

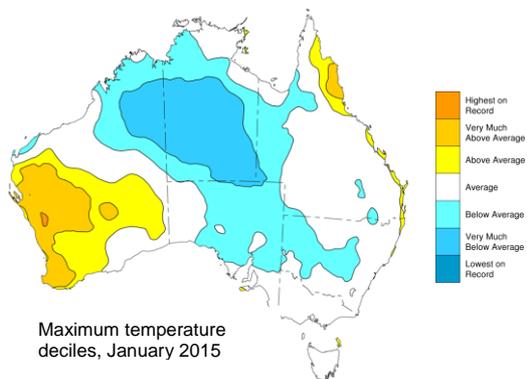
National Climate and Water Briefing

26 February 2015

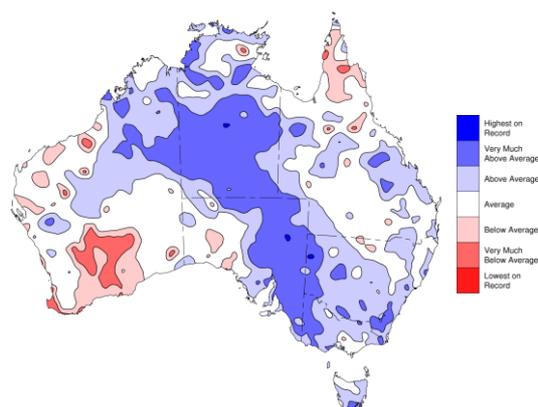
Daytime temperatures were cooler than average for January while minimum temperatures were warmer than average, resulting in average mean temperatures nationally. Nationally averaged, January rainfall was above average across Australia; however this did little to ease long-term rainfall deficiencies. Two tropical cyclones, *Lam* and *Marcia* crossed the coast in February, bringing significant rainfall to coastal regions of Northern Territory and Queensland. Low to near median streamflows were observed at the majority of observation locations.

Recent conditions

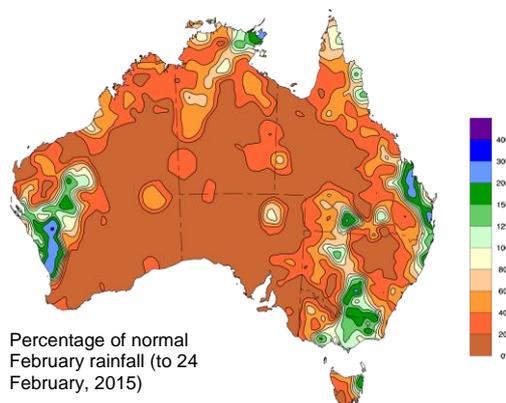
- January maximum temperatures were below average across much of Australia; minimum temperatures above average.



- January rainfall was above average in broad band extending from the Kimberley in Western Australia through to the southeast.

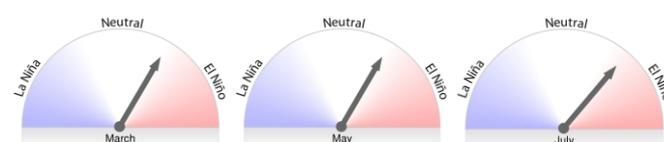


- Tropical cyclones *Lam* and *Marcia* brought significant rainfall to parts of the Top End and southeast Queensland in February.
- Recent rainfall did little to ease drought conditions, with long-term rainfall deficiencies persisting in inland Queensland and northern New South Wales.



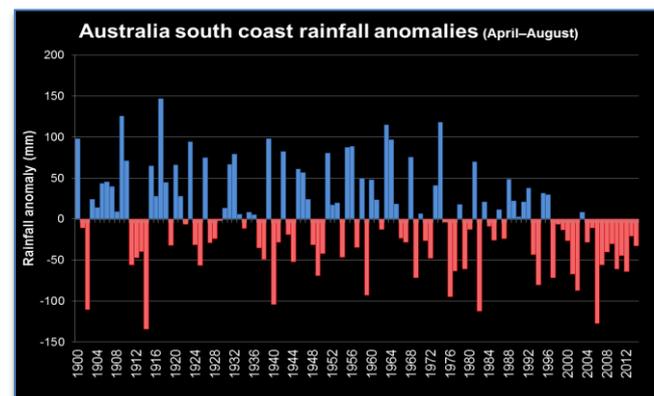
El Niño–Southern Oscillation

- The El Niño–Southern Oscillation remains neutral.
- Climate models suggest El Niño thresholds could be reached by July; however model forecasts spanning the autumn months tend to have reduced accuracy than at other times of the year.



