

South West Land Division

Monthly rainfall, temperature and streamflow

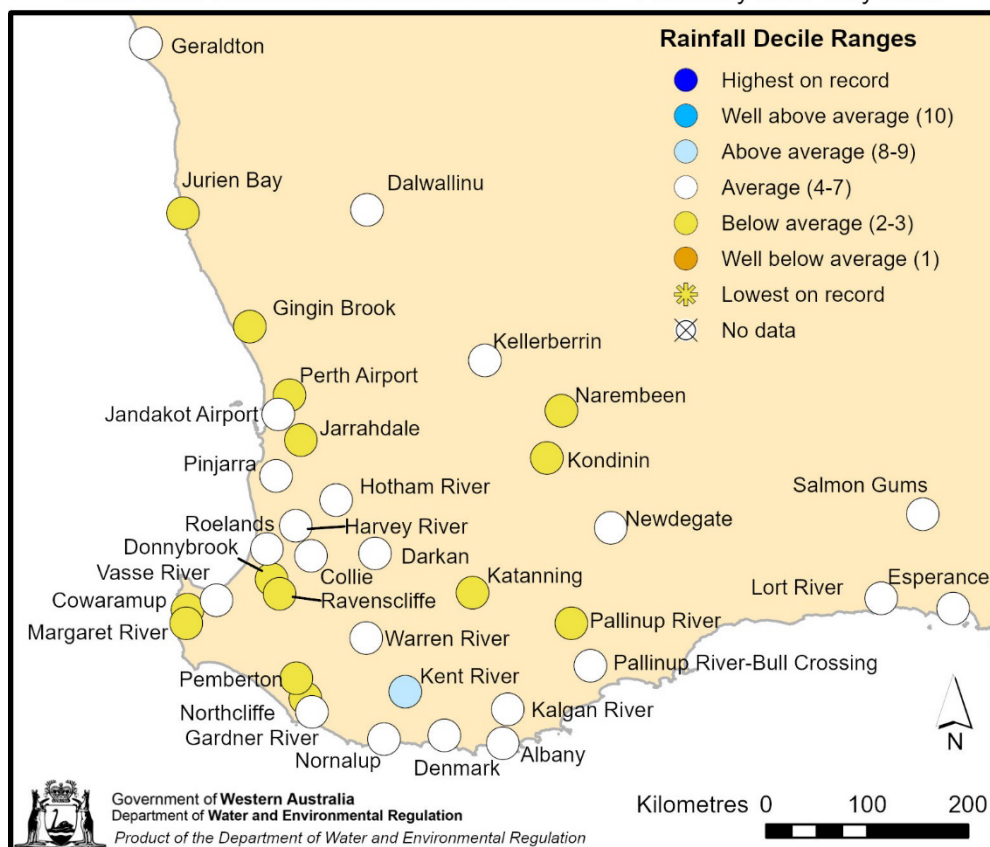
Month: MAY

History - Rainfall and streamflow for 2026

Rainfall

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

South West Western Australia Rainfall Deciles - 1 January to 31 May 2026



Classifications compared to the 1975 to 2025 base period

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

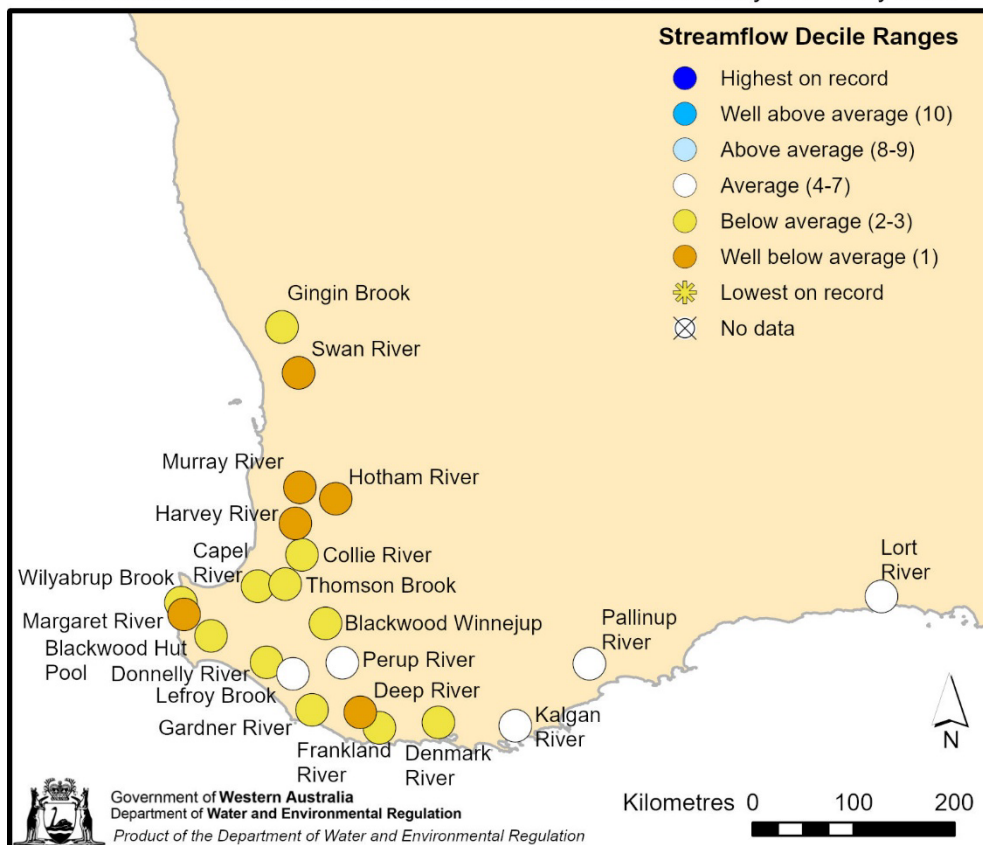
* A rainfall decile is a way to compare the amount of rain for a particular place and period. The rain volumes at each location for the same calendar period for each year between 1975–2025 are ranked from least to most and then divided into ten groups. The first group (‘decile 1’) contains the lowest 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

