

South West Land Division

Monthly rainfall, temperature and streamflow

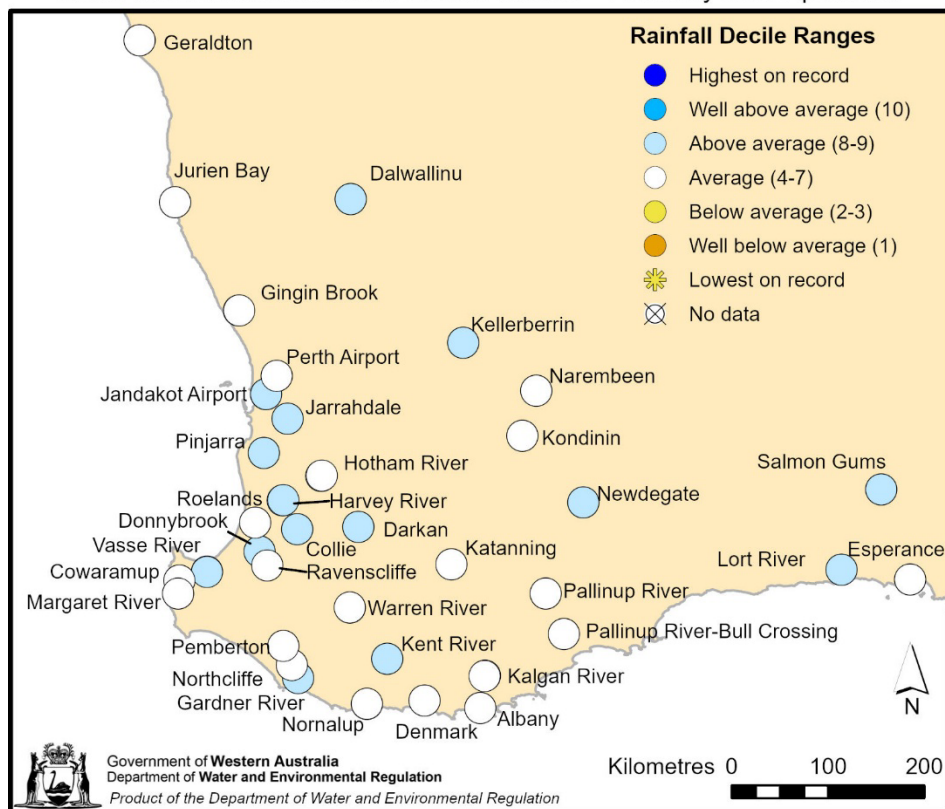
Month: APRIL

History - Rainfall and streamflow for 2026

Rainfall

Rainfall was average across most of the South West Land Division in April 2026. January to April rainfall has been average and above across the region.

South West Western Australia Rainfall Deciles - 1 January to 30 April 2026



Classifications compared to the 1975 to 2025 base period

Map 1: Rainfall deciles* for January to April 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 considered to be 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.

