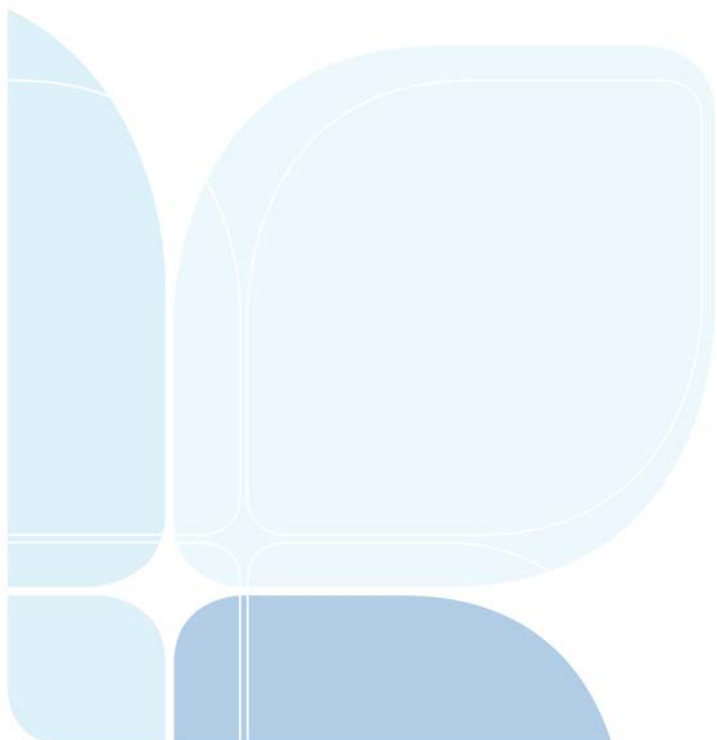




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On-ground Seasonal Conditions Report

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing December 2015. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser.

Contents

Contents	i
Introduction	1
Table 1: Seasonal Condition Report Overview	1
Data Analysis	3
Table 2: Surveyed Property Numbers	3
Table 3: Seasonal Conditions Reporting Scale	4
Table 4: Average Regional Score and Local Government Areas (LGAs)	5
Average Regional Property Score	8
Table 5: The average regional property score (including water, agronomic and livestock categories across the regions LGAs)	8
Figure 1: Graphical and geographical representation of the average regional property score	8
Average Regional Score for Infrastructure	9
Table 6: The average regional infrastructure (including bores, tanks, troughs piping) score	9
Figure 2: Graphical and geographical representation of the average regional infrastructure score	9
Average Regional Water (including surface water, dams and stock accessed rivers, creeks and springs) Score	10
Table 7: The average regional water score	10
Figure 3: Graphical and geographical representation of the average regional water score	10
Average Regional Agronomics (including native pastures, improve pastures and cropping) Score	11
Table 8: The average agronomics score	11
Figure 4: Graphical and geographical representation of the average regional agronomics score	11
Average Regional Livestock (including beef, sheep and other) Score	12
Table 9: The average livestock score	12
Figure 5: Graphical and geographical representation of the average regional livestock score	12
Regional Comments on Seasonal Conditions	13

Introduction

The NSW Government is contributing to national drought reform by replacing the system of State drought declarations with Regional Seasonal Conditions Reports. On a routine monthly basis Local Land Services (LLS) cropping and livestock experts gather, from farmers and other experts, information on conditions existing in their regions which is combined into state-wide LLS Seasonal Conditions. The reports provide valuable information on rainfall, water storage, crops, livestock and other issues to help farmers make informed decisions. The LLS reports complement State and regional Monthly Seasonal Conditions reports developed by NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) which draw information from Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO and relevant modelling data. The Regional Assistance Advisory Committee assesses Seasonal Conditions Reports and provides ongoing recommendations on potential farm business, farm family and community support and observations to the Minister. The NSW Seasonal Conditions Report can be viewed on the NSW DPI website.

Table 1: Seasonal Condition Report Overview

Details	September 2015	October 2015	November 2015
State Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten regions reported no change to their average regional score from last month including, Central Tablelands, Central West, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, North west, South East and Western. Greater Sydney has submitted their first report in three months, so no comparison can be made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nine regions reported no change from last month including, Central Tablelands, Central West, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, North West, Riverina and South East. Greater Sydney and Western have reported a decline in conditions from last month. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six regions reported no change from last month, including Central Tablelands, Murray, Northern Tablelands, Riverina, South East and Western. Central West and North West have reported a decline in conditions from last month. Greater Sydney, Hunter and North Coast have reported an improvement in conditions from last month.
Regional Ranking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very Good – Greater Sydney, Riverina and South East. Good – Central Tablelands, Central West, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, North West and Western. Below Requirements – Northern Tablelands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very Good – Riverina and South East. Good – Central Tablelands, Central West, Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray, North Coast and North West. Reasonable – Western. Below Requirements – Northern Tablelands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very Good – Greater Sydney, Hunter, North Coast, Riverina and South East. Good – Central Tablelands and Murray. Reasonable – Central West and Western Below Requirements – Northern Tablelands and North West.
LGA Scores –	There are no LGAs within this scale.	There are no LGAs within this scale.	There are no LGAs within this scale.

Details	September 2015	October 2015	November 2015
Extremely Poor, Extreme or Extremely Critical			
LGA Scores – Excellent or Very Good	The following LGAs: Cowra, Gilgandra, Warren, Forbes, Cessnock, Maitland, Hume, Urana, Bellingen, Kyogle, Tamworth and Jerilderie.	The following LGAs: Bathurst, Cowra, Narromine, Weddin, Wollondilly, Dungog, Cessnock, Hume, Urana, Bellingen, Tweed Shire, Kyogle, Tamworth, Coolamon, Bombala and Snowy River.	The following LGAs: Bathurst, Cowra Orange, Weddin, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Gloucester, Greater Taree, Great Lakes, Hume, Urana, Deniliquin, Port Macquarie Hastings, Kempsey, Bellingen, Kyogle, Richmond Valley Council, Tamworth, Young, Wagga Wagga, Jerilderie, Bombala, Yass Valley, Bourke and Central Darling.

Data Analysis

Table 2: Surveyed Property Numbers

Region	Number of properties surveyed		
	September	October	November
Central Tablelands	40	40	40
Central West	46	51	47
Greater Sydney	14	15	16
Hunter	18	24	22
Murray	50	53	53
North Coast	47	47	47
Northern Tablelands	33	36	33
North West	31	25	29
Riverina	18	26	17
South East	52	60	54
Western	33	38	30
TOTAL	383	415	388