Average to dry rainfall conditions so far this year in the SWLD has resulted in mostly below average to well below average streamflow in this area. So far this year:

- Average January to May streamflow was recorded at five sites: Lefroy Brook, Perup River, Kalgan River, Pallinup River and Lort River

South West Western Australia Streamflow Deciles - 1 January to 31 May 2026



Classifications compared to the 1975 to 2025 base period

Map 2 Streamflow deciles† for January to May for the SWLD

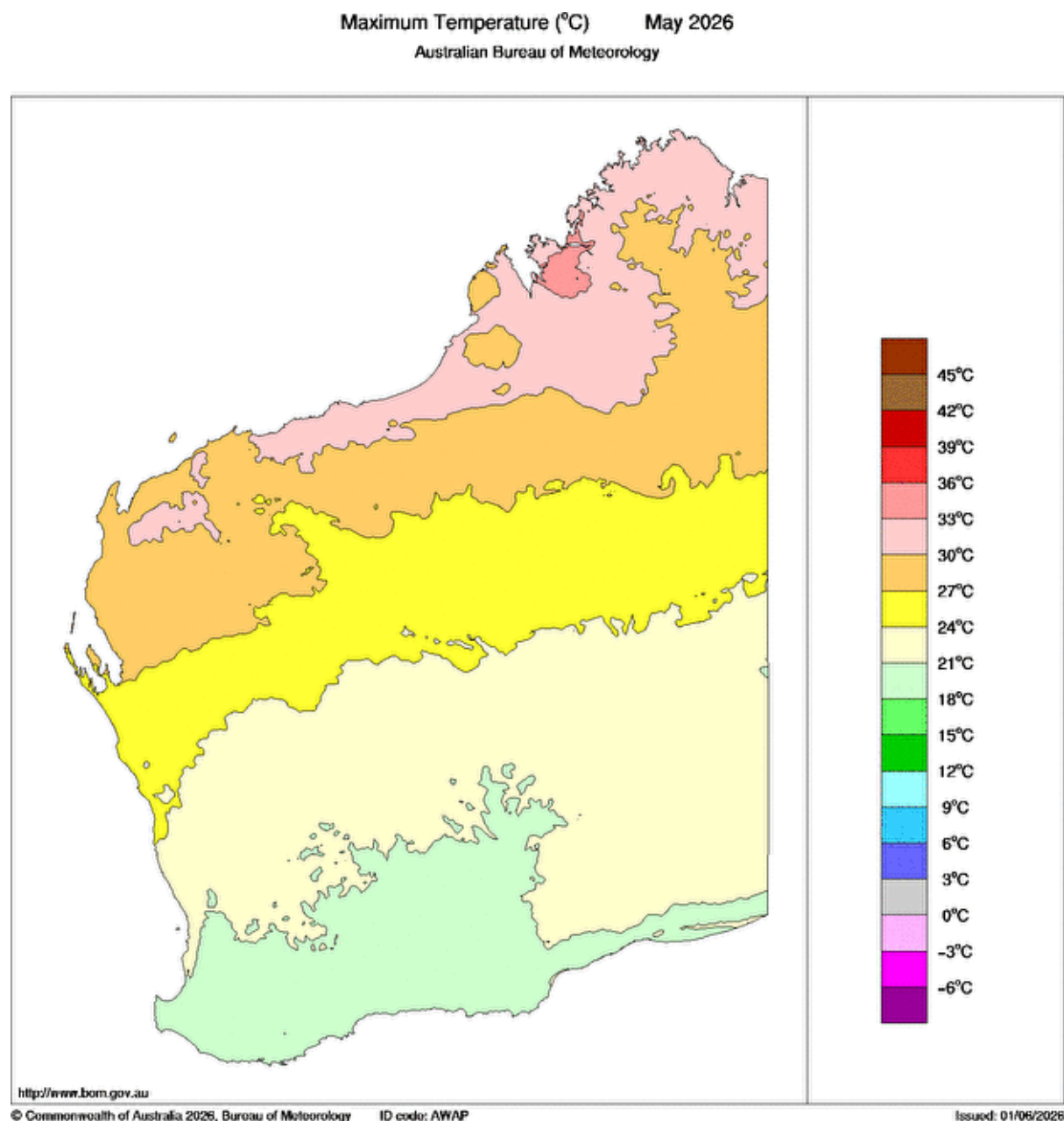
† A streamflow decile is a way to compare the amount of water flowing in a stream, river or other channel for a particular place and period. Streamflow at each location for the same calendar period for each year between 1975–2024 are ranked from least to most and then divided into ten groups. The first group (‘decile 1’) contains the lowest 10 per cent of streamflow and is



