

Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
(ABARES)

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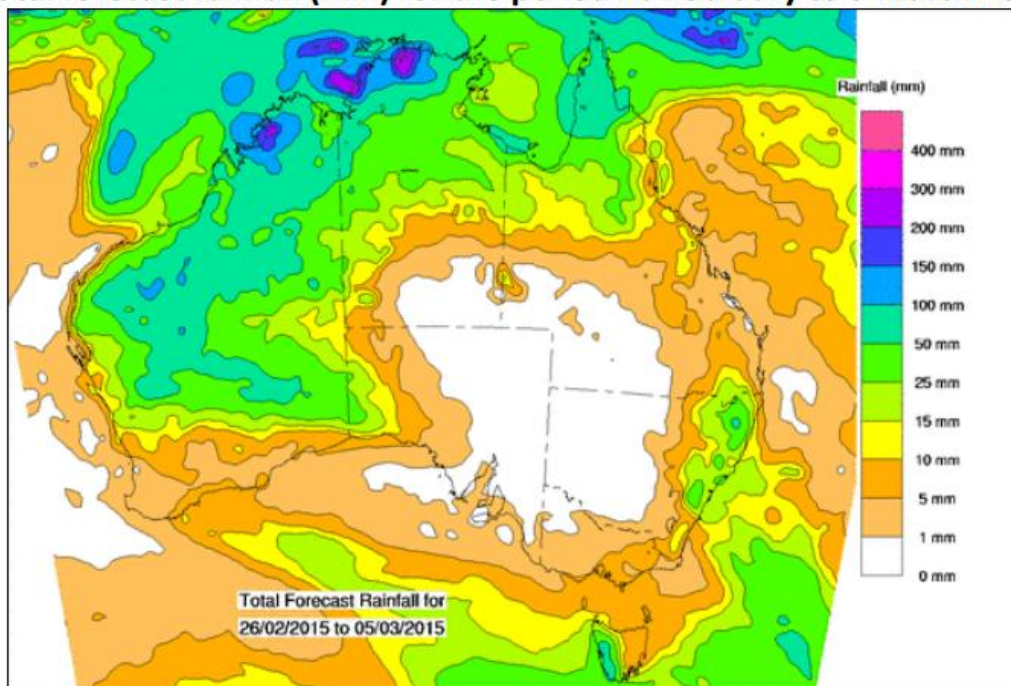
Stefanie Schulte
Policy Manager

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Summary of key issues relevant for NSW:

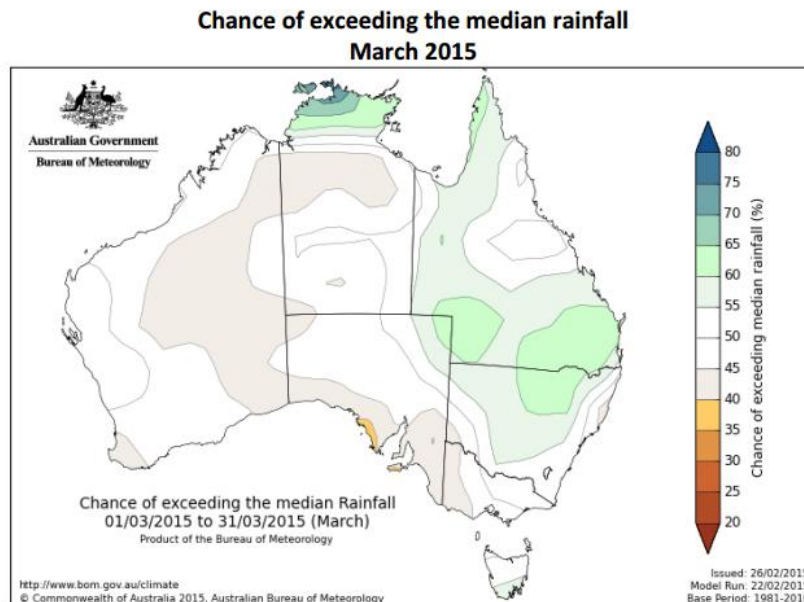
- During the week ending 25 February 2015 rainfall was recorded across eastern Australia. Rainfalls in excess of 25 mm was recorded across north-eastern and southern NSW and eastern VIC.
- Severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia crossed the central Queensland coast and moved southerly bringing heavy rainfall to south-east QLD and north-east NSW.
- Maximum temperatures were above average in parts of Australia during the week ending 24 February 2015 (maximum temperatures in these areas were between 4 and 6 degrees above average for this time of year).
- Minimum temperatures were slightly above average in most of south-eastern Australia during the week ending 24 February 2015.

