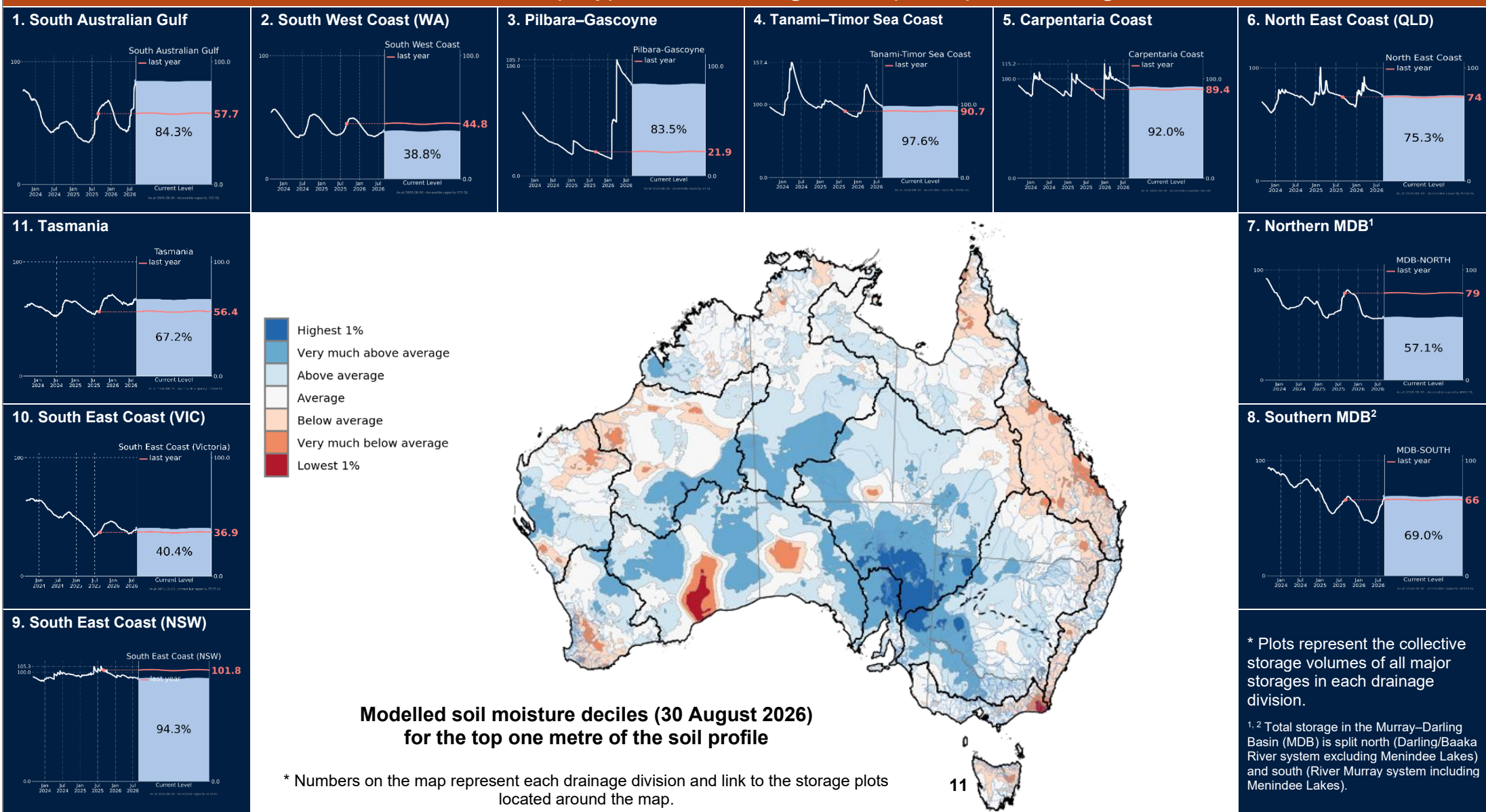


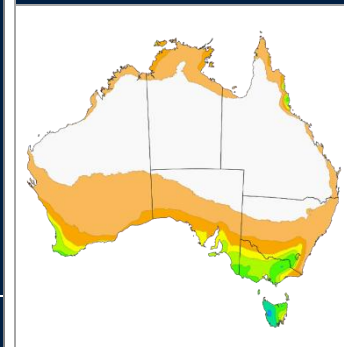


Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Monday 31 August 2026

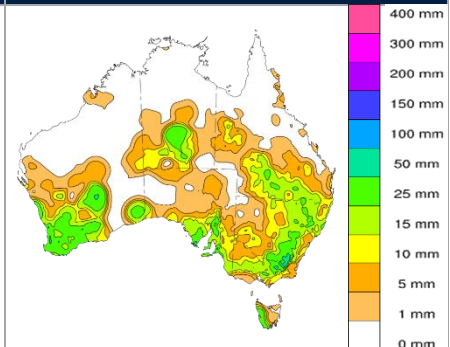
Root zone soil moisture (map) and water storage levels (charts) as of 30 August 2026



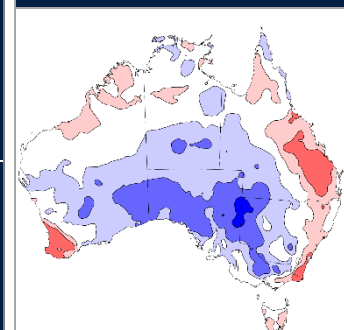
