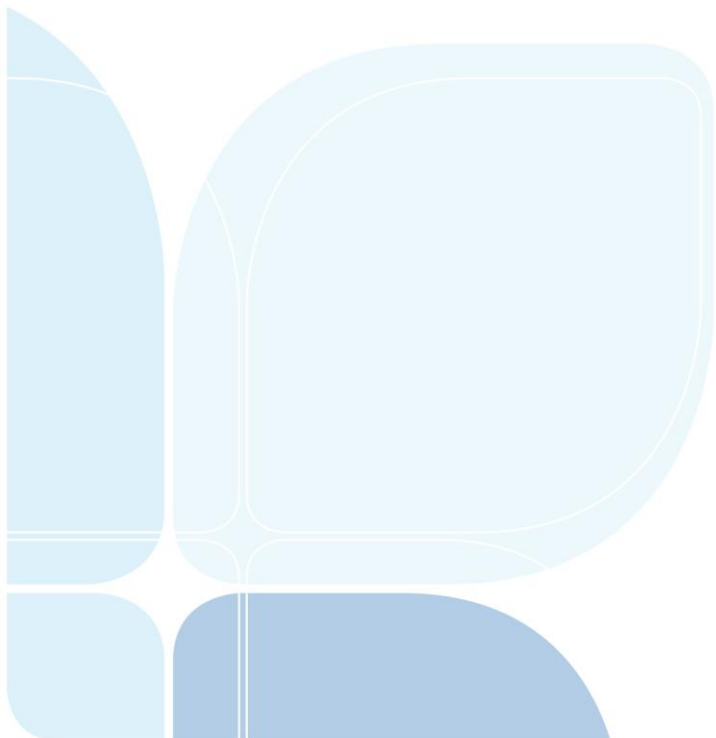




Local Land
Services

On-ground Seasonal Conditions Report

June 2015



Published by the Local Land Services
On-ground Seasonal Conditions Report
First published July 2015
ISBN

More information

www.lls.nsw.gov.au

Acknowledgments

© State of New South Wales through Local Land Services, 2015.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing July 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 |
| Data Analysis | 2 |
| Average Regional Property Score | 6 |
| Average Regional Score for Infrastructure | 7 |
| Average Regional Water Score | 8 |
| Average Regional Agronomics Score | 9 |
| Average Regional Livestock Score | 10 |
| Regional Comments on Seasonal Conditions | 11 |

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 | April 2015 | May 2015 | June 2015 |
|---|--|--|---|
| State overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven of the 11 regions have reported an improvement in conditions from last month. The remaining four regions have reported no change to their average regional scores. Seven of these regions are now ranked at reasonable or below requirements. Four of these regions are now ranked very good. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eight regions have reported no change to their average regional score from last month including Central Tablelands, Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, Riverina and Western. Central West and North West have reported an improvement in conditions from last month. South East has reported a decline in conditions from last month. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six regions have reported no change to their average regional score from last month including, Central Tablelands, Central West, Greater Sydney, North Coast, Northern Tablelands and South East. Murray, North West, Riverina and Western have reported an improvement in conditions from last month. Hunter has reported a decline in conditions from last month. |
| Regional Ranking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very Good – Greater Sydney, Hunter, North Coast and South East. Reasonable – Central Tablelands, Murray and Riverina. Below Requirements – Central West, Northern Tablelands, North West and Western. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very Good – Greater Sydney, Hunter and North Coast. Good – South East. Reasonable – Central Tablelands, Central West, Murray, North West and Riverina. Below Requirements – Northern Tablelands and Western | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very Good – Greater Sydney and North Coast. Good – Hunter, Murray, North West, Riverina and South East. Reasonable – Central Tablelands, Central West and Western. Below Requirements – Northern Tablelands. |
| LGA Scores – Extremely Poor, Extreme or Extremely Critical | The following LGAs: Walgett and Brewarrina | The following LGA: Walgett | There are no LGAs within this scale. |
| LGA Scores – Excellent or Very Good | The following LGAs: Dungog and Shoalhaven. | The following LGAs: Camden, Tamworth, Bombala, Snowy River and Yass. | The following LGAs: Camden, Wollondilly, Singleton, Cessnock, Port Stephens, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Greater Taree, Albury, Gwydir, Tamworth, Wingecarribee, Upper Lachlan, Bombala, Snowy River and Yass Valley. |

Data Analysis

Table 2: Surveyed Property Numbers

| Region | Number of properties surveyed | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | April | May | June |
| Central Tablelands | 40 | 39 | 38 |
| Central West | 40 | 40 | 58 |
| Greater Sydney | 10 | 14 | 14 |
| Hunter | 22 | 18 | 20 |
| Murray | 54 | 57 | 44 |
| North Coast | 42 | 44 | 44 |
| Northern Tablelands | 35 | 31 | 34 |
| North West | 31 | 33 | 17 |
| Riverina | 15 | 19 | 15 |
| South East | 55 | 33 | 54 |
| Western | 28 | 40 | 22 |
| TOTAL | 372 | 368 | 360 |

Table 3: Seasonal Conditions Reporting Scale

| Scale | Regional description | Regional description of seasonal condition as scaled 1 to 10 |
|----------|----------------------|--|
| Level 1 | Excellent | Previous 12 months above average seasonal conditions |
| Level 2 | Very Good | Previous 6 months above average seasonal conditions |
| Level 3 | Good | The current season is average |
| Level 4 | Reasonable | The current season is below average |
| Level 5 | Below Requirements | The current season has failed |
| Level 6 | Poor | Consecutive failed seasons |
| Level 7 | Very Poor | The past 6 months have been below average |
| Level 8 | Extremely Poor | NSW DPI trigger event (1 in 5 years 20 th percentile for rain, pasture, soil moisture) expected to be flagged |
| Level 9 | EXTREME | NSW DPI trigger event 3 consecutive months |
| Level 10 | EXTREMELY CRITICAL | 12 months of failed seasons |

