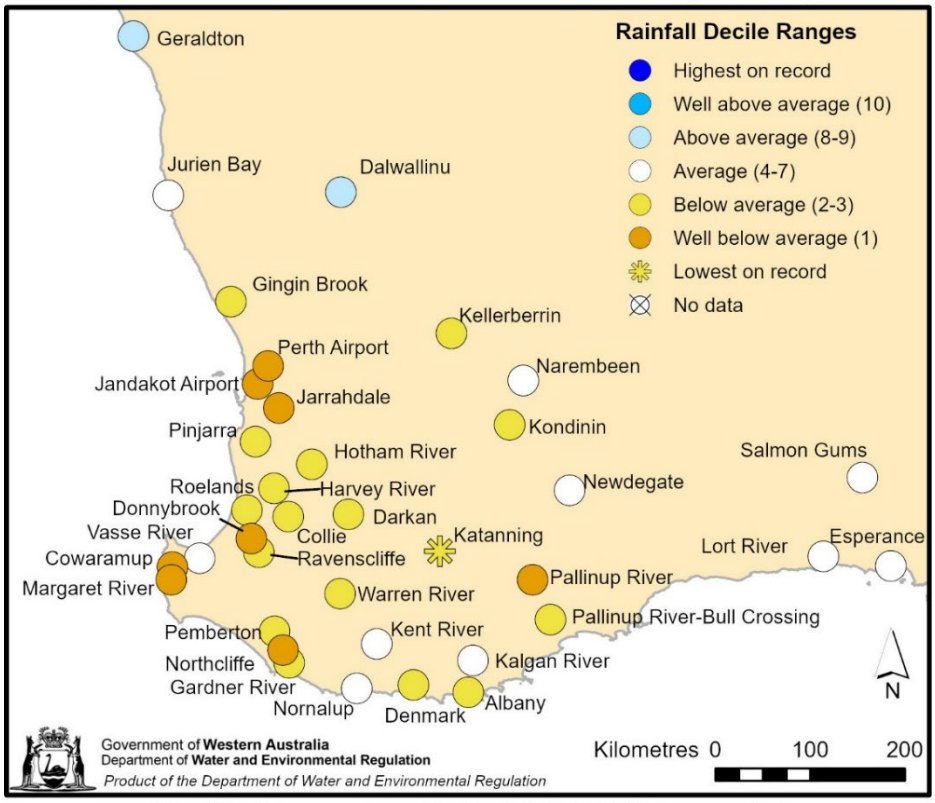
# South West Land Division

**Monthly rainfall, temperature and streamflow**
**Month: JULY**

## Rainfall and streamflow 2026

### Rainfall

Rainfall in July was below average across most of the South West Land Division (SWLD), except for Geraldton and Dalwallinu, which recorded average monthly totals. Six sites recorded their lowest July rainfall on record (Albany, Darkan, Denmark, Kellerberrin, Northcliffe and Pallinup River). Year-to-date rainfall (January to July) ranged from above average to well below average across the region (Map 1). Katanning recorded its lowest year-to-date rainfall on record.

