



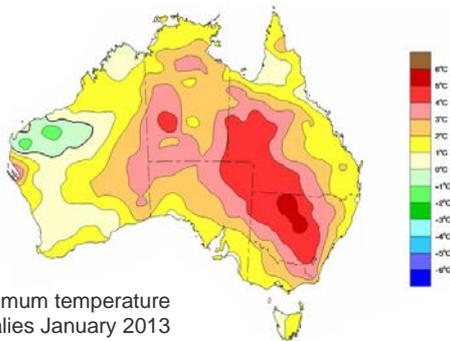
National Climate and Water Briefing Series

21 February 2013

Early 2013 conditions have been dominated by high temperatures and low rainfall. Autumn outlooks are mixed for rainfall with cooler than normal days likely for parts of central and southeast Australia. Hydrologic conditions in 2012 saw a year of two halves with a wet start to the year, including extensive flooding. The remainder of the year was drier than normal. Mixed streamflows are forecast for Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

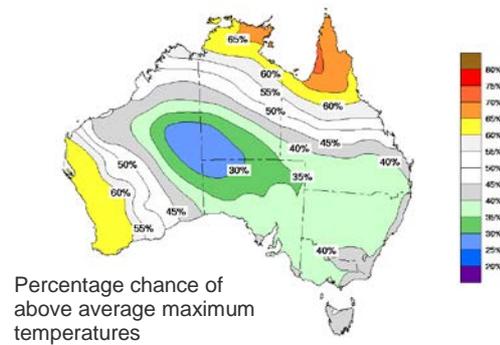
January conditions

- January 2013 hottest month on record
- Highly likely to be Australia's hottest summer



Temperature

- Cooler days likely over southeast and central Australia



Climate drivers

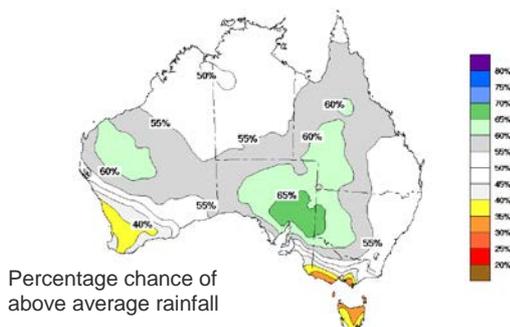
- Neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation state likely to prevail in the tropical Pacific Ocean into autumn



Climate outlook for March–May 2013

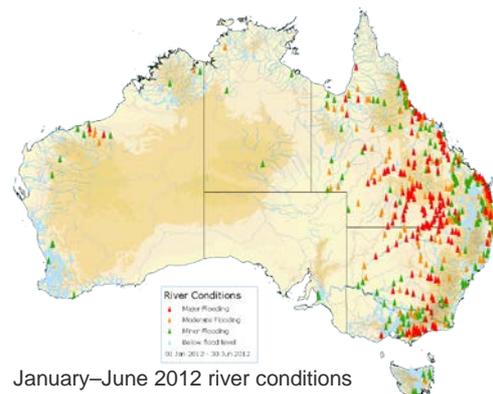
Rainfall

- Mixed rainfall outlook for autumn
- Drier than normal conditions likely for Tasmania, southern Victoria and southwest Western Australia



2012 hydrologic conditions

- A very wet first three months, the remainder dry

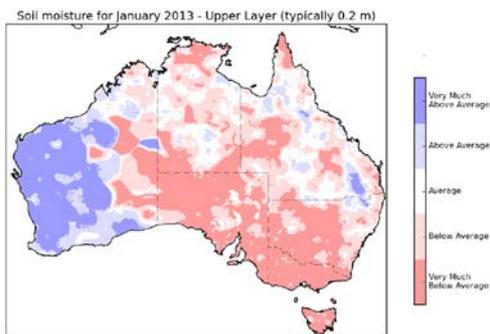


- January–March 2012 – above to very much above average rainfall, widespread flooding
- April–December 2012 – trend of reducing rainfall, drying catchments and progressively lower streamflows at majority of sites
- Forecast performance in 2012 – streamflow forecasts were accurate as well as reliable across most forecast locations and seasons.

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Soil moisture

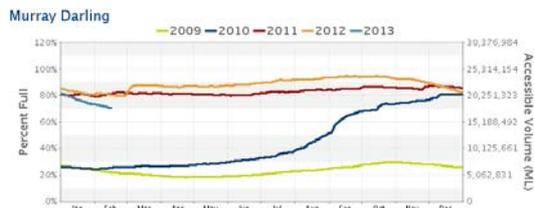
- Upper layer average to very much below average across most of the country



- Lower layer average to below average at most streamflow forecast locations

Water storage

- Australia's total storage level is at 74.4 per cent
- Murray–Darling total storage level is at 70.7 per cent, 9.5 per cent less than the same time last year



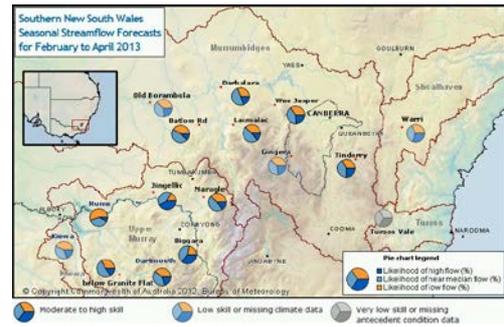
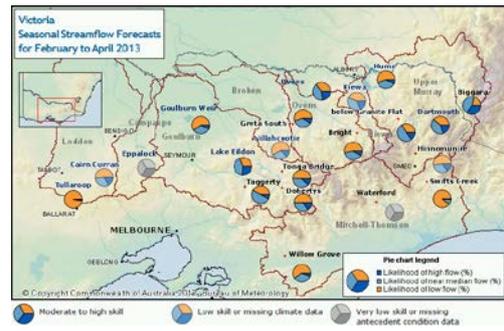
Water markets

- Over 1 million ML of water was traded in January 2013



Streamflow outlook February–April 2013

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



- Mixed flows more likely for northern New South Wales and southern Queensland
- Near median to high flows more likely in northern 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