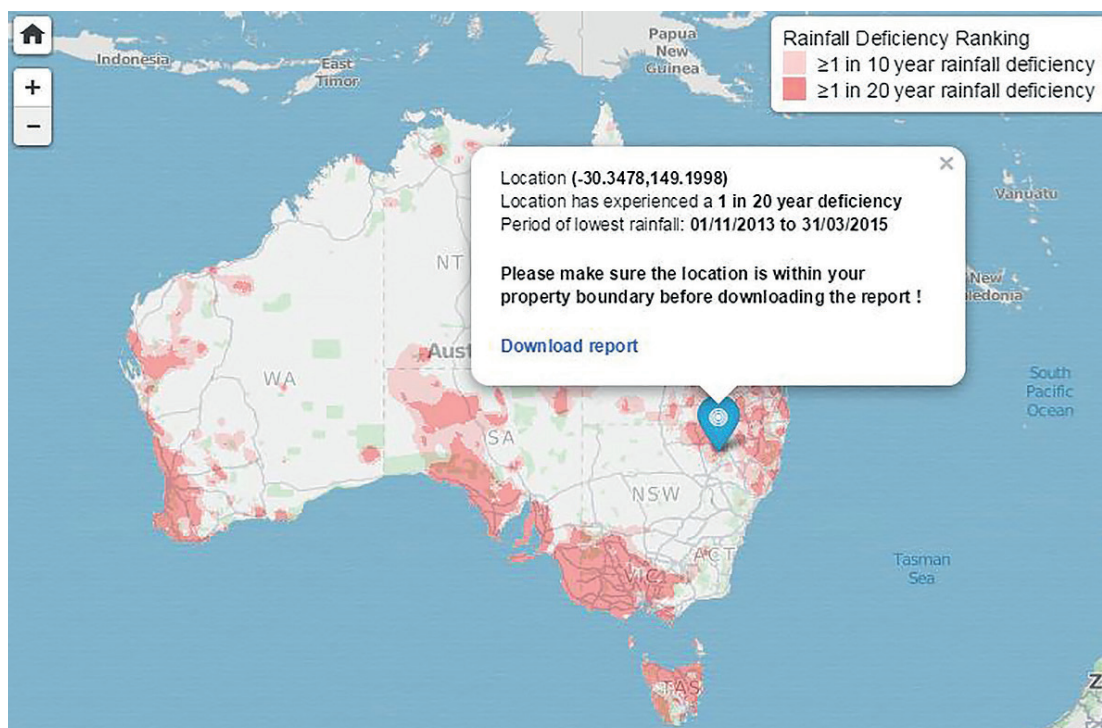


# Supporting drought policy

Even well-prepared farmers can face hardship from drought. The Australian Government's Drought and Drought Recovery Concessional Loans schemes make loans available to eligible drought-affected farm businesses. The loans help them prepare for, manage through and recover from drought, and return to commercial viability in the long term. One of the key eligibility criteria for these schemes is exposure to long-term, significant rainfall deficiency. To support the schemes the Bureau of Meteorology provides the Australian Rainfall Deficiency Analyser. This web-based tool shows national maps of areas where a one-in-ten-year and one-in-twenty-year—or greater—rainfall deficiency has occurred in the previous 24 months.



The Australian Rainfall Deficiency Analyser has been crucial to the design and delivery of loans to farmers hit hardest by drought across the country.

*We needed a consistent and objective way to identify rainfall deficiencies across the country, so we could build a clearer picture of which farm businesses could be eligible for this assistance. We turned to the Bureau, which created a tool that uses rainfall records to identify which areas have had long-term deficiencies. Farmers use this tool as part of their applications. This has greatly improved our ability to consider each farm business on an individual basis, ensuring drought assistance is much better targeted than in the past.*



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