

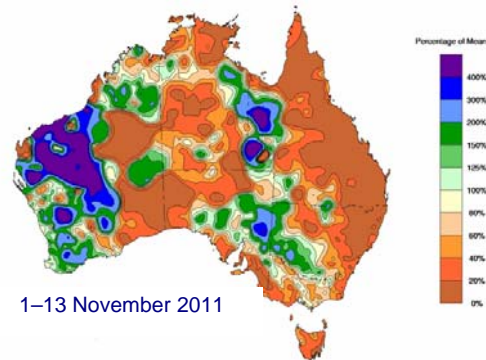
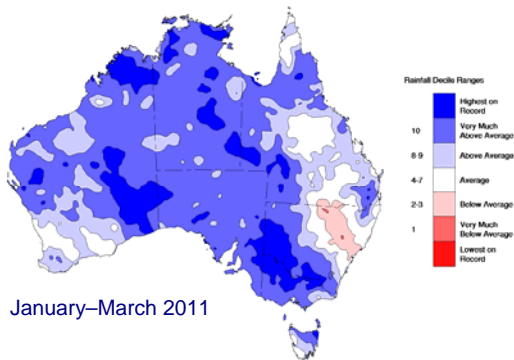


# National Climate and Water Briefing Series

17 November 2011

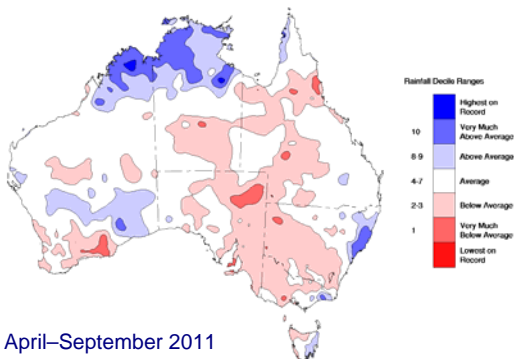
La Niña is back but much weaker than in 2010. Whilst the outlook for summer is wet, the chances of it raining to the extent of last year are low. However, the confidence in the outlook is not as strong as last year, and there is less agreement among the climate models.

## Recent conditions

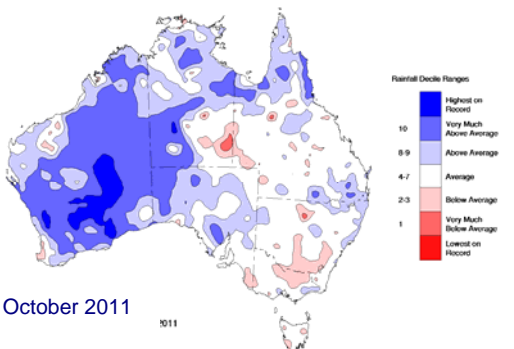


Above – high rainfall early in 2011 due to strong La Niña.  
Below – average or below rainfall across most of Australia

The above map shows the percentage of the average monthly rainfall for the first two weeks of November. Much of Western Australia has already received more than its average monthly fall.



April–September 2011



October 2011

Above - Western Australia received much needed rain in October.

- Most of Australia received below average rainfall in recent months
- Western Australia and some areas of central and northern Australia received well above average rainfall in October
- Daytime temperatures were significantly warmer compared with the same time last year
- Low flows were recorded at most sites in the south east Murray-Darling Basin in August to October

## Climate drivers

- Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the tropical Pacific Ocean continued to cool in October. Cool waters now extend across the entire equatorial Pacific east of the International Dateline
- Climate models predict these cool temperatures will continue through the Australian summer
- The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) remains above La Niña thresholds
- Persistently warm Indian Ocean temperatures are a major contributor to the current outlook, together with the La Niña conditions
- The positive Indian Ocean Dipole event which has been underway is decaying, as is usual at this time of year. It is expected to further weaken by the end of 2011

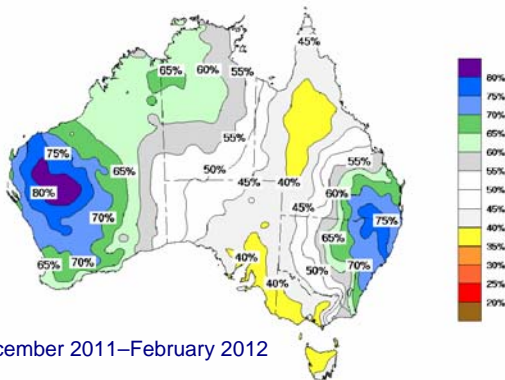


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## Climate outlook – December to February

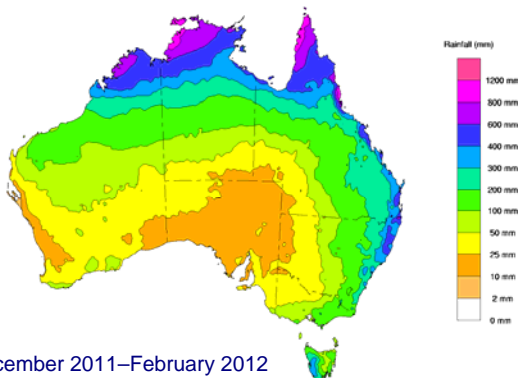
- Wetter than average conditions are very likely in the west, and are likely in eastern Australia around southeast Queensland and northeast NSW
- La Niña conditions are forecast to continue over summer, but current conditions indicate a weaker event than in 2010-11
- The current La Niña started later than the one in 2010
- Onset of the monsoon is expected in mid December
- The indicators for the summer outlook are not as strong as last year, so the outlook is less certain; there is less agreement among climate models.



December 2011–February 2012

*Above - Percentage chance of exceeding the median rainfall over the summer period. The blue areas indicate higher likelihood*

*Below – Forecast chance of exceeding a specific amount of rainfall during the summer period. This map shows a 75% chance of exceeding a range of values*



December 2011–February 2012

## Streamflow outlook – November to January

- Near median flows more likely for most catchments
- Moderate to high confidence in forecasts



### More information

Update on La Niña conditions – ENSO Wrap-up  
[www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/)

Rainfall and temperature outlook  
[www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead)

Seasonal streamflow forecasts  
[www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf)

### Next briefing

Thursday, 15 December 2011 at 11.00am

### Contacts

Please contact [briefings@bom.gov.au](mailto:briefings@bom.gov.au) or our Climate Liaison staff to provide feedback and for any queries.

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