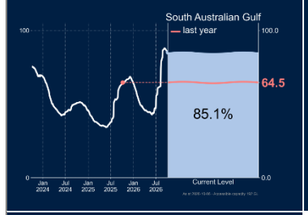
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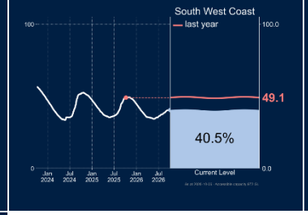
Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Tuesday 6 October 2026

Root zone soil moisture (map) and water storage levels (charts) as of 5 October 2026

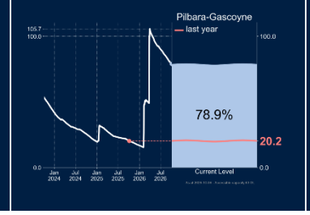
1. South Australian Gulf



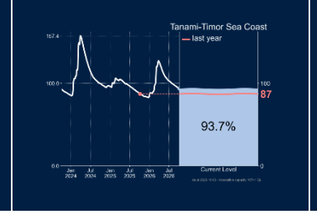
2. South West Coast (WA)



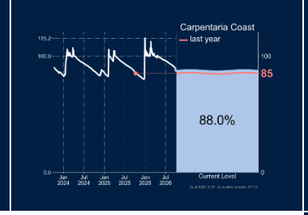
3. Pilbara–Gascoyne



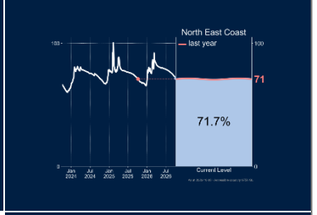
4. Tanami–Timor Sea Coast



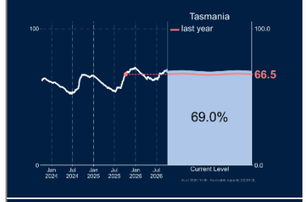
5. Carpentaria Coast



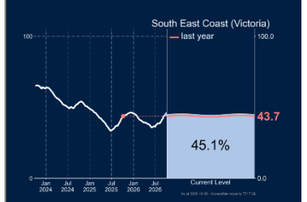
6. North East Coast (QLD)



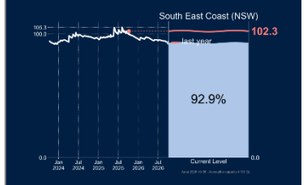
11. Tasmania



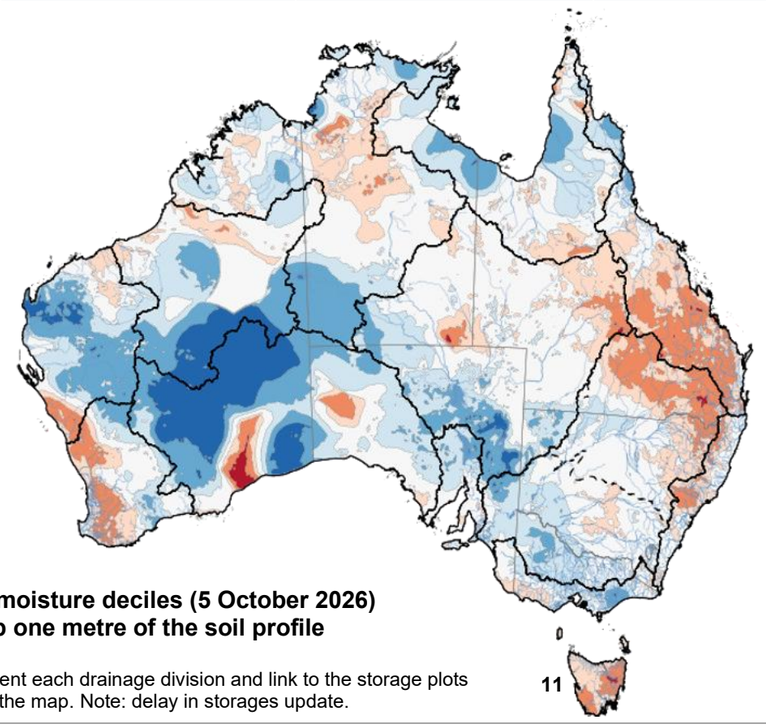
10. South East Coast (VIC)



