

Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
(ABARES)

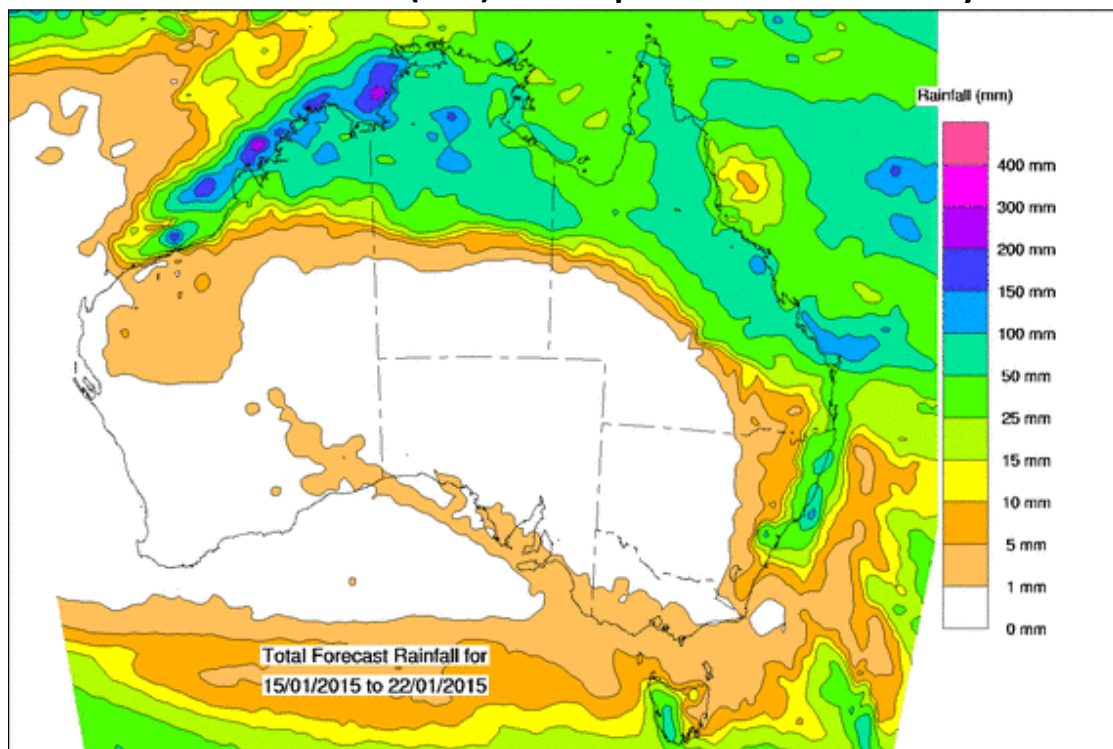
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Summary of key issues relevant for NSW:

- Rainfall was recorded across large areas of northern, central and south eastern Australia in the week ending 14 January 2015.
- Rainfalls in excess of 25 millimetres were recorded across northern areas of Western Australia, much of the Northern Territory, northern and western Queensland, and much of eastern South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.
- Maximum temperatures were below average across much of Australia during the week ending 13 January 2015. Temperatures recorded in central Australia reached between 8 and 10 degrees below the average.
- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased this week by 69 gigalitres (GL) and are at 51 per cent of total capacity. This is 15 percentage points or 3311 GL less than this time last year.

Total forecast rainfall (mm) for the period 15 to 22 January 2015

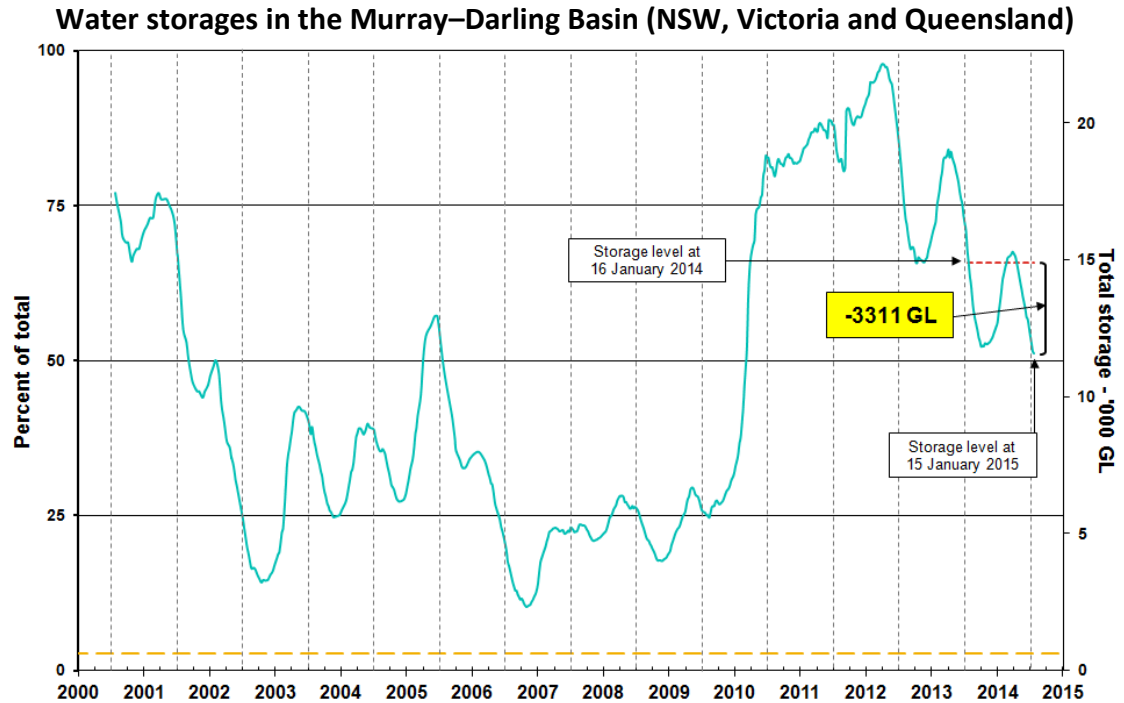


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Water availability

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased this week by 69 gigalitres (GL) and are at 51 per cent of total capacity. This is 15 percentage points or 3311 GL less than this time last year.



Information on irrigation water available in the Murray–Darling Basin from 1 January 2001 to 15 January 2015 is shown above. The top horizontal (short dash) line indicates the storage level at the similar time last year. The bottom horizontal (long dash) line indicates the amount of ‘dead’ or unusable storage.

Developments in indicator prices for agricultural commodities:

Commodity	Average Price	Percentage Change
Sugar	US 14.9 cents a pound	2.75 % higher
Wheat (red winter)	USD \$ 267 a tonne	3.61 % lower
Canola (Rapeseed)	USD \$ 433 a tonne	0.69 % lower
Cotton (Cotlook 'A')	US 68.1 cents a pound	0.30 % lower