

National Climate and Water Briefing

29 March 2018

Large-scale climate drivers are currently neutral and the seasonal climate outlook reflects the neutral climate pattern for most of Australia. Over the past month, Queensland has experienced heavy rainfall from various weather systems including a tropical cyclone over Cape York, while southern Australia has experienced a rapid drying with low rainfall and high evaporation.

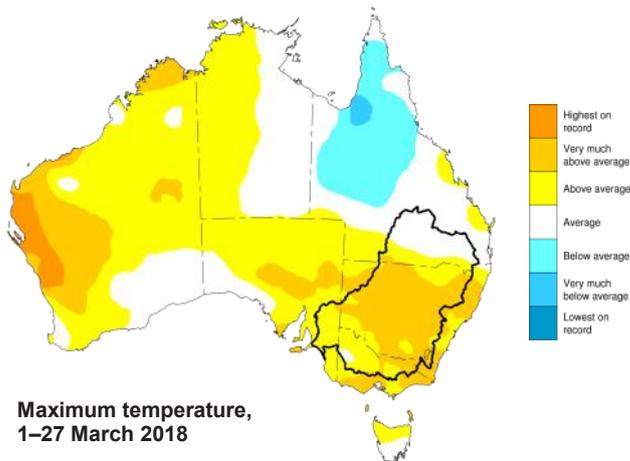
Climate influences and conditions

Climate influences

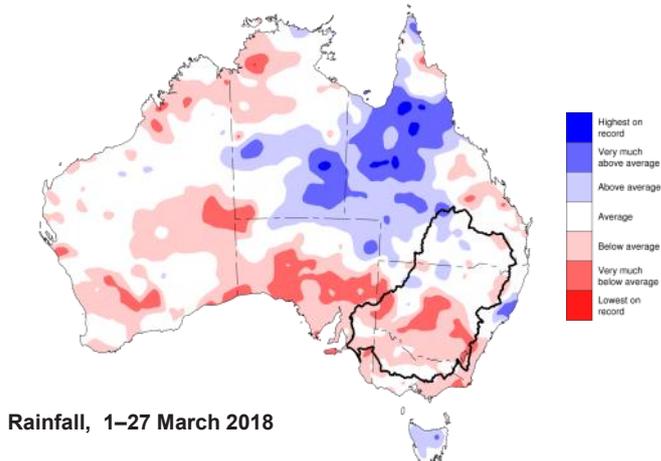
- A weak/short-lived La Niña has ended
- ENSO neutral (neither El Niño nor La Niña) for coming months

March-to-date rainfall and temperatures

- Above average temperatures across the south and west



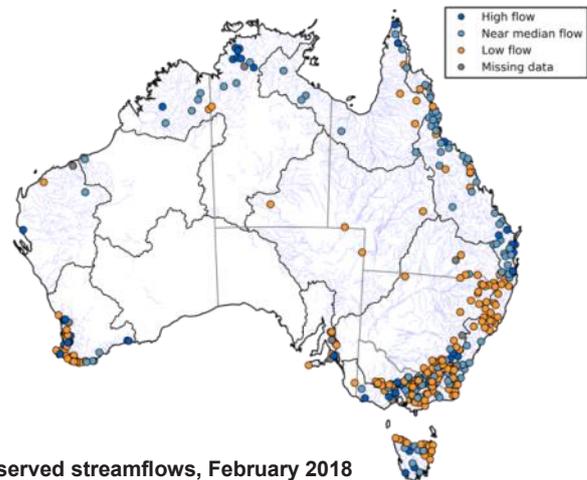
- High rainfall totals for northern and central Queensland
- Low rainfall totals for southern Australia



