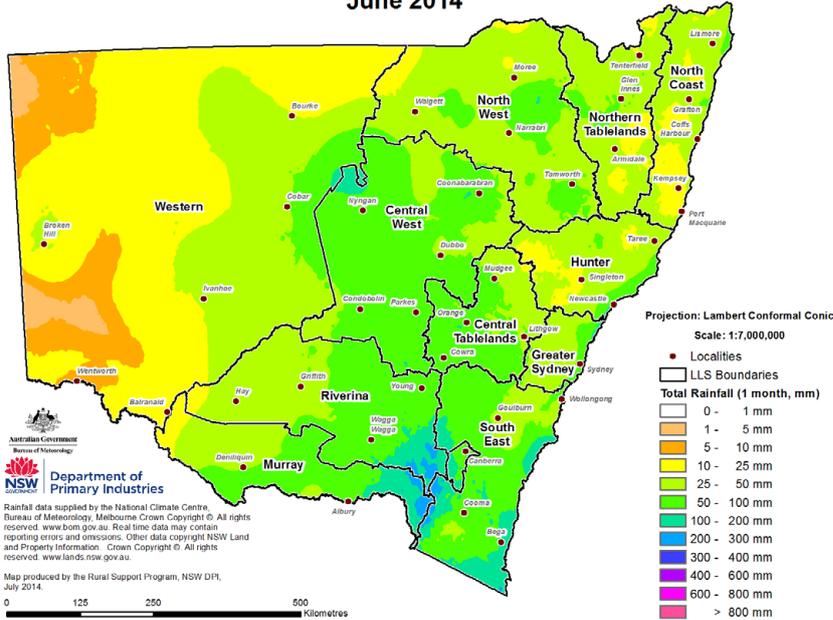


NSW drought situation report

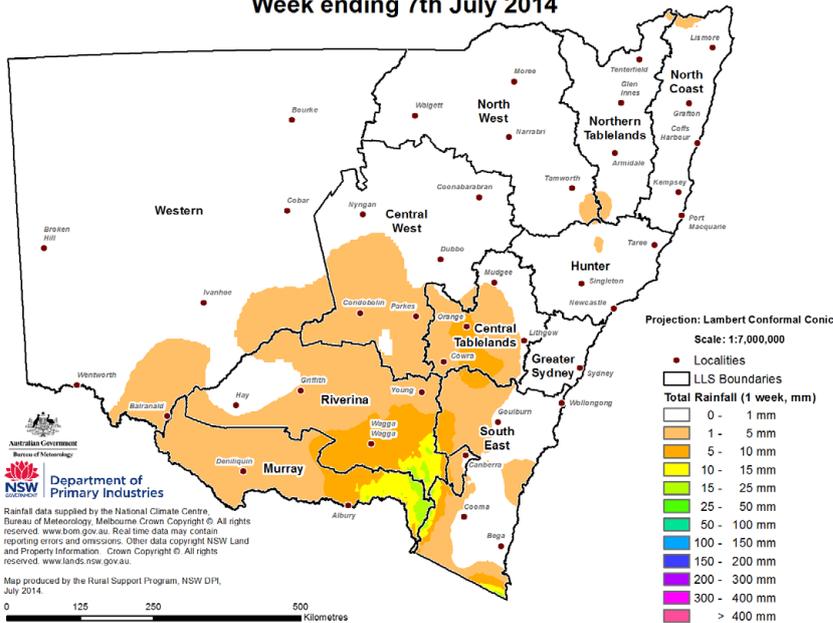
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Recent rainfall

**Total Rainfall
June 2014**



**Total Rainfall
Week ending 7th July 2014**



Climatic outlook

Seasonal outlook	Current outlook	Previous outlook
Rainfall (quarter)	Drier	Drier
Max Temperature (qtr)	Warmer	Warmer
Min Temperature (qtr)	Warmer	Warmer
El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)		
ENSO (overall)	Neutral - El Niño likely	Neutral – El Niño likely
BoM ENSO Tracker Status	El Niño Alert	El Niño Alert
SOI	Neutral	Neutral (positive trend)
Pacific Ocean SST (NINO3.4)	Slightly warm/warm (Neutral – some models)	Neutral – slightly warm (warming trend)
Indian Ocean (IOD)	Neutral (currently slightly negative)	Neutral
Southern Annular Mode (SAM/AAO)	Weakly-Moderately Positive	Weakly – Moderately Positive

Over July to September, the [Bureau of Meteorology's outlook](#) indicates that drier than normal conditions are likely across most of the State. Across the far west, south and along most of the south coast the chances of exceeding the median rainfall are marginally better, but still below average. In the far south eastern corner of the State (south of Cooma), the chances of drier or wetter than normal conditions are near equal.

