

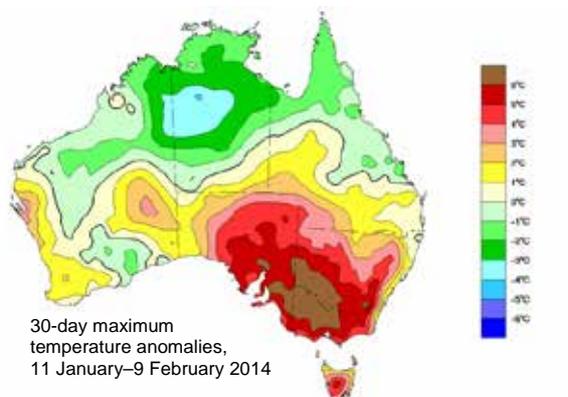
National Climate and Water Briefing

27 February 2014

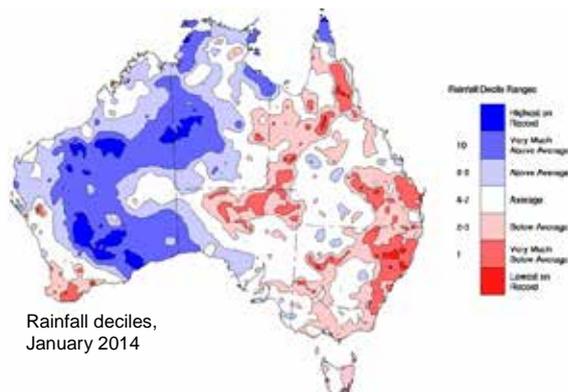
January saw significant heat across southern Australia, with many records broken in the country's southeast. Rainfall was well above average for much of the western half of the country, but below average in the east. The outlook suggests a drier autumn for parts of Queensland and wetter in southwestern Australia. The tropics are likely to be cooler than average, while the southeast is likely to be warmer. Low streamflows are more likely for southeastern forecast locations.

Recent conditions

- January temperatures
 - Australia: maximum 0.8 °C above average, minimum 0.9 °C above average
 - Queensland: maximum 1.2 °C above average, minimum 1.1 °C above average
- Record-breaking heat
 - Adelaide: nine days above 42 °C
 - Melbourne: seven days above 40 °C
 - Mildura, Nhill, Kerang, Sale, Melbourne and Cape Otway: 30-day hot spell
 - Darwin: 36.1 °C before monsoon rainfall (which then reduced temperatures from mid-January)

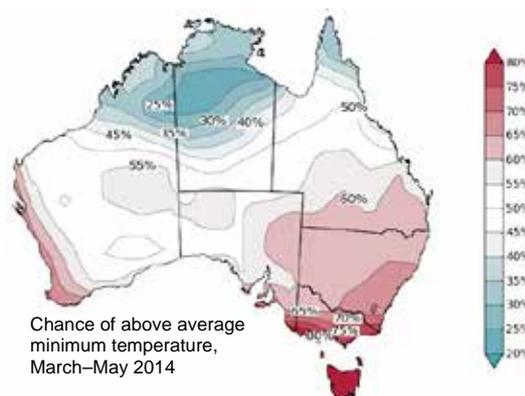


- Rather wet in the west, dry in the east
 - Western Australia: fifth highest rainfall on record
 - South Australia: tenth lowest

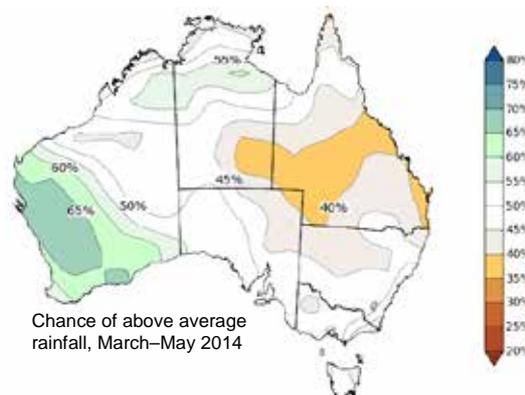


Climate outlook March–May 2014

- Cooler days and nights more likely for northern half of the Northern Territory and the Kimberley
- Southern Victoria and Tasmania likely to have warmer than average daytime temperatures
- Warmer nights more likely for Western Australian coast and most of southeastern Australia



- Drier than normal autumn more likely for parts of Queensland
- Western and southern parts of Western Australia likely to have wetter than normal autumn



Climate drivers

- Models and tropical Pacific Ocean conditions suggest increased chance of El Niño in 2014

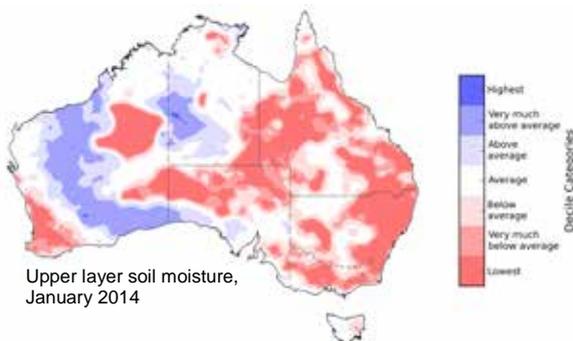


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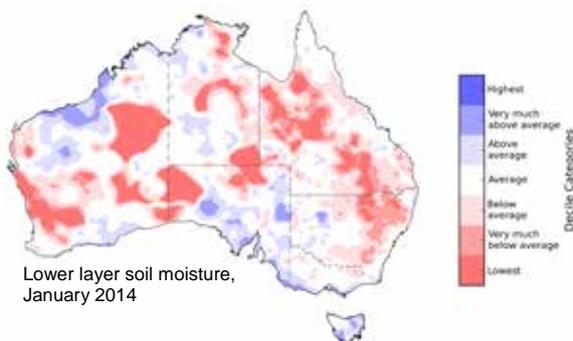
Soil moisture

- Upper layer soil moisture below average for much of Australia in January



Upper layer soil moisture, January 2014

- Decrease in lower layer soil moisture around the country over past 12 months—continuing a trend since the La Niña events of 2010–12



Lower layer soil moisture, January 2014

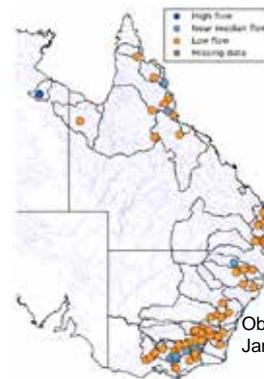
Water storage levels

- Eastern Australian drainage divisions generally lower than this time last year
- Western drainage divisions higher than this time last year

Streamflow conditions and outlook

Observed streamflow, January 2014

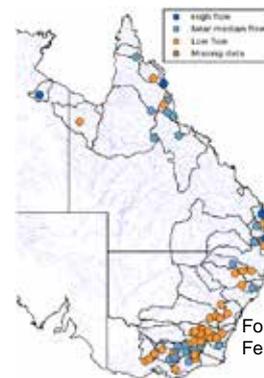
- Low streamflows recorded at 62 of 74 locations monitored; near median flows at 11 locations
- High streamflows recorded at Bailey's Grave in the Northern Territory



Observed streamflows, January 2014

Outlook February–April 2014

- Low streamflows more likely for most forecast locations, particularly in southeastern Australia
- Forecast confidence is moderate or low for most locations; very low in southeastern Queensland



Forecast streamflows, February–April 2014

More information

Rainfall and temperature outlook
www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead

Seasonal streamflow forecasts and water storage
www.bom.gov.au/water

Severe weather warnings
www.bom.gov.au

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