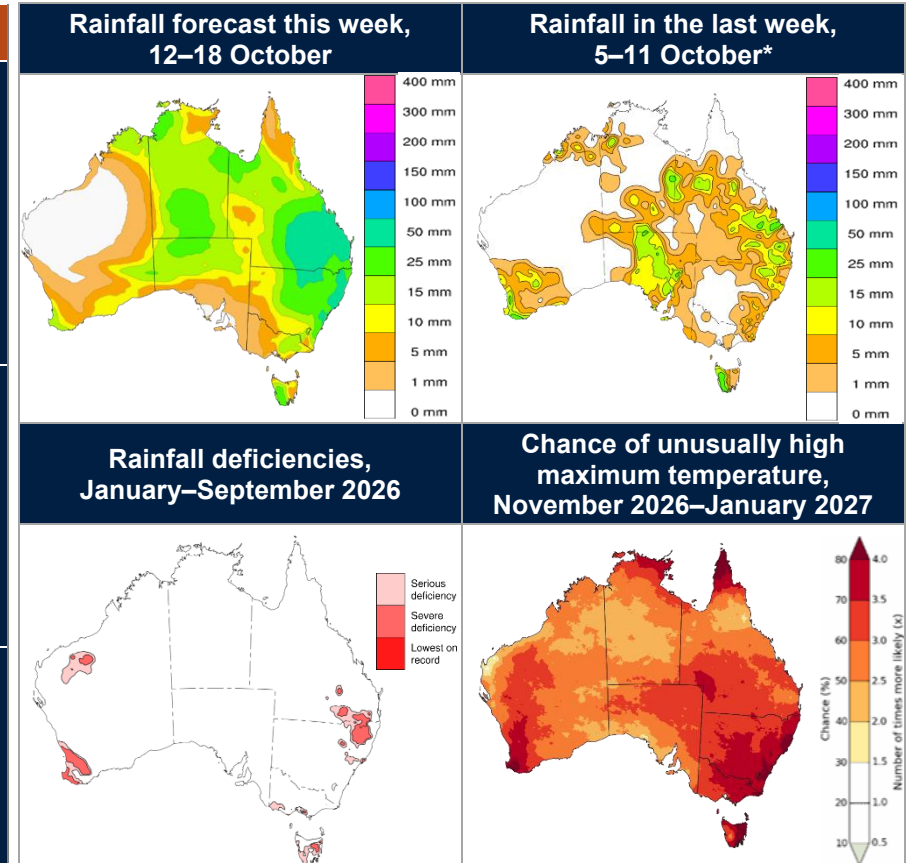
