South West Land Division

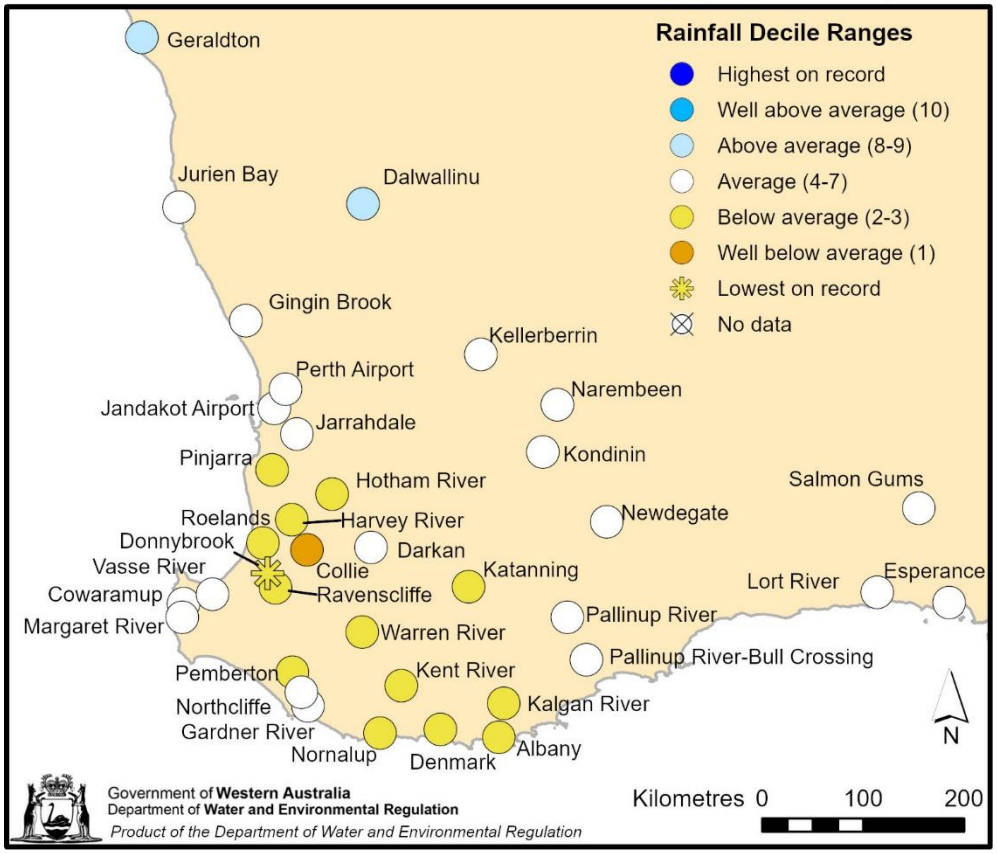
Monthly rainfall, temperature and streamflow
Month: FEBRUARY

History - Rainfall and streamflow for 2026

Rainfall

The South West Land Division typically experiences low summer rainfall. In February, rainfall across most of the region was average or below average, except for some sites between Geraldton and Salmon Gums which recorded above average falls influenced by ex–Tropical Cyclone Mitchell. Overall, January to February rainfall was average or below average.

South West Western Australia Rainfall Deciles - 1 January to 28 February 2026



Classifications compared to the 1975 to 2025 base period

Map 1: Rainfall deciles* for January to December for the SWLD

* A rainfall decile is a way to compare the amount of rain for a particular place and period. The rain volumes at each location for the same calendar period for each year between 1975–2025 are ranked from least to most and then divided into ten groups. The first group ('decile 1') contains the lowest 10 per cent of rainfalls so it is the driest 10 per cent of measures and is considered to be a well-below average amount of rain. At the other end of the spectrum, 'decile 10' contains the highest/wettest 10 per cent of measures and is well-above average rainfall. The coloured circles in the map show how a 2026 rain amount fits with these 10 groups of ranked historical rainfall.