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

| Region | April | | | May | | | June | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|------------------------|---|--|------------------------|--|---|
| | 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 | Reasonable (4) | Bathurst, Lithgow and Orange – Good | Cabonne – Below requirements Mid Western - Poor | Reasonable (4) | Bathurst, Blayney, Lithgow and Orange – Good | Mid-Western and Cabonne – Below requirements | Reasonable (4) | Bathurst, Lithgow and Orange - Good | Cabonne – Below Requirements |
| Central West | Below requirements (5) | Dubbo, Narromine, Parkes, Weddin and Lachlan - Reasonable | Gilgandra, Warren, Coonamble and Warrumbungle - Poor | Reasonable (4) | Wellington and Narromine - Good | Gilgandra, Coonamble, Warrumbungle and Forbes – Below Requirements | Reasonable (4) | Dubbo, Bogan, Narromine, Gilgandra, Warren and Weddin - Good | Warrumbungles and Lachlan – Below Requirements |
| Greater Sydney | Very Good (2) | Camden and Wollondilly - Excellent | - | Very Good (2) | Camden - Excellent | - | Very Good (2) | Camden and Wollondilly - Excellent | - |
| Hunter | Very Good (2) | Dungog - Excellent | Muswellbrook, Gloucester, Maitland and Great Lakes - Good Upper Hunter - Reasonable | Very Good (2) | | Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook, Gloucester, Dungog and Great Lakes - Good | Good (3) | Singleton, Cessnock, Port Stephens, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie and Greater Taree – Very Good | - |
| Murray | Reasonable (4) | Corowa, Urana, Jerilderie, Deniliquin and Murray - Good | Conargo and Wakool – Below Requirements | Reasonable (4) | Tumbarumba, Albury, Corowa and Murray - Good | Conargo and Wakool – Below Requirements | Good (3) | Albury - Excellent | Conargo – Reasonable |

| Region | April | | | May | | | June | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|--|---|------------------------|---|--|------------------------|--|--|
| | 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 | Very Good (2) | - | Port Macquarie Hastings, Kempsey, Clarence Valley Council, Coffs Harbour, Ballina, Lismore, Byron - Good | Very Good (2) | | Port Macquarie Hastings, Nambucca, Clarence Valley Council, Coffs Harbour, Ballina, Lismore, Byron - Good | Very Good (2) | - | Port Macquarie Hastings, Nambucca, Clarence Valley Council, Coffs Harbour, Tweed Shire, Richmond Valley Council, Ballina, Lismore, Byron - Good |
| Northern Tablelands | Below Requirements (5) | Walcha - Reasonable | - | Below Requirements (5) | Walcha - Reasonable | Guyra – Very Poor | Below Requirements (5) | - | - |
| North West | Below Requirements (5) | Gwydir, Tamworth and Liverpool Plains – Good Narrabri and Gunnedah - Reasonable | Moree Plains – Very Poor Walgett - Extreme | Reasonable (4) | Tamworth – Very Good Gwydir - Good | Moree Plains - Poor Walgett – Extremely Poor | Good (3) | Gwydir and Tamworth – Very Good | - |
| Riverina | Reasonable (4) | Young, Cootamundra and Coolamon - Good | Tumut and Lockhart – Below Requirements | Reasonable (4) | Young and Temora – Good | June, Coolamon, Wagga and Hay – Below Requirements Narrandera - Poor | Good (3) | - | Gundagai, Coolamon and Hay - Reasonable |

| Region | April | | | May | | | June | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|--|--|
| | Average Regional Score | Positive (LGAs) | Negative (LGA's) | Average Regional Score | Positive (LGAs) | Negative (LGA's) | Average Regional Score | Positive (LGAs) | Negative (LGA's) |
| South East | Very Good (2) | Shoalhaven - Excellent | Illawarra (Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kaima), Pallerang, Eurbodalla, Bega, Cooma-Monaro and Snowy River - Good | Good (3)¹ | Bombala, Snowy River and Yass – Very Good | Pallerang, Eurobodalla – Reasonable Upper Lachlan – Below Requirements | Good (3) | Wingecarribee, Upper Lachlan, Bombala, Snowy River and Yass Valley- Very Good | Goulburn-Mulwaree, Pallerang - Reasonable |
| Western | Below Requirements (5) | Wentworth – Good Part Carathool - Reasonable | Balranald, Central Darling and Cobar – Poor Brewarrina – Extremely Poor | Below Requirements (5) | Wentworth – Good Unincorporated - Reasonable | Balranald, Brewarrina, Central Darling and Cobar – Poor Bourke – Very Poor | Reasonable (4) | Wentworth - Good | - |