Rainfall forecast this week, 31 August–6 September



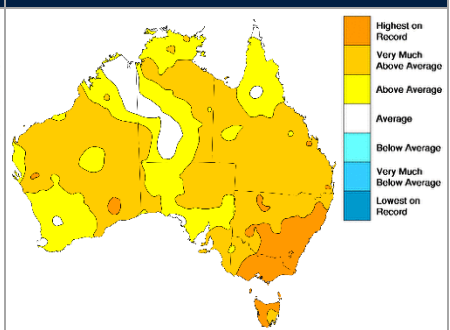
Rainfall in the last week, 24–30 August*



Rainfall deciles, winter-to-date 2026



Mean temperature, winter-to-date 2026



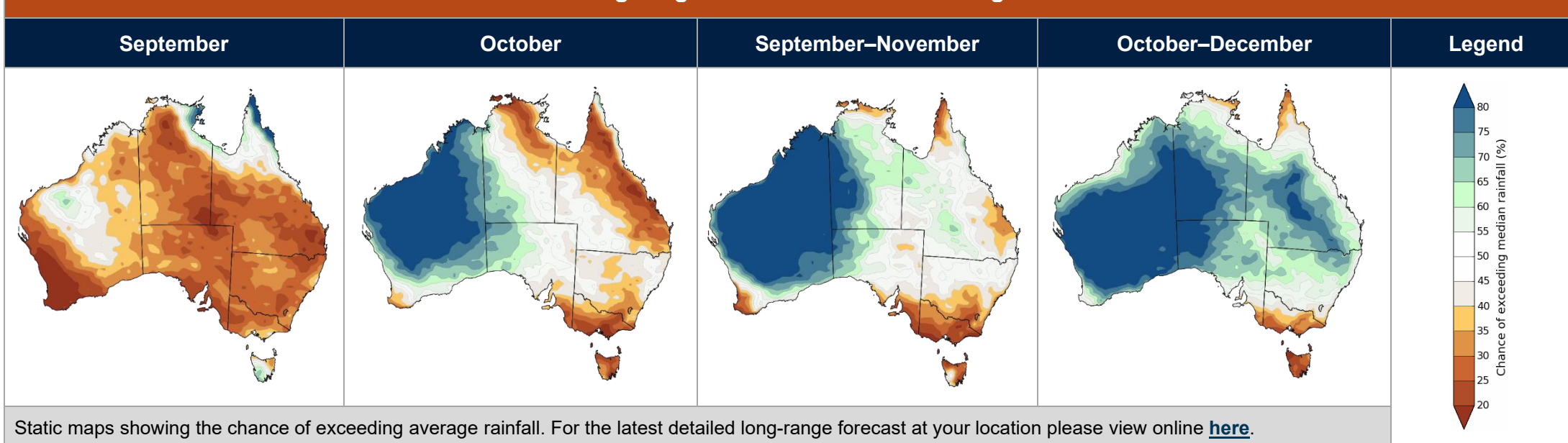
* Includes the seven days of rainfall to 9:00am on Sunday.

