

National Climate and Water Briefing

1 March 2018

This was a hot, dry summer for most of Australia. A weak La Niña did not bring the rainfall that usually comes with a La Niña. Eastern Australia experienced a series of prolonged heatwaves. Northern Western Australia had three tropical cyclones, which brought above-average rainfall to the northwest, while Queensland had its driest summer since 1990.

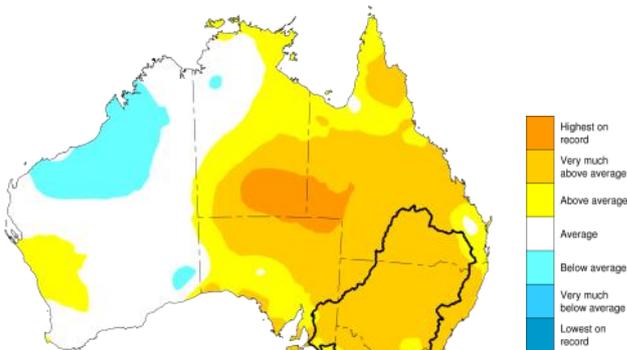
Climate influences and conditions

Climate influences

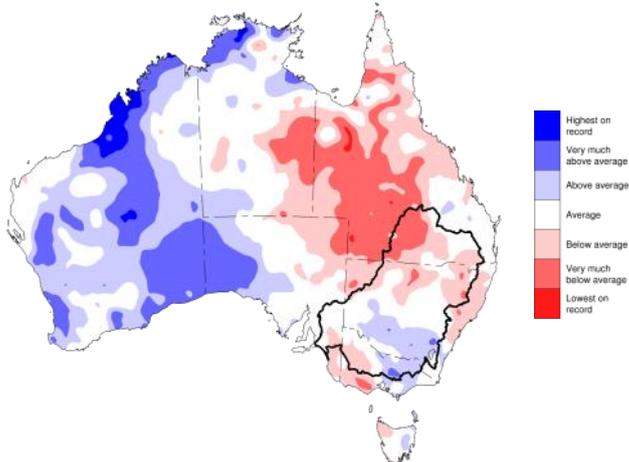
- Weak La Niña conditions in the Pacific Ocean
- Very warm water in Tasman Sea

Summer rainfall and temperatures

- Within top three warmest summers on record for Australia and Queensland
- Summer rainfall was 4.6% above average for the nation, largely due to very high rain totals in northwest WA



Maximum temperature, summer 2018

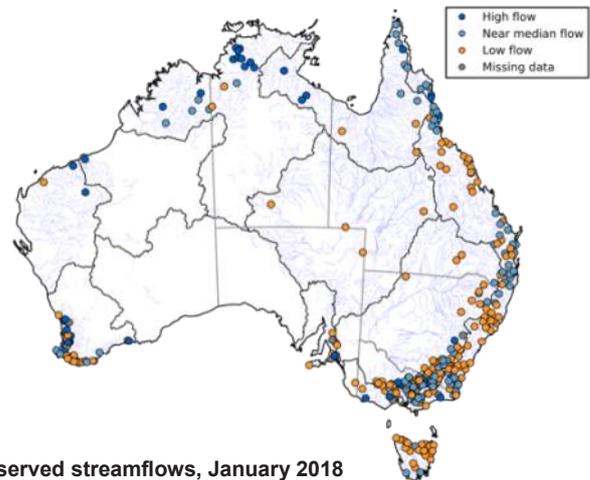


Rainfall, summer 2018

Streamflow and soil moisture

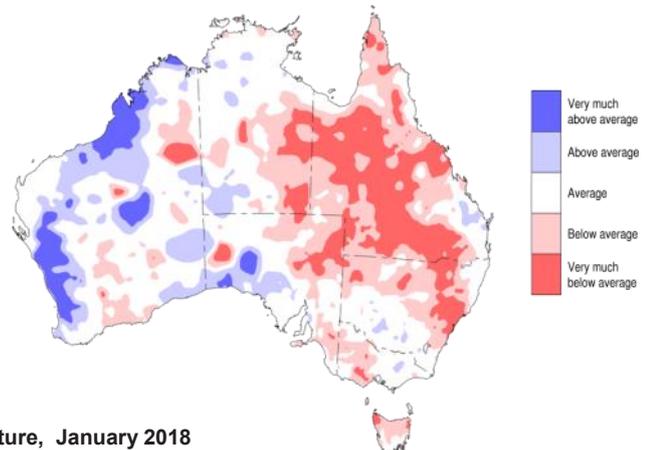
January streamflows, compared to average for the month, were:

- high at 49 locations (16%)
- near median at 103 locations (34%)
- low at 155 locations (50%)



Observed streamflows, January 2018

- Poor summer rains and a delayed monsoon have left soil moisture very much below average for northeastern Australia



Soil moisture, January 2018

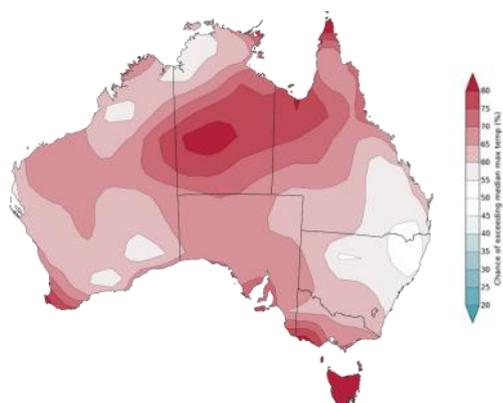


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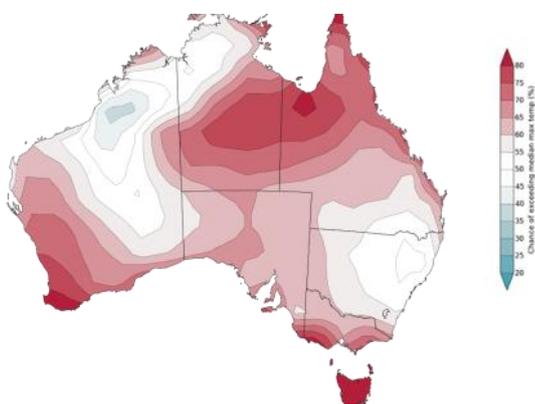
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Climate outlooks

- Maximum and minimum temperatures for autumn are likely to be above median for most of Australia

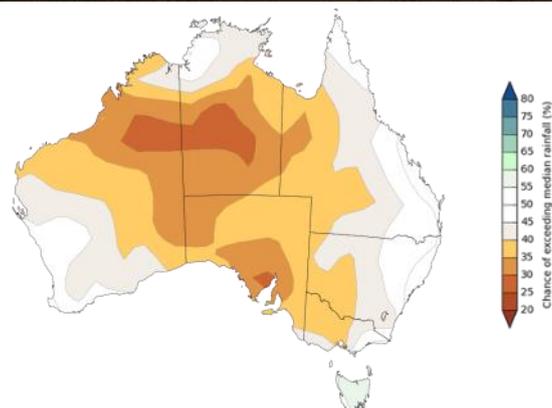


Chance of exceeding median maximum temperature, autumn 2018



Chance of exceeding median minimum temperature, autumn 2018

- Rainfall for autumn is likely to be below average for most of Australia except for the far southwest, central east coast and Tasmania

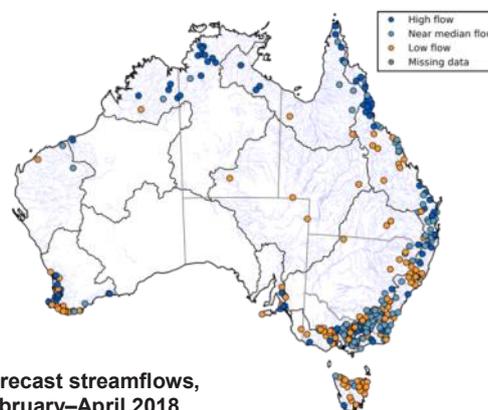


Chance of exceeding median rainfall, autumn 2018

Streamflow outlooks

Compared to average for this time of year, the streamflow outlook for February–April 2018 is for:

- high flows more likely at 122 locations (39%)
- near-median flows at 108 locations (34%)
- low flows at 87 locations (27%)
- skill at this time of year is generally low across northern Australia and moderate to high for southern Australia



Forecast streamflows, February–April 2018

More information

Rainfall and temperature outlooks
www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks

Seasonal streamflow forecasts and water storage
www.bom.gov.au/water

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