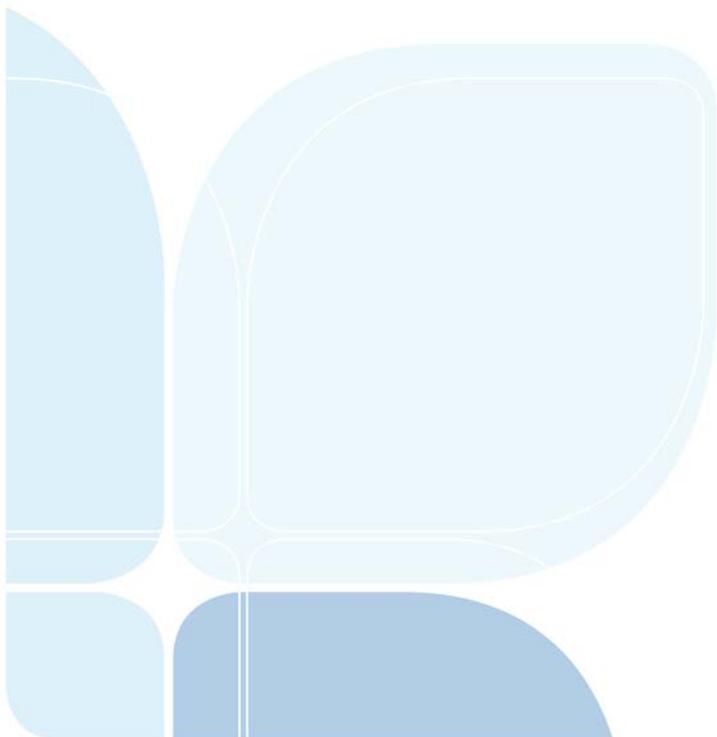




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On-ground Seasonal Conditions Report

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing September 2016. 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.

Executive Summary

Regional Property Overview – Seven regions reported no change from last month, including Central Tablelands, Central West, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, North West, Riverina and South East. Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray and Western have reported an improvement in conditions from last month. See the table below for an overview of the regional seasonal conditions elements.

Regional Infrastructure Overview - Seven regions reported no change from last month, including Central Tablelands, Central West, Greater Sydney, North Coast, North West, Riverina and South East. Hunter and Murray have reported an improvement in infrastructure conditions from last month. Western has reported a decline in infrastructure conditions from last month. Northern Tablelands don't report on infrastructure.

Regional Water Overview – Eight regions reported no change from last month, including Central Tablelands, Central West, Greater Sydney, Hunter, North Coast, North West, South East and Western. Two regions have reported an improvement in water conditions from last month Murray and Riverina.

Regional Agronomics Overview – Six regions reported no change from last month, including Central West, Greater Sydney, North Coast, North West, Riverina and South East. Five regions reported an improvement in agronomic conditions from last month including, Central Tablelands, Hunter, Murray, Northern Tablelands and Western.

Regional Livestock Overview – Five regions reported no change from last month, including Central West, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, North West and South East. Six regions reported an improvement in livestock conditions from last month, including Central Tablelands, Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray, Riverina and Western.

Condition Score	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Reasonable	Below Requirements	Poor
Average Regional Property Score		Central West, Greater Sydney, Murray and Riverina	Central Tablelands, Hunter, North Coast, North West, South East and Western		Northern Tablelands	
Regional Infrastructure Score	Hunter, Murray and South East	Central Tablelands, Central West, Greater Sydney, North Coast and Riverina	North West			Western
Regional Water Score	Central Tablelands, Murray, Riverina and South East	Central West and Greater Sydney	Hunter, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, North West and Western			
Regional Agronomics Score		Murray	Central Tablelands, Central West, Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, North West, Riverina and Western	South East	Northern Tablelands	
Regional Livestock Score		Greater Sydney, Murray and Riverina	Central Tablelands, Central West, North Coast, North West, South East and Western	Hunter		Northern Tablelands

LGA Scores – Extremely Poor, Extreme or Extremely Critical - There are no LGAs within this scale.

LGA Scores – Excellent or Very Good - The following LGAs: Cowra, Blayney, Mid Western, Narromine, Berrigan, Deniliquin, Kyogle, Richmond Valley Council, Narrabri, Tamworth, Temora, Bland, Shoalhaven, Illawarra, Wingecarribee, Bombala, Snowy River and Brewarrina.

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1. 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.

The seasonal conditions reporting scale that has been adopted by the Local Land Services seasonal condition reporting team is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: 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.

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 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>
Local Land Services September 2016

2. Data Analysis

An overview of the seasonal conditions for last two months before this reporting period is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Seasonal Condition Report Overview

Details	June 2016	July 2016
State Overview	<p>Four regions reported no change from last month, including Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray, Northern Tablelands and Western.</p> <p>Central Tablelands, Central West, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, Riverina and South East have reported an improvement in conditions from last month</p>	<p>Ten regions reported no change from last month, including Central Tablelands, Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, North West, Riverina, South East and Western.</p> <p>Central West has reported an improvement in conditions from last month.</p>
Regional Ranking	<p>Very Good – Riverina</p> <p>Good - Central Tablelands, Central West, Greater Sydney, Murray, North Coast, North West and South East.</p> <p>Reasonable - Hunter and Western</p> <p>Below Requirements - Northern Tablelands</p>	<p>Very Good - Central West and Riverina</p> <p>Good - Central Tablelands, Greater Sydney, Murray, North Coast, North West and South East</p> <p>Reasonable - Hunter and Western</p>
LGA Scores – Extremely Poor, Extreme or Extremely Critical	There are no LGAs within this scale.	There are no LGAs within this scale.
LGA Scores – Excellent or Very Good	The following LGAs: Corowa and Jerilderie.	The following LGAs: Cowra, Mid Western, Wyong, Hume, Corowa, Urana, Conargo, Deniliquin, Murray Wakool, Kyogle, Richmond Valley Council, Tamworth, Bland, Shoalhaven, Illawarra, Wingecarribee, Bega, Cooma-Monaro, Bombala and Snowy River.

2.1 Number of Properties Surveyed

The number of properties surveyed for seasonal condition reporting from each of the 11 regions are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Surveyed Property Numbers

Region	Number of properties surveyed		
	June	July	August
Central Tablelands	40	40	40
Central West	42	45	40
Greater Sydney	11	11	11
Hunter	16	14	9
Murray	45	47	46
North Coast	47	46	46
Northern Tablelands	33	23	37
North West	33	28	30
Riverina	24	27	19
South East	49	56	60
Western	18	33	15
TOTAL	358	370	353

2.2 Average Regional Property Scores

The average regional property score and the local government areas whose average property scores were either above or below the average for each of the 11 regions are identified in Table 4 for this reporting period and the two months prior.

