

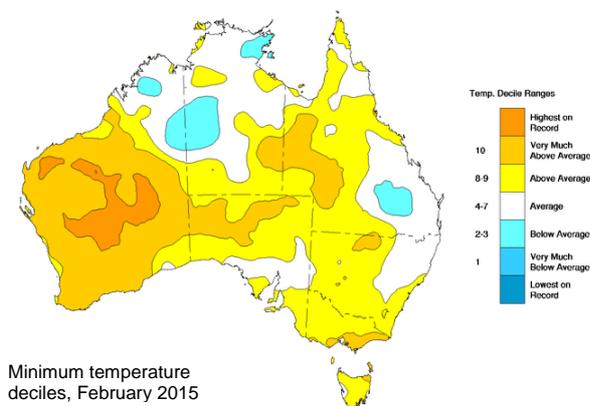
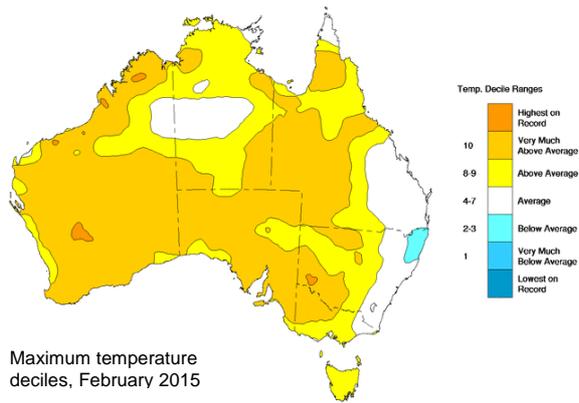
National Climate and Water Briefing

26 March 2015

February was warmer than normal, while rainfall was generally below normal. Low to near-median streamflows were observed, with water storages in southern Australia lower than this time last year. All eight international models surveyed by the Bureau suggest ocean temperatures will exceed El Niño thresholds by mid-year, and hence the Bureau's ENSO Tracker is now at El Niño WATCH. However, the warmer than normal Indian Ocean currently dominates the outlook. April to June is likely to be wetter than normal over most of mainland Australia, particularly in May; with warmer than normal days in the north and far south, and warmer nights nationwide.

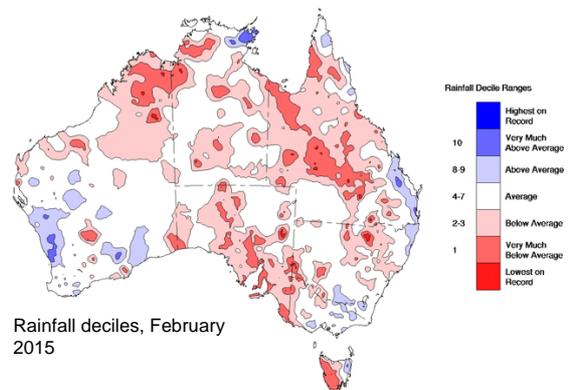
Recent conditions

- February was warmer than normal for Australia as a whole, and for most areas of the country
- Nationally, maximum temperatures were second-warmest on record for February; minimum temperatures were fifth-warmest



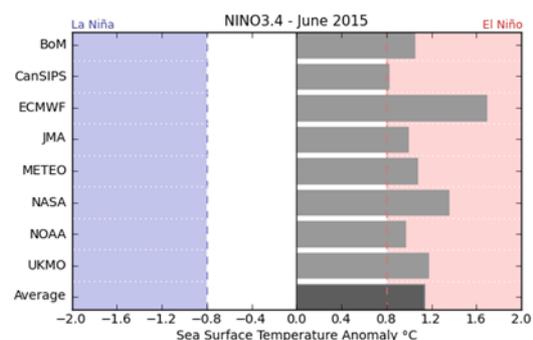
- February rainfall was below average for large parts of northern, central and southeastern Australia
- Tropical cyclones *Olwyn* and *Nathan* have done little to relieve drought conditions in the north

- All States and the Northern Territory recorded rainfall totals below the long-term mean



El Niño–Southern Oscillation

- While it's still early in the year, international models surveyed by the Bureau have strengthened their outlooks for the likelihood of El Niño, with all eight models suggesting ocean temperatures will exceed El Niño thresholds by mid-year.
- The Bureau's ENSO Tracker remains at El Niño WATCH, which based on the historical record, means there is about a 50% chance of El Niño forming in 2015.



