

Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
(ABARES)

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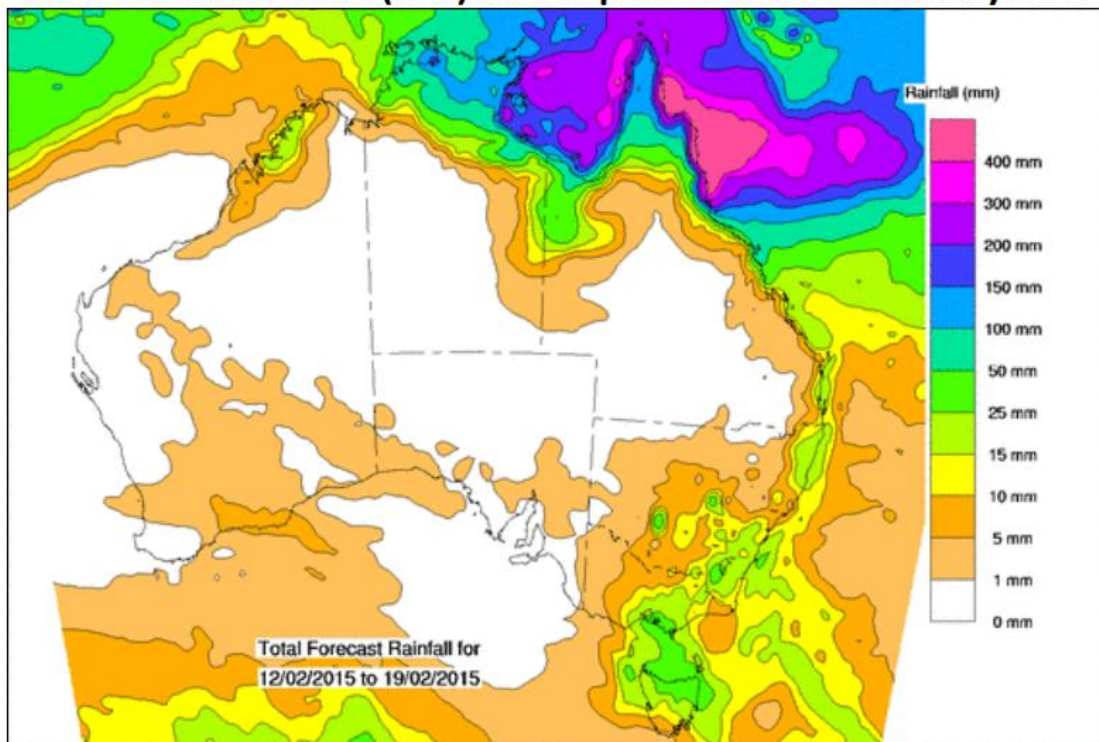
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Summary of key issues relevant for NSW:

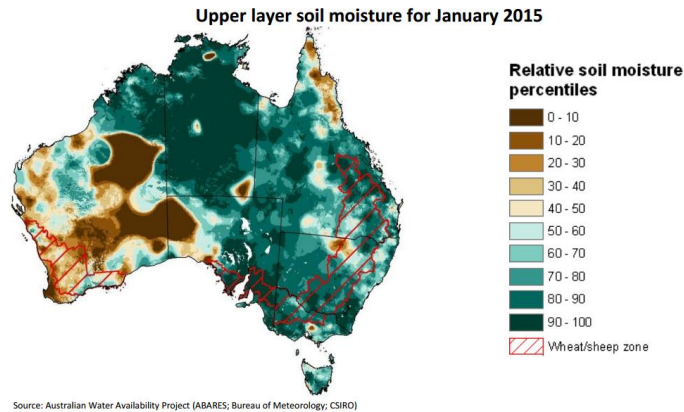
- During the week ending 11 February 2015 rainfall was mainly recorded across northern and eastern Australia. Rainfall in excess of 25 mm was recorded in coastal NSW.
- Above average January 2015 rainfall across much of south-eastern Australia has significantly reduced rainfall deficiencies for the 7 month period (July 2014 to January 2015) in north-western Victoria and adjacent parts of southern NSW and south-eastern South Australia.