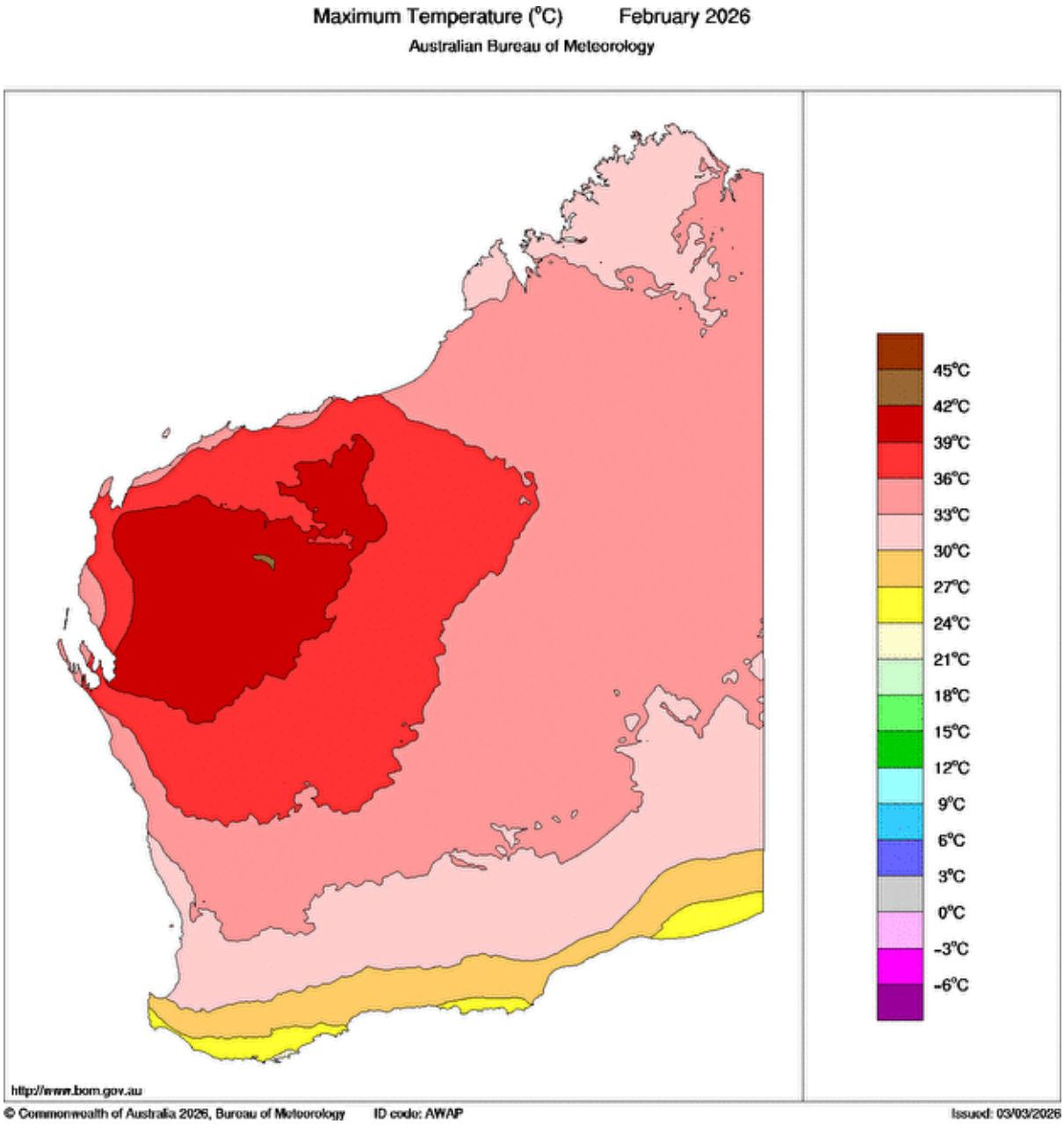
Streamflow

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation does not track streamflow in the SWLD from January to April as conditions in these months are generally hot and dry. Typically, streamflow tends to be very low and does not reflect the volume expected during the winter season.

