



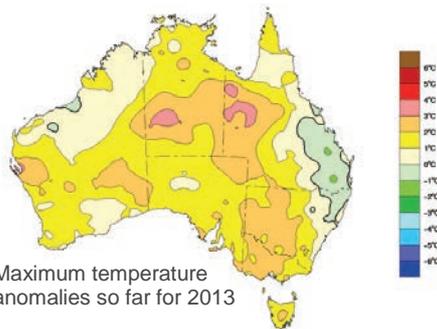
National Climate and Water Briefing Series

24 April 2013

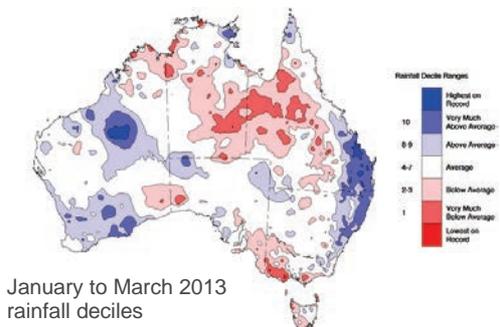
The first quarter has been warmer than average, with mixed rainfall around the country. There is a long-term trend of reduced autumn water availability in New South Wales and Victoria. The outlook favours warmer than normal temperatures in the south, with a mixed rainfall outlook. Near median or high streamflows are likely for much of the east coast.

Recent conditions

- Heatwave persisted in southeast Australia in early March, leading to March average temperatures 0.66 °C above normal
- Tasmania experienced temperatures 2.86 °C above normal for March, while Victoria recorded temperatures 2.10 °C above average for same period
- Year-to-date maximum temperature anomalies between 1–3 °C above normal across much of Australia



- March rainfall around average, but insufficient rain thus far for autumn sowing
- Lack of rainfall this year extends deficiencies into crucial agricultural areas, including western Victoria



- Drought areas contract in Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales over last eight months, but worsen in South Australia and Victoria
- Long-term trend of decreasing autumn water availability for most New South Wales and Victorian sites analysed

Climate drivers

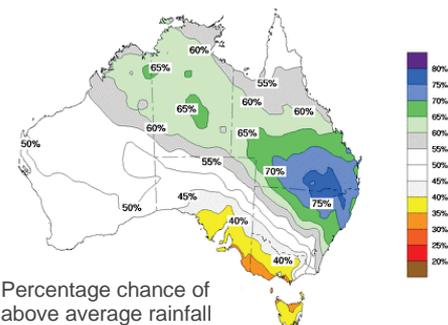
- Neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation state persists in the tropical Pacific Ocean



Climate outlook for May–July 2013

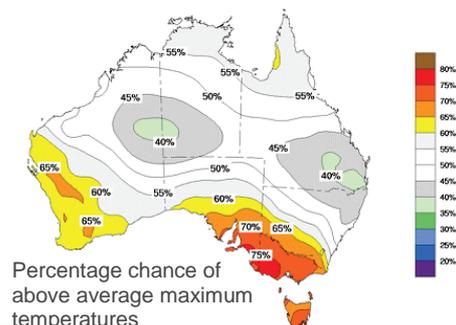
Rainfall

- Wetter than normal season more likely for southern Queensland, northern New South Wales, far northeast Western Australia and much of the Northern Territory
- Drier than normal season more likely for Tasmania, most of Victoria and southeastern South Australia



Temperature

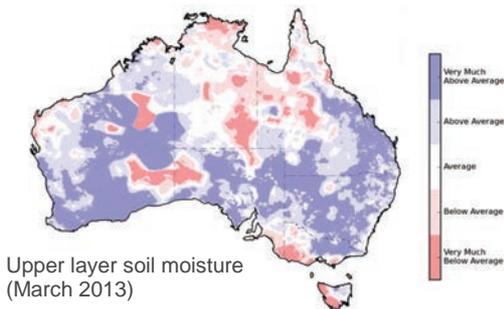
- Warmer days favoured for most of southern Australia
- Warmer nights in northeast and southwest



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Soil moisture

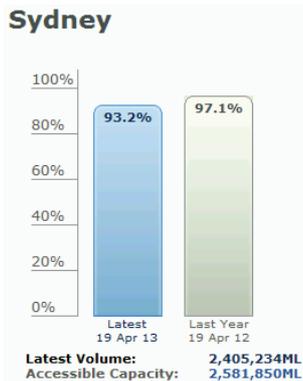
- Upper layer soil moisture is above average to very much above average in many areas; average to very much below average in Northern Territory, northwest Queensland and the far south of the country



- Lower layer soil moisture is very much above average over most of the country; average to very much below average in the south and far north

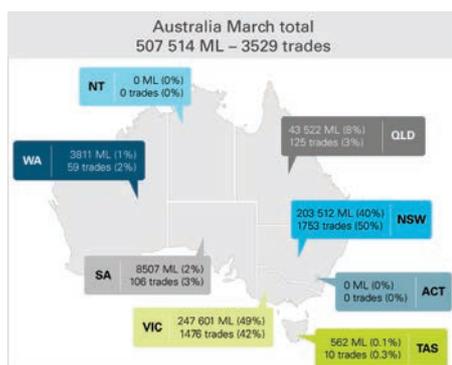
Water storage levels

- Storage levels are above 80% for Darwin, Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra and Hobart; Perth and Adelaide storages are low (18% and 43% respectively)



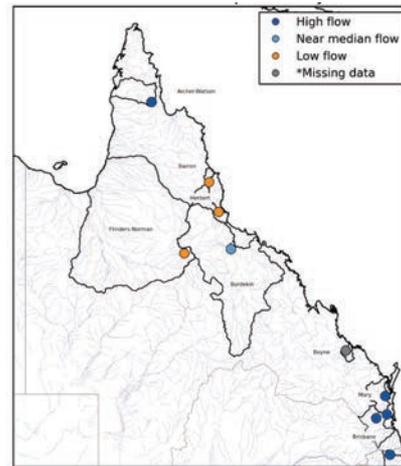
Water markets

- More than 500 000 ML of water traded in March 2013

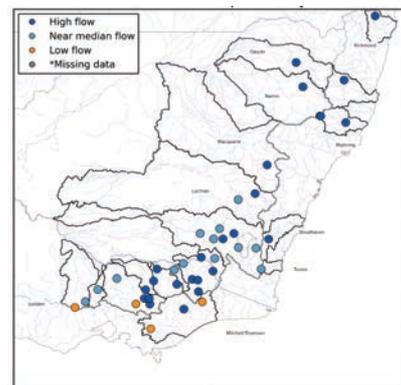


Streamflow outlook April–June 2013

- High flows more likely in southeast Queensland; low or near median flows in northeast Queensland



- Near median or high flows more likely throughout most of Victoria and New South Wales



Contact

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More information

Rainfall and temperature outlook
www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead
 Seasonal streamflow forecasts and Water Storage
www.bom.gov.au/water