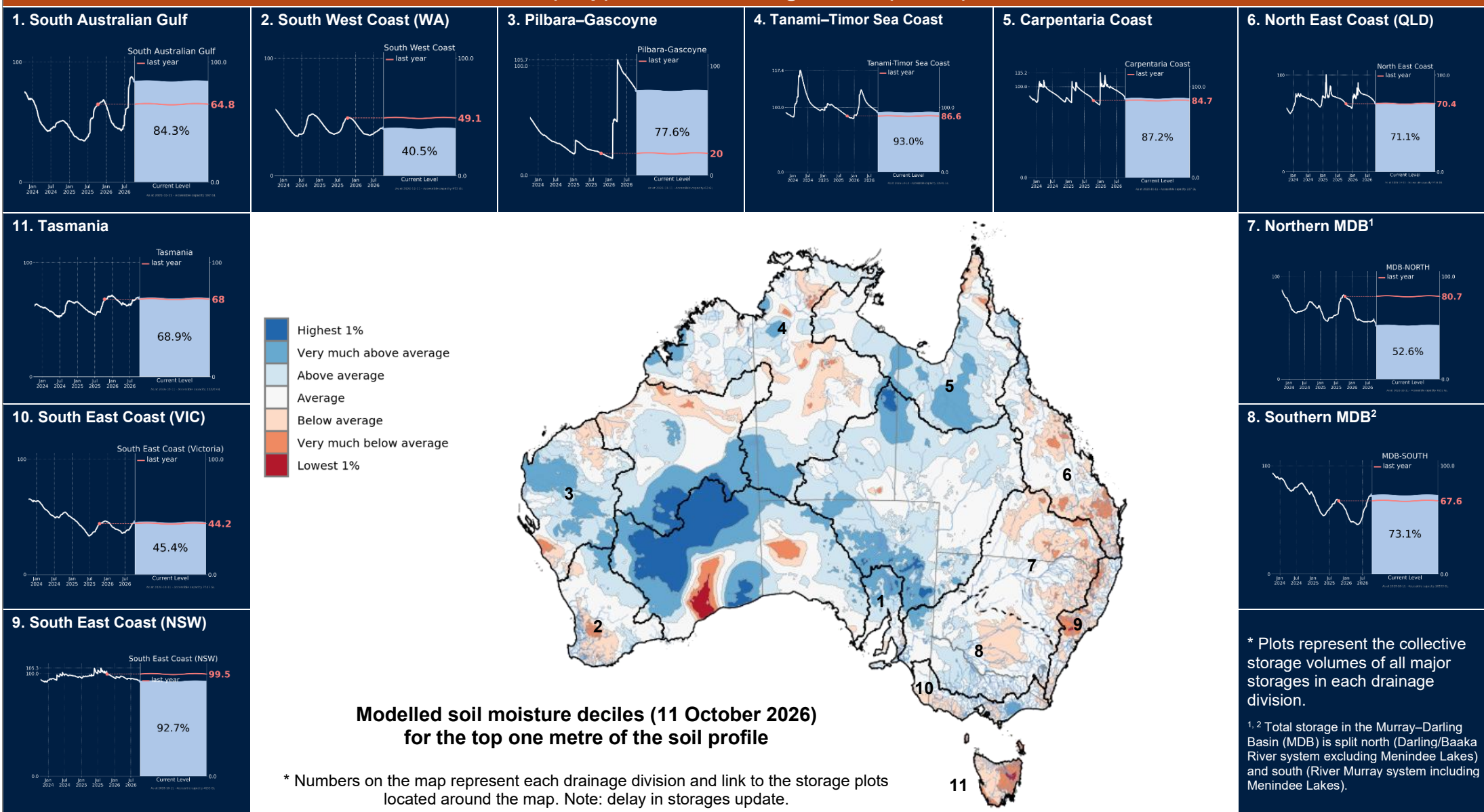




Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Monday 12 October 2026

Root zone soil moisture (map) and water storage levels (charts) as of 11 October 2026

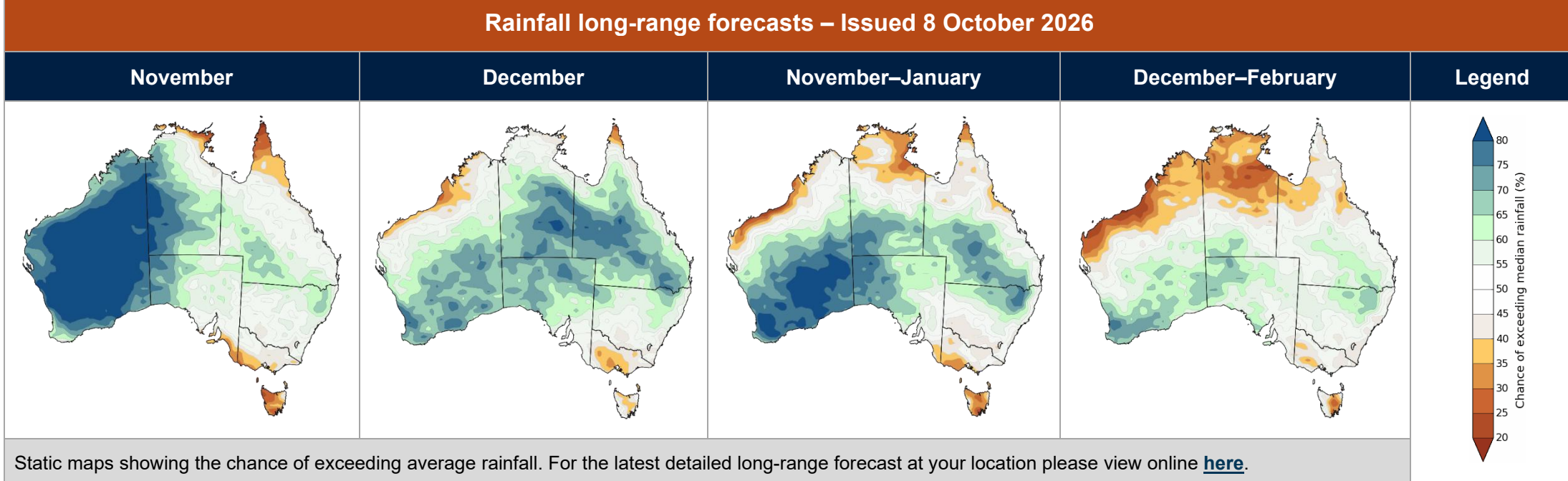


* Includes the seven days of rainfall to 9:00am on Sunday.

Key Points

- Widespread severe storm risk over the eastern states today, along with [Damaging Winds](#). [Extreme Fire Danger](#) is forecast for the Greater Sydney Region, with hot and dry conditions leading to elevated fire danger ratings. Keep up to date with [Warnings](#).
- October to April is the peak time for [severe weather](#) in Australia, including [thunderstorms](#), [tropical cyclones](#), [flooding](#), [heatwaves](#) and [bushfires](#).
- For the January to September 2026 period, areas with severe or serious rainfall deficiencies include the south-west and the Pilbara–Gascoyne region in Western Australia, parts of Tasmania, small areas in southern Victoria, and parts of south-eastern Queensland into north-eastern New South Wales.
- Moderate rainfall totals forecast in eastern Australia over the coming week may offer short-term relief but are unlikely to clear these deficiencies in the east.
- There is an increased likelihood of unusually high maximum temperatures across much of Australia, with the highest chances across areas in eastern New South Wales, far eastern Victoria, eastern Tasmania and far northern Cape York Peninsula.
- For November to January, rainfall is likely to be above average across areas of western and central Australia as well as parts of the east. Below average rainfall is likely in the north and south-east.
- Below-average [root-zone soil moisture](#) is likely for parts of eastern, south-eastern and far south-western Australia during [November](#), contracting to the south-east in [December](#).

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.





Weekly Agriculture, Climate and Water Update – Monday 12 October 2026

Agriculture and climate conditions assessment as of 12 October 2026

- November to January rainfall is likely (60% to greater than 80% chance) to be above average across most of the **southern and central Western Australia** extending into **southern Northern Territory**, **western and northern South Australia**, and **inland southern Queensland** and **northern New South Wales**.
- Below average rainfall is likely (60 to 80% chance) from November to January for most of **Tasmania** as well as parts of **Victoria**, **Northern Territory's Top End** and coast around the **Gulf of Carpentaria**, **northern Queensland** and **northwestern coastal Western Australia**. For most other areas of **northern Australia** and the **south-east**, there are roughly equal chances of above or below average rainfall for November to January. During this outlook period, **northern Australia** typically experiences increasing humidity, storms, and showers. For November, the wet signal in **Western Australia** is more pronounced, extending across much of the state. The chance of above average rainfall for parts of **Queensland** and **New South Wales** is higher later in the outlook period than in November.
- The bureau's [long-range forecast](#) responds to all ongoing changes in our climate systems and seasonal outlooks are updated weekly.

