



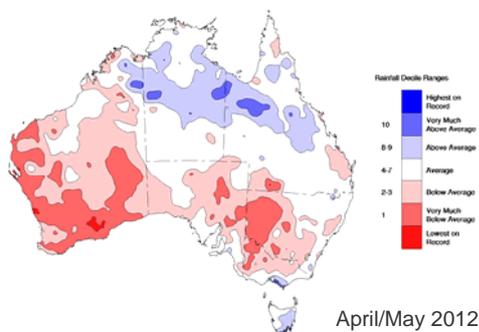
# National Climate and Water Briefing Series

21 June 2012

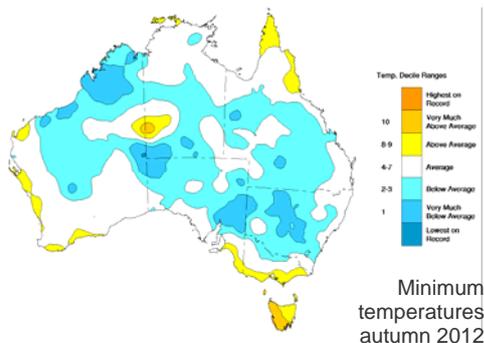
The tropical Pacific Ocean continues to warm with climate models suggesting that conditions are likely to approach or possibly exceed El Niño thresholds by the end of winter. A drier than average season is likely for southwest Western Australia and warmer than normal days likely over most of the Australian mainland. Near median to high streamflows are likely in Victoria and New South Wales.

## Recent conditions

- Generally wet February and March but abrupt change to drier conditions in April and May



- Generally cool temperatures across the country in autumn



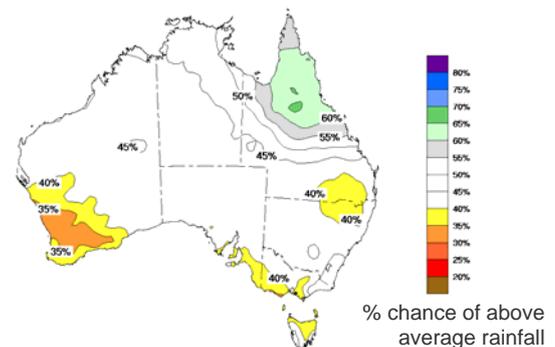
## Climate drivers

- Neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation conditions persist in the tropical Pacific
- 6/7 major international models forecast El Niño by late winter/early spring
- Currently situation tending to positive Indian Ocean Dipole which generally means lower than normal rainfall for Australia

## Climate outlook for July–September 2012

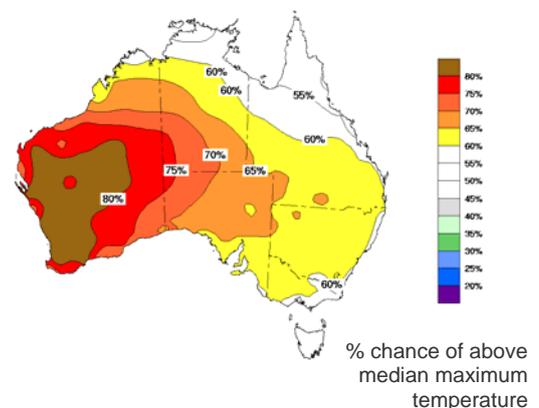
### Rainfall

- Increased risk of dry conditions in southwest Western Australia and parts of southern Australia



### Temperature

- Warmer than normal days more likely over southern and western Australia



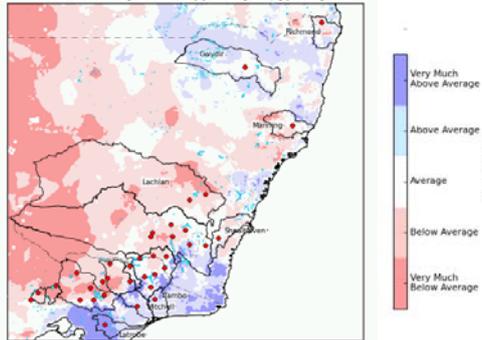
- Warmer than normal nights also more likely in the east and west, excluding the tropics
- Outlook strongly influenced by warmer than normal waters in the eastern Indian Ocean

21 June 2012

### Soil moisture

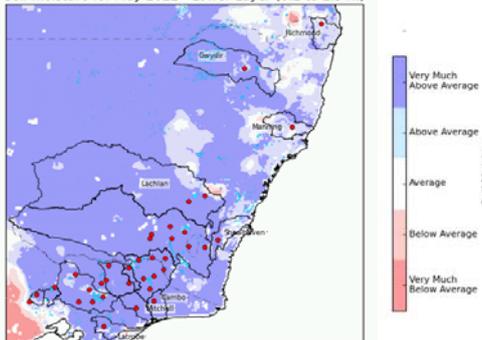
- Decrease in upper layer soil moisture while lower layer soil moisture mostly remains high

Soil moisture for May 2012 - Upper Layer (typically 0.2 m)



May 2012 upper layer moisture

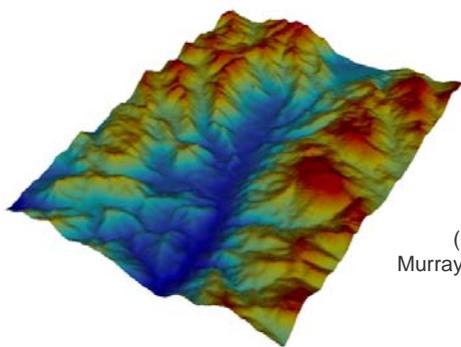
Soil moisture for May 2012 - Lower Layer (0.2 to 1.5 m)



May 2012 lower layer moisture

### Catchments

- Topography of a catchment can impact the streamflows



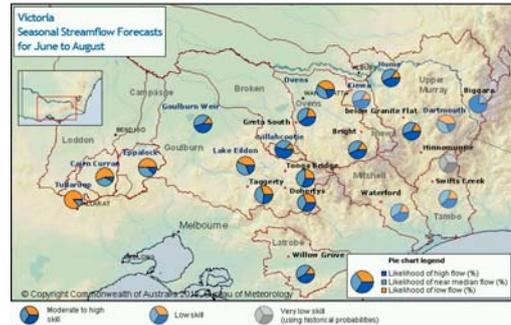
Gingera (southern Murray-Darling Basin)

### Contact

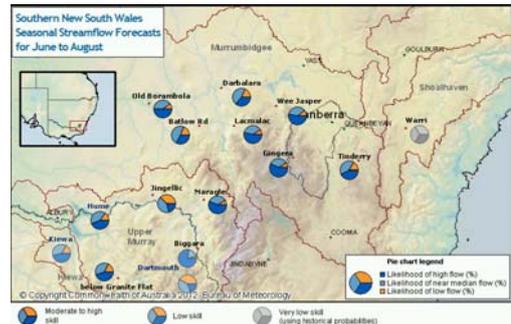
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### Streamflow outlook for June–August 2012

- Near median to high flows more likely in Victoria



- High flows more likely in southern New South Wales



- Near median flows more likely northern New South Wales



### More information

Rainfall and temperature outlook  
[www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead)

Seasonal streamflow forecasts and Water Storage  
[www.bom.gov.au/water](http://www.bom.gov.au/water)