

Weekly Australian Climate, Water and Agricultural Update

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
(ABARES)

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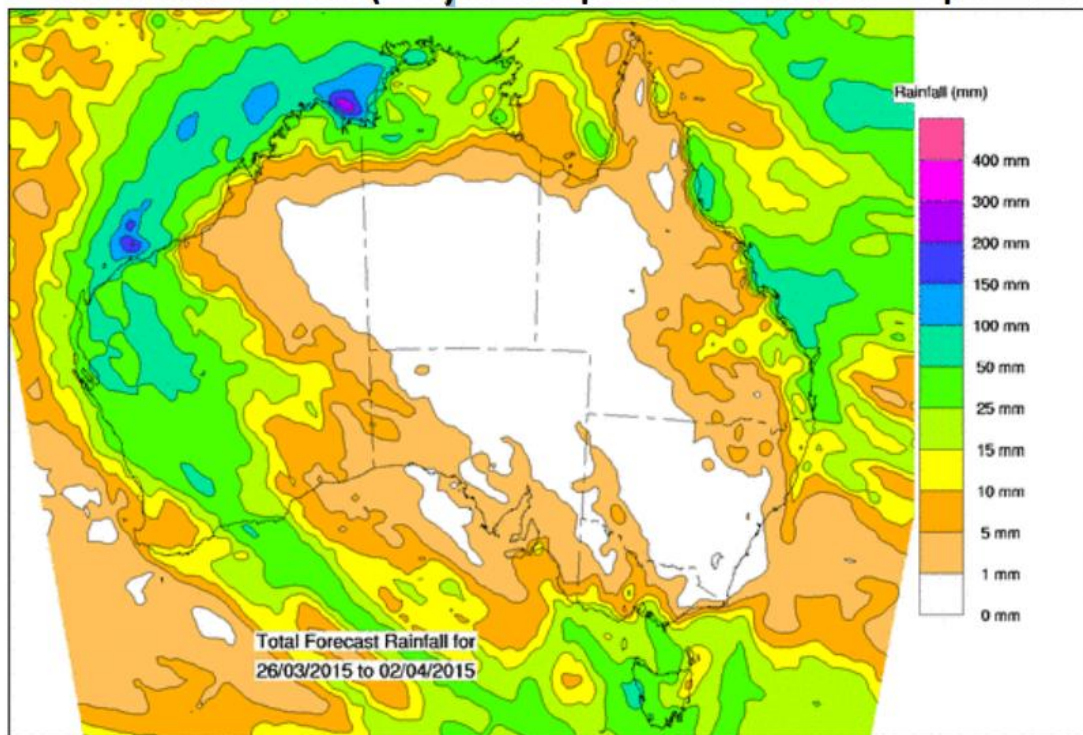
Stefanie Schulte
Policy Manager

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Summary of key issues relevant for NSW:

- During the week ending 25 March 2015 rainfall was mainly recorded across northern and eastern Australia. Rainfall in excess of 25 mm was recorded in parts of eastern NSW.
- Maximum temperatures were above average over much of eastern Australia during the week ending 24 March 2015.
- The forecast for the next eight days indicates that rainfall is likely to be restricted to western and northern Australia.

Total forecast rainfall (mm) for the period 26 March to 2 April 2015

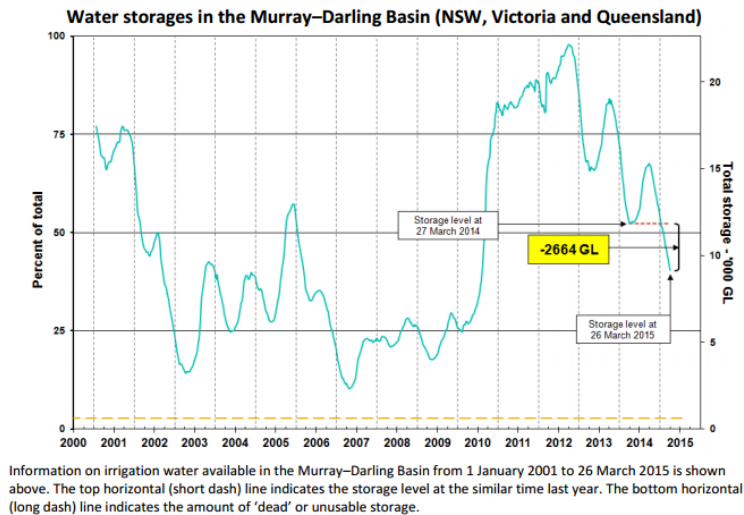


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Water availability

- Water storage levels in the Murray-Darling Basin decreased this week by 255 GL to approximately 40% of total capacity. This is 12% less than this time last year.