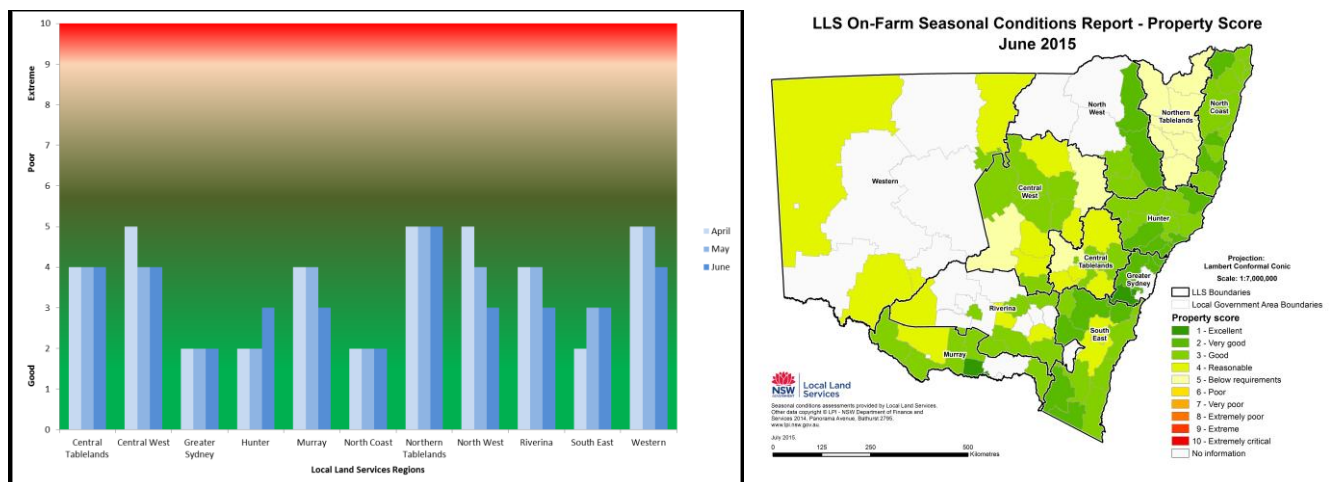
¹ South East has provided a limited report using old data due to staffing issues.

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 | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----|------|
| | April | May | June |
| Central Tablelands | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Central West | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Greater Sydney | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Hunter | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Murray | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| North Coast | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Northern Tablelands | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| North West | 5 | 4 | 3 |
| Riverina | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| South East | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Western | 5 | 5 | 4 |

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

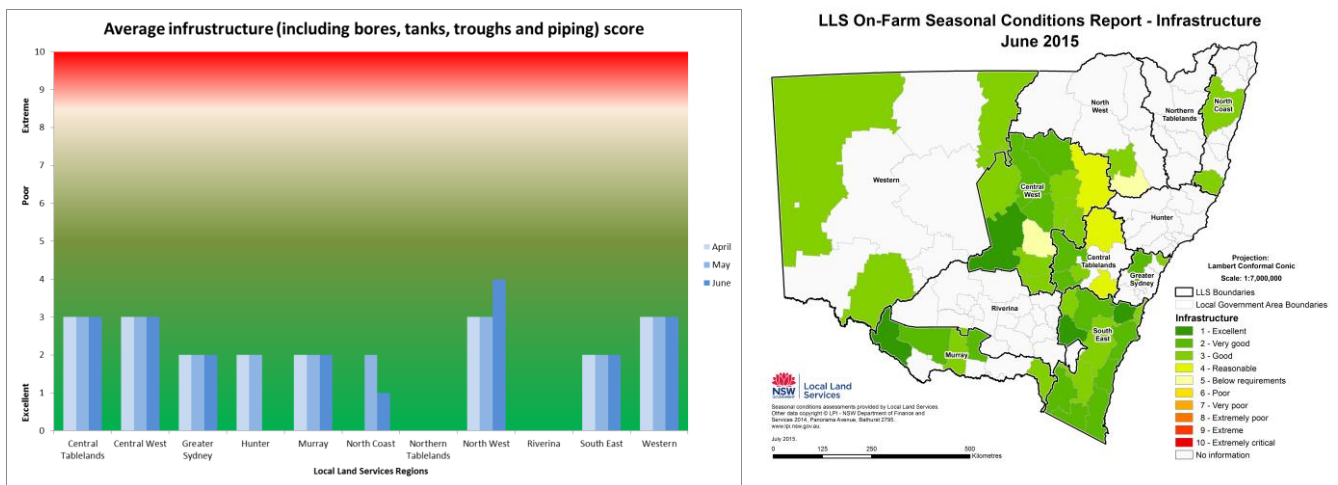


Average Regional Score for Infrastructure

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

| Region | Average Scores for regions | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----|------|
| | April | May | June |
| Central Tablelands | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Central West | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Greater Sydney | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Hunter | 2 | 2 | - |
| Murray | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| North Coast | | 2 | 1 |
| Northern Tablelands | - | - | - |
| North West | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| Riverina | - | - | - |
| South East | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Western | 3 | 3 | 3 |

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

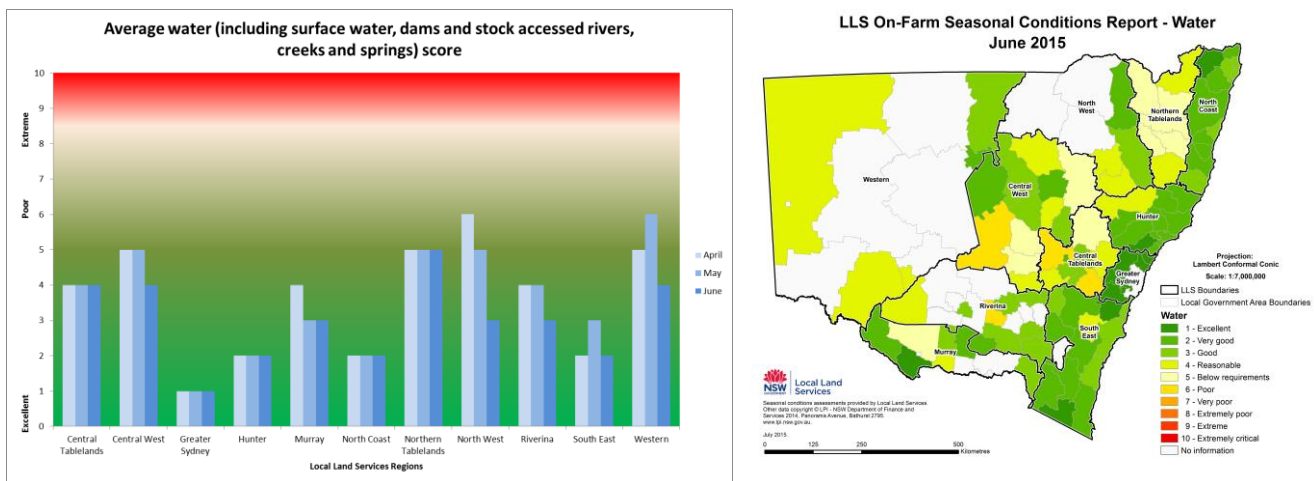


Average Regional Water Score

Table 7: The average regional water (including surface water,dams and stock accessed rivers, creeks and springs) score