Recent Conditions		Agriculture Watch Points			
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. Recent rainfall of 25-100 mm was recorded across Victoria, south-eastern South Australia, southern and inland New South Wales and northern Tasmania, with some eastern Victorian districts exceeding 100 mm.			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. Northern crops are well advanced, with some canola harvest underway, meaning further rain offers limited yield benefit and may increasingly disrupt harvest.		
			Cotton planting is progressing and early crops are now emerging, although reduced water allocations remain constraining irrigated area across the Macintyre, Darling Downs, Gwydir, St George and Macquarie valleys. Without widespread October rainfall, dryland cotton and sorghum planting opportunities will remain limited by low topsoil moisture.	Horticulture producers in the Stanthorpe region irrigating 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 recent rainfall totals in excess of 150 mm, easing soil moisture deficits, however it is now recovering from widespread flooding and waterlogging. The rain has benefited wheat and canola crops, but prolonged inundation and waterlogging will result in damage to 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. Grazing enterprises will still be focused on conserving surplus feed, and animal health issues with moist pastures and milder temperatures. 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, water use increases under warmer than average temperatures, and water allocations are reduced under a long- range forecast for below average rainfall.		
			Rainfall during the past week generally improved spring grain-fill conditions across Victoria, South Australia and southern New South Wales , with most cropping districts receiving timely moisture at a critical stage of yield determination. Localised waterlogging, lodging and hay quality concerns were reported in paddocks receiving the highest totals, but agricultural impacts were predominantly positive.		



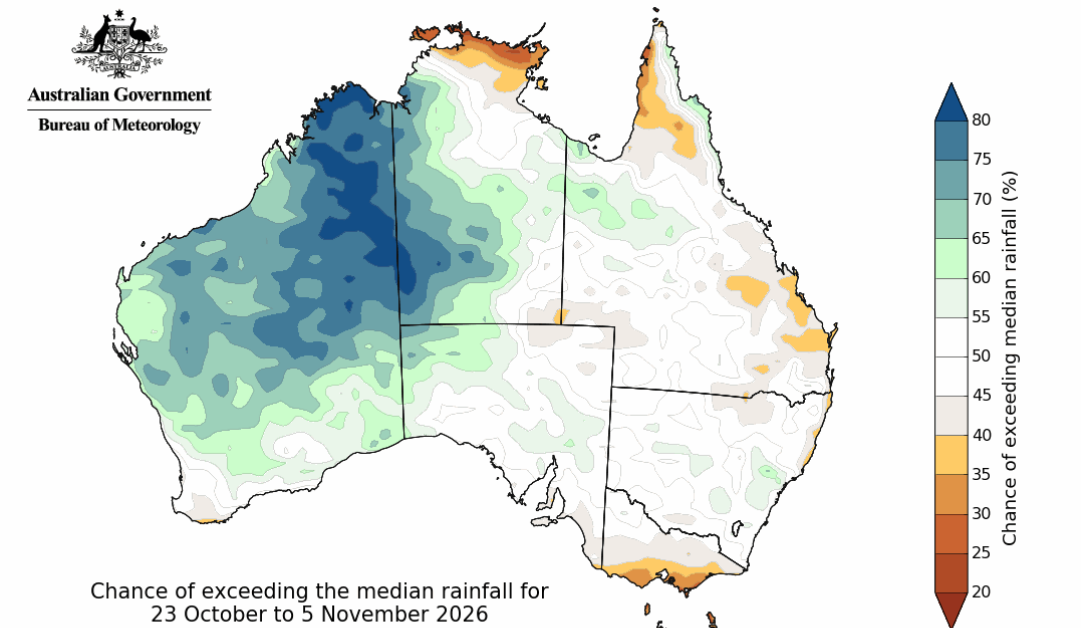
Conditions improving



Conditions unchanged



Conditions degrading



Chance of exceeding the median rainfall for 23 October to 5 November 2026

Model: ACCESS-S2
Base period: 1981-2018

Model run: 09/10/2026
Issued: 11/10/2026

