

JULY 2011 AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS REPORT

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(see Dept. Primary Industries agricultural conditions map)

Area in **Drought**: 0% (no change)

Area in **Marginal**: 20.1% (up from 15.7%)

Area in **Satisfactory**: 79.9% (down from 84.3%)

NEW DECLARATIONS (moved into drought)

Nil.

REVOCATIONS (moved out of drought)

Nil.

ALTERATIONS (moved between marginal and satisfactory)

DECLINED (satisfactory to marginal)

Lachlan LHPA Whole District moved from Satisfactory to Marginal

IMPROVED (marginal to satisfactory)

Mid-Coast LHPA Part of District moved from Marginal to Satisfactory
(Whole District now Satisfactory)

RETROSPECTIVE (alterations to previous declarations)

Nil.

RAINFALL FOR June 2011 (see Bureau of Meteorology rainfall maps)

Most of NSW received some rainfall during June, with the exception of the northwest corner of the State. The eastern third of NSW including the coast and tablelands generally received falls between 10-100mm. The coastal strip from Newcastle to Grafton received above 300mm. The central areas of the State received up 5-25mm while the western third of NSW generally received 0-10mm of rain.

The rainfall deciles for June show that the majority of the area west of the tablelands received below average rainfall with patches in the far west having the lowest on record. The south coast and northern inland areas received average rainfall, whilst the central and north coast received above average to very much above average falls.

The three monthly rainfall decile displays average to below average rainfall across the majority of the State. Small areas in the north west and the south received very much below average rainfall, whilst the central and north coast received above to very much above average rainfall.

Over the last six months, rainfall deciles were generally above average to very much above average over most of NSW. The central to north coast and an

area extending from the central slopes to the north west slopes and plains had below average to very much below average rainfall.

Annual monthly rainfall deciles show most of NSW had above average to very much above average rainfall with the highest on record in patches across in the south west of the State. The coastal strip south of Sydney had average falls.

CROPS AND PASTURES (provided by Peter Matthews, Dept. Primary Industries, 7 July 2011)

Winter crop planting is now drawing to a close, with the estimated 5.1 M ha now largely planted. Total estimated crop area has been revised down on the back of a late break in the north western plains and poor sowing conditions in south western Riverina, mice damage and the lift in summer crop commodity prices. Condition of the states winter crop is variable with some areas badly affected by below average rainfall or continuing mice problems.

Rainfall through June has been below average for the main cropping regions in the state, with one of the driest June's recorded for over a decade. Much needed rainfall did occur in the state's north west, Moree receiving 56.4 mm and Walgett 29 mm in June, with the bulk of this falling over the 13-15 June period. The central and south western areas largely missed these falls. The later sown crop has been slow to emerge, with some patchy establishments as the limited moisture in these regions has quickly dried back. The cold frosty conditions through June has also slowed crop establishment. Rainfall is needed in early July to consolidate crops that have been later sown.

The mice situation still remains the major concern for the majority of the state. Mice activity from reports appears to have slowed in many areas with the onset of cold frosty conditions. Reports of crop damage are still ongoing, with some of the later sown crops still being damaged. There have been limited reports of damage to established crops, with mice attacking the stem nodes and the developing cereal heads. Bait availability is still an issue in many areas with significant delays in access.

With the drier June the emphasis is now on July for a significant weather event (cold wet weather or disease outbreak), to reduce mice numbers going into spring.

Continuing grower vigilance through winter will be the key to reducing mice numbers and potential crop losses at harvest.

Some isolated reports of mites, lucerne flea, earwigs and grubs affecting broadleaf crops through the state, but no major issues.

Weed control and early nitrogen applications will be the priorities over the next month.

With the wind up of the 2010/11 summer crop the emphasis is now on this year's summer crop preparation. With the delayed break on the north western plains and good cotton prices, an increase in winter fallowed paddocks will occur as growers move from winter crops to focus on cotton production.

LIVESTOCK

Pasture conditions across the state have deteriorated since the May report, with the lack of rain through June, most annual pastures are now struggling to grow and in some successfully establish. The perennial pastures are still providing some useful feed, but growth rates have all but stopped in June for the central and south western areas of the state. The continuing cold frosty conditions are adding to the poor pasture growth rates. Any standing feed carried over from summer is now of poor quality and not sufficient to maintain growing, pregnant or lactating stock. Hand feeding stock, particularly pregnant or lambing ewes and cattle, is on the increase.

The earlier sown grazing cereals are still providing some useful stock feed, but with the below average rainfall and cold frosty conditions, growth rates have slowed.

WATER SUPPLIES

Note: The State Water Storages report is no longer produced. An updated table will now be included to provide an idea of the State's water supply situation.

STATE WATER STORAGES

River Valley	Status as at 2 June 2011	Status as at 30 June 2011
<i>Storage Dam, Nearest Town</i>	<i>Level %</i>	<i>Level %</i>
Border Rivers		
Pindari Dam, Inverell	100%	-
Lower Darling		
Menindee Lakes, Broken Hill	116%	116%
Gwydir Valley		
Copeton Dam, Inverell	49%	50%
Namoi Valley		
Keepit Dam, Gunnedah	90%	98%
Split Rock Dam, Manilla	20%	20%
Chaffey Dam, Tamworth	99%	101%
Macquarie Valley		
Burrendong Dam, Wellington	90%	90%
Windamere Dam, Mudgee	45%	46%
Oberon Dam, Oberon	-	52%
Lachlan Valley		
Wyangala Dam, Cowra	91%	92%
Carcoar Dam, Carcoar	75%	76%
Murrumbidgee Valley		
Burrinjuck Dam, Yass	98%	88%
Blowering Dam, Tumut	97%	97%
Murray Valley		
Dartmouth, Mitta Mitta (Vic)	63%	64%
Hume Dam, Albury	94%	93%
Hunter Valley		
Glenbawn Dam, Scone	85%	96%
Glennies Ck Dam, Singleton	74%	88%
Lostock Dam, Singleton	105%	101%
Coastal Area		
Toonumbar Dam, Kyogle	101%	101%
Brogo Dam, Bega	101%	101%

RAINFALL & TEMPERATURE OUTLOOK – July to September 2011 (see Bureau of Meteorology rainfall and temperature outlook and El Nino Southern Oscillation [ENSO] wrap-up)

The rainfall outlook for late winter to early spring is for a generally drier than normal season for the majority of the state with a 40-45% chance of receiving above median rainfall. A small patch in the northwest of NSW has a 35-40% of receiving above average rainfall.

There is a 60% chance that maximum temperatures are forecast to exceed the long-term median maximum temperatures in the southwest. There is a 50% chance of exceeding maximum temperatures in the far north east while the rest of the State has a 55% chance of exceeding maximum temperatures.

There is a 40-45% chance that average minimum temperatures for winter will exceed the median minimum temperature in the north east of NSW while the rest of the state is expected to remain average.

Neutral ENSO conditions remain across the Pacific Ocean. Climate model forecasts indicate that neutral conditions are likely to continue through spring, with forecast temperatures being lower than were forecast a few months ago.

Ross Burton
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Information sources:

NSW rainfall maps

http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/silo/rain_maps.cgi?map=contours&variable=totals&area=nsw&period=1month®ion=nsw&time=latest

Rainfall outlook:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/rain.seaus.shtml>

Temperature outlook:

http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/temps_ahead.shtml

ENSO Wrap-Up:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>

Drought Statement:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/drought/drought.shtml>

NSW rainfall (actual) June 2011

New South Wales Rainfall (mm) June 2011
Product of the National Climate Centre