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

Region	June			July			August		
	Average Regional Score	Above Average (LGAs)	Below Average (LGA's)	Average Regional Score	Above Average (LGAs)	Below Average (LGA's)	Average Regional Score	Above Average (LGAs)	Below Average (LGA's)
Central Tablelands	Good	Cowra – Very Good	Cabonne, Lithgow, Oberon and Orange - Reasonable	Good	Cowra, Mid Western – Very Good	Lithgow and Orange - Reasonable	Good	Cowra - Excellent Blayney and Mid Western – Very Good	-
Central West	Good	Narromine, Forbes, Weddin and Lachlan – Very Good	-	Very Good	-	Dubbo, Gilgandra, Coonamble and Warrumbungle – Good Bogan - Reasonable	Very Good	Narromine - Excellent	Bogan, Coonamble, Warrumbungle and Lachlan - Good
Greater Sydney	Good	-	-	Good	Wyong – Very Good	-	Very Good	-	Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Camden - Good
Hunter	Reasonable	Gloucester and Greater Taree - Good	Upper Hunter, Dungog and Cessnock – Below Requirements	Reasonable	Singleton - Good	Dungog, Maitland and Cessnock – Below Requirements	Good	-	Upper Hunter - Reasonable
Murray	Good	Corowa – Excellent Urana, Murray and Wakool – Very Good	Albury – Below Requirements	Good	Hume, Corowa, Urana, Conargo, Deniliquin, Murray and Wakool– Very Good	Tumbarumba and Albury - Reasonable	Very Good	Berrigan and Deniliquin - Excellent	Albury - Reasonable Tumbarumba - Good

Region	June			July			August		
	Average Regional Score	Above Average (LGAs)	Below Average (LGA's)	Average Regional Score	Above Average (LGAs)	Below Average (LGA's)	Average Regional Score	Above Average (LGAs)	Below Average (LGA's)
North Coast	Good	Kyogle and Richmond Valley Council – Very Good	Nambucca and Coffs Harbour - Reasonable	Good	Kyogle and Richmond Valley Council – Very Good	Kempsey, Nambucca and Coffs Harbour - Reasonable	Good	Kyogle and Richmond Valley Council – Very Good	Kempsey, Nambucca and Coffs Harbour - Reasonable
Northern Tablelands	Below Requirements	-	Armidale Dumaresq, Tenterfield and Inverell - Poor	Below Requirements	Walcha, Uralla and Guyra - Reasonable	-	Below Requirements	Walcha, Guyra and Glen Innes Severn - Reasonable	-
North West	Good	Tamworth – Very Good	Gwydir, Narrabri, Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains - Reasonable	Good	Tamworth – Very Good	Gwydir and Liverpool - Reasonable	Good	Narrabri and Tamworth – Very Good	
Riverina	Very Good	Jerilderie - Excellent	Tumut, Harden, Wagga, Lockhart and Carathool - Good	Very Good	Bland - Excellent	Cootamundra, Wagga, Narrandera and Hay - Good Tumut - Reasonable	Very Good	Temora and Bland - Excellent	Snowy Valleys, Cootamundra and Wagga Wagga - Good
South East	Good	Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee and Bombala – Very Good	Boorowa and Eurobodalla - Reasonable Pallerang – Below Requirements	Good	Shoalhaven, Illawarra, Wingecarribee, Bega, Cooma-Monaro, Bombala and Snowy River – Very Good	Eurobodalla - Reasonable Pallerang – Below Requirements	Good	Shoalhaven, Illawarra, Wingecarribee, Bombala and Snowy River – Very Good	Eurobodalla - Reasonable Pallerang – Below Requirements
Western	Reasonable	Brewarrina – Good	-	Reasonable	Bourke, Brewarrina and Wentworth - Good	-	Good	Brewarrina – Very Good	Central Darling - Reasonable

3. Average Regional Property Score

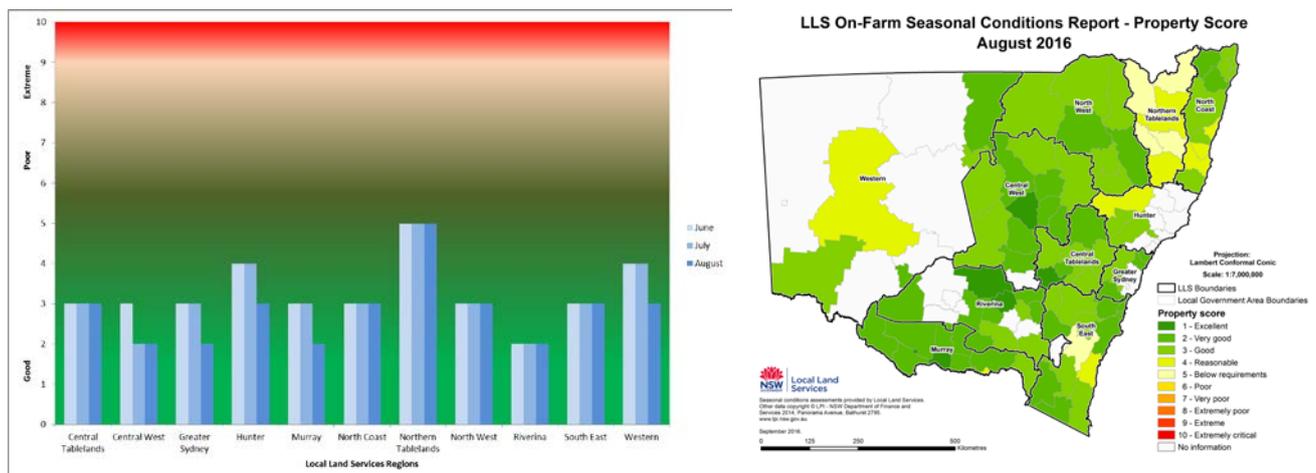
The average regional property score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 5. This score includes an average score of the water, agronomic and livestock categories across the regions local government areas.

Table 5: The average regional property score

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

The average regional property score for the 11 regions for the past three months is also shown graphically in Figure 1. Along with the graphically representation in Figure 1 is the geographical representation of the average regional property score across local government areas.

