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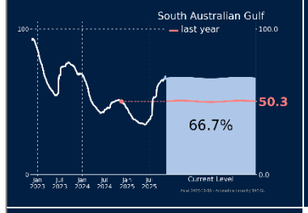
Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

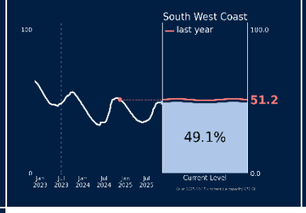
Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Monday 17 November 2025

Root zone soil moisture (map) and water storage levels (charts) as of 16 November 2025

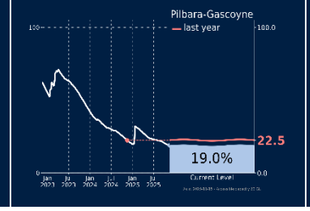
1. South Australian Gulf



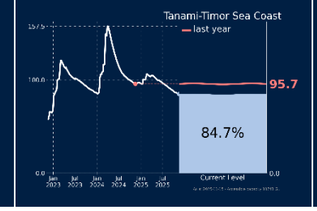
2. South West Coast (WA)



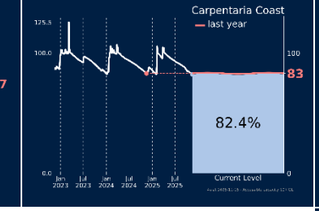
3. Pilbara–Gascoyne



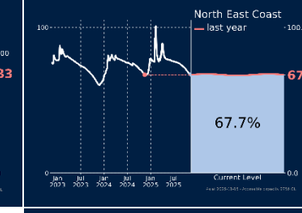
4. Tanami–Timor Sea Coast



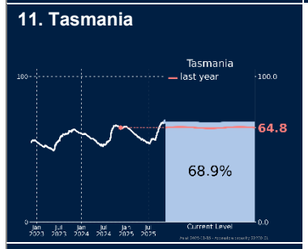
5. Carpentaria Coast



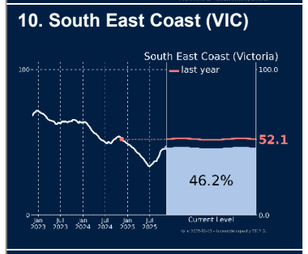
6. North East Coast (QLD)



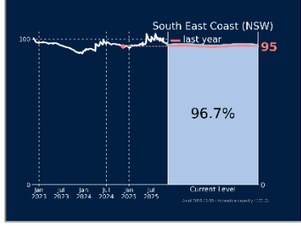
11. Tasmania



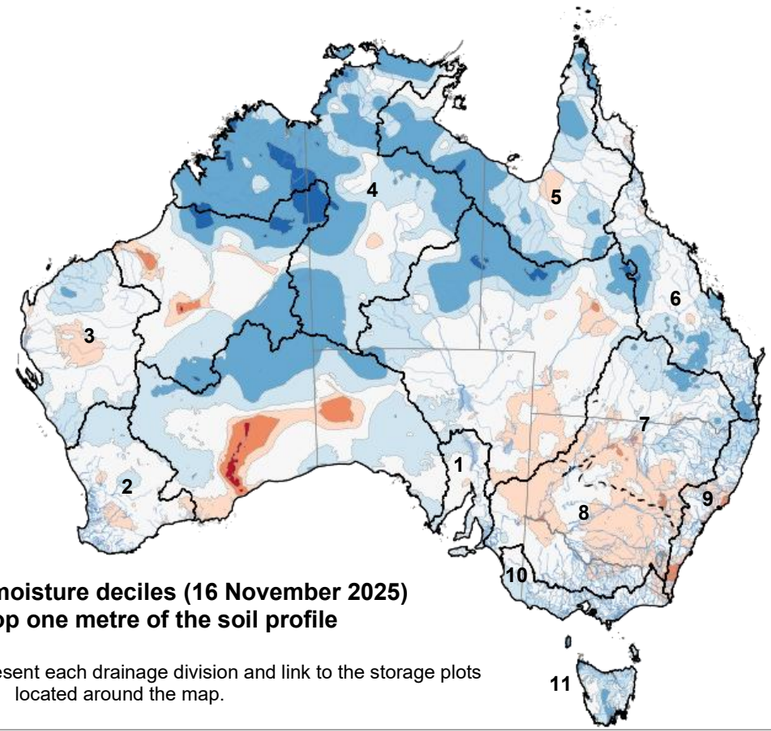
10. South East Coast (VIC)