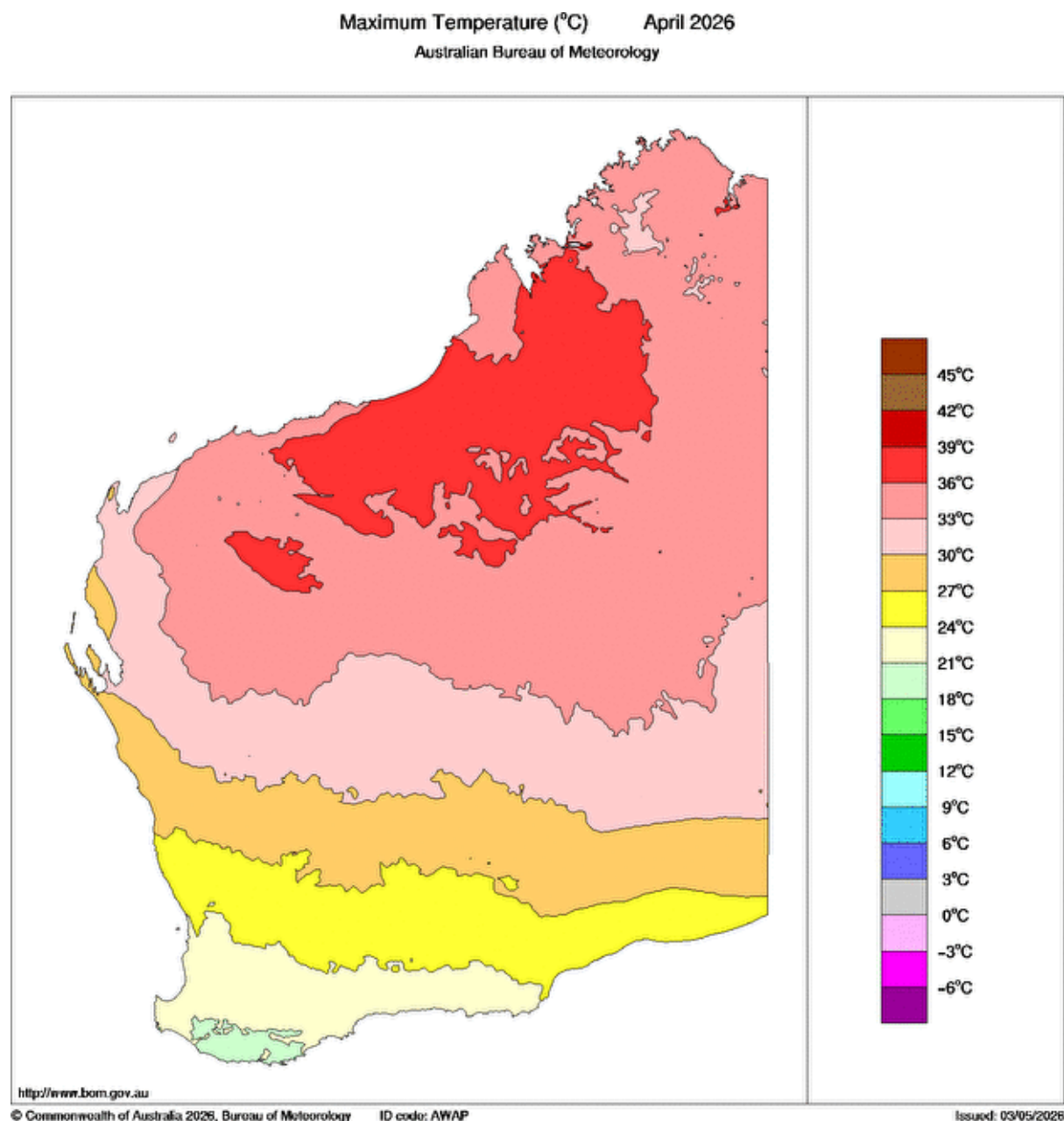
Streamflow

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 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 April 2026

Source: [Climate Maps - Temperature Latest](#)

The mean maximum temperatures ranged from 18 to 30 degrees. The mean maximum temperatures in April were average and below average for the SWLD (Based on the monthly

