



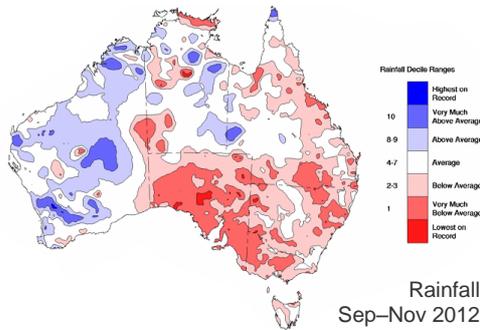
National Climate and Water Briefing Series

20 December 2012

Global conditions have been warmer than average in 2012. Rainfall is likely to be near-normal across most of Australia, with warmer than normal daytime temperatures likely across northern and Western Australia. Streamflow forecasts are low or near median for most sites in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

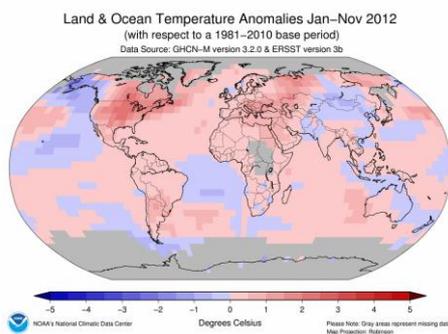
Recent conditions

- Spring rainfall has been 29 per cent below normal
- South Australia had its third driest spring on record
- Second warmest spring days on record for Australia

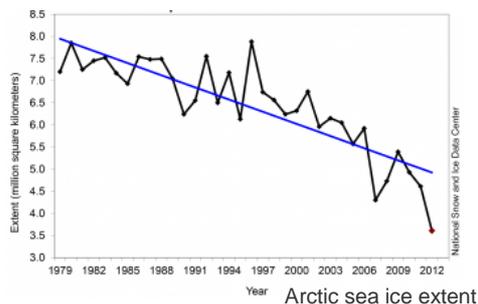


Global conditions in 2012

- 2012 was another warm year for the globe
- January–November temperatures were almost 0.5° C above the 1961–90 average

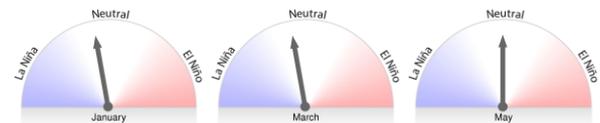


- Arctic sea ice at 2012 summer lowest on record



Climate drivers

- Neutral El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions prevail in the tropical Pacific Ocean

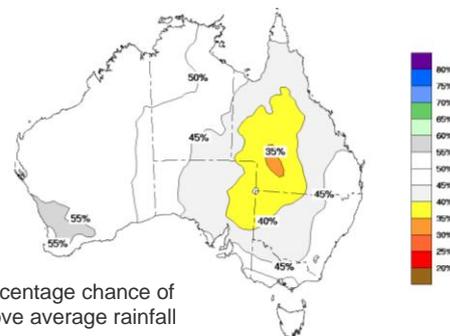


- Sea surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean have warmed off the northwest Australian coast

Climate outlook for January to March 2013

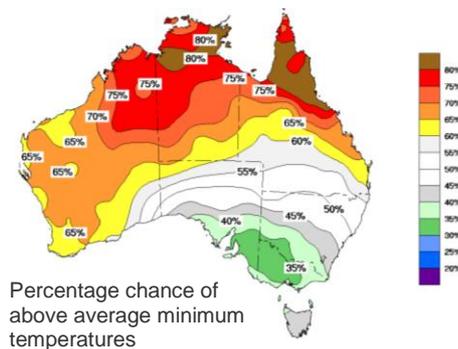
Rainfall

- Near-normal outlook over most of Australia
- Drier than normal season likely for parts the east