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



4. Average Regional Score for Infrastructure

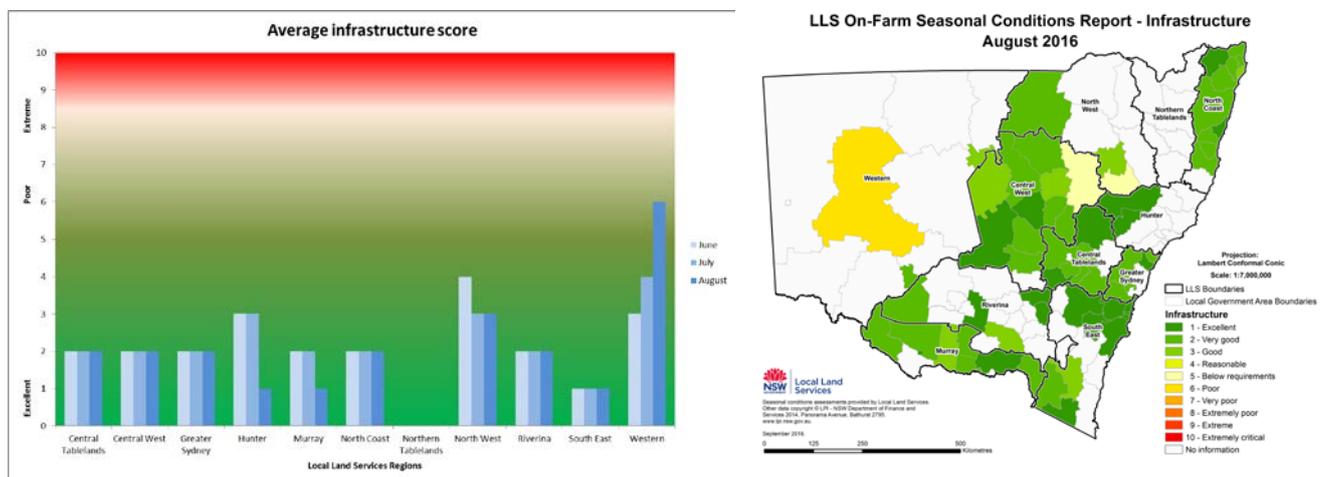
The average regional infrastructure score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 6. This score is for the condition of regional infrastructure including bores, tanks, troughs and piping. The infrastructure score is used to capture information for the Regional Assistance Advisory Committee (RAAC) to use for the emergency water infrastructure grants in 2014. It is important to note Northern Tablelands do not measure/score the water infrastructure in the region.

Table 6: The average regional infrastructure score

Region	Average scores for regions		
	June	July	August
Central Tablelands	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Central West	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Greater Sydney	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Hunter	Good	Good	Excellent
Murray	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
North Coast	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Northern Tablelands	-	-	-
North West	Reasonable	Good	Good
Riverina	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
South East	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Western	Good	Reasonable	Poor

The average regional infrastructure score for the 11 regions for the past three months is also shown graphically in Figure 2. Along with the graphically representation in Figure 2 is the geographical representation of the average regional infrastructure score across local government areas.

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



5. Average Regional Water Score

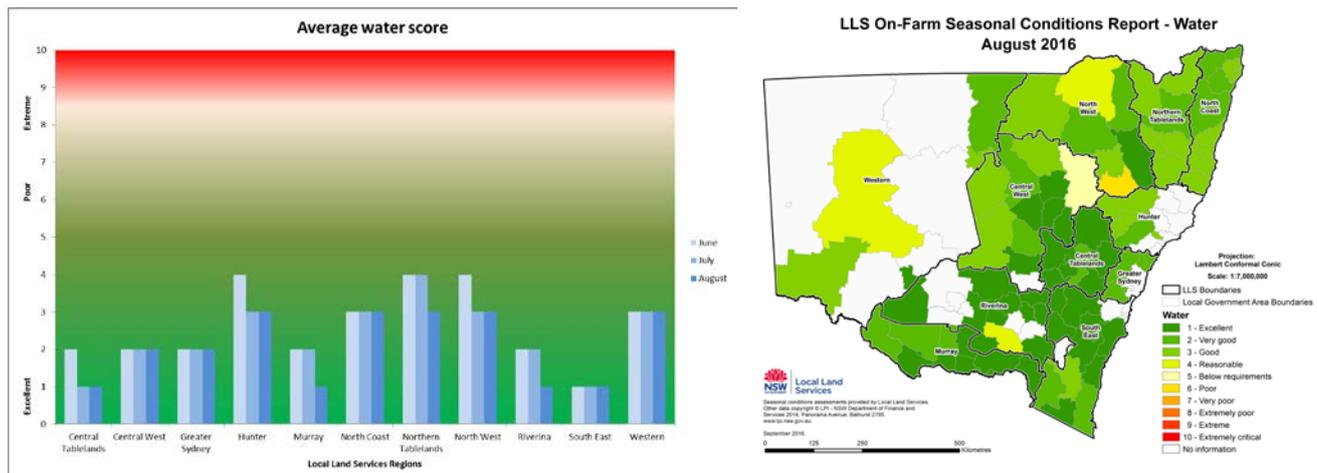
The average regional water score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 7. This score is for the condition of regional water including surface water, dams and stock accessed rivers, creeks and springs.

Table 7: The average regional water score

Region	Average scores for regions		
	June	July	August
Central Tablelands	Very Good	Excellent	Excellent
Central West	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Greater Sydney	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Hunter	Reasonable	Good	Good
Murray	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
North Coast	Good	Good	Good
Northern Tablelands	Reasonable	Reasonable	Good
North West	Reasonable	Good	Good
Riverina	Very Good	Very Good	Excellent
South East	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Western	Good	Good	Good

The average regional water score for the 11 regions for the past three months is also shown graphically in Figure 3. Along with the graphically representation in Figure 3 is the geographical representation of the average regional water score across local government areas.

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



6. Average Regional Agronomics Score

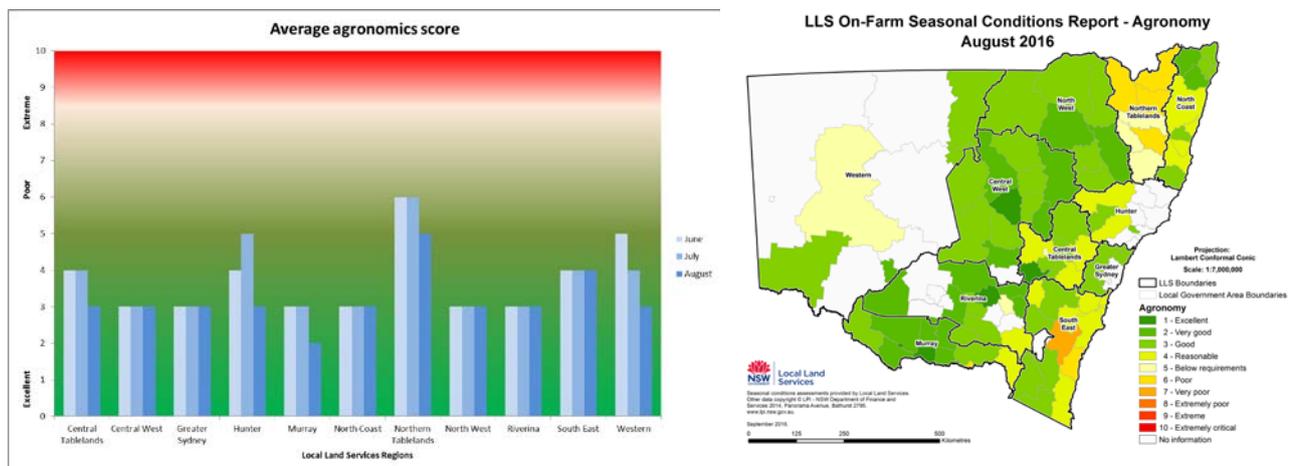
The average regional agronomics score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 8. This score is for the condition of regional agronomics including native pastures, improved pastures and cropping.