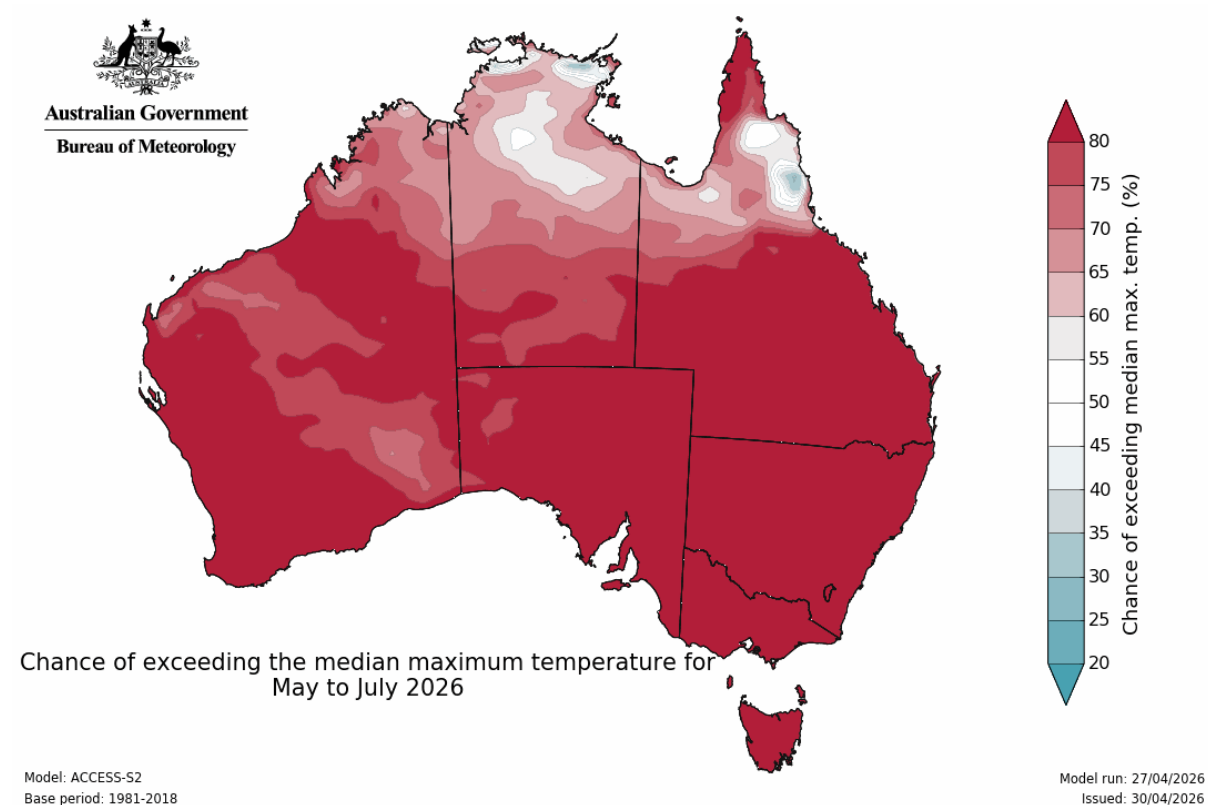


maximum temperature decile for Western Australia provided by [The Bureau of Meteorology](#)(BOM) [LINK](#))

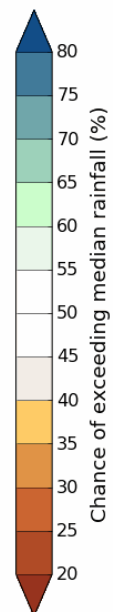
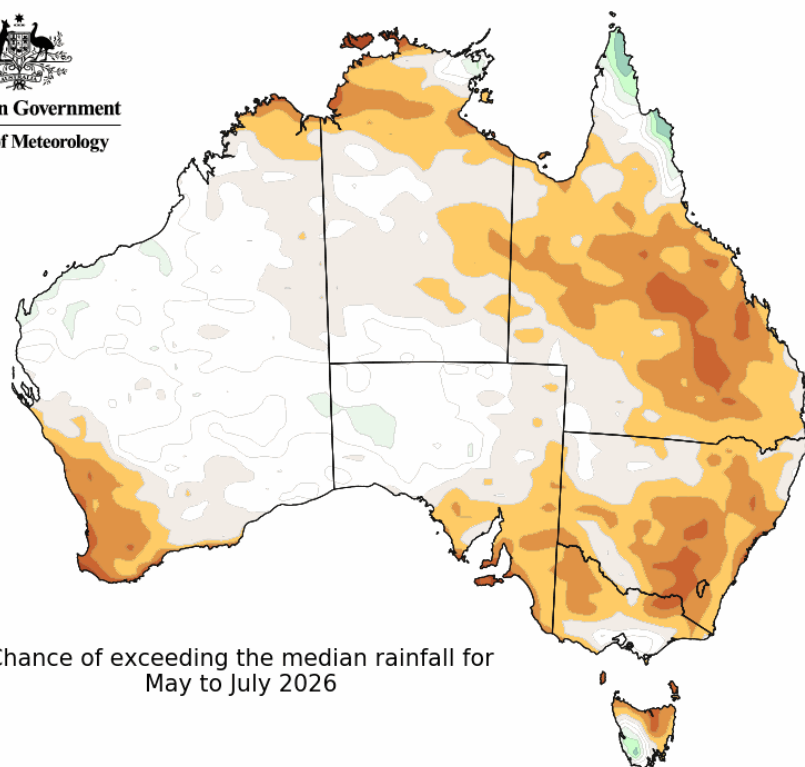
Future - Seasonal forecast

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

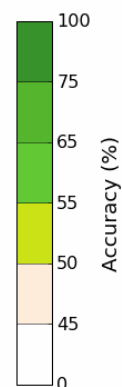
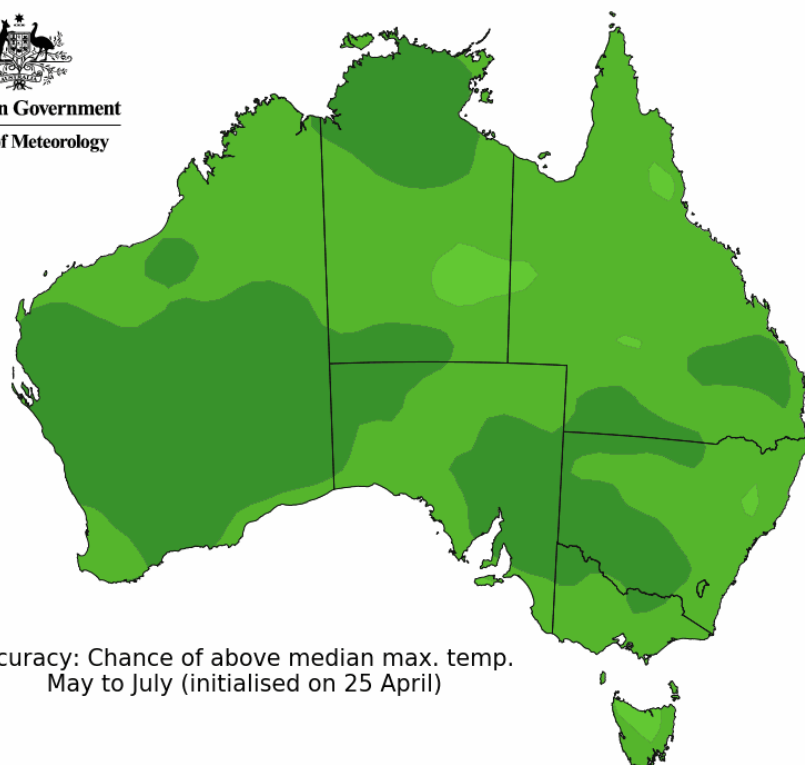


