



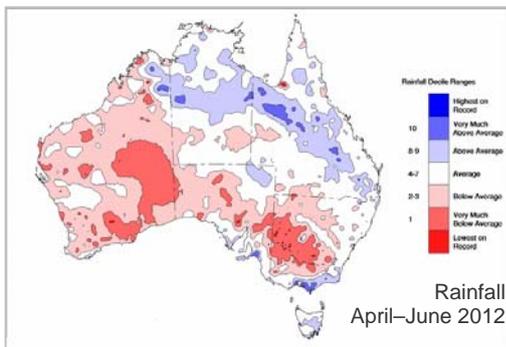
National Climate and Water Briefing Series

19 July 2012

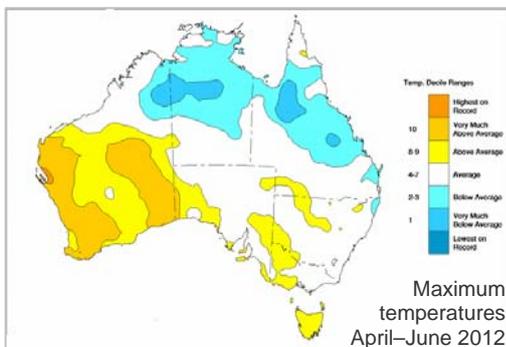
The tropical Pacific remains close to El Niño thresholds. A drier than average season is likely for large parts of Australia and warmer than normal days and nights are quite likely over most of the country. Near median to high streamflows are likely in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

Recent conditions

- Western Australia rainfall 58 per cent below average and ninth lowest on record

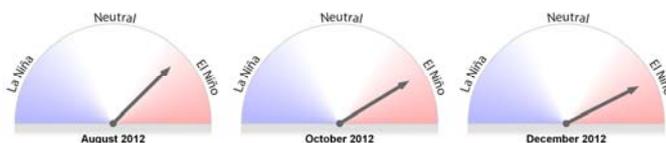


- Cooler than normal daytime temperatures in the north, average to above average in the south



Climate drivers

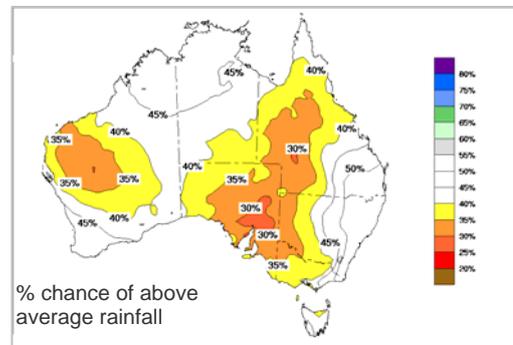
- The Pacific is currently near the threshold for El Niño conditions
- Climate models forecast the Pacific will either exceed El Niño thresholds later in 2012 or remain at borderline levels
- No models suggest a return to La Niña



Climate outlook for August–October 2012

Rainfall

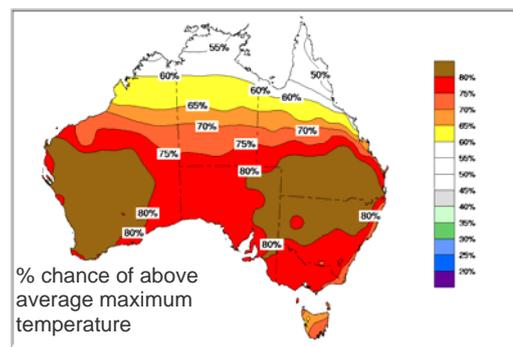
- Drier than normal season likely for large parts of southeast, central and northeastern Australia



- Outlook is a result of a combination of warmer waters in the central to eastern Pacific Ocean and warmer than normal waters in the southeast Indian Ocean

