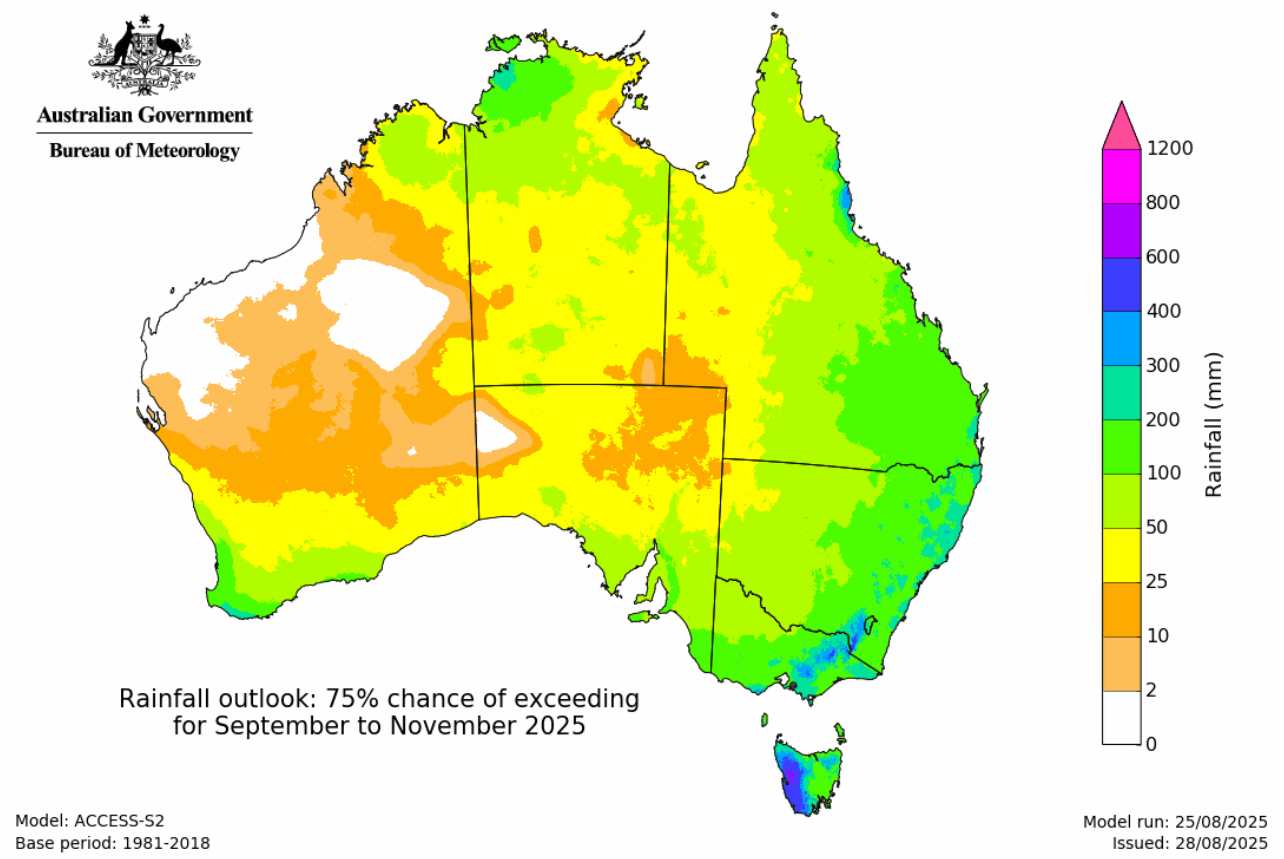
The Bureau of Meteorology

# Long-range Forecasts

**User Guide - Version 1.3 – updated 28 August 2025**




---

*This user guide provides a summary of the Long-range Forecast gridded data and images available to Registered Users via FTP and Cloud (S)FTP.*

# Table of Contents

## Product Description

The long-range forecasts show the likelihood of the upcoming weeks, months and seasons being wetter or drier and warmer or cooler than usual.

## Products

Table 1 provides a list of products included in the Long-range Forecast Grids - Bundle (IDBC0002).

| Product Code | Product Description | Update Frequency |
|---|---|---|
| IDCKO6MC1M | Long-range forecast chance of above median rainfall and temperature - monthly and seasonal - gridded (raw, 60 km) - Australia and global | Weekly |
| IDCKO6MCFM | Long-range forecast chance of above median rainfall and temperature – fortnightly - gridded (raw, 60 km) - Australia and global | Daily |
| IDCKO6MCWM | Long-range forecast chance of above median rainfall and temperature – weekly - gridded (raw, 60 km) - Australia and global | Daily |
| IDCKO5SC1M | Long-range forecast 'scenarios' - monthly and seasonal (calibrated, 5 km) - Australia | Weekly |
| IDCKO5SCFM | Long-range forecast 'scenarios' - fortnightly (calibrated, 5 km) - Australia | Daily |
| IDCKO5SCWM | Long-range forecast 'scenarios' – weekly (calibrated, 5 km) - Australia | Daily |
| IDCKO5CC1M | Long-range forecast 'chance of at least' - monthly and seasonal (calibrated, 5 km) – Australia | Weekly |
| IDCKO5CCFM | Long-range forecast 'chance of at least' - fortnightly (calibrated, 5 km) – Australia | Daily |
| IDCKO5CCWM | Long-range forecast 'chance of at least' - weekly (calibrated, 5 km) – Australia | Daily |
| IDCKO5XC1M | Long-range forecast anomalies - monthly and seasonal (calibrated, 5 km) – Australia | Weekly |
| IDCKO5XCFM | Long-range forecast anomalies - fortnightly (calibrated, 5 km) – Australia | Daily |
| IDCKO5XCWM | Long-range forecast anomalies - weekly (calibrated, 5 km) – Australia | Daily |
| IDCKO6XC1M | Long-range forecast anomalies - monthly and seasonal (raw, 60 km) – global | Weekly |
| IDCKO6XCFM | Long-range forecast anomalies - fortnightly (raw, 60 km) – global | Daily |
| IDCKO6XCWM | Long-range forecast anomalies - weekly (raw, 60 km) - global | Daily |
| IDCK000098 | Long-range forecast 'chance of extremes' - weekly and fortnightly (calibrated, 5 km) – Australia | Daily |
| IDCK000099 | Long-range forecast 'chance of extremes' monthly and seasonal (calibrated, 5 km) – Australia | Weekly |
| IDCK000105 | Long-range forecast 'chance of a burst event' - weekly and fortnightly (calibrated, 5 km) – Australia | Daily |

Table 1 List of products included in Long-range Forecast Grids - Bundle (IDBC0002)

## File Location

Files are available in the /clim_data subdirectory of Registered Users' directories.

