



National Climate and Water Briefing Series

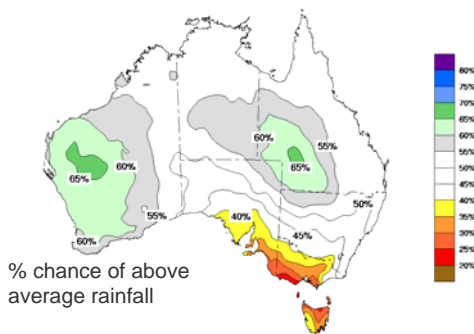
20 September 2012

Drier conditions are likely in the southeast of Australia and warmer than normal temperatures are also likely across most of the country. Near median streamflows are favoured for the majority of the forecast locations across eastern Australia.

Climate outlook for October–December 2012

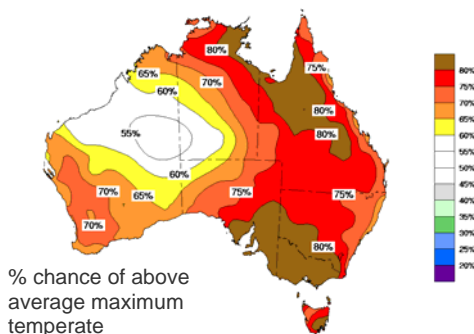
Rainfall

- Drier than normal conditions likely for parts of southeast Australia
- Wetter than normal season likely in the southwest of Western Australia and southwest Queensland



Temperature

- Warmer than normal days likely over most of Australia



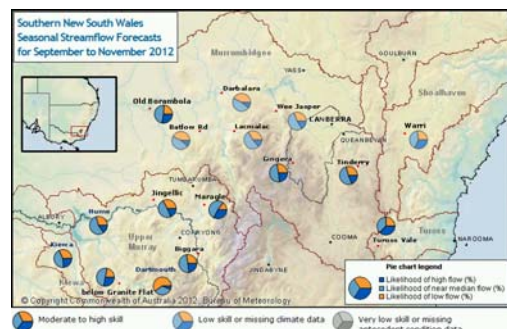
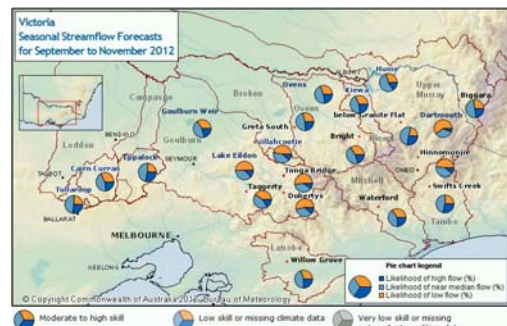
- Warmer than normal nights also likely

Climate drivers

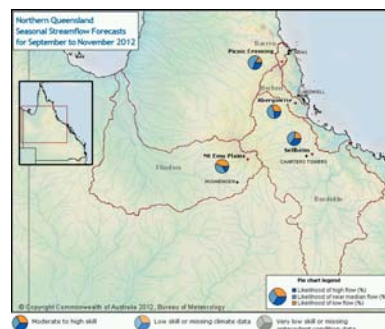
- Climate models forecast the tropical Pacific to maintain values near El Niño thresholds for the rest of 2012
- The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently positive
- Positive IOD is typically associated with decreased spring rainfall over parts of southern, central and northern Australia

Streamflow outlook September–November 2012

- Near median flows more likely in Victoria and southern New South Wales



- Near median to high flows more likely in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland
- Near median to low flows more likely in northern Queensland





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Severe weather outlook

The bushfire assessment indicates a high risk of grassland fires over inland Australia. The tropical cyclones outlook suggests a 65 to 75 per cent chance of a below average number of cyclones. Severe thunderstorms are likely to return to more normal numbers, with normal hail and wind risk.

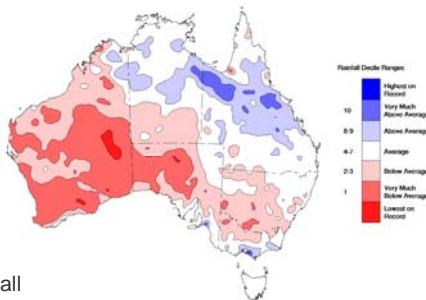
Seasonal bushfire assessment

- Normalised difference vegetation index (NDVI) over winter shows above average growth of grassy fuels over much of inland Australia



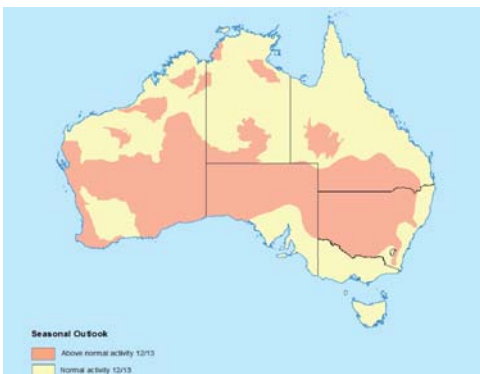
NDVI anomaly
March-August 2012

- Recent rainfall has been below average over large parts of western, central and southern Australia; and above average for areas of Queensland



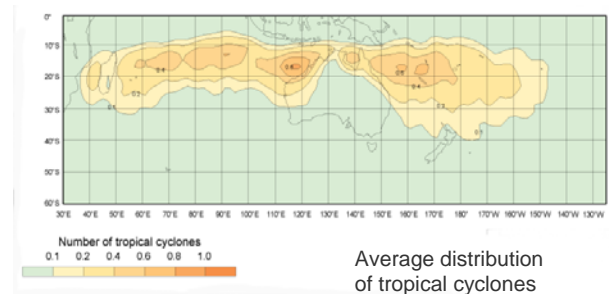
Rainfall
April-August 2012

- Seasonal bushfire outlook is above normal for large parts of southern Australia



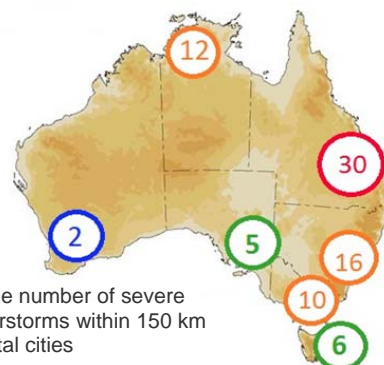
Tropical cyclone outlook

- Average number of tropical cyclones for the Australian region is 11–12, although not all make landfall
- Preliminary outlook is for a 65 to 75 percent chance of below average number of cyclones in the Australian region
- Odds favor a later start to the season



Severe thunderstorms

- Most severe thunderstorms occur along the east coast
- More normal numbers expected this summer
- Risk from damaging wind and large hail return to normal



Average number of severe
thunderstorms within 150 km
of capital cities

More information

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

Seasonal streamflow forecasts and Water Storage
www.bom.gov.au/water