

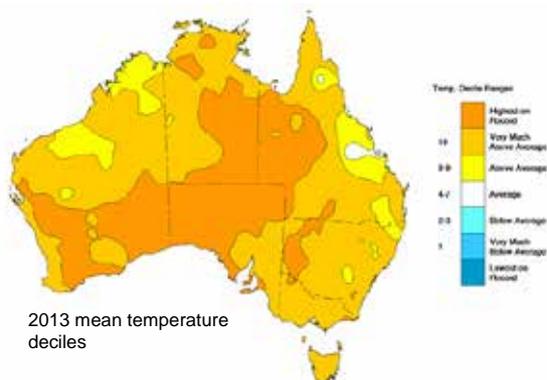
National Climate and Water Briefing

23 January 2014

2013 was Australia's warmest year since national records began in 1910. Mean temperatures across Australia have generally been well above average since September 2012. Long periods of warmer-than-average days were common, with a distinct lack of cold weather. Nights were also warmer than average, but less so than days. Nationally-averaged rainfall for the year was slightly below average. Temperature and rainfall outlooks show roughly equal odds for above or below average conditions. Near median or low streamflows are more likely.

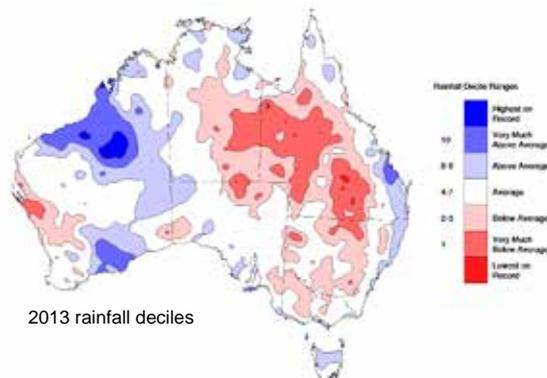
Australian climate in 2013

- Overall, 2013 was Australia's warmest year since national records began in 1910
- Annual national mean temperature was 1.20 °C above average
- Summer 2012–13 was the warmest on record nationally, so was spring; winter was third warmest
- Warmest year on record for Western Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory; all other States in top four



2013 mean temperature deciles

- Nationally-averaged rainfall slightly below average, with 428 mm (1961–1990 average, 465 mm)
- Rainfall mostly below average for inland east and centre of country; above average for east coast, northern Tasmania and parts of Western Australia



2013 rainfall deciles

Recent conditions

December 2013

Temperature and rainfall

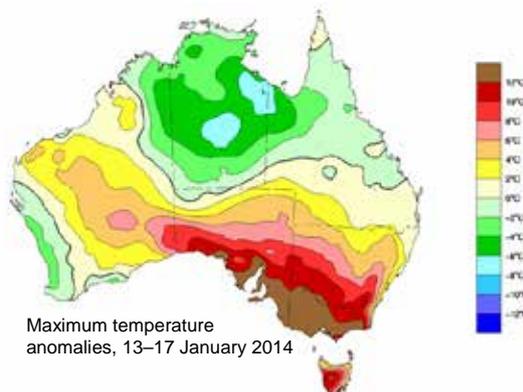
- Maximum temperature 0.8 °C above average for Australia; minimum 0.4 °C above average
- Queensland rainfall lowest since 1938; third lowest since State average records began in 1900

Soil moisture and streamflows

- Upper layer soil moisture very much below average in Queensland and New South Wales; lower layer mostly average to below average around Australia
- Near median or low streamflows recorded at most monitoring locations

January 2014, so far

- Heatwaves and bushfires in several States



Maximum temperature anomalies, 13–17 January 2014

- Monsoon activity increased mid-January; extensive rainfall in northern Australia
- Minor flooding through parts of Northern Territory and northern Western Australia
- No significant rain yet in most drought-affected areas in Queensland and northern New South Wales



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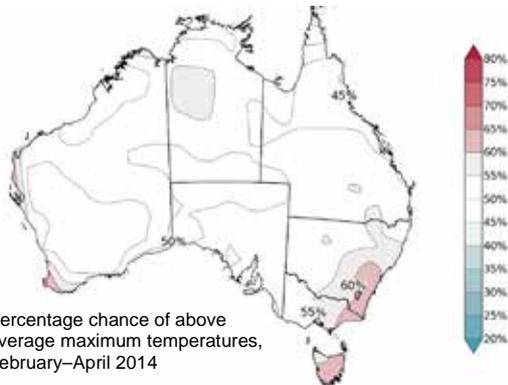
Climate outlook

February–April 2014

- Most climate influences are near average, including a neutral tropical Pacific Ocean
- Local factors are likely to influence regional climate

Temperature

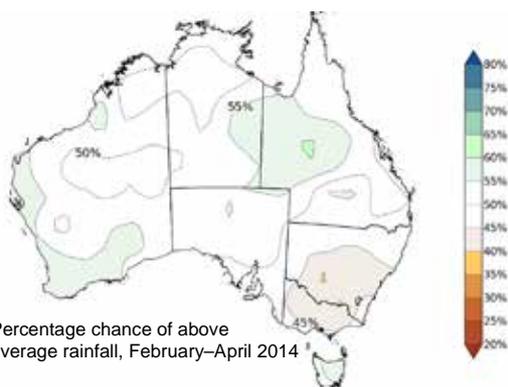
- Chances of warmer or cooler days/nights are roughly equal over most of Australia



Percentage chance of above average maximum temperatures, February–April 2014

Rainfall

- Chances of wetter/drier than normal season are roughly equal over Australia

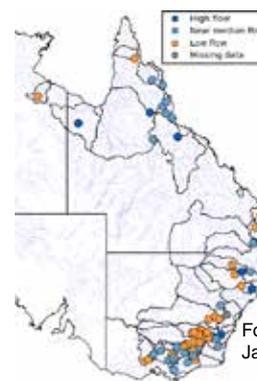


Percentage chance of above average rainfall, February–April 2014

Streamflow outlook

January–March 2014

- Near median or low streamflows more likely

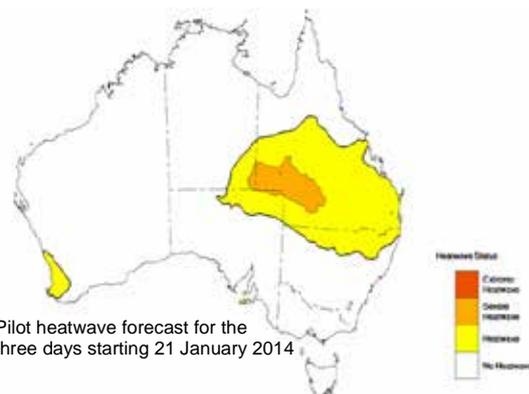


Forecast streamflows, January–March 2014

- Forecast confidence is moderate in southern Murray–Darling Basin and Victoria; low in Queensland and northern Murray–Darling Basin

Pilot heatwave forecast

- Shows the location of heatwaves, severe heatwaves and extreme heatwaves for today and the next four days



Pilot heatwave forecast for the three days starting 21 January 2014

- www.bom.gov.au/australia/heatwave

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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