In many places the difference in flow between decile ranges are minor throughout these months. As a result, even small variations in flow may appear significant, but they are negligible compared to higher winter flow volumes.

History - Temperature 2026

To complement the tracking we are undertaking for the SWLD, we will also regularly update the mean maximum observed temperature and temperature forecasts, along with rainfall forecasts, produced by the Bureau of Meteorology.



Map 3: Mean maximum temperature (°C) for February 2026

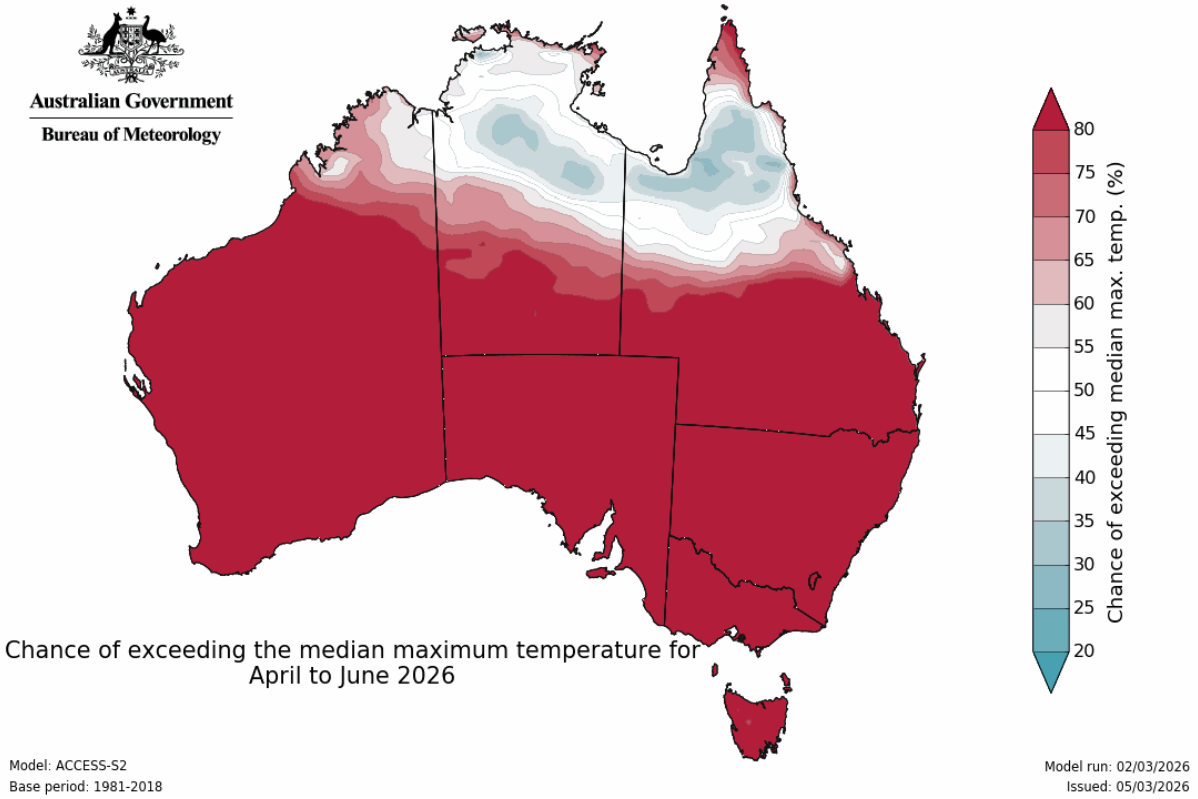
Source: *Climate Maps - Temperature Latest*

The mean maximum temperatures in February were average and above for the SWLD. The mean maximum temperatures ranged from 21 to 36 degrees.

