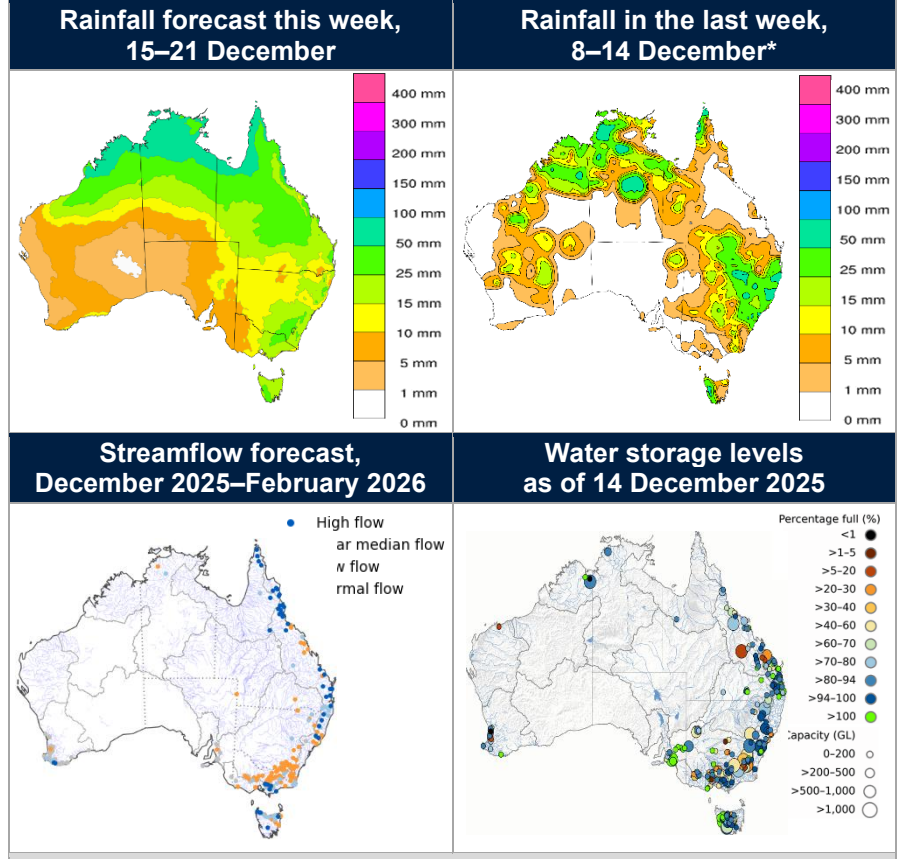
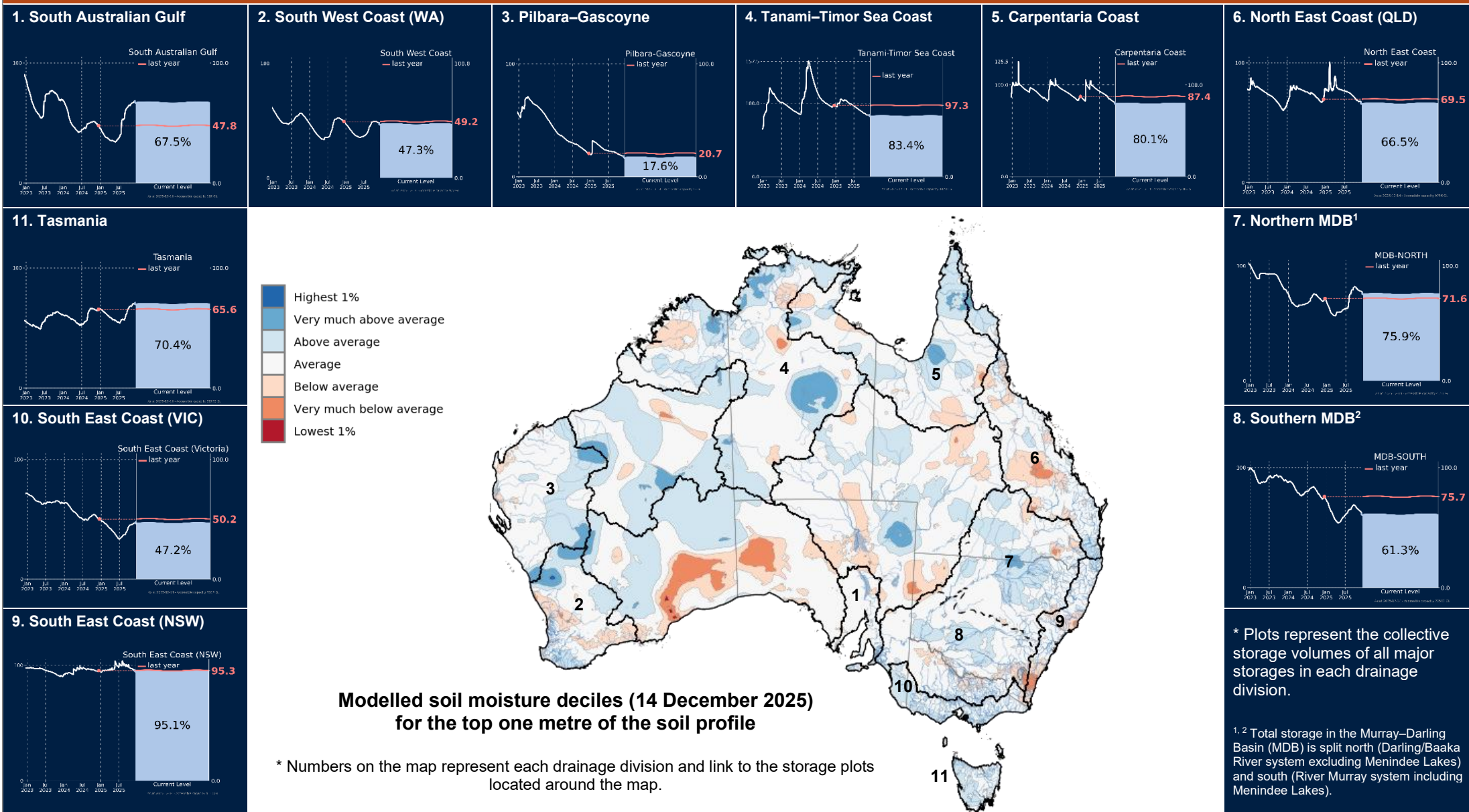




Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Monday 15 December 2025

Root zone soil moisture (map) and water storage levels (charts) as of 14 December 2025

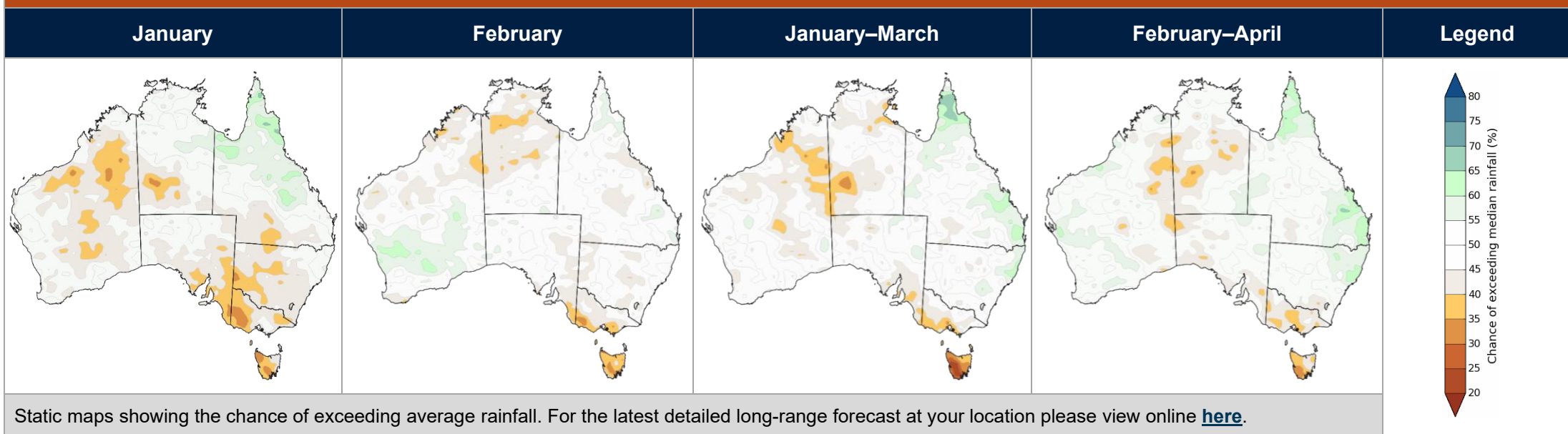


Key Points

- **November streamflows** were low at 30% of sites, largely in the south. Flows were high at 26% of sites, mainly in northern Australia and parts of the south.
- For December to February, high flow and near-median flow is likely for north-eastern and south-eastern Queensland, the north-east coastal areas of New South Wales, and parts of the southern Australia including Tasmania.
- Low flow is more likely for parts of the south-east and scattered areas of the north-east.
- Total water storage across Australia is at 68% of capacity, 4.5% lower than at the same time last year.
- The combined water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin are at 62% of capacity, 12% lower than the same time last year.
- Root zone soil moisture remains average to above average across large parts of the country, with below average soil moisture remaining in scattered areas of the south, south-east and parts of eastern Queensland.
- For much of Australia, there is no clear signal in the rainfall forecast, meaning roughly equal chances of above or below average rainfall over the three months, January to March.
- However, rainfall is likely to be below average across Tasmania and small areas in the mainland's south-east and parts of central Australia. Above average rainfall is favoured for parts of the Cape York Peninsula and south-eastern Queensland.

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.