Total forecast rainfall (mm) for the period 26 February to 5 March 2015

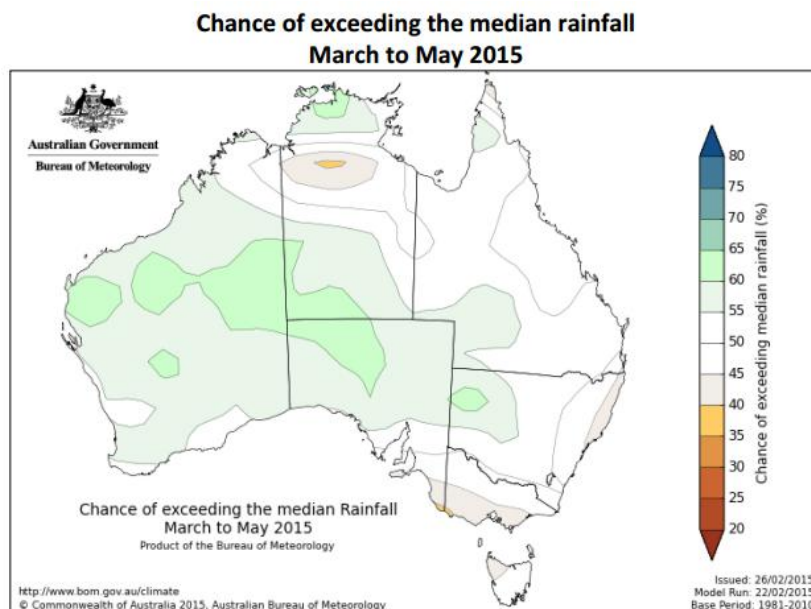


Climate Outlook

- The March rainfall outlook suggests that there is an increased change of wetter than average conditions across NSW.

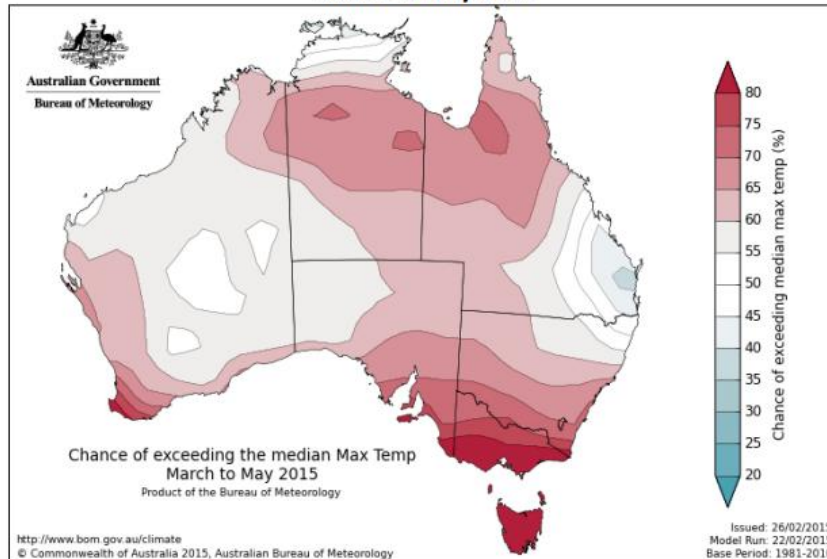


- The rainfall outlook for autumn 2015 (March to May 2015) indicates that wetter than average conditions are more likely across the north-west of NSW.

