

More of Australia's Variable Rainfall

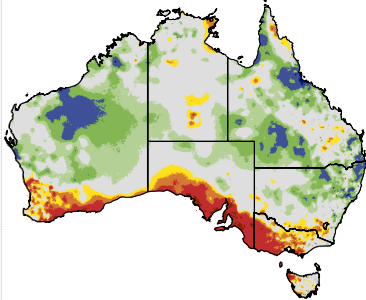
April to March Annual Australian Rainfall Relative To Historical Records 1890–extend your poster

www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/rainfall-poster/

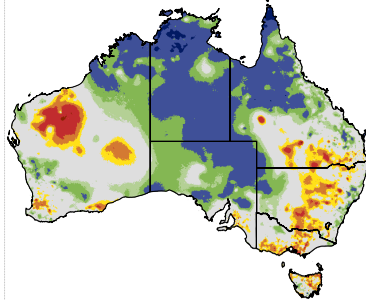
- print this page using a colour printer
- cut out the extra maps and stick them on your poster,

Australia's Variable Rainfall

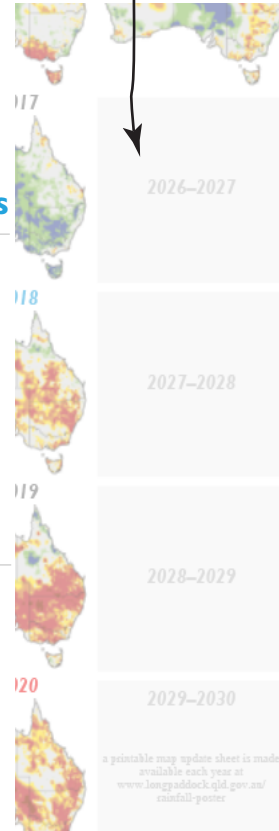
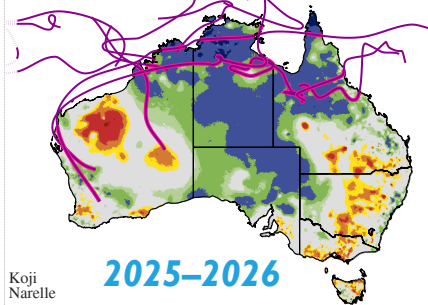
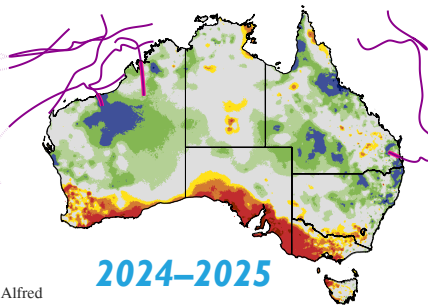
2024–2025



2025–2026



Australia's Variable Rainfall with Tropical Cyclone Tracks



rank of 0–1 indicates that rainfall over the within the lowest one per cent of rainfall recorded for all annual periods, at that loc

Percentile	Color	Description
99–100	Dark Blue	Highest
90–99	Blue	Extremely High
80–90	Light Blue	Well above
70–80	Green	Above average
30–70	Yellow	Average
20–30	Orange	Below average
10–20	Red	Well below
1–10	Dark Red	Extremely Low
0–1	Black	Lowest

Graph

The graph shows fluctuations in the six-month average of the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) compares the difference in atmospheric anomalies between Tahiti and Darwin. It shows fluctuations in the Tripole Index (TPI) values in the graph are a filtered time series has been estimated (dotted line monthly TPI values).

Produced by

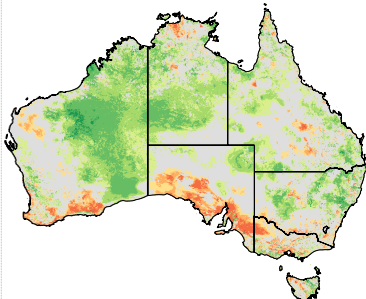
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Acknowledgments

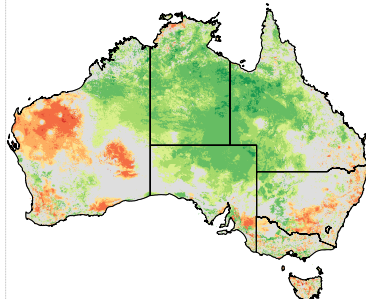
- ♦ Rainfall data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (www.bom.gov.au).
- ♦ SOI data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (www.bom.gov.au) with values smoothed using a six-month moving average.

