

Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
(ABARES)

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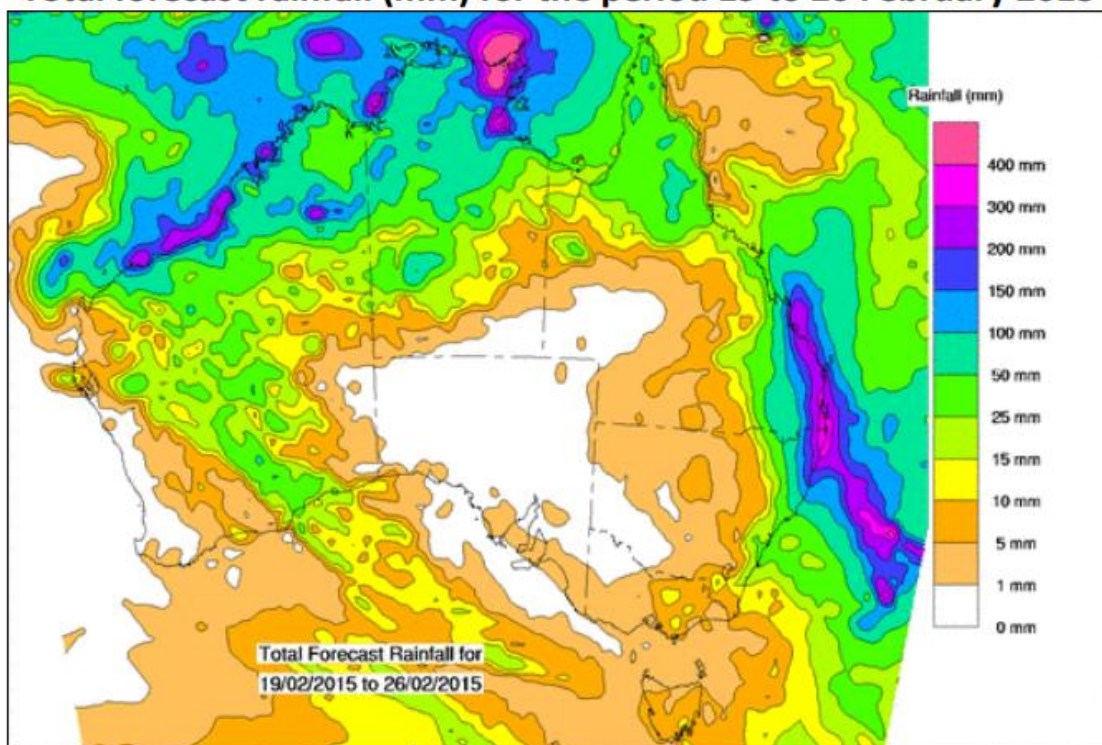
Stefanie Schulte
Policy Manager

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Summary of key issues relevant for NSW:

- During the week ending 18 February 2015 rainfall was mainly recorded across eastern Australia. Rainfall in excess of 25 mm were recorded in the north east and southern NSW.
- Maximum temperatures were above average for most of Australia during the week ending 17 February 2015. Maximum temperatures in parts of NSW were between 6 and 8 degrees above average for this time of year.
- The forecast for the next eight days indicates that rainfall is likely across eastern Queensland and north-eastern NSW.

Total forecast rainfall (mm) for the period 19 to 26 February 2015

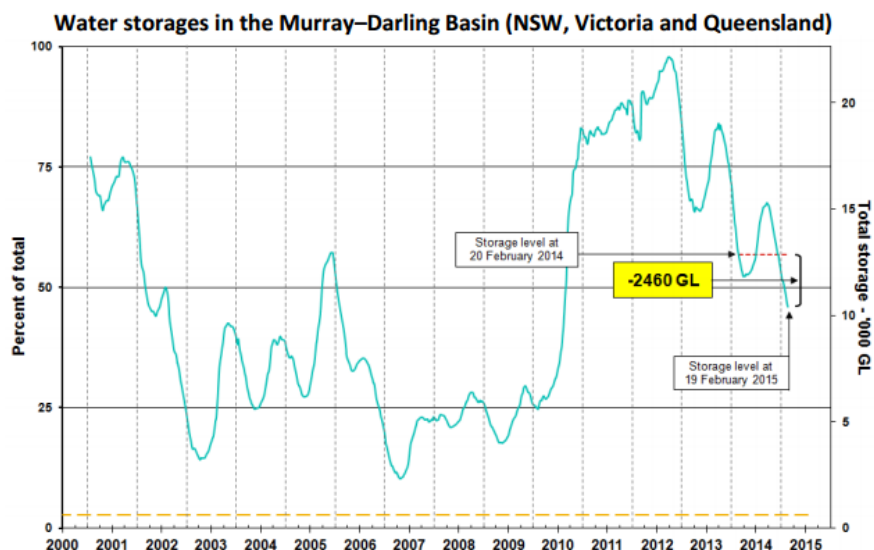


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Water availability

- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin decreased this week by 176 GL to approximately 46% 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 allocations have increased in NSW for the Murray Valley and the Murrumbidgee Valley

	Allocations at 11 February 2015 (%)		19 February 2015 (%)	
	General security	High security	General security	High security
New South Wales				
NSW Murray Valley	53*	97	59*	97
NSW Murrumbidgee Valley	49*	95	51*	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	67.1 ^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 15 cents a pound	2.74 % higher
Wheat (red winter)	USD \$ 255 a tonne	unchanged
Canola (Rapeseed)	USD \$ 412 a tonne	0.24 % higher
Cotton (Cotlook 'A')	US 69.8 cents a pound	1.01 % higher