



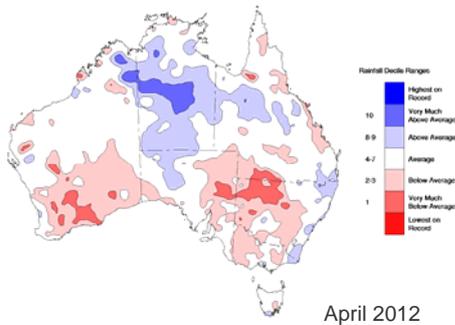
# National Climate and Water Briefing Series

24 May 2012

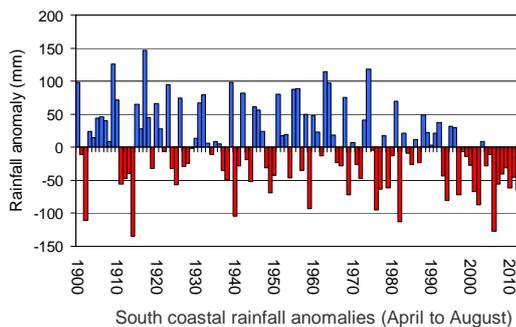
January to March 2012 has been wetter and cooler than average but April has seen a change to drier and warmer conditions in many areas. Climate indicators in the tropical Pacific remain neutral, but models suggest a possible shift towards El Niño later in 2012. Warmer and drier conditions are likely to continue over the coming months. Despite lower than average rainfall, lower layer soil moisture remains high such that higher than normal flows are likely in Victorian and New South Wales catchments.

## Recent conditions

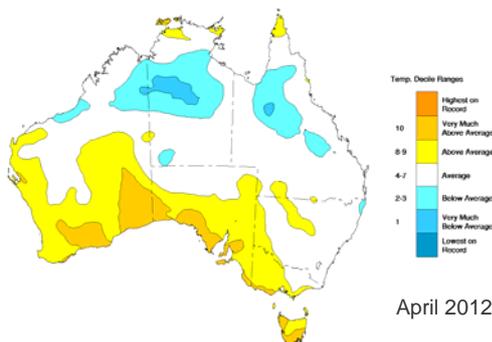
- Generally wet January to March but abrupt change to drier conditions in April



- Consistent with long-term drying trend during autumn–winter

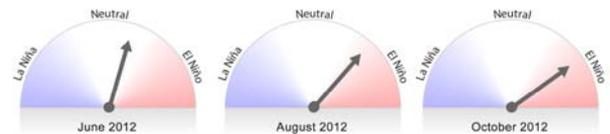


- January to March has been cooler than normal, but April changed to warmer across the south



## Climate drivers

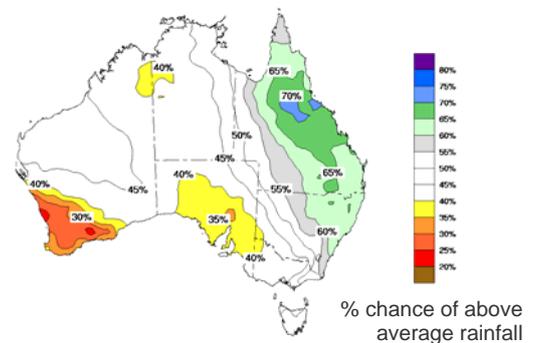
- Neutral El Niño–Southern Oscillation conditions persist in the tropical Pacific
- Climate models indicate a possible move to El Niño conditions later in 2012



## Climate outlook for June–August 2012

### Rainfall

- Winter more likely to be drier than average for southwest Western Australia and most of South Australia
- Conditions likely to be wetter than normal in the northeast and along parts of the east coast

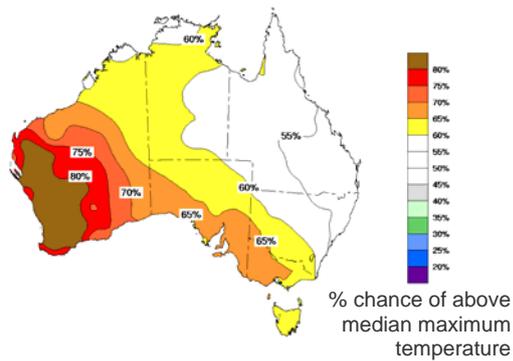


- Outlook strongly influenced by much warmer than normal waters in the Indian Ocean