Table 3: Seasonal Conditions Reporting Scale

Scale	Regional description	Regional description of seasonal conditions	Water (quantity, quality and infrastructure) description	Agronomic conditions (winter or summer crops, native and/or improved pasture) description	Livestock conditions/ carrying capacity description
Level 1	Excellent	Previous 12 months above average seasonal conditions	Water security established on the property for a 12 month period exceeding demands and without any further infrastructure improvements.	2 nd year of above average pasture conditions, silage and hay production exceeds normal requirements.	Past 12 months, livestock in excellent conditions, highly productive, stocking rates above expectations.
Level 2	Very Good	Previous 6 months above average seasonal conditions	Water supply meets demands and has improved by infrastructure improvements.	Cropping and pasture highly successful, good storage observed on farm.	Carrying maximum and above capacity. Highly productive.
Level 3	Good	The current season is average	Water supply meets demands.	Crops and pasture growth meeting demands plus silage and hay storage observed on farm.	Average carrying capacity.
Level 4	Reasonable	The current season is below average	Water has not been replenished during the period.	Some crop failure. Pasture below expectations.	Slower stock growth rates. Supplementary feeding of breeding stock.
Level 5	Below Requirements	The current season has failed	Water levels depleting from last period.	Failed crops and pasture growth, stores used.	Supplementary feeding required to maintain condition of stock for market weights.
Level 6	Poor	The past 6 months have been below average	Water supply continues to worsen.	Livestock supplementary feeding occurring, local storage being used.	Supplementary feeding necessary to maintain breeding stock, stock losing condition.
Level 7	Very Poor	Consecutive failed seasons	No surface water in many paddocks.	Supplementary feeding required and sourced of farm, silage and storage hay used.	High volume feeding occurring to maintain breeding stock. Early weaning. Herd and flock culling occurring.
Level 8	Extremely Poor	NSW DPI trigger event (1 in 5 years 20 th percentile for rain, pasture, soil moisture) expected to be flagged	No surface water in many paddocks. Water poor quality.	Crops and pasture do not support livestock production. All feed being imported. Paddock sacrificing evident. Maintenance of ground cover a priority issue.	Supplementary feeding all livestock. ¹
Level 9	Extreme	NSW DPI trigger event 3 consecutive months	Surface water does not support livestock.	Sparse ground cover. Bare ground evident.	Livestock on properties at level 9 seasonal conditions carry a high probability of welfare concerns.
Level 10	Extremely Critical	12 months of failed seasons	No surface water supplies.	No improved pastures, native pasture depleted. Bare ground.	

¹ Please see the following guide for more information - A national guide to describing and managing beef cattle in low body condition - Meat & Livestock Australia Limited website <http://www.mla.com.au/News-and-resources/Publication-details?pubid=6198>

Table 4: Average Regional Score and Local Government Areas (LGAs)

Region	September			October			November		
	Average Regional Score	Positive (LGAs)	Negative (LGA's)	Average Regional Score	Positive (LGAs)	Negative (LGA's)	Average Regional Score	Positive (LGAs)	Negative (LGA's)
Central Tablelands	Good (3)	Cowra – Very Good	Cabonne, Mid Western and Oberon - Reasonable	Good (3)	Bathurst and Cowra – Very Good	Cabonne, Mid-Western and Lithgow - Reasonable	Good (3)	Bathurst, Cowra and Orange – Very Good	Cabonne, Lithgow, Mid-Western and Oberon- Reasonable
Central West	Good (3)	Gilgandra, Warren and Forbes – Very Good	-	Good (3)	Narromine and Weddin – Very Good	Wellington, Warrumbungle and Parkes – Reasonable Coonamble – Below Requirements	Good (3)	Weddin – Very Good	Wellington, Dubbo, Gilgandra, Coonamble – Reasonable Warrumbungle – Below Requirements
Greater Sydney	Very Good (2)	-	Blue Mountains - Reasonable	Good (3)	Wollondilly – Very Good	-	Very Good (2)	-	-
Hunter	Good (3)	Cessnock – Excellent Maitland – Very Good	Singleton - Reasonable	Good (3)	Dungog and Cessnock – Very Good	Gloucester - Reasonable	Good (3)	Muswellbrook, Singleton, Gloucester, Greater Taree and Great Lakes – Very Good	-
Murray	Good (3)	Hume and Urana – Very Good	Wakool - Reasonable	Good (3)	Hume and Urana – Very Good	Berrigan, Conargo, Deniliquin and Wakool - Reasonable	Good (3)	Hume, Urana and Deniliquin – Very Good	Albury, Berrigan and Wakool - Reasonable

Region	September			October			November		
	Average Regional Score	Positive (LGAs)	Negative (LGA's)	Average Regional Score	Positive (LGAs)	Negative (LGA's)	Average Regional Score	Positive (LGAs)	Negative (LGA's)
North Coast	Good (3)	Bellingen and Kyogle – Very Good	-	Good (3)	Bellingen, Tweed Shire and Kyogle – Very Good	-	Good (3)	Port Macquarie Hastings, Kempsey, Bellingen, Kyogle and Richmond Valley Council – Very Good	-
Northern Tablelands	Below Requirements (5)	Walcha, Uralla and Armidale Dumaresq - Reasonable	-	Below Requirements (5)	Walcha - Reasonable	-	Below Requirements (5)	-	-
North West	Good (3)	Tamworth – Very Good	Walgett – Below Requirements	Good (3)	Tamworth – Very Good	Moree Plains and Narrabri - Reasonable	Reasonable (4)	Tamworth – Very Good Gwydir and Liverpool Plains - Good	Walgett – Very Poor
Riverina	Very Good (2)	Jerilderie - Excellent	Tumut, Lockhart and Hay - Good	Very Good (2)	Coolamon - Excellent	Tumut, Young, Cootamundra, Lockhart, Bland and Hay - Good	Very Good (2)	Young, Wagga Wagga and Jerilderie – Excellent	Cootamundra, Coolamon, Lockhart and Hay - Good
South East	Very Good (2)	-	Bega and Cooma - Good Eurobodalla - Reasonable	Very Good (2)	Bombala and Snowy River - Excellent	Illawarra and Eurobodalla – Good Pallerang - Reasonable	Very Good (2)	Bombala and Yass Valley - Excellent	Illawarra, Boorowa and Eurobodalla – Good Pallerang – Below Requirements

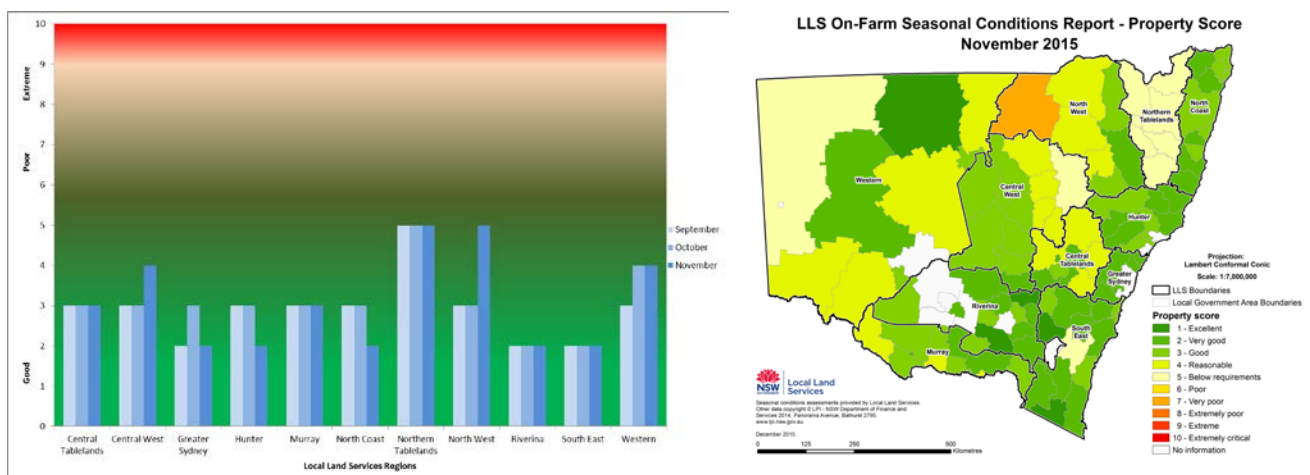
Region	September			October			November		
	Average Regional Score	Positive (LGAs)	Negative (LGA's)	Average Regional Score	Positive (LGAs)	Negative (LGA's)	Average Regional Score	Positive (LGAs)	Negative (LGA's)
Western	Good (3)	-	Brewarrina and Unincorporated Areas - Reasonable	Reasonable (4)	Balranald, Central Darling and Wentworth - Good	Bourke, Cobar and Unincorporated – Below Requirements Brewarrina - Poor	Good (3)	Bourke – Excellent Central Darling – Very Good	Balranald, Brewarrina, Cobar and Wentworth – Reasonable Unincorporated – Below Requirements