| Region | Average Scores for regions | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----|------|
| | April | May | June |
| Central Tablelands | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Central West | 5 | 5 | 4 |
| Greater Sydney | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Hunter | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Murray | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| North Coast | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Northern Tablelands | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| North West | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| Riverina | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| South East | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Western | 5 | 6 | 4 |

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

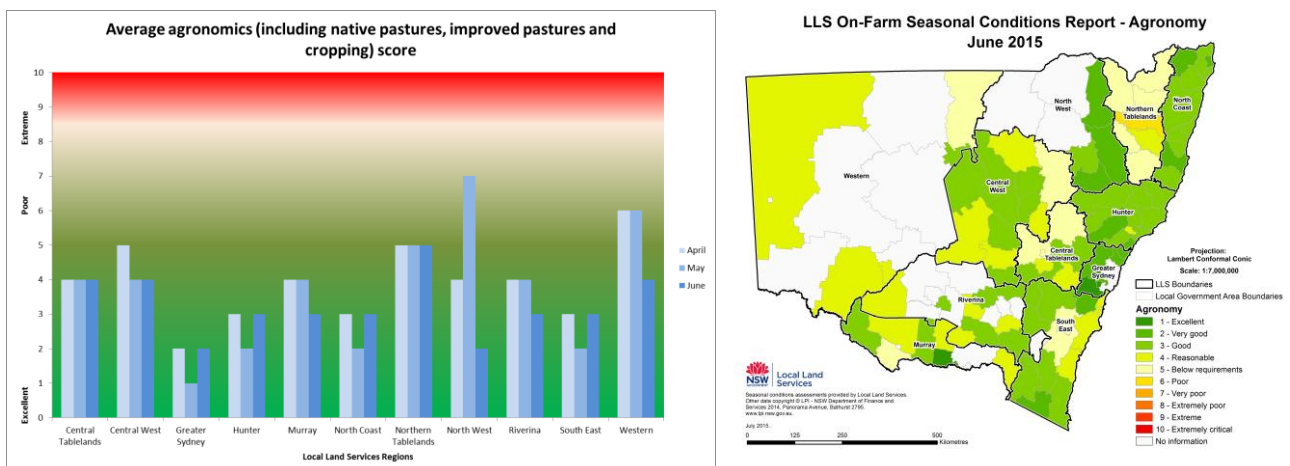


Average Regional Agronomics Score

Table 8: The average agronomics (including native pastures, improve pastures and cropping) score

| Region | Average Scores for regions | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----|------|
| | April | May | June |
| Central Tablelands | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Central West | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Greater Sydney | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Hunter | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Murray | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| North Coast | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Northern Tablelands | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| North West | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| Riverina | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| South East | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Western | 6 | 6 | 4 |

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

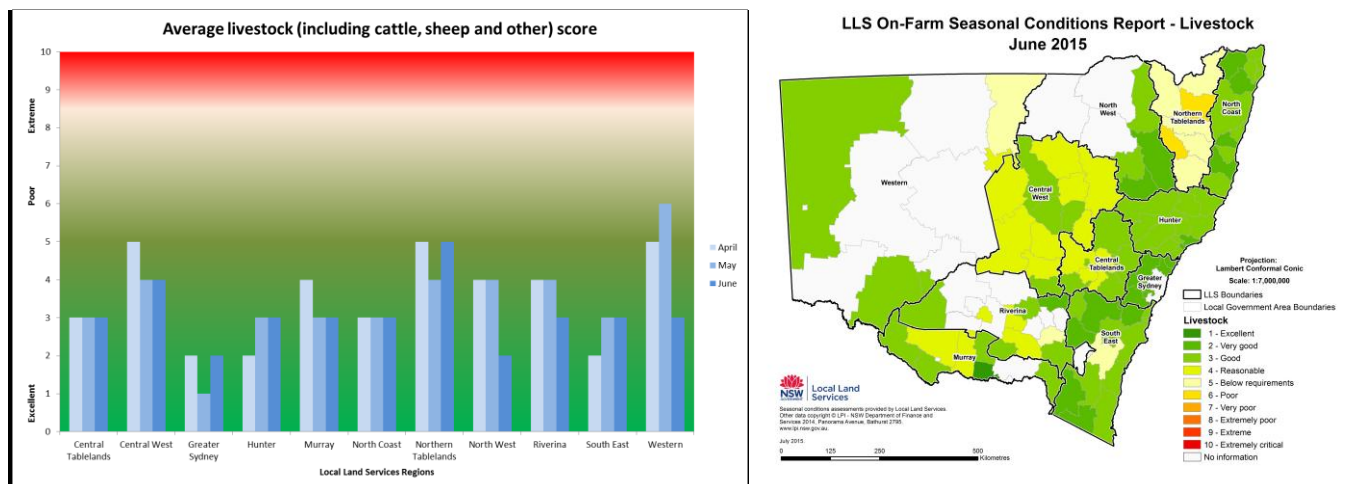


Average Regional Livestock Score

Table 9: The average livestock (including beef, sheep and other) score

| Region | Average Scores for regions | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----|------|
| | April | May | June |
| Central Tablelands | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Central West | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Greater Sydney | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Hunter | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Murray | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| North Coast | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Northern Tablelands | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| North West | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| Riverina | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| South East | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Western | 5 | 5 | 3 |