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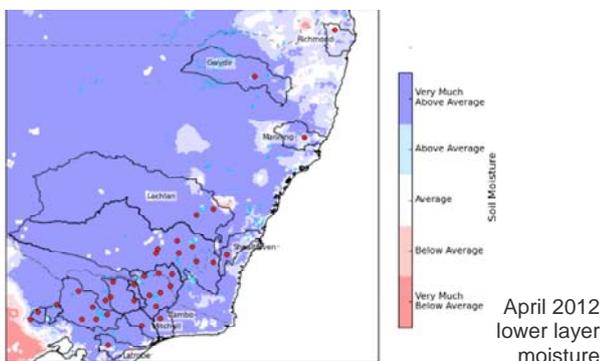
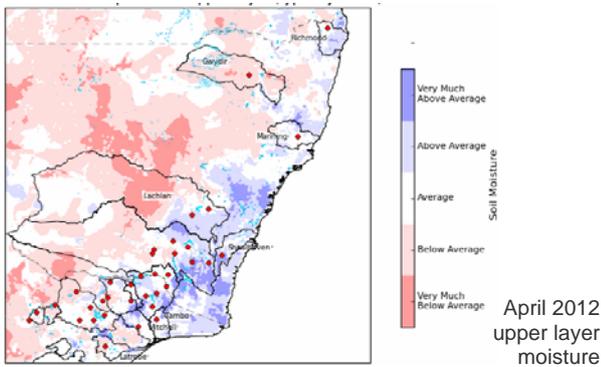
Temperature

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



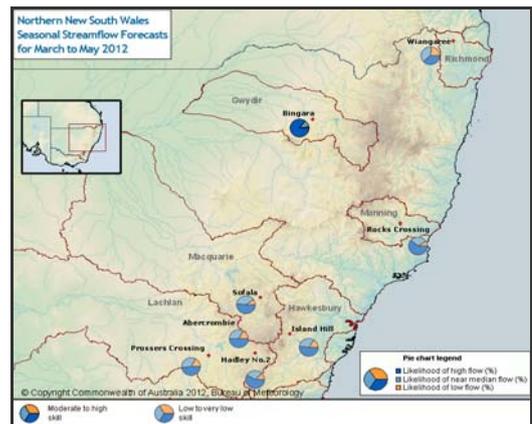
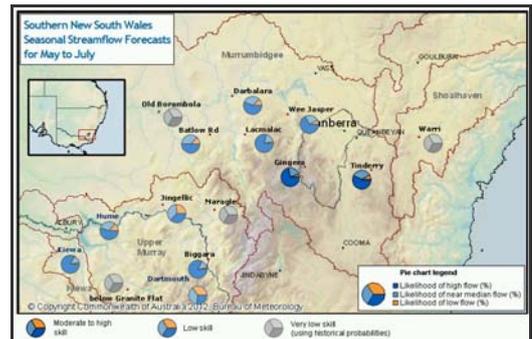
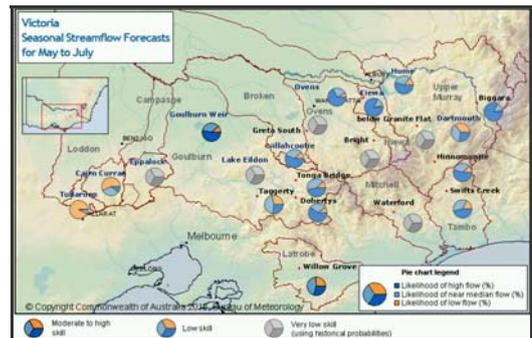
Soil moisture

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



Streamflow outlook for May–July 2012

- High flows are more likely across most streamflow forecast locations in Victoria and New South Wales



- Below average rainfall outlooks are predicted, but streamflow forecasts are high due to the lag between high rainfall in preceding months and resulting large catchment storage

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)

**Contact**  
 Gary Allan, Senior Climate Liaison Officer  
 02 6232 3550 or 0409 760 883  
[g.allan@bom.gov.au](mailto:g.allan@bom.gov.au)