

Assessing future enterprise risk – the short-term climate outlook

Paul Carberry

Advisory Officer Climatology, Extensive Industries Development, Tamworth

Introduction

Forecasts of rainfall over the immediate future are mostly generated by large computer models that try to estimate what the existing synoptic features will develop into over the next few days.

If your situation requires significant rainfall and then a time for pasture or crop growth response, the following forecasts are one way of getting a high-probability outlook for about a month ahead.

Bureau of Meteorology 4-day forecast

Example of a 4-day forecast

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/reader/drought-climate/26186
(Courtesy of the Bureau of Meteorology)

Note that the hatched areas shown as 'Forecast rain to 9 pm' do not represent a 100% chance of rain over the entire area. They define areas where there is atmospheric moisture and conditions that could likely result in some precipitation in at least some parts of the area in the 24 hours to 9 pm. In areas outside the hatched marking, it is most unlikely there will be any precipitation.

The current Bureau of Meteorology 4-day forecast chart is available at

www.bom.gov.au/products/IDG00074 which is part of the Bureau of Meteorology's website
www.bom.gov.au

COLA/IGES 14-day precipitation outlook

This forecast indicates the amount of rain that could fall in two 7-day blocks, and the precipitation (per cent of normal) for the first 7-day block.

Example of a 14-day precipitation outlook

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/reader/drought-climate/26185

Courtesy of the Centre for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere studies (COLA) and the Institute of Global Environment and Society (IGES), USA

All three outlooks shown here are updated daily, and are available at wxmaps.org/pix/prec7, part of the COLA/IGES website. wxmaps.org/pix

Weatherzone – various forecasts

This site will provide a brief summary of existing conditions and the next few days' weather forecast for any town in Australia by entering the name in the box on the left of the page. It also provides a link to a 6-day Australian forecast rain and synoptic map from the 'Weather maps/Synoptic maps' link, again on the left of the page.

Weatherzone is at www.weatherzone.com.au

Bureau of Meteorology meteograms

Meteograms are a product of the Bureau of Meteorology computer weather models, and are presented straight from the computer. They are not official forecasts in themselves, but they can go out for 7 days and are created for the specific longitude and latitude you provide – your backyard. Official forecasts are provided by forecasters using these in conjunction with several other sources of information.

Example of a meteogram

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/reader/drought-climate/8604
(Courtesy of the Bureau of Meteorology)

Meteograms are available only by subscription, so you have to pay for access but it is a modest fee.

You can access this service at
www.bom.gov.au/silo/products/Meteograms



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Check for updates of this Primefact at:

www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/primefacts

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (January 2007). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of New South Wales Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.

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