considered to be well-below average streamflow. At the other end of the spectrum, 'decile 10' contains the highest 10 per cent of measures and is considered to be well-above average streamflow. The coloured circles in the map show how a 2025 streamflow fits with these 10 groups of ranked historical streamflow.

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 May 2026

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

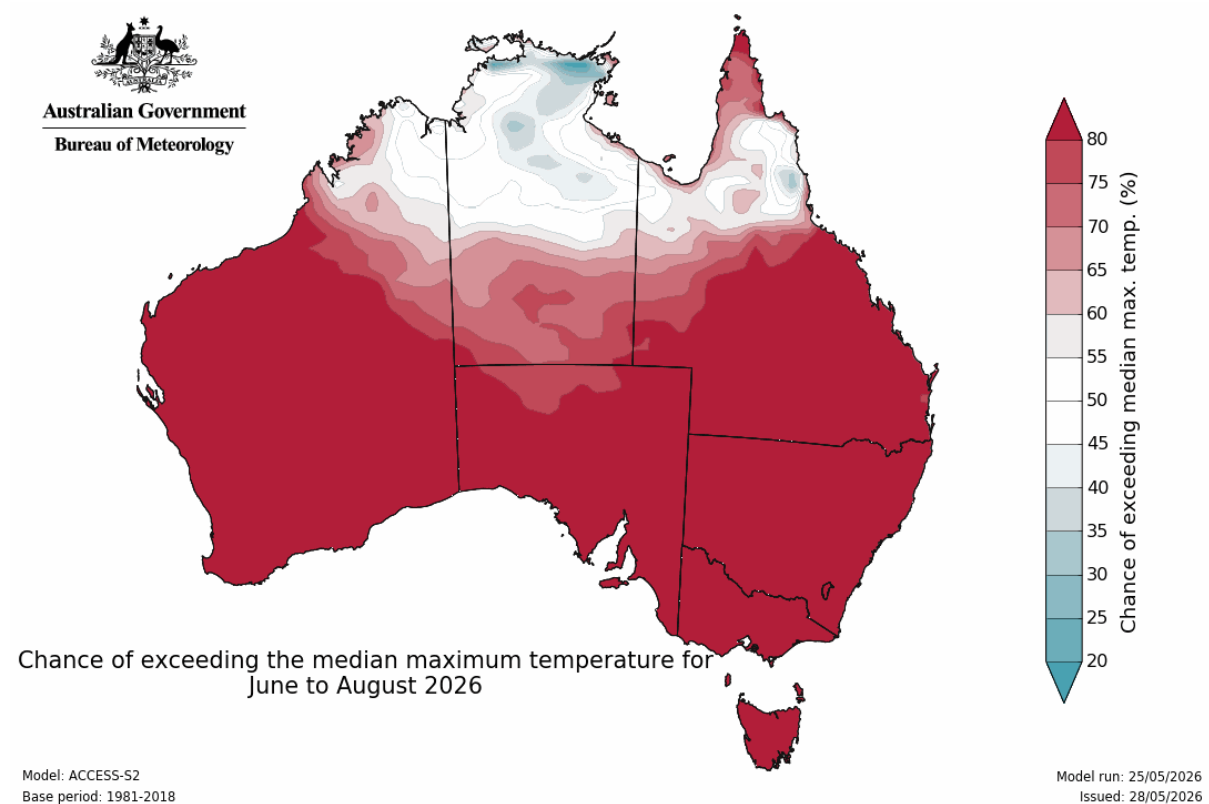
The mean maximum temperatures ranged from 18 to 24 degrees. The mean maximum temperatures in May were above average for most of the SWLD. (Based on the monthly