Key Points

- The national area-averaged rainfall total for winter-to-date is 6% above the 1961–1990 average.
- Winter-to-date rainfall has been above average across central and southern Australia and for pockets in the north. Rainfall has been below average across the east and south-west, and parts of the north.
- Australia's area-averaged mean temperature for winter-to-date is tracking at 1.45 °C above the 1961–1990 average. It is tracking equal third-warmest on record.
- Mean temperatures have been above average for most of Australia, and record-high in the south-east for winter-to-date.
- The long-range forecast favours below average spring rainfall across parts of the south and east of the country and above average across much of the west, with the dry signal strongest earlier in the season.
- Warmer than average spring days and nights are likely for most of Australia.
- Below-average root-zone soil moisture is likely for much of eastern and western Australia during September and October, especially over south-west Western Australia, far eastern Victoria and parts of south-eastern Queensland and north-eastern New South Wales.
- Runoff is likely to be above the seasonal average for parts of the northern, western and central Australia, but below the seasonal average for parts of the south-west and some regions in the east.

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 27 August 2026





Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Monday 31 August 2026

Agriculture and climate conditions assessment as of 31 August 2026

Summary

- September to November rainfall is likely to be below average (60 to 80% chance) for the areas of far **south-western Western Australia**, **southern coastal and eastern South Australia**, **Victoria**, **southern New South Wales**, **most of Tasmania**, parts of **central eastern and northern Queensland** and the **northern coast of the Northern Territory**.
- For the same period, there is an increased chance of unusually low rainfall (50 to 70% chance) of being amongst the driest 20% of seasons for this time of year in agricultural growing regions of **south-western, southern and eastern Australia**, including regions that have already experienced rainfall deficiencies (3-month rainfall deficiencies).
- Above average rainfall is likely (60% to greater than 80% chance) over **most of northern Western Australia**, **western and central 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 and minimum temperatures are likely to be above average (greater than 80% chance) across **most of Australia** except in parts of the north, with an increased chance (greater than 80%) of unusually high minimum temperatures, amongst the hottest 20% of all seasons for this time of year over **most of southern Australia**.
- 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).

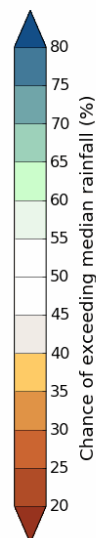
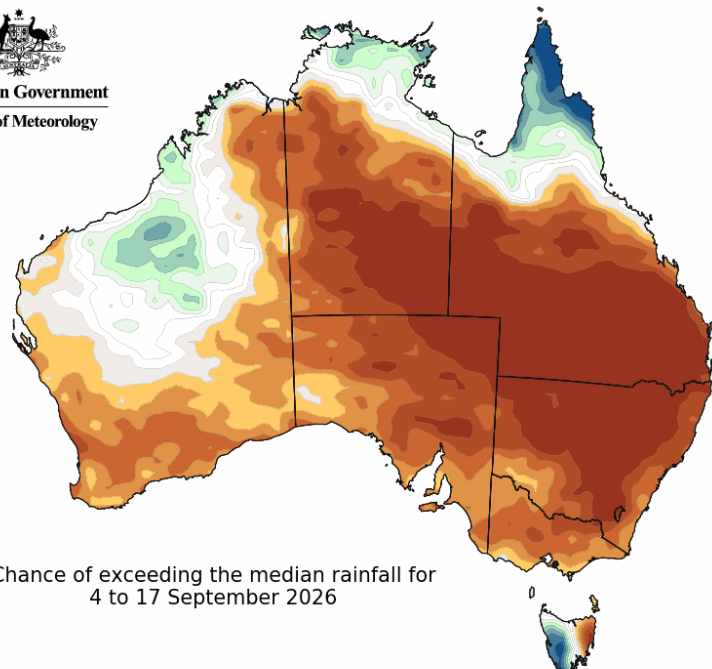
Recent Conditions

