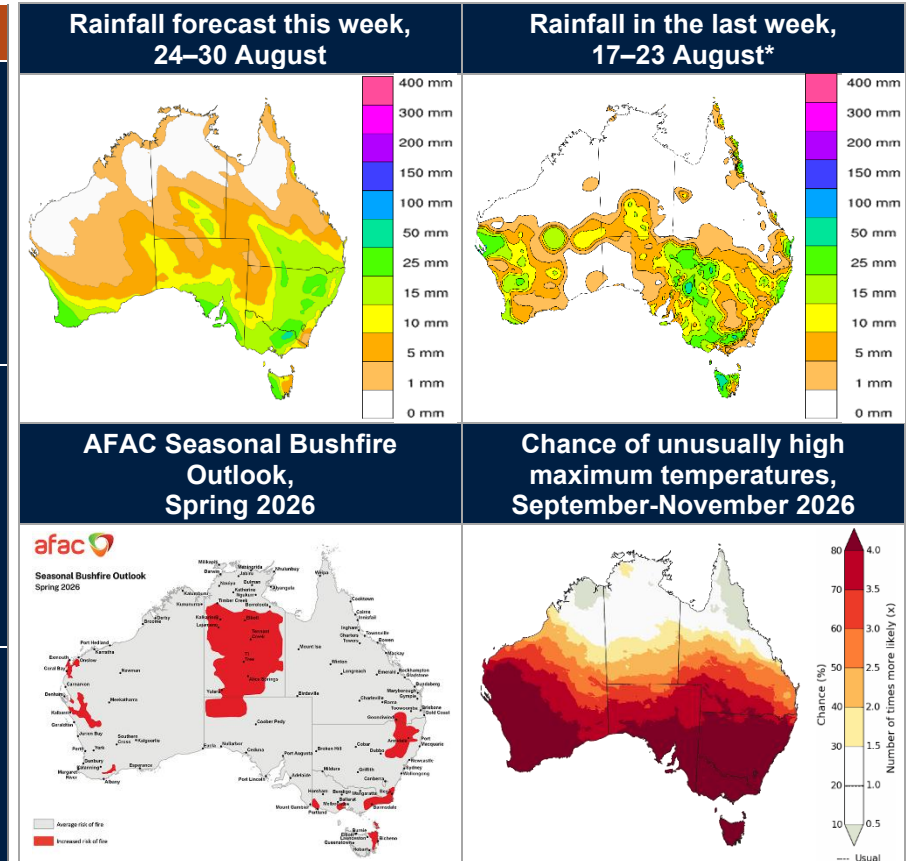
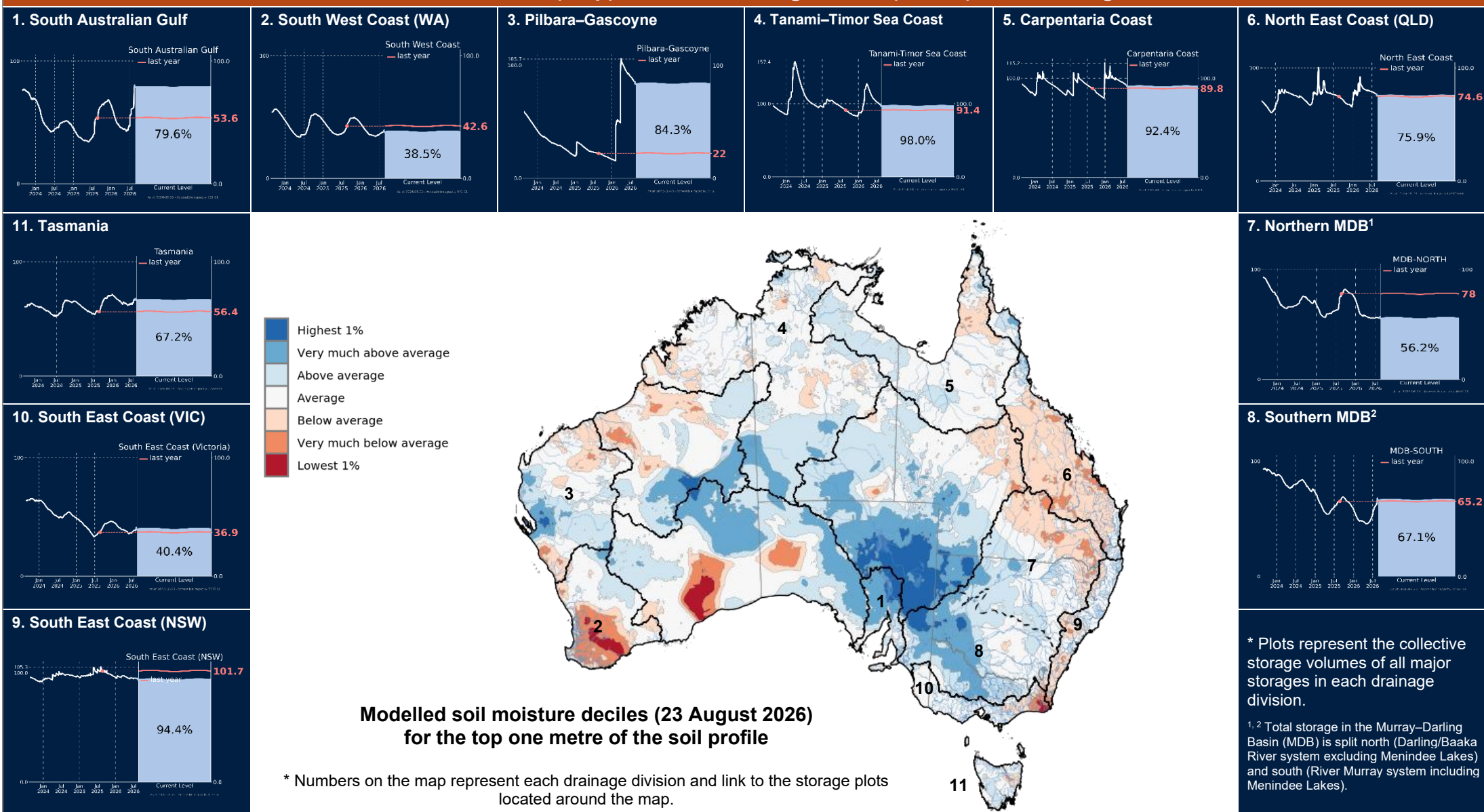




Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Monday 24 August 2026

Root zone soil moisture (map) and water storage levels (charts) as of 23 August 2026



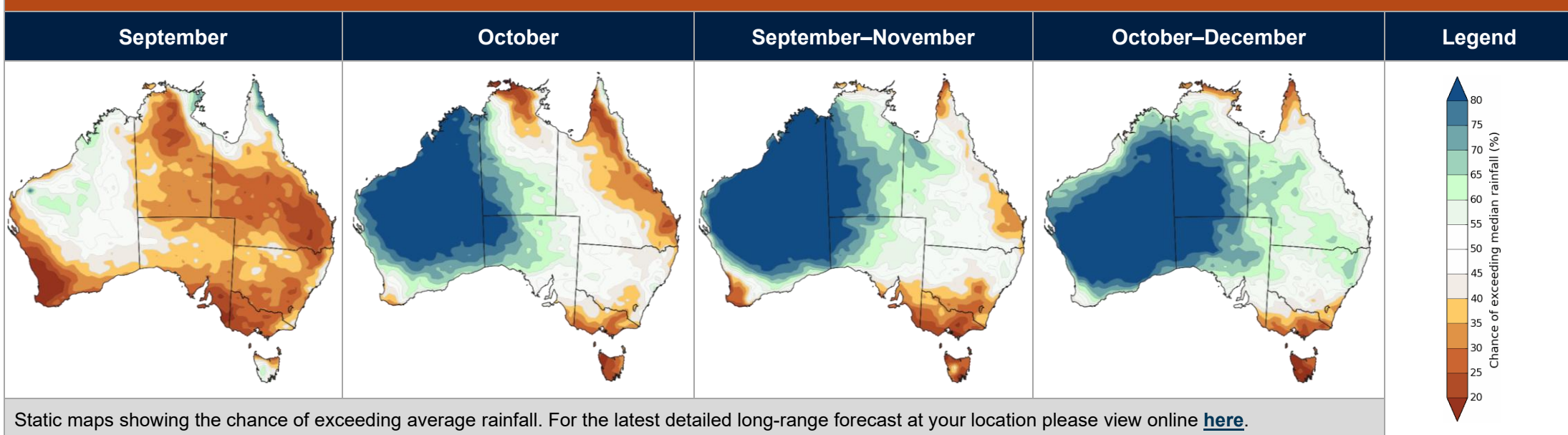
* Includes the seven days of rainfall to 9:00am on Sunday.

