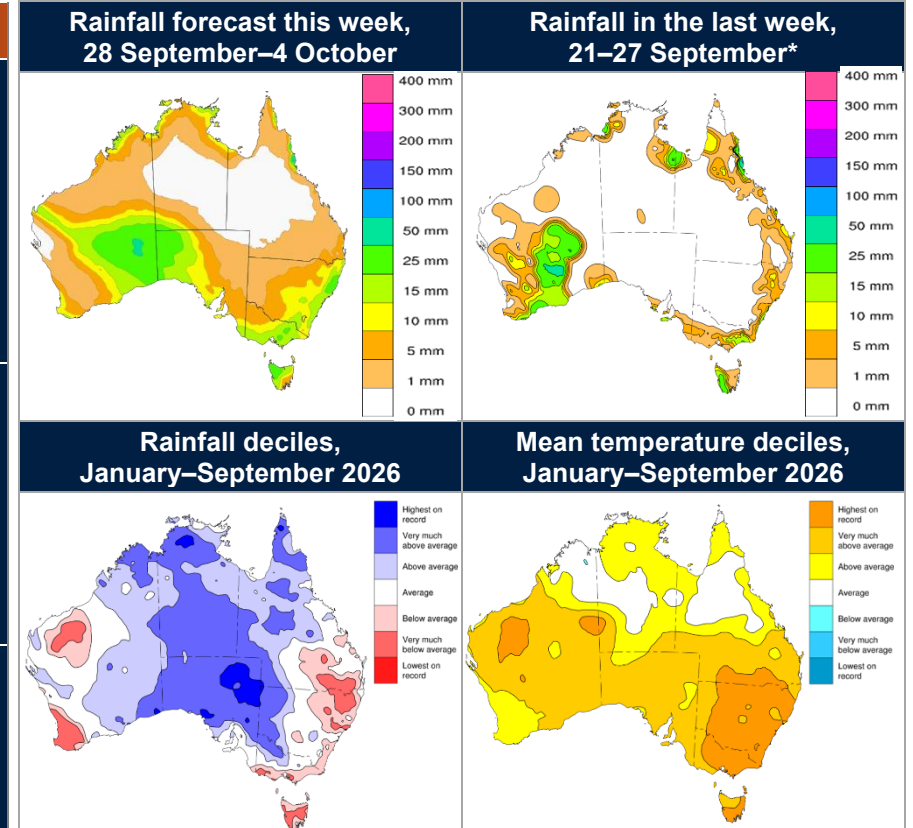
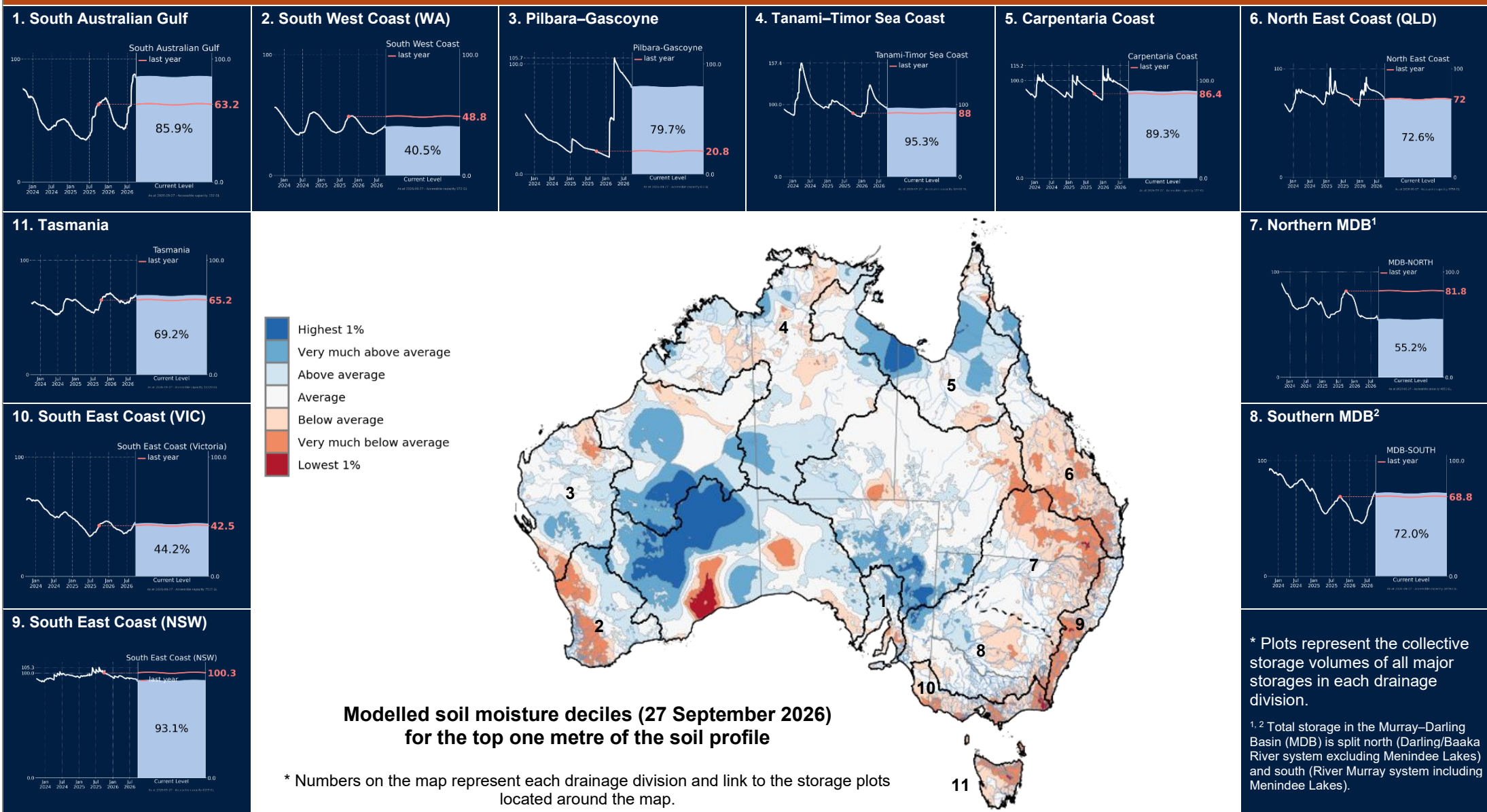




Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Monday 28 September 2026

Root zone soil moisture (map) and water storage levels (charts) as of 27 September 2026



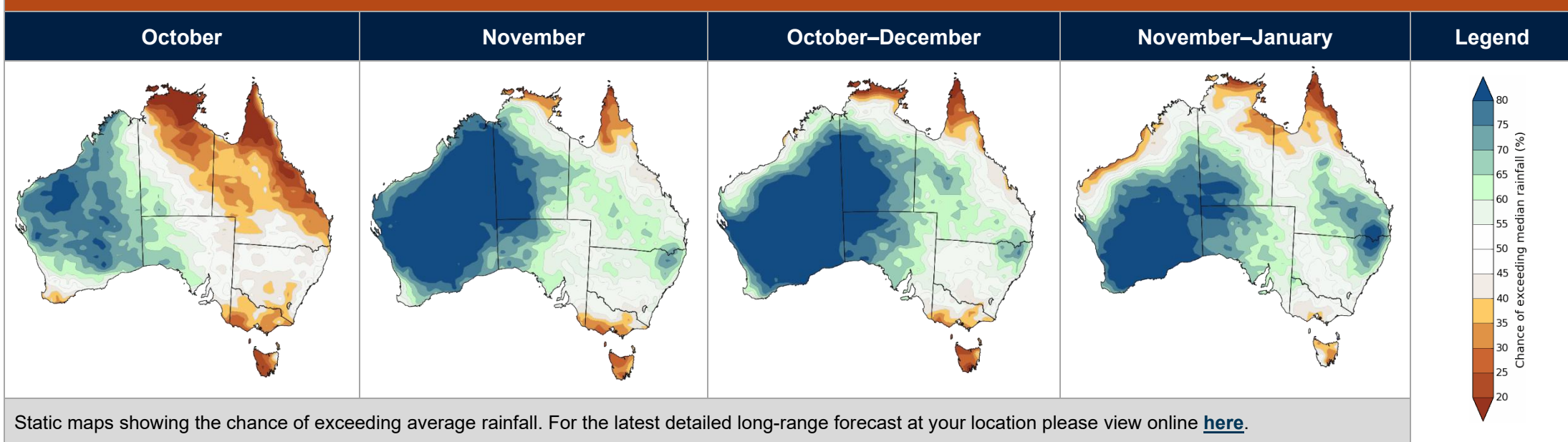
* Includes the seven days of rainfall to 9:00am on Sunday.

