



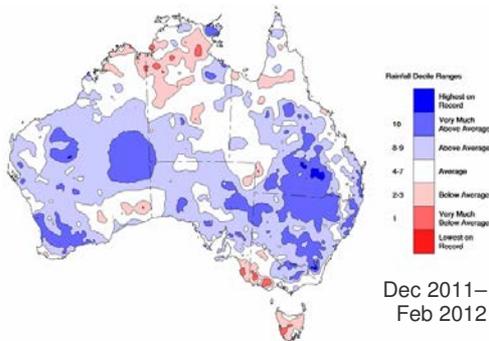
National Climate and Water Briefing Series

22 March 2012

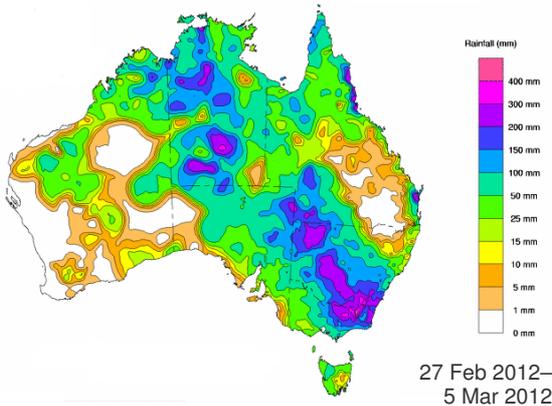
Summer was cooler and wetter than normal across most of Australia. The southeast of the country experienced its heaviest weekly rainfalls on record and extensive flooding at the start of March. Although the La Niña has weakened significantly, the recent heavy rainfall has caused significant increases in soil moisture and higher than normal flows are still more likely in the Victorian and New South Wales catchments.

Recent conditions

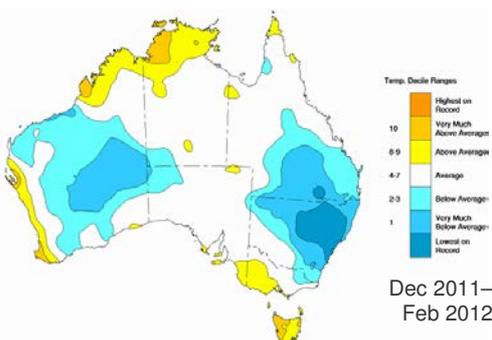
- Summer rainfall was higher than average over most of Australia



- First week in March was the heaviest rainfall event in southeast Australian history

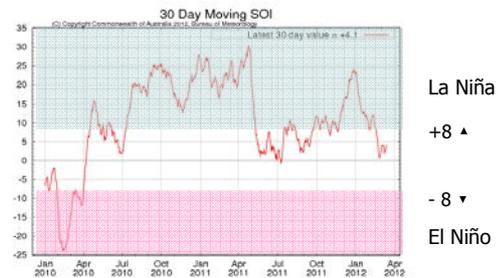


- New South Wales experienced its second coolest summer on record while Perth had six heatwaves



Climate drivers

- 2011–12 La Niña event is nearing its end with most El Niño–Southern Oscillation indicators at or approaching neutral values



- Sea surface temperatures are still above average in the Indian Ocean and the Southern Ocean

Recent flooding

- There was extensive flooding across eastern Australia in February and March. New South Wales had its biggest floods in 20 to 40 years