Table 8: The average agronomics score

Region	Average scores for regions		
	June	July	August
Central Tablelands	Reasonable	Reasonable	Good
Central West	Good	Good	Good
Greater Sydney	Good	Good	Good
Hunter	Reasonable	Below Requirements	Good
Murray	Good	Good	Good
North Coast	Good	Good	Good
Northern Tablelands	Below Requirements	Poor	Below Requirements
North West	Good	Good	Good
Riverina	Good	Good	Good
South East	Reasonable	Reasonable	Reasonable
Western	Below Requirements	Reasonable	Good

The average regional agronomics score for the 11 regions for the past three months is also shown graphically in Figure 4. Along with the graphical representation in Figure 4 is the geographical representation of the average regional agronomic score across local government areas.

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



7. Average Regional Livestock Score

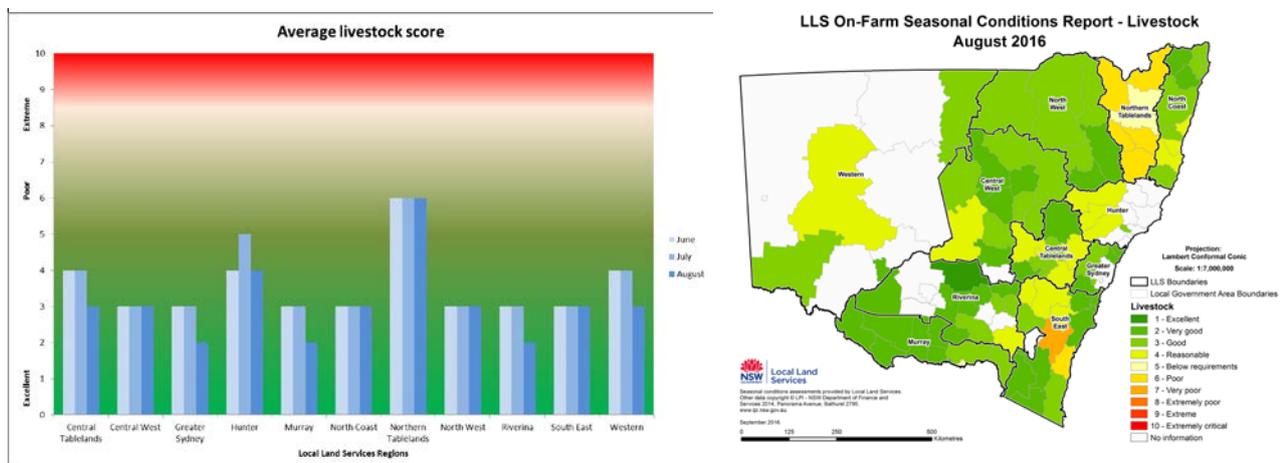
The average regional livestock score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 9. This score is for the condition of regional livestock including beef, sheep and other.

Table 9: The average livestock score

Region	Average scores for regions		
	June	July	August
Central Tablelands	Reasonable	Reasonable	Good
Central West	Good	Good	Good
Greater Sydney	Good	Good	Very Good
Hunter	Reasonable	Below Requirements	Reasonable
Murray	Good	Good	Very Good
North Coast	Good	Good	Good
Northern Tablelands	Poor	Poor	Poor
North West	Good	Good	Good
Riverina	Good	Good	Very Good
South East	Good	Good	Good
Western	Reasonable	Reasonable	Good

The average regional livestock score for the 11 regions for the past three months is also shown graphically in Figure 5. Along with the graphically representation in Figure 5 is the geographical representation of the average regional livestock score across local government areas.

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



8. Regional Comments on Seasonal Conditions

The 11 regional seasonal condition comments for the last three months are shown in Table 10.

Table 10: Regional commentary on seasonal conditions

Region	June	July	August
Central Tablelands	<p>Excellent rainfall across the region during June has helped to dramatically improve water storage's in farm dams and creeks in all areas.</p> <p>Cold weather and very heavy frosts during the month have continued to limit pasture growth, although a green tinge has started to appear. Overall, pastures have picked up slightly due to the recent rains, whilst crops are generally growing well. Recent snowfall events across the high country in the east have had an effect on pasture levels, but the improved soil moisture levels in the ground are leading towards a good spring if conditions continue.</p> <p>Supplementary feeding is still widespread and will further increase during the remainder of the winter months. As a result many stock are reliant on this feeding to maintain condition, and there has been evidence of livestock slipping back in condition where regular feeding is not occurring.</p>	<p>Excellent widespread rainfall across the region during July continued to top up water storage's with many landholders now having full dams and good flows in creeks and rivers across all areas.</p> <p>Pasture growth remains slow especially around the colder parts of the region, with little or no growth occurring in the eastern mountain areas. Although most areas have started to green up, some pastures have been compromised due to water logging, but despite this other parts of the region have been experiencing some growth.</p> <p>Continued cold and wet weather has resulted in some livestock classes slipping in condition, especially in the eastern regions and also around Orange. Widespread supplementary feeding is continuing throughout winter whilst the wind chill effect has also resulted in stock struggling further due to weather conditions.</p>	<p>Good widespread rain continued to fall across the region during the past month and this has ensured that water storage's have remained full or in many cases overflowing.</p> <p>The continued wet conditions have caused some pasture and cropping issues however, as the existing soil moisture and ground water levels have caused water logging and slower growth rates for some. Generally pastures are growing well across most districts and especially so in the Cowra area, but pastures have been much slower to respond in the colder climactic areas and are only now just starting to grow.</p> <p>Once again livestock conditions have been compromised due to cold and wet conditions in the east of the region, with supplementary feeding still occurring in some areas and some classes of livestock struggling to maintain condition. In those areas where temperatures have been slightly higher and where pastures have responded better, livestock conditions remain good.</p>
Central West	<p>Overall CW has received the best start to winter in a number of years. Most of the region has received 100 to 180 mm, spread over 8 to 14 days in June.</p> <p>Water storage has reached near capacity in most areas.</p> <p>There has been some minor flooding on some of the creeks and rivers in the region which has resulted in loss of cereal crop and pasture. Local inundation is also having an effect on crops as the root system remains waterlogged. Long term affect of this will depend on the weather in the next few weeks, but raining here again so not drying out in a hurry.</p>	<p>Rainfall across the area has varied from 40 mm to 110 mm spread over 4 to 14 days.</p> <p>Water storage's are full for the most part with local inundation still proving problematic for crops and pastures in most areas. With the main storage's, particularly in the south, nearing capacity the ability to manage storm runoff moving into spring could pose an issue for those landholders on the flood plain downstream.</p> <p>The increased soil moisture profile is resulting in water logging issues in crops and pasture with some losses already reported and the potential for reduced yields the longer it stays wet. Weed burdens in crop have increased and landholders have</p>	<p>Once again rainfall has varied across the region from 20ml to 90ml spread over several days. Nearly all groundwater storage's are at capacity with a full soil moisture profile. Localised flooding occurred in some areas with flood warnings issued during the month. This has increased water logging of some crops and pastures and with landholders moving stock to higher ground, this has put pressure on the pasture growth in some areas. Although with the slightly warmer weather for the last couple of weeks pasture growth and crop growth has moved ahead quite quickly. Some cereal crops are coming out in head and canola across most</p>

