



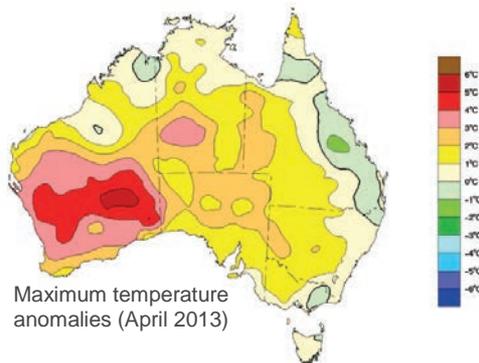
National Climate and Water Briefing Series

23 May 2013

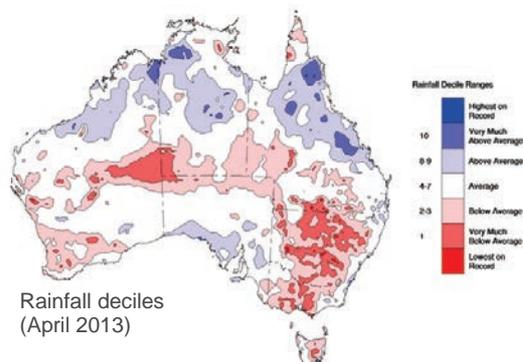
Warmer and drier than average conditions continued across most of Australia throughout April and into early May. The outlook indicates a warmer than normal season in many coastal areas and above average rainfall for most of the country. Near median streamflows are likely for much of the east coast.

Recent conditions

- Much of Australia experienced above average maximum and minimum temperatures in April, with large anomalies in the west
- National average maximum temperature was 1.6 °C above normal for April
- Maximum temperatures 5.4 °C above normal in first week of May; compared with 4.5 °C during January heatwave



- April rainfall generally below average or very much below average in southeast



- New South Wales and Victoria recorded largest departures from April rainfall averages

Climate drivers

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

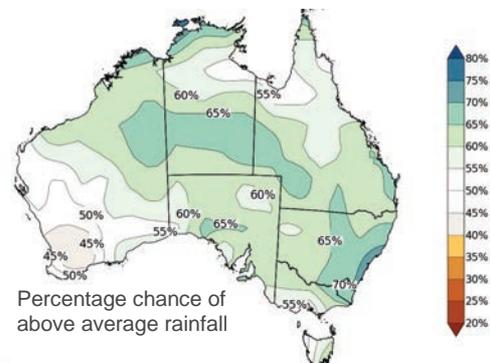


- Models favour development of negative Indian Ocean Dipole and increased chance of above normal rainfall over southern Australia

Climate outlook for June–August 2013

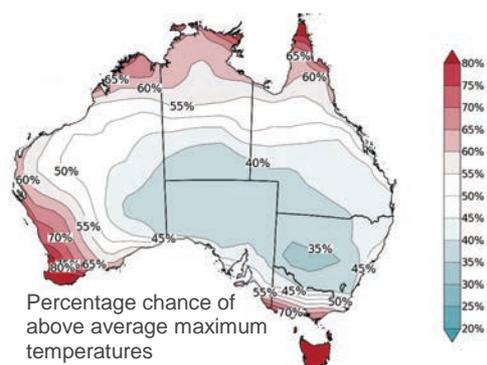
Rainfall

- Wetter than normal season likely for most parts of Australia



Temperature

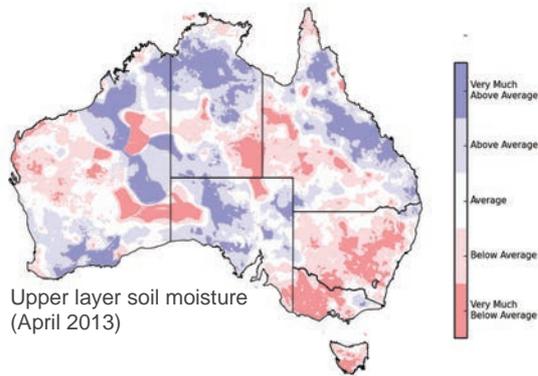
- Warmer season favoured for most coastal areas
- Cooler days more likely over large parts of the southwest mainland



23 May 2013

Soil moisture

- Upper layer soil moisture has decreased in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland; very dry across New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania



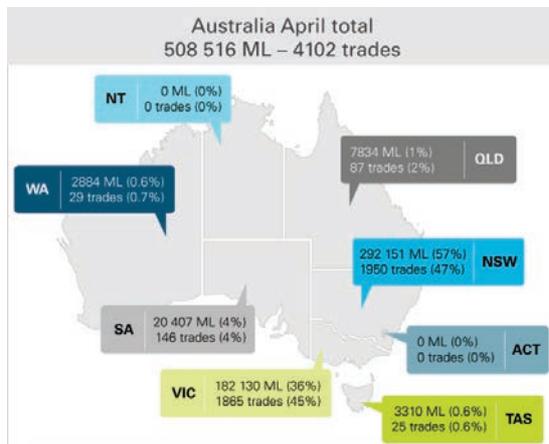
- Small decrease in lower layer soil moisture across most of Australia, increase in northern Australia and Tasmania

Water storage levels

- Storage levels are above 80% for Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra and Hobart
- Perth and Adelaide storages are low (18% and 41% respectively)

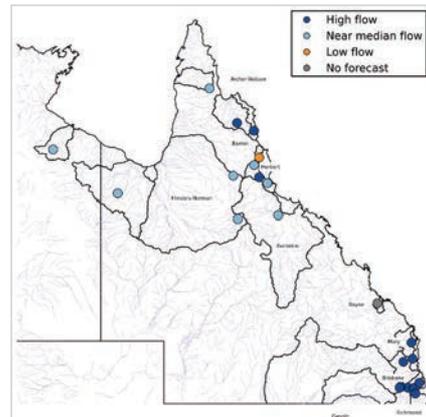
Water markets

- More than 500 000 ML of water traded in April 2013; net trade into South Australia from New South Wales and Victoria

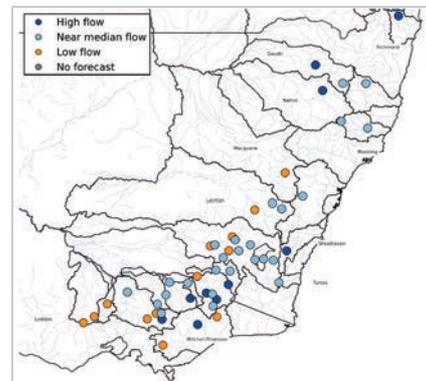


Streamflow outlook May–July 2013

- High flows more likely in southeastern and northern Queensland, near median flows likely for most other Queensland sites



- Near median flows more likely throughout most of New South Wales and Victoria, however low flows likely for 13 sites; forecast skill lowest at this time of year in this region



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