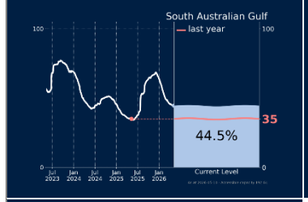
Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

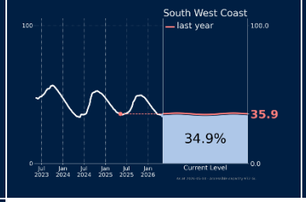
Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Monday 11 May 2026

Root zone soil moisture (map) and water storage levels (charts) as of 10 May 2026

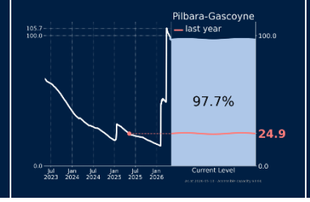
1. South Australian Gulf



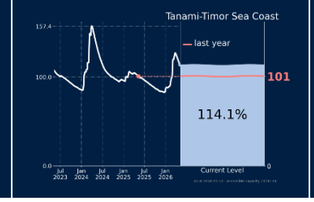
2. South West Coast (WA)



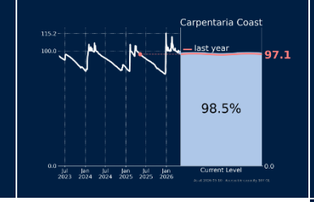
3. Pilbara–Gascoyne



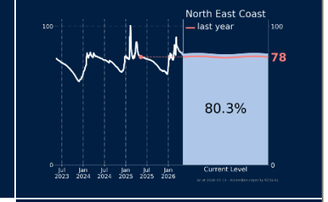
4. Tanami–Timor Sea Coast



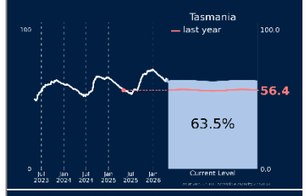
5. Carpentaria Coast



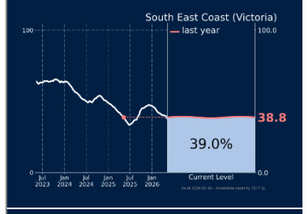
6. North East Coast (QLD)



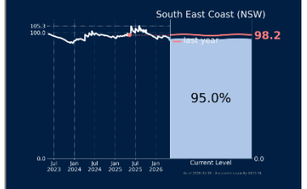
11. Tasmania



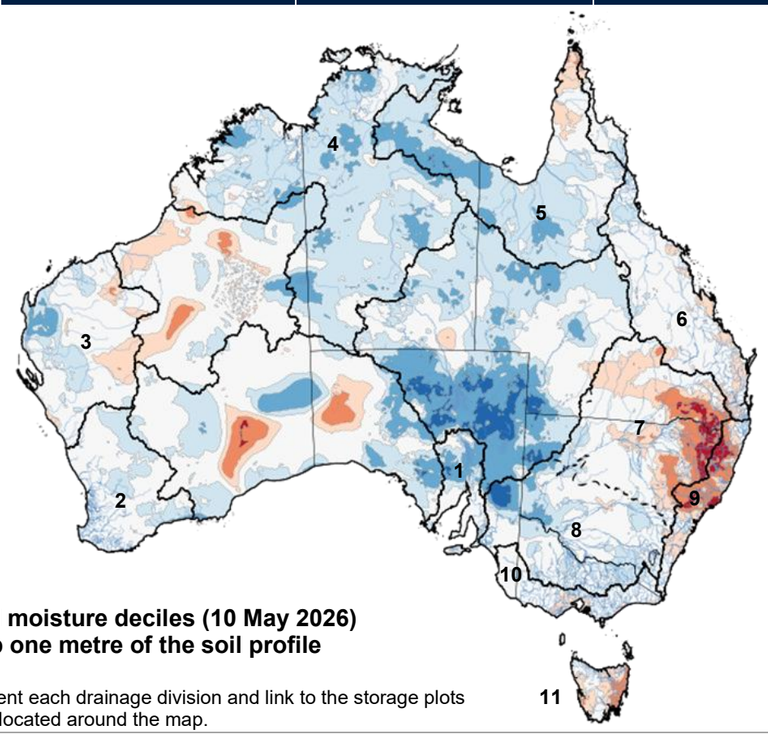
10. South East Coast (VIC)



9. South East Coast (NSW)



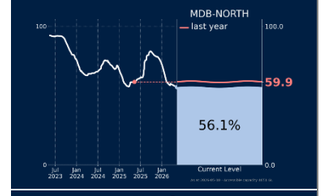
Highest 1%
Very much above average
Above average
Average
Below average
Very much below average
Lowest 1%



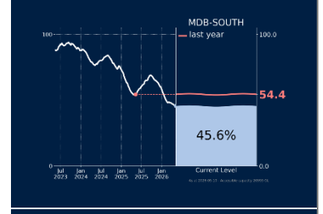
Modelled soil moisture deciles (10 May 2026) for the top one metre of the soil profile