Wagga Wagga 6 March 2012 Photo: Andrew Meares



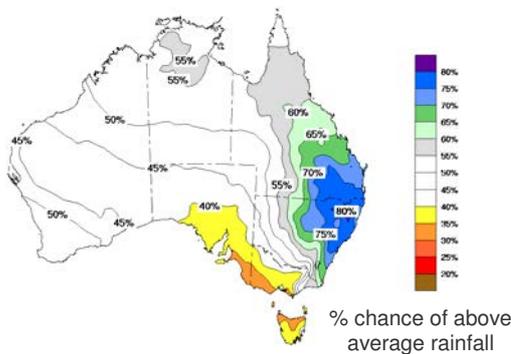
St George February 2012

22 March 2012

Climate outlook for April–June 2012

Rainfall

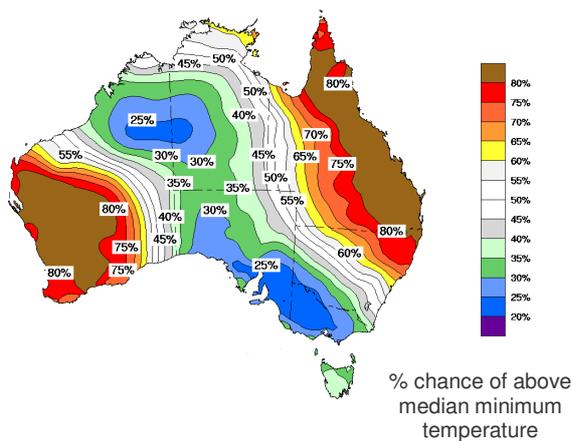
- Increased likelihood of wetter than normal conditions over large parts of eastern Australia. However parts of the southeast are more likely to have a drier season



- Outlook confidence is moderate to weak

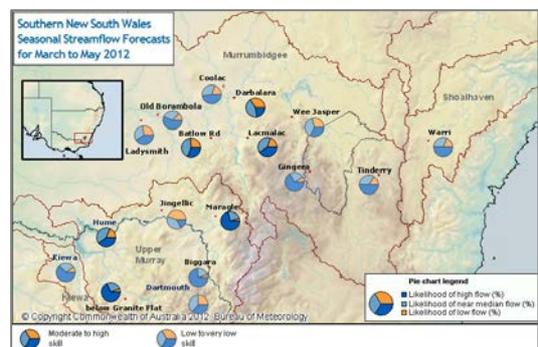
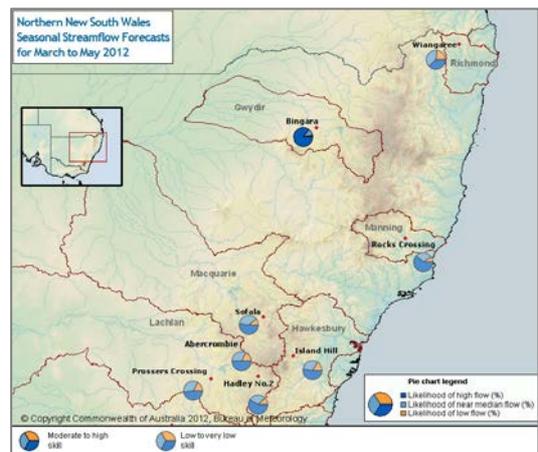
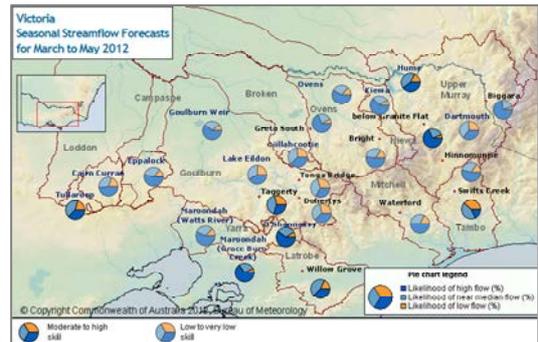
Temperature

- Warmer than normal days are favoured over the tropical north and southern Australia but cooler days are more likely over central and parts of eastern Australia
- Warmer than normal nights are favoured over southern Western Australia and northeast Australia



Streamflow outlook for March–May 2012

- High flows are more likely across most streamflow forecast locations in Victoria and New South Wales though outlook skill is generally low



Contact

Gary Allan, Senior Climate Liaison Officer
02 6232 3550 or 0409 760 883
g.allan@bom.gov.au

More information

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

Seasonal streamflow forecasts and Water Storage
www.bom.gov.au/water