Temperature

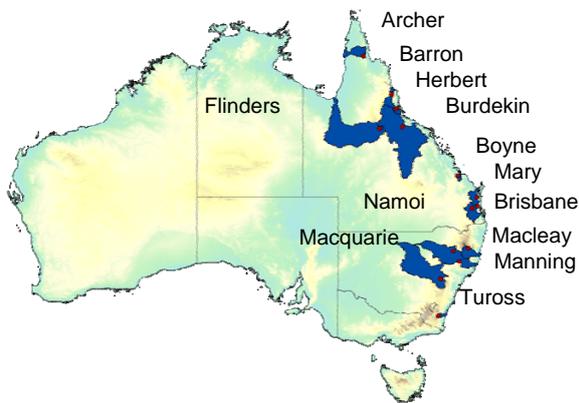
- Warmer than normal days and nights are likely over most of Australia except the northern tropics



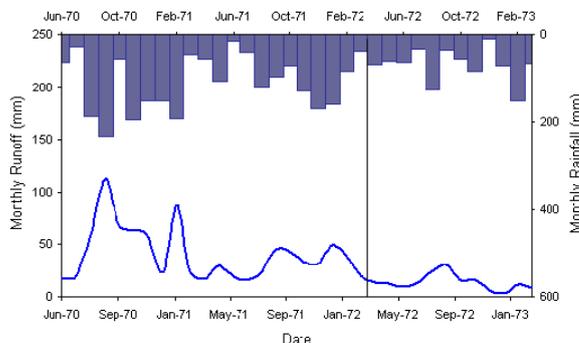
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New streamflow forecast locations

- 14 new forecast locations (now 50 in total)
 - Nine in Queensland
 - Five in New South Wales

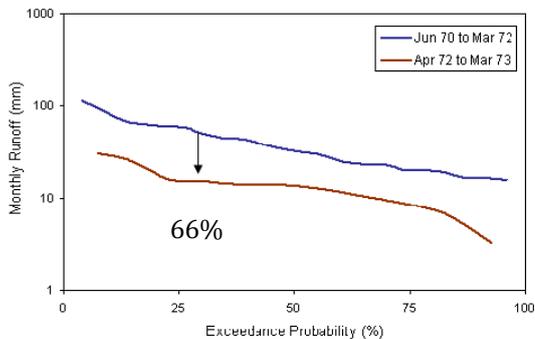
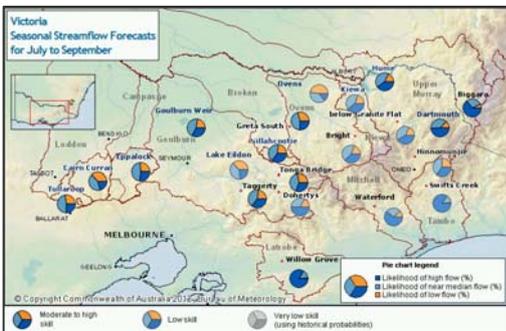


- El Niño or dry conditions following La Niña events are associated with varied effects on water availability
- Water availability was reduced by 10–70 per cent in the southern Murray–Darling Basin for three La Niña events investigated (April 1954–January 1957, June 1970–March 1972, May 1998–March 2001)
- Example below shows water availability in the Gingera catchment upstream of Cotter Dam following June 1970–March 1972 La Niña

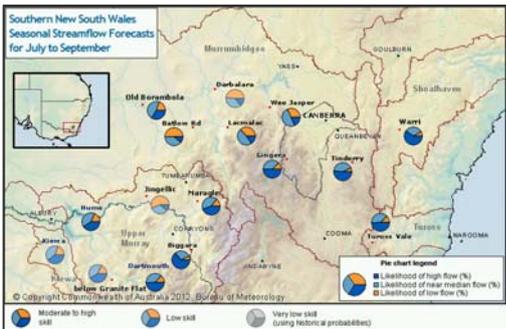


Streamflow outlook July–September 2012

- Near median to high flows more likely in Victoria



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