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

7. Northern MDB[1]



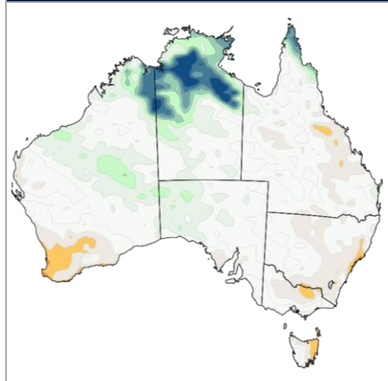
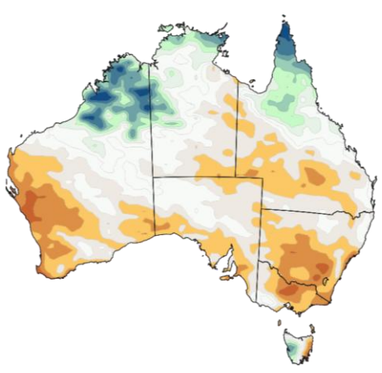
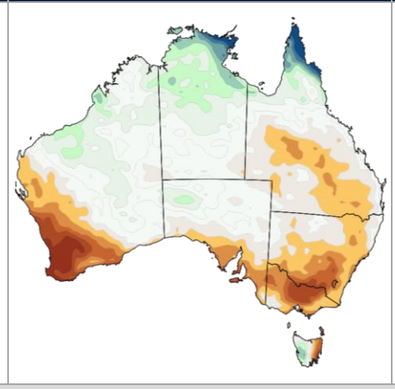
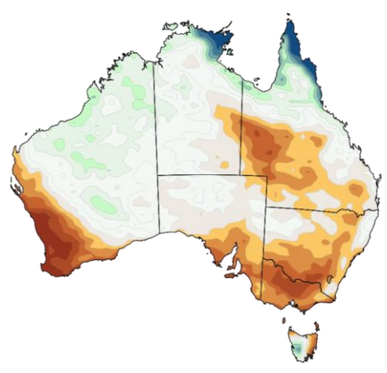
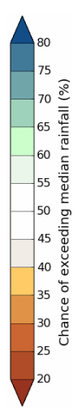
8. Southern MDB[2]



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

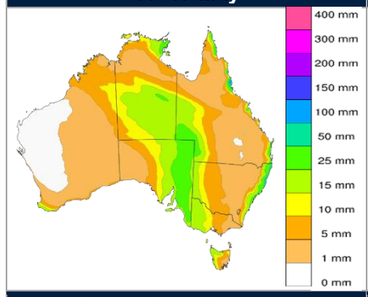
[1, 2] Total storage in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) is split north (Darling/Baaka River system excluding Menindee Lakes) and south (River Murray system including Menindee Lakes).

Rainfall long-range forecasts – Issued 7 May 2026

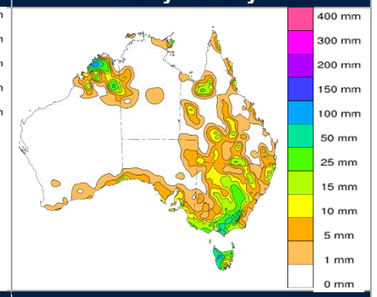
June	July	June–August	July–September	Legend
				

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

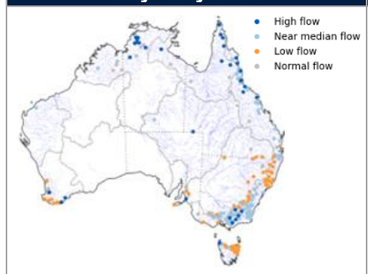
Rainfall forecast this week, 11–17 May



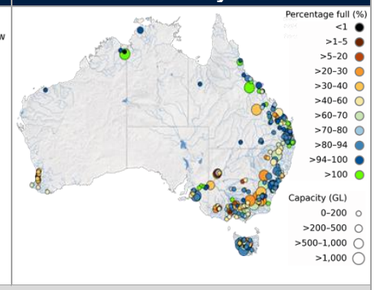
Rainfall in the last week, 4 May–10 May*



Streamflow forecast, May–July 2026



Water storage levels, as of 11 May 2026



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

Key Points

- For May to July, high streamflow (for this time of year) is likely at 15% of sites, mainly across northern Australia, and some sites in the south.
- Near median flow is likely for 40% of sites across large areas of the south-east and in north-eastern Australia.
- Low flow (for this time of year) is likely at 37% of sites, generally in the south-west and much of south-eastern Australia, including Tasmania.
- In April, observed flows were high at 17% of sites, mostly across the northern half of Australia, as well as several sites in the interior and across the south.
- Observed flows were near median at 44% of sites in April, mostly in eastern and southern Australia including northern Tasmania.
- Total water storage across Australia is at 66% of capacity, 1% higher than at the same time last year. The combined water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin are at 48% of capacity, 7% lower than the same time last year.
- Root zone soil moisture remains above average across large parts of Australia. Areas of root zone soil moisture deficits have persisted across north-east New South Wales and inland south-east Queensland.
- Rainfall for June to August period is likely to be below average for central and southern Queensland, inland New South Wales, most of Victoria, southern South Australia and eastern Tasmania, as well as the South West Land Division of Western Australia.
- For most other areas, there is no clear signal for either wetter or drier conditions, meaning there are roughly equal chances of above or below average rainfall.
- The dry signal over the three-month period is heavily driven by stronger probabilities of below-average rainfall emerging later in the season.