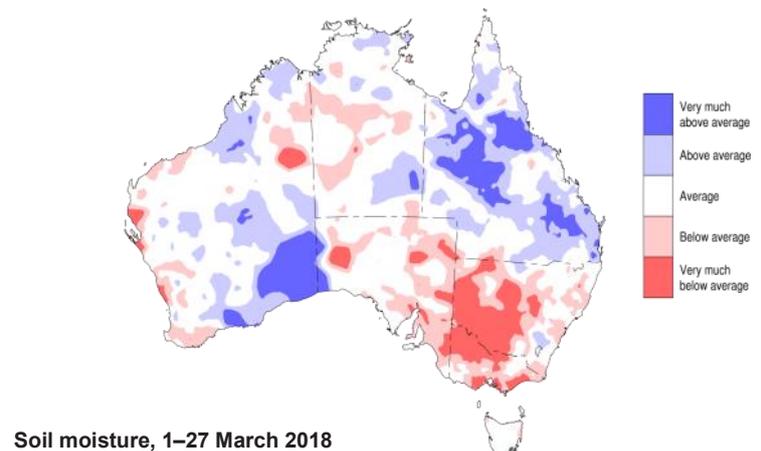
Streamflow and soil moisture

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

- high at 50 locations (16%)
- near median at 107 locations (33%)
- low at 163 locations (51%)



- Rainfall across parts of southeastern Australia in late March failed to compensate for a drier-than-average month

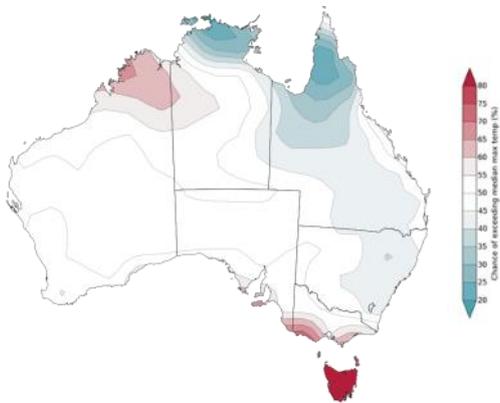


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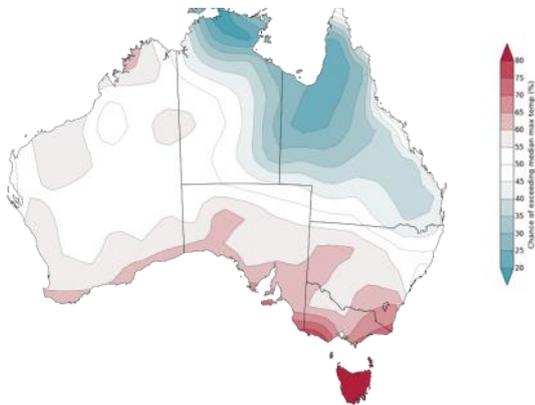
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Climate outlooks

- Maximum and minimum temperatures for April–June are likely to be below median for northeastern Australia

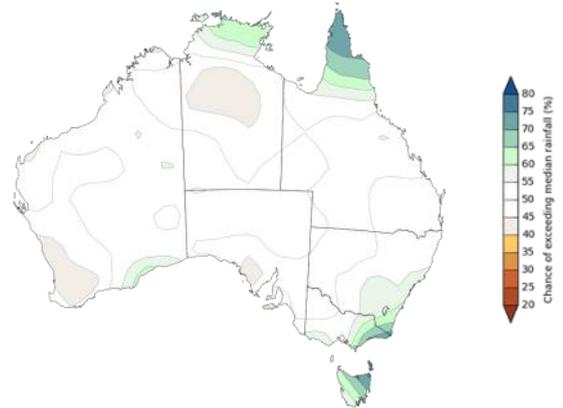


Chance of exceeding median maximum temperature, April–June 2018



Chance of exceeding median minimum temperature, April–June 2018

- Rainfall for April–June is likely to be above average for the far southeast coast, Cape York and the Top End

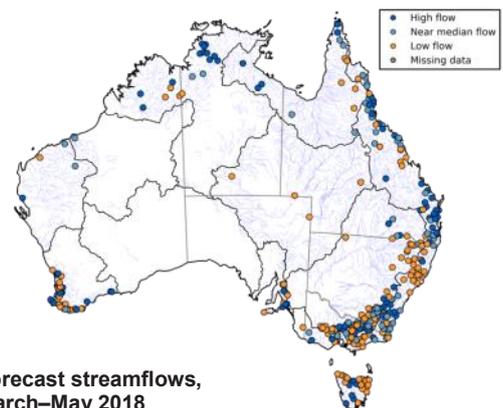


Chance of exceeding median rainfall, April–June 2018

Streamflow outlooks

Compared to average for this time of year, the streamflow outlook for March–May is for:

- high flows more likely at 102 locations (31%)
- near-median flows at 80 locations (24%)
- low flows at 149 locations (45%)



Forecast streamflows, March–May 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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