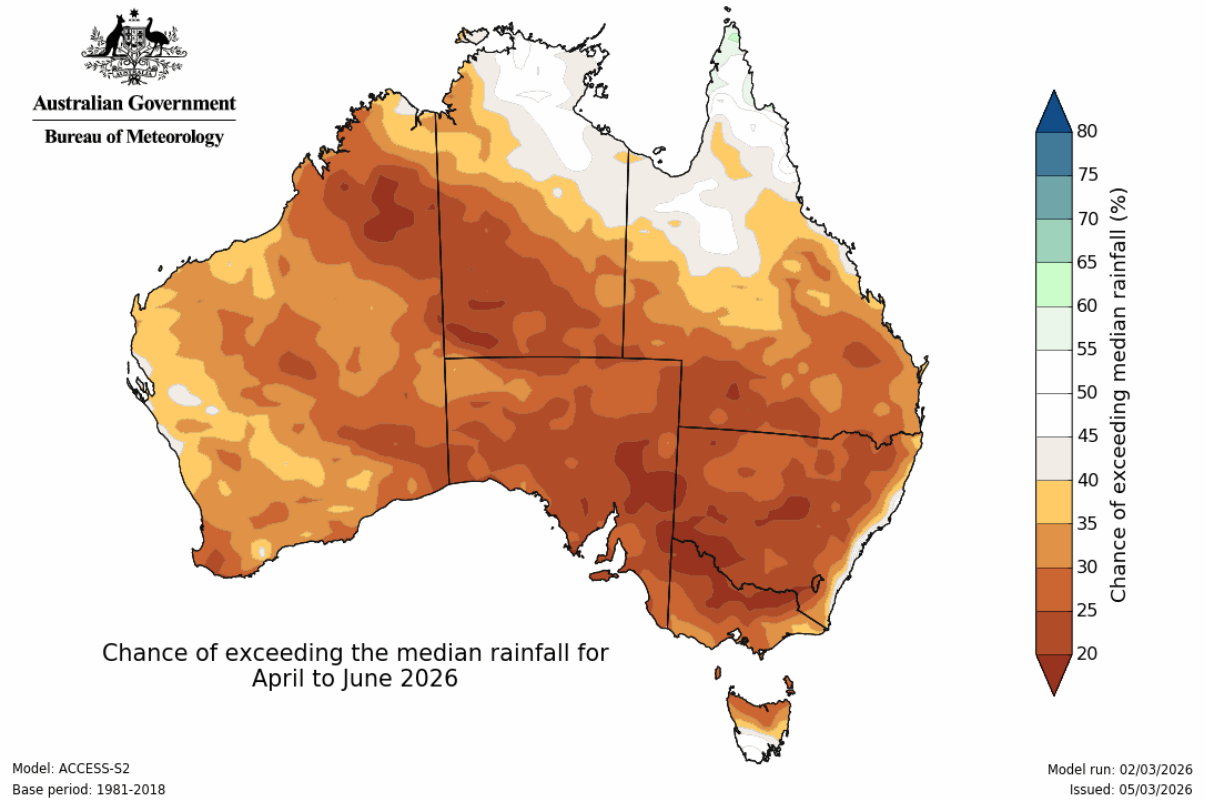
Future - Seasonal forecast

When considering forecasts, it is important to look at the forecast and the forecast model's accuracy. Model accuracy is a measure of how well the forecasts matched real records previously.

