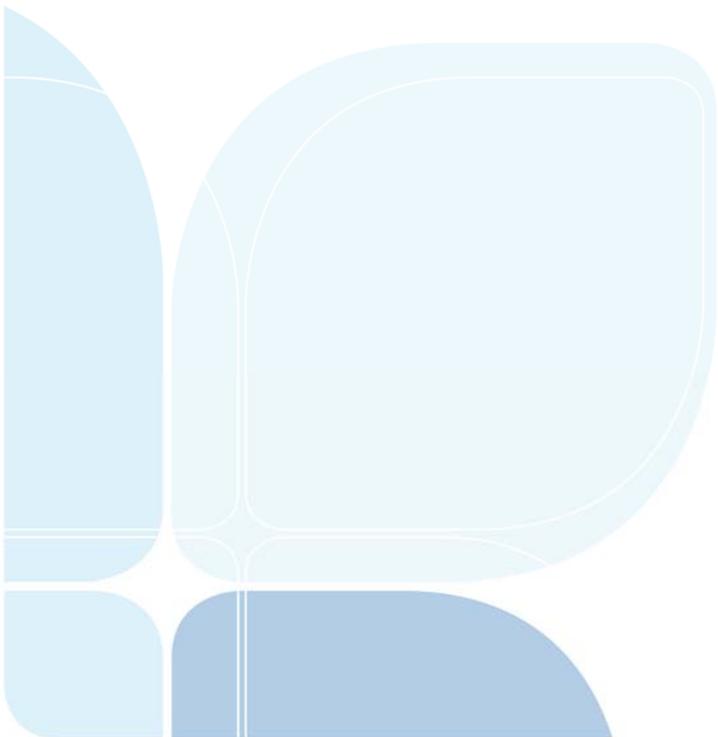




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On-ground Seasonal Conditions Report

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

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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	August 2015	September 2015	October 2015
State Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven regions reported no change to their average regional score from last month including, Central West, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, North West and Western. Central Tablelands, Riverina and South East have reported an improvement in conditions from last month. Greater Sydney has not submitted a report this month. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten regions reported no change to their average regional score from last month including, Central Tablelands, Central West, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, North west, South East and Western. Greater Sydney has submitted their first report in three months, so no comparison can be made. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nine regions reported no change from last month including, Central Tablelands, Central West, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, North West, Riverina and South East. Greater Sydney and Western have reported a decline in conditions from last month.
Regional Ranking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very Good – Riverina and South East Good – Central Tablelands, Central West, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, North West and Western. Below Requirements – Northern Tablelands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very Good – Greater Sydney, Riverina and South East. Good – Central Tablelands, Central West, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, North West and Western. Below Requirements – Northern Tablelands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very Good – Riverina and South East. Good – Central Tablelands, Central West, Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray, North Coast and North West. Reasonable – Western. Below Requirements – Northern Tablelands
LGA Scores – Extremely Poor,	There are no LGAs within this scale.	There are no LGAs within this scale.	There are no LGAs within this scale.

Details	August 2015	September 2015	October 2015
Extreme or Extremely Critical			
LGA Scores – Excellent or Very Good	The following LGAs: Narromine, Weddin, Corowa, Urana and Deniliquin, Narrabri and Tamworth.	The following LGAs: Cowra, Gilgandra, Warren, Forbes, Cessnock, Maitland, Hume, Urana, Bellingen, Kyogle, Tamworth and Jerilderie.	The following LGAs: Bathurst, Cowra, Narromine, Weddin, Wollondilly, Dungog, Cessnock, Hume, Urana, Bellingen, Tweed Shire, Kyogle, Tamworth, Coolamon, Bombala and Snowy River.

Data Analysis

Table 2: Surveyed Property Numbers

Region	Number of properties surveyed		
	August	September	October
Central Tablelands	40	40	40
Central West	57	46	51
Greater Sydney	¹	14	15
Hunter	18	18	24
Murray	53	50	53
North Coast	48	47	47
Northern Tablelands	36	33	36
North West	27	31	25
Riverina	23	18	26
South East	59	52	60
Western	32	33	38
TOTAL	393	383	415

¹ Greater Sydney hasn't provided a report this month due to staff member being on leave.

