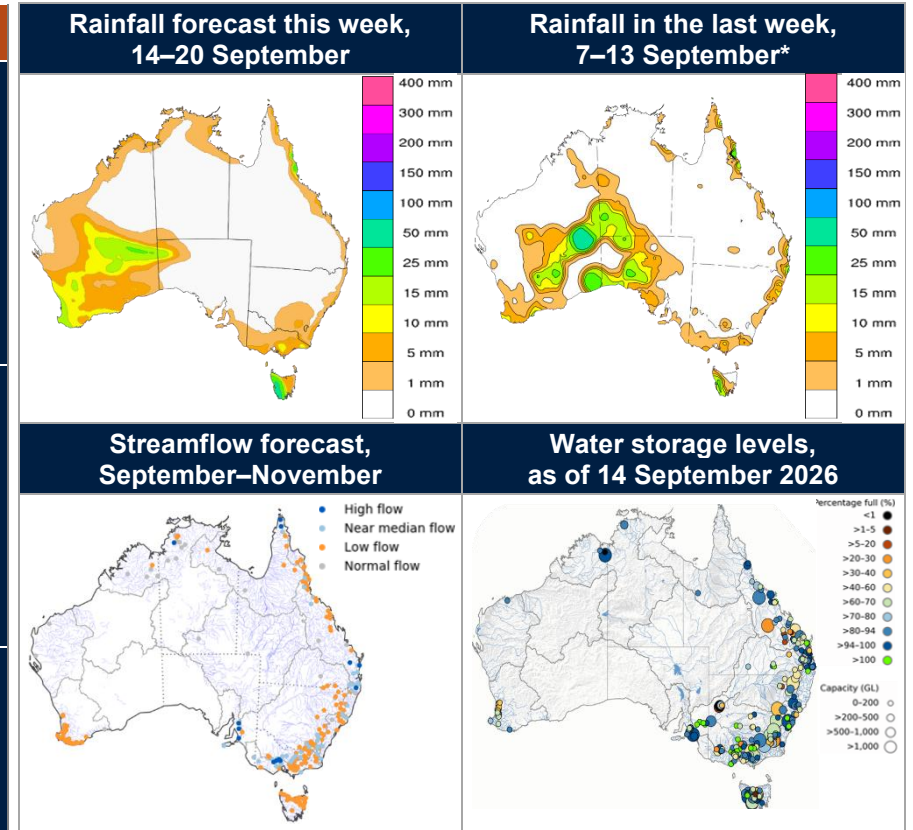
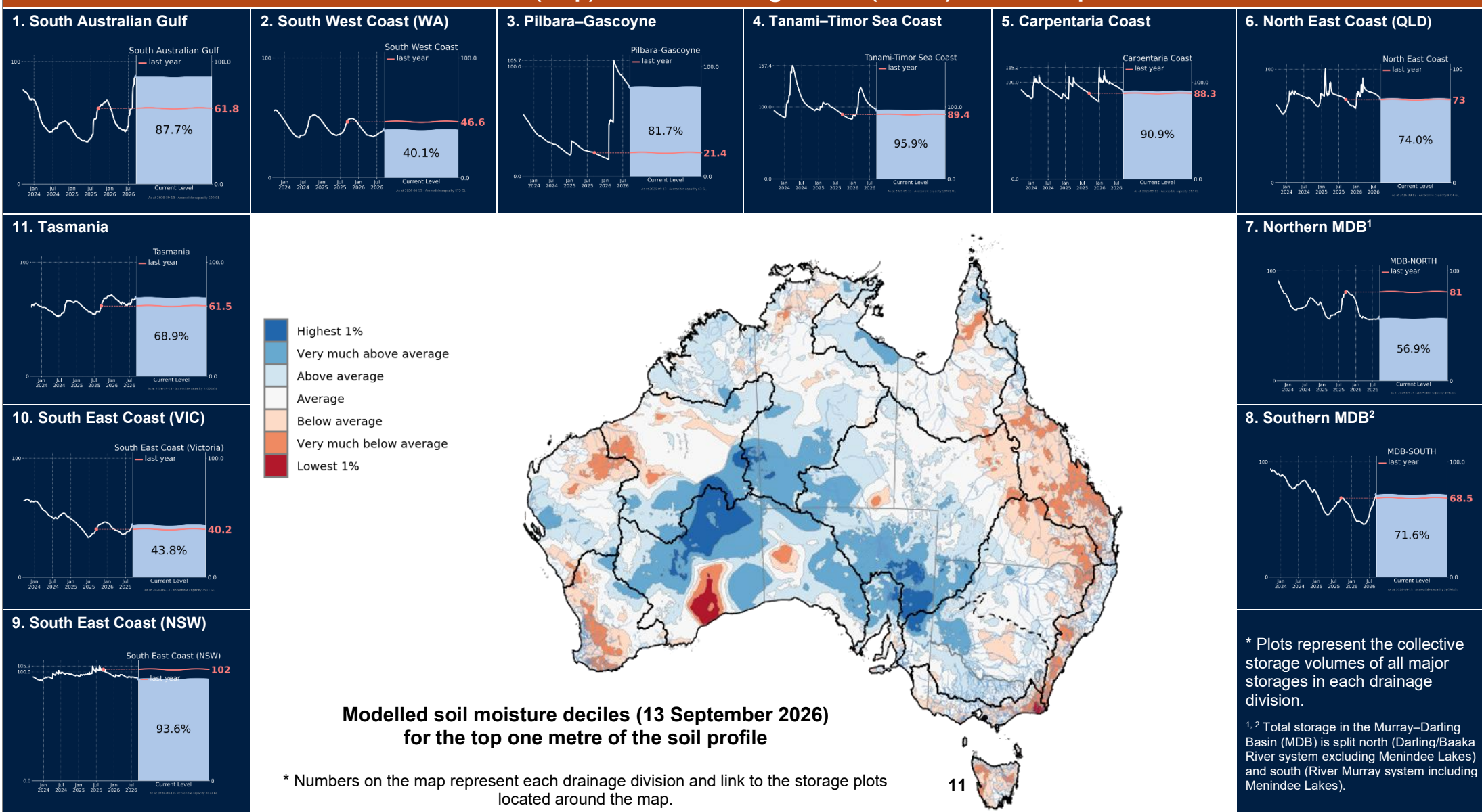




Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Monday 14 September 2026

Root zone soil moisture (map) and water storage levels (charts) as of 13 September 2026



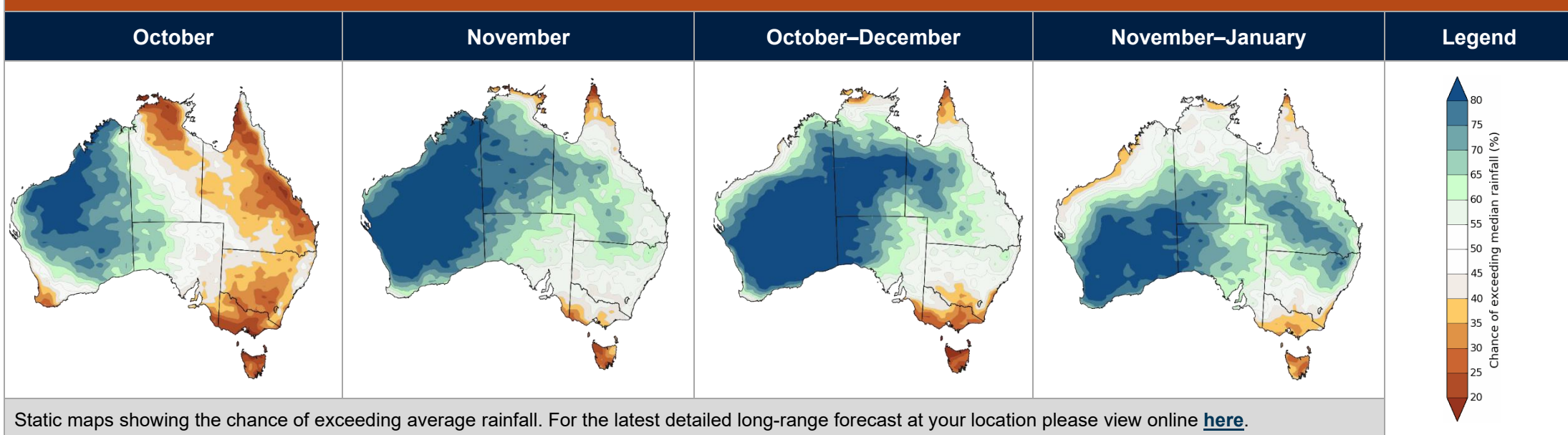
* Includes the seven days of rainfall to 9:00am on Sunday.