Temperature

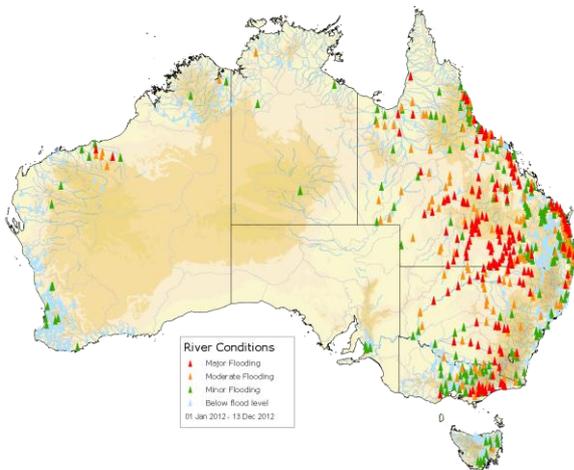
- Warmer than normal days likely over northern and most of eastern Australia
- Warmer than normal nights likely over northern and western Australia, and cooler nights favoured over parts of the southeast



20 December 2012

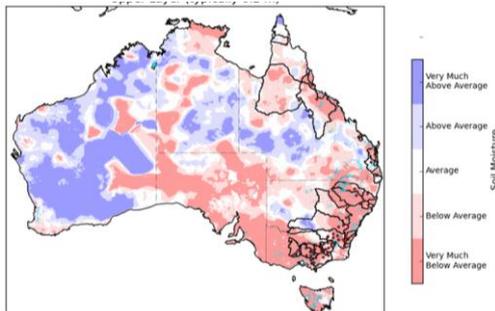
Flooding in 2012

- Significant flooding in 2012 in the eastern States and parts of Western Australia

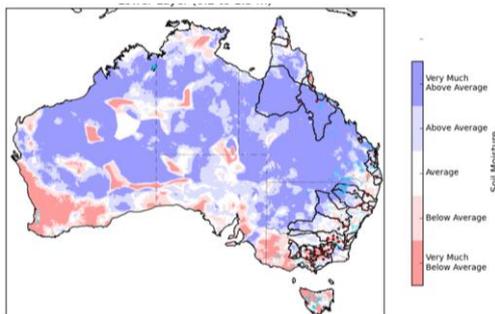


Soil moisture

- Decreased upper layer soil moisture across most seasonal streamflow forecast catchments

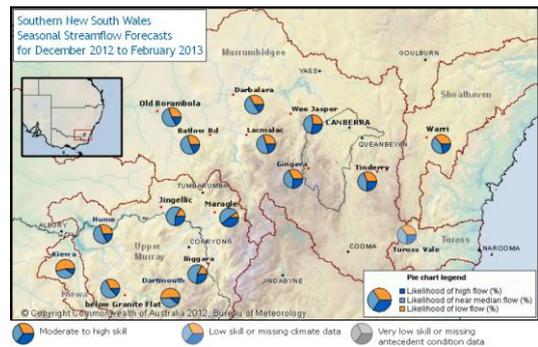
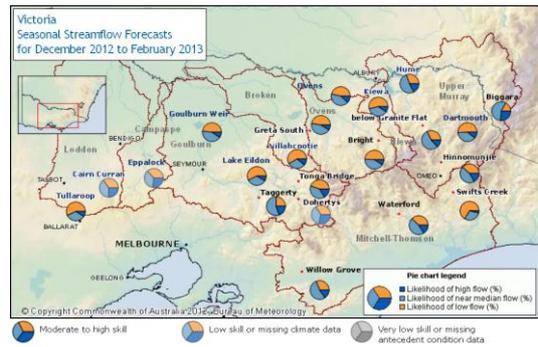


- Some drying in lower layer in most New South Wales and Victorian streamflow forecast catchments and Tasmania



Streamflow outlook December 2012–February 2013

- Low or near median flows more likely in Victoria and New South Wales



- Low or near median flow more likely in Queensland

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