



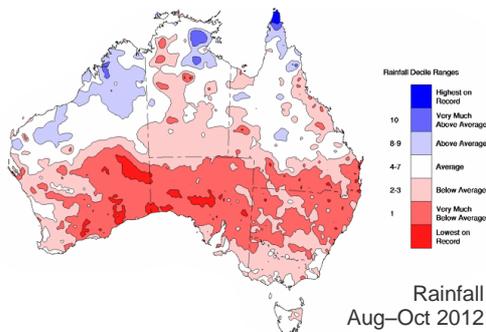
National Climate and Water Briefing Series

22 November 2012

Recent Australian climate conditions have been drier and warmer than average, particularly across the southern half of the continent, despite El Niño-Southern Oscillation indicators remaining at neutral levels. Warmer than average sea surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean are influencing the summer rainfall outlook, which is indicating wetter than average conditions are likely in parts of the east and west. Temperatures are likely to be warmer than average. Streamflow forecasts are low or near median for most sites in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

Recent conditions

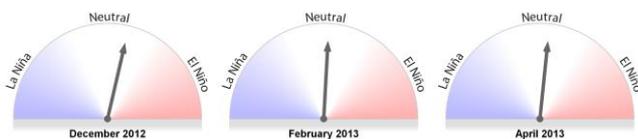
- The last three months have been the sixth driest on record, particularly focussed on the southern half of the country.



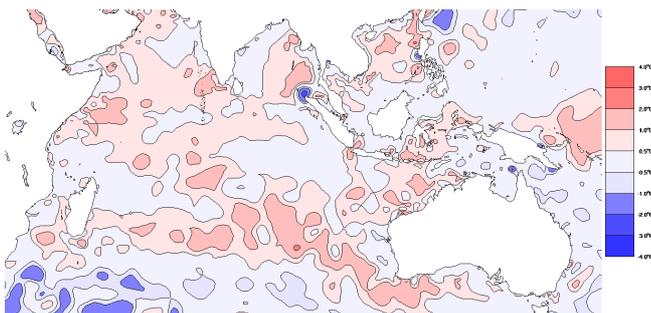
- October national maximum temperatures have been third highest on record (1.94°C above normal)

Climate drivers

- The chance of an El Niño developing has reduced as the Pacific Ocean has cooled to neutral levels, and it is likely to remain at neutral levels.



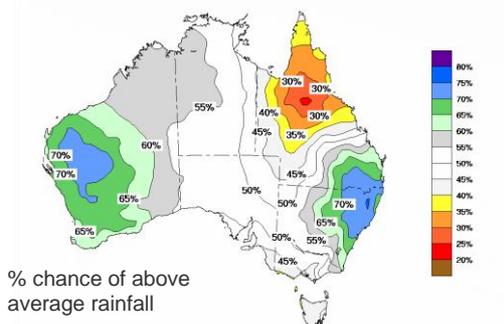
- Sea surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean off the Western Australia coast were equal second warmest on record for October.



Climate outlook for December 2012–February 2013

Rainfall

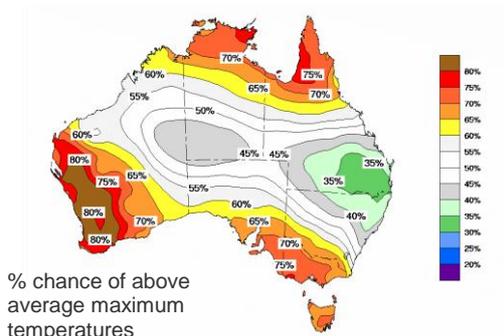
- Wetter than normal season likely for parts of Western Australia, southeast Queensland and eastern New South Wales.



- Outlook mostly influenced by warmer than normal waters in the Indian Ocean.