Key Points

- October to December rainfall is likely to be above average across much of the west, central regions and north-east, and below average in the south-east. During this outlook period, northern Australia transitions from the dry to the wet season, bringing increased humidity, storms, and showers.
- For the [September to November streamflow forecast](#), high flow (for this time of year) is likely at 5% of sites, scattered across east, south-east and northern areas of Australia.
- Near median flow is likely at 21% of sites mostly across southern Australia, and low flow (for this time of year) is likely at 63% of sites across most locations around Australia.
- Forecast skill for the three months ahead is moderate to high for [most sites across Australia](#). Remaining sites across the country have either low or no skill.
- Overall Australia's total [water storage](#) is currently 71%. Storages across the Murray–Darling Basin are currently at 69%, slightly less than this time last year.
- Below-average [root-zone soil moisture](#) is likely for much of eastern, south-eastern and far south-western Australia during October and November. The coverage and severity of below-average root zone soil moisture is likely to decrease in November.
- [Runoff](#) is likely to be above the seasonal average for parts of the northern, western and central Australia, but below average for parts of the south-west and some regions in the east. The area of below average runoff is likely to reduce in November.

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 10 September 2026





Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Monday 14 September 2026

Agriculture and climate conditions assessment as of 14 September 2026

Summary

- October rainfall is likely to be below average for large parts of the country, including, **Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, south-western Western Australia and southern and eastern Queensland**.
- For the extended period, October to December, rainfall is likely to be below average for **Tasmania, Victoria, southern New South Wales** and far north **Queensland**. There is a generally high chance of exceeding average rainfall for large parts of **Western Australia, South Australia, Northern Territory, northern New South Wales and into Queensland**.
- While this may differ from what we expect during a **strong El Niño**, Australia's climate is complex and El Niño alone does not determine our rainfall. Oceans around Australia and globally are much warmer than usual and this adds to the moisture and energy that can fuel rain systems.
- From October to December, **most of Australia** is likely to be warmer than normal, with more than an 80% chance of above-average temperatures. The main exception is **northern Australia**. **Southern Australia** is also very likely to experience unusually warm nights, with overnight temperatures expected to be among the warmest 20% recorded for this time of year. However, this week's frost forecast in the NSW Riverina is a good reminder that cooler temperatures can still occur in the spring months.
- The bureau's long-range forecast responds to all ongoing changes in our climate systems and seasonal outlooks are updated weekly.

