

NSW Seasonal Conditions Summary - November 2013

Highlights

- Near normal to slightly drier conditions are expected, with lower rainfall probabilities for northern NSW.
- Warmer daytime temperatures are likely, & also warmer overnight temperatures, particularly in the north west, east & south east.
- October was warmer than normal. The west, north west & areas of the central west generally received less than 10 mm of rainfall.
- Pasture growth declined across most of NSW. Stock water supplies are low areas of the west, central west, north west & tablelands.
- Crop yields were affected by poor rainfall in the north west & frosts in the central west & south west slopes.
- Modelled topsoil moisture continued to decline & is low across 99% of NSW. Subsoil moisture also declined.
- 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 November to January lower than normal rainfall is likely in the north, with near normal rainfall over southern and south eastern NSW. November is likely to be drier than normal, but December is likely to have near normal rainfall. Warmer than normal daytime and overnight temperatures are likely over the November to January period, particularly across the north and areas of the coast. November is likely to be warmer than normal, as are December overnight temperatures.

Over October, 94% of NSW received below average rainfall, with most areas receiving 40% or less of average. Daytime temperatures were the tenth warmest on record.

Areas of the north west, central west, tablelands, Riverina, Hunter Valley and coast received extremely low October rainfall relative to historical records. Limited sections of the coast, northern tablelands and alpine areas received average relative rainfall (6% of NSW). Rainfall across much of the west, north west, central west and western Riverina was less than 10 mm, with many areas receiving less than 5 mm. The

east of NSW had higher rainfall of 25-50 mm, with limited areas receiving 50-100 mm or more.

In relative terms, quarterly rainfall was below average across 89% of NSW, and was extremely low across an area extending across the southern tablelands, central coast, Hunter valley, mid- north coast, north coast and the northern tablelands and the north west, and also across large areas of the far west. Quarterly relative rainfall was average or above over 11% of NSW.

Relative rainfall for the last six months was below average across the north west, Hunter and parts of the northern and central tablelands, north coast and far north west but average or above over 61% of NSW.

Modelled topsoil moisture continued to decline due to low rainfall and high temperatures, and was low over 99% of NSW in October. Modelled subsoil moisture also declined slightly during the month, with an additional 8% of NSW in the low category. Higher than normal rainfall is needed to replenish depleted profiles.

Modelled pasture growth for October was limited across most of NSW, apart from areas over the south west slopes, tablelands and south east. Relative to historical records, it was well below average across most of NSW. Biomass levels declined over the month, and were low across the north and north east and across coastal areas. Biomass levels were average to good in some areas in the south. Biomass levels and poor rainfall have resulted in reduced runoff in some areas. Due to this and high evaporation, stock water supplies are low in areas of the west, north west, central west and tablelands.

Quarterly relative pasture growth was low over much of the north west, far west, Hunter valley, central coast, central and northern tablelands and north coast.

Heavy frosts in mid-late October caused severe crop damage across areas of the central west and south west slopes. Crops in areas of the north west and the northern areas of the central west 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 6th November 2013.

Figure 1: Relative monthly topsoil moisture

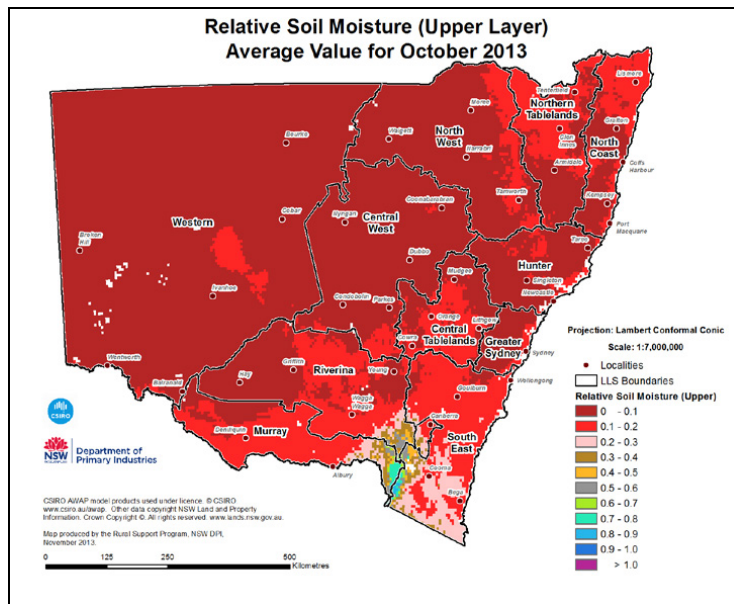
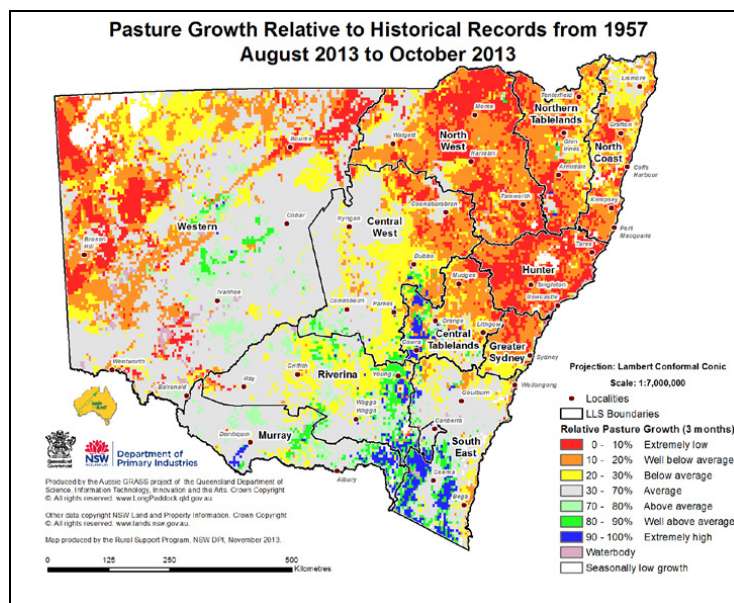


Figure 2: Relative quarterly pasture growth



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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