These products are available via cloud FTP (ftp-reg.cloud.bom.gov.au), SFTP (sftp-reg.cloud.bom.gov.au) and ftp.bom.gov.au.

## File Formats

NetCDF4, PNG (zipped)

## Data Availability Times

The expected approximate times for Long-range Forecast products to be available on Cloud (S)FTP and FTP are as follows:

- Weekly and fortnightly forecasts: Daily at 1115 UTC (9:15 pm AEST)
- Monthly and seasonal forecasts: Weekly, on Thursdays, at 0325 UTC (1:25 pm AEST)

## Sample Files

Sample long-range forecast files are available in the following location:
ftp://ftp.bom.gov.au/anon/sample/catalogue/Long-range_Forecasts/

Please note that due to most browsers no longer supporting FTP, it is generally necessary to use an FTP client such as Filezilla to retrieve the sample files.

Alternatively, they can be accessed via Windows File Explorer by pasting the above link into the address bar.

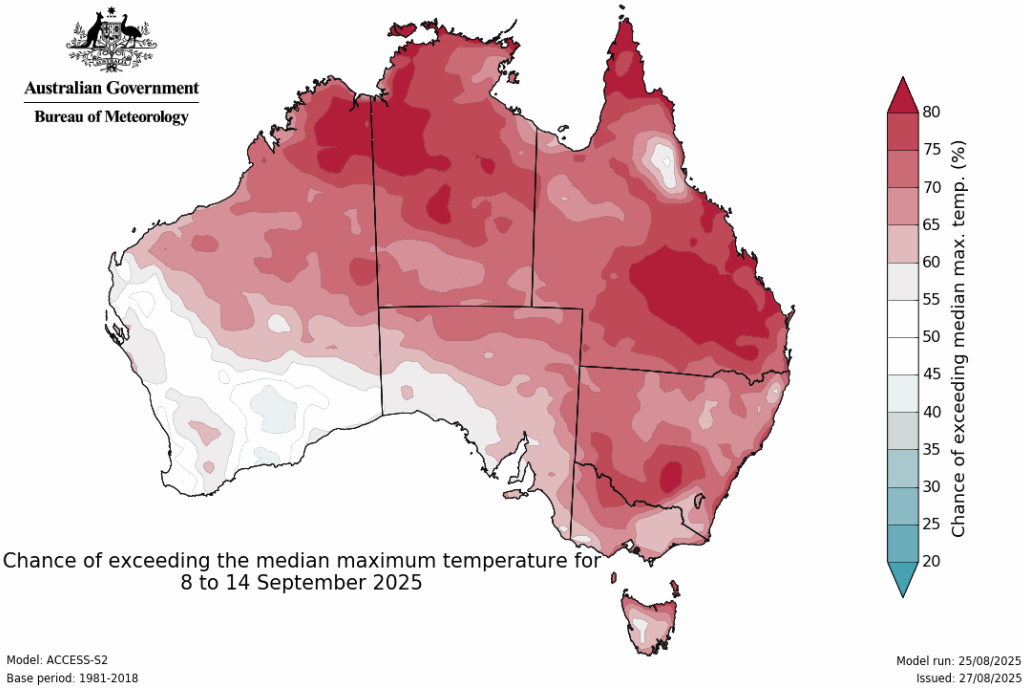
# Product Details

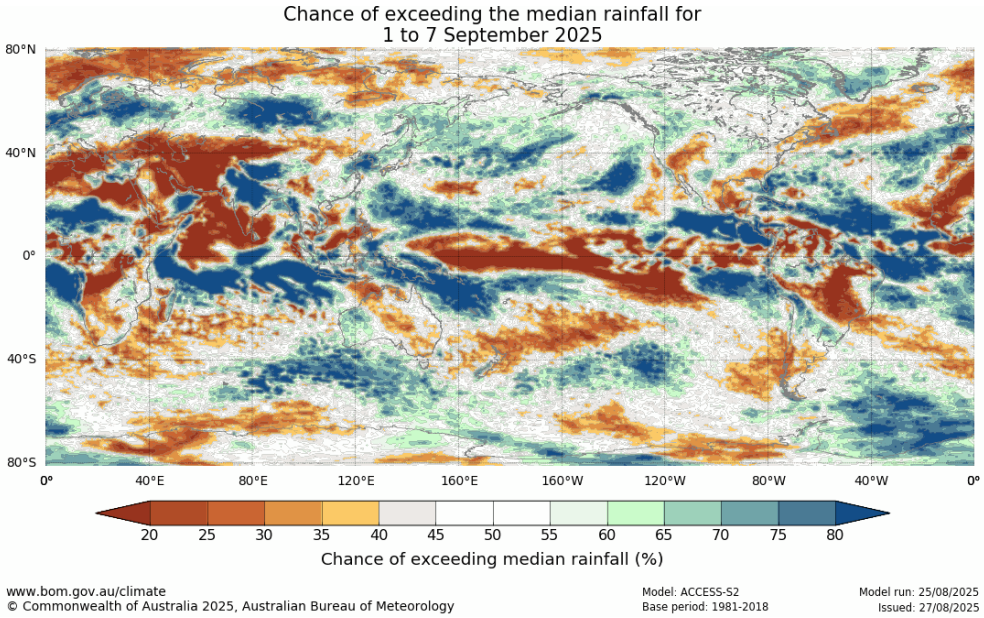
## Long-range forecast 'chance of above median' - rainfall and temperature – Australia and global

### - weekly, fortnightly, monthly and seasonal (raw, 60 km)

### - Product Codes IDCKO6MC1M, IDCKO6MCFM and IDCKO6MCWM

The forecast percentage chance of exceeding the median rainfall, median minimum temperature and median maximum temperature in week 2 (4 days lead time), week 3 (11 days lead time), fortnight 2 (4 days lead time), fortnight 3 (11 days lead time), month 1 (1 month lead time), month 2 (2 month lead time), season 1 (1 month lead time) and season 2 (2 month lead time). Examples of PNG files are shown below.



