

# Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
(ABARES)

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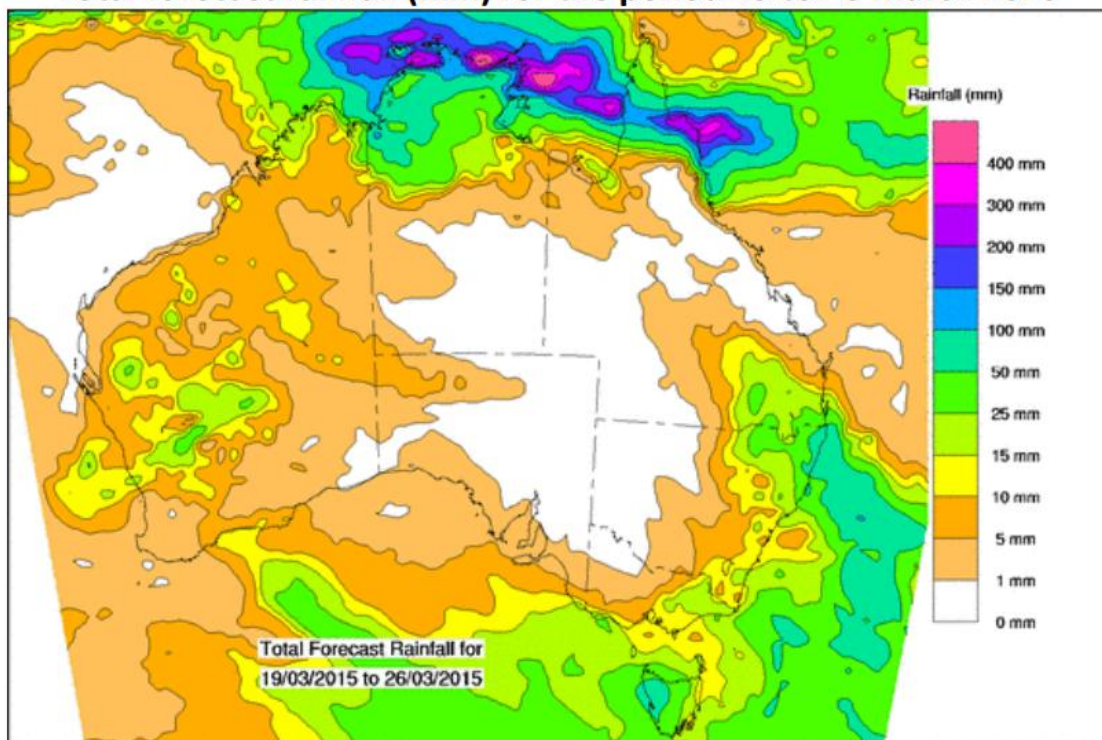
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### Summary of key issues relevant for NSW:

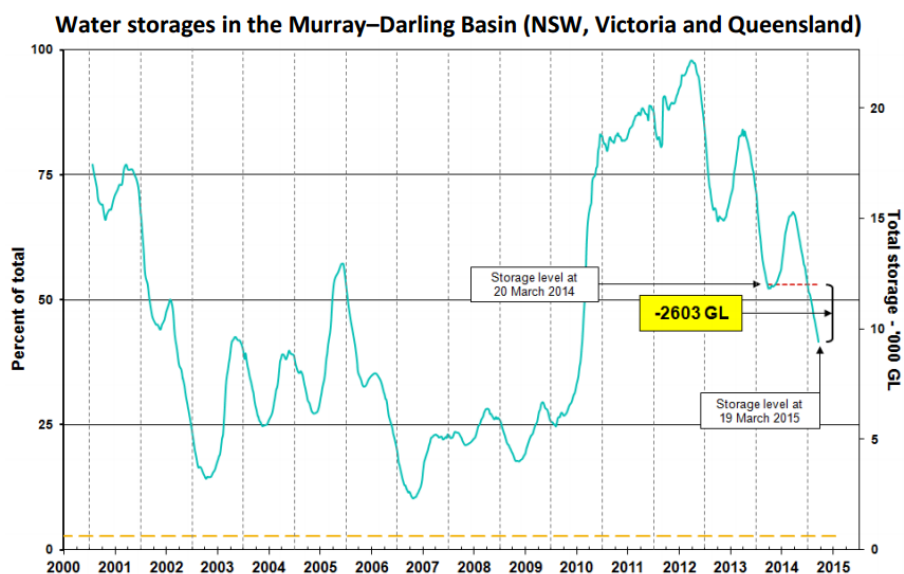
- During the week ending 18 March 2015 rainfall was recorded across western, northern and eastern Australia.
- Maximum temperatures were above average over most of Australia during the week ending 17 March 2015.
- The forecast for the next eight days indicates that rainfall is likely to be restricted to parts of western, northern and eastern Australia.
- The past fortnight has seen unusual climatic conditions in the tropical Pacific, which may increase the chance of El Niño in 2015. The development of tropical storms on either side of the equator has produced one of the strongest reversals in the trade winds in recent years. This change is expected to increase the already warm sub-surface temperatures currently observed in the tropical Pacific Ocean, which may in turn raise tropical Pacific Ocean surface temperatures in the coming months.

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



## Water availability

- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin decreased this week by 272 GL to approximately 42% of total capacity. This is 12% 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 table below.
  - General security allocations have increased in NSW Murray.

|                                    | Allocations at 19 February 2015 (%) |               | Allocations at 19 March 2015 (%)   |               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
|                                    | General security                    | High security | General security                   | High security |
| <b>New South Wales</b>             |                                     |               |                                    |               |
| NSW Murray Valley                  | 59*                                 | 97            | 61*                                | 97            |
| NSW Murrumbidgee Valley            | 51*                                 | 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 <sup>a</sup> / 0 <sup>b</sup>  | 100           | 67.1 <sup>a</sup> / 0 <sup>b</sup> | 100           |
| NSW Peel Valley                    | 0*                                  | 50            | 0*                                 | 50            |

**Developments in indicator prices for agricultural commodities:**

| <b>Commodity</b>     | <b>Average Price</b>  | <b>Percentage Change</b> |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Sugar                | US 12.9 cents a pound | 3.01 % lower             |
| Wheat (red winter)   | USD \$ 249 a tonne    | 3.32 % higher            |
| Canola (Rapeseed)    | USD \$ 400 a tonne    | 0.99 % lower             |
| Cotton (Cotlook 'A') | US 69.2 cents a pound | 3.91 % lower             |