

NSW Seasonal Conditions Summary - September 2013

Highlights

- Wetter conditions are expected, with higher probabilities over south western & north to north eastern NSW.
- Near normal daytime temperatures are likely, cooler in the south & north east. Warmer overnight temperatures are likely in central, coastal & north western NSW.
- August was warmer than normal, with below average rainfall across most of NSW.
- Pasture growth declined across the far west, north west & mid north coast. Crop and pastures are reasonable to good in the central & southern areas.
- Late frosts have affected crop yields in the northern & some central areas, & poor rainfall in the north west.
- Modelled topsoil moisture levels fell dramatically due to the temperatures & lack of rainfall. Levels are low across most of central, northern & western NSW. Subsoil moisture levels declined slightly.
- 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 September to November indicates that wetter conditions are likely across the State, with the highest probabilities of above median rainfall in the south west and north to north east of NSW. Near normal daytime temperatures are likely over this period, with a slightly higher probability of cooler temperatures in the south and north east. There is a slightly increased probability of higher than normal overnight temperatures across central and northern NSW.

The majority of the State received below average rainfall and above average daytime temperatures for the month, with August being the 10th driest on record, and the 8th warmest.

The entire northern half of the State and the south east received rainfall that was well below average. The rainfall across much of this area was less than 10 mm, and was in the lowest 10% of records.

The far north west received no rain during the month.

Parts of the south west slopes and southern tablelands received 25-50 mm, with areas further west receiving 10-25 mm. Rainfall increased to 50-200 mm to the south and east of Wagga and east of Corowa. Only the alpine areas received above average rainfall.

The three month relative rainfall assessment is still under the influence of the June rainfall, with most of the State showing average conditions and above average in some central areas. The exceptions are areas of the north west, far north west, northern tablelands and the Hunter valley, which show below average rainfall.

Relative rainfall for the last six months is also rated as average across most of western and central NSW, with the exception of similar areas.

Modelled topsoil moisture decreased greatly over most of NSW. Levels are still moderate across the south west slopes and southern tablelands. Higher than normal rainfall is required to replenish depleted profiles. Modelled subsoil moisture remained relatively static.

Modelled pasture growth and biomass declined across north western and far western NSW and the mid north coast, and relative levels also declined. Growth was average to good in the central and southern areas but poor in parts of the south east. Relative biomass levels were generally average or above, but low in the north west.

While higher than normal temperatures favoured crop and pasture growth generally, widespread late frosts damaged cereal and oilseed crops in the northern and central areas of the State. Dry conditions in the north have also affected crop growth.

Crop and pasture growth in southern and central areas is still good, although follow up rainfall is required. Pasture growth has slowed along the mid north coast and across the north west.

The seasonal outlooks presented in this report are obtained from the Bureau of Meteorology and other sources.

These outlooks are general statements about the likelihood (chance) of 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 and decision making.

Figure 1: Relative monthly topsoil moisture

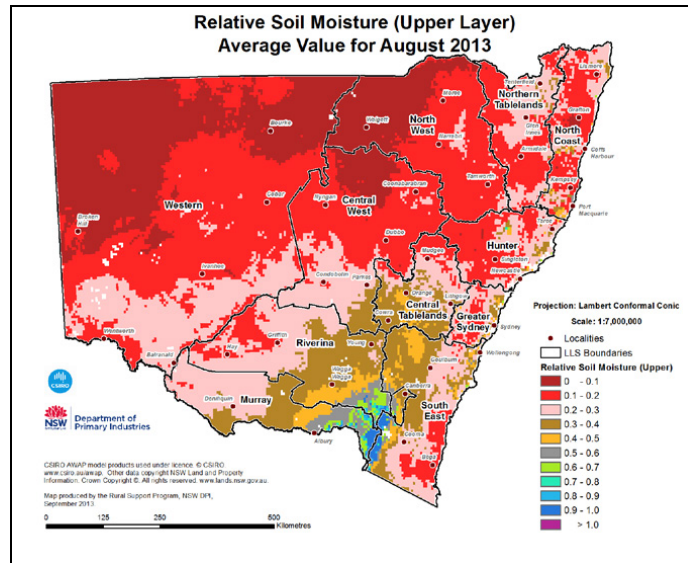
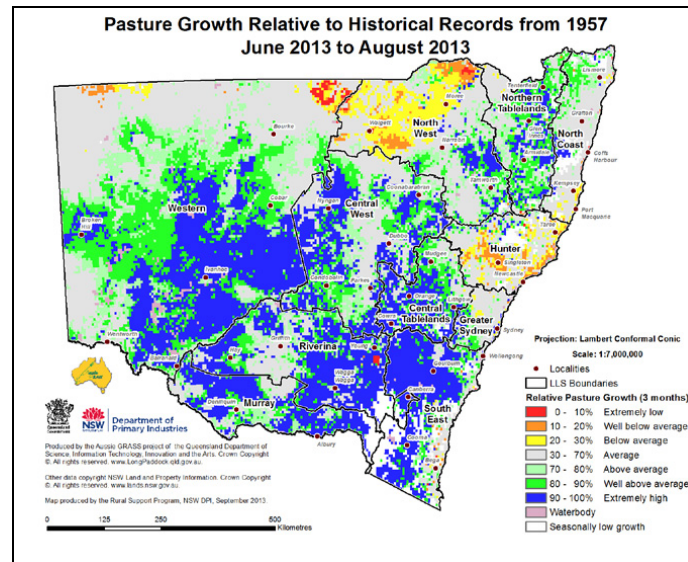


Figure 2: Relative quarterly pasture growth



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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Published by the Department of Primary Industries.

ISSN 2202-1795 (Online)

INT13/76825