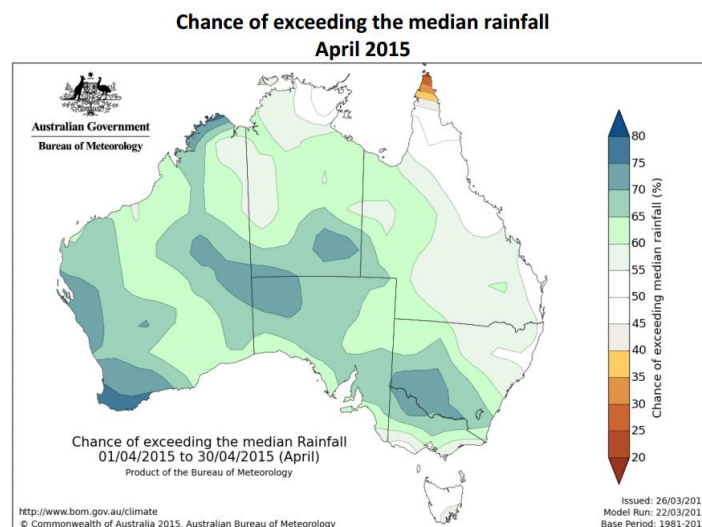


National Climate Outlook

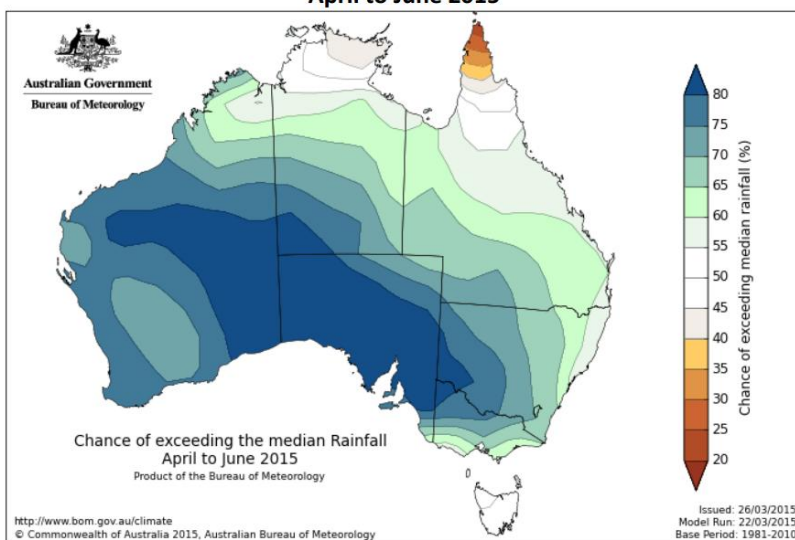
- The Bureau of Meteorology has released a national climate outlook under <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/about/>

The Bureau notes that both the monthly and seasonal outlooks are being influenced by warmer than normal sea surface temperatures surrounding Australia. These warmer-than-normal SSTs extend into the eastern half of the Indian Ocean and this is likely to be influencing minimum temperature outlooks and the rainfall outlook, with both indicating a higher chance of the season being warmer and wetter, respectively.

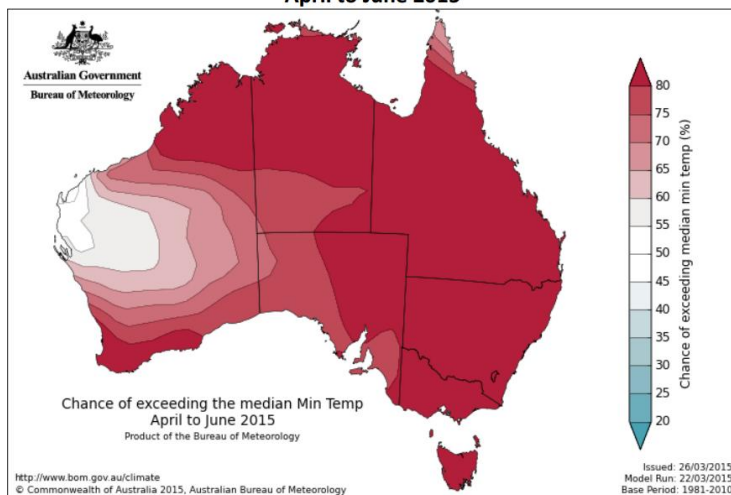
The April 2015 rainfall outlook suggests that there is an increased chance of wetter than average conditions across much of mainland Australia.



**Chance of exceeding the median rainfall
April to June 2015**



**Chance of exceeding the median minimum temperature
April to June 2015**



Developments in indicator prices for agricultural commodities:

Commodity	Average Price	Percentage Change
Sugar	US 12.6 cents a pound	2.33 % lower
Wheat (red winter)	USD \$ 256 a tonne	2.81 % lower
Canola (Rapeseed)	USD \$ 402 a tonne	0.5 % higher
Cotton (Cotlook 'A')	US 70 cents a pound	1.16 % higher