

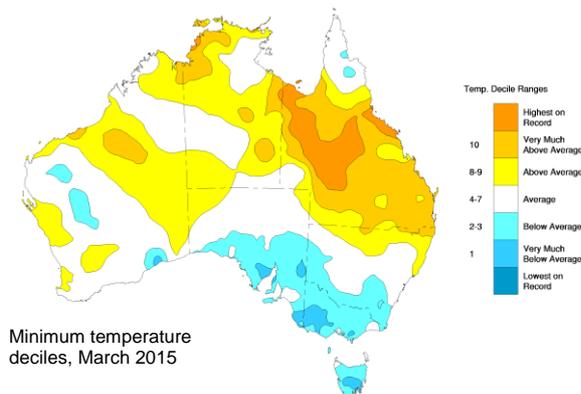
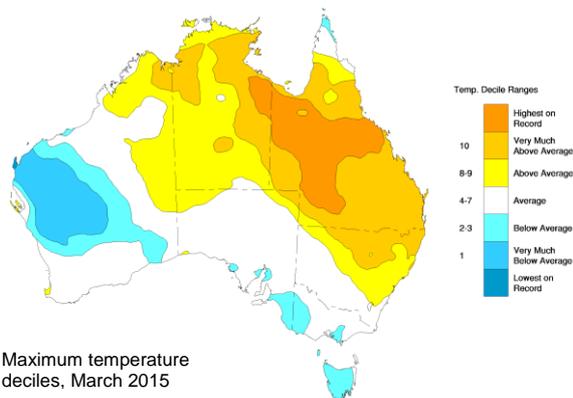
# National Climate and Water Briefing

23 April 2015

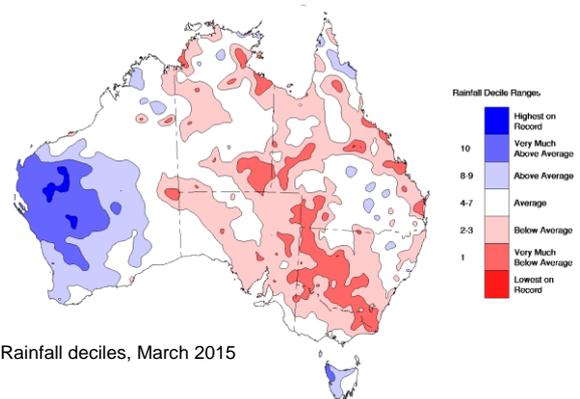
There is an increased chance of El Niño in 2015 with all international models surveyed suggesting development by mid-year, raising the likelihood of drier conditions in later winter and spring. Currently warmer-than-average water in the Indian Ocean is the largest influence on Australia's rainfall outlook, raising the chances of a wetter lead in to winter.

## Recent conditions

- Nationally, maximum temperatures were 1.12 °C above average for March while minimum temperatures were 0.56 °C above average.
- Tropical cyclones *Olwyn* and *Nathan* brought localised heavy rainfall to parts of Western Australia and Queensland.

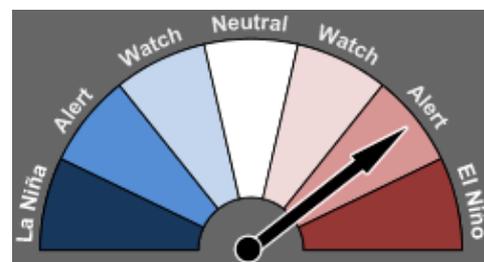


- A warm autumn spell affected the Northern Territory and Queensland during March, producing a number of daily temperature records. Queensland recorded its warmest March on record.
- National rainfall was 30% below the long-term average.



## Climate drivers

- The chances of El Niño occurring in 2015 have increased. The ENSO Tracker has been raised to El Niño ALERT, indicating at least a 70% chance of El Niño occurring this year.
- Ocean temperatures in the tropical Pacific continue to be warmer than average, Trade Winds remain weaker than average. All models surveyed suggest further ocean warming is likely.



- El Niño is not the only climate driver. Sea surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean are currently very high which may feed moisture over inland Australia.