Warmer than normal daytime temperatures are likely across most of NSW during the July to September period. The highest probability for warmer than normal daytime temperatures is in the north east of the State. An area in south eastern NSW extending from the south coast to Corowa, and running from Cooma to the south of Canberra has a near equal chance of warmer or cooler than normal daytime temperatures.

Warmer than normal overnight temperatures are likely across NSW between July and September, with the highest probabilities in the north east and south east.

About 60% of global climate models suggest drier and warmer than normal conditions are likely over most of NSW during the July to September period.

The Bureau of Meteorology's latest experimental outlook for August (as at 17 July) indicates that drier than normal conditions are likely across NSW, particularly over eastern and central NSW. Warmer than normal daytime temperatures are likely, particularly over eastern and southern NSW, but there is a near equal chance of exceeding the median maximum temperatures in the far north west. There is a near equal chance of warmer or cooler than normal overnight temperatures over most of NSW, with warmer than normal temperatures likely across the north of NSW and coast.

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) status remains neutral. However, there is still about a 70% chance of an event occurring in spring. A weak to moderate event is considered likely. The Bureau of Meteorology's [ENSO tracker](#) remains at at 'El Niño Alert' status.

The Pacific Ocean remains primed for an El Niño event to occur, with warmer than normal sea surface temperatures across the equator, but an atmospheric response is necessary. The fall in the SOI between mid-June to early July and reappearance of weak westerly trade winds may indicate this is commencing, but it will need to persist to demonstrate atmospheric coupling. The lack of an atmospheric response has seen a recent weakening of sea surface temperature anomalies in the key NINO3.4 region in the central

equatorial Pacific Ocean, and there is a possibility the El Niño will abort if the ocean and atmosphere remain uncoupled.

El Niño conditions are often associated with below normal rainfall and above normal daytime temperatures across much of NSW in the second half of the year.

Community engagement

Contacts in June 2014

- RAA Hotline Calls (1800 678 593) 1,983
- RAA Web Visits 9,900
- Drought related page views 18,177 (38,441 page views in total)

Media overview for June 2014

- Coordinated media for a number of announcements including additional \$15.6 million support for drought-affected areas and rollout of Drought Concessional Loans scheme in NSW; Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate extended
- Minister met with primary producers and residents in Walgett.
- Held meetings for Drought Communications Group.
- Website portal updated.
- Provision of information to LLS for website and circulation to frontline staff.

Rural Support Program

Over 250 people attended Rural Support Program activities during June.

Presentations/workshops/facilitation: Conargo (12) Wee Waa (22) Pilliga (20), Coolamon (22) Batlow (8) Jindera (8) Pooncarie (120), Broken Hill (14), Tamworth (38)

Other events: Wollongbar, Carroona, Garah, Bellata, Pallamallawa, Yetman and North Star

Many of the Rural Support Workers have been connecting with the NSW Federally funded Drought Coordinators wherever possible to share network and develop joint initiatives including participating in the Federal DHS Drought Bus mobile office at Carroona, Garah, Bellata, Pallamallawa, Yetman, North Star and up and coming dates in the Far West.

Rural Support Workers in North West coordinated the back to Business Basics course (20 participants + 1 online) held at Pilliga. The course continues to deliver real outcomes for farmers in areas affected by drought. It has been a collaboration with a Dubbo Training Consultant, Tocal, DPI and State Training (who providing \$ 30 000). Participants have also met the criteria to qualify for the reduction in interest for the first twelve months of the Farm Innovation Fund. Those who have applied will be accredited with modules towards a Cert IV or Diploma in Agriculture. All participants agreed to attend a third day to further learn about climate adaptability and production costs.