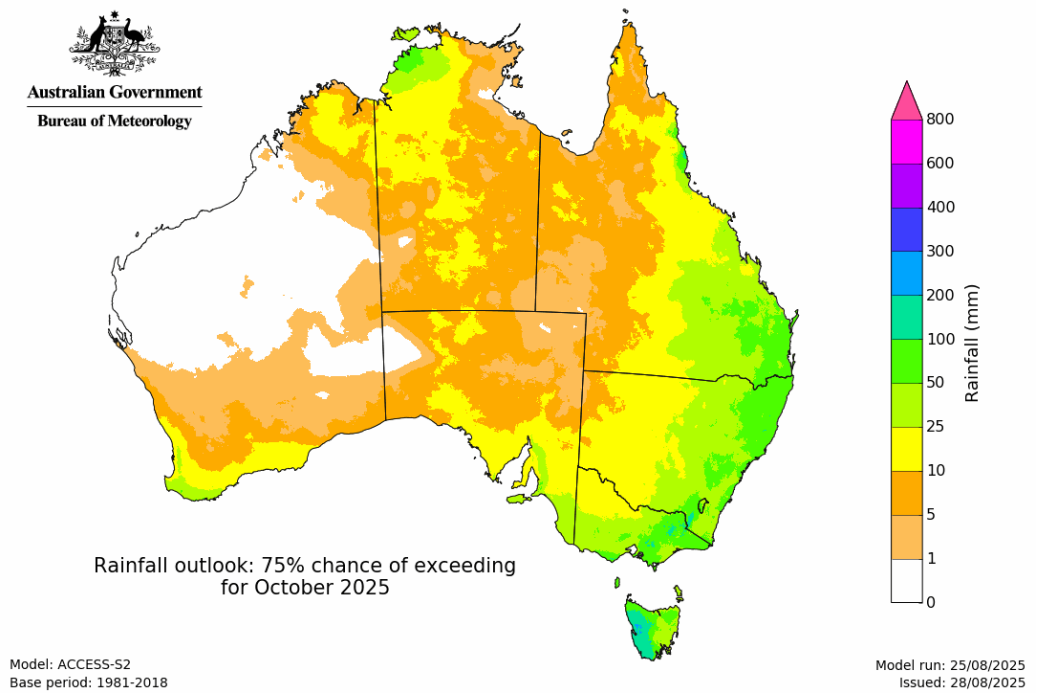



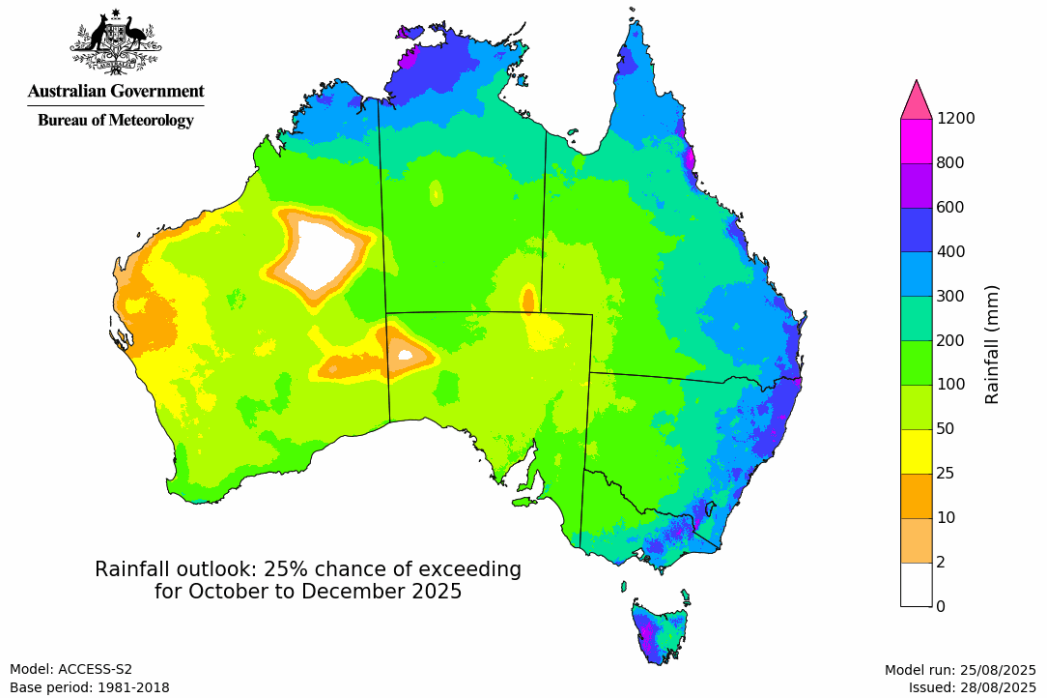
## Long-range forecast 'scenarios' – rainfall - Australia

### - weekly, fortnightly, monthly and seasonal (calibrated, 5 km)

### - Product Codes IDCKO5SC1M, IDCKO5SCFM and IDCKO5SCWM

Rainfall totals that have a 25%, 50% and 75% forecast chance of exceedance in week 2 (4 days lead time), week 3 (11 days lead time), fortnight 2 (4 days lead time), fortnight 3 (11 days lead time), month 1 (1 month lead time), month 2 (2 month lead time), season 1 (1 month lead time) and season 2 (2 month lead time). Examples of PNG files are shown below.