Average Regional Property Score

Table 5: The average regional property score (including water, agronomic and livestock categories across the regions LGAs)

Region	Average scores for regions		
	September	October	November
Central Tablelands	Good	Good	Good
Central West	Good	Good	Good
Greater Sydney	Very Good	Good	Very Good
Hunter	Good	Good	Good
Murray	Good	Good	Good
North Coast	Good	Good	Good
Northern Tablelands	Below Requirements	Below Requirements	Below Requirements
North West	Good	Good	Reasonable
Riverina	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
South East	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Western	Good	Reasonable	Good

Figure 1: Graphical and geographical representation of the average regional property score



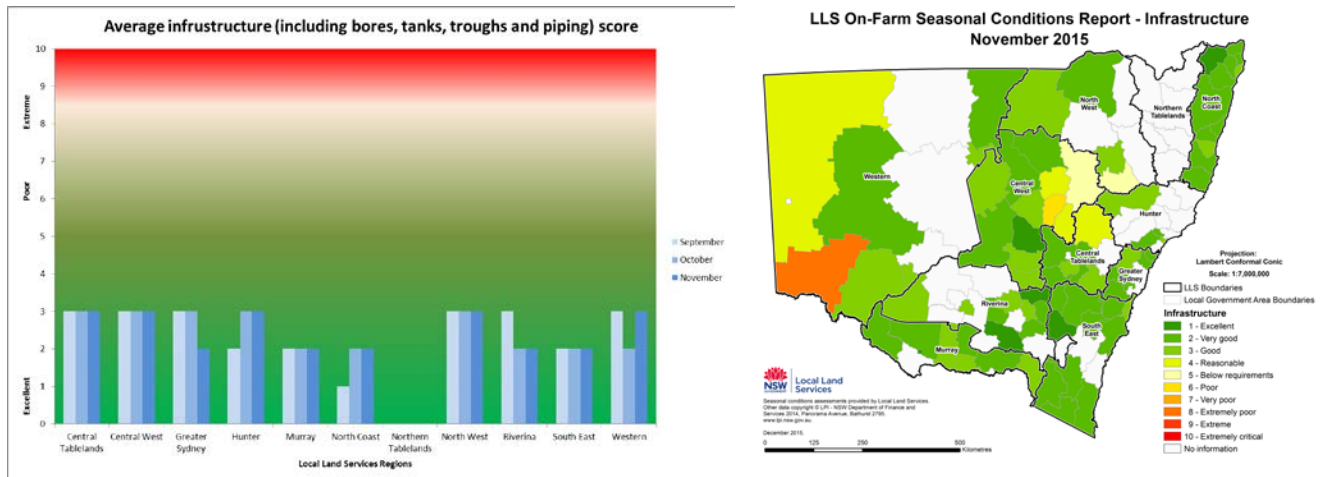
Average Regional Score for Infrastructure

The infrastructure score is used to capture information for the Regional Assistance Advisory Committee (RAAC) to use for the emergency water infrastructure grants in 2014.

Table 6: The average regional infrastructure (including bores, tanks, troughs piping) score

Region	Average scores for regions		
	September	October	November
Central Tablelands	Good	Good	Good
Central West	Good	Good	Good
Greater Sydney	Good	Good	Very Good
Hunter	Very Good	Good	Good
Murray	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
North Coast	Excellent	Very Good	Very Good
Northern Tablelands ²	-	-	-
North West	Good	Good	Good
Riverina	Good	Very Good	Very Good
South East	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Western	Good	Very Good	Good

Figure 2: Graphical and geographical representation of the average regional infrastructure score



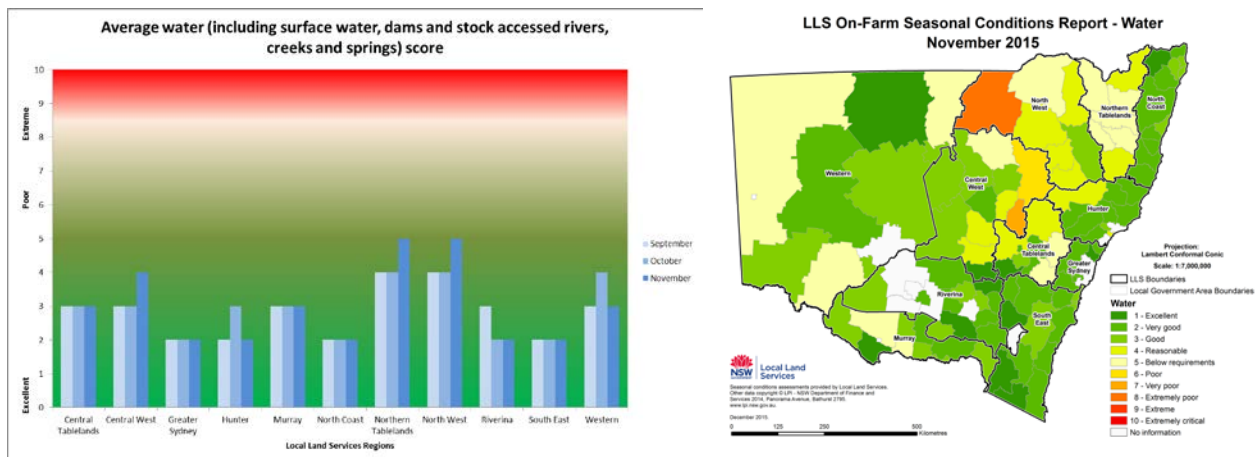
² Northern Tablelands do not measure/score the water infrastructure in the region.

Average Regional Water (including surface water, dams and stock accessed rivers, creeks and springs) Score

Table 7: The average regional water score

Region	Average scores for regions		
	September	October	November
Central Tablelands	Good	Good	Good
Central West	Good	Good	Reasonable
Greater Sydney	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Hunter	Very Good	Good	Very Good
Murray	Good	Good	Good
North Coast	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Northern Tablelands	Reasonable	Reasonable	Below Requirements
North West	Good	Reasonable	Below Requirements
Riverina	Good	Very Good	Very Good
South East	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Western	Good	Reasonable	Good

Figure 3: Graphical and geographical representation of the average regional water score