9. South East Coast (NSW)



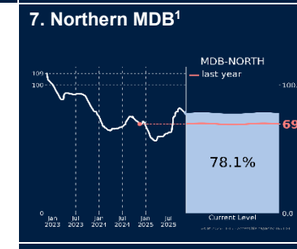
- Highest 1%
- Very much above average
- Above average
- Average
- Below average
- Very much below average
- Lowest 1%



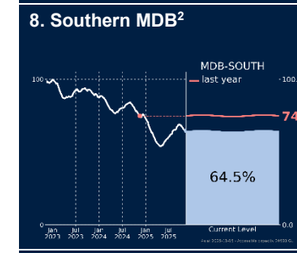
Modelled soil moisture deciles (16 November 2025) for the top one metre of the soil profile

* Numbers on the map represent each drainage division and link to the storage plots located around the map.

7. Northern MDB[1]



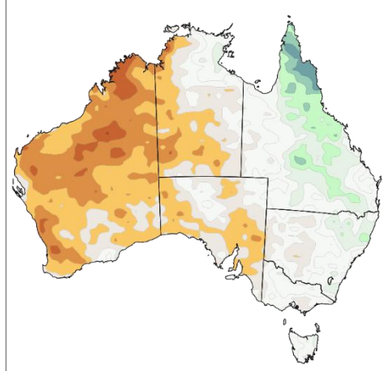
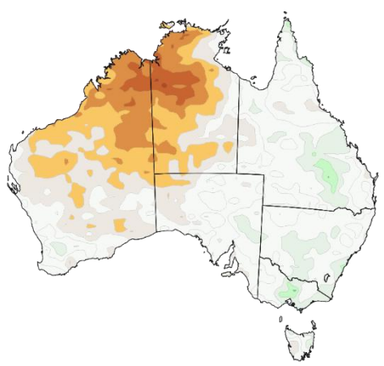
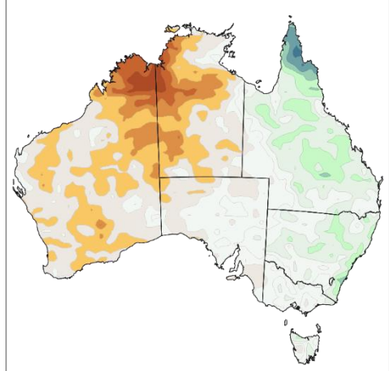
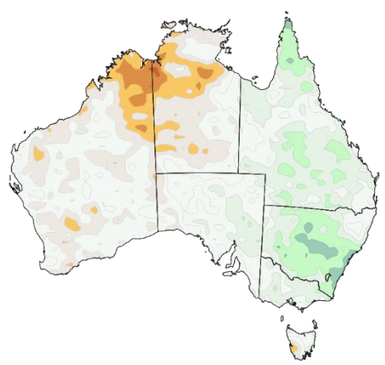
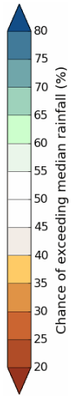
8. Southern MDB[2]



* Plots represent the collective storage volumes of all major storages in each drainage division.

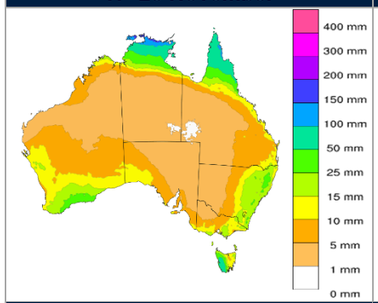
[1, 2] Total storage in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) is split north (Darling/Baaka River system excluding Menindee Lakes) and south (River Murray system including Menindee Lakes).

Rainfall long-range forecasts – Issued 13 November 2025

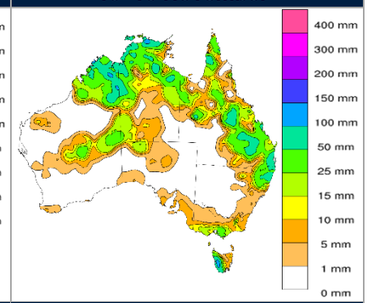
December	January	December–February	January–March	Legend
				

Static maps showing the chance of exceeding average rainfall. For the latest detailed long-range forecast at your location please view online **here**.