Key Points

- October to April is the peak time for severe weather in Australia, including thunderstorms, tropical cyclones, flooding, heatwaves and bushfires.
- For October to December, above average rainfall is likely for much of the west and central regions, and below average in the south-east and the far north. For much of eastern Australia and parts of the north, there are roughly equal chances of above or below average rainfall.
- Warmer than average October to December days and nights are likely for most of Australia.
- Below-average root-zone soil moisture is likely for much of eastern, south-eastern and far south-western Australia during October and November.
- Runoff is likely to be above the seasonal average for parts of northern, western and central Australia, but below average for parts of the south-west and some regions in the east.
- January to September rainfall has been well above average in northern and central-southern regions, but below average in parts of the west, and east, including Tasmania. South Australia is tracking second-highest on record (behind 1974).
- January to September mean temperatures have been above average for much of the southern half of Australia, and record warm in the south-east, extending into southern Queensland, and in parts of the west. New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania are all tracking highest on record for the year-to-date in terms of mean temperature.

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 24 September 2026





Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Monday 28 September 2026

Agriculture and climate conditions assessment as of 28 September 2026

Summary

- October rainfall is likely to be below average for much of the country, including **north-eastern Northern Territory**, most of **Queensland, Victoria, and Tasmania**, areas of **southern New South Wales**, and far **south-western Western Australia**. There is a greater chance of above average rainfall for most of **Western Australia, south-eastern Northern Territory** and **western South Australia**.
- For the extended period, October to December, rainfall is likely to be below average for all of **Tasmania**, areas of **southern and eastern Victoria, far north Queensland** and the **far north of the Northern Territory**. There is a generally high chance of exceeding average rainfall for large parts of **Western Australia, South Australia, northern New South Wales, southern and western Queensland** and **central and southern Northern Territory**.
- For the overall October to December period, there is an increased chance of 80% or greater, of unusually high maximum temperatures for this time of year in large areas of **New South Wales, most of Victoria and Tasmania, eastern South Australia and south-western Western Australia**. This increased chance applies to unusually high minimum temperatures for **most areas of Australia, except for the tropical northern Queensland coast**. High daytime and nighttime temperatures will increase water demand in crops, reduce soil moisture, and increase the risk of heat stress in livestock.
- The bureau's long-range forecast responds to all ongoing changes in our climate systems and seasonal outlooks are updated weekly.