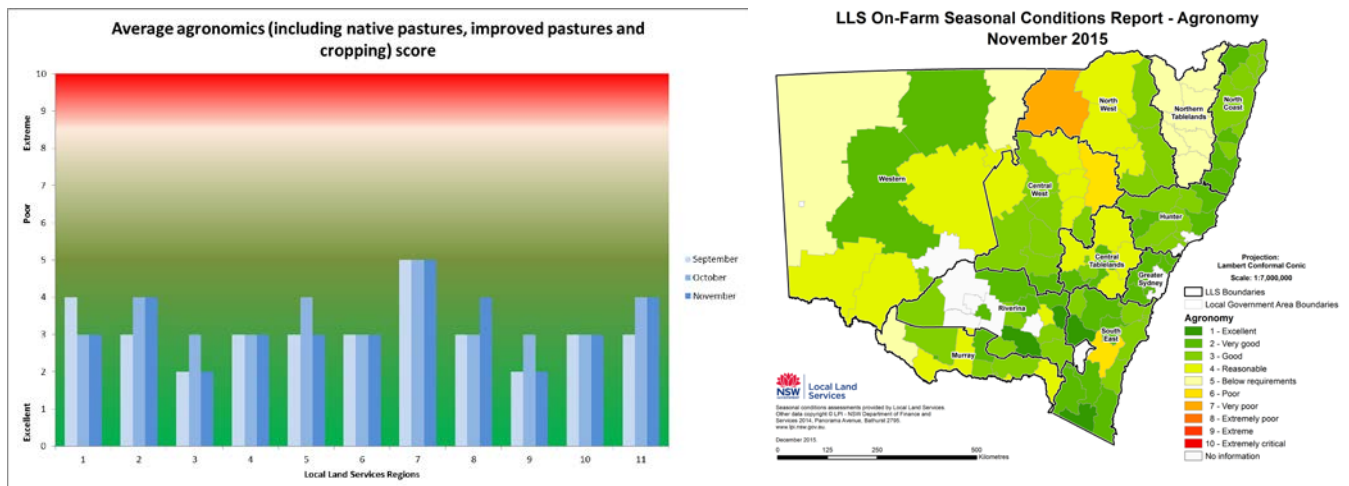


Average Regional Agronomics (including native pastures, improve pastures and cropping) Score

Table 8: The average agronomics score

Region	Average scores for regions		
	September	October	November
Central Tablelands	Reasonable	Good	Good
Central West	Good	Reasonable	Reasonable
Greater Sydney	Very Good	Good	Very Good
Hunter	Good	Good	Good
Murray	Good	Reasonable	Good
North Coast	Good	Good	Good
Northern Tablelands	Below Requirements	Below Requirements	Below Requirements
North West	Good	Good	Reasonable
Riverina	Very Good	Good	Very Good
South East	Good	Good	Good
Western	Good	Reasonable	Reasonable

Figure 4: Graphical and geographical representation of the average regional agronomics score

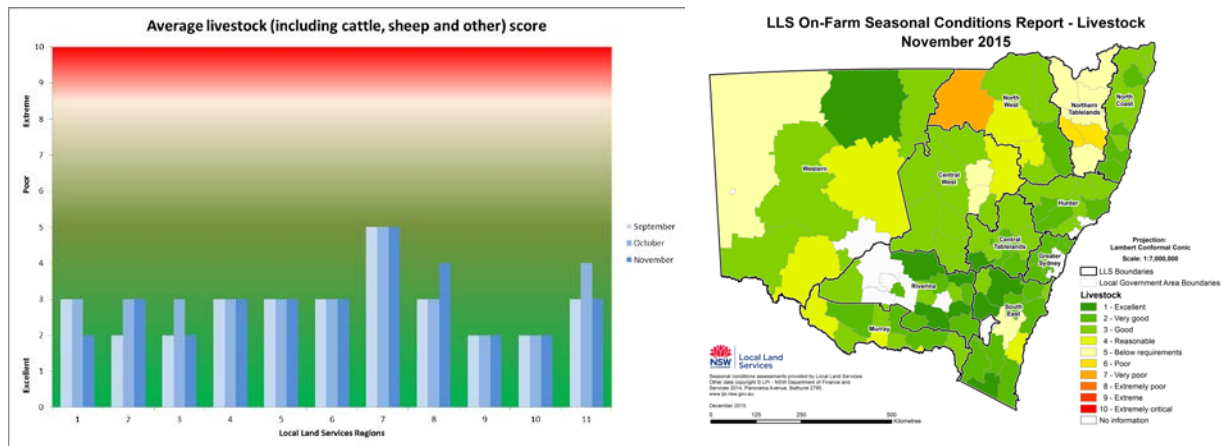


Average Regional Livestock (including beef, sheep and other) Score

Table 9: The average livestock score

Region	Average scores for regions		
	September	October	November
Central Tablelands	Good	Good	Very Good
Central West	Very Good	Good	Good
Greater Sydney	Very Good	Good	Very Good
Hunter	Good	Good	Good
Murray	Good	Good	Good
North Coast	Good	Good	Good
Northern Tablelands	Below Requirements	Below Requirements	Below Requirements
North West	Good	Good	Reasonable
Riverina	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
South East	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Western	Good	Reasonable	Good

Figure 5: Graphical and geographical representation of the average regional livestock score



Regional Comments on Seasonal Conditions

Region	September	October	November
<p>Central Tablelands</p>	<p>A lack of decent rainfall across the district has prevented dams from replenishing water supplies in most areas. Despite this water supply has generally held up with the exception of some properties primarily in the Cabonne and Mid-Western Council areas, where some properties have extremely low water supplies with water carting, pumping water from other infrastructure and de-stocking the result of low dam levels.</p> <p>Pastures continue to remain a concern for many producers as green feed diminishes and hot dry winds result in feed burning off quickly. Many landholders have commented that they are currently sufficient for feed but continuing conditions such as those experienced during September will have a serious impact and will result in changing management decisions and likely supplementary feeding over coming months due to a lack of feed availability. The Cabonne and Mid-Western Council areas are once again those of most concern for lack of feed.</p> <p>Livestock condition remains good although landholders are likely to reduce stock numbers as conditions continue to dry and a lack of feed becomes more prevalent.</p>	<p>Rainfall distribution and run-off has been highly variable across the region with water supplies good on some properties and very poor on others. The Mid Western and Cabonne Local Government areas are where the most properties are affected at present, and water carting, or pumping from other infrastructure has been required as a result due to the little or no water in dams.</p> <p>Pasture quality has generally been good as rainfall late in the month has helped to keep grass growing and will help to ensure that pasture supplies are maintained over the next few months or so, depending upon future rainfall. Once again agronomic conditions have been affected more in the Cabonne council area where a prolonged period of low rainfall in the western half has resulted in pastures running to seed prematurely. The eastern and southern sections of the council area have maintained conditions better with more pasture availability and higher rainfall easing pressure overall. The Mid Western council area is another where there has been some variation in pasture quality as certain pockets of land near Mudgee have been hit harder by drier conditions with supplementary feeding occurring in some situations, whilst locusts have also damaged pastures and crops around the Gulgong area.</p> <p>Regionally pastures on granite soils have declined in quality and are only at maintenance values, whilst those on basalt and alluvial soils are experiencing better quality and quantity.</p> <p>Livestock condition has remained good across the region although many landholders have already lightened stocking numbers to ease pressure on pastures and water availability.</p>	<p>Good widespread rain fell across most of the region at the start of the month helping to ease some of the pressure on landholders after a dry October. Little or no rainfall during the latter half of the month combined with hot dry conditions has meant that water and pasture concerns are becoming more prevalent again. Some properties in the east of the region still remain with very poor water availability which will only worsen with continued dry conditions. Storms passing through the area were highly variable with some properties receiving large dumps of rainfall in very short periods, and others little or no rain. This has meant that some properties were able to receive run-off if they were lucky enough to be under these storms.</p> <p>Pastures had generally been responding well to rainfall across the district, however continued hot temperatures combined with strong winds have meant that pastures have hayed off very quickly within the last week. Whilst there still remains a reasonable quantity of feed for many producers, the speed with which the conditions have changed has caused concern over the deteriorating quality of available feed. This will continue to provide an issue if conditions throughout December carry on in the same vein. Harvest is continuing throughout the region with reports of oil levels down in Canola but yields remaining high. Crops in the central area of the region are still some weeks from harvest and were less effected by the storm events than crops on the slopes due to a later maturity.</p> <p>Locusts continue to remain a threat around the Mudgee region with some properties suffering from widespread activity. Adults laying again will likely decimate available summer feed in these areas.</p> <p>Livestock across the region remain in good condition overall, although some landholders may choose to reduce stocking rates if a hot dry summer eventuates and whilst stock prices remain high.</p>

