

# National Climate and Water Briefing

31 August 2017

Australia was warm and dry for most of winter. Most climate drivers were neutral throughout the season. High pressure and a positive Southern Annular Mode dominated Australia's weather for much of the season contributing to low rainfall, warm days and cold nights. This weather pattern broke in August when rainfall patterns returned to near average.

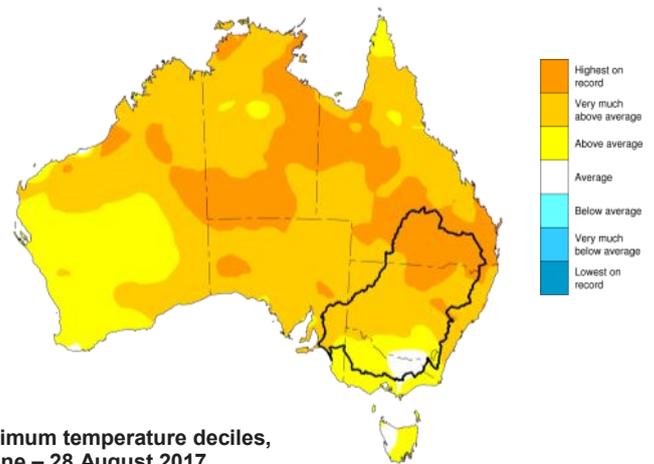
## Climate influences and conditions

### Climate influences

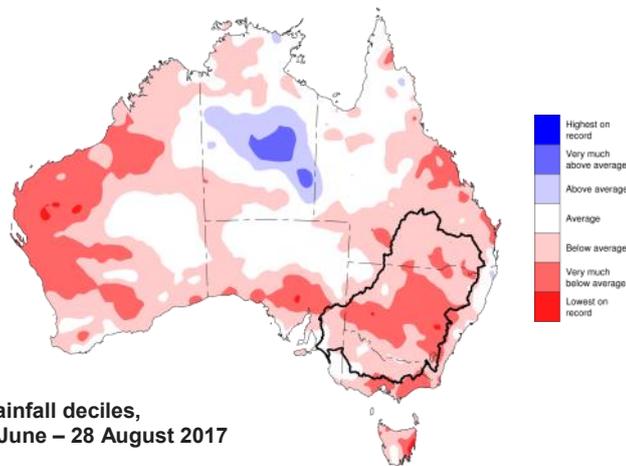
- El Niño–Southern Oscillation and Indian Ocean Dipole remain neutral

### Recent rainfall and temperatures

- Nationally, it was the 9<sup>th</sup>-driest winter on record, with rainfall 43% below average
- Winter rainfall also ranked 9<sup>th</sup> lowest for the Murray–Darling Basin, and New South Wales; 7<sup>th</sup> lowest for Western Australia



Maximum temperature deciles,  
1 June – 28 August 2017

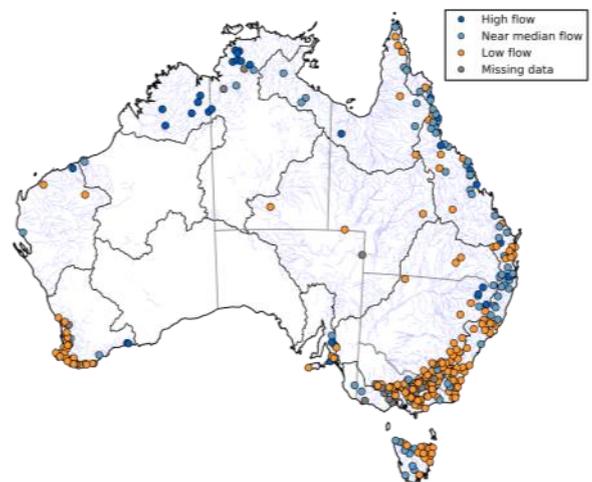


Rainfall deciles,  
1 June – 28 August 2017

- Australia, Queensland, Western Australia, and Northern Territory all had their highest mean daily maximum temperatures for winter
- South Australia and the Murray–Darling Basin both ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> highest mean daily maximum temperature for winter
- Near-average minimum temperatures nationally, but with very much above average overnight temperatures in the northeast and very much below average temperatures in the southeast.
- The national mean winter temperature (average of daily maximum and daily minimum) was 1.1 °C above average and ranked 5<sup>th</sup> highest on record