Table 3: Seasonal Conditions Reporting Scale

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

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

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

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

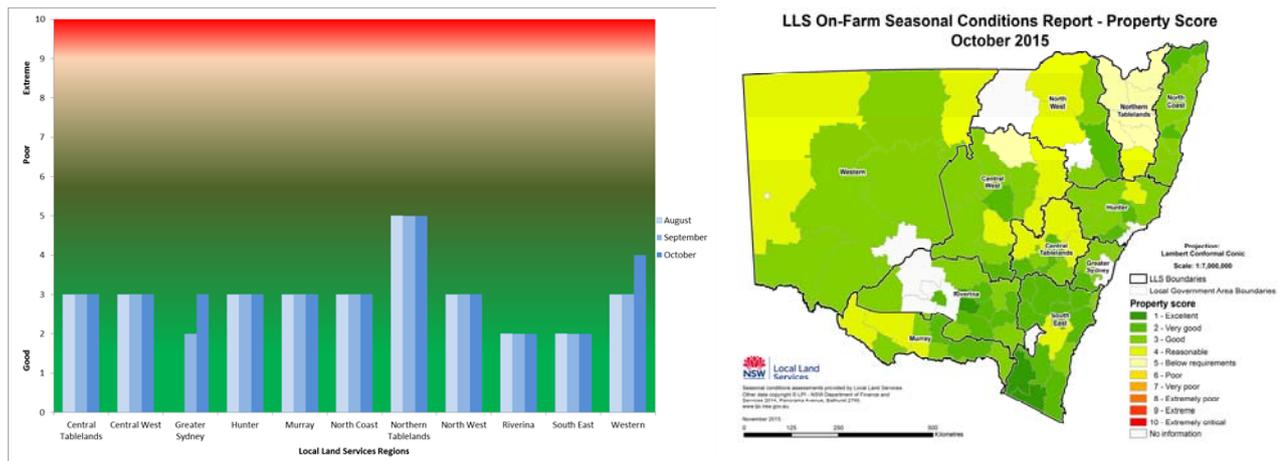
Region	August			September			October		
	Average Regional Score	Positive (LGAs)	Negative (LGA's)	Average Regional Score	Positive (LGAs)	Negative (LGA's)	Average Regional Score	Positive (LGAs)	Negative (LGA's)
Western	Good (3)	-	Brewarrina and Unincorporated Areas - Reasonable	Good (3)	-	Brewarrina and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

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		
	August	September	October
Central Tablelands	Good	Good	Good
Central West	Good	Good	Good
Greater Sydney	-	Very Good	Good
Hunter	Good	Good	Good
Murray	Good	Good	Good
North Coast	Good	Good	Good
Northern Tablelands	Below Requirements	Below Requirements	Below Requirements
North West	Good	Good	Good
Riverina	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
South East	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Western	Good	Good	Reasonable

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



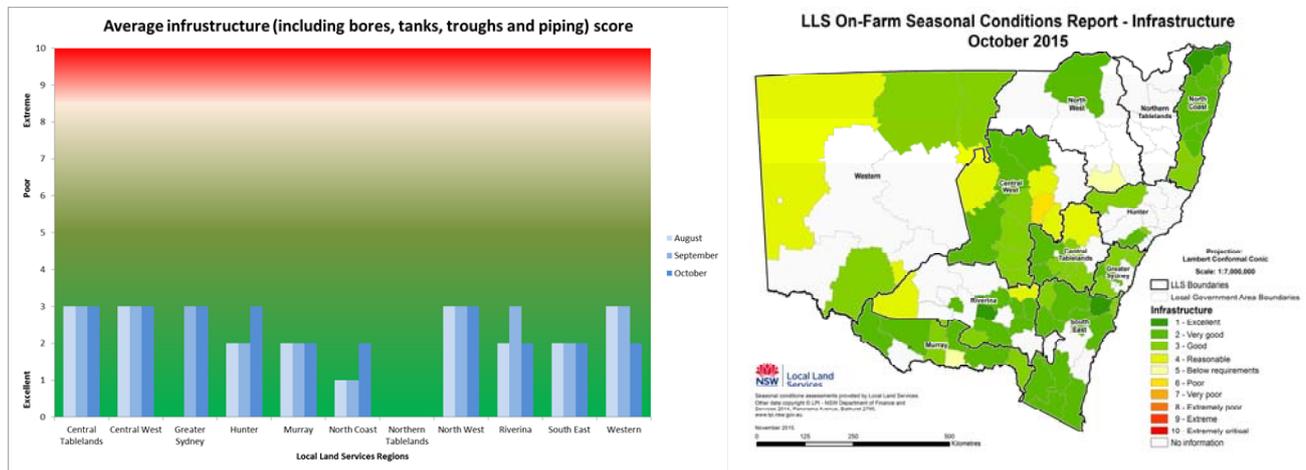
Average Regional Score for Infrastructure