June to August rainfall was above average across much of **central and southern Australia**, particularly in parts of the **southeastern Western Australia**, **Northern Territory**, **South Australia**, **western New South Wales**, **north-west Victoria**, and **western 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**, **northern New South Wales**, **Gippsland in Victoria**, most areas of **Tasmania**, **south-west Western Australia** and parts of the **Kimberly region**, with a few isolated areas experiencing very much below average rainfall. **South-west Western Australia** is experiencing a severe rainfall deficit, despite recent totals in the past week and above average rainfall through the **Gascoyne** during August.

June to August maximum temperatures were above average for most of the country except for the interior, with **Tasmania** and **western Victoria** experiencing highest on record maximum temperature for this period. Minimum mean temperatures for the same period 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 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.

Fortnightly Rainfall Outlook 04 to 17 September 2026



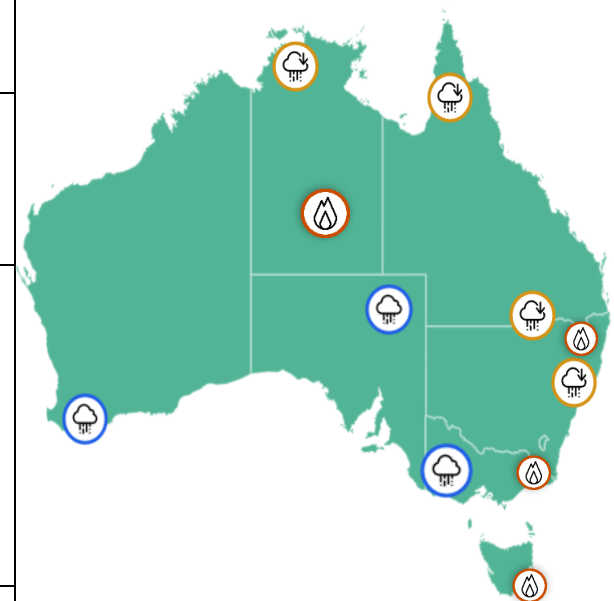
Model: ACCESS-S2
Base period: 1981-2018

Model run: 28/08/2026
Issued: 30/08/2026

Agriculture Watch Points

		Recent rainfall totals of between 25-50 mm in southwestern Western Australia have boosted yield expectations for grain producers. Despite these falls, soil moisture in parts of the Great Southern region remain below average. The long range forecast indicating a high chance of below-average rainfall during September across much of the Western Australian grain belt is likely to see soil moisture decrease further.
		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 . Concern will continue for crop and pasture production if spring rainfall underperforms. Pasture growth is forecast to be below average for the coming months across most parts of New South Wales .
		Yield potential is promising across most of South Australia and Victoria ; however, frequent rainfall events are impeding trafficability due to high soil moisture and favouring foliar disease outbreaks. Parts of northern and central Victoria are becoming excessively wet, causing waterlogging which will likely impact yield.
		The northern rainfall onset for the 2026–27 season is likely to be later than normal for far northern parts of the Northern Territory and North Queensland , as well as parts of the north-west coastline of Western Australia , but an earlier onset is favoured elsewhere across northern Australia .
		Above average fire danger is forecast for September to November for most of the Northern Territory , northern New South Wales , eastern Victoria and northeastern Tasmania . Above average fire danger also indicated for patches of the Gascoyne region of Western Australia . The official spring bushfire outlook from AFAC was released on 19 August.
		Conditions remain variable across central, southeastern Queensland and northern New South Wales , with many districts continuing to experience moisture deficits during key winter crop growth stages. Crop prospects range from below average in the driest areas to reasonable where recent rainfall has improved soil moisture. Some producers in the central highlands region of Queensland have turned livestock onto crop paddocks for grazing fodder. Water shortages and dam levels are a concern for production in southern Queensland horticultural growing regions. Above average temperatures are likely to drive increased water demand for spring and summer crops.
		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 due to the dry September outlook.

- 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.