



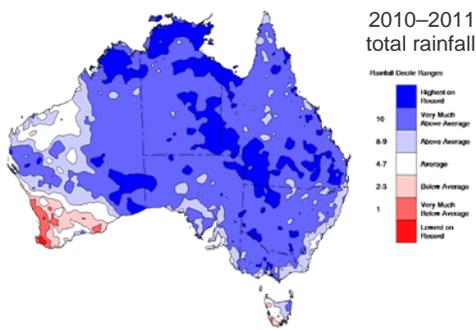
National Climate and Water Briefing Series

23 February 2012

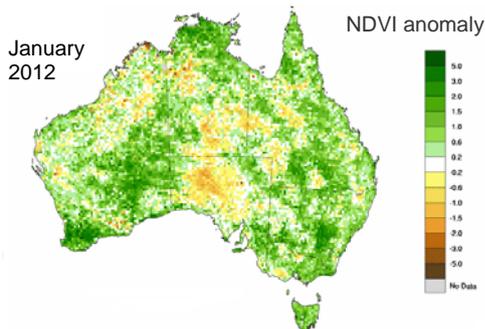
The autumn seasonal outlook shows an increased likelihood of wetter than normal conditions over large parts of northern and eastern Australia. While the La Niña event is showing some signs of weakening, localised flooding remains a possibility for the autumn period.

Recent conditions

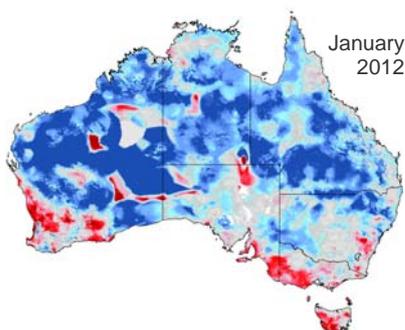
- 2010–2011 has been the wettest two-year period in 112 years of record, overtaking the 1973–1974 record which was another strong La Niña period



- Cool start to 2012 with the lowest average temperatures for January since 2000
- The recent higher than average soil moisture has contributed to a high vegetation index in some areas

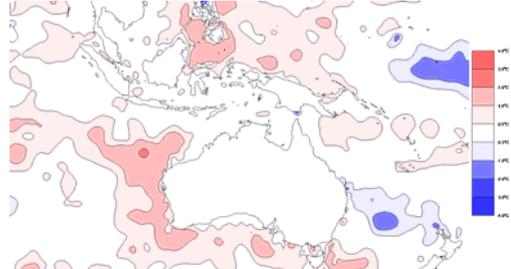


- Deep soil moisture is relatively high (blue) across most of Australia, particularly in the northern areas



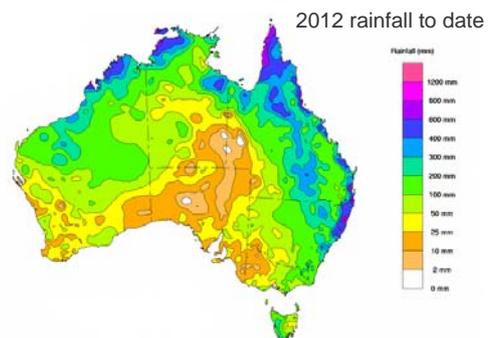
Climate drivers

- La Niña conditions are in decline, with the forecast to transition towards neutral during autumn
- Sea surface temperatures are above average around most of Australia, including in the Indian Ocean and the Southern Ocean

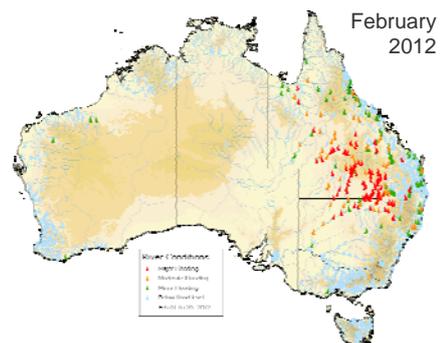


Recent flooding

- Early 2012 heavy rains occurred in various parts of Queensland and New South Wales



- These rains have contributed to extensive flooding, although not as widespread as last year

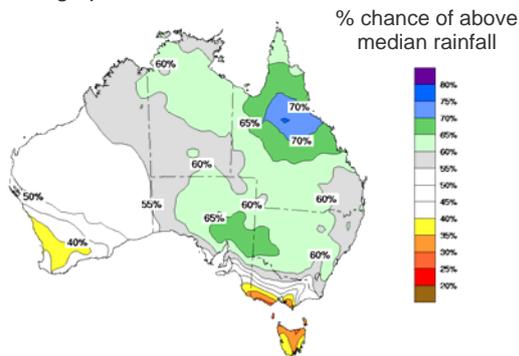


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Climate outlook for autumn: March–May 2012

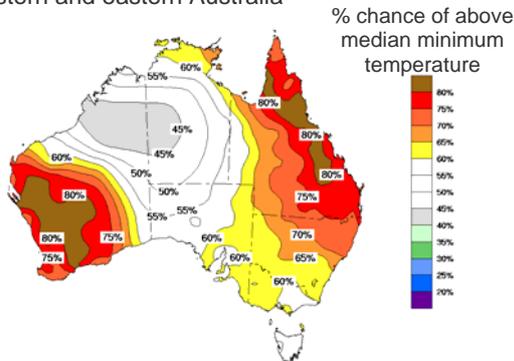
Rainfall

- Increased likelihood of wetter than normal conditions over large parts of northern and eastern Australia

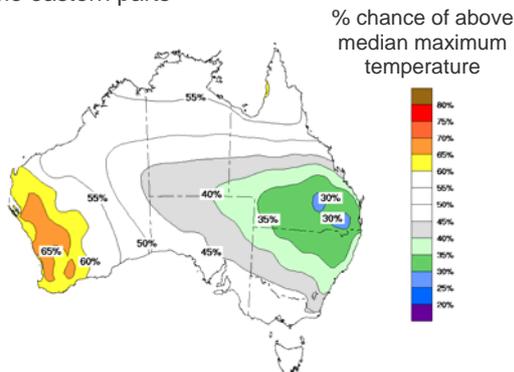


Temperature

- High chance of warmer than normal nights over western and eastern Australia

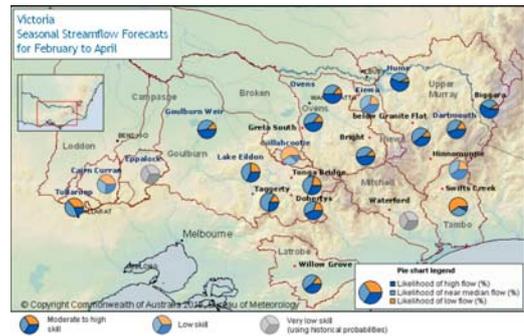


- Some chance of warmer than normal days over the far western part of the country, but cooler days in some eastern parts

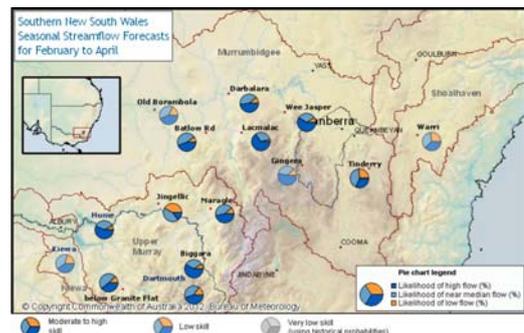


Streamflow outlook towards autumn: February–April 2012

- Near median to high flows across most catchments in Victoria



- High flows more likely in northern (top) and southern (bottom) New South Wales



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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