Key Points

- AFAC has released Australia's national bushfire outlook for spring with fire authorities predicting a heightened risk of fire across northern and south-eastern New South Wales, south-east Queensland, north-eastern Tasmania, parts of Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria, and large parts of the Northern Territory.
- Below average rainfall has increased bushfire risk potential across north-east and eastern Tasmania, as well as parts of Victoria. In contrast, above average fuel loads and dry soil conditions are contributing to elevated fire risk across parts of Western Australia.
- September to November maximum temperatures are likely to be above average (60% to greater than 80% chance) across most of Australia, except in parts of the tropical north. Maximum temperatures are likely to be below average (60–80% chance) across areas of north-eastern Queensland and the northern Kimberley.
- There is an increased chance (over 60% chance) of unusually high maximum temperatures across the southern two-thirds of Australia, with the highest chances (over 80%) in western and southern areas of Western Australia, most of South Australia; New South Wales, southern Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania. Unusually high maximum temperatures are those in the warmest 20% of September to November days, between 1981 and 2018.
- September to November rainfall is likely to be below average (60% to greater than 80% chance) for the far south-west of Western Australia, south-eastern Australia including Tasmania, and parts of eastern and northern 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 20 August 2026





Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Monday 24 August 2026

Agriculture climate and conditions assessment as of 24 August 2026

Summary

- September to November rainfall is likely to be below average (60 to 80% chance) for the far **south-west of Western Australia**, **south-eastern Australia including Tasmania**, and **parts of eastern and northern Queensland**.
- For the same period, there is an increased chance of unusually low rainfall (50 to 70% chance) for **parts of south-eastern Australia**, including regions that have already experienced long term rainfall deficiencies over the past 2 years.
- Above average rainfall is likely (60% to greater than 80% chance) over **most of Western Australia**, the **Northern Territory**, **western South Australia** and **across Queensland's Gulf Country**. During this outlook period, **northern Australia** transitions from the dry to the wet season, bringing increased humidity, storms, and showers.
- September to November maximum temperatures is likely to be above average (60% to greater than 80% chance) across **most of Australia** except in parts of the tropical north, as well as over the **western Top End of the Northern Territory**.
- There is an increased chance of unusually high minimum temperatures (over 60% chance) across **much of Australia** except parts of the north, with the highest chances (over 80%) across **most of Western Australia**, **South Australia**, **Victoria**, **Tasmania**, **New South Wales** and **southern Queensland**.
- The bureau's long-range forecast responds to all ongoing changes in our climate systems and seasonal outlooks are updated weekly (see also rainfall long-range forecast maps, page 1).

Recent Conditions

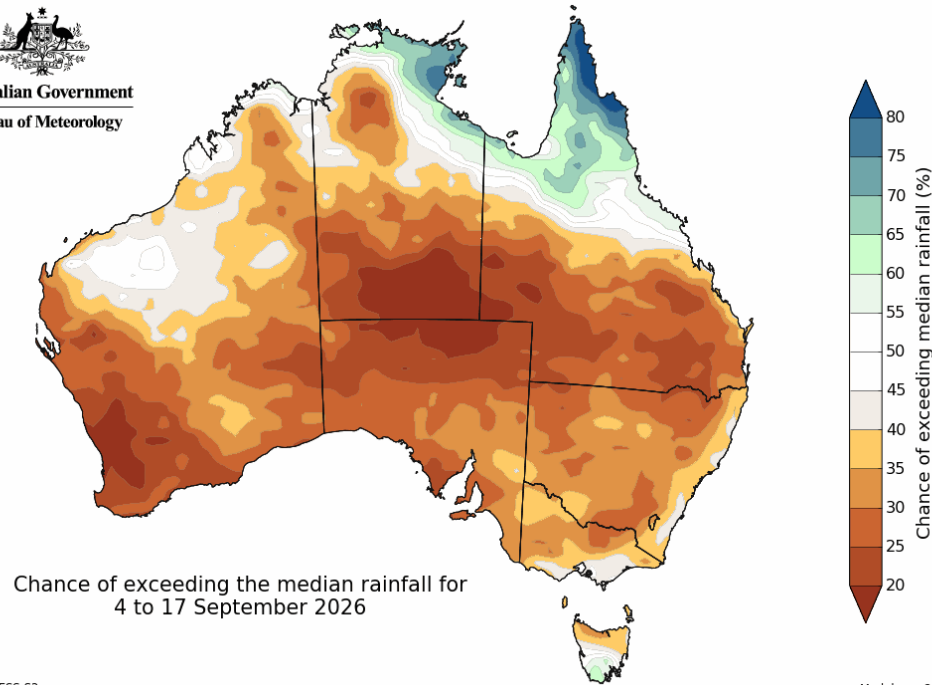
May-July rainfall was above average across much of **central and southern Australia**, particularly in parts of the **Northern Territory**, **South Australia**, **western New South Wales**, **north-west Victoria**, and **inland Queensland** where some areas recorded very much above average rainfall. This has been remarkable for agricultural regions of **South Australia** and **western parts of Victoria** which had previously experienced prolonged rainfall deficiencies.