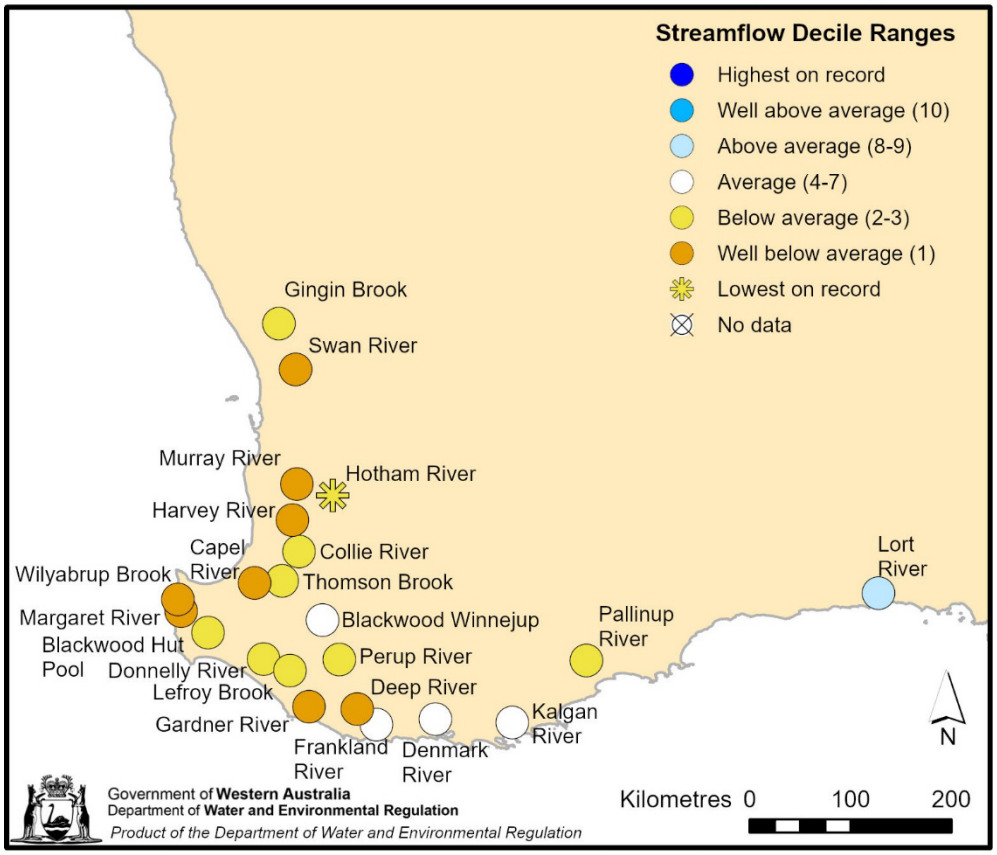



**Map 1: Rainfall deciles* for January to July 2026 compared to 1975-2025 for the SWLD**

* A rainfall decile is a way to show how the amount of rain for a particular place and period compares to the historical record. At each location, rainfall totals for the same calendar period from 1975–2025 are ranked from lowest to highest and divided into ten equal groups (deciles). Decile 1 contains the lowest 10 per cent of rainfalls and decile 10 contains the highest 10 per cent of rainfalls. Rainfall deciles are grouped to represent well below average rainfall to well above average rainfall. The coloured circles in the map show where the 2026 rainfall ranks in these groups.

## Streamflow

Mostly below average rainfall conditions so far this year (January to July) in the SWLD has resulted in below average to well below average streamflow. Hotham River has recorded lowest on record streamflow so far this year. Four rivers have recorded average streamflow: Blackwood River (Winnejup), Frankland River, Denmark River, and Kalgan River. Lort River recorded above average streamflow.