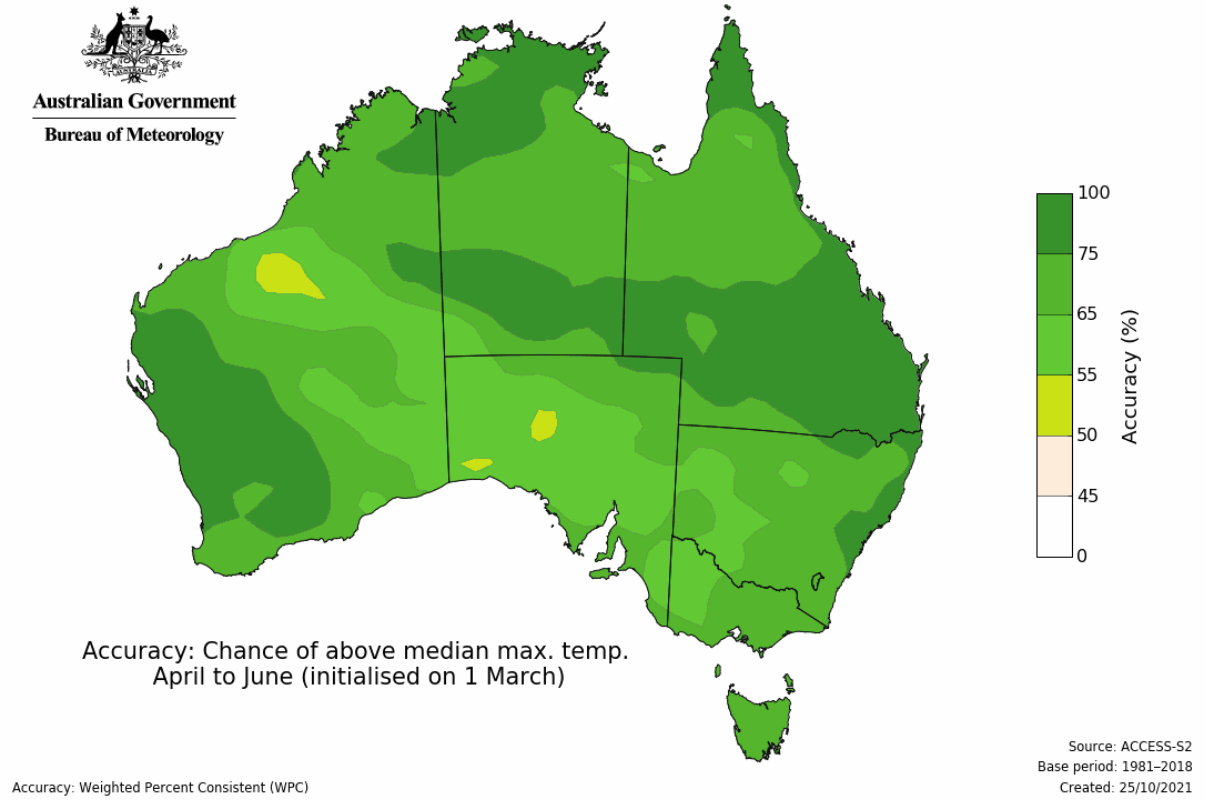
Maps 4 and 5 below show the temperature and rainfall forecasts for Australia using Bureau of Meteorology modelling, while maps 6 and 7 show the modelling accuracy of these forecasts (i.e. how well the model has previously forecast the weather at that time of year).