9. South East Coast (NSW)



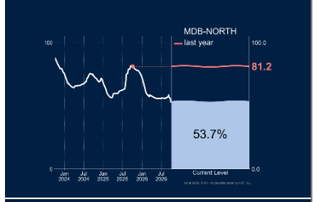
- Highest 1%
- Very much above average
- Above average
- Average
- Below average
- Very much below average
- Lowest 1%



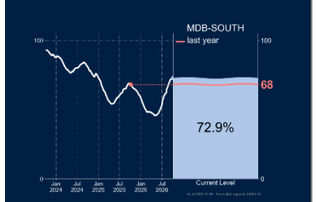
Modelled soil moisture deciles (5 October 2026) for the top one metre of the soil profile

* Numbers on the map represent each drainage division and link to the storage plots located around the map. Note: delay in storages update.

7. Northern MDB[1]



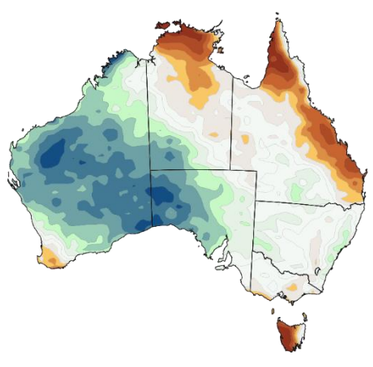
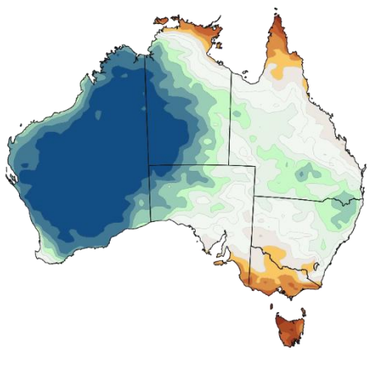
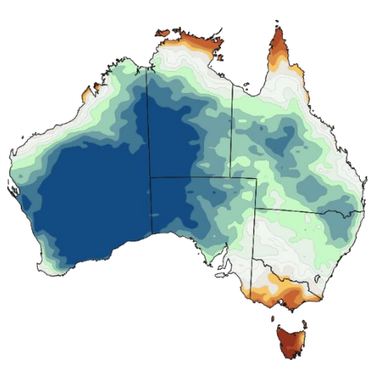
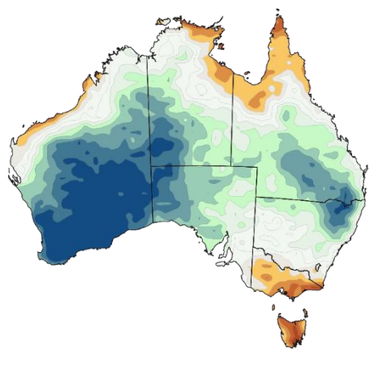
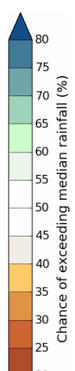
8. Southern MDB[2]



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

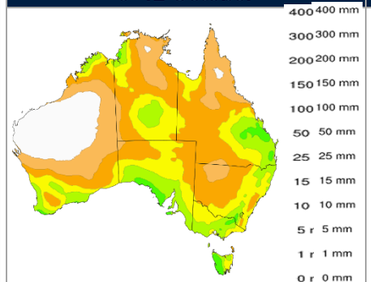
[1, 2] Total storage in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) is split north (Darling/Baaka River system excluding Menindee Lakes) and south (River Murray system including Menindee Lakes).

