

NSW Seasonal Conditions Summary - July 2013

Highlights

- Wetter conditions expected across the State, with higher probabilities in southern NSW.
- Cooler daytime temperatures likely, night time temperatures likely to be higher in the south, lower in the north and west.
- Widespread general rainfall and mild conditions dramatically improved the outlook for pasture and crop growth and livestock condition. Rainfall deficiencies still exist in the north west of the State.
- Monthly relative pasture growth and biomass were average or above across most of NSW.
- Modelled topsoil moisture levels have improved and are now moderate in most areas. Levels are still low in north western NSW and parts of the Monaro and Hunter Valley. Subsoil moisture was generally static.
- Whilst general conditions have improved, stock condition and 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 between July and September indicates that wetter conditions are likely across the State, with the highest probabilities of above median rainfall across the southern half of the State.

Cooler than normal daytime temperatures are likely across the State over this period. Warmer than normal overnight temperatures are likely for south eastern NSW, with cooler than normal overnight temperatures predicted for western, north western and north eastern NSW. Average overnight temperatures are predicted for central NSW, the Hunter Valley and Sydney.

Conditions improved dramatically during the month, with widespread general and above average rainfall across most of NSW. A zone running from the far west to the central west received extremely high relative rainfall, as did areas of the south coast.

Most of the State received 50-100 mm of rainfall, with areas in the central west and along the south to mid north coast receiving 100-200 mm. A narrow strip from Ulladulla to Gosford received 200-400 mm.

Some areas in the north west received below average rainfall, including the North West Local Land Services district near Walgett and Lightning Ridge. Other areas in the north west and the North Coast LLS district received average rainfall.

Daytime temperatures were near average, and overnight temperatures were higher than average, due to the cloudy conditions. This benefitted pasture and crop growth.

Reports from Livestock Health and Pest Authority Rangers indicate that pastures and crops have responded well to the conditions, although growth is now slow. Crop establishment has generally been good, although some crops were late sown. Supplementary feeding of stock is continuing in most areas. Stock condition ranges from stable to deteriorating (particularly breeding stock). Stock water supplies have generally improved, but are still low in many areas, particularly in the west. Conditions over much of the Darling LHPA (parts of North West and Western LLS districts) are still poor, due to receiving less than 25mm during the month.

The high June rainfall boosted the three month relative rainfall assessment, with most of the State shifting to average to above average conditions, with the exception of parts of the north west. Relative rainfall for the last six months is now rated as average across most of western and central NSW.

While modelled soil moisture improved over June, most was restricted to the topsoil and continuing rainfall is necessary to replenish depleted soil moisture profiles. Levels across central and western NSW are generally moderate. Low areas exist in the north west and in small areas in the east. Modelled subsoil moisture levels remained relatively static, with some increases in central and southern areas.

Modelled pasture growth improved during June, and relative growth was generally better than average for the time of year. Over the last 12 months, relative growth has been poor, particularly in central, north western and southern NSW. Modelled relative biomass levels also improved during the month, with central and western areas generally average, and coastal areas better than average.

Figure 1: Relative monthly topsoil moisture

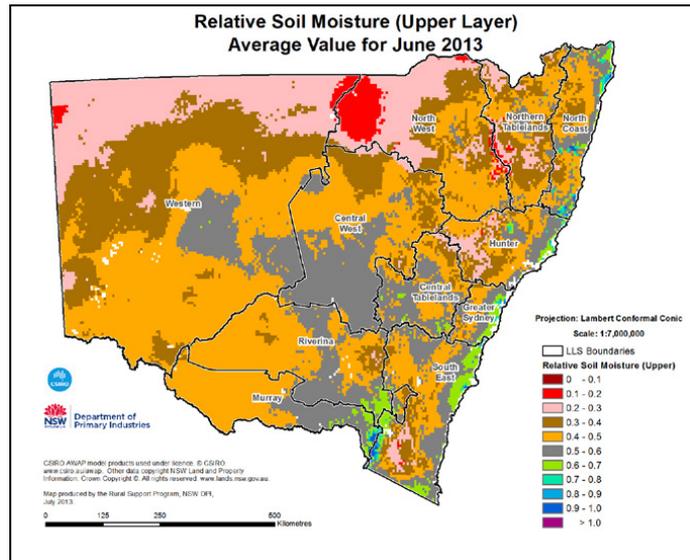
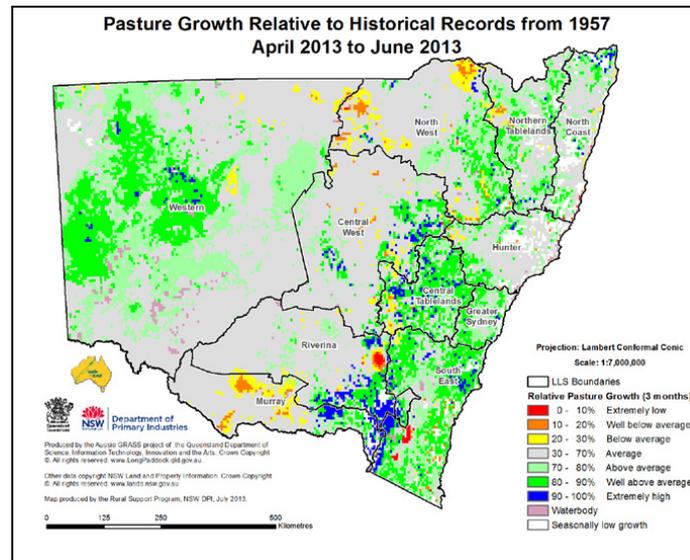


Figure 2: Relative quarterly pasture growth



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, the Queensland Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts, NSW Livestock Health and Pest Authorities and the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

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