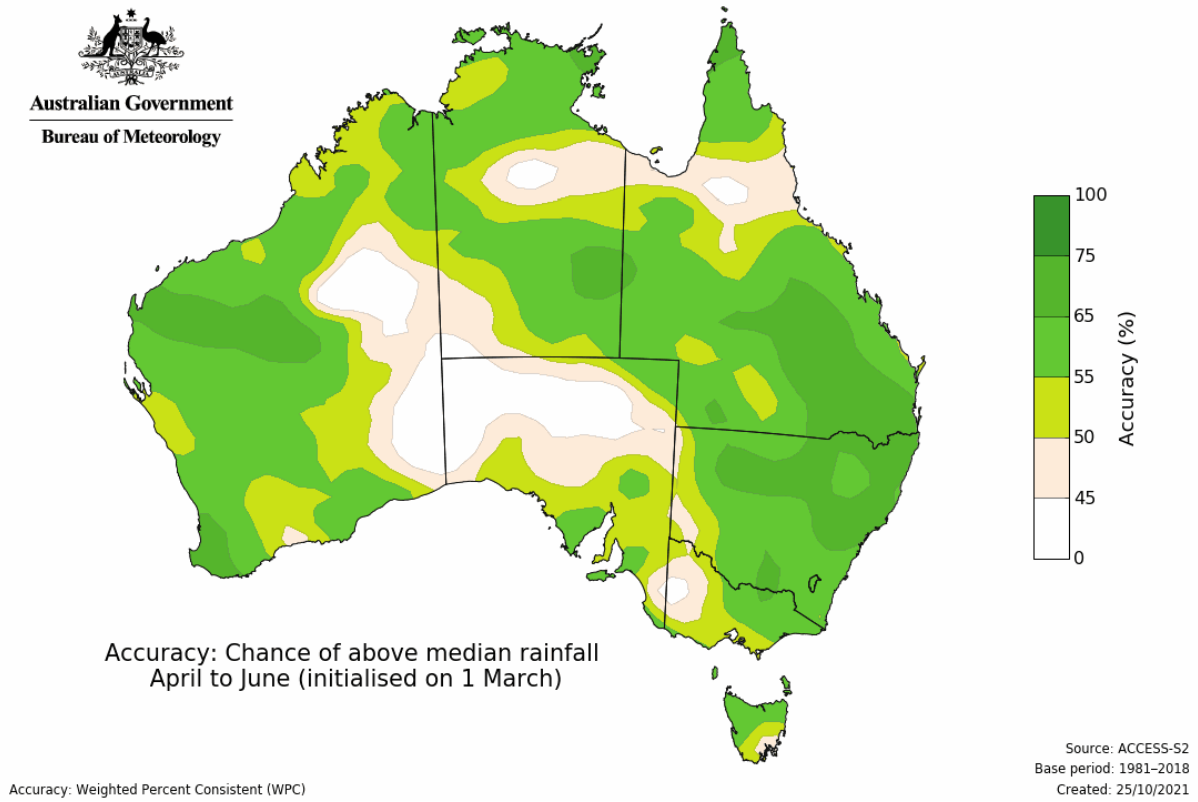
Map 4: 3-month temperature outlook



Map 5: 3-month rainfall outlook



Map 6: Temperature outlook accuracy



Map 7: Rainfall outlook accuracy

As at 1 March 2026:

- The Bureau of Meteorology expects warm conditions to continue, with an over 80 per cent chance of exceeding the median maximum temperatures for the SWLD from April to June (Map 4).
- The accuracy of the temperature forecast is greater than 65 per cent in the SWLD. This indicates a moderate to high level of confidence in the forecast (Map 6).
- The rainfall forecast indicates dry conditions for the April to June period across the SWLD with less than 45 per cent chance of exceeding median rainfall (Map 5).
- The accuracy of the rainfall forecast is between 50 and 75 per cent in the SWLD. This indicates a low to high level of confidence in the forecast (Map 7).[1]

Climate context

Rainfall decline in south-west WA has been greater than anywhere else in Australia. Almost all climate projections indicate a warmer and drier future for the region, marking it as a global hotspot for reduced rain because of climate change.

Since the 1970s, in south-western WA there has been:

- a 16 per cent decline in April–October rainfall[2]
- about 80 per cent less flow into Perth's water supply dams[3]
- up to 70 per cent less recharge to groundwater.[4]

Climate change poses significant challenges for communities in WA that are experiencing more extreme weather events such as tropical storms, floods and bushfires. The State Government is supporting businesses, communities and local governments to understand the future climate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The Climate Science Initiative will produce the most detailed and comprehensive Western Australian climate change projections to date, extending to the year 2100.