Rainfall long-range forecasts – Issued 1 October 2026

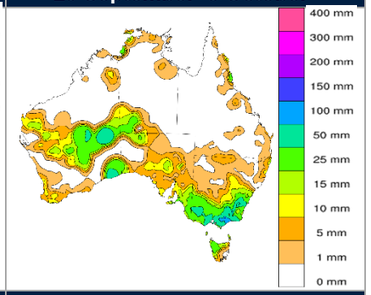
October	November	October–December	November–January	Legend
				

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

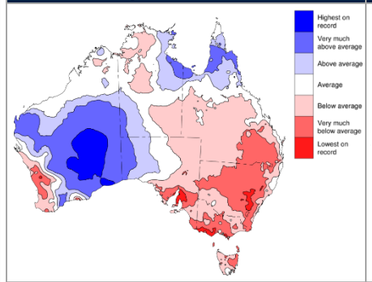
Rainfall forecast this week, 6–12 October



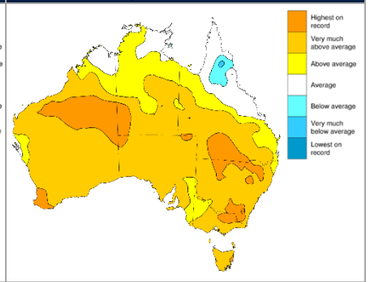
Rainfall in the last week, 29 September–5 October*



Rainfall deciles, September 2026



Mean temperature deciles, September 2026



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

Key Points

- Moderate flooding on the Thompson River at Sale, with levels likely to peak early Tuesday morning. Minor or final flood warnings are current for some rivers in Victoria.
- October to April is the peak time for severe weather in Australia, including thunderstorms, tropical cyclones, flooding, heatwaves and bushfires.
- Australia's area-averaged September rainfall total was 17% below the 1961–1990 average. National summary here.
- Notably, September rainfall across the Murray–Darling Basin was second-lowest on record, behind 2023. Western Australia recorded its second-highest September on record, the highest since 1904. National records began in 1900.
- Australia's area-averaged mean temperature in September was 2.71°C above the 1961–1990 average, the second-highest on record. The Murray–Darling Basin was second-highest on record, and the area-averaged mean temperature for every state and territory was in the top 10 highest on record for September.
- For October to December, above average rainfall is likely for much of the west and central regions, extending to parts of the east; and below average for parts of the south-east and the far north.
- Warmer than average October to December days and nights are very likely for most of Australia.
- Below-average root-zone soil moisture is likely for much of eastern, and far south-western Australia during October.

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
Bureau of Meteorology

Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Tuesday 6 October 2026

Agriculture and climate conditions assessment as of 6 October 2026

- October rainfall is likely to be below average for the **north of the Northern Territory, far north and eastern Queensland**, **western Tasmania**, 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.** See maps above.
- For October to December, rainfall is likely to be below average for all of **Tasmania, far north Queensland** and the **far north of the Northern Territory** and parts of **Victoria.** 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 **Victoria, Tasmania,** large areas of **New South Wales, most of 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.