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.

Australian Government
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Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Monday 11 May 2026

Agriculture climate and conditions assessment as of 11 May 2026

Summary

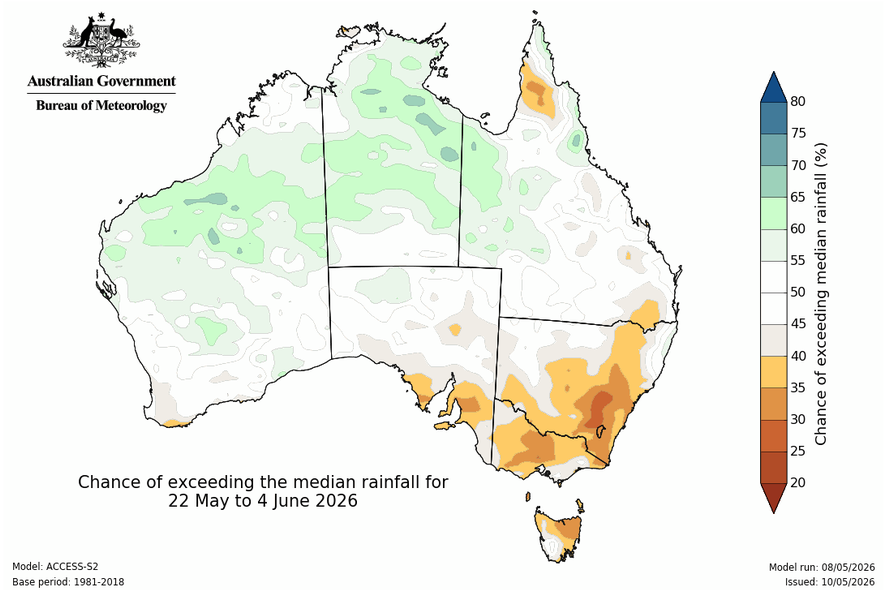
- From June to August, rainfall is likely to be below average for central and southern Queensland, inland New South Wales, most of Victoria, southern South Australia and eastern Tasmania, as well as the West Australian wheatbelt (see maps above).
- For most other areas, there is no clear rainfall signal, meaning roughly equal chances of above or below average rainfall.
- The dry signal over the three-month period is heavily driven by stronger probabilities of below-average rainfall emerging later in the season.
- From June to August, maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be above average over most of Australia, although periods of frost are still possible.
- May marks the transition into the northern Australian dry season, when most of the northern savannah regions typically receive very little rainfall.
- The Bureau's **long-range forecast** responds to all ongoing changes in our climate systems, and is updated regularly.

Recent Conditions

February to April rainfall was well below average for western Tasmania and across large parts of **New South Wales** extending into **Southern Queensland,** where severe to serious rainfall deficiencies are now evident. This was compounded by highest on record daytime temperatures in April for the region. Well above average rainfall was recorded in the Northern Territory and a band extending through South Australia into western Victoria. Temperatures were very much below average for the **Northern Territory** and **central Australia** due to the very much above average wet season.

Below average soil moisture persists across **southern Queensland, inland New South Wales, northern coastal margins** and much of **Tasmania**, with conditions in the lowest 1% in parts of **north-east New South Wales** and the **Darling Downs-Granite Belts of Queensland.**

Fortnight Outlook 22 May to 04 June



Issued 10 May 2026.

Agriculture Watch Points

Early winter crop emergence in **Western Australia** is supported by warm conditions and existing soil moisture.

The **eastern wheat–sheep zone** is also supported by warm conditions and favourable soil moisture.

In **southern Queensland** and **inland New South Wales**, declining soil moisture is constraining winter cropping decisions, with some **Southern Downs** producers scaling back planting in response to dry conditions and high input costs. In horticultural regions in the **Lockyer Valley** some growers are reducing or ceasing production where irrigation water is unavailable, and concerns are growing around limited subsoil moisture and low storage levels over the next 6 to 12 months.

Stocking rates are being reduced in **northern New South Wales** and **southern Queensland** due to limited pasture growth under ongoing dry conditions.

Pasture growth across most of the **northern rangelands in the Northern Territory** is expected to be above average through autumn following a wet summer, supporting feed availability.

Parts of the **Gascoyne and Pilbara regions** of **Western Australia** are experiencing a prolonged rainfall deficit which will limit pasture growth going into the dry season.

Climate models are suggesting a possible shift toward El Niño later this year, though timing remains uncertain. El Niño is only one of several factors influencing Australia's climate, and its impacts can vary from event to event.

The Bureau's long-range outlook is the best guide to seasonal conditions, and it reflects probabilities of rainfall patterns across regions rather than certainty about what will occur at a local level, so local forecasts should continue to be monitored closely.

Conditions improving

Conditions unchanged

Conditions degrading