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



Regional Comments on Seasonal Conditions

| Region | April | May | June |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|
| Central Tablelands | Good rainfall across the region has eased water and pasture concerns for many landholders although the Cabonne and Mid-Western Region council areas are still receiving little run-off, whilst pasture availability is also still a concern in these areas. | No report provided. | Water relatively stable and no grass growth due to cold conditions and some supplementary feeding. |
| Central West | <p>Down on numbers this time with staff away and cockies on the tractor sowing crops or harvesting cotton.</p> <p>Whilst there has been some good rain about the region there has been very little run off into farm storages or the big dams, Burrendong and Wyangla.</p> <p>The rain has allowed the sowing of the winter cereal crops in most areas. Feed growth is very slow and has minimal value at this early stage.</p> <p>Cotton harvest is well underway.</p> <p>So despite a change in colour of the landscape and the smell of diesel in the air, conditions have remained much the same from the previous month, with a bit more promise.</p> <p>More rain needed this month to carry things on.</p> | <p>Not a lot of change from last month. There has been some quite useful rain across the region which will help with pasture growth and crop establishment. Rainfall ranged from 7 - 90 mm falling over 2 - 9 days. However there still has not been any substantial run off and water, or the lack of it, remains the most critical problem for landholders at this point. Rainfall in the south west of the region was below average which is having an obvious effect on pasture and crops. The north west has shown no major improvement despite some useful rain. The road to recovery for this area will be a long one especially now going into winter.</p> <p>With the onset of colder weather, pasture growth will be reduced but stock energy requirements will increase, especially lactating stock, which will mean more hand feeding for those in that situation.</p> <p>Some of our respondents have sold some or all of their stock or have them away on agistment and some have delayed winter cropping due to lack of moisture.</p> <p>You will notice that we had no responses this month from Bogan or Warren LGA's but having recently driven through that area I can advise there is no substantial change and their conditions are consistent with the rest of our region.</p> <p>So overall our region has shown some improvement in terms of crops and pasture, water is a major concern, stock condition is holding. Potentially a very hard winter for most.</p> <p>The forecast from the BoM of an El Nino is not very comforting.</p> <p>The cotton harvest in the Condobolin area went very well</p> | <p>We certainly have a mixed bag for the last month. Most of the region has received useful rain but with some areas still missing out. Rainfall ranged from 20 - 80mm falling over 3 - 11 days.</p> <p>It would appear that the majority of the region has improved or at least stabilized, however there is still the extremes of either too wet or dry. Reports of some crops "drowning" or the ground too wet to sow.</p> <p>Pasture growth rates have been very slow due to the onset of heavy frost and cooler weather, particularly with native pastures in the south of the region below a line from Nyngan - Peak Hill.</p> <p>The north seem to have missed the break a bit with areas above Coonamble, Quambone, Coonabarabran still struggling and well below average.</p> <p>On average the region has basically stayed the same with the expected variations from within LGA's.</p> <p>Surface water still remains the most critical issue across the region with very little run off occurring at this point.</p> <p>One landholder has reported that there has been no water allocation for the new year on the Lachlan river.</p> |

| Region | April | May | June |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---|--|
| | | with good yields recorded. | |
| Greater Sydney | No report provided. | No report provided. | No report provided. |
| Hunter | No report provided. | Despite reasonable rainfall over the past few months and some freshes in the major rivers groundwater is still low and not recharged some creeks are now starting to flow but others are still dry. | <p><u>LOWER HUNTER DISTRICT</u> (Maitland, Cessnock, Dungog, Port Stephens, Newcastle, Lake Macquarie LGA's)</p> <p>Water - Water supply and quality in the Lower Hunter is excellent. Dams are full and creeks are flushed after the recent storms and follow up rain.</p> <p>Pasture - Considering the time of year, pastures are in good condition, but winter haying off has commenced with the recent cold spell. Some of the low lying flood plain areas are remaining water logged, and recovery has been poor, thus explaining some of the lower pasture scores.</p> <p>Stock - In the Lower Hunter, generally people have de-stocked as a result of the floods, however the quality of the remaining stock has remained reasonably good, where pastures have been available. No supplementary feeding is occurring other than the water logged areas.</p> <p><u>UPPER HUNTER DISTRICT</u> (Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook and Singleton LGA's)</p> <p>Water - Both quality and quantity have improved in most areas due to recent cumulative rainfall, but in some areas lack of run-off has been an issue.</p> <p>Pasture - Native pasture is in a dormant phase, but is average for the time of year, with some residue from late summer/early autumn. Improved pasture quantity and quality is fair. Annual forage crops are looking quite good.</p> <p>Stock - Stock numbers and condition are looking reasonable for the time of year. Those on crop are looking in good condition.</p> <p><u>MANNING GREAT LAKES DISTRICT</u> (Greater Taree, Gloucester and Great Lakes LGA's)</p> <p>Water - Capacity for most rural properties would be at 80% or better. Good general rain through winter has provided good soil moisture levels.</p> <p>Pasture - Improved winter forage pastures are doing well, but naturalised pastures are experiencing no growth due</p> |

