

## NSW Seasonal Conditions Summary - October 2013

### Highlights

- Near normal to slightly drier conditions are expected, with lower rainfall probabilities over northern & north western NSW & in the south east.
- Warmer daytime & overnight temperatures are likely, particularly in the east & south east.
- September was warmer than normal. The far west, north west & mid north coast received less than 25mm rainfall.
- Pasture growth declined across the far west, north west & mid north coast. Stock water supplies are low in some areas.
- Crop yields affected by poor rainfall in the north west & some frosts in the central west. Crop & pastures are reasonable to good in the central & southern areas.
- Modelled topsoil moisture levels declined due to high temperatures & lack of rainfall. Levels are low across most of NSW. Subsoil moisture levels declined slightly.
- Stock condition & 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

Over October to December near normal to slightly drier conditions are likely across NSW, with lower than normal rainfall across the north and north west, and on the far south coast. October is likely to be dry, but November is likely to have near normal rainfall. Warmer than normal daytime and overnight temperatures are likely over the October to December period, particularly in the south east.

Over September, NSW received about 80% of average rainfall, with most falls received on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Daytime temperatures were the warmest on record.

Areas of the far west, the northern, central and southern tablelands and the central and mid north coast received below average rainfall, while the central wheat belt and the far south coast received above average rainfall. Rainfall was near average over the rest of NSW.

Most of the far west received less than 10 mm, as did the Bourke area. The remainder of the far

west, the north west and the mid north coast received 10-25 mm. Most of the southern cropping areas, central tablelands, north west slopes, northern tablelands and far north coast received 25-50 mm, with some areas receiving up to 100 mm. The far south east, including the upper south west slopes and parts of the southern tablelands and Monaro received 50-100mm and up to 200 mm in some areas.

The quarterly relative rainfall was below average across 61% of the State, and was well below average or worse across the far west, north west, northern tablelands, mid north coast and Hunter, central coast and southern tablelands. Quarterly relative rainfall was average over the southern and central areas of the State.

Relative rainfall for the last six months was similar, being below average for the north west, Hunter and parts of the northern and central tablelands and far north west.

Modelled topsoil moisture continued to decline due to low rainfall and high temperatures, and is now low over 95% of NSW. Topsoil moisture is greatest in the south east. Modelled subsoil moisture also declined slightly, particularly in the north east and coastal areas. Higher than normal rainfall is required to replenish depleted profiles.

Modelled pasture growth and biomass for September were low across western and north eastern NSW, with relative levels low over the north west and Hunter. Growth and biomass were average to good over the southern areas, particularly in the south east. Biomass levels have reduced runoff in some areas, and stock water supplies are low in the west, north west and parts of the central west and tablelands.

Quarterly relative growth was low over the north west, far north west and Hunter. Rainfall is required in most areas to maintain spring pasture growth.

Areas of light frost in late September have caused some crop damage in the central west. Crops in areas of the north west and the northern areas of the central west have failed due to insufficient rainfall.

*The seasonal outlooks presented in this report are obtained from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology & other sources. These outlooks are general statements about the likelihood (chance) of (for example) exceeding the median rainfall or minimum or maximum temperatures. Such probability outlooks should not be used as categorical or definitive forecasts, but should be regarded as tools to assist in risk management & decision making. Changes in seasonal outlooks may have occurred since this report was released. Outlook information was up to date as at 6<sup>th</sup> October 2013.*

Figure 1: Relative monthly topsoil moisture

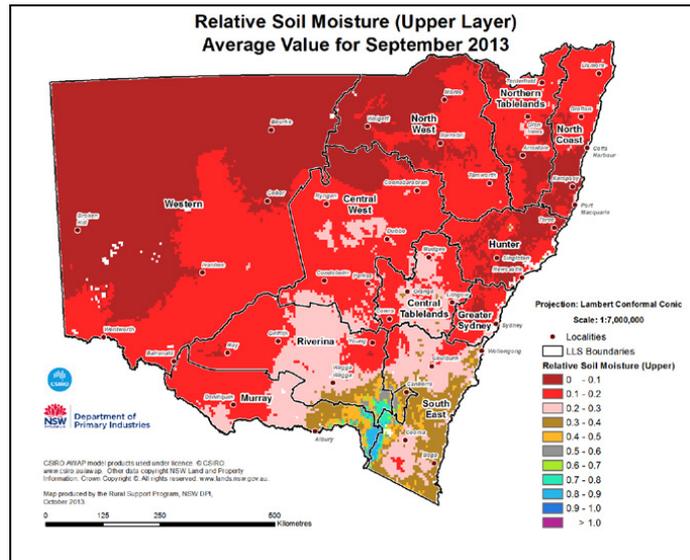
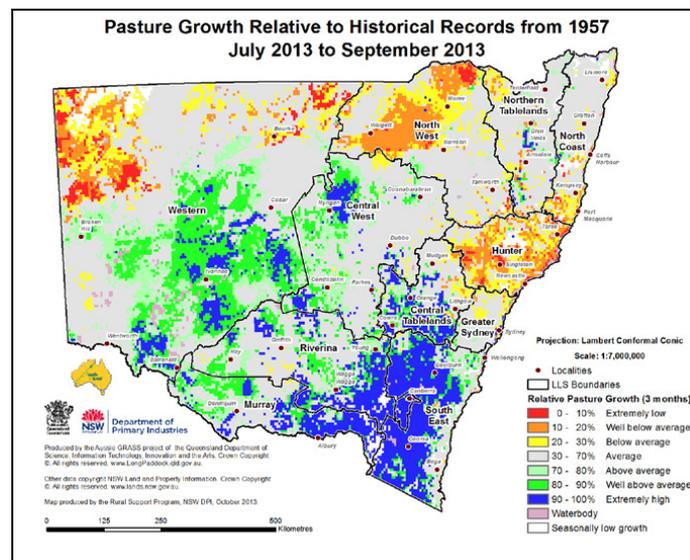


Figure 2: Relative quarterly pasture growth



**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, Catchment Management Authorities and NSW Department of Primary Industries.

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