

National Climate and Water Briefing

30 April 2014

Above average temperatures continued through many areas in March. Rainfall deficiencies persist in inland Queensland, with generally below average rainfall in April. The rainfall outlook suggests drier than normal conditions for areas of the northern tropics, but wetter in the southwest. Warmer than normal nights are expected for southern Australia. Near median or low streamflows are more likely for most forecast locations. Climate models and observations show an increased chance of an El Niño developing later in 2014.

Severe weather 2013–14

Fires and heatwaves

- Early fire season activity in New South Wales in October
- Significant heatwaves across Australia in January
- Fires caused property damage in all southern States through January and February

Tropical cyclones

- Ten tropical cyclones originated in the Australian region; paths shown below



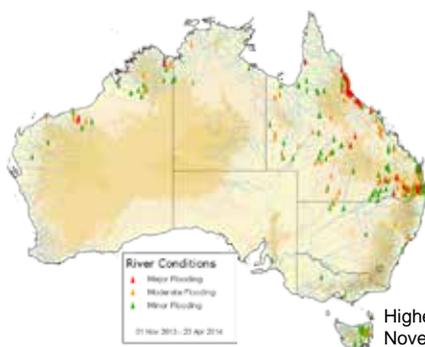
Tropical cyclones making landfall	6
Severe tropical cyclones	5
Severe tropical cyclones making landfall	2

Severe thunderstorms

- Most thunderstorm activity in November and March—generally too dry at other times
- Several severe storms with large hail or tornadoes

Flooding

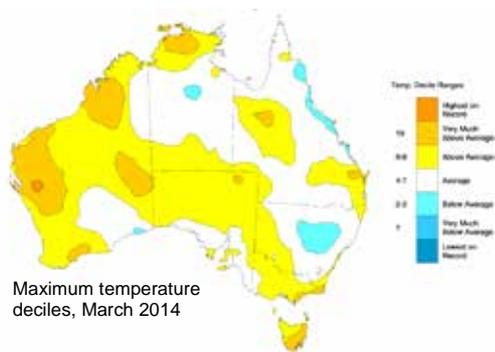
- Major floods in Queensland and Western Australia



Highest flood level, November 2013–April 2014

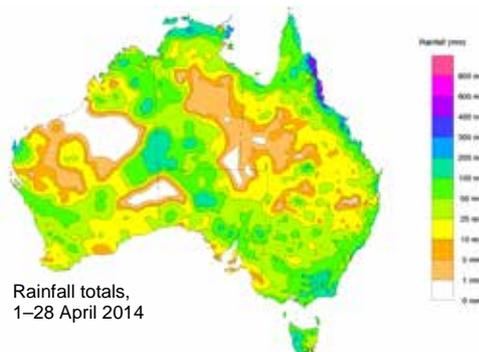
Recent conditions

- Nationally averaged maximum temperature 0.98 °C above normal for March; minimum temperature 0.46 °C above normal

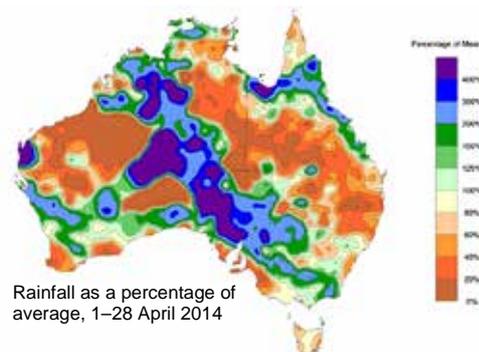


Maximum temperature deciles, March 2014

- Summer and April rains fail to significantly reduce rainfall deficits in drought-affected Queensland



Rainfall totals, 1–28 April 2014



Rainfall as a percentage of average, 1–28 April 2014

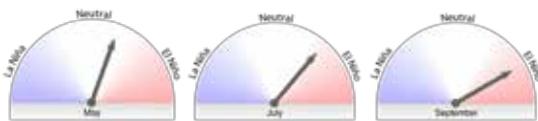


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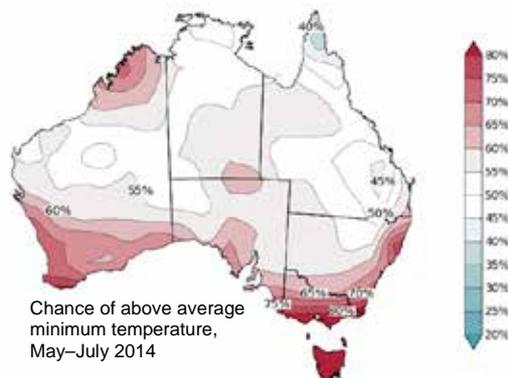
Climate drivers

- Warming tropical Pacific Ocean; westerly wind bursts likely to cause further sub-surface warming
- El Niño likely in 2014—strongest impact during winter–spring; potential impact varies



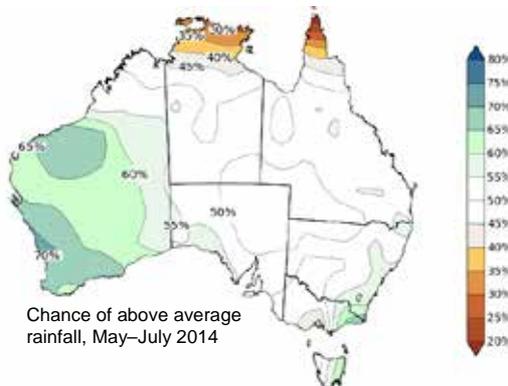
Climate outlook May–July 2014

- Chances of warmer or cooler than average days roughly equal over most of Australia
- Warmer overnight temperatures more likely for southern Australia



Chance of above average minimum temperature, May–July 2014

- Wetter season more likely for much of Western Australia; drier than normal season more likely for parts of the northern tropics

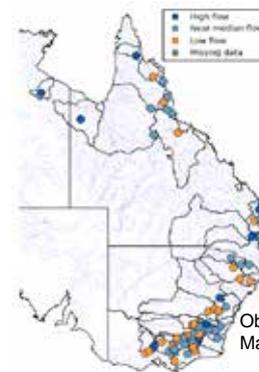


Chance of above average rainfall, May–July 2014

Streamflow conditions and outlook

Observed streamflow March 2014

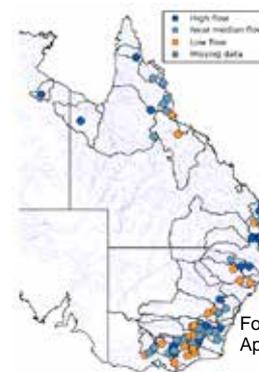
- Near median streamflows recorded at 35 of 74 locations monitored, low flows at 29 locations and high flows at 10 locations



Observed streamflows, March 2014

Outlook April–June 2014

- Near median or low streamflows more likely for most forecast locations



Forecast streamflows, April–June 2014

More information

Rainfall and temperature outlook
www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead

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

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