| Region | April | May | June |
|--------------------|---|--|--|
| | | | to the cold conditions, but are normal for the time of year. Stock - Stock quality and quantity are average for the time of year in a normal season. |
| Murray | <p>Not as many responses as normal - I believe a reflection of farmers being on the tractor.</p> <p>Mostly good rainfall received throughout the area in April. In general, falls of around 50mm (ranged from around 20 - 80mm) in the western regions and up to 80 - 100mm in the Central and Eastern regions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The good rainfall, plus warm conditions towards the end of the month have seen good recovery and germination of native and naturalised pastures in some areas. Pastoral conditions could go either way - but with the upper profile quickly drying, good follow-up rain is now needed to avoid 'false break' conditions. - Livestock conditions similar to previous period - supplementary feeding levels have 'backed off' a little since the last period, but still ongoing as pastures do not yet meet stock requirements. - The good rainfall resulted in little surface runoff - with ground tanks reliant on rainfall runoff continuing to deplete. - Summer crop yields in general have been pleasing. <p>Note: Kangaroo numbers are exploding in the western areas, taking available green feed.</p> | <p>Rainfall has been patchy throughout May and generally quite dry throughout the western areas. Many crops were sown dry and emergence is patchy (again in the western areas). Great start to cropping in the central areas that had more rain.</p> <p>In the western areas pastoral conditions are poor for most landholders and most graziers either reduced stock numbers, are seriously considering doing so, or resorted to hand feeding. Surface dams reliant on rainfall runoff continue to deplete - with many ground tanks in the west currently dry.</p> <p>Fair to say there is a degree of pessimism with the drying outlook generally and the lack of decent May rainfall in the west.</p> <p>One livestock issue regarding facial eczema in lactating merino ewes related to the number of wet days, extended damp conditions and night temperature above 15 deg. at time of April break. First time landholder experienced this in fifty years. Ewes now recovering.</p> | <p>Due to rain event in the 2nd week in June (ranged between 25 - >100mm) and some warmer weather over most of the month, there has been winter grass growth occurring in the west, however dry subsoils prior to the rain along with frosts since then caused conditions to dry out very quickly after the rain event.</p> <p>Water levels in groundtanks reliant on surface runoff is still a concerning issue - however, some runoff resulted in some areas.</p> <p>Livestock condition remains pretty good although a lot of supplementary feeding going on (particularly breeding stock) and/or reducing stock numbers. In some areas landholders are generally pessimistic about pastoral conditions going forward with most still hand feeding although further west farmers have been able to reduce supplementary feeding. High lamb marking percentages reported in the west and high scanning percentages across the board.</p> <p>Winter cereals are looking average/above average further west while in some areas in the central Murray winter crops are struggling, canola is very late and poor except on pre-irrigated country. Wheat is patchy, barley is handling the conditions better. Pre-irrigated country is in good condition, not too wet.</p> <p>Irrigation prospects to grow stock feed or finish winter crops are poor after the announcement of 0% water allocation on the Murray Irrigation Network. This will have a major impact on local farmers.</p> <p>Kangaroos are in large numbers in the western areas.</p> |
| North Coast | No report provided. | A very wet month across the region with rainfall varying from 150 to 450mm with a lot of water logging occurring on low lying floodplain country. Pastures in these low lying areas are severely impacted with most being de-stocked. The later than usual arrival of cooler conditions has offset some of the impact of the continued wet weather. | There is very little change since last month with the lower flood plain country still very wet and impossible in many instances for producers get a tractor on paddocks. While rainfall was only patchy it generally fell where it was not wanted i.e. the coastal strip. There has been a decrease in available feed volumes however, this is expected at this time of year, producers |

| Region | April | May | June |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| | | <p>Taylor's Arm in the Upper Nambucca Valley (Nambucca Shire LGA) received unprecedented rainfall in the first week of May 2015 with reports of in excess of 450mm in a twelve (12) hour period and 250mm of that rainfall in a three (3) hour period. This was a localised event described as being similar to the recent Dungog severe storm event. Damage assessment reports are being prepared by affected landowners for compilation by LLS and an on forwarding to DPI Regional Director. Nambucca Shire Council also sustained significant infrastructure damage and will also be submitting a claim for a natural disaster declaration.</p> <p>Harvesting of some soy bean crops has been delayed due to prevailing weather conditions and this will impact negatively on overall quality.</p> <p>The significant improvement in cattle prices for all classes of stock has been welcomed by producers with larger than normal yardings being reported across the region.</p> | <p>have usually off loaded their weaners and should now be looking after dry stock or those that have recently calved. Milk production levels are stable.</p> <p>Saleyard prices are very good at the moment with large numbers still being yarded and good returns being received by producers.</p> <p>As reported last month the severe weather event (East Coast Low) of early May resulted in damage across a small part of the region. A disaster declaration has now been approved for the Ballina, Bellingen, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Nambucca Local Government areas.</p> |
| Northern Tablelands | <p>Generally good rains and mild temperatures across the region have brought about significant improvements for April.</p> <p>Some areas, where the rain was insufficient to induce run-off, are still critical for surface water, particularly in parts of Uralla, Armidale Dumaresq and Guyra LGAs. Pastures have responded well, however some of the improved pastures have been damaged to the point where re-sowing is needed before full recovery can be achieved. Fodder crops are establishing well and grain crops are being sown under favorable conditions in Inverell LGA.</p> <p>Stock numbers are still low with little prospect of buying in replacements. Stock are in excellent condition and with the low numbers is going into winter under good conditions.</p> | <p>Surveys in Guyra and Glen Innes Severn LGAs are less than normal due to unavailability of staff. This has biased the data for Guyra giving a less favorable result than indicated by casual observation.</p> <p>Continued rain and mild temperatures have delayed the heavy frosts common at this time of year and so little change in pastures are recorded.</p> <p>Some areas of Uralla, Armidale Dumaresq and Guyra LGAs are still critical for surface water as generally the rainfall has been insufficient to generate much run-off. Pasture growth has slowed but fodder crops are responding very well and many have already been grazed. Commercial cropping in the Inverell LGA has had an excellent start with faba beans, barley and early wheat looking good with later wheat and chick peas being planted under very good conditions.</p> <p>Stock numbers are still low and stock condition is very good.</p> | <p>Some heavy frosts have been recorded and pastures have suffered as a result. However this is to be expected on the tablelands at this time of year.</p> <p>Some areas of Uralla, Armidale Dumaresq and Guyra LGAs have still had little run-off and surface water continues to be a problem.</p> <p>Fodder crops continue to do well and are providing valuable feed for fattening stock. Some supplementation of breeding stock has commenced, but is still at a relatively low level. Commercial cropping in the Inverell LGA continues to have an excellent outlook.</p> <p>Stock generally continue in good condition, however numbers for both sheep and cattle remain below historical averages.</p> |
| North West | <p>Gunnedah LGA - good rainfall has improved pasture growth and increased area likely to be planted to winter</p> | <p>Gunnedah - Good rain across the region has promoted winter feed growth and forage crops are in good</p> | <p>Walgett - Some late wheat and chickpea plantings have occurred due to the rainfall in June. These crops are only</p> |