Autumn break

- Long-term autumn rainfall declines evident in southeast and southwest Australia over the past two decades, indicative of poor autumn breaks.



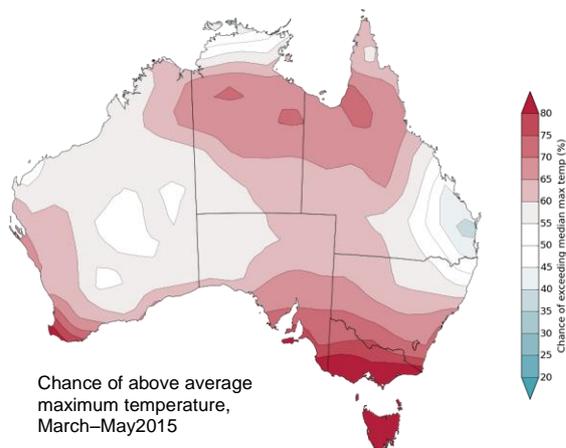
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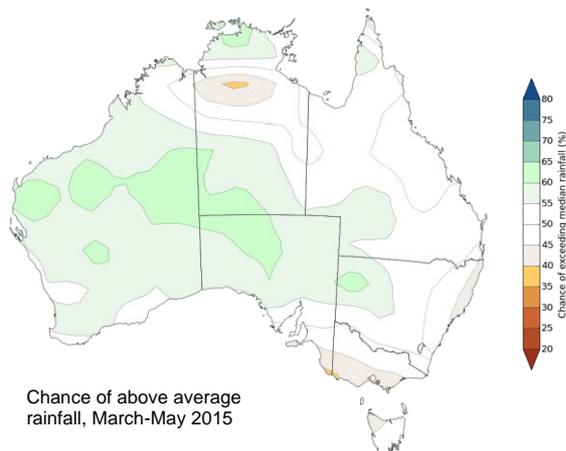
Climate outlook

March–May 2015

- Warmer than average days and nights more likely, particularly in the southeast.



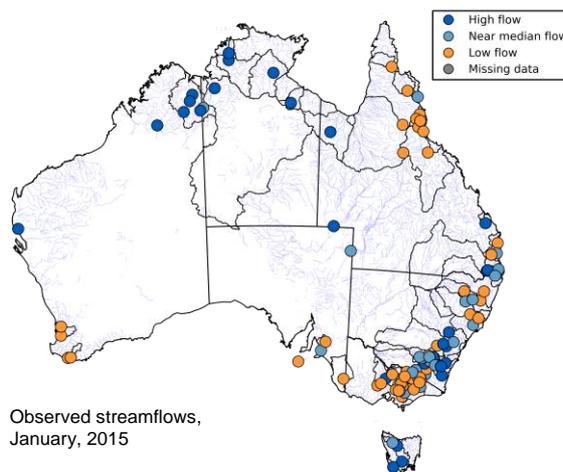
- A wetter than normal autumn outlook is favoured in parts of Western Australia and central Australia; largely neutral for the remainder of the country.



Streamflow conditions and outlook

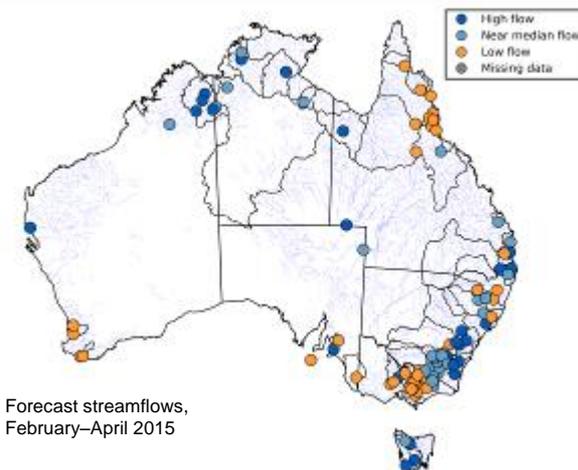
Observed streamflows January 2015

- Low flows observed at 48 locations; near median flows at 33 locations and high flows at 31 locations and largely reflected the rainfall pattern.



Outlook February–April 2015

- Low flows more likely at 45 forecast locations; near median flows at 37 forecast locations; high flows forecast at 30 locations.



More information

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

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

Severe weather warnings
www.bom.gov.au

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