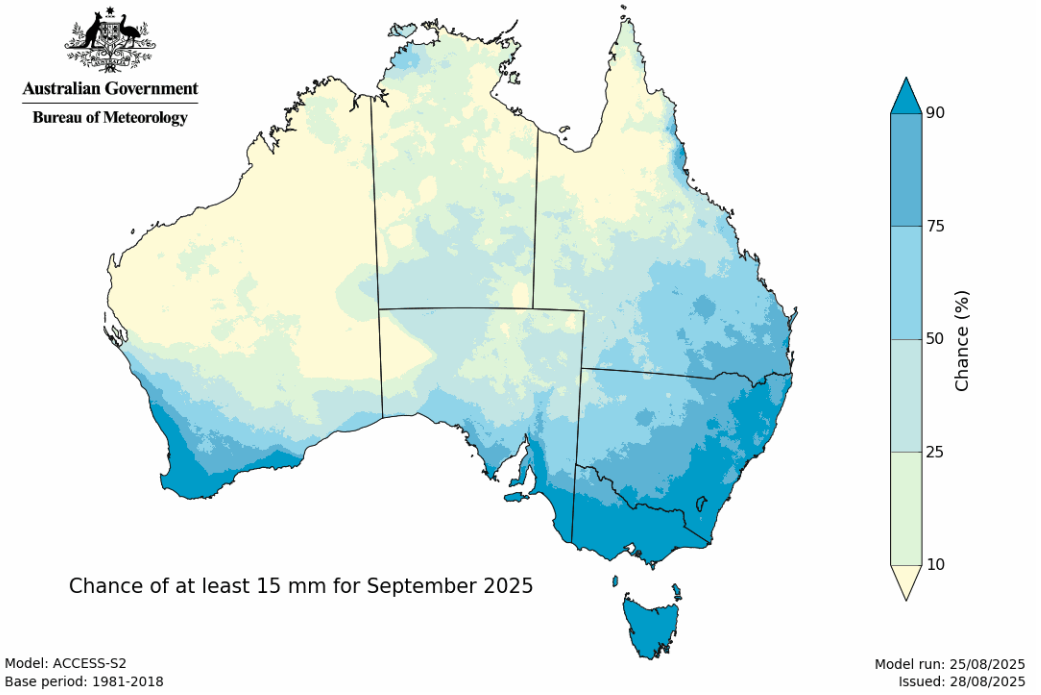



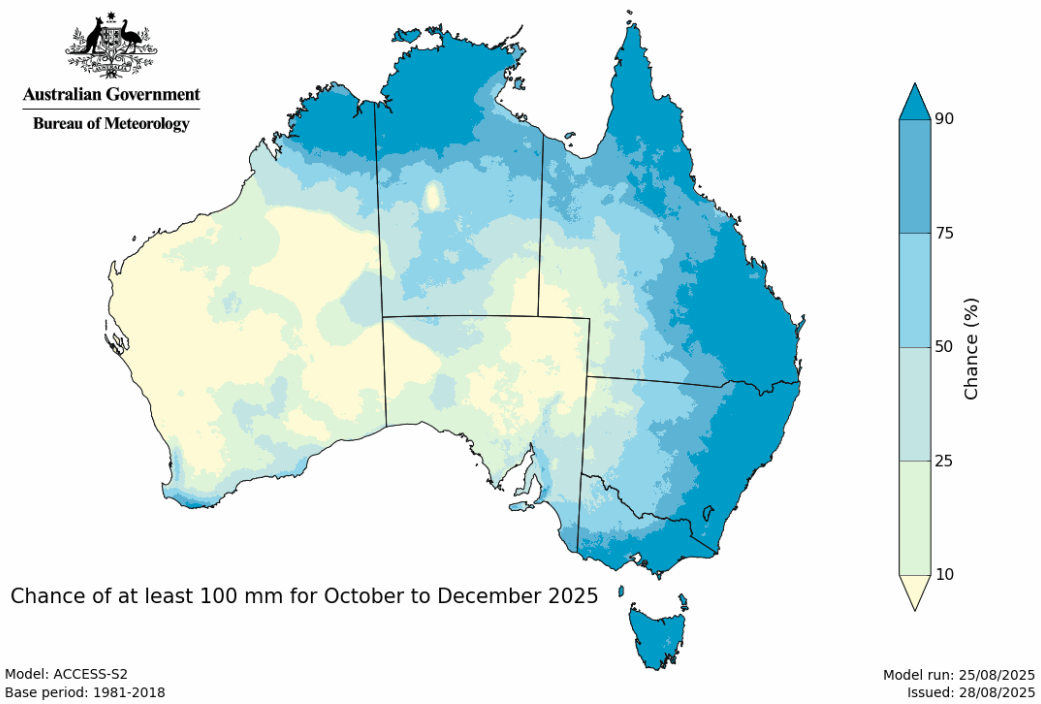
## Long-range forecast 'chance of at least' – rainfall - Australia

### - weekly, fortnightly, monthly and seasonal (calibrated, 5 km)

### - Product Codes IDCKO5CC1M, IDCKO5CCFM and IDCKO5CCWM

The forecast percentage chance of at least 1, 5, 10, 15, 25, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 400, 500, 600 or 700 mm of rainfall occurring in week 2 (4 days lead time), week 3 (11 days lead time), fortnight 2 (4 days lead time), fortnight 3 (11 days lead time), month 1 (1 month lead time), month 2 (2 month lead time), season 1 (1 month lead time) and season 2 (2 month lead time). Examples of PNG files are shown below.