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

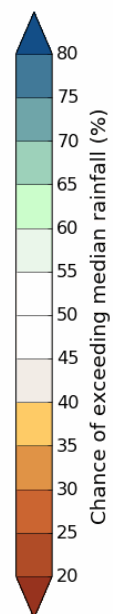
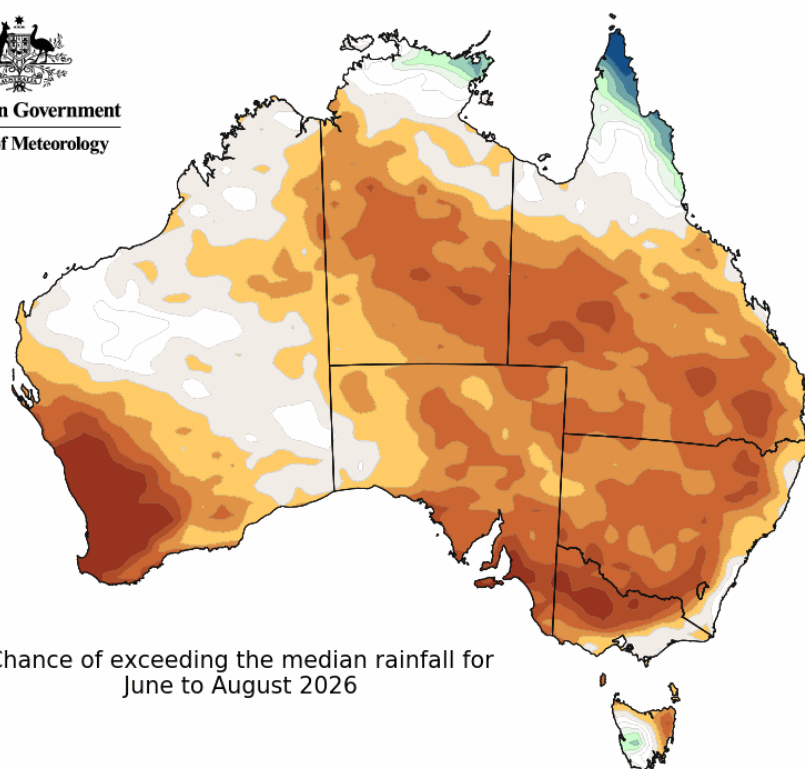
Future - Seasonal forecast

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

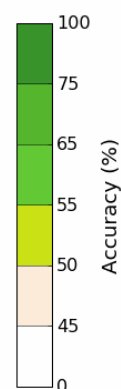
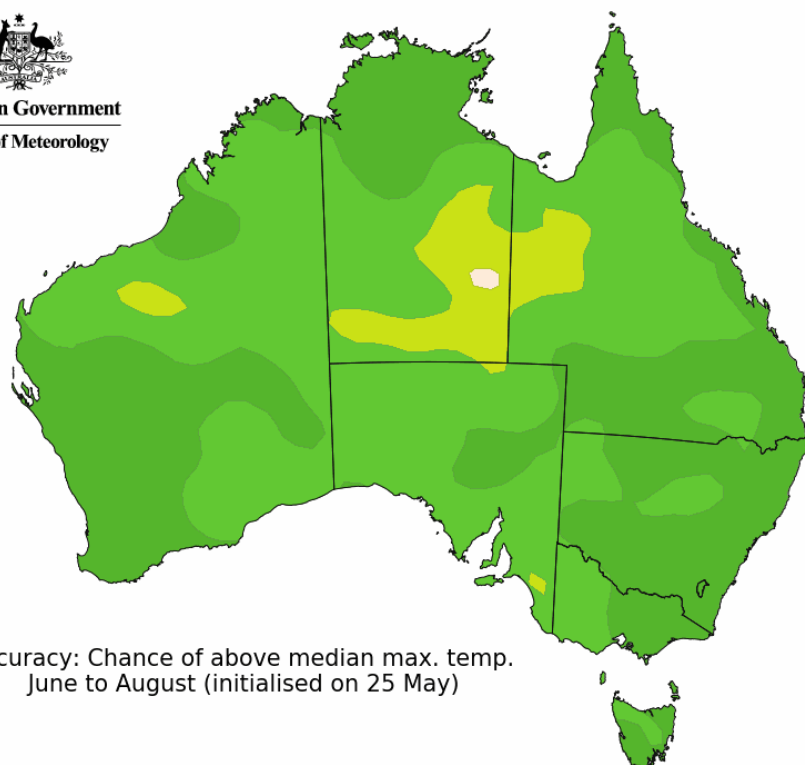