Region	September	October	November
Central West	<p>In the North West conditions are rapidly deteriorating due to early hot weather and lack of moisture. Some landholders have started to offload stock due to lack of feed. Crops in some areas are doing well with hay production happening. In the South conditions are holding steady though some landholders have commented that rain would be welcome.</p>	<p>As always a fair variance across the region ranging from ordinary to very good. Some reports of grain crops being baled or eaten off due to lack of rain and that of others being devastated on Friday by 100 mm of rain and hail. Rainfall has varied from 5 to 85 mm spread over 2 to 7 days. A great proportion of this fell in the last two days of the month. This will have an impact on the grain harvest which had commenced in the western areas of our region. With more wet weather forecast for the week signs are not promising for grain quality beyond this week.</p> <p>The northern areas have missed out again, with the southern areas faring the best with rainfall for the month. Water storage has improved in most areas and with the current storms about the hope is this may improve further before summer.</p> <p>Feed conditions over all are about average for this time of year, with stock doing well on the available dry feed and improved pasture where available. As harvest progresses stubbles will become available and storms will generate some pasture growth.</p> <p>Locust hatchings have had an impact on pasture and some crop in the eastern areas, from Dubbo, Dunedoo to Coonabarabran. This is being managed by landholders and LLS staff. There have been approximately 150 reports so far. At this stage there is a low risk of locust migration from the north over the coming months.</p>	<p>Once again variable conditions across the region ranging from very good to ordinary. The region has had some good rain with falls ranging from 7mm to 125mm though the southern area has reported the heaviest falls. Northern areas have not been as lucky with the amount of rain falling. Landholders reporting reduced yield and quality in crops due to weather, some reports of isolated storm damage prior to harvest with crops being affected by heavy rain and hail. The condition of stock is good due to the available feed and stubble paddocks that have become available.</p> <p>Water could be an issue heading into the hotter months as groundwater is still an issue in some regions. The wind is also drying conditions out rapidly.</p>
Greater Sydney	<p>Water and rainfall: Ground water supply and rainfall is average across the region although in central coast there was a very good amount of rainfall recorded in the reporting month. Dams are almost full but started to drop the level. Creeks are flowing slower than last month. Rainfall has been reduced in the western Sydney area.</p> <p>Pasture: Overall pasture condition is good across the region but in some LGA in Western Sydney area greenness has been reducing and started to fading out. Some of the low lying flood plain area still showing very good pasture condition.</p> <p>Stock: Body condition of stock good as last month and carrying capacity had been slightly reduced from last</p>	<p>Water and rainfall: Average rainfall was decreased in October across the region where a significant decrease in central coast region. In the south western LGA rainfall was significantly low which has affect pasture and livestock condition in the area. However, reservoir and dams still almost full and farmers are expecting there will no shortage of water in the next few months. In the Blue mountain area there was a good amount of rain last month which has effect on filling all reservoir and dams.</p> <p>Pasture and crops: Pasture and crop condition has been deteriorate over the last month. Pasture growth is being slowed down and started to fade out. Some of the low lying flood plain area still showing very good pasture condition. In the Blue mountain area pasture showing</p>	<p>Water and rainfall: Average rainfall was excellent across the region especially first half of the month where a remarkable positive improvement has occurred during the month. Almost all reporting LGA had more than 100ml rainfall in the first half of the month resulting improved condition for pasture and livestock. Moreover, reservoir and dams very full and farmers are expecting that it is enough water to run up to the end of this summer.</p> <p>Pasture and crops: Pasture and crop condition has been improved dramatically within first half of November and still showing excellent growth. Good rainfall early in the month and consistent southerlies throughout the month have helped to regrow grasses and reduce the</p>

Region	September	October	November
	<p>month. In the Blue Mountain LGA stocks has suffered scarcity of green pasture due to snowfall through out three quarter of last month but grazing condition started to catch up in late August. Due to declining pasture condition in some LGA farmers started to using a good amount of silage and hay.</p>	<p>more growth compared to last reporting month whereas Camden and Wollondilly LGA shows fade out growth. Overall pasture condition is reasonable across the region. Stock: Livestock condition has been slightly declined in the reporting month mainly due to lack green grasses. Carrying capacity remains unchanged but supplementary feed supply has been increased in the area. Stock in Blue Mountain LGA has shown improved condition compared to las month. Due to declining pasture condition in some south western LGA farmers started to using a good amount of silage and hay.</p>	<p>impacts of the hot, dry conditions despite some early signs of drying in some parts of the region. Stock: Livestock condition has been improved in the reporting month across the region mainly due to heavy rainfall and green grasses. Carrying capacity increased and supplementary feed supply has been decreased in the region. Due to improved pasture condition and water storage restocking has been reported among farmers in the region.</p>
Hunter	<p>Conditions varied from excellent to good across the Hunter LLS for September. This has been an excellent clover season, with its own problems. However, the last few days have been very hot and dry and soil moisture is rapidly drying off. Rain will be needed to prevent a deterioration of pasture, water conditions for the months ahead.</p>	<p>Some good rainfall has been recorded over the district – some light but some substantial. This rainfall has seen pastures respond favorably. The chances of more rain being predicted over the next couple of months is good news, and eases the probability of a dramatic El Nino event – as usual with these predictions – time will tell.</p>	<p>Good spring rainfall broadly across the Hunter region - best spring conditions in a long time in many areas. Patchy falls west of Gloucester and north of Muswellbrook with these areas receiving very little runoff rain to top up water storages and creeks. Great Lakes experiencing good conditions across the board for water, pastures and livestock. Plenty of water stored in dams and creeks in Taree and Cessnock areas. Early summer storms and hail bands moved across Hunter from coast and central-west. Associated early burst of hot temperatures and winds dropping groundwater back quickly in Upper Hunter and Muswellbrook and haying off pastures. Elevated protected country along ranges fresher as experiencing a later spring burst of growth. All classes of livestock improving in forward store to fat condition.</p>
Murray	<p>Overall most many landholders in the West, central West and far East are concerned about a long, dry summer. Stock water from ground tanks reliant on rainfall runoff is likely to be a significant issue as we move into summer in most circumstances. Low irrigation allocation is a huge concern across the Western and Central areas. Early Oct heat expected to cause heat shock and significantly lower crop yield potentials. Little likelihood of any significant summer cropping program for those in the Murray system which may reduce income by up to 70%. Conversely other south and central areas are having a fantastic spring.</p>	<p>Across the region virtually no useful rainfall for the month (not counting rains that commenced on 31 Oct). Combined with very hot weather early in the month, heat stress damage to winter crops occurred and pasture quality and quantity deteriorated, resulting in a reduced growing season in the West and far East. Conversely, much of Central and some eastern areas of Murray remain excellent with well above average pasture growth and crops / livestock doing well. Low water allocations still a major concern for growers (and the local communities). Stock water from ground tanks reliant on rainfall runoff continues to be a significant</p>	<p>Good early November rainfall in most areas has generated good response to native grasses and areas with lucerne in the Western and Central areas. In the Eastern areas most mid-lower slopes recovered enough to provide a good to excellent spring recovery. A small region of the far Eastern (around Tooma) received less rainfall and consequently received a below average spring. Many central areas had a well above average spring. With the onset of hot and windy conditions, soil moisture levels are drying rapidly, and much of the growth generated will 'burn-off' without follow-up rains. Livestock condition in most areas remains good-</p>