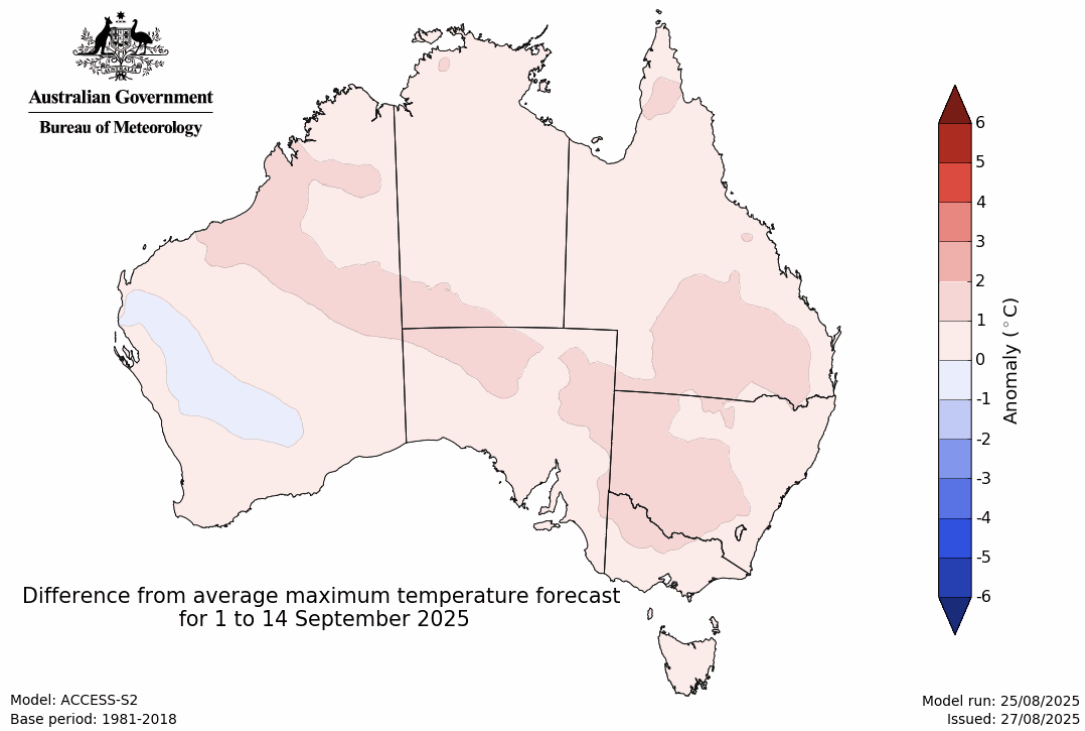



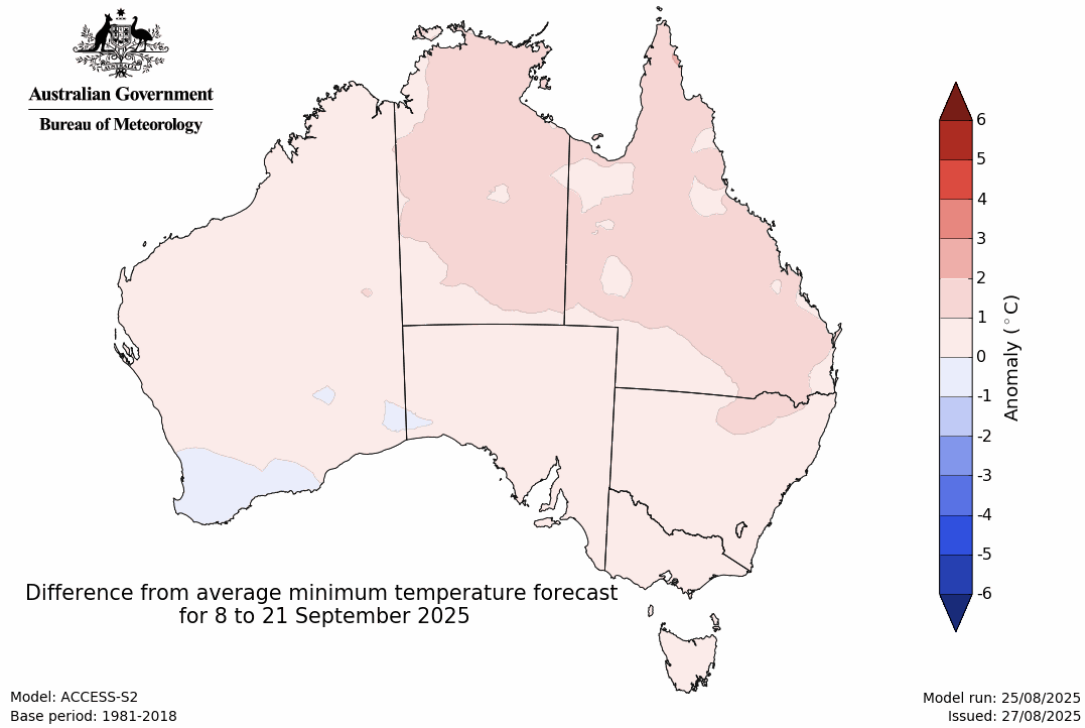
## Long-range forecast anomalies – temperature - Australia

### - weekly, fortnightly, monthly and seasonal (calibrated, 5 km)

### - Product Codes IDCKO5XC1M, IDCKO5XCFM and IDCKO5XCWM

The forecast difference from average maximum and minimum temperatures in week 2 (4 days lead time), week 3 (11 days lead time), fortnight 2 (4 days lead time), fortnight 3 (11 days lead time), month 1 (1 month lead time), month 2 (2 month lead time), season 1 (1 month lead time) and season 2 (2 month lead time). Examples of PNG files are shown below.