12 people completed the Emerging Leaders Program completed at Conargo coordinated by the Riverina/Murray RSW. The final day included personal project presentations. This program developed participant's leadership and professional skills i.e. networking, strategic planning, goal setting, negotiation and time management skills plus strategies and support mechanisms to keep their leadership skills developing. By the end of the workshop, participants had a clear idea of how they can develop their leadership capability with clear steps towards their leadership futures. RSP has provided in kind support

in the preparation, coordination and some delivery of the program. That was funded by Murray LLS and Uniting Care.

The Centre for Rural & Remote Mental Health, The Land and NSW Farmers have partnered to hold monthly online forums about mental health. The South West Riverina Rural Support Worker spoke at the June online forum.

Far West RSP facilitated two workshops for the parents at the School of the Air Mini school (Pooncarie) in collaboration with CentaCare: 'Effective Communication 'and Emotional Freedom techniques' Engagement with families and discussion about their needs / current seasonal conditions/ feedback about what is valuable and worthwhile. Stress reduction techniques and improved communication strategies for participants of the workshops

Far West RSW worked with RFDS to host and facilitate a 2 day workshop Royal Flying Doctor Society Mental Health Fly In. It has been identified that there is a great deal of stress and anxiety around retirement and succession planning. Along with resilience sessions participants gained a better understanding of services and programs available to rural families. Evaluation forms showed 100% of participants indicated that they would make some changes to their lifestyle and the way they managed their health and stress as the result of the 2 day event.

New England Rural Support Worker involved in a drought funded Youth Rodeo to be held at Moonbi on 28th June. There is a plan to take the Rodeo to Moree, Gunnedah and Armidale

Two RSP staff participated with a Bureau of Meteorology to discuss user needs around the Bureau's proposed drought information service.

RSP has engaged in a partnership with the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP) to deliver a comprehensive health promotion campaign for the Far West which encourages individuals and organisations to take action to protect and promote their mental wellbeing and that of others. The ACT-Belong-Commit project is targeting 11 remote communities with a focus on sport as the key attractor to engagement. \$20 000 has been provided to support this initiative.

An interview was conducted on ABC Country Hour and WIN TV on seasonal conditions and drought issues.

RSW staffing

- RSW have had contracts extended up to October.
- The North Coast RSW has relocated to Coffs Harbour and will be working full time from 1 July
- North West RSW will be working full time from 1 July
- Dubbo based RSW resigned on 30 June and Riverina Murray RSW retired 30 June 2014. Their contributions to these communities have been greatly valued. They both will leave a legacy of contacts and communities more resilient than when they started with DPI.

Financial assistance (up until 30 June 2014)

Emergency measures	Paid and committed	Pending	Total applications
Livestock transport assistance	\$9,418,215	\$4,211,418	\$13,629,633
Fodder and water transport assistance	\$125,954	\$3,609	\$129,563
Emergency water infrastructure	\$14,890,608	\$11,014,317	\$25,904,925