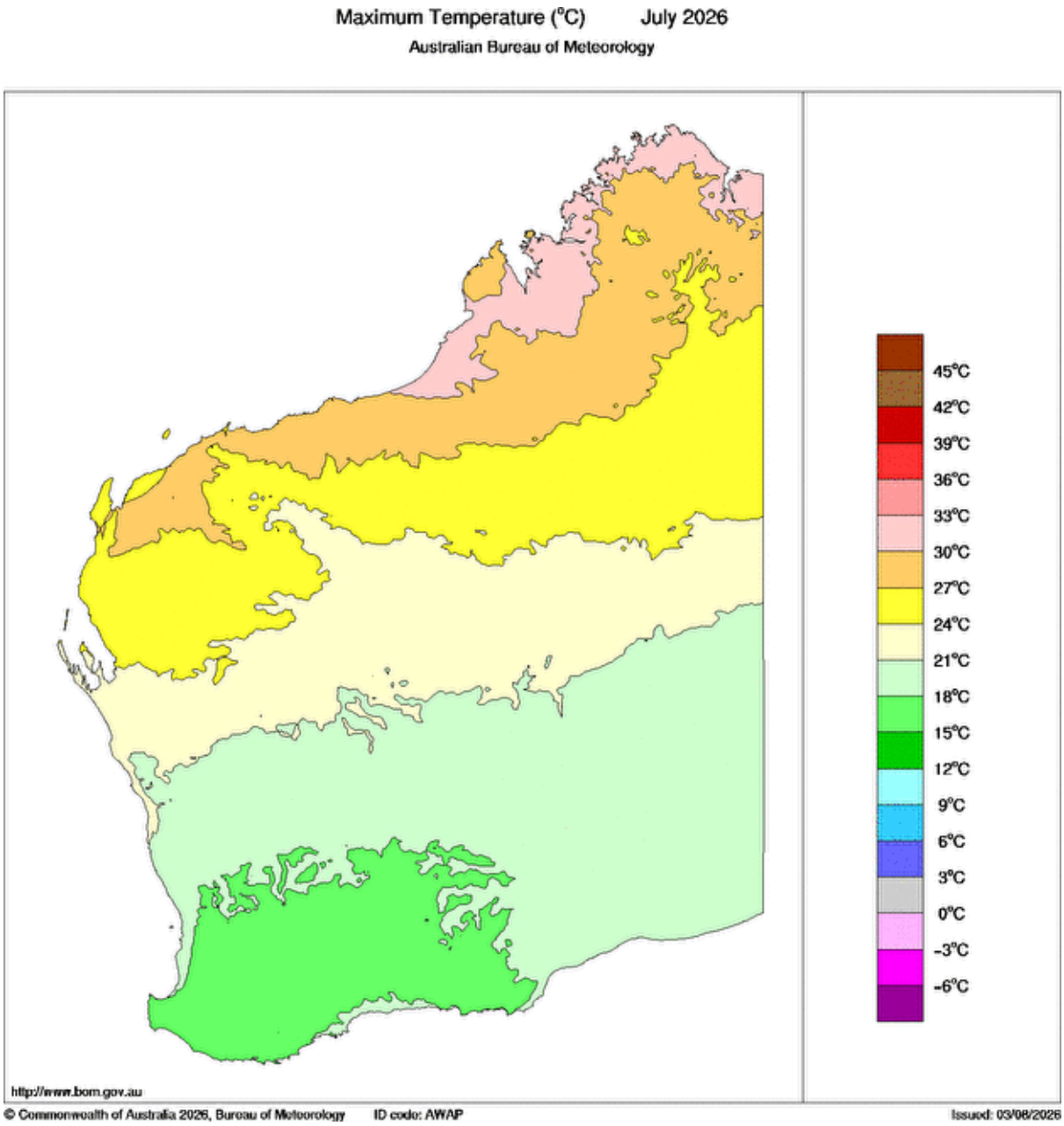

Classifications compared to the 1975 to 2025 base period

**Map 2 Streamflow deciles† for January to July 2026 compared to 1975-2025 for the SWLD**

† A streamflow decile is a way to show how the amount of water flowing in a stream, river or other channel for a particular place and period compares to the historical record. At each location, streamflow totals for the same calendar period from 1975–2025 are ranked from lowest to highest and divided into ten equal groups (deciles). Decile 1 contains the lowest 10 per cent of streamflows and decile 10 contains the highest 10 per cent of streamflows. Streamflow deciles are grouped to represent well below average streamflow to well above average streamflow. The coloured circles in the map show where the 2026 streamflow ranks in these groups.

## Temperature 2026

The mean maximum temperature in July was above average to very much above average for the SWLD (Bureau of Meteorology Monthly maximum temperature decile for Western Australia), ranging from 15 to 21 degrees (Map 3).