Chance of exceeding the median rainfall for
 May to July 2026

Model: ACCESS-S2
 Base period: 1981-2018

Model run: 27/04/2026
 Issued: 30/04/2026

Map 5: 3-month rainfall outlook

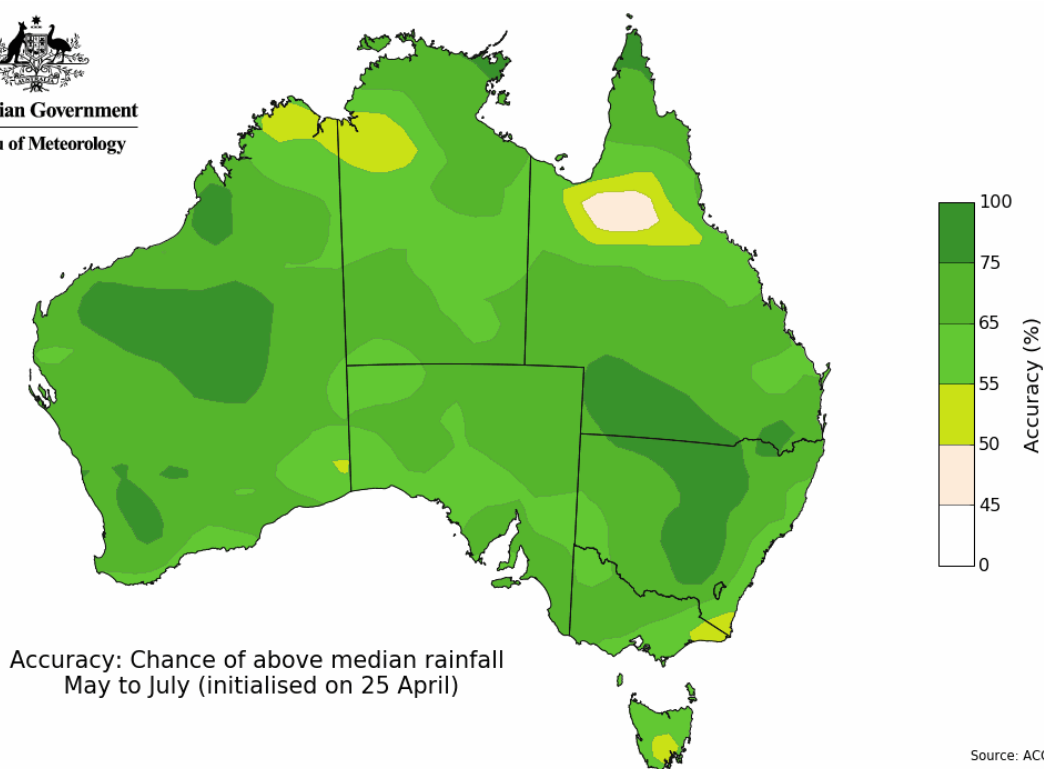


Accuracy: Chance of above median max. temp.
 May to July (initialised on 25 April)

Accuracy: Weighted Percent Consistent (WPC)

Source: ACCESS-S2
 Base period: 1981-2018
 Created: 25/10/2021

Map 6: Temperature outlook accuracy



Map 7: Rainfall outlook accuracy

As at 30 April 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 May to July (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 May to July period with less than 40 per cent chance of exceeding median rainfall across most of the SWLD, and less than 45 per cent chance of exceeding median rainfall in inland eastern areas (Map 5).
- The accuracy of the rainfall forecast is between 55 and 75 per cent in the SWLD. This indicates a moderate 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 rainfall²
- about 80 per cent less flow into Perth’s water supply dams³
- 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.