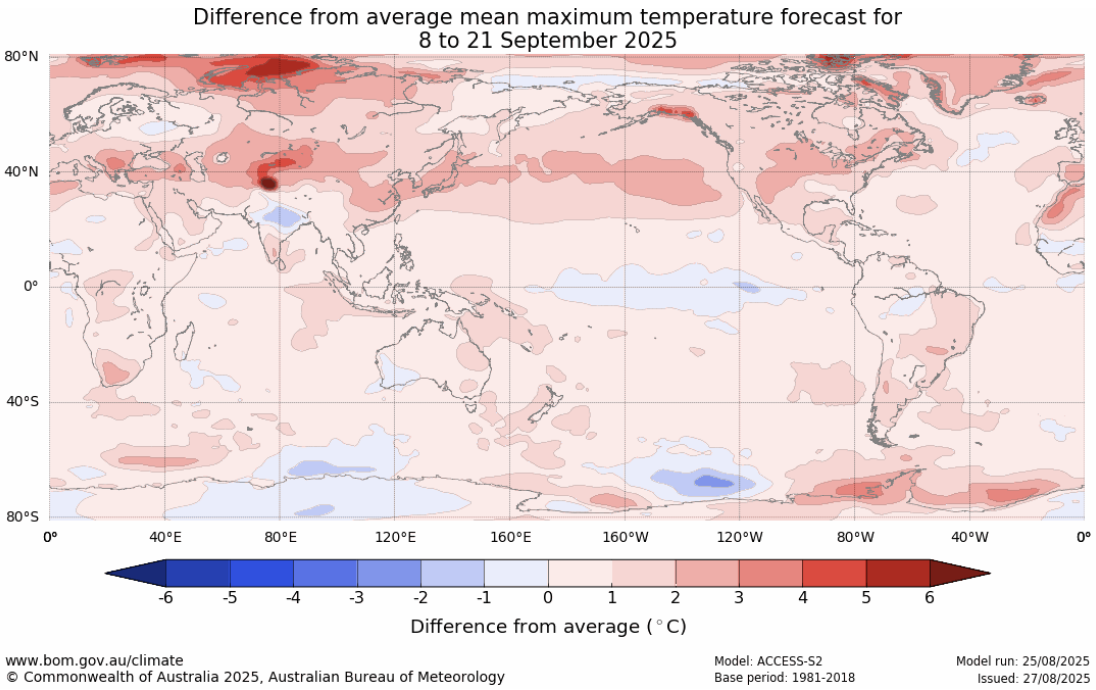



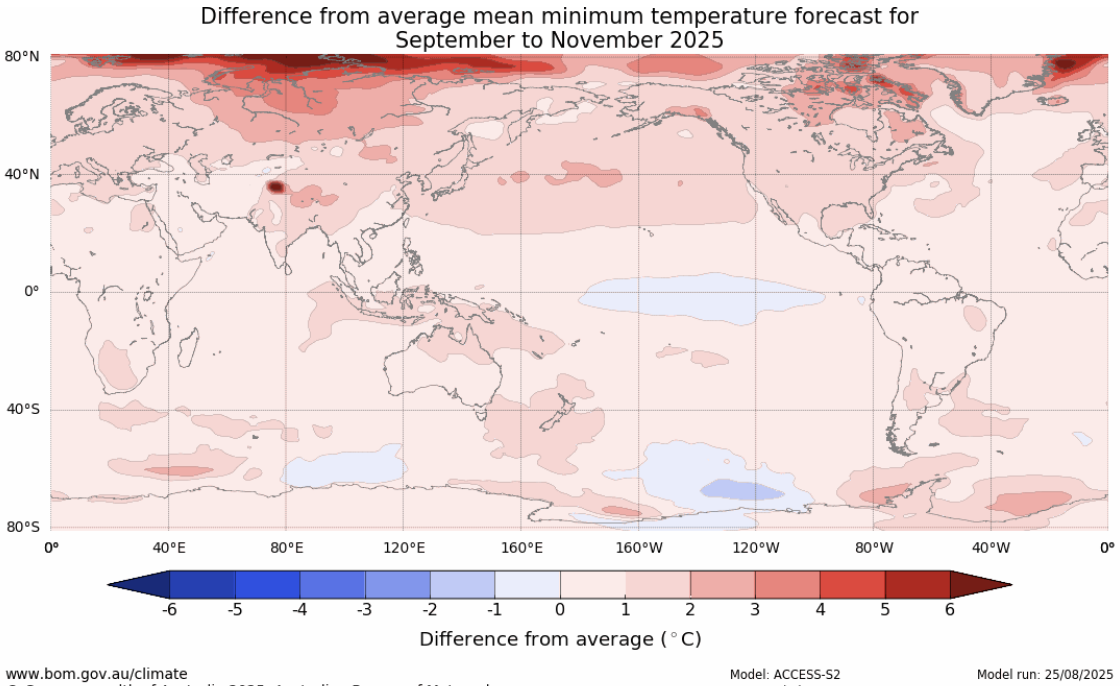
## Long-range forecast anomalies – temperature – global

### - weekly, fortnightly, monthly and seasonal (raw, 60 km)

### - Product Codes IDCKO6XC1M, IDCKO6XCFM and IDCKO6XCWM

The forecast difference from average maximum and minimum temperatures in week 2 (4 days lead time), week 3 (11 days lead time), fortnight 2 (4 days lead time), fortnight 3 (11 days lead time), month 1 (1 month lead time), month 2 (2 month lead time), season 1 (1 month lead time) and season 2 (2 month lead time). Examples of PNG files are shown below.



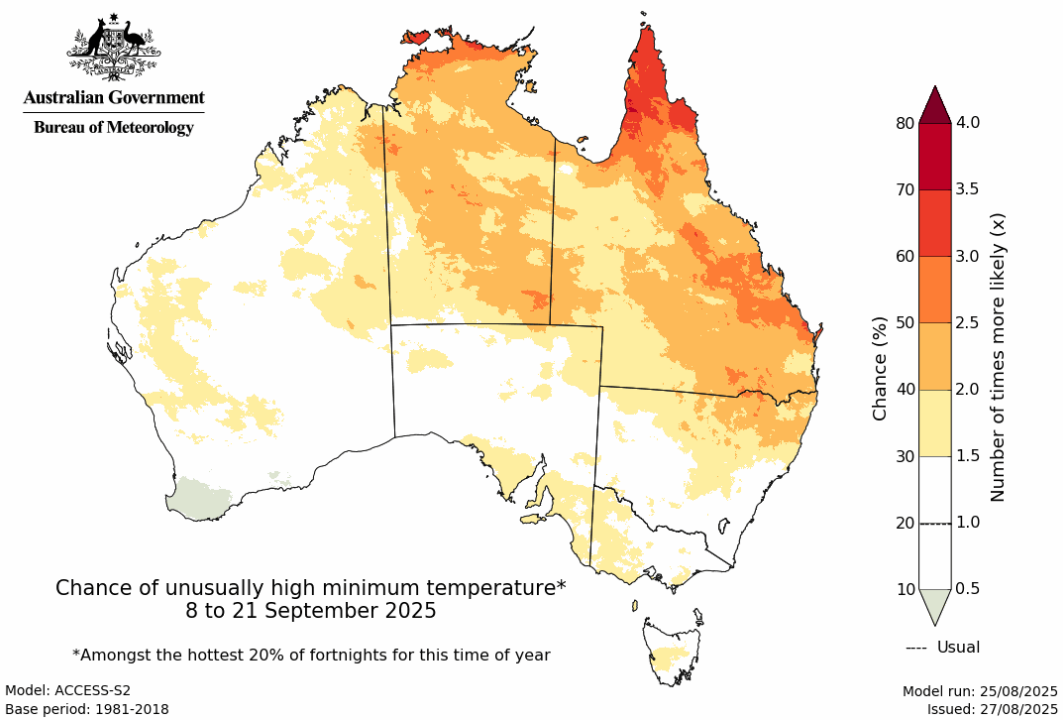



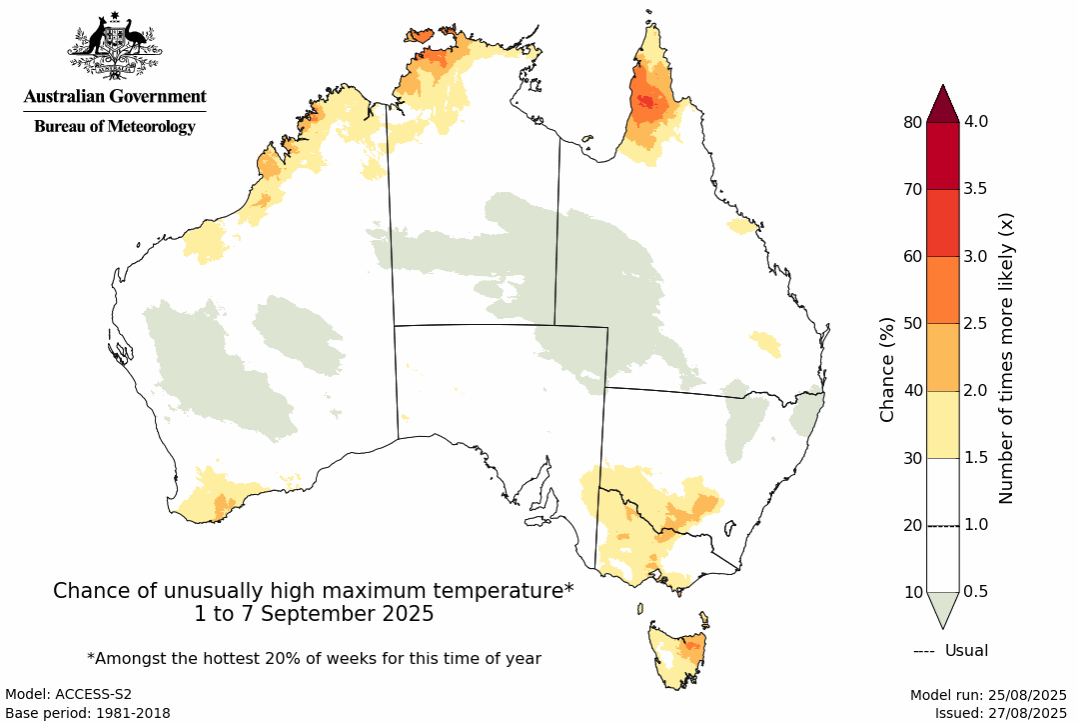
## Long-range forecast 'chance of extremes' – rainfall and temperature - Australia