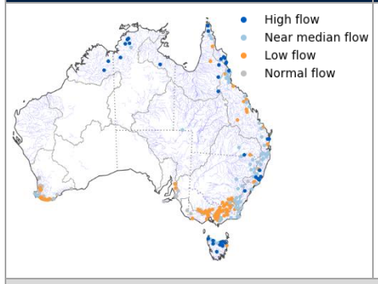
Rainfall forecast this week, 17–23 November



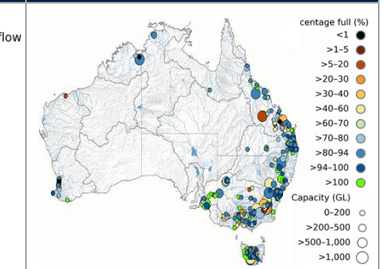
Rainfall in the last week, 10–16 November*



Streamflow forecast, November 2025–January 2026



Water storage levels as of 16 November 2025



* Includes the seven days of rainfall to 9:00am on Sunday.

Key Points

- October streamflows were low at 45% of sites, largely in the mainland's south and eastern Tasmania. Flows were high at 23% of sites, mainly in northern Australia and northern and western Tasmania.
- For the November to January period, high flow and near median flow is likely for most locations along the east coast, northern Tasmania and across the tropical north. Low flow is more likely for much of the mainland's south-east and south-west.
- Total water storage across Australia is at 69% of capacity, 3% lower than at the same time last year.
- The combined water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin are at 67% of capacity, 7% lower than the same time last year.
- Root zone soil moisture remains above average for large parts of northern Australia, as well as much of Tasmania and southern Victoria. However, below average soil moisture persists across parts of the south-east mainland.
- The Bureau's long-range forecast indicates summer rainfall is likely to be above average across parts of eastern Australia, and below average in parts of the west.
- Tropical low 02U is currently located in the central Timor Sea region and moving east to northeast. There is a high risk (55%) of 02U developing into a tropical cyclone by the end of the week. Refer to the tropical cyclone 7 day forecast for the latest updates.

Email **water@bom.gov.au** if you would like more information about this Weekly Update or have any other climate and water related questions. Email **agriculture@bom.gov.au** to request more information on agriculture impacts or provide feedback.

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Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Monday 17 November 2025

Agriculture zone climate and conditions assessment as of 17 November 2025

Summary

- The long-range forecast for December to February shows rainfall is likely to be above average (60-80% chance) for areas of north-east and central Queensland and parts of coastal and inland New South Wales. Much of Western Australia and the western half of the Northern Territory are indicating rainfall is likely to be below average (60-80% chance). Elsewhere there is no clear signal for either wetter or drier conditions, meaning roughly equal chances of above or below average rainfall.
- With the rain in October, year-to-date rainfall deficiency areas have reduced in extent and severity in Tasmania and Victoria. Rainfall deficiencies in northern and central Tasmania have cleared. Deficiencies in south-west Gippsland in Victoria have reduced in severity from lowest on record rainfall to severe. Severe deficiency areas in Western Australia and South Australia have reduced in extent.
- There is an increasing risk of a tropical cyclone near or to the north of the Top End coast by Friday 21st November. Residents about the western and northern Top End should monitor forecasts for their location during the week for a potential tropical cyclone near the coast late in the week or on the weekend. See also Tropical cyclone 7-day forecast

Key

Favourable — Conditions improving
Average — Conditions unchanged
Unfavourable — Conditions degrading