Temperature

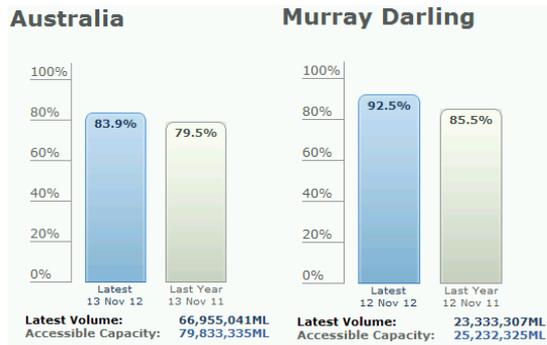
- Warmer than normal days likely over most of northern and southern Australia.



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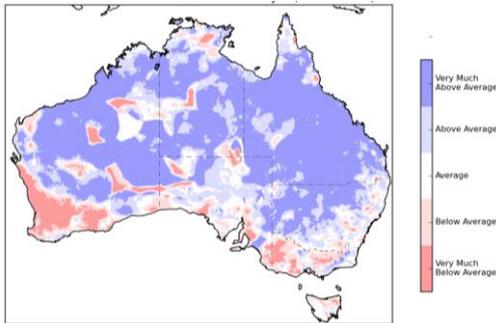
Water storage levels

- Australia's total storage level is at 84 per cent and the Murray-Darling is at 92.5 per cent, up 4 and 7 per cent respectively from this time last year.

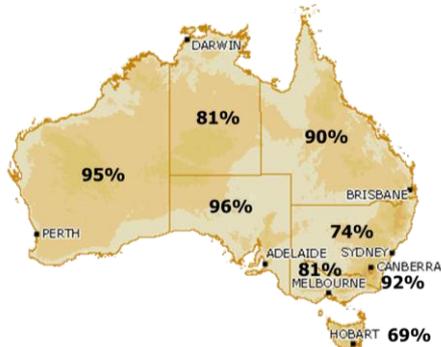


Flood risk

- Lower layer soil moisture is still relatively high over many parts of the country



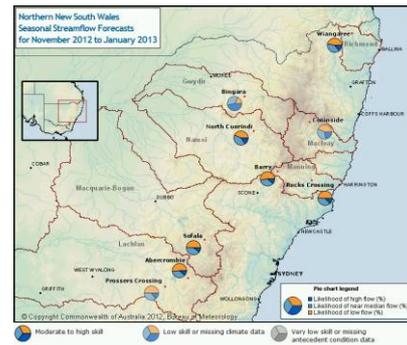
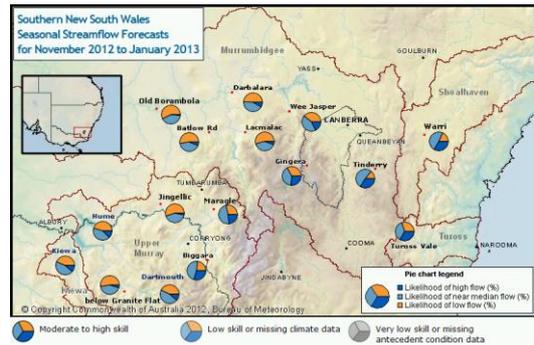
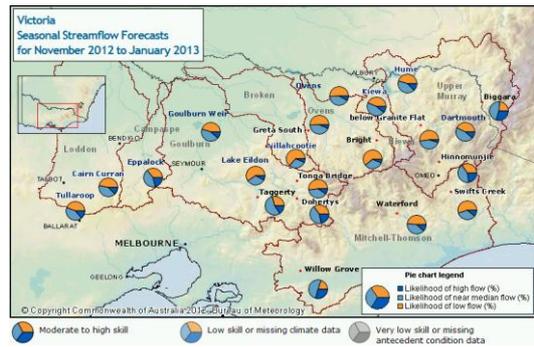
- Storage levels are generally high



- Rainfall outlook indicates wetter than normal season likely for large parts of Western Australia and eastern Australia
- Floods can occur regardless of the catchment and climate conditions

Streamflow outlook November 2012–January 2013

- Low or near median flows more likely in Victoria and New South Wales.



- Low or near median flow more likely in Queensland

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