Funding approved by LGA

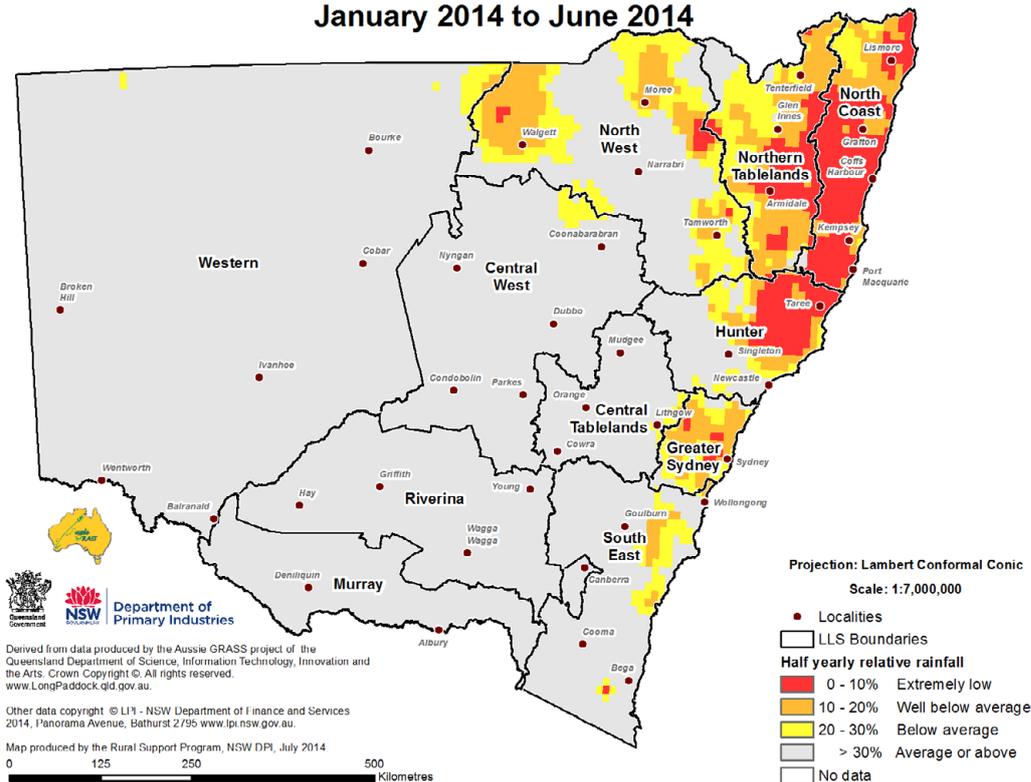
Refer to appendix 1 at the end of this factsheet

Current assistance areas

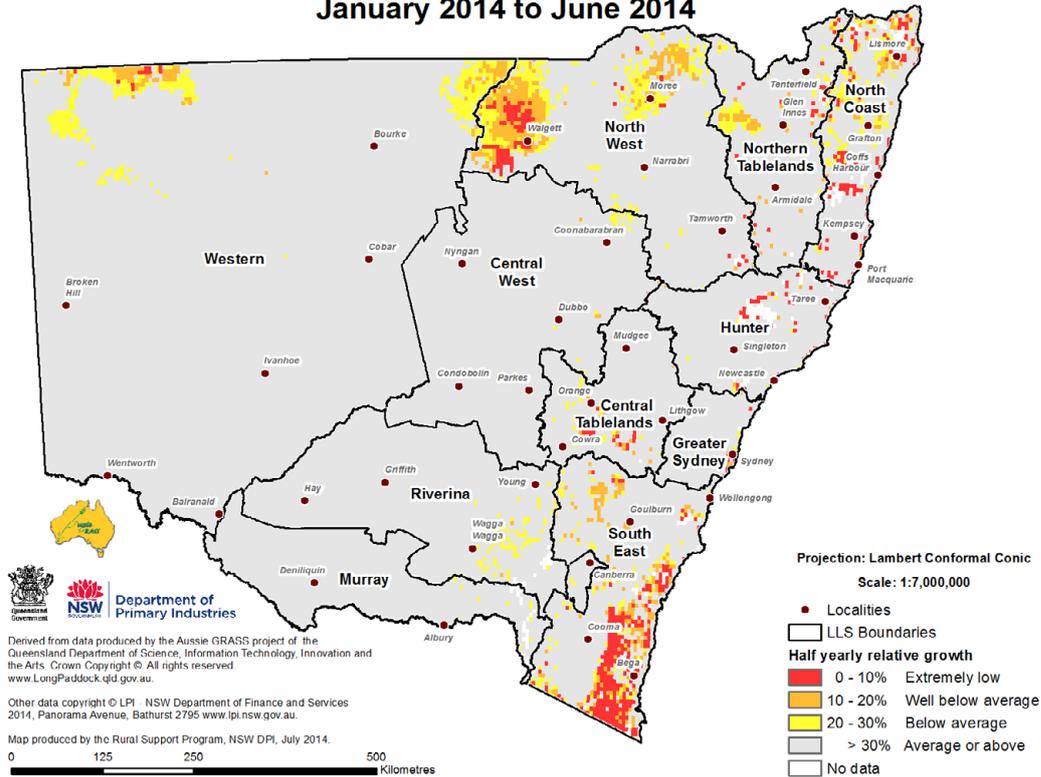
There are currently no areas receiving Emergency Drought Support Funding. Full details of all available support can be found at <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/emergency/drought/support>