### - weekly and fortnightly (calibrated, 5 km)

### - Product Code IDCK000098

The forecast percentage chance of rainfall or temperatures in the top or bottom 20% of historical observations in week 2 (4 days lead time), week 3 (11 days lead time), fortnight 2 (4 days lead time), fortnight 3 (11 days lead time). Examples of PNG files are shown below.



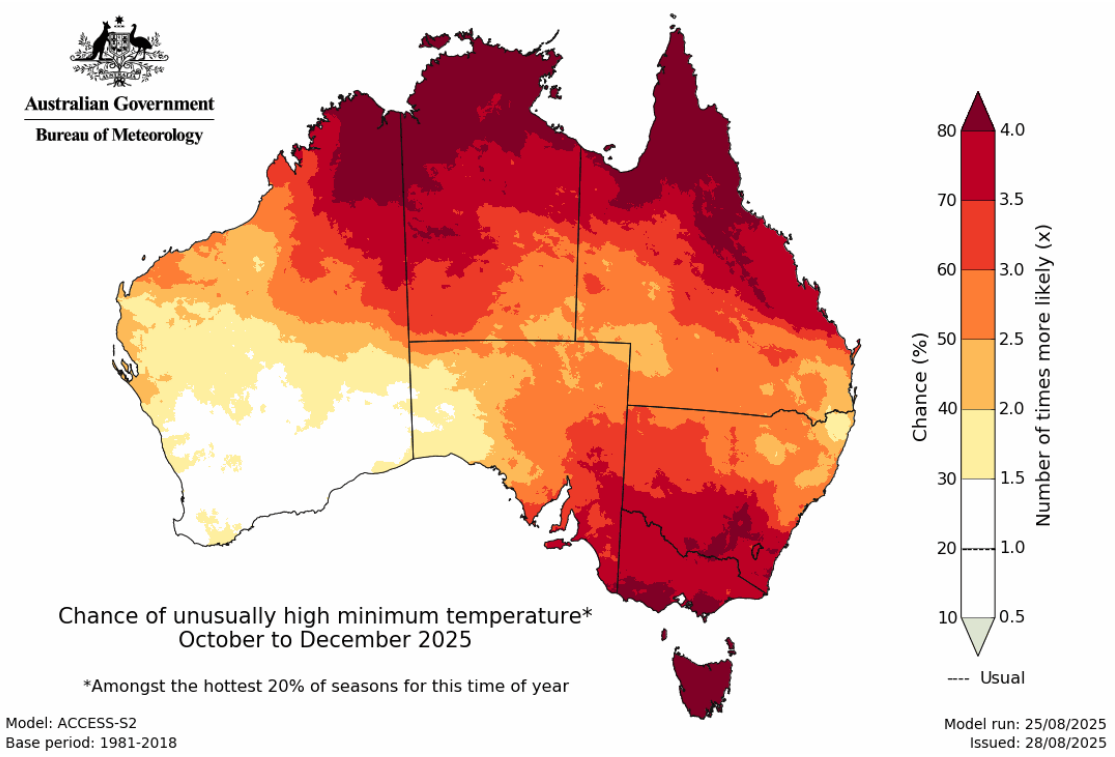



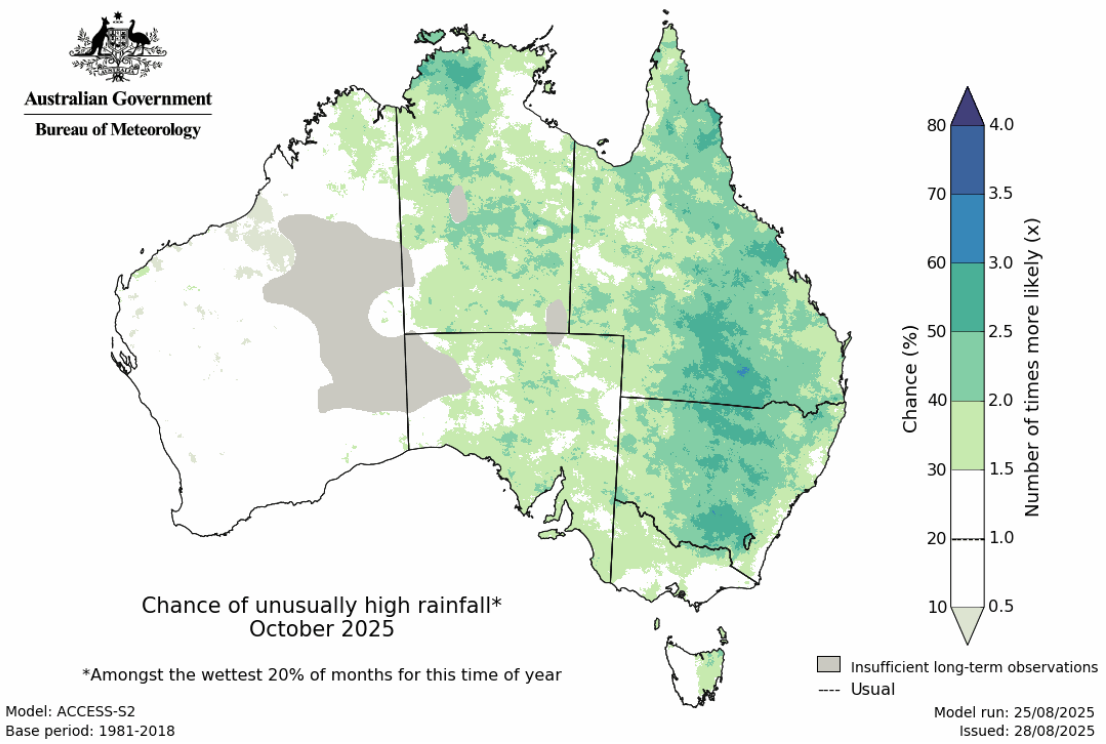
## Long-range forecast 'chance of extremes' – rainfall and temperature - Australia

### - monthly and seasonal (calibrated, 5 km)

### - Product Code IDCK000099

The forecast percentage chance of rainfall or temperatures in the top or bottom 20% of historical observations in month 1 (1 month lead time), month 2 (2 month lead time), season 1 (1 month lead time) and season 2 (2 month lead time). Examples of PNG files are shown below.