Region	September	October	November
	<p>WEST: Across many Western areas the spring has been extremely dry resulting in a very limited spring growth period with the limited growth now drying off very quickly. Some crops have already been cut for hay and some de-stocking (including breeder cattle) has already started while prices remain high. Low water allocation means no water to pastures and crops which have now failed. One comments was that landholders have been unable to plan farm program because of lack of information on available irrigation water</p> <p>CENTRAL: Most central areas received good rains late August and into early September although no/little rain since 1st week of September. There is above average crop growth in some areas particularly pre-irrigated crops and canola although in some areas cereals are struggling while some in the north west have already failed. There will be very little rice or other summer crops sown this season and the small amount of water that has been allocated has largely been used to apply a spring irrigation to winter crops. Livestock are holding well for now, although many landholders are considering cutting or grazing marginal crops to finish stock. In many areas there is a reduced bulk of feed compared to a 'typical' spring - high concerns for carryover feed moving into the autumn. Some producers already considering options (e.g. selling, purchasing feed, early weaning etc.) and unless things turn around significantly, stock numbers will be reduced in the next 6-8 weeks.</p> <p>EAST: Some far Eastern areas have also experienced barely enough rain to keep pastures up to livestock, let alone grow enough for cutting. Many landholders in this region are very concerned about how quickly things will deteriorate if no rain soon. One report of slugs resulting in re-sowing.</p>	<p>issue as we move into summer in most circumstances - many are either dry or close to dry.</p> <p>Stock condition remains good - however due to reduced bulk of feed compared to a 'typical' spring and with a dry summer ahead, some producers already considering options (e.g. selling, purchasing feed, early weaning etc.) or have already lightened stock numbers. In the far East there was a severe reduction in silage or hay made this year.</p> <p>Good crop growth in some areas (above average), particularly pre-irrigated and spring irrigated crops - still showing good yield potential. However many areas to the West are struggling - canola crops around average, cereals below average. Barley crops seem to have handled the dry finish far better than other cereals (but unsure of grain quality) whilst canola and field pea yields are looking to be well below average. More crops than normal cut for hay/silage and/or turned stock onto crops which were unlikely to finish.</p> <p>Little likelihood of any significant summer cropping program for those on the Murray system</p>	<p>excellent for this time of year and in general stock condition is mostly holding due to lightening off with numbers or supplementary feeding. Good prices enabled landholders to reduce numbers without high penalties. Most crop stubbles will be grazed immediately by livestock and in general producers are generally comfortable with the feed situation, with the exception of the small area in the far East and some of the Western areas. Higher than normal summer feeding will be employed in these areas.</p> <p>Irrigated cereals have mostly performed well, good protein, reasonable yields. Dryland cereal yields well below long term average. Screenings have been very high in both wheat and especially barley. Importantly, there was minimal widespread winter crop losses or downgrades (isolated hail damage).</p> <p>Irrigation allocations remain low - 15% in the Murray Valley, 31% in Murrumbidgee (+ carryover in both Valleys). Minimal areas of summer cropping in the Murray, rice and cotton areas also down in the Murrumbidgee.</p>
North Coast	<p>Cold and windy conditions prevailed for most of the month with some storm events thrown in mid-month. Reports of hail damage to the blueberry crop around the Corindi/Red Rock area of the Coffs Harbour LGA were received with initial estimates being damage to crops and infrastructure in the range of \$11-14m. Assessment</p>	<p>The weather has been all over the place this month. Ranging from very hot to very windy to cooler thrown in with some storm activity that has generated useful rainfall for those lucky enough to be under the right cloud. Hail damage has again been reported to the blueberry crop in the Corindi area in the northern part of the Coffs</p>	<p>Overall the season across the region could only be described as being very good with some producers describing the recent rainfall events and warm weather as the best "spring break" that they have had for probably ten (10) years.</p> <p>This combined with the long overdue very good prices</p>

Region	September	October	November
	<p>teams are preparing damage assessment reports in conjunction with producers with the aim of applying for a natural disaster declaration.</p> <p>Rainfall across the region was well received with most areas receiving at least the monthly average. This rainfall was very timely for improved pastures as they were starting to fail due to moisture stress.</p> <p>The forecast hot and dry conditions will temper a lot of the benefit if follow up rainfall is not received.</p> <p>Isolated reports of cattle deaths from bloat caused by the flush of clover and very little other ground cover have been received.</p>	<p>Harbour LGA. LLS staff are undertaking surveys to determine the extent of the damage and to do damage report to DPI.</p> <p>Most producers are looking to the predicted widespread rain event next week to really generate pasture growth and hopefully some run off into steam, creeks, rivers and on farm storages.</p>	<p>for livestock, producers are all on a high at the moment. The only dark cloud on the horizon has been the damage caused in some areas by severe storm events. Natural disaster funding has been approved for affected producers in the Corindi (Coffs Harbour LGA) area from the hail storm in October.</p> <p>A further damage report has been compiled by LLS staff for producers in the Northern sector of the Coffs Harbour LGA and submitted to NSW DPI. Reports of significant damage have also been received of damage in the Lismore LGA from severe storm events on 29-30th November 2015, information is being collated by LLS staff for submission of an Agriculture & Fishing Industry damage report.</p>
Northern Tablelands	<p>Generally below average rainfall for September with a run of late frosts, has seen pastures struggle to produce significant spring growth. Grain crops in the Inverell LGA have also struggled for moisture, however no significant frost damage has been reported.</p> <p>Supplementary feeding has been significantly reduced. Stock numbers remain below average, however with calving almost complete and lambing well under way these numbers will pick up over the coming months.</p> <p>With larger than average planting of winter crops, there has been less area fallowed for summer crops and without significant rainfall these plantings will be further reduced.</p>	<p>Rainfall for the month has been from storms only, with reasonable falls across some of the area, good falls in small isolated pockets and inadequate falls in other areas. Overall little has changed on an LGA wide basis with Walcha the only LGA showing improved conditions.</p> <p>Water supplies still remain sub-optimal across most of the Northern Tablelands with stock numbers generally well below average.</p> <p>While stock numbers will improve with calves and lambs coming on strength, many producers are selling what they can in preparation for the predicted dry El Nino summer. Until there is a widespread general rainfall event of 50mm or more, conditions will remain difficult.</p>	<p>The benefits of an excellent wide spread rain event at the beginning of November evaporated with a hot dry windy final two weeks of the month.</p> <p>Overall, not a lot of change, however the hot dry finish and lack of run-off from the rain event has continued to put pressure on ground water, particularly in parts of Uralla and Armidale Dumaresq LGAs. Pastures in these areas are also showing significant deterioration.</p> <p>Harvesting of commercial winter crops in the Inverell LGA is virtually complete with some down grading of grain from weather damage. Significant areas of summer crops have been planted into fallow country and these crops are "up and away" and will be needing rain through December and into the new year. Further plantings into stubble will be dependent on sufficient rain early in December.</p>
North West	<p>Walgett - Significant areas of late planted crop are struggling with some farmers grazing or cutting them for hay. Pasture areas still have reasonable groundcover but limited biomass for stock feed.</p> <p>Moree Plains - Subsoil moisture for summer crop sowing limited in western areas, good in eastern areas. Heliothis pressure has been low occasional armyworm infestation. Planting moisture drying away quickly.</p> <p>Gwydir - Made some oaten hay, paddock of oats that</p>	<p>Moree Plains - Insufficient rain to start summer pasture growth. Dry August and September in some areas combined with heat in October reduced crop potential significantly. Barley and Faba beans have been best performers overall, some wheat on short fallow has high screenings. Some sorghum was planted on limited profile moisture and will need good summer rain.</p> <p>Gwydir - Some significant fall in areas of up to 120mm. 50% of areas planted to dryland sorghum. Only irrigated</p>	<p>Walgett - failed crops across the LGA have provided some spring feed and groundcover. Very patchy rainfall across the LGA. Some storms recorded in town but no significant rain in surrounding areas. Lightning Ridge area has received significantly less rain than other areas in the LGA. Mitchell grass has responded to rain but does not present significant feed supply at this stage. Reduced stock numbers have reduced the need for supplementary feeding.</p>

