

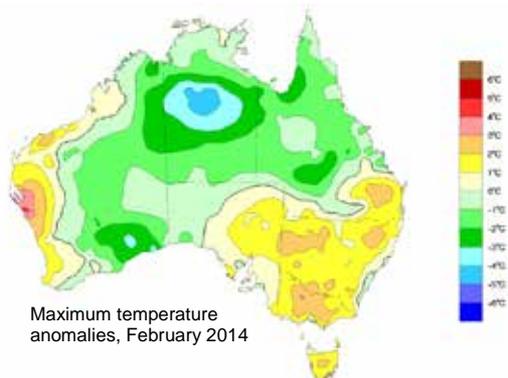
National Climate and Water Briefing

27 March 2014

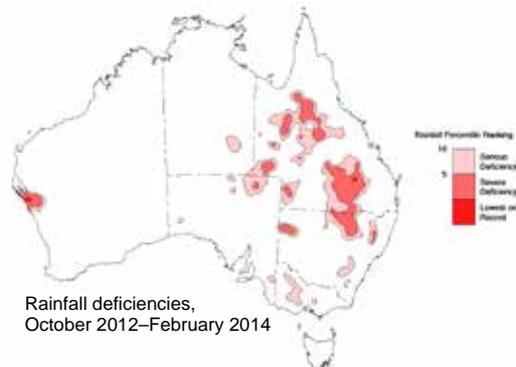
February saw milder temperatures and roughly average rainfall around much of the country. March rainfall helped ease rainfall deficiencies in Queensland, but follow-up rain is needed. The outlook suggests drier than normal conditions for parts of northern Australia, but wetter in the southwest. A warmer than normal season is expected for much of the country. Low streamflows are more likely for southeastern forecast locations. Longer-term, models and observations indicate an increased chance of an El Niño developing later in 2014.

Recent conditions

- Nationally averaged temperature was just below normal in February—first time since July 2012
- Temperature pattern had two distinct halves:
 - warmer than normal in southeastern Australia and coastal Western Australia
 - cooler in the north, central Australia and eastern Western Australia



- Nationally averaged February rainfall was roughly normal
- Recent rainfall helped reduce long-term severe rainfall deficits in Queensland; follow-up rain needed



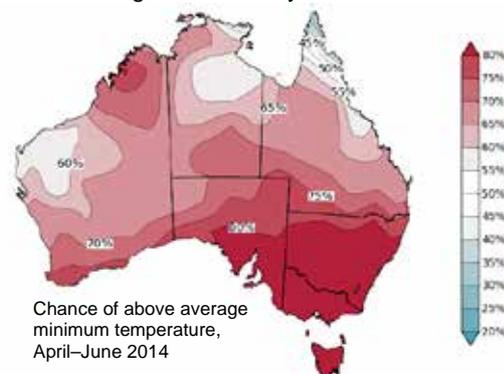
Climate drivers

- Sub-surface warming in tropical Pacific Ocean
- Above average sea surface temperatures in central Indian Ocean and around southeastern Australia
- Increased chance of El Niño later in 2014

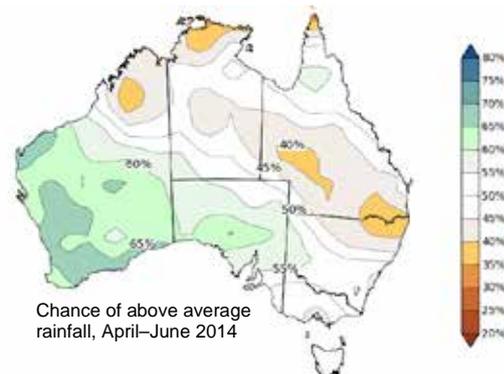


Climate outlook April–June 2014

- Warmer days more likely over northern and eastern Australia, southern coastal areas and Tasmania; warmer nights more likely for most of the country



- Drier season more likely for parts of southern Queensland and northwestern Australia; wetter conditions more likely in southwestern Australia

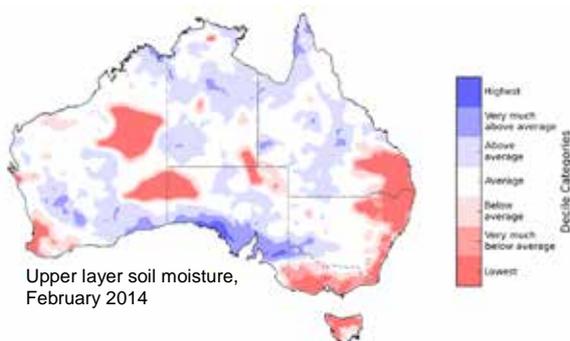


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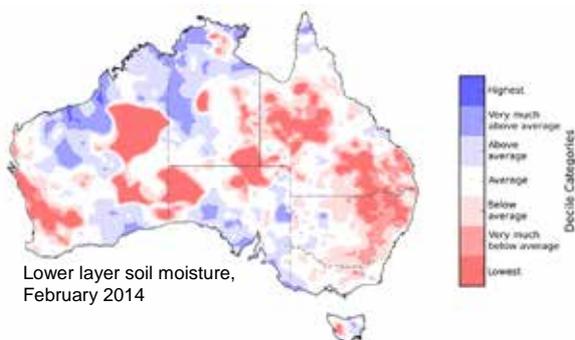
Soil moisture

- Upper layer soil moisture increased across northeastern Australia in February; remains well below average in southeastern Queensland, northeastern New South Wales and Victoria



Upper layer soil moisture, February 2014

- Below average lower layer soil moisture for most of eastern Australia—little change over last month



Lower layer soil moisture, February 2014

Water storage levels

- Eastern Australian drainage divisions generally have lower storage levels than this time last year
- Western drainage divisions higher levels than this time last year

More information

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

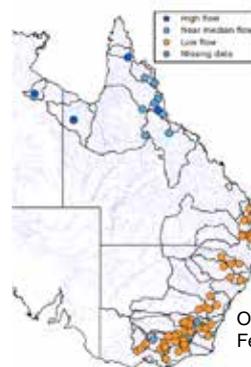
Seasonal streamflow forecasts and water storage
www.bom.gov.au/water

Severe weather warnings
www.bom.gov.au

Streamflow conditions and outlook

Observed streamflow February 2014

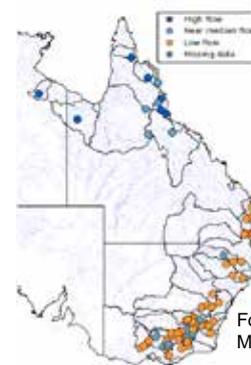
- Low streamflows recorded at 56 of 74 locations monitored; near median flows at 14 locations
- High streamflows recorded at four locations in the tropical north



Observed streamflows, February 2014

Outlook March–May 2014

- Low streamflows more likely for southern forecast locations; near median or high flows more likely for northern locations
- Forecast confidence is low or very low for most locations



Forecast streamflows, March–May 2014

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