Region	June	July	August
	<p>With the onset of colder weather pasture growth has been limited in most areas, but has improved. Hand feeding is continuing due to the high water content of pastures at the moment, and higher energy requirements of stock due to the cold. However some producers are struggling to gain access to paddocks to deliver feed due to the wet ground. Overall the condition of stock would be average. With the lush conditions some livestock issues have arisen such as bloat, increased worm burdens, calcium and magnesium deficiencies in stock grazing cereal crops and foot abscess, particularly in pregnant ewes. Footrot is another problem that producers need to be aware of given the ideal conditions that will be present as we move towards spring.</p> <p>Whilst there are some negative impacts currently, some quite substantial in individual cases, the outlook is reasonably positive for the months ahead.</p>	<p>resorted to aerial control due to inaccessible paddocks. There have been some reports of fence losses as a result of storm activity but it appears to be in isolated pockets. Stock are generally in good condition, with bloat, worm burdens and foot problems being the main issues now and moving into spring. Delays in shearing and lamb marking due to the weather are causing some inconvenience to normal operations.</p>	<p>districts is flowering. If it stays wet there is the potential for reduced yields. Stock are generally in good condition but with the continuing wet conditions bloat, foot problems and worm burdens will continue to be a problem in the coming months.</p>
Greater Sydney	<p>Greater Sydney for the month of June received widespread rainfall across the region. Totals in most areas were between 209mm - 327mm, due to the east coast low rain/storm event which saw widespread flooding and erosion of waterways, reservoirs and dams. Producers in areas such as Llandilo, Menangle, Elderslie, Camden and Picton also reported loss of pasture, livestock, topsoil and crops. Although water supplies are full or above in most areas, pasture quality has reduced as the cold weather and frosty mornings start to set in. Subsoil moisture levels also are very high, due to the large amount of rainfall received this month. Livestock condition appears above average throughout the region, with some producers supplementary feeding their livestock in order to maintain and increase their weight due to poor pasture quality.</p>	<p>Greater Sydney has once again seen above average rainfall for the month of July, with LGA's averaging anywhere between 45.8 – 108.8mm. On farm water supplies are measuring 2/3 to full, due to last month's rain event and the consistent rainfall received this month. Pasture quality is reasonable due to temperatures on several occasions falling below 0 degrees causing frosty conditions, impacting upon pasture growth. Livestock health conditions appear good throughout the region; however there have been a small number of properties whose sheep have been impacted by lice infections.</p>	<p>Greater Sydney in the month of August consisted of two low pressure weather systems, which saw areas receiving anywhere between 41.8mm – 140.0mm of rainfall. Temperatures were above average; however there were several cold days where temperatures dropped below 0 degrees on a few occasions. Pasture condition remains slow, however pasture growth is sure to improve moving into spring. Water sources are at 90% or above due to the consistent rainfall over the past few months. Livestock conditions are reasonable, with foot issues and sheep welfare concerns occurring throughout the region due to lack of supplementary feeding and additional care during the wet winter months.</p>
Hunter	<p>Rainfall has been good but scattered. More rain would be appreciated. The long dry autumn and limited growth of wintery pastures has resulted in many graziers feeding cattle</p>	<p>Most areas have experienced a fairly tough winter - pasture growth is poor - some supplementary feeding occurring in many areas - eagerly awaiting warmer Spring conditions and pasture growth.</p>	<p>There has been good general rain across the Hunter and a promising spring is approaching. Even though winter has come to an end, native pasture growth is slow especially in the elevated reaches of the valley</p>

Region	June	July	August
	<p>especially breeders, and early weaning of calves.</p>		<p>where feed will not come away for at least a fortnight. Cattle are fattening and doing well on lower improved country and crops. Although there is no widespread supplementary feeding, some producers are feeding lactating cows waiting for the warmer weather. A "green drought" has been reported in Timor area east of Murrurundi which had missed earlier rainfalls and were soil temperatures are still low.</p> <p>The Manning and Great Lakes districts are awaiting a spring start. Scattered rain and showers over the last month have added much-needed moisture with winter pastures benefiting from this combined with warmer weather. Good growth of clover in naturalised pastures should see good spring growth if scattered showers and rain continue. Recent falls have improved conditions west of Gloucester marginally.</p> <p>Fodder, winter cereal and oilseed crops in the Merriwa district are looking promising with good falls of rain, however, aphids have been a problem in most crops including grazing oats. Good clover germination may mean bloat problems are not far away. A few isolated cases have been reported and 5-in-1 preventative vaccinations for clostridial diseases are recommended. Creeks and rivers running well in the ranges while some isolated areas are still looking for runoff to fill dams.</p>
<p>Murray</p>	<p>Wet weather continued for June. Cropping - mostly conditions are very good - across the region crops are growing well. The rainfall triggered a significant amount of sowing of all winter cropping varieties. Most growers completed a majority of their sowing programs - still some late season wheat and barley sowing to be completed - but over 90% completed. There is now adequate moisture but various levels of water-logging causing problems to both crops & pastures. Any country that was pre-irrigated is suffering excessive waterlogging. Groundcover has improved significantly. Pasture growing conditions have slowed - cold and wet particularly in 2nd half of the month but generally pastures in the west and central are growing well for</p>	<p>It's wet. Really wet. Crops, pastures, yards, and socks all need a chance to dry out. At least one area had flood warnings in the last week of July.</p> <p>Majority of ground tanks reliant on surface inflows have seen levels replenished - with majority full or close to. Irrigation allocations (general security) have increased - in the Murray now at 4% for the 2017 'water year' whilst in the Murrumbidgee now at 33%.</p> <p>In general, heavier, flatter or pre-irrigated country is suffering waterlogging and poor pasture/crop growth while lighter country is draining and therefore responding well. Some growers are abandoning those crops and some will be sprayed out in spring and other options considered.</p> <p>Majority of crops and pastures in good condition in Central and West Murray, except the waterlogged areas where there are</p>	<p>Still very wet across the whole of the Murray region. The soil moisture profile is full in many areas for the first time in around 15 years.</p> <p>The damage to pastures and crops from waterlogging is just starting to show although areas not waterlogged are in good to excellent condition. The wet conditions have led to high leaf disease pressures on winter crops, with fungicide applications common. Landholders are hopeful not to irrigate winter crops in the spring - although some still budgeting on at least one irrigation depending on crop potential and seasonal conditions in Sept and October. Irrigated summer cropping programs are being considered - the scale of programs dependent on several still unknown factors.</p>