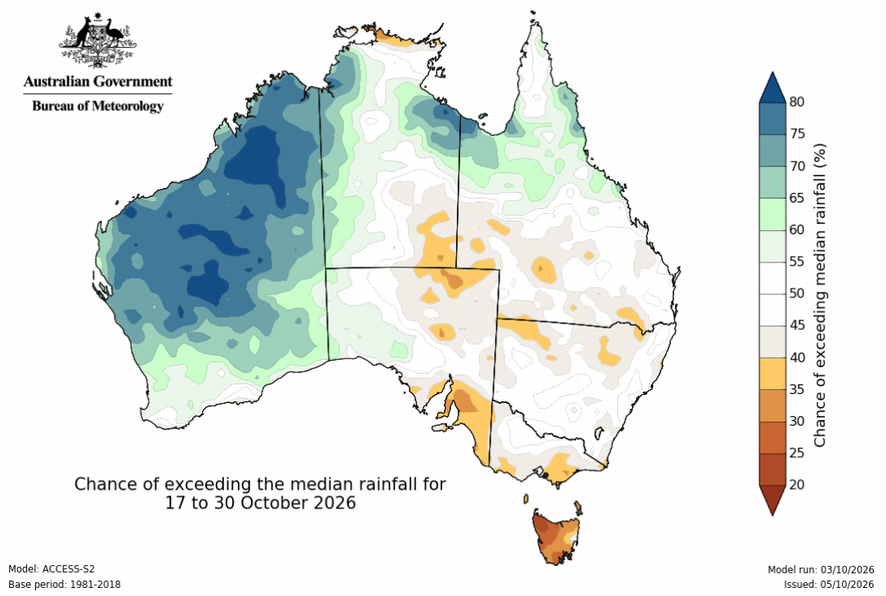
Recent Conditions

September rainfall was very much below average for large parts of **southern Queensland**, **New South Wales**, **southern Victoria**, **eastern Tasmania**, **southern South Australia**, and **central and lower west areas of Western Australia**. Areas of interior **Western Australia, the far north of Queensland** and the **gulf region of the Northern Territory** were the exception, receiving very much above average rainfall.

Maximum temperature anomalies for September were up to 4 to 5 degrees above average for **central-southern Queensland** extending to **northern and central New South Wales.** The remainder of the country also experienced above average temperatures with the exception of an area of **far north Queensland, north-eastern Northern Territory** and **far northern Western Australia.** For the same period, significantly warmer than average **minimum temperatures** were experienced across large parts of the interior of **Western Australia**, extending into **western and 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, north-eastern Tasmania, and south-west Western Australia.**

Fortnightly Rainfall Outlook 17 to 30 October 2026



Agriculture Watch Points

→	Recent rain in the **Western Australian grain belt**, was welcomed for southern crops, and has improved soil moisture for parts of the Central Wheat Belt and Great Southern region. Heat and a rapid finish are now the main yield and quality risks for southern cropping districts, while northern crops are well advanced, with some canola harvest underway, meaning further rain offers limited yield benefit and may increasingly disrupt harvest.
↓	Winter crop harvest is progressing across **southern Queensland** and **northern New South Wales** despite dry conditions. Cotton planting is underway, but lower water allocations due to dry conditions are constraining irrigated areas in the **Macintyre, Darling Downs, Gwydir, St George and Macquarie** regions. With no strong October rainfall signal, dryland cotton and sorghum planting will be increasingly dependent on timely rain at planting to rebuild soil moisture. Horticulture producers in the **Stanthorpe** region using irrigated water from dams or recycled water are reporting an emerging risk to water quality levels as rainfall deficiencies continue and reduced community water consumption impacts overall water amounts into reuse systems. Producers will be hopeful of the October to December forecast for above average rainfall to emerge in the **south-east Queensland** and **northern New South Wales regions**.
↓	Root zone soil moisture remains very much below average for the **Northern Tablelands** and **North-West Slopes and Plains** regions of **New South Wales** after experiencing very much below average annual rainfall (around 40% of average), Livestock producers are actively destocking sheep and cattle for market or agistment and would be wary of dry conditions and vegetation increasing the risk of fires.
→	**Victoria's Gippsland** region experienced rainfall totals of 50 to 100mm in the past week, easing **soil moisture** deficits and shifting concerns from a hot, increasingly dry finish to the season, to risks of flooding, with several flood warnings in place for the region. The rain will benefit wheat and canola crops, but prolonged inundation and waterlogging could damage dairy pastures and restrict paddock access. The rain has come too late to fully recover dryland pasture growth, and some crops have been cut for silage. See month to date rainfall **here.**
→	Producers in **Tasmania's southern Midlands and Derwent Valley** regions have employed strategic irrigation for vineyards, potatoes and poppy crops as root zone soil moisture remains very much below average, evapotranspiration increases under warmer than average temperatures, and water allocations are reduced under a long-range forecast for below average rainfall.
↑	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

