

National Climate and Water Briefing

25 January 2018

Most of Australia has seen a hot dry summer so far. The weak La Niña is yet to deliver needed rainfall to eastern Australia and a series of prolonged heatwaves have scorched parts of the south and east. The passage of two ex-tropical cyclones have brought above-average rainfall to Western Australia, while the rest of the tropical north saw a late start to the monsoon.

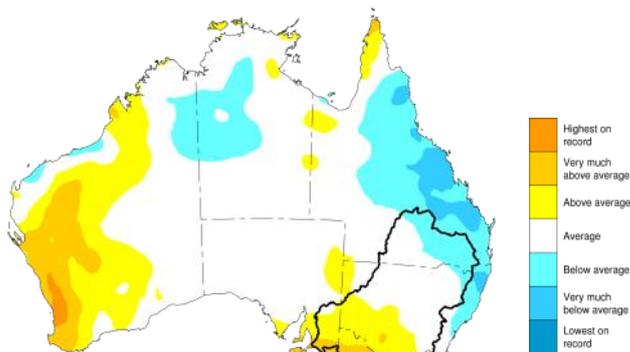
Climate influences and conditions

Climate influences

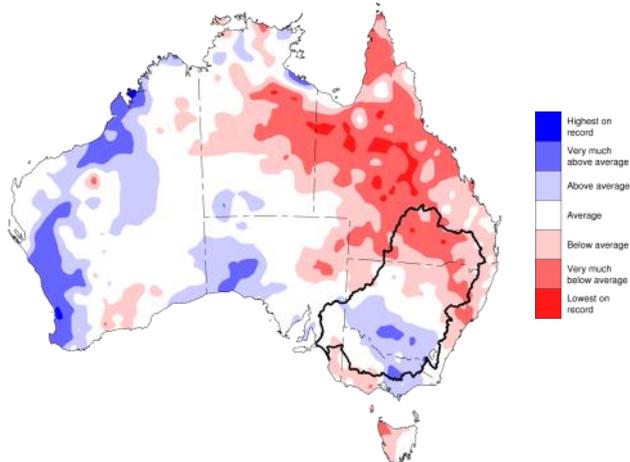
- Weak La Niña conditions in the Pacific
- Very warm water in Tasman Sea

Recent rainfall and temperatures

- Australia on track for 3rd warmest January; 2nd warmest January for Queensland
- Murray Darling Basin On track for 2nd lowest January rainfall



Maximum temperature, 1-23 January 2018

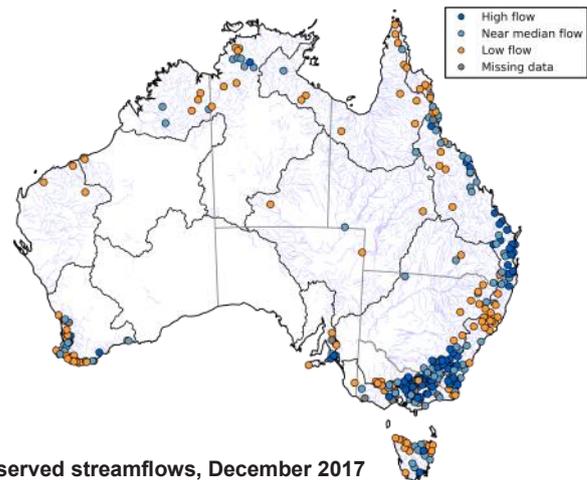


Rainfall, 1-23 January 2018

Streamflow and soil moisture

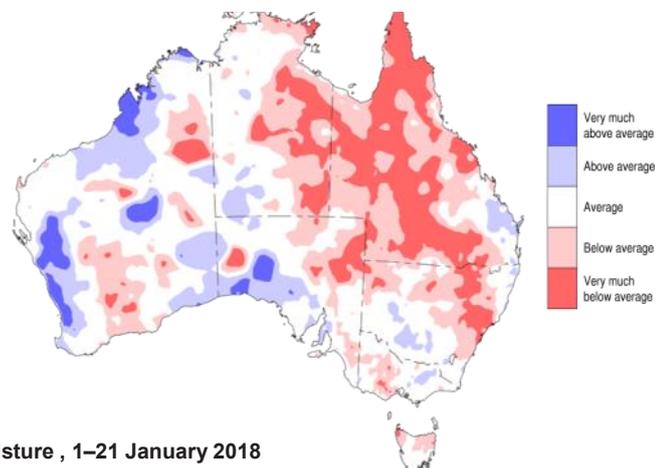
December streamflows, compared to average for the month, were:

- high at 96 locations (31%)
- near median at 99 locations (32%)
- low at 114 locations (36%)



Observed streamflows, December 2017

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



Soil moisture, 1-21 January 2018

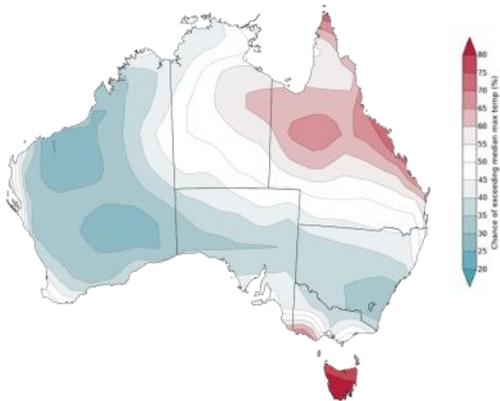


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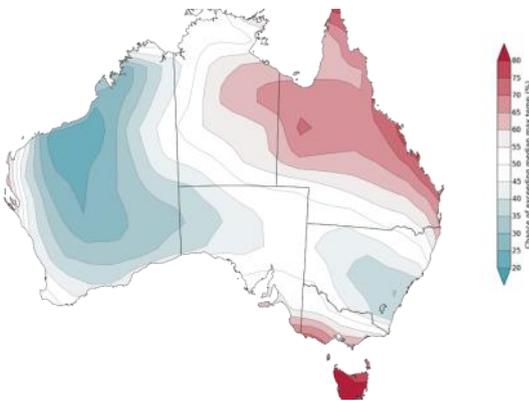
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Climate outlooks

- Maximum and minimum temperatures for February–April are likely to be above median in the northeast, with cooler temperatures expected in the west and south.

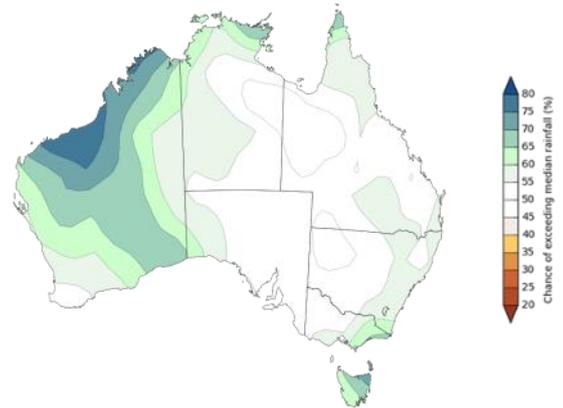


Chance of exceeding median maximum temperature, February–April 2018



Chance of exceeding median minimum temperature, February–April 2018

- Rainfall for February–April is likely to be above average for most of Western Australia and parts of far southeastern Australia

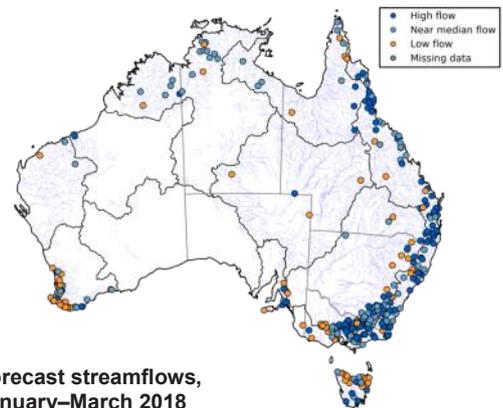


Chance of exceeding median rainfall, February–April 2018

Streamflow outlooks

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

- high flows more likely at 131 locations (41%)
- near-median flows at 106 locations (33%)
- low flows at 80 locations (25%)
- skill at this time of year is generally low across northern Australia and moderate to high for southern Australia



Forecast streamflows, January–March 2018

More information

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

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

Severe weather information

www.bom.gov.au/weather-services/severe-weather-knowledge-centre/

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