Rainfall long-range forecasts – Issued 11 December 2025



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









Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Monday 15 December 2025


Agriculture zone climate and conditions assessment as of 15 December 2025

Summary

- For much of Australia, there is no clear signal in the rainfall forecast, meaning approximately equal chances of above or below average rainfall during January to March.
- Rainfall is likely to be below average (60 to 80% chance) across Tasmania and small areas in the mainland's south-east.
- Above average rainfall is slightly favoured (60 to 70% chance) for parts of the Cape York Peninsula and south-eastern Queensland.
- Spring rainfall has eased year-to-date rainfall deficiencies in Tasmania and Victoria, reducing their extent and severity, while in southern New South Wales these areas have persisted and expanded.

Key

	Favourable		Conditions improving
	Average		Conditions unchanged
	Unfavourable		Conditions degrading

Region / Zones	Previous conditions	Current conditions	Trend	Comments	
Western Australia wheatbelt 	September to November rainfall varied between below average in the south to above average in the north. Areas of above average rainfall contributed to widespread improvements in soil moisture and easing rainfall deficiencies.	Soil moisture is average to below average across the zone, with a small pocket of above average in the north. Harvest is progressing mostly uninterrupted with many producers close to completion.	There is no clear rainfall signal for the January to March period, meaning there are roughly equal chances of above or below average rainfall (low confidence).	→	Harvest continues with mixed results across regions although total grain production for the zone could be on par with the record year of 2022.
Eastern wheat-sheep 	Rainfall deficiencies have continued to expand and intensify across southern New South Wales. In South Australia and western Victoria, areas with the lowest-on-record rainfall have contracted slightly since September.	Soil moisture is mostly average. Rainfall totals of up to 100 mm in the past month have provided some relief in South Australia and western Victoria increasing soil moisture levels.	For much of the zone, there is no clear rainfall signal for the January to March period, with equal chances of above or below average. Western Victoria and southeast South Australia have a lower likelihood of above-average rainfall (low confidence).	→	Winter grain harvest continues in southern regions. Cooler weather has slowed progress however, this has been favourable for crops in the later stages of filling, adding to yield. There are reports of wind damage to cotton crops in their early growth stages, leading producers to terminate non-viable crops.
Southeastern coastal 	September to November rainfall across New South Wales has generally been near average, with below-average totals recorded in areas around Bega and north of Sydney.	Soil moisture across the zone is generally average to below average, except in Tasmania and parts of Victoria, where recent rainfall has lifted soil moisture levels to above average.	There is a slightly increased chance of above average rainfall in the north of the zone, trending to a lower chance of exceeding average rainfall in southern Victoria and Tasmania for the January to March period (low confidence).	↑	Horticulture crop harvests have been strong in parts of Victoria and Tasmania however, soil moisture remains below average in some coastal areas, creating uncertainty for summer crops.
Northern cropping 	September to November rainfall across the zone has been near average, with northern areas having a slight trend towards above-average totals and southern areas having a slight trend toward below-average rainfall.	Soil moisture is mostly average to below average across the zone. Winter grain harvest is nearly complete in the north after delays from rainfall and storm activity. These rains, however, will benefit cotton and sorghum crop production.	For much of the zone, there is no clear rainfall signal for the January to March period, with equal chances of above or below average. In the north, there is a slightly increased chance of exceeding average rainfall for the period (low confidence).	→	The Department of Agriculture's December quarterly report is forecasting the third-largest wheat crop on record. This unexpectedly strong harvest is the result of higher-than-average rainfall and mild temperatures during spring.
Northeastern coastal 	September to November rainfall has been generally average across the zone with a slight trend to above average in areas. Despite this there were high rainfall totals in September which caused flooding of new sugarcane plantings.	Soil moisture is mostly average with pockets of below average.	For much of the zone, there is no clear rainfall signal for the January to March period, with equal chances of above or below average. In the south, there is a slightly increased chance of exceeding average rainfall for the period (low confidence).	→	Widespread rainfall has caused delays for horticulture production for south-east Queensland.
Extensive pastoral 	September to November rainfall was above average across the zone, except for areas around Longreach having below average rainfall.	Soil moisture is generally average, and pasture biomass is above average across much of the area. Early wet season rainfall will have stimulated pasture growth.	For much of the zone, there is no clear rainfall signal for the January to March period, meaning there are roughly equal chances of above or below average rainfall. In north Queensland, there is a slightly increased chance of exceeding average rainfall for the period (low confidence).	→	Widespread falls of 25 mm or more are forecast for most of the zone over the week ahead. This will add to early onset rainfall and boost pasture growth.
Rangelands 	September to November rainfall was average to above average across most of the rangelands.	Soil moisture is average to above average across most northern rangelands but generally below average in the south. Pasture biomass is above average in south-west Queensland and the southern Northern Territory but below average elsewhere.	There is no clear rainfall signal for the January to March period, meaning roughly equal chances of above or below rainfall. Northern areas can expect at least 100 mm during the wet season, while southern regions are likely to receive less than 25 mm.	→	Most of the northern rangelands have endured extreme heat in the previous week, with mean maximum temperature exceeding 39°C. Similar conditions are forecast for the week ahead, extending into the southern rangelands. This creates risks of thermal stress for livestock in the region.