### Streamflow conditions

- Observed streamflows for July 2017 were:
  - High at 30 locations (10%)
  - Near median at 86 locations (29%)
  - Low at 181 locations (61%)



Observed streamflows, July 2017

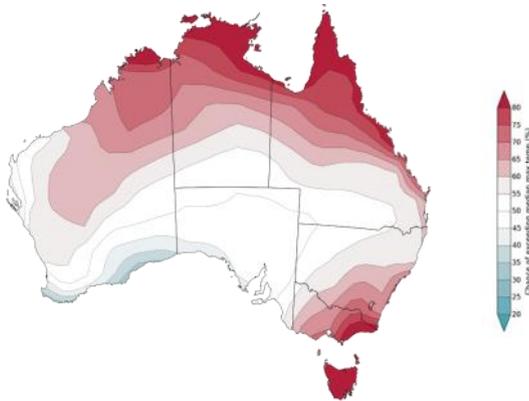


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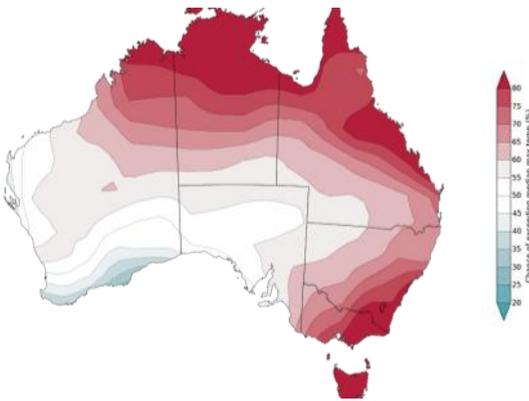
## Climate outlooks

- Spring maximum temperatures likely to be above median in far northern Australia and in the southeast, including Tasmania, Victoria and southeastern New South Wales



Chance of exceeding median maximum temperature, September–November 2017

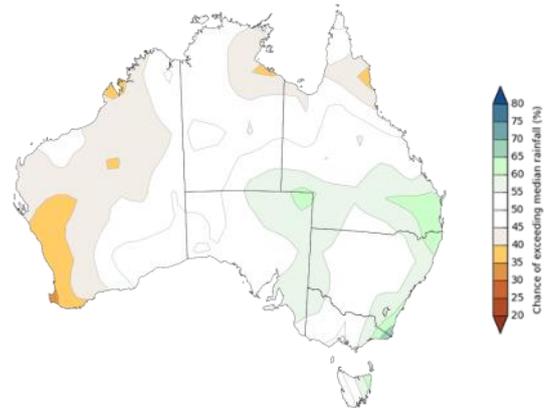
- Minimum temperatures likely to be above median for northern and eastern Australia for spring



Chance of exceeding median minimum temperature, September–November 2017

- Spring rainfall likely to be below median for parts of Western Australia's southwest coast with the possibility of above–median rainfall for southeastern Queensland and the New South Wales coast.

- Equal chance for above or below–median rainfall elsewhere.

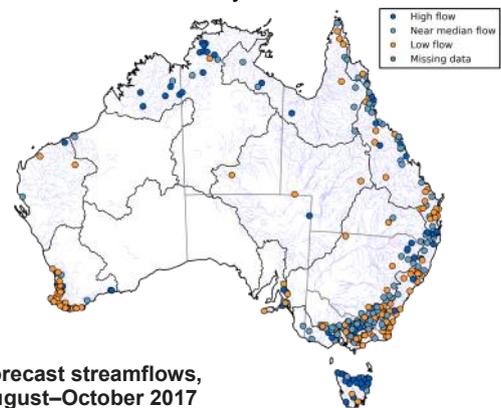


Chance of exceeding median rainfall, September–November 2017

## Streamflow outlooks

Compared to average at this time of year, the streamflow outlook for August–October is for:

- high flows more likely at 70 locations (22%)
- near-median flows at 132 locations (41%)
- low flows at 116 locations (37%)
- more than two-thirds of locations have moderate to high skill at this time of year



Forecast streamflows, August–October 2017

## More information

Rainfall and temperature outlooks  
[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)

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