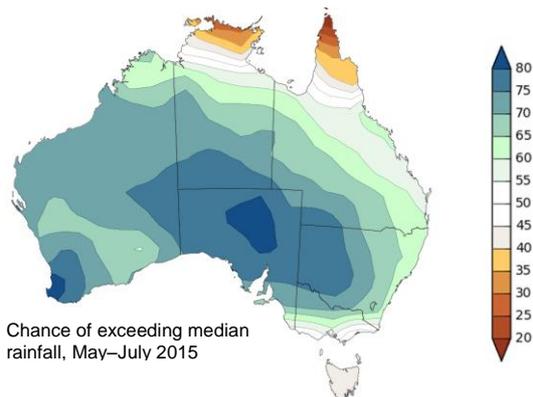


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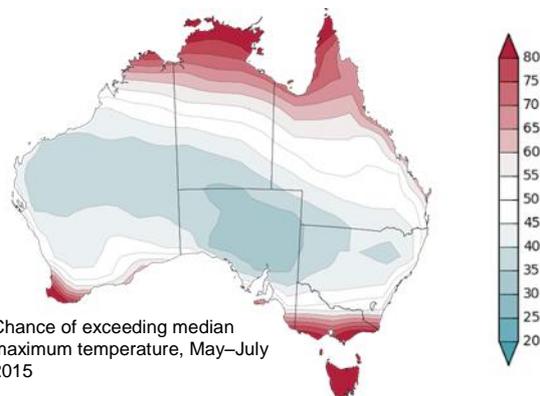
## Climate outlook

May–July 2015



Chance of exceeding median rainfall, May–July 2015

- Wetter-than-average conditions likely across much of Australia.



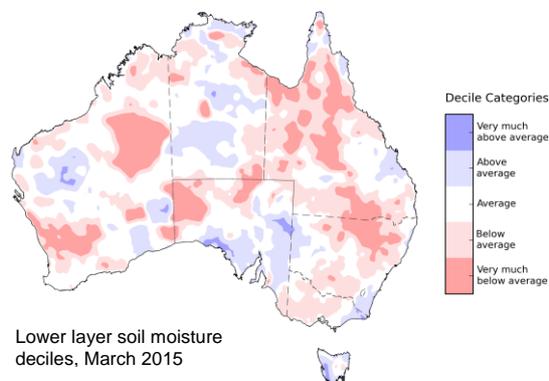
Chance of exceeding median maximum temperature, May–July 2015

- Warmer-than-average days more likely in the far north and south; cooler in the interior as more cloud and moisture comes in from the west.

## Streamflow conditions and outlook

Observed streamflows and soil moisture  
March 2015

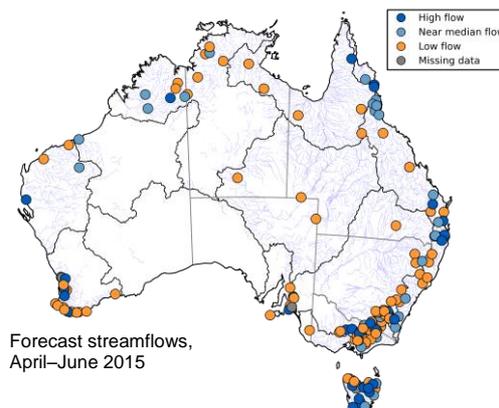
- Low streamflows observed mostly in areas with below-average lower layer soil moisture; high flows generally observed with higher-than-average lower layer soil moisture.



Lower layer soil moisture deciles, March 2015

## Outlook April–June 2015

- Expected rainfall likely to sink into dry soils and not flow into streams.
- Forecasts to end-June indicate lower-than-average streamflows at 84 of 157 locations, median flows at 33 locations, and high flows at 40.



Forecast streamflows, April–June 2015

### More information

Rainfall and temperature outlook  
[www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks)

Seasonal streamflow forecasts and water storage  
[www.bom.gov.au/water](http://www.bom.gov.au/water)

Severe weather warnings  
[www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

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