Region / Zones	Previous conditions	Current conditions	Trend	Comments
Western Australia wheatbelt 	Rainfall between August to October varied between below average in the south-east to above average in the north. Areas of above average rainfall contributed to widespread improvements in soil moisture, easing rainfall deficiencies and, in isolated areas, causing waterlogging.	Root zone soil moisture has decreased after a drier period. The lack of recent rain will be beneficial to the continuation of grain harvest.	December to February rainfall forecast is likely to be below average for much of the zone (low confidence), however no clear signal for the south-west meaning there are roughly equal chances of above or below average rainfall.	Harvest continues with overall yields for the region expected to be favourable. Progress varies between regions due to the late establishment of some crops caused by low rainfall in autumn and early winter.
Eastern wheat-sheep 	Rainfall deficiencies have expanded and intensified in southern New South Wales. Lowest on record rainfall deficiencies have contracted slightly since September.	Recent rain has had a marginal benefit for soil moisture but will slow the progress of harvest. There has been a decline in soil moisture deciles in large parts of New South Wales.	December to February forecast shows a 60–65% chance of above-average rain in the New South Wales part of the zone (low to moderate confidence). Elsewhere, rainfall is equally likely to be above or below average (low confidence).	Harvest continues, and while recent rain has not yet presented issues with grain quality, there have been reports of increasing mice activity in parts of South Australia and Victoria. Mouse plagues are more likely after long dry spells followed by rain. In high populations, mouse damage can devastate crops, machinery, and stored grain.
Southeastern coastal 	For the year-to-date, areas of the central coast of New South Wales have reported record high rainfall. Parts of the Mornington Peninsula, southern central Victoria and Tasmania have reported their lowest rainfall on record.	Soil moisture across the zone is average to below average, except for Tasmania and parts of Victoria, where it has increased to above average due to recent rainfall. Some areas within south-east Queensland and northern New South Wales received over 100 mm in a 24-hour period over the weekend.	December to February forecast indicates an increased chance of above average rainfall for most of the zone, with the higher chance for southern New South Wales easing compared to last week (low confidence).	Southern producers are at the peak of the silage-making season at present. Dry weather is important to allow paddock access and to maintain silage quality.
Northern cropping 	Rainfall from August to October was mostly average, with above-average totals in northern New South Wales and below-average in Queensland. Despite some waterlogging, conditions generally supported winter crop growth and the start of summer planting.	Root zone soil moisture is mostly average or above average. Producers are monitoring soil moisture closely and dryland summer crops would benefit from a decent rain event to ensure both successful establishment and to entice planting of larger areas.	December to February forecast indicates a 55-65% chance of above average rainfall (low to moderate confidence), over most of the zone.	Winter crop harvest continues and is producing favourable yields. Some crops have been damaged by hail and heavy rain in recent days. In parallel, cotton and sorghum planting continues with most crops establishing well and progressing at various growth stages.
Northeastern coastal 	For the year-to-date, areas of the north tropical Queensland coast have reported record high rainfall. Disruptions occurred in September with significantly high unexpected rainfall causing flooding of new sugarcane plantings.	Root zone soil moisture is mostly average or above average. Some areas in the southern part of the zone received over 100 mm in a 24-hour period over the weekend.	December to February forecast indicates a 55-65% chance of above average rainfall in the southern part of the zone (moderate confidence). Although the signal has eased since last week, December is still showing the strongest chance of rain (moderate confidence).	The Queensland cane harvest is nearing completion; however, areas that received more than 25mm of rain last week and forecasted areas of more than 25 mm rain early this week, will likely see disruption and delays to harvesting. Meanwhile, graziers will welcome the rainfall to improve pasture growth.
Extensive pastoral 	August to October rainfall was mostly average in the south and above average in the north, with most of the zone receiving less than 100 mm. Rainfall is seasonally low prior to the start of the wet season during November.	Soil moisture remains mostly average to above average. Pasture ranks above average for the season across most of the zone. Conditions have improved in the Kimberley and Pilbara because of recent rainfall.	December to February forecast indicates a 55-65% chance of above average rainfall for eastern and southern Queensland. For the Top End and Pilbara/Kimberly, the forecast indicates the chance of above average rainfall is mostly less than 30%.	Tropical low (02U) is located in the central Timor Sea region and moving eastwards. The risk of 02U developing into a tropical cyclone increases to Moderate (25%) from Wednesday, and then to High (55%) on Friday. Residents about the western and northern Top End should monitor forecasts for their location. See also: Tropical cyclone 7-day forecast.
Rangelands 	August to October rainfall was average or above across most of the rangelands. October was the hottest recorded in the Northern Territory.	Root zone soil moisture across the region is average or above over most of the rangelands. Pasture biomass ranks well above average in south-west Queensland and the southern Northern Territory.	The long-range forecast for December to February indicates a generally equal likelihood of above- or below-average rainfall across most of the rangelands.	After a very hot October, November month-to-date has been cooler than average over most of the rangelands. This will reduce risks to newborn calves, which are vulnerable to excessive heat. See latest temperature anomaly: Climate Maps - Temperature Latest