| Region | April | May | June |
|--------|---|--|--|
| | <p>crop. Minimal change to surface water supplies at this stage.</p> <p>Walgett Even though there has been some rainfall events in the Walgett shire - they have been small and have not alleviated the dry conditions. The prospect of winter crop is almost diminished. Growers have not purchased additional livestock and many still owned remained on agistment elsewhere and/or core breeding stock that remain are still being fed on a full ration.</p> <p>Moree shire has received some good falls of rain - patchy but east of the Newell Hwy, (Croppa creek to Bellata) has received decent rain since Christmas and many have a full profile of moisture. Planting is underway and the winter cropping season is looking promising. West (Mungindi, Watercourse, Colly, Garah) have not had as much rainfall. Some planting is underway despite the soil profile still being relatively dry and growers are risking the crop hoping to get rainfall. However, overall many growers have opted out of planting long season species (faba beans) and hope that more rainfall may occur this month to plant short season cereals or chickpeas.</p> | <p>condition. No runoff to improve water situation. Winter crop planting area increasing with extra rainfall.</p> <p>Walgett - There has been some isolated rainfall that has resulted in short term (expected) improvements. Some livestock agisted out have been returned to farm and current pasture levels are supporting their nutritional needs. However, this is not a widespread and will not last long. In these areas (Cryon, Rowena and Burren Junction) there has been about 30% of normal cropping area sown on very long fallow country. Expectation for these crops is failure without significant in-crop rainfall, however, the farmers hope to achieve a minimum of some ground cover from this exercise.</p> <p>Overall, (in 90% of the LGA) it is still very dry, there is no re-stocking being carried out and unlikely now that a winter crop will be sown this year. The real risk now is to get some ground cover on these areas which are eroding quickly with no ground cover.</p> <p>Narrabri and Moree - East of both LGA's is in a very good position planting on excellent profiles of moisture and receiving 20-50mm of rainfall post sowing. Ground cover levels are excellent and livestock are in fantastic condition moving into winter.</p> <p>West of both LGA's is slightly more marginal. Limited cropping opportunities (on a full profile) and approx. 50-60% of the normal cropping area has been sown to date on limited profile. The crops only have primary roots developed at this time and will need some additional rainfall in the next 2-4 weeks before secondary root establishment will occur. Until this time the crop is quite vulnerable.</p> | <p>being planted on 30-50cm of wet soil, nowhere near enough to meet crop requirements without follow up rain. This rain will also promote some winter pasture growth and several producers are moving stock back into the Shire after being on agistment for extended periods.</p> <p>Moree - Western parts of shire are opportunistically planting late winter crops in a similar manner to Walgett producers so follow up rain is essential. Reduced livestock numbers in the shire will allow some pasture recovery although it will be slow until spring. Crops in the eastern part of the shire show average potential</p> <p>Gwydir - Good rainfall has improved pasture growth and caused enough runoff to fill most farm dams. Winter forages are in good condition and livestock utilising the pastures well. Some crops planted late in the cropping window but majority on track for average yields.</p> <p>Narrabri - Forage crops in good condition and livestock on hand remaining steady, allowing some pasture recovery. Farm dam levels have improved due to rainfall.</p> <p>Gunnedah - Farm dam levels improved and good winter pasture and forage growth. Livestock condition is improving, albeit with reduced numbers on hand compared to average conditions. Some late crops planted and several producers are replanting crops due to waterlogging.</p> <p>Tamworth - Forage crops in very good condition and winter pasture growth has improved with rainfall. Stock numbers still low compared to average. Farm dams levels have improved across the shire.</p> <p>Liverpool Plains - Some waterlogged crops being replanted along with some opportunistic late plantings occurring. Very good pasture and forage growth along with reduced livestock numbers has left remaining stock in good condition.</p> <p>General - Rainfall has been widespread across the region and has prompted some increased plantings on marginal soil moisture reserves in the the west. These crops will require significant follow up rain to achieve even average yields. Further east in the region, crops are on track for only average yields at this stage due to the lateness of</p> |