Region	June	July	August
	<p>this time of year however the East missed a good break and growth has dropped considerably (normal for this time of year). Whilst growing conditions are good, in some areas there is still not a lot of bulk of feed/dry matter available so supplementary feeding is still ongoing and will continue throughout the winter, particularly in the east where the cold stopped growth earlier. Some of the central and western areas have adequate feed however waterlogging is limiting feed in some areas as livestock can't be moved to fresh paddocks. Foot abscess potentially a problem in merino ewes with big fleece. Overall, much animal husbandry on hold until yards dry out and roads /tracks are suitably dry to enable stock movement. One participant commented that ewe scanning was down due to the dry in May.</p> <p>Many ground tanks reliant on surface inflows have seen levels replenished - with many full or close to. Water quality has improved, although blue green algae is still an issue in some areas.</p> <p>On set of cooler conditions has seen significant numbers of crop pasture pests - in particular red legged earthmite and blue oat aphid in crops and pastures. Kangaroos are still an ongoing issue in the Upper Murray (East). Feral Pigs also an issue in the Upper Murray.</p> <p>Irrigation allocations (general security) in the Murray commenced at 0% for the 2017 'water year' (2016 year finished @ 23%) whilst in the Murrumbidgee has commenced the 2017 water season at 20% (2016 year finished @ 37% of entitlements).</p>	<p>some crop failures and patchy growth. Croppers have had difficulty top-dressing crops with nitrogen fertiliser due to poor access and poor traffic ability. Aerial operators have not been able to use farm strips as they have been too wet for aircraft and accessible to trucks.</p> <p>Pasture growth is (as expected at this time of year) restricted due to cold, and waterlogging is still an issue for grazing stock, with many paddocks still not stockable and some stock being moved to higher grounds. Foot problems are still a presenting, but are not a significant issue.</p> <p>In general, landholders are mostly optimistic about the coming season and prepared to put up with the temporary inconvenience of wet country.</p> <p>Kangaroos still an issue in East Murray.</p>	<p>Growth has been good, with minimal frost in all areas except the hills. Growth in these far Eastern hills has been adequate still, but will really start to take off with the warmer weather from Sept onwards. Issues with foot abscesses in sheep are expected to explode across the region now with the onset of warmer weather, the still very wet paddocks and lush feed. Stock conditions are very good in general.</p> <p>Supplementary feeding is still occurring, mostly grain to lambing ewes and roughage to cattle where there is not yet the bulk to carry them through, or the paddocks are still too wet to allow stock on.</p> <p>Water quality is back to high across the region, with no further reports of BGA. Majority of ground tanks are full or close to.</p>
North Coast	<p>Producers across the region were very happy to receive the rainfall and it has certainly improved the overall picture with very few negatives.</p>	<p>Some minor changes but overall a reasonably normal July. Some producers have reported failed rye grass plantings due to below average rainfall after planting.</p>	<p>Some producers have noted a decrease in livestock condition due to the colder weather and wet conditions during the month. However, everything is good and the rainfall should set them up for a good spring.</p>
Northern Tablelands	<p>Good general rains across the whole Northern Tablelands LLS area have brought about improvements in water supplies in all LGA areas. In most of the LGAs this improvement has been quite</p>	<p>July seasonal conditions report for Northern Tablelands LLS attached. Due to unforeseen circumstances we have no report from Glen Innes Severn LGA and only limited data for Guyra LGA this month.</p>	<p>Excellent rains across the whole region throughout August have lifted water supplies to average or above average levels in all LGAs and have replenished soil moisture as we come into spring.</p>

Region	June	July	August
	<p>dramatic, however in the two with the lower rainfall totals (Inverell and Tenterfield) improvement has been limited as run off was only starting when the rain ceased.</p> <p>Fodder crops which were struggling at the end of May, have also undergone a major turn-around with the added moisture and are generally providing excellent winter feed.</p> <p>Pastures along with stock numbers and condition remain little changed as is expected through the winter months on the tablelands.</p>	<p>Little has changed over July on the Northern Tablelands. Rains have only been modest for the month but with the low temperatures prevailing, evapo-transpiration has also been low.</p> <p>There have been some modest improvements in water supplies with pastures remaining surprisingly green but without significant growth. Fodder crops have continued to do well and stock have either held condition or have had minor loss in condition. Supplementary feeding has been increasing but well within expectations for this time of year.</p>	<p>The rainfall has been particularly timely for winter grain and forage crops with the outlook for good yields in wheat, barley and chick pea crops. The forage crops have continued to provide excellent feed for stock across the region, however some crops, in lower lying paddocks, have had to be rested as the ground has become too wet to allow continued grazing. These crops may well be used for hay or grain as the spring progresses.</p> <p>As yet we have seen only minor improvements in pasture growth, as soil temperatures are still to warm up enough to allow spring growth.</p> <p>Stock numbers remain low and stock has not yet started to put on condition, particularly with the pressure of calving and lambing. However good growth rates, in lambs and calves are anticipated as the weather and pasture pick up.</p>
North West	<p>Water - There has been good widespread rainfall across the region with the highest falls being over 400mm at Mt Kaputar and an average of over 100mm. This rainfall has been steady, resulting in limited runoff, other than in the Tamworth region.</p> <p>Farm dam supplies are still low but with lower temperatures, the demand for water has reduced</p> <p>Agronomics - Forage crops are performing very well and this is filling the winter feed gap from tropical and native pastures in the region.</p> <p>Large areas of crop have been planted already and some areas around Rowena, Burren Junction and Collarenebri have been inundated, potentially requiring replanting if conditions permit. Pulse crops are being monitored closely for foliar diseases as Ascochyta Blight has already been found near Mungindi.</p> <p>Livestock - A strong flush of winter legumes has created a bloat risk and farmers are managing this risk with supplementary feeding. Stock numbers are still reduced and high prices are kerbing restocking rates.</p>	<p>Groundwater supplies have maintained levels throughout the month. Surface water supplies including creeks and dams are still below expected levels due to minimal runoff. The exception is the Tamworth LGA where good rainfall has increased dam levels and stream flows.</p> <p>Warmer than normal conditions has accelerated early sown crops, putting them at risk of frost damage at flowering. Later sown crops have suffered from waterlogging, particularly in the Walgett and western parts of the Moree LGAs. In some cases, farmers have already moved to saving areas for summer crop as the winter sowing window has closed.</p> <p>Forage crops are performing very well. Pastures are growing at expected levels and strong legume growth has increased bloat risk. Less stock are on the TSR network, indicating that on farm feed reserves are improving. Both sheep and cattle are performing well and restocking is slowly occurring, despite record high cattle prices.</p>	<p>Groundwater supplies have maintained levels throughout the month. Surface water supplies including creeks and farm dams have improved due to wide spread rain across the region. Bulk water storages in the region have replenished, leading to increased irrigation water allocation.</p> <p>Winter crops have received significant rainfall and this has caused some waterlogging in the western areas of the region. As temperatures start to increase, the risk of foliar disease is growing and significant quantities of fungicides have already been applied.</p> <p>Pastures are growing at expected levels and strong legume growth has increased bloat risk.</p> <p>Less stock are on the TSR network, indicating that on farm feed reserves are improving.</p> <p>Both sheep and cattle are performing well and restocking is slowly occurring, despite record high cattle prices.</p>

