

NSW Seasonal Conditions Summary - August 2013

Highlights

- Wetter conditions are expected across the State, with higher probabilities over southern NSW.
- Cooler daytime & overnight temperatures are likely.
- July conditions were warmer than normal, with below average rainfall over much of the central & northern tablelands, the north west & coastal areas. Average falls across most of western, central & southern NSW.
- Monthly relative pasture growth & biomass levels were average or above average across most of NSW due to milder temperatures & the June-July rainfall.
- Modelled topsoil moisture levels fell slightly. Levels are low in the far west & north west of NSW & in areas of the central west and Riverina. Subsoil moisture was generally static in the western and central areas & improved in the east.
- Whilst general conditions have improved, stock condition & crop and pasture production will depend upon follow up rainfall over the coming months. Considerable resources are available to assist in management at

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/emergency/drought/managing>

Summary

The outlook for NSW from August to October indicates that wetter conditions are likely across the State, with the highest probabilities of above median rainfall across the southern half of NSW. Cooler than normal daytime and night time temperatures are likely over this period.

The majority of the State received average rainfall during the month, with the highest rainfall of 100 mm or more falling to the south and south west of Canberra and in the far north east. The central areas of the State generally received 25-50 mm. Some areas in the north west received below average rainfall, including an area of the North West LLS district near Collarenebri, Walgett, Mungindi and Lightning Ridge. This area, an area near Bourke, the far north west of the State from Broken Hill north, much of the Sydney metropolitan area, and the far south east received 10 mm or less. Other areas to receive below average rainfall include parts of the Central Tablelands, Hunter and Northern Tablelands LLS districts.

An area of Western LLS district between Ivanhoe Cobar and Nymagee, and the far north east of

the North Coast LLS district received above average rainfall for the month.

Both daytime temperatures and overnight temperatures were higher than average over the month. This benefitted pasture and crop growth.

Reports from LHPA Rangers indicate that pasture and crop growth is improving, although pasture growth is still slow in many areas. There has been a reduction in supplementary feeding of stock in central and western areas as pasture growth improves and dual purpose winter cereals become available for grazing. Pasture and crop growth is slow over the tablelands upper slopes, and north west. Supplementary feeding is continuing, although primarily for breeding stock except where little rainfall occurred. Stock condition ranges from stable to improving. Stock water supplies have generally improved, but are still low in some areas.

The three month relative rainfall assessment is still under the influence of the June rainfall, with most of the State showing average to above average conditions, with the exception of parts of the north west. Relative rainfall for the last six months is also rated as average across most of western and central NSW.

Modelled topsoil moisture declined slightly in the western and some central areas, particularly in the west of Murray and Riverina LLS districts, and in the Western LLS district. It declined to a lesser extent across Central West. Levels are low across more than half of the Western and North West LLS districts. Higher than normal rainfall is necessary here to replenish depleted soil moisture profiles. Levels across central and eastern NSW are generally moderate. Modelled subsoil moisture remained relatively static, with small increases in parts of central NSW and a marked increase in the south east.

Modelled pasture growth improved greatly during July, and relative growth was generally well above average. However, for the last 12 months, relative growth remains poor, particularly in central, north western and southern NSW. Modelled biomass levels improved over July, particularly in central and southern NSW. Relative biomass over most of the State was average or better, except in the north west.

Figure 1: Relative monthly topsoil moisture

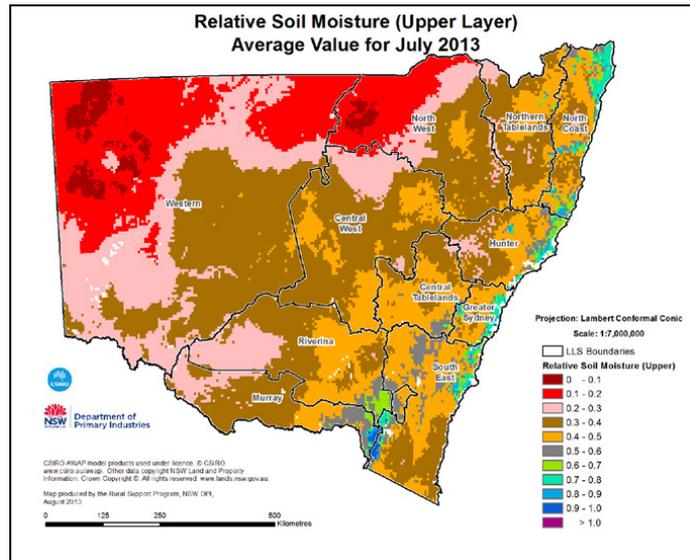
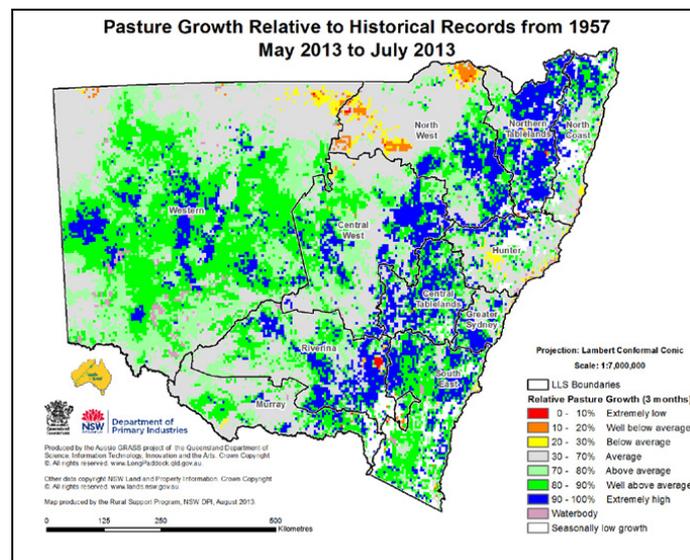


Figure 2: Relative quarterly pasture growth



More information

For more information, contact the NSW Department of Primary Industries on 02 6391 3100.

Acknowledgments

Information used in this report was sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO, Queensland Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts, NSW Livestock Health and Pest Authorities and NSW Department of Primary Industries.

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