| Region | April | May | June |
|-------------------|---|---|---|
| | | | the planting and some waterlogging in the southern parts of the region. Pastures will be slower to respond to rain in winter but some winter feed and forage is filling the feed gap until spring. Livestock numbers are still below average for the region but this has left remaining stock in good condition. Farm dam water levels are improved due to minor runoff across the region, mainly in the east and south. However, runoff has been limited to farm scale, meaning creeks, rivers and major water storages across the region have not seen significant improvement. |
| Riverina | Good rainfall > 50mm was received over the Riverina in general during April; the highest recorded rainfall reported by the responders was 128mm reported near Young. As a result conditions have generally improved in most areas, but follow up rain is required | Some very scattered rainfall < 40mm was received over the Eastern Riverina with total declining to generally < 5mm in the Western portions during May; the highest recorded rainfall reported by the responders was 50mm reported near Young. As a result conditions have generally improved in some eastern areas, but follow up rain is required | The southern, central, and eastern Riverina are enjoying the results of the best rainfall received in a week for this season. Despite consistent temperatures under 10 degrees, some frosts and fogs, the soil moisture for crops and pastures is excellent. Soil moisture in the profile has increased at depth and while temperatures are low, crops and pastures are using moisture in the topsoil, rather than roots moisture seeking at depth. Annual grasses, dual purpose winter crops and winter-active lucerne pastures are all providing some green feed. Dam levels are still low to medium. The significant rainfall event of mid June was soft and steady rainfall, a nice soaking rain that has been taken up, with very little translating into run-off. |
| South East | No report provided. | No report provided. | Rainfall across the region in June has been patchy in some locations of the Tablelands landscape but otherwise average to good in other areas. Winter cold snaps have delivered some heavy frosts across the Tablelands landscape impacting available feed and livestock conditions. Winter pasture and crops range from fair to good in most locations. |
| Western | In the Brewarrina LGA the only rain fall for the month of April fell on 30th, up to 75ml were reported by landholders around the Weilmoringle area, down to 30ml south of Brewarrina. The rain event seems to have covered most of the Bre LGA, But some of the properties in the north/east have missed out. <u>This event will only benefit the lighter country/soils</u> | From my prospective on the areas I have traveled to the North and East, in the past month things look pretty good having a lot of winter growth starting to pop up and the rain that was received in the month of April is certainly showing the benefits to the land holders now. Whilst travelling down to Ivanhoe through Menindee things didn't look as flash with feed, but in saying that there was still a lot of green pick around and recent rain will help. | Unincorporated area - In my travel's for the month I have noticed a wide spread of feed in all directions from Broken Hill and still a lot of water lying around from previous rains this month. They predicted a dry winter but it has certainly started of okay. Balranald area - Overall we have had some much needed and welcome rain across the district Most |

| Region | April | May | June |
|--------|--|--|---|
| | <p>where run off happens, follow up rain will be needed to help the heavier soil types, and probably will not help cropping country.</p> <p>Livestock remain strong, on the main, due to landholders reducing numbers to a low level & a supplementary feeding program.</p> <p>The Balranald LGA has received a most welcome rain with most land holders receiving on average 60ml for the month. There is just a slight green tinge starting to appear in paddocks across the district but not enough to sustain stock at the moment. A much needed follow up rain in a week or two would be just ideal.</p> <p>Most landholders still either have stock away on agistment or a sup feeding</p> | <p>Travelling South to Wentworth is still pretty average with feed at the moment.</p> <p>In general conditions across the area are ok there is a reasonable green tinge across paddocks however rain is needed to sustain pasture growth and the average across the area for the month was only 1 to 2 ml not enough to promote pastures and keep them growing landholders are still keeping their carrying capacities way below average and are still hand feeding any remaining stock. A good 15 to 25ml rain is needed in the next few weeks to enable the seed base to be retained.</p> <p>We got lucky and had around 20 - 25 ml at the end of the month. The rain was widespread but dropped off as you went north. Hungerford, Enngonia had less than 5ml.</p> <p>There was no runoff from this rain event, it was good soaking rain. If we have follow up rain it may make some improvement to the district. The conditions as you drive around are from very bad to desperate, most landholders have now destocked to the point that even if we get good rain, it will take a number of years for them to recover.</p> <p>The north side of the darling river is in good condition (mainly the west side) the east side is still average. The southern side of the darling river is very dry the black ground has just soaked up the rain and there has been no run off to fill dams. Travelling through the southern end between Menindee and Ivanhoe yesterday and most landholders are still feeding there stock and relying on bore water.</p> <p>Good rain at the end of April, has kick started an early winter growth, specifically so on the lighter country.</p> <p>Warm weather throughout the month of May has also helped. Last week saw a significant weather pattern come in from the west of Australia in a West- East band, of which most of the rain fell from about 40 km North of Bre, to 80 km South of Brewarrina. Rain reports were around the 20 - 25 ml within this band. Goodooga land holders reported falls of 1-2 ml. Weilmoringle landholders reported falls of up to 8 ml. Although any rain is always welcome, it was very light & slow in falling , (Thur night > Sunday night) it did not create a lot of run off for</p> | <p>landholders have received around the 25ml + . The native pasture has benefited well from this with trefoil's and grasses starting to come away nicely. However it still needs to progress to be any real benefit to stock .</p> <p>Have had the odd report of Pulpy kidney/bloat causing deaths in sheep due to the shortness of the vegetation and dewy mornings. these losses are only minimal at the moment and farmers are still hand feeding to combat this problem as well as vaccination's and the use of bloat oil in troughs. Crops are starting to poke their heads through nicely however the ground temp is still a bit cold to promote any significant growth from the recent rains. As usual its a wait and see what mother nature delivers in the next month or two.</p> <p>Brewarrina area - There has been good falls of rain in the Bre LGA particularly in the southern end of the shire south of the Karmilaroy Highway from Bourke to the eastern shire boundary of Walgett. with good response of growth (winter herbage).</p> <p>North of the highway has received good soaking rain, but little run off for ground tanks.</p> <p>Still little to no rain recorded around the Goodooga area. What rain there has been will make life easier for those that have benefited from it, its looking like a wet winter & will make for a great spring if follow up rain arrives in Aug/Sept.</p> |

| Region | April | May | June |
|--------|-------|---|------|
| | | landholders who rely on ground tanks for stock water. | |

Blank page

