



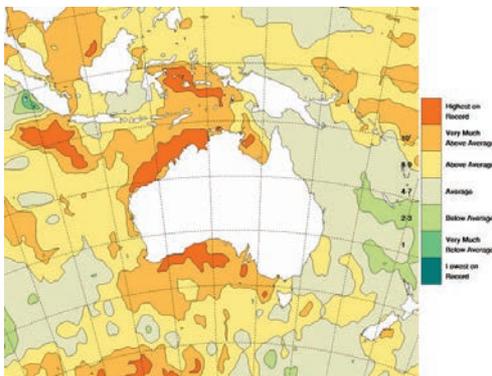
National Climate and Water Briefing Series

21 March 2013

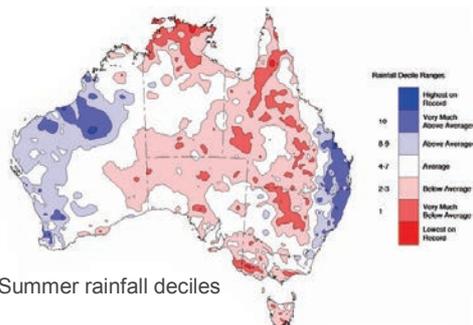
Summer was dominated by high temperatures and low rainfall, although some areas experienced flooding following heavy rains. Temperature outlooks around the country are mixed. The outlook indicates a wetter autumn for much of the east coast. Mixed streamflows are forecast for Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

Recent conditions

- Australia's hottest summer; three significant heatwave events
- Oceans also experiencing a heatwave with significant impacts on ocean life and weather patterns



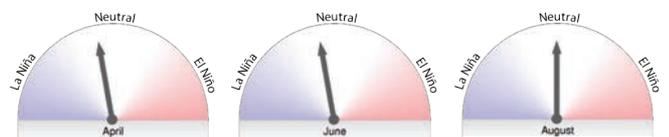
- Heavy rains and flooding along east coast and northwest Western Australia, but much of Australia had a very dry summer



- Record number of 'spot' forecasts issued for fire weather conditions—significant fires in each State and Territory

Climate drivers

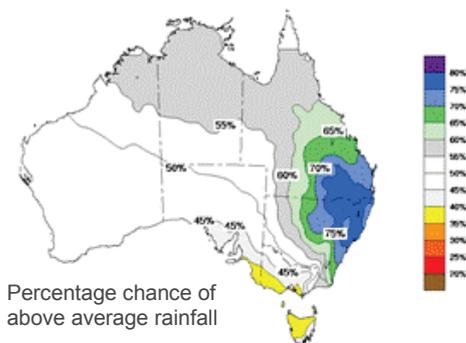
- Neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation state persists in the tropical Pacific Ocean into autumn



Climate outlook for April–June 2013

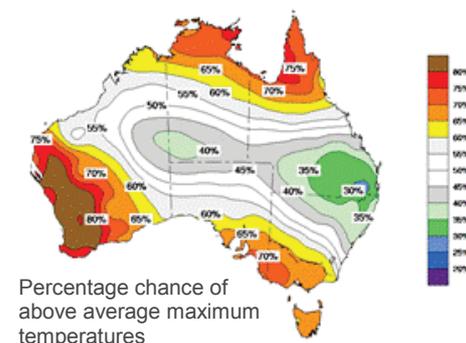
Rainfall

- Wetter season for much of the east; drier for parts of the southeast
- Equal likelihood for wetter or drier season elsewhere



Temperature

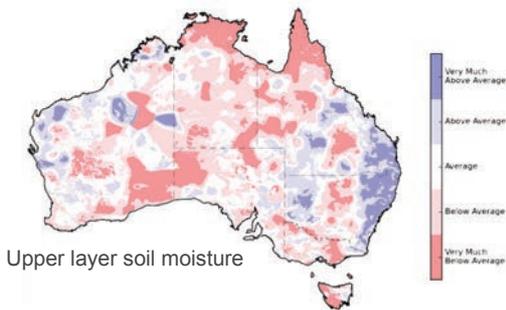
- Warmer days favoured for southern Australia and northern tropics; cool in the east



21 March 2013

Soil moisture levels

- Upper layer soil moisture average to very much below average across most areas; very much above average in eastern Queensland and New South Wales



- Lower layer soil moisture very much above average over much of the country; average to very much below average in the south and far north

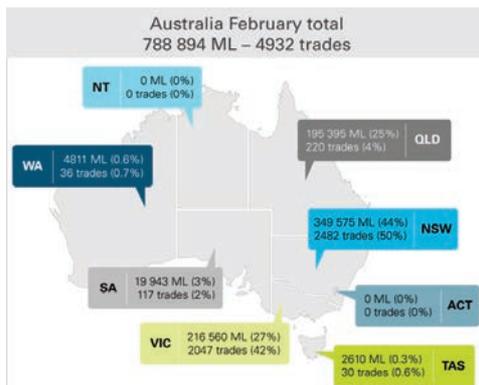
Water storage levels

- Murray–Darling total storage level is at 68.6 per cent, down 19.2 per cent on this time last year



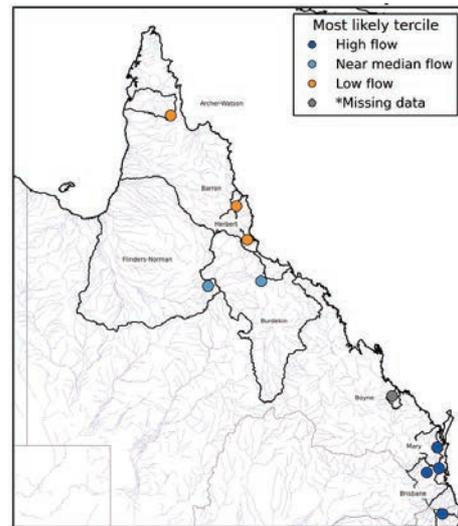
Water markets

- Close to 800 000 ML of water was traded in February 2013

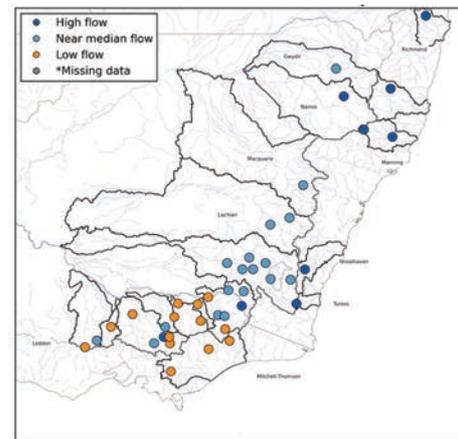


Streamflow outlook March–May 2013

- High flows favoured in southeast Queensland; low flows in northeast Queensland



- Low flows favoured in Victoria; near-median or high flows in New South Wales



Contact

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More information

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

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