Total forecast rainfall (mm) for the period 12 to 19 February 2015

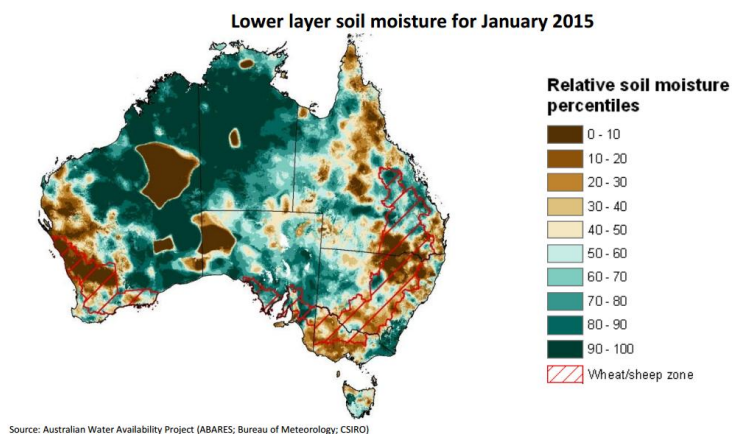


Soil Moisture

- Relative upper layer soil moisture for January 2015 was predominantly above average to extremely high across much of eastern Australia. Across summer cropping regions in Queensland and northern NSW, relative upper layer soil moisture was predominantly well above average. This pattern of relative upper layer soil moisture reflects rainfall received to the end of January 2015.

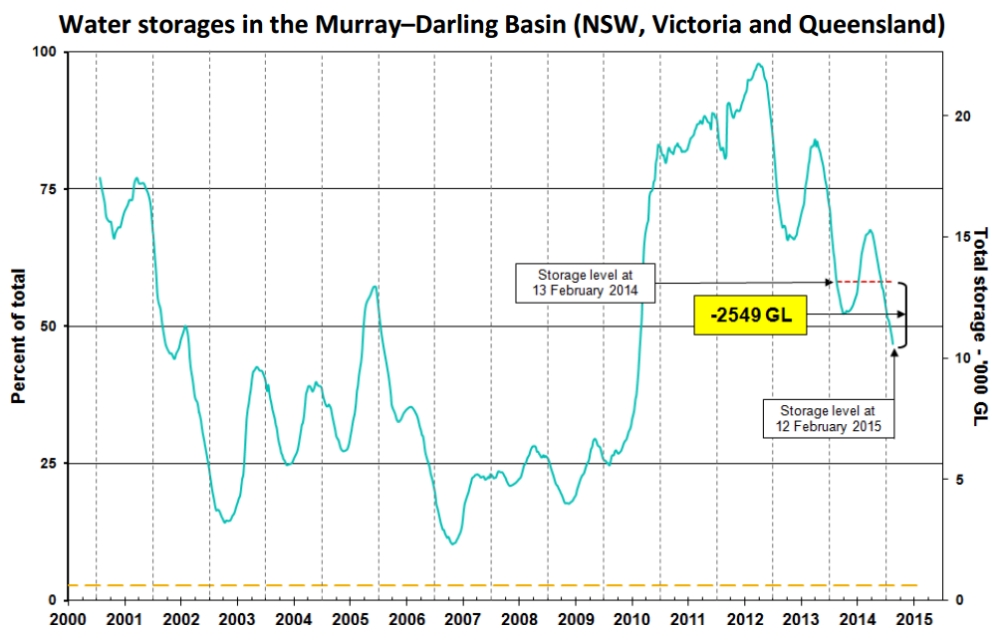


- Relative lower layer soil moisture for January 2015 was predominantly above average to extremely high across much of central Australia. Across the central Queensland cropping region relative lower layer soil moisture was largely average to above average, with largely below average to extremely low relative lower layer soil moisture in southern QLD and northern NSW cropping regions. Southern NSW and VIC show variable relative lower layer soil moisture, although levels tend toward below average. Meanwhile, relative lower layer soil moisture levels remain above average across much of South Australia.



Water availability

- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin decreased this week by 320 GL to approximately 47% of total capacity. This is 11% less than this time last year.



Water allocations

- The current water allocations for the 2014-15 water trading season for licence holders in NSW are summarised in the following table.
 - General security (A class) allocations have increased in NSW for the Border Rivers.

	Allocations at 22 January 2015 (%)		11 February 2015 (%)	
	General security	High security	General security	High security
New South Wales				
NSW Murray Valley	49*	97	49*	97
NSW Murrumbidgee Valley	40*	95	40*	95
NSW Lower Darling	100*	100	100*	100
NSW Macquarie and Cudgegong Valley	2*	100	2*	100
NSW Hunter Valley	100	100	100	100
NSW Lachlan Valley	0*	100	0*	100
NSW Lower Namoi	0*	100	0*	100
NSW Upper Namoi	100*	100	100*	100
NSW Gwydir Valley	0*	100	0*	100
NSW Border Rivers	28.2 ^a /0 ^b	100	67.1 ^a /0 ^b	100
NSW Peel Valley	0*	50	0*	50

Developments in indicator prices for agricultural commodities:

Commodity	Average Price	Percentage Change
Sugar	US 14.6 cents a pound	unchanged
Wheat (red winter)	USD \$ 255 a tonne	3.24 % higher
Canola (Rapeseed)	USD \$ 411 a tonne	1.99 % higher
Cotton (Cotlook 'A')	US 69.1 cents a pound	2.22 % higher