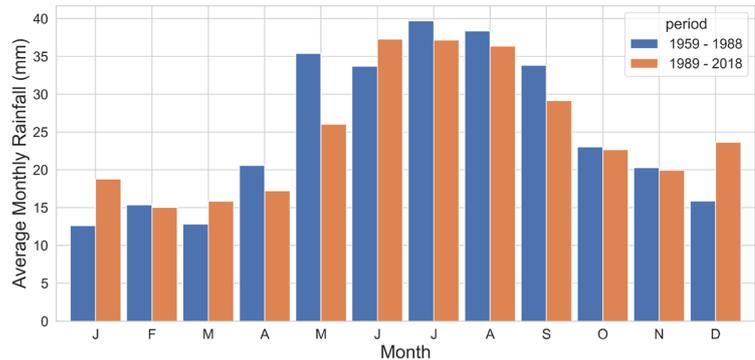


Rainfall Timing

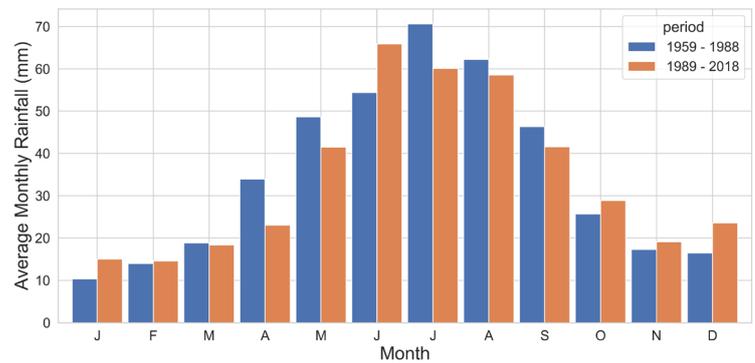
There has been a decrease in rainfall in the autumn and spring months

Rainfall decreased in autumn and in the late winter and early spring months at Kyancutta and Port Lincoln between 1989–2018 (orange bars) compared with 1959–1988 (blue bars). Over the past 30 years, winter rainfall (May to November inclusive) for Kyancutta was 209 mm; 15 mm lower than the 224 mm average for the previous 30-year period (1959–1988). For Port Lincoln, winter rainfall has declined 9 mm over the same period, from 325 mm to 316 mm. Over the same 30-year periods, summer rainfall (December to April inclusive) increased by 14 mm at Kyancutta, from 77 mm to 91 mm. At Port Lincoln, summer rainfall remained relatively stable, changing by only 2 mm from 93 mm to 95 mm.

Kyancutta (AS) 30-year Average Rainfall by Month

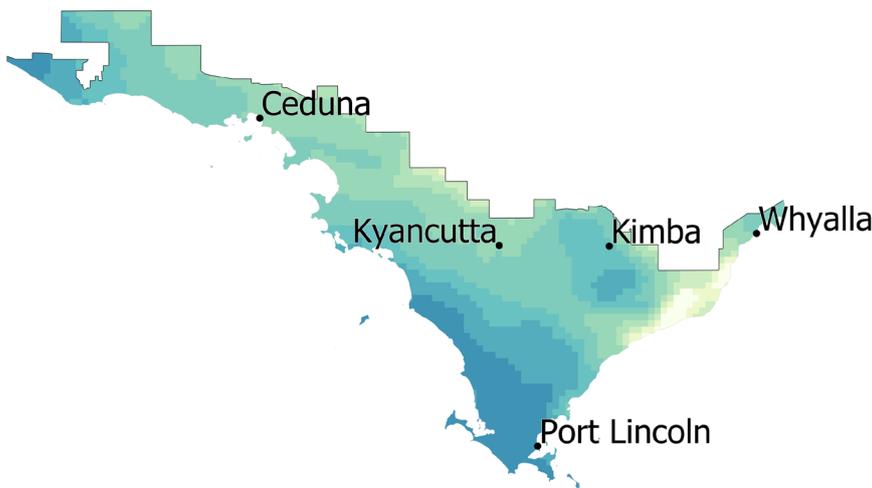


Port Lincoln (AS) 30-year Average Rainfall by Month



For more information on the latest observations and science behind these changes, refer to the State of the Climate Report > www.bom.gov.au/state-of-the-climate/

Timing of the autumn break on the Eyre Peninsula



In the Eyre Peninsula region, the autumn break can be defined as at least 15 mm of rainfall over three days, prior to the commencement of sowing. The map shows that over the past 30 years (1989–2018), the break typically occurred in early to mid May on the peninsula and south of Kimba, and in late May to early June throughout much of the centre of the region (green areas) and towards the end of June in the north. On the coast around Cowell, the break has not occurred in some years until after mid-July. The timing of the autumn break has become later near Amo Bay and a few weeks earlier near Lucky Bay with little change elsewhere, when comparing the average from the last 30 years (1989–2018) with the previous 30 years (1959–1988).

Weeks after 1 April	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	>13
Autumn Break Usually Occurred After...	12 May	19 May	26 May	2 June	9 June	16 June	23 June	30 June	1 July