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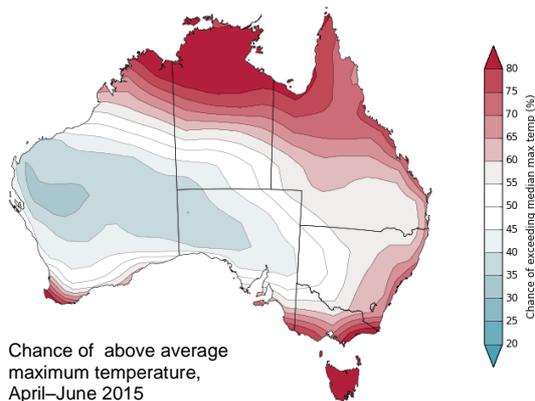
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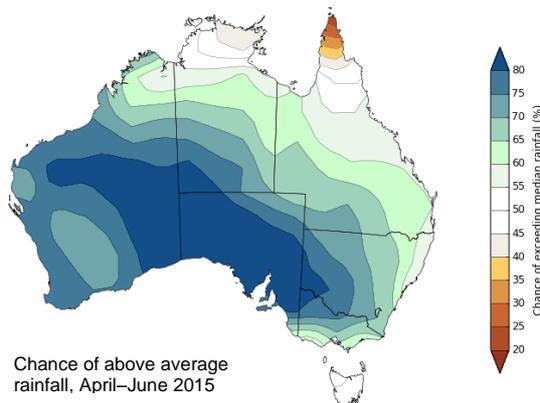
Climate outlook

April–June 2015

- The main climate influence for the season ahead is the warmer than normal sea surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean and surrounding much of the Australian coastline. In the tropical Pacific, further warming is expected, with the Bureau's climate outlook model suggesting El Niño may form during the latter part of the outlook period.
- Warmer daytime temperatures over northern and southeastern Australia are likely



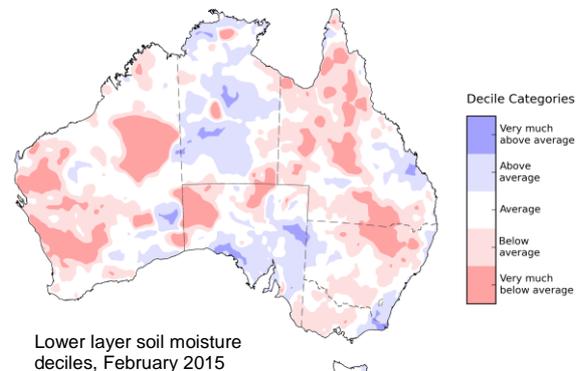
- April to June is likely to be wetter than normal over most of mainland Australia



Streamflow conditions and outlook

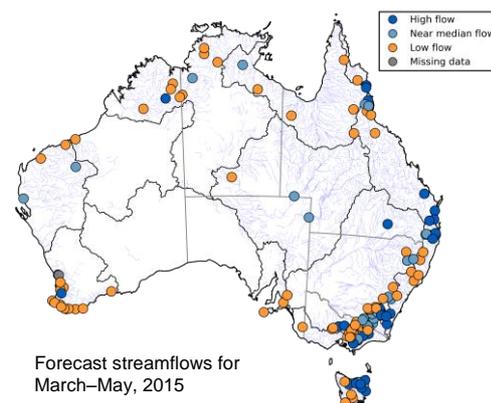
Observed streamflows and soil moisture February 2015

- Low streamflows mostly observed in areas with below-average deep soil moisture; high flows generally observed with higher-than-average deep soil moisture



Outlook March–May 2015

- Low streamflows are likely at 73 of the 137 locations. Median and high flows are more likely at 29 and 35 locations respectively



More information

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

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

Severe weather warnings
www.bom.gov.au

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