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

*Source: Bureau of Meteorology Climate Maps - Temperature Latest*

## Future - Seasonal forecast

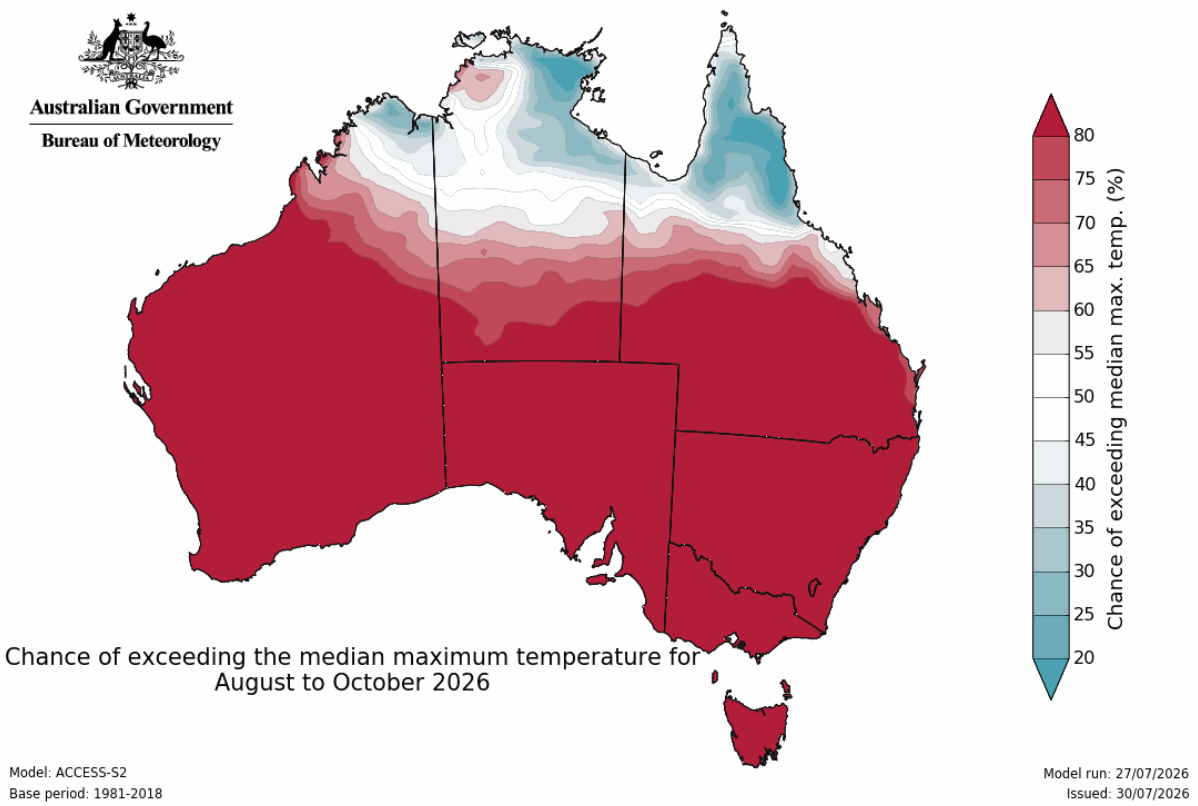
To complement 2026 tracking for the SWLD, we also consider the rainfall and temperature forecasts, produced by the Bureau of Meteorology. When considering forecasts, it is important to look at the forecast and the forecast model's accuracy. Model accuracy is a measure of how well model forecasts match observed records as they become available.

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.

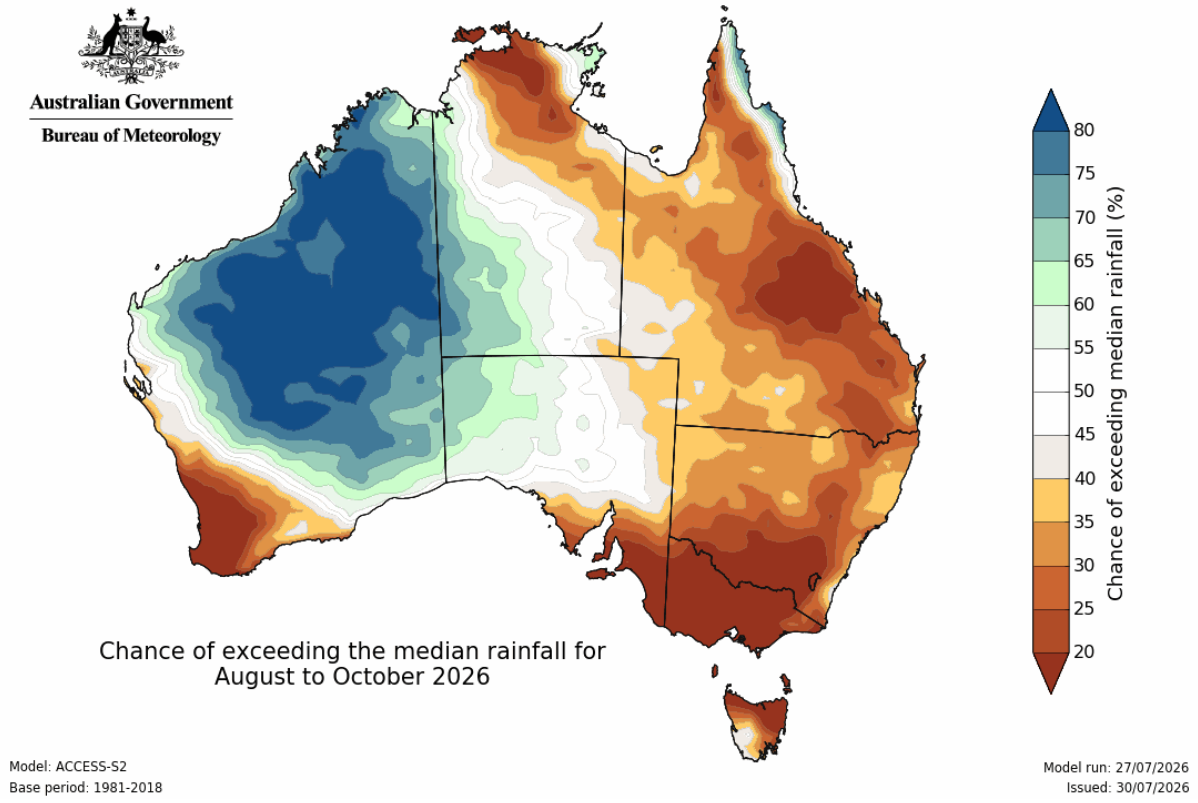
As at 27 July 2026:

- 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 August to October (Map 4).
- The accuracy of the temperature forecast is between 75 and 100 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 August to October 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 55 and 65 per cent in the majority of the SWLD. The accuracy for the inland eastern areas is below 50 per cent. This indicates a low to moderate level of confidence in the forecast depending on the location (Map 7).[1]

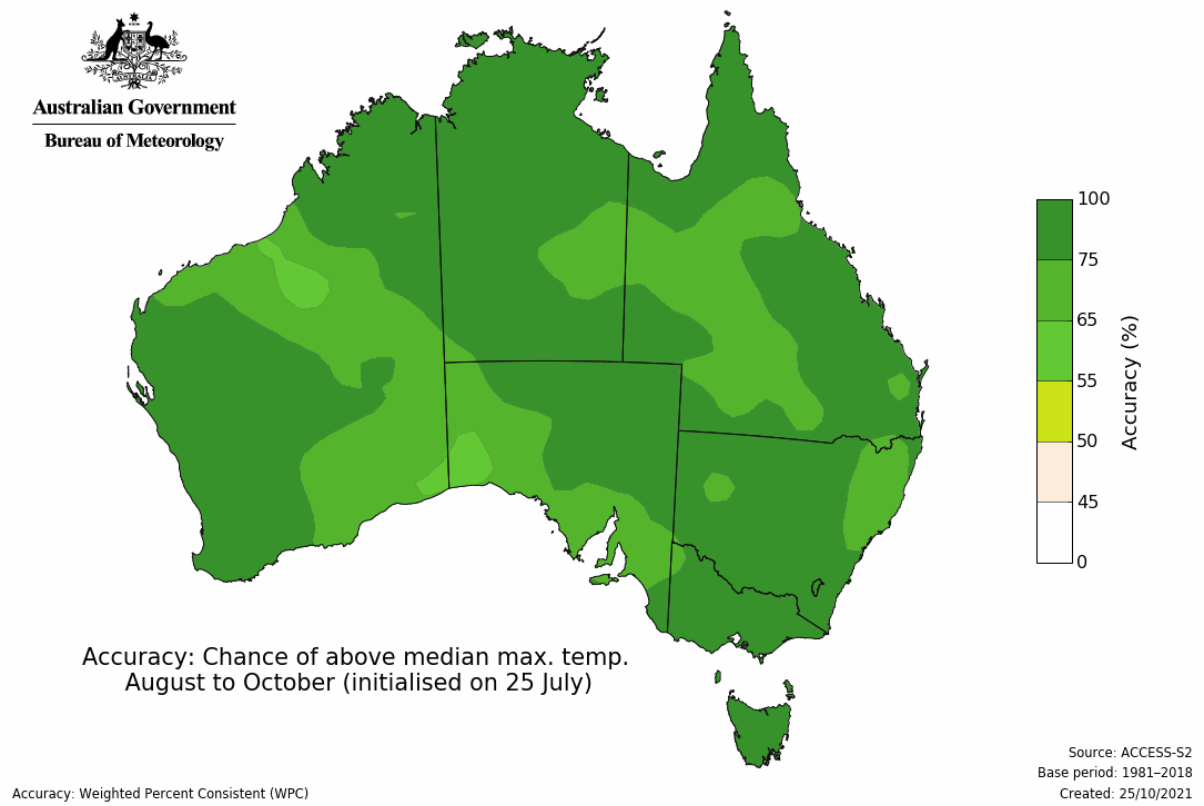
Bureau of Meteorology tracks global climate indicators to help understand long-term weather patterns. The indicators show an El Nino is underway in the tropical Pacific, with potential for a positive Indian Ocean Dipole to form in winter-spring. Combined, these climate drivers are likely to reduce winter rainfall and bring higher temperatures across the SWLD.