Chance of exceeding the median rainfall for
 June to August 2026

Model: ACCESS-S2
 Base period: 1981-2018

Model run: 25/05/2026
 Issued: 28/05/2026

Map 5: 3-month rainfall outlook

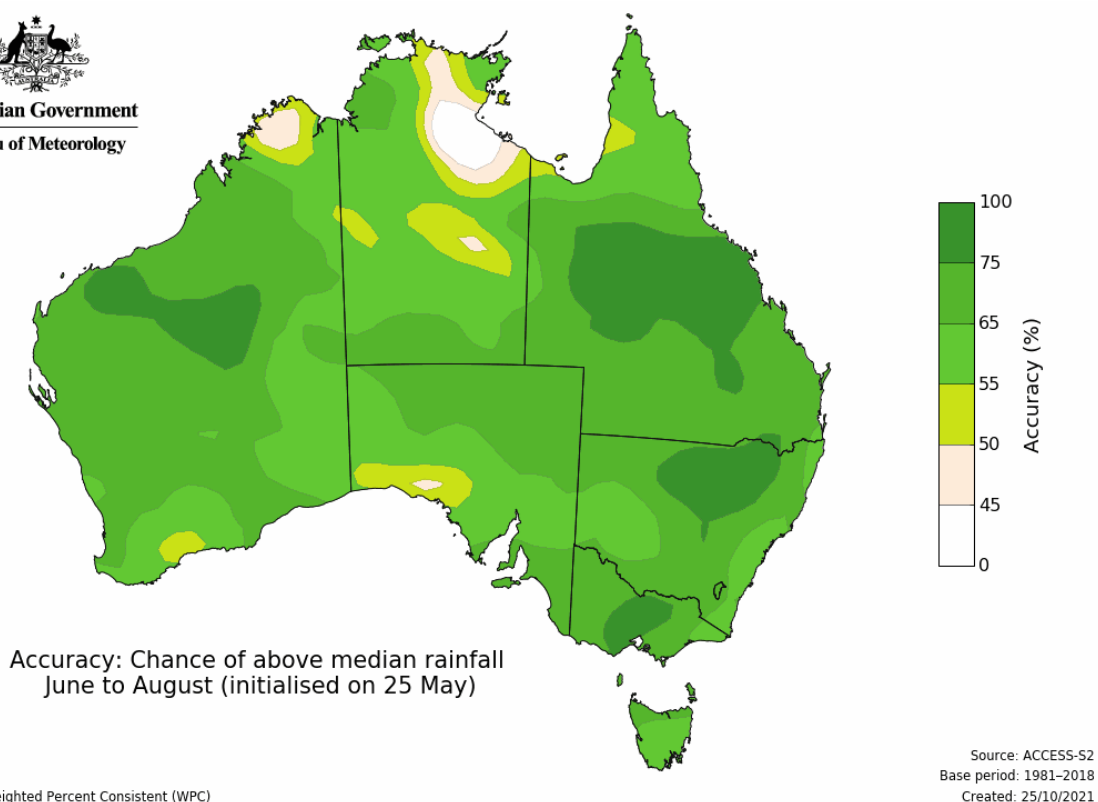


Accuracy: Chance of above median max. temp.
 June to August (initialised on 25 May)

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 28 May 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 June to August (Map 4).
- The accuracy of the temperature forecast is between 65 and 75 per cent in the SWLD. This indicates a high level of confidence in the forecast (Map 6).
- The rainfall forecast indicates dry conditions for the June to August period with less than 20 per cent chance of exceeding median rainfall across most of the SWLD, and less than 40 per cent chance of exceeding median rainfall in inland eastern areas (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 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.