In contrast, below-average rainfall occurred along parts of **eastern Queensland**, **Gippsland in Victoria**, **south-west Western Australia** and parts of the **Gascoyne and Kimberly regions**, with a few isolated areas experiencing very much below average rainfall. **South-west Western Australia** is now experiencing a severe rainfall deficit.

July mean maximum temperatures were above average for most of the agricultural regions of the country except for the interior. Minimum mean temperatures for July were very much above average with patches of highest on record for much of **eastern Victoria**, **south-eastern and western New South Wales**. **Western Australia's south-west** experienced average to below average minimum temperatures. These mild temperature conditions supported rapid growth of crops and pastures, meaning many are at advanced growth stages for this time of year.

After a mild start to winter, frosty conditions have emerged in **inland and southern Australia** during July as well as **inland Western Australia** and **eastern Australia** for August.

Fortnightly Rainfall Outlook 04 to 17 September 2026



Chance of exceeding the median rainfall for
4 to 17 September 2026

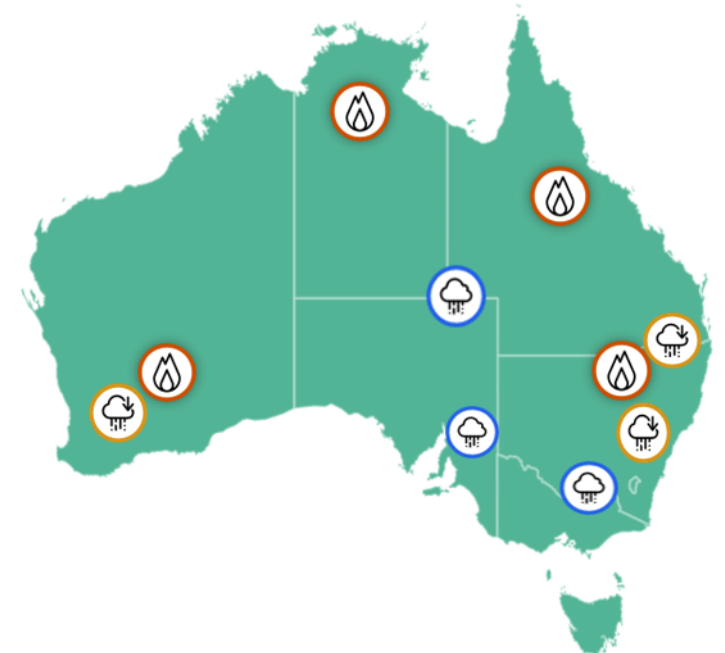
Model: ACCESS-S2
Base period: 1981-2018

Model run: 21/08/2026
Issued: 23/08/2026

Agriculture Watch Points

		Soil moisture is declining and a dry seasonal outlook may limit yield potential for Western Australian crops, with most of the grain growing regions below or very much below average. Many crops are in a peak period of frost sensitivity, and spring rainfall will be critical to maintain current yield expectations. If realised, the forecast of 25-50 mm rainfall this week will be welcomed.
		Current dry conditions coupled with a low chance of exceeding average rainfall for the period may intensify already challenging growing conditions in parts of the Hunter and Northern Tablelands regions in New South Wales , impacting pasture and crop growth in the affected areas. Concern will continue if spring rainfall underperforms.
		Most of South Australia and Victoria are maintaining good crop production although foliar disease pressure is increasing due to the combination of wet weather and bulky crops. In West and Central Gippsland , crops and pastures are benefiting from improved soil moisture, compared to at the beginning of the month.
		Above average fire danger is forecast for September to November for northern Northern Territory, eastern Queensland and New South Wales with the risk easing with the wet season onset. Above average fire danger also indicated for much of south-west Western Australia and south-east Australia . The official spring bushfire outlook from AFAC was released on 19 August.
		Root zone soil moisture remains below to very much below average in central Queensland into northern New South Wales . Winter crops are suffering the effects of low rainfall in parts, and there are concerns around production outcomes if a widespread soaking rain doesn't arrive in the coming weeks.
		Above average rainfall over the first six months of the year has promoted good pasture growth in extensive parts of South Australia , the Northern Territory and Queensland . Livestock prices are high as producers compete for stock to take advantage of feed availability. Despite this, water availability is expected to remain a key consideration for irrigators due to the dry September outlook.
		The bureau's September to November rainfall forecast is consistent with international model guidance, although there are some variations between models in the likelihood of above- and below- average rainfall.

- Conditions improving
 Conditions unchanged
 Conditions degrading



The bureau's long-range outlook is the best guide to seasonal conditions. 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.