Region	September	October	November
	<p>was eaten out has come back after the August rain. There has been excellent clover/medic around the paddocks but to be honest we don't have an abundance of standing dry feed which might become a problem if it becomes a long hot dry summer. More a problem for next winter I think, rather than this summer.</p> <p>Narrabri - Pastures lightly grazed, downsized herd numbers. Winter crops some being harvested others being cut for hay. Nil summer crops being planted. Water limited to pools as there has been no runoff. Stock being supplementary fed.</p> <p>Gunnedah - Hot weather and lack of rain has burnt off pastures and lowered water levels in the dam. Late planted crops have significantly reduced yield potential with some crops being cut for hay. Early planted crops are faring well. Stock condition is reasonable.</p> <p>Tamworth - The warm weather has really zapped the area! Things had started the month looking not too bad throughout most of the area however drying out rapidly now.</p> <p>Liverpool Plains - Grain crops will yield around average to a little above. Pasture drying out and quality diminishing. Surface moisture for sowing summer crops limited.</p>	<p>cotton in. Harvest 50% complete with hold ups due to weather.</p> <p>Liverpool Plains - Hot spell in October has reduced yield potential on most crops. Good surface moisture for sorghum sowing. Rain this week may downgrade some winter cereals but benefit summer grasses both native and introduced. Yields likely to be average to slightly above.</p>	<p>Moree Plains - barley went very well, early sown sorghum travelling well. Rain very variable across the region, little summer crop to the west. Grain quality variable but generally down due to rain at harvest. Mungindi continues to be very poor crops yielded poorly and stock feed very limited.</p> <p>Gwydir - November has been a month of extremes. We have had 88mm of rain for the month which fell in the one event earlier in the month. Since then it has been pretty hot and so grass is really drying off but cattle still look good and feed is adequate. We made hay from some of our oats and harvested about 30acres as well so we have a full silo of oats and full hay shed but things are certainly trending towards a big dry spell.</p> <p>Narrabri - Occurred in 6 falls, with the main fall 56mm on the 13/11. Very hot and dry since. Some dryland cotton planted but very risky, nil river flow and all pastures setting seed following dry hot conditions. Rainfall 95mm in 1 fall, followed by 5mm. Everything is starting to dry out considerably with the hot days and evaporation rates.</p> <p>Gunnedah - small area of hail damage around Curlewis in early November. Most crops harvested without weather damage. Minimal summer crop planted at this stage. Dam levels dropping due to hot windy weather and limited runoff. Stock numbers still reduced due to high prices.</p> <p>Tamworth - Dry off substantially, Average annual rainfall is still 100mm above long term average!</p>
Riverina	<p>The moisture profile of the Riverina LLS region has dried out quickly from mid to late September. Cold weather was revisited between the 23rd - 25th September with a series of moderately severe frosts. Some barley crops were already flowering and many wheat crops were coming into head. Low levels of frost damage to early sown cereal crops and flowering pulse crops (5-10% yield) are likely to have occurred but may not be evident until harvest-time. Stock health issues have included foot scald (benign foot-rot), foot abscess, bloat in cattle, some metabolic issues, and scour worms</p>	<p>The Riverina LLS region has finished a very dry month with rainfall on the last weekend as October ended and November began. Most cereal crops are at various stages of grain development with some nearly ripe. Canola crops have been windrowed and windy conditions before the rainfall of the 30 and 31 October moved windrows around. Rain delayed canola harvest as it was about to begin. Stock health issues have included ongoing foot scald (benign foot-rot) and foot abscess issues but a notable health concern of veterinarians is the worm burdens of Black scour worms and the potential for Barber's Pole</p>	<p>The Riverina LLS region has finished spring with a wet month causing delays to shearing, hay-making and harvest. Some producers in the Riverina have benefited with dams being topped up and perennial pastures remaining in better condition for longer. Stock condition across the region has benefited from pastures that offered both quantity (tonnes Dry Matter/Ha) and quality (digestibility, crude protein and energy). Stock health issues have included grass seed injuries resulting in conjunctivitis and blindness, foot scald, skin irritations and body injury. Worm burdens of Black scour worms</p>

Region	September	October	November
	<p>and pulpy kidney in sheep in drier localities having their best season in years. The topsoil has dried out and where good subsoil moisture exists it is being drawn on by pastures and crops that haven't received useful rainfall since mid-September. Previously waterlogged paddocks are now nearly all trafficable. For most land-holders the pressure on stock water has eased. A drier September than average has meant no new run-off events for dams and creeks.</p> <p>The Hay district has officially had 13.2mm rain for the month. The annual grass component of rangeland pastures is hayed off prematurely with only showers in early September and warming temperatures. The barley grass is finished as are the medics. The perennials are waiting for the summer rain before they start shooting. Native pastures including saltbush have supported stock which are holding their condition well and the stock prices are good reason for optimism.</p> <p>Across Hillston, Gunbar, Hay, Booligal and Carrathool the farmers are commenting that it is the best season in over ten years. There is a level of inquiry about regulations associated with bringing extra stock in from other areas and states – due to the abundant feed. Because of the amount of feed and moisture that fell this season, there have been unusual cases of pulpy kidney and also scour worms.</p> <p>Cattle and sheep that were in poor body condition at the beginning of winter are now fat. Crops are looking good for yield potential at the end of September however the increasing heat might cause issues.</p> <p>Hillston had 16.2mm total rainfall for September, Griffith had 17.6mm, Yanco 22.6mm and Narrandera had 22mm.</p> <p>Conditions in the Narrandera shire are generally good to very good although there has been little useful rain in the previous four weeks. In the parts of the Carrathool and Bland Shires that missed out on earlier rain these areas have a lot less feed available and there will be issues for them carrying stock through the summer. Flies are a potential issue over the next few weeks if</p>	<p>worms in warm and wet conditions. The topsoil dried out in October and subsoil moisture was drawn upon by crops and pastures. For most land-holders there is little to no pressure on stock water and stock are in excellent condition. Two dry months and a drying soil profile didn't result in run-off events for dams and creeks.</p>	<p>are continuing to be a threat to production particularly for winter lambs after weaning.</p> <p>Harvest has been a mixed bag across the region ranging from disappointing yields and quality in localities where a late break was received, to many average yielding crops that lost yield potential in the drier months of September and October, to some excellent crop yields with low levels of canola and wheat disease present this season. Winter crops with high yield potentials (both irrigated and dryland) lodged during the week of storms in November (high winds and heavy rainfall) resulting in a slower harvest. Harvest is still continuing. The summer crop has been planted with rice areas down and cotton proving to be a popular choice again for those set up for the crop.</p>