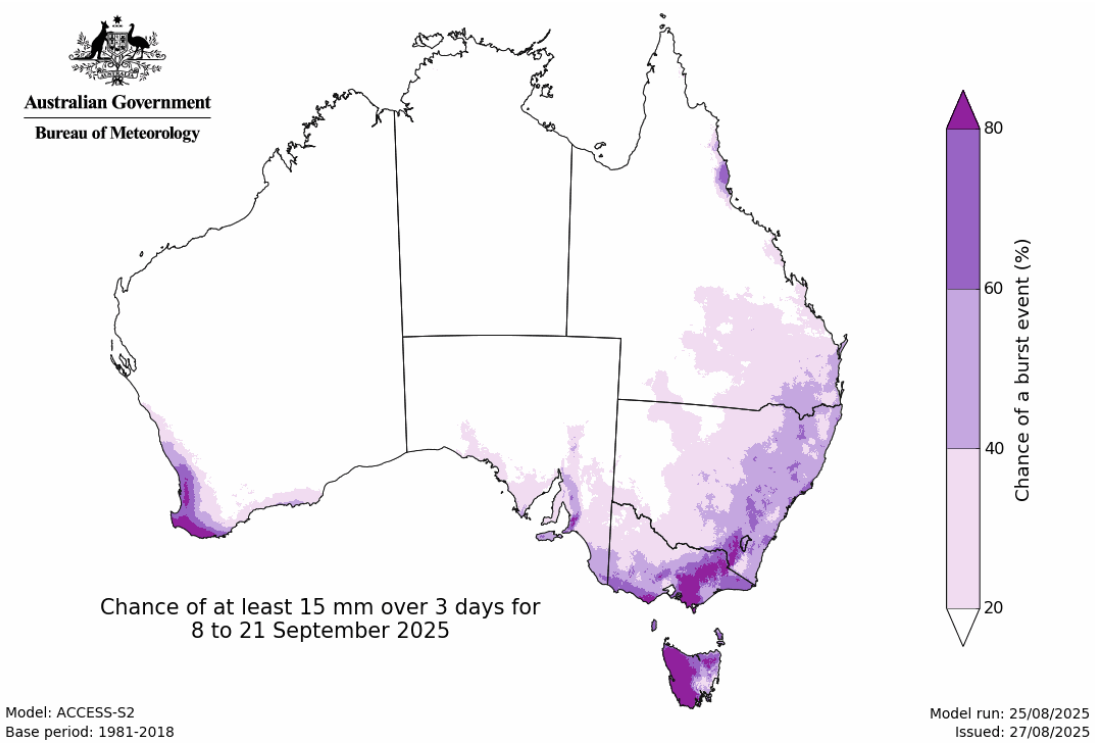



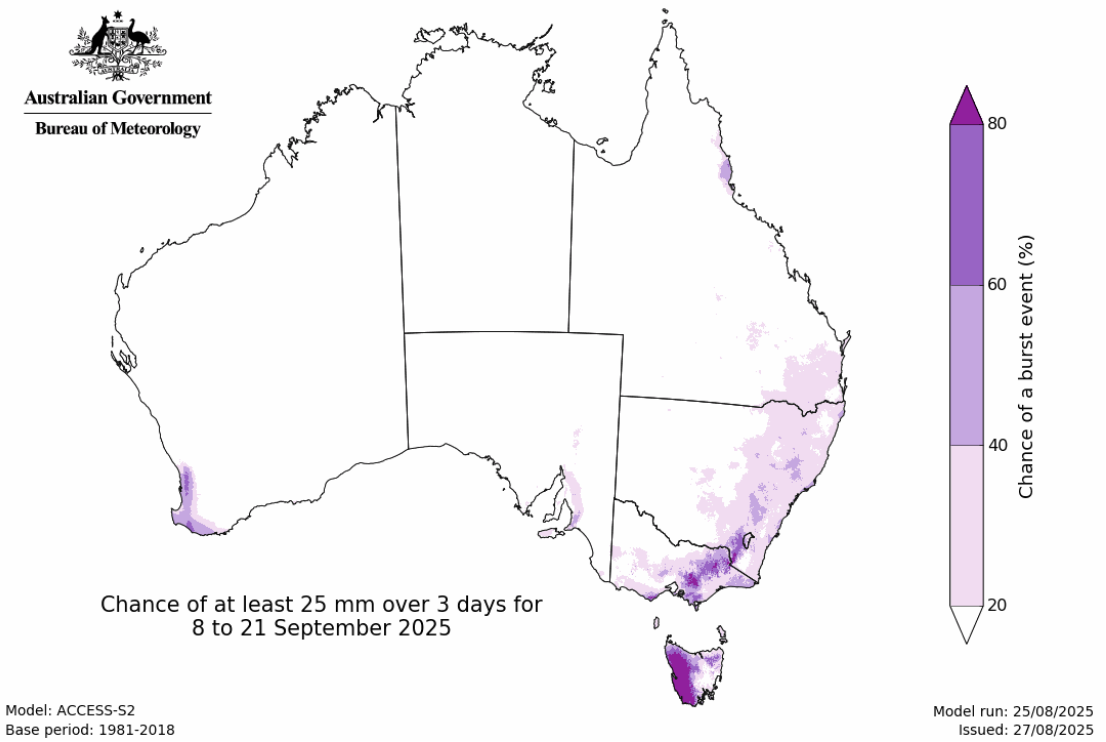
## Long-range forecast 'chance of a burst event' – rainfall - Australia

### - weekly and fortnightly (calibrated, 5 km) – Australia

### - Product Code IDCK000105

The forecast percentage chance of receiving at least 15, 25, 50 or 75 mm over three consecutive days within week 2 (4 days lead time), week 3 (11 days lead time), fortnight 2 (4 days lead time) or fortnight 3 (11 days lead time). Examples of PNG files are shown below.



## Additional Information

More information can be found here: About the long-range forecasts (bom.gov.au)

## Contact Us

For enquiries about real-time data please email webreg@bom.gov.au