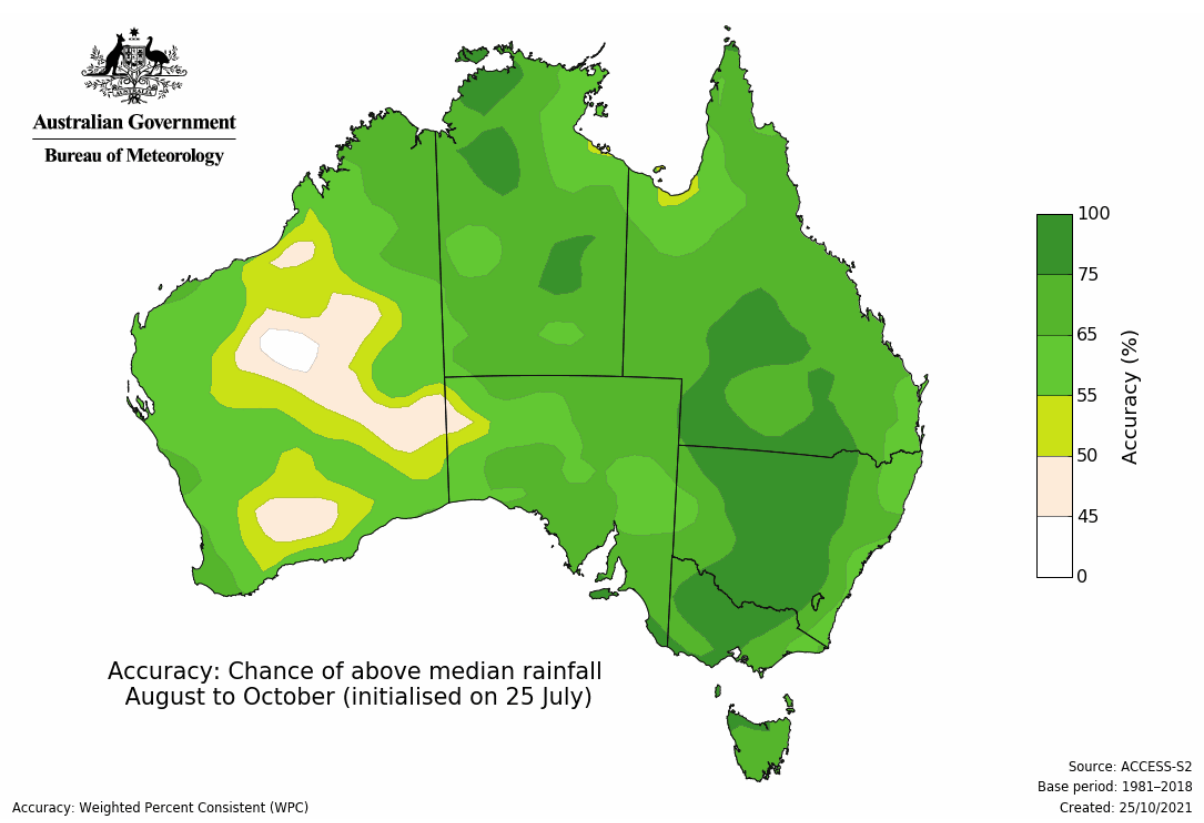

**Map 4: 3-month temperature outlook**




**Map 5: 3-month rainfall outlook**




**Map 6: Temperature outlook accuracy**




**Map 7: Rainfall outlook accuracy**

## 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[1]
- about 80 per cent less flow into Perth's water supply dams[2]
- up to 70 per cent less recharge to groundwater.[3]

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.

[1]Bureau of Meteorology. Accessed January 9, 2025:

- *Climate outlooks – weeks, months and seasons*. 27 February 2025. www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary.
- *Climate and water long-range forecast*. 27 February 2025. www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/video.
- *Western Australia in autumn 2024*. 2 December 2025. www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/season/wa/summary.shtml.

[2]Lawrence J, Mackey F, Chiew M, et al. Chapter 11: Australasia. Climate change 2022: impacts, adaptation and vulnerability – Australasia. Contribution of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. oi:10.1017/9781009325844.013

[3] **Water Corporation. Streamflow. Accessed August 30, 2024.**
**www.watercorporation.com.au/Our-water/Rainfall-and-dams/Streamflow**