

# Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
(ABARES)

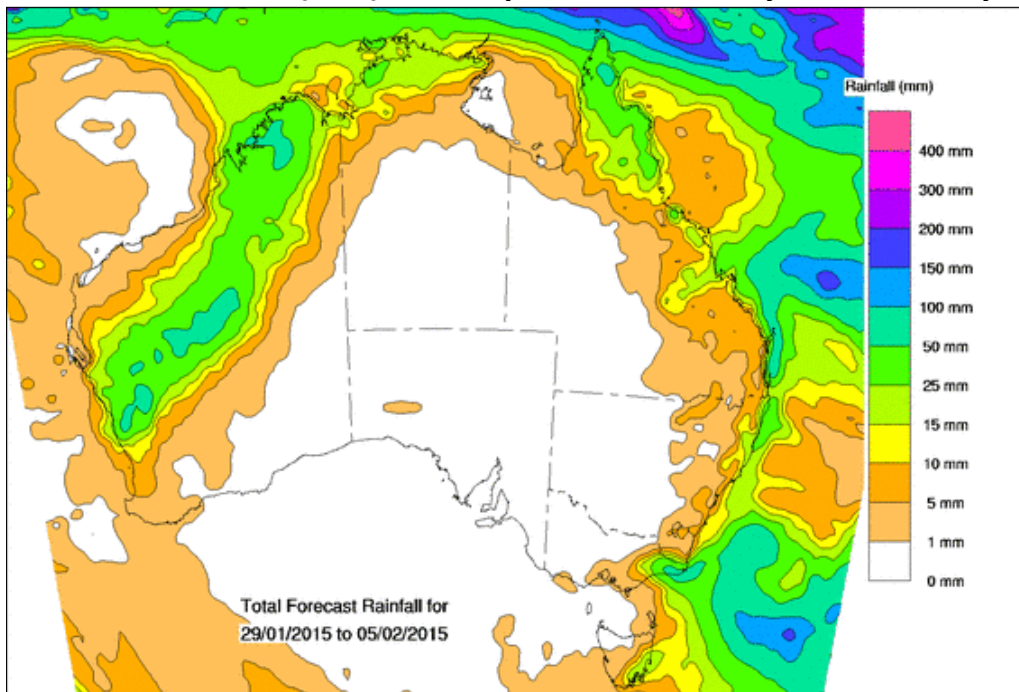
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### Summary of key issues relevant for NSW:

- For week ending 28 January 2015 rainfall in excess of 25 millimetres was recorded across central and northern areas of Western Australia, the top end of Northern Territory, across northern and eastern Queensland, eastern New South Wales and western Tasmania.
- The February 2015 rainfall outlook suggests that drier than average conditions are more likely over much of Australia.
- The rainfall outlook for the period February to April 2015 indicates that drier than average conditions are more likely across much of Western Australia, southern parts of the Northern Territory, a large area surrounding the Queensland-New South Wales-South Australian border, and an area covering western and central Victoria, extending into South Australia
- Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased this week by 247 gigalitres (GL) and are at 49 per cent of total capacity. This is 13 percentage points or 2919 GL less than this time last year.

### Total forecast rainfall (mm) for the period 29 January to 5 February 2015



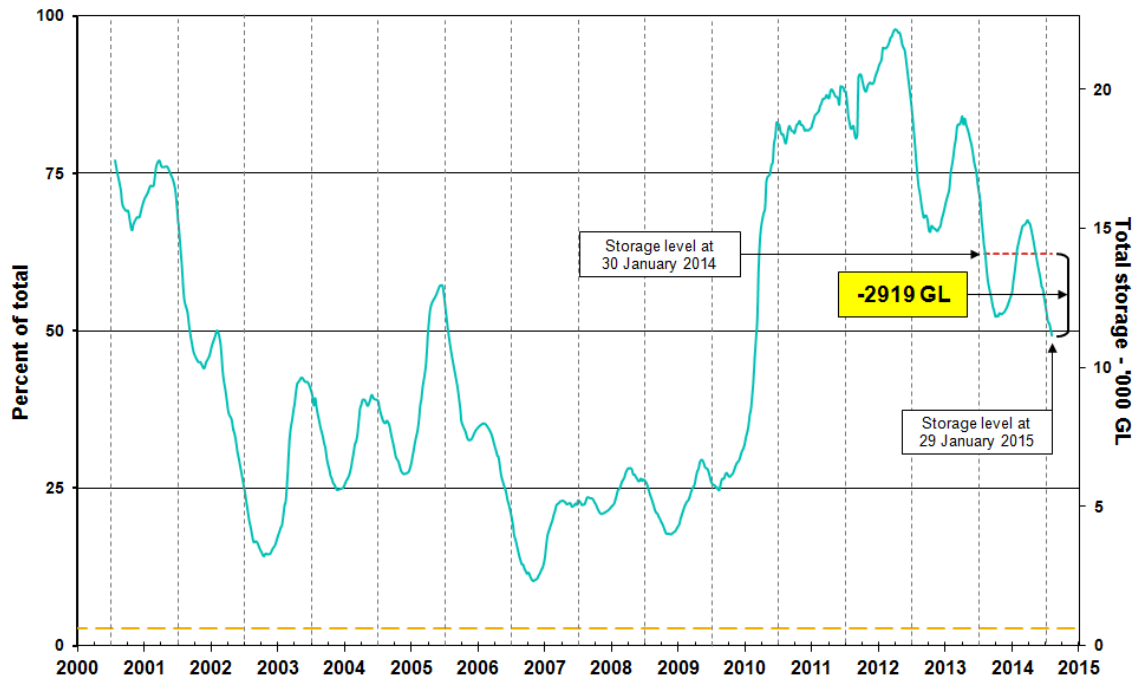
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## Water availability

Water storage levels in the Murray–Darling Basin (MDB) decreased this week by 247 gigalitres (GL) and are at 49 per cent of total capacity. This is 13 percentage points or 2919 GL less than this time last year.

## Water storages in the Murray–Darling Basin (NSW, Victoria and Queensland)



Information on irrigation water available in the Murray–Darling Basin from 1 January 2001 to 29 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 15.4 cents a pound	1.20 % lower
Wheat (red winter)	USD \$ 254 a tonne	2.30 % lower
Canola (Rapeseed)	USD \$ 414 a tonne	2.58 % lower
Cotton (Cotlook 'A')	US 66 cents a pound	1.51 % lower