Recent Conditions

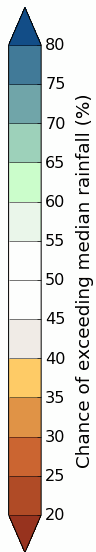
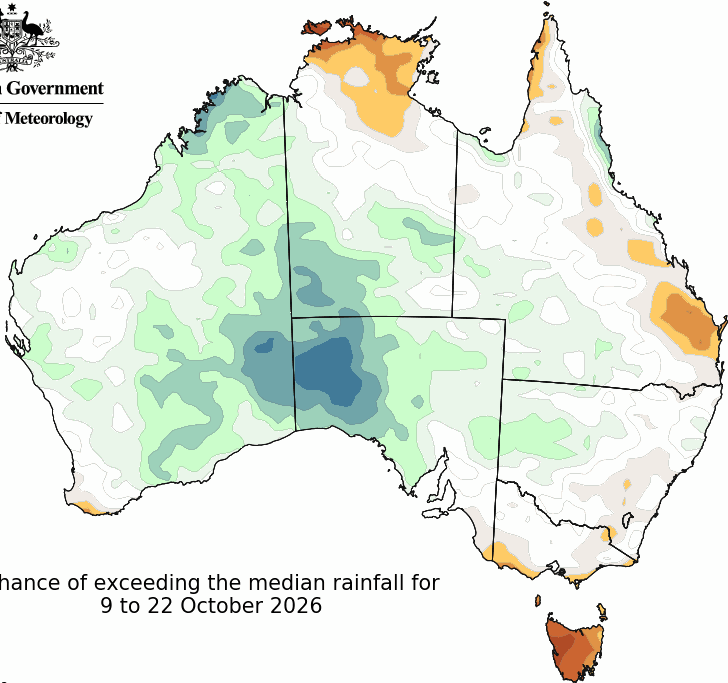
Month-to-date rainfall for September has been less than average for most of south-eastern parts of the country with areas of **south-west Western Australia, central Victoria, eastern New South Wales and western and north-eastern Tasmania** receiving between 50 to 100mm less than average for this period.

Month-to-date maximum temperature anomalies for September were above average for **central-southern Queensland** extending to **northern and central New South Wales**. For the same period, significantly warmer than average minimum temperatures were experienced across large parts of **Western Australia**, extending into **the interior northern South Australia** and **central western Queensland**.

Root zone soil moisture remains very much below average in key agricultural regions of **south-east Queensland, eastern New South Wales, eastern and southern Victoria, northern and north-eastern Tasmania, and south-west Western Australia**.

Looking ahead, rainfall deficiencies are likely to expand across **south-eastern Queensland** and parts of **eastern New South Wales, south-west Western Australia and north-eastern Victoria**.

Fortnightly Rainfall Outlook 09 to 22 October 2026



Model run: 25/09/2026
Issued: 27/09/2026

Agriculture Watch Points

		The grain belt region missed out on significant rain with rain falling east of the cropping areas. Root zone soil moisture remains well below average for this time of year. Both maximum and minimum temperatures are forecast to remain unusually warm during October for south-western Western Australia . Horticultural producers in the south-west region growing crops such as apples are hoping that the wetter outlook from November to January comes to fruition to close the gap on current annual rainfall deficits.
		Active fires continue in northern Western Australia, the Northern Territory, Queensland and New South Wales . Fire weather risk is increased at this time of year as soil moisture declines and vegetation dries out. Loss of existing pasture through fire will pressure producers to reduce livestock numbers through markets or agistment. Find fire danger ratings for each state and territory here .
		Water availability remains a key watch point across the granite belt horticultural region of south-east Queensland with persistent dry conditions and no significant rainfall forecast. Irrigated horticultural crop plantings have been reduced in response, and livestock operations in the Darling Downs, Balonne, St George and Maranoa continue to destock as soil moisture remains below average. Producers will be hopeful of the October to December forecast for above average rainfall emerging in the south-east Queensland .
 		The New England region of New South Wales is experiencing very much below average annual rainfall (up to 30% less than average), with livestock producers actively destocking sheep and cattle for market or agistment. Increased temperatures in the past week, coupled with dry vegetation, have increased fire conditions with multiple active fires in the areas around Inverell and Tenterfield.
		Victoria's Gippsland region experienced rainfall totals of 10 to 25mm in the past week, only slightly easing <u>soil moisture</u> deficits. With no significant rainfall amounts forecast, and unusually warm temperatures for October, demand will increase on irrigation and stored water.
		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.

Conditions improving
 Conditions unchanged
 Conditions degrading