Australia's Modelled Pasture Growth

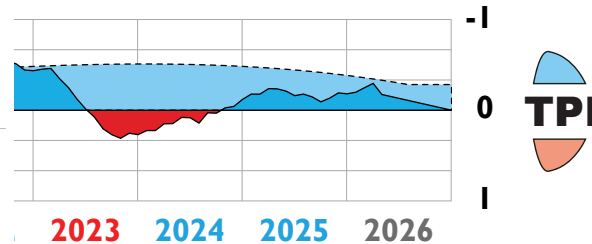
2024–2025



2025–2026



Queensland's extended wet and dry periods

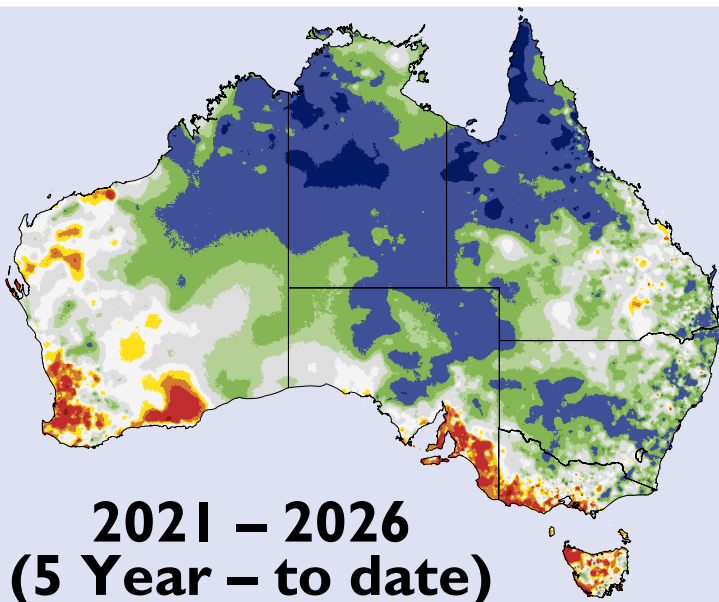


Rainfall was 43% above the previous Dry period.*

- Rainfall across Queensland (and most of Australia) over the past five years (April 2021 – March 2026) has been positive for agriculture and the environment. The first two years were classified as La Niñas, followed by a 'wet' El Niño, and then 2 more La Niñas (2024/25 and 2025/26).
- The most recent summer growing period (November 2025 – March 2026) received well-above average rainfall (northern half of Qld) to average rainfall (southern half of Qld). However, southern border regions (Maranoa, Balonne, Goondwindi, Southern Downs LGAs) received lower percentile rainfall, compared to 5-mth historical summer periods (see AussieGRASS maps - <https://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/aussiegrass/>).
- Despite these localised drier localities, Queensland's total summer rainfall (2025/26 – on an area-averaged basis) was the ninth wettest on record for all summers since 1900 (BoM 2026). It was also Queensland's wettest summer since 2010/11, while several locations had their highest 'summer daily rainfall' on record and several sites had their highest 'total summer rainfall' on record – particularly in north-west Qld.
- For the 5-year period, multiple heavy rainfall events surpassed historical records across a number of locations and at varying timescales. For example, large parts of Cape York Peninsula, Gulf Country, north-west Queensland and the Channel Country recorded rainfall amounts which were well-above their historical averages.
- Tropical Cyclones (TC) and Tropical Lows have contributed to these extreme rainfall events across Queensland over the 5-year period, bringing wind damage, heavy falls and widespread flooding for much of the state (see Tropical Cyclone Rainfall poster). Notable severe weather events include TC Jasper (December 2023), TC Kirrily (January 2024), TC Alfred (March 2025) and 2025/26 TCs (Koji, Mitchell), along with Tropical Lows (07U, 29U).
- These extreme weather events impacted upon many rural properties, homesteads, and communities causing flood inundation with extensive infrastructure damage, as well as widespread loss of livestock and native animals.
- While the focus has been on wet events of the state, bushfires were also experienced in a number of Queensland locations, due to abundant grass biomass growth from the good seasons – for example in late 2024 where Dirranbandi, Mareeba, Cloncurry and Mount Isa regions encountered serious fire circumstances.
- The drought status for Queensland is 'drought free' (as at 1 April 2026). Maps and reports showing historical drought duration periods are available at www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/drought/drought-declarations/.

Wet period analysis

- The historical rainfall map (left) shows the vast spread of high- to very-high percentile rainfall (i.e. >70th) that has occurred across Australia over the past 5 years (April 2021 – March 2026).
- There has been a 43% increase in annual average rainfall across Queensland's major livestock region (see bottom LHS of poster), compared to the annual average of the previous 9-year Dry period.
- This poster presents 'historical' Wet and Dry periods, as per McKeon et al. (2021), Queensland's multi-year Wet and Dry periods: implications for grazing enterprises and pasture resources (The Rangeland Journal 43(3) 121-142).
- To date, 7 of the 10 Wet periods (1889 – 2026) started with a La Niña event and continued with further La Niñas, in combination with El Niño and Neutral years (e.g. 1889-96, 1903-11, 1916-22, 1970-77, 1996-2001, 2007-12, 2021-26).



2021 – 2026
(5 Year – to date)