Recent Conditions

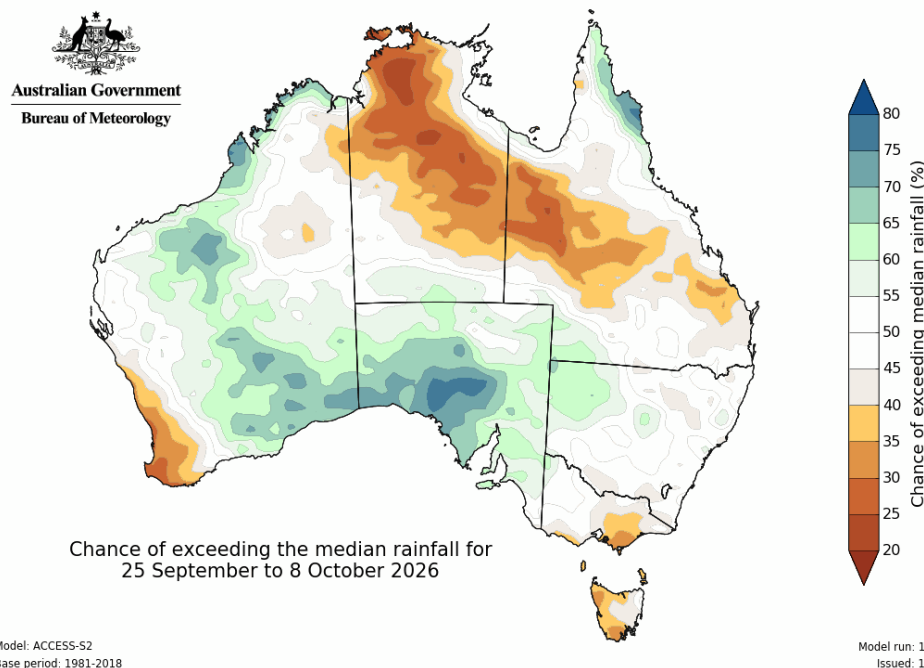
June to August rainfall was above average across much of **central and southern Australia**, particularly in parts of the **south-eastern Western Australia, Northern Territory, South Australia, western New South Wales, north-west Victoria**, and **western Queensland** where some areas recorded very much above average rainfall.

Winter rainfall was the highest on record for an area spanning the border between **South Australia and New South Wales**. Many stations had their record highest winter total rainfall. **South Australia** had its sixth-wettest winter on record, the wettest since 1978.

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 rainfall in the past week. Above average rainfall was recorded in the **Gascoyne region** 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. 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 25 September to 08 October 2026



Agriculture Watch Points

		Northern New South Wales and southern Queensland remain the main area of concern for winter grains and pulses. Wheat and chickpeas are approaching critical yield-forming stages with limited stored moisture and little significant rainfall expected during the coming week. Attention is now shifting to summer crops, with effective planting rainfall needed soon to support sorghum and dryland cotton establishment. Rain later in spring may improve pasture conditions but could arrive too late to materially change winter-crop outcomes.
		Water availability remains a key watch point across the Darling Downs, Balonne, St George and Maranoa . Continued dry conditions may constrain irrigated and supplementary-irrigated summer crop decisions. Rainfall sufficient to replenish the soil profile and improve inflows will be more important than isolated light falls.
		Winter-crop prospects remain favourable across Victoria and southern New South Wales following falls of up to 50 mm in some cropping districts over the past fortnight. While stored soil moisture and advanced crop development have supported strong early season growth in wheat, barley, canola and pulses, high biomass and favourable yield potential will drive significant water demand during late flowering and grain fill, making continued moisture availability critical.
		Below-average winter rainfall across much of Tasmania , combined with a lower chance of exceeding median rainfall from October to December, may place increasing pressure on pasture growth as temperatures and livestock water demand rise. Follow-up rainfall will be particularly important the east coast regions that are experiencing greater rainfall deficiencies.
		Irrigated horticulture across the Riverina, Sunraysia and Riverland may face increasing water demand through late spring and early summer. These districts are exposed to an elevated likelihood of unusually high maximum temperatures, which could increase irrigation requirements and create heat-stress risks during flowering, fruit set and early fruit development. Basin storage remains below the same time last year.
		Above-average winter rainfall and favourable establishment conditions continue to support strong wheat, barley, canola and lentil prospects across much of South Australia . Many crops are advanced for this time of year with good stored soil moisture, providing some resilience if spring rainfall is below average. Frost, rapid warming or an extended dry finish could still limit the highest yield expectations.
		Canola across parts of the Western Australian grain belt is flowering or moving into pod development, increasing sensitivity to moisture stress and warmer conditions. Recent rainfall has provided some support, but totals have been variable. Follow-up rainfall during September will be important for flower retention, pod set and grain fill, particularly if warmer weather accelerates crop water use.

- Conditions improving
- Conditions unchanged
- Conditions degrading