Agricultural seasonal information (June 2014)

**Below Average Relative Rainfall
January 2014 to June 2014**



Below Average Relative Pasture Growth January 2014 to June 2014



Appendix 1 – Funding approved by LGA

Drought Transport Subsidies (including Animal Welfare)		
Local Land Services district	Local Government Area	Approved \$ (13/14 FY)
Central West	Bogan	\$ 107,336.00
Central West	Coonamble	\$ 343,257.00
Central West	Gilgandra	\$ 92,928.00
Central West	Warren	\$ 54,502.00
Central West	Warrumbungle	\$ 478,211.00
Central Tablelands	Mid-Western Regional	\$ 94,475.00
Central Tablelands	Oberon	\$ 6,538.00
Hunter	Gloucester	\$ 19,707.00
North West	Gunnedah	\$ 75,150.00
North West	Gwydir	\$ 328,083.00
Hunter	Liverpool Plains	\$ 60,274.00
North West	Moree Plains	\$ 169,773.00
North West	Narrabri	\$ 311,773.50

North West	Tamworth	\$ 479,523.00
North West	Walgett	\$ 1,558,664.00
Northern Tablelands	Armidale Dumaresq	\$ 380,266.00
Northern Tablelands	Glen Innes Severn	\$ 367,412.00
Northern Tablelands	Guyra	\$ 500,266.44
Northern Tablelands	Inverell	\$ 256,488.00
Northern Tablelands	Tenterfield	\$ 48,272.00
Northern Tablelands	Uralla	\$ 256,651.00
Northern Tablelands	Walcha	\$ 648,821.00
Western	Bourke	\$ 1,363,805.00
Western	Brewarrina	\$ 777,171.00
Western	Broken Hill	\$ 67,411.00
Western	Central Darling	\$ 179,759.00
Western	Cobar	\$ 58,803.00
Western	Unincorporated	\$ 345,305.00
Other	Other	\$ 118,344.00
	TOTAL	\$ 9,548,968.94

Emergency Water Infrastructure rebates

Local Land Services district	Local Government Area	Approved \$ (13/14 FY)
Central West	Bogan	\$ 543,700.00
Central West	Coonamble	\$ 503,984.00
Central West	Gilgandra	\$ 585,216.00
Central West	Warren	\$ 621,641.00
Central West	Warrumbungle	\$ 1,229,460.00
Central Tablelands	Mid-Western Regional	\$ 196,687.00
Central Tablelands	Oberon	\$ 39,471.00
Hunter	Gloucester	\$ 15,293.00
North West	Gunnedah	\$ 294,208.00
North West	Gwydir	\$ 1,278,187.00
North West	Liverpool Plains	\$ 210,582.00
North West	Moree Plains	\$ 395,254.00
North West	Narrabri	\$ 298,839.00
North West	Tamworth	\$ 952,690.00

North West	Walgett	\$	745,780.00
Northern Tablelands	Armidale Dumaresq	\$	288,232.00
Northern Tablelands	Glen Innes Severn	\$	477,483.00
Northern Tablelands	Guyra	\$	411,892.00
Northern Tablelands	Inverell	\$	886,584.00
Northern Tablelands	Tenterfield	\$	40,574.00
Northern Tablelands	Uralla	\$	416,965.00
Northern Tablelands	Walcha	\$	388,755.00
Western	Bourke	\$	1,372,626.00
Western	Brewarrina	\$	618,506.00
Western	Broken Hill	\$	56,378.00
Western	Central Darling	\$	757,492.00
Western	Cobar	\$	211,436.00
Western	Unincorporated	\$	1,034,028.00
Other	Other	\$	86,936.00
	TOTAL	\$	14,958,879.00

More information

Rural Assistance Authority 1800 678 593. For updates go to www.raa.nsw.gov.au

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 Local Land Services, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (Columbia University) and NSW Department of Primary Industries.

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (July 2014). 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 the Rural Assistance Authority or the user's independent adviser.

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