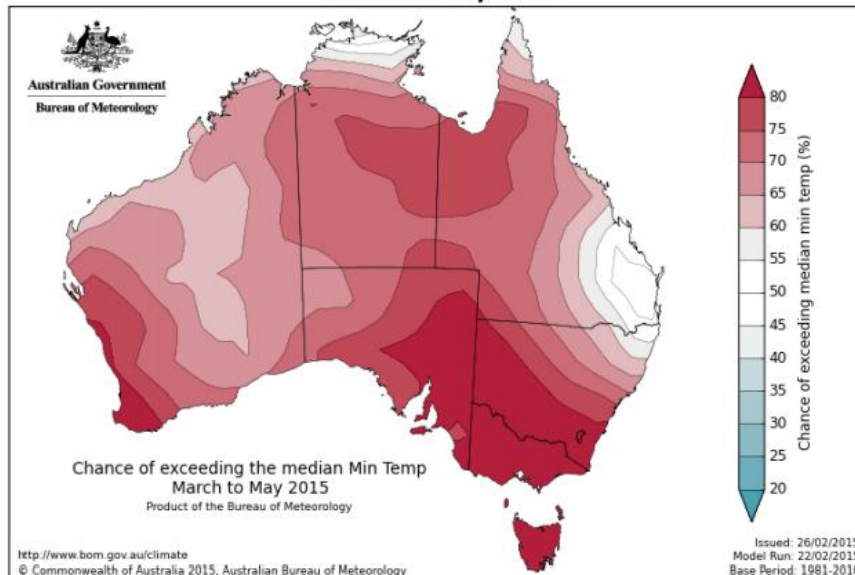


- The three-month temperature outlook indicates warmer than average maximum temperatures are likely across the south-east of Australia. Minimum temperatures are likely to be warmer than normal for most of Australia, except for the south-east of QLD.

**Chance of exceeding the median maximum temperature
March to May 2015**

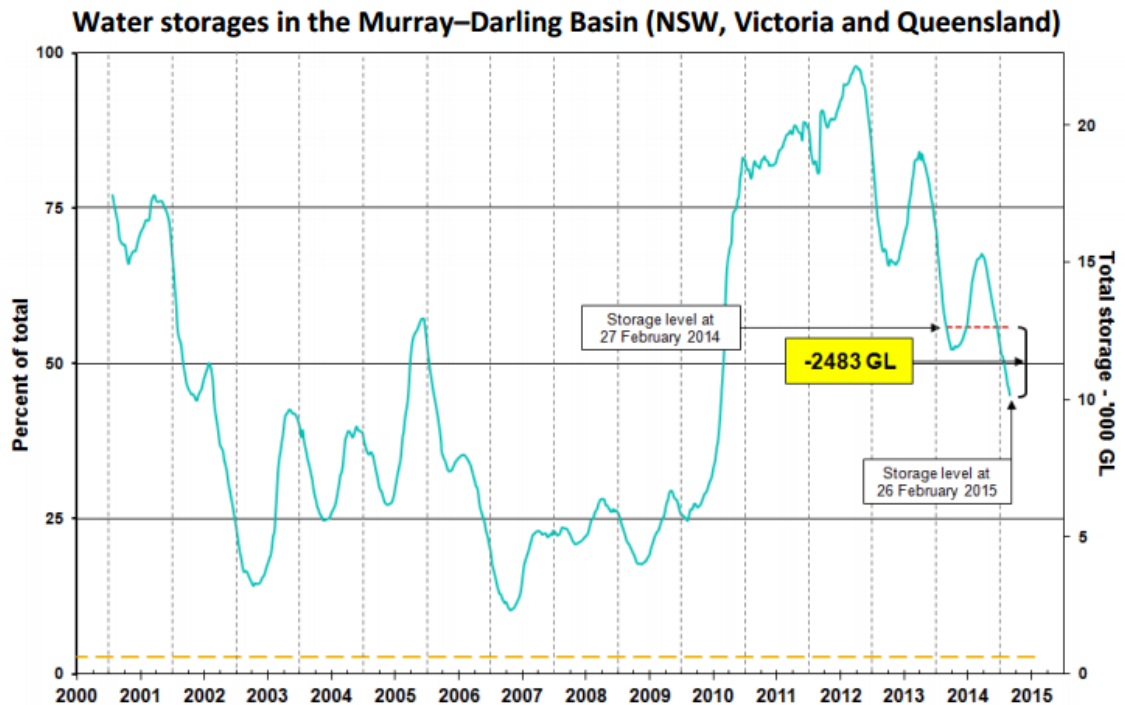


**Chance of exceeding the median minimum temperature
March to May 2015**



Water availability

- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin decreased this week by 241 GL to approximately 45% of total capacity. This is 11% less than this time last year.



Developments in indicator prices for agricultural commodities:

Commodity	Average Price	Percentage Change
Sugar	US 14.3 cents a pound	4.67 % lower
Wheat (red winter)	USD \$ 246 a tonne	3.53 % lower
Canola (Rapeseed)	USD \$ 414 a tonne	0.49 % higher
Cotton (Cotlook 'A')	US 71.1 cents a pound	0.43 % higher