Region	June	July	August
Riverina	<p>Producers in the Riverina are now describing conditions as very wet, after two wet months. Temperatures were above average for June, with pasture growth slow but reasonable on the better drained soils. Burrinjuck Dam received a monthly rainfall of 238.4mm and monthly evaporation was only half that of May at 30.9mm. Farm dam water supplies throughout the region range from 2/3 full to overflowing with significant run-off occurring this month.</p> <p>Supplementary feeding of stock is continuing on some farms to hold stock in reasonable condition, with breeding stock facing cold and wet conditions and higher energy requirements with young progeny at foot. Some producers are having issues with boggy conditions and taking hay and grain out to stock in paddocks too wet to drive on. Breeding stock generally are in reasonable condition, averaging fat score 2. Stock health issues include a number of diagnosed and reported cases of grass tetany in the region, a metabolic disease that affects cattle and sheep, associated with low levels of magnesium in the blood in stock grazing on young grass pastures and dual purpose cereal crops. There have been issues of pregnancy toxemia in late pregnant ewes grazed on pasture only without supplementation and also hypocalcemia in sheep on grazing cereal crops and some early cases of rickets in lambs. On the other extreme, growers are continuing to monitor stock for bloat in some lucerne and clover pastures. The quantity of feed-on-offer is increasing gradually for stock although moisture contents of green pastures and grazing crops feed are currently high and around 70-75% which equates to only offering 25-30% Dry Matter on a weight basis. Clover content is poor in paddocks that had an early strike before the dry months of March and April, and excellent where the seed struck on the autumn break. Medics have also had an excellent strike this season.</p> <p>The winter crop is in a mixed condition. The early</p>	<p>Producers in the Riverina are continuing to describe conditions as very wet or saturated, after the rainfall has continued over three consecutive months. The majority of dams and creeks are full to overflowing, with the more recent heavier falls causing erosion on sloping country and finer textured soils. Pasture growth is slow but still above average for the month of July due to wet and relatively milder conditions. Most locations recorded between 1-3 frosts for the month, which is below the average number for the winter month. Breeding stock have been under the most pressure to hold their condition and supplementary feeding for nutrition and health has continued where possible, with many pasture paddocks not being trafficable even for utes and tractors. Young stock and dry stock are generally in good condition with feed-on-offer levels being above average for July, except where paddocks have pugged badly from grazing stock. The majority of winter days have been cloudy and raining, with localities across the Riverina recording rainfall from 16-24 days out of the 31 in the month. The wet weather has caused management issues rarely experienced, shorter grazing periods on dual purpose crops and fodder crops, soil pugged, vehicles bogged, waterlogged crops and difficulties in yarding stock and moving stock. Cropping operations have been hampered by wet conditions, with significant delays caused to post-emergent weed and insect pest spraying and spreading fertiliser not possible by ground in many paddocks.</p> <p>Animal health issues have included the occurrence of pregnancy toxemia in heavy, twin-bearing ewes not being supplementary fed, hypomagnesaemia on rapidly growing cereal crops especially wheat, hypocalcemia across the district in pregnant and young growing stock exacerbated by yarding or handling for management reasons and some high worm burdens which have showed up in the higher rainfall eastern areas despite the use of pre-lambing drenches (this does not appear to be a drench resistance issue just a reinfection due to the very wet pastures). The District Veterinarians have also seen worm burdens creep up in young stock (weaners) +/- scouring - leading to deaths in some cases and ill-thrift in others. These worm burdens have been mixed infections of Black Scour, Small Brown Stomach, Barber's Pole Worm and</p>	<p>Seasonal conditions are very wet to saturated, with rainfall events continuing over four consecutive months. Most locations recorded at least 2 frosts for the month, although the Cootamundra and Young districts experienced up to 15 frosts. The majority of dams and creeks are full to overflowing, and poor trafficability in many paddocks has caused issues for livestock producers and grain-growers. Cropping operations have been delayed by extended wet conditions, although a window of opportunity opened up in August on better drained paddocks for applications of post-emergent herbicide, insecticide, fungicide and nitrogen fertiliser. Pasture growth has been good on better-drained, improved pastures with milder temperatures but slower on the native pastures or those under heavier stock pressure. Supplementary feeding for nutrition and health has eased off in August with pasture growth now supplying breeding stock with their requirements. Young stock and dry stock are generally in good condition with feed-on-offer levels being above average for August, except where waterlogging has been severe over an extended period. Animal health issues have included internal parasite issues in sheep due to the very wet pastures and rickets development in young sheep due to the lack of sunlight. The District Veterinarians have seen young stock (weaners) at the greatest risk of infection from Black Scour, Small Brown Stomach, Barbers Pole Worm and Thin Necked Intestinal worms. The vets are also on the lookout for liver fluke in sheep grazing on fluke-prone areas. There have been many feet problems in sheep due to the wet conditions, the majority presenting as foot abscess (scald) and interdigital dermatitis but some have been confirmed as footrot. Bloat has been reported in cattle and producers are watching stock closely with high clover content and pasture growth about to jump away.</p>

