



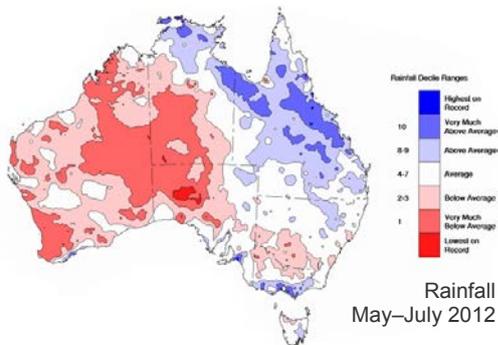
# National Climate and Water Briefing Series

23 August 2012

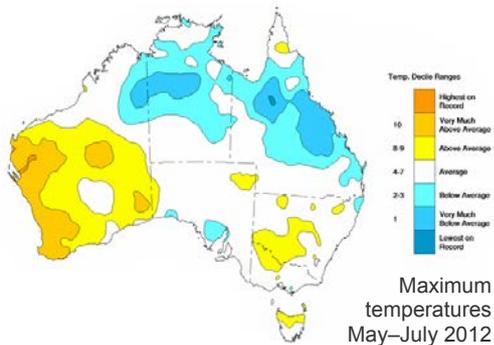
The Pacific Ocean is currently near the threshold for El Niño conditions. Regardless of whether an El Niño event develops, Australian climate drivers for spring 2012 favour drier and warmer than average conditions. Near median to high streamflows are likely in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

## Recent conditions

- Below to very much below average rainfall in Western Australia and much of central Australia
- Above to very much above average rainfall for many areas of Queensland



- Cooler days in the north of Australia; average to above average in the west and parts of the south
- Influenced by rainfall and ocean temperature patterns



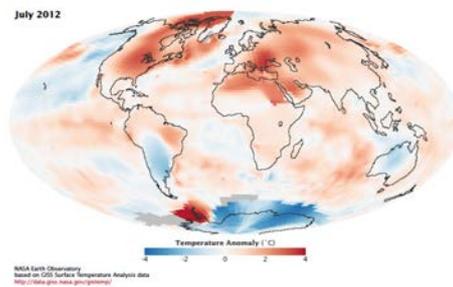
## Climate drivers

- Climate models forecast the Pacific to either exceed or remain just below El Niño thresholds during spring 2012. No models suggest a return to La Niña



## Global conditions

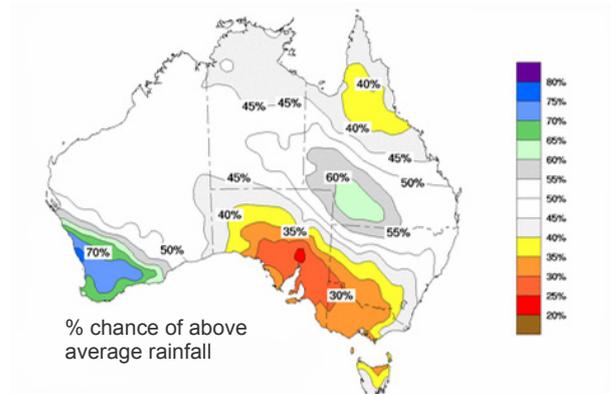
- Drought in the United States has intensified and the European heat wave has extended further west



## Climate outlook for September–November 2012

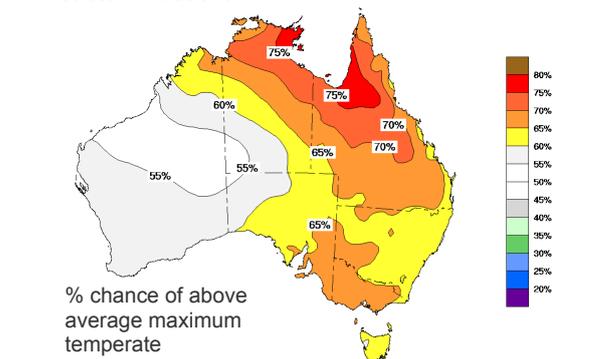
### Rainfall

- Wetter than normal likely in southwest Western Australia



### Temperature

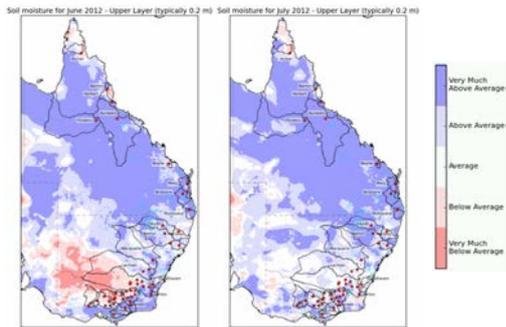
- Warmer than normal days likely over northern and eastern Australia



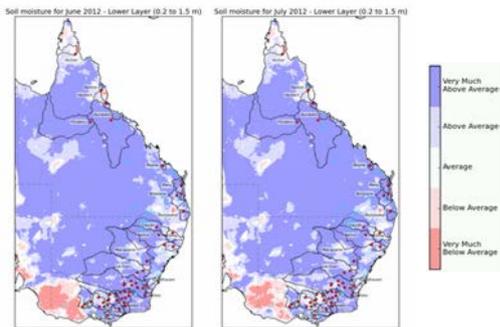
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**Recent soil moisture conditions**

- Upper layer wetter from June to July for catchments in Goulburn-Murray and Murrumbidgee



- Lower layer remains average to above average across most of the forecast catchments



**Global conditions**

- Recent flooding in the Philippines and China



A resident pushes her bicycle on a flooded street amid heavy rainfalls in Beijing

**Contact**

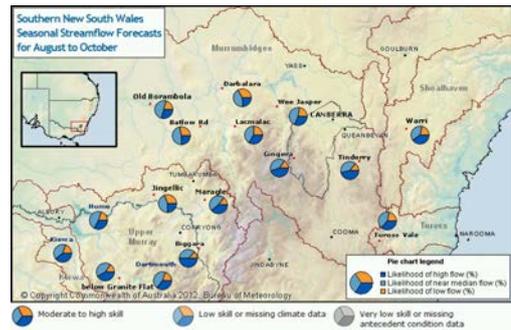
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**Streamflow outlook August–October 2012**

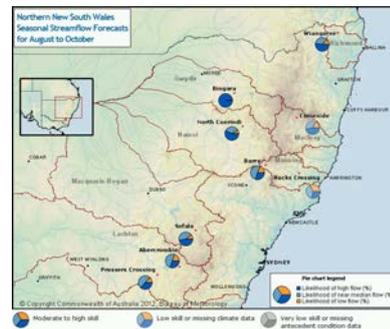
- Near median to high flows more likely in Victoria



- Near median to high flows more likely in southern New South Wales



- Near median to high flows more likely in northern New South Wales



- Near median to high flows more likely also in southern Queensland, northern Queensland and Cape York Peninsula

**More information**

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

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