

# Assessing current pasture and vegetation conditions

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### General pasture conditions

The current map summarising the most recent assessment of the general pasture conditions in NSW is available in the section of the NSW DPI website:

- Areas of NSW suffering drought conditions [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/reader/nr-climate](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/reader/nr-climate);

however, keep in mind that there may be individual properties or small districts which do not fit the description shown.

For guidance in assessing the condition of a specific paddock, see

- Assessing pasture in drought. [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/reader/assesspasture](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/reader/assesspasture)

### Recent rainfall

The Bureau of Meteorology provides a map which shows rainfall from the last month relative to the long-term median of that same month

[www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/climate/rainmaps.cgi](http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/climate/rainmaps.cgi).

The data has been condensed so that it shows results in 10% blocks. These are called 'deciles'. Deciles are a useful way of looking at the recent distribution relative to the whole range which has been experienced in the current month. The blue areas show where rainfall was well above the long-term median, and the red areas show where it was well below the long-term median. Some deciles near the middle have been combined, because rainfall close to the median may be considered normal and therefore normal management would follow.

Decile maps of the previous 3 months, 6 months, 9 months, 12 months, 18 months, 24 months and 36 months are also provided by the Bureau of

Meteorology at [www.bom.gov.au/silo](http://www.bom.gov.au/silo). In addition, maps showing actual rainfall amounts are provided for the previous 1 day, 1 week, 1 month, as well as for the periods mentioned for the decile maps.

### Vegetation

Vegetation maps are produced in the USA by the National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service. The most recent vegetation map for Australia can be obtained at [www.orbit.nesdis.noaa.gov/smcd/emb/vci/VH/index](http://www.orbit.nesdis.noaa.gov/smcd/emb/vci/VH/index) This type of map combines greenness and moisture content of the vegetation with surface temperature information to estimate how the vegetation is 'doing'.

Note that the map rates any type of vegetation, and does not distinguish between forest, rangelands, pasture and crops. Note also that the map does not provide an estimate of how much plant material is present. What it does provide is a broad-scale look at general plant growth conditions and compares these with the conditions at the same time last year.

As this map takes time to prepare, the most recent vegetation measure shown is usually about a week old.

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Check for updates of this Primefact at:

[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/primefacts](http://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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