Region	June	July	August
	<p>sown crops have faced higher than normal insect pressure but were trafficable enough to spray early for pests. Late sown crops have suffered from seed bursting to seedlings facing waterlogged conditions to some paddocks becoming too wet for late-sown options. Generally the early sown crops are quite good while many later sown paddocks have suffered waterlogging and losses are increasing as paddocks do not have the chance to dry out while evaporation rates are so low. While continued rainfall was welcomed in May, many paddocks are now too wet to do a follow up insect spray for pests, spray post-emergent weeds or to spread fertilisers. In any case, urea is also in short supply at present and hard to get delivered on-farm.</p>	<p>Thin Necked Intestinal worms in the <10 month old stock. Worm burdens may have increased due to delays in moving stock onto fresh pastures and delays in weaning caused by difficulties in yarding. Wet weather has also caused delays in trucking stock out for sale with stockyard numbers down for both cattle and sheep. Most stock held their condition reasonably well despite the continuing wet and sometimes windy weather.</p>	
South East	<p>Most of the seasonal conditions are the same as the previous month except we have had considerable rainfall across the majority of the area.</p>	<p>Coastal - Rainfall on the coastal strip for the month of July was quite variable. Totals varied from as low as 10 to 25 in a small area through to 100 to 200mm in other areas. The majority of the area received between 50 to 100mm for the month. These rainfalls were according to BOM about average for the month of July for that area. Generally feed availability for the coastal area is satisfactory for this time of the year. Water supplies are still in good condition throughout the area. Livestock are also doing well in most areas.</p> <p>Highlands - The majority of the Highlands area received between 25mm to 100mm for the month of July. According to BOM this is average to above average for that month. In most areas there has been limited pasture growth due to the temperatures experienced and expected for the winter months. Water supplies have improved in most areas due to the increase in run off rainfall for the month. Livestock are still in reasonable condition throughout the area.</p> <p>Tablelands - Tablelands for the month of July, received mainly average to above average rainfall. Totals for the month varied from 25mm through to 200mm in some areas. Pasture availability has declined again for the month due to colder weather and in some areas waterlogging. Water supplies have improved dramatically in the month due to run off. Most livestock are still doing well considering the deteriorating</p>	<p>Coastal - Rainfall on the coastal strip for the month of August was quite variable. Totals varied from as low as 1 to 5 in a small area to the south, through to 50 to 100mm in the northern area. These rainfalls were according to BOM also quite variable on the decile scale, going from above average in the north to below average in the south. Generally feed availability for the coastal area is satisfactory for this time of the year, and should continue to improve with some warm weather. Water supplies are still in good condition throughout the area. Livestock are also doing well in most areas.</p> <p>Highlands - The majority of the Highlands area received between 25mm to 100mm for the month of August. According to BOM this is average for that month. In most areas there has still been limited pasture growth due to the wet conditions and low daily temperatures. This should improve once there is some warmer weather. Water supplies have improved in most areas due to the increase in run off rainfall for the month. Livestock are still in reasonable condition throughout the area.</p> <p>Tablelands - Tablelands for the month of August, received mainly average rainfall across the area. Totals for the month varied from 25mm through to 100mm in</p>

Region	June	July	August
		<p>conditions, but there is a fair amount of feeding occurring with sheep and cattle.</p> <p>Monaro - The majority of the Monaro area received average rainfall, or above average rainfall for the month of July. Totals were generally between 25mm and 100mm for the area. Life the Tablelands, pasture growth has been limited due to the colder conditions. Also like the tablelands there is some feeding occurring and livestock are still in reasonable condition. Water supplies are also good in most areas.</p>	<p>some areas. Pasture availability has stabilised if not slightly increased during the month. With some warmer weather though, this should increase in the coming month. Water supplies are generally good throughout the area. Most livestock are still doing well considering the wet and cold conditions, but there is a fair amount of feeding occurring with sheep and cattle.</p> <p>Monaro - The majority of the Monaro area received below average rainfall for the month of August. Totals were generally between 5mm and 25 mm for the area. Like the Tablelands, pasture growth has been limited due to the colder conditions and for the Monaro lower rainfall. Also like the tablelands there is some feeding occurring and livestock are still in reasonable condition. Water supplies are also good in most areas.</p>
Western	<p>Water - Barwon River running well from earlier rain's to the east, & likely to remain full throughout winter. Culgoa/Bolond river systems have had local flows for the past month. Paroo/Warrego river systems running well, with some flood warnings. Bogan River in minor flood. Landholders reporting good run off into ground tanks.</p> <p>Agronomic Conditions - The country has responded well, with winter herbage, Lams tongue, Spinach, Burr & some clover with marsh-mellow.</p> <p>With more rain expected in July, this will keep the country wet until the warmer days in September, when summer grasses should start to respond, with minimal rain falls.</p> <p>Livestock Conditions - Small numbers of reports of Bloat affecting cattle so far, but predict more to come due to the wetter than usual conditions for winter. Cattle look great as do most of the sheep. Stock numbers remain low on most properties due to higher prices for restocking.</p>	<p>Some light rain this month & some warmer than usual weather conditions, has benefited winter herbage.</p> <p>Land holders maybe having trouble purchasing stock, due to the higher that average price's they would expect to pay at this time of year. All stock seen over the past month are looking great, one land holder said, "they are kicking the feet up ". Little to no reports of Bloat in cattle, Some land holders are using Bloat lick, or injecting 5 in 1 for Pulpy kidney.</p> <p>Barwon, Bogan & Culgoa rivers have good flows in them at the moment, Bogan river has had minor flooding from Nyngan, downstream. No known land holders carting water, or having trouble with bogging stock in ground tanks.</p>	<p>Balranald LGA - Rainfall totals around the district varied slightly as is always the case but on average the district received around the 55 ml mark for the month.</p> <p>Most cereal crops are looking good and the expected harvest is around the November mark as per usual.</p> <p>Stock rates have increased slightly but the cost of stock at the moment, landholders are in the sell mode rather than the buying mode. Overall the stock are in good condition. On the feed front the country is looking the best it has for quite some time with a lot of ground cover, and the blue bush and salt-bush is benefiting from not having to sustain stock. As ground tanks are not relied upon in this district as much anymore, the bores are coping well due to water still laying in lower arrears of some paddocks</p> <p>Bourke/Brewarrina LGA - Goods falls of rain late in the month have brighten things up somewhat , with the prospect of a great Spring and early summer grasses, Landholders are reporting that this would be one of the best seasons ever with all sorts of herbage growing and water laying in all water course's & gilguy's. All stock are in a 3 plus condition, with reports of good lambing & good lambing percentages at marking time. Some small numbers of stock losses due to pulpy kidney or bloat</p>

Region	June	July	August
			<p>have been reported. Water ways, ground tanks & river systems are at a 2 score or better with the Paroo & Bogan river's in flood watch condition.</p>

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