Region	September	October	November
	<p>farmers don't use preventive treatment/ management. Grass seeds could also be a larger issue than usual. In the Irrigated districts, allocations remain low for the Murrumbidgee Valley, and the cost of temporary water is very high resulting in many landholders now making the 'hard' decision to reduce summer cropping areas with rice expected to drop substantially due to the higher water requirements of this crop. Water use for irrigated pastures and rice enterprises has changed towards cotton. Winter crops have been looking extremely good and farmers are budgeting on 1-2 waterings to see these crops through to maturity. Standing feed is excellent. The hay making season is underway.</p> <p>In the Central and Northern Riverina the winter crops are growing well with cereal crops peeping to heading and most cereals now flowering. There are many bulky crops with high plant populations and high tiller numbers. Some paddocks showed well above average yield potentials at the end of September. The canola flowering period is coming to a finish with warmer weather which will result in lost yield potential lost as flowering could have continued for a further 7-10 days. Most wheat and canola crops were early or main season sown and have advanced quickly from mid-September onwards. Crops in the north and west of the Riverina are more advanced. The full soil moisture profile from early September provided a buffer in late September for the drying conditions but crops have now drawn heavily on subsoil moisture reserves. Faba beans and lupins are now under pressure to finish in warmer temperatures than is ideal. Pasture growth has been excellent in late September and annual grasses have now gone to head. Lucerne pastures are performing well with high growth rates. Dam water supplies are still good for the most part, with good volumes available for the summer.</p> <p>In the Young district feed levels in pasture are still quite high with clovers/ lucerne and grasses holding on. Stock water options at the moment are reasonable to good. Stock body conditions are very good with stock in 3-4 score on average. Lambings and calvings haven't been</p>		

Region	September	October	November
	<p>problematic. The main animal health issues seen this month were lameness (footrot - benign, virulent; foot abscess; interdigital dermatitis); cases of Pulpy Kidney earlier in the month; cases of Bloat earlier in the month before the fibrous content of pastures increased. There was the occasional issue with metabolic diseases such as hypocalcaemia in pregnant ewes or travelled stock. In the Gundagai district September started out where August left off, cold and damp. Stock water supplies are sitting at close to 100% with most springs and gullies running ample water. Feed supplies kept up with stock and went forward from around the first week in September. Stock are in good condition with better utilization of feed-on-offer now. Stock are not requiring supplementary fed for maintenance. Hay and silage paddocks have been locked up in preparation. In the Eastern Riverina from the SW Slopes - Highlands early spring conditions have been good with excellent growth of pastures, however the lack of rainfall is starting to impact on pasture growth. Most of the annual species are well into reproductive phase. Late spring to early summer rainfall will be required to continue growth of perennial and native species. Silage and hay making is underway. Land-holders across the Riverina are becoming less confident of a favorable spring now after a drier September from the middle of the month. El Nino forecasts are now being taken very seriously. Pastures have lost biomass and height with warming temperatures. Winter crops are healthy but are drawing rapidly on subsoil moisture and require follow up rainfall.</p>		
South East	<p>Coastal - Coastal parts of the South East have fared very well through September, with good pasture growth. Soil moisture is high and water storages are full. The continuing growth is indicating a good spring season. Highlands - The highlands areas are faring reasonably well also, especially in the east, where rainfall has produced substantial pasture growth. Some landholders have begun to cut hay in the past month and there is already good regrowth in these paddocks. West of the</p>	<p>Coastal - Coastal parts of the South East generally received between 25mm to 100 mm during October. This rainfall has allowed pastures to grow during this period. Soil moisture has slightly decreased during the months and water storages are satisfactory in most areas. Highlands - The highlands areas received lower rainfall than the coastal area for the month, but pasture growth has still occurred in most areas. West of the Hume Highway conditions are not as good, being drier overall</p>	<p>Coastal - Some isolated areas of the coast received between 50 100mm for October. Generally the rest of the area received 25 to 50mm for the month. This rainfall combined with warmer weather allowed some more pasture growth to occur. Water storages remain satisfactory in most areas, but have reduced over the month due to warmer conditions. Highlands - The Highlands areas mostly received between 25 to 50mm for the month. Some small areas</p>

Region	September	October	November
	<p>Hume Highway conditions are not as good, being drier overall and pastures earlier to seed. Follow up rain is needed.</p> <p>Tablelands - Most graziers within this area reported good pasture growth into this month. Rainfall was limited to the earlier part of the month and was well below average for the whole month. This has seen a lot of pastures run to seed earlier than expected. Rainfall in the next 2-3 weeks is needed. Livestock are still doing very well in current conditions.</p> <p>Monaro - The increasing temperatures have brought on excellent growth for the Monaro into late September. Livestock are in excellent condition, with soil moisture storage being better south of Nimmitabel than north of Nimmitabel. Feed availability exceeds livestock requirements at present.</p>	<p>and pastures starting to dry off. Good general rainfall is needed to kick along pastures and replenish water storage. Livestock are in good condition.</p> <p>Tablelands - Pasture growth for the month was limited by the available moisture. Rainfall was patchy and light for the month of October. Some pastures are starting to dry off, particularly on the tops of hills. Higher elevation country needs rainfall now to promote pasture growth. Rainfall in the next 2-3 weeks is needed. Livestock are still doing very well in current conditions.</p> <p>Monaro - All though there has been limited rainfall during October, pasture growth has been sustained by sub soil moisture in most instances. Livestock are in excellent condition across the area. Feed availability exceeds livestock requirements at present.</p>	<p>recorded lower figures and an area to the north received between 50 to 100mm. Some pasture growth continued with this rainfall. Water supplies decreased during the month due to warmer conditions.</p> <p>Tablelands - The majority of the area received between 25 to 50 mm for the month of October. One smaller area only received between 10 to 25mm rainfall for the same period. Limited pasture growth occurred after the rainfall and these pasture are now drying off. Water supplies reduced during the month of October. Livestock are still doing very well in current conditions.</p> <p>Monaro - The majority of the Monaro region received 25 to 50mm during October. This rainfall has sustained pasture growth in the area. Livestock are in excellent condition across the area. Feed availability exceeds livestock requirements at present. Water supplies are also good in most areas.</p>
Western	<p>Rainfall is much less in September across the region. Temperatures in some areas have been in excess of 30 degrees C for at least a week and winter pastures are curing quickly.</p> <p>Some information has been derived due to bio staff involved with Wild dog baiting program.</p> <p>Pasture is drying off very quickly across the region and pasture for livestock in some areas will be decreasing quickly.</p> <p>Areas north of Bourke pasture is diminishing quickly and Brewarrina shire some landholders beginning to hand feed or reduce stock numbers.</p> <p>Cobar shire variable pasture conditions.</p> <p>Free water will diminished in many areas as temperatures rise and rainfall is much less.</p>	No report provided.	<p>A bit of a mixed bag this month. Combined with bio-staff on leave and landholders very busy. Good rainfall early November but quite dry in the second half of the month combined with higher temperatures. Early November rains were sufficient to run water into ground tanks in north west and stock have held condition and some landholders have sold stock to take advantage of high prices and potential impact of El nino impact forecast. River flows in the Darling and tributaries have been very low and without inflows will continue to remain that way.</p>

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