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

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

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

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

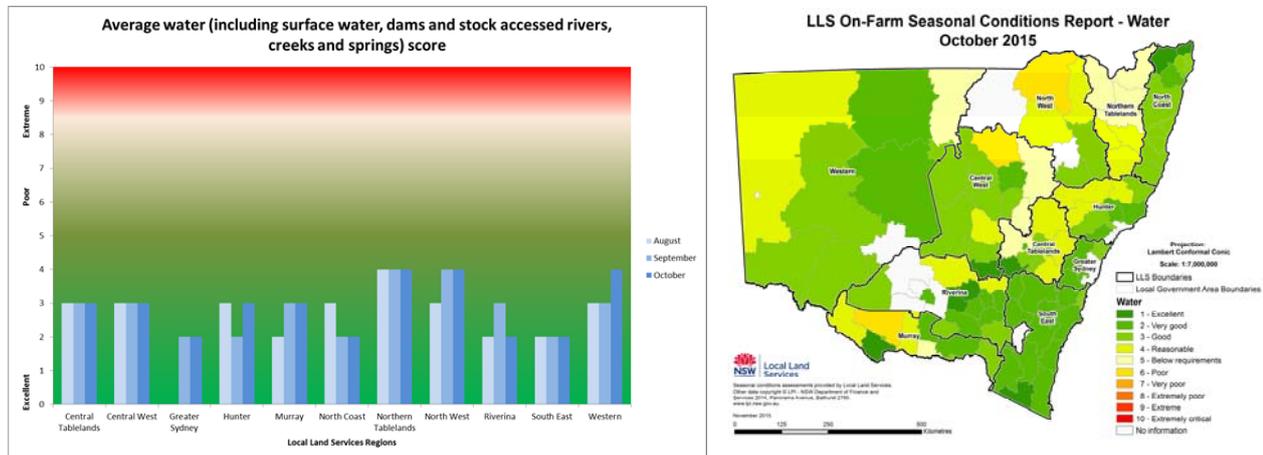


Average Regional Water (including surface water, dams and stock accessed rivers, creeks and springs) Score

Table 7: The average regional water score

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

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

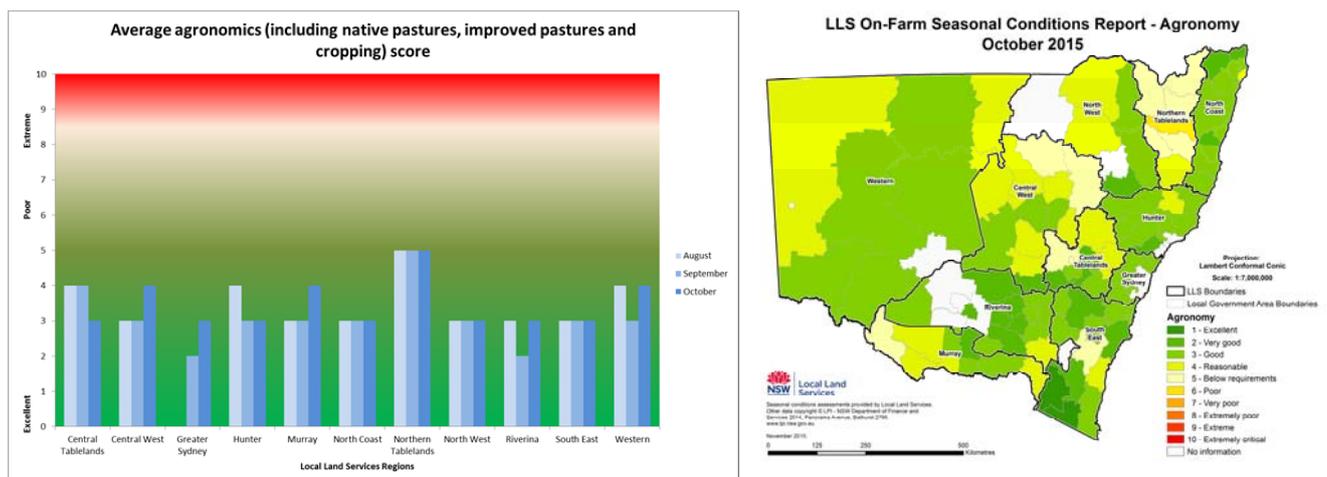


Average Regional Agronomics (including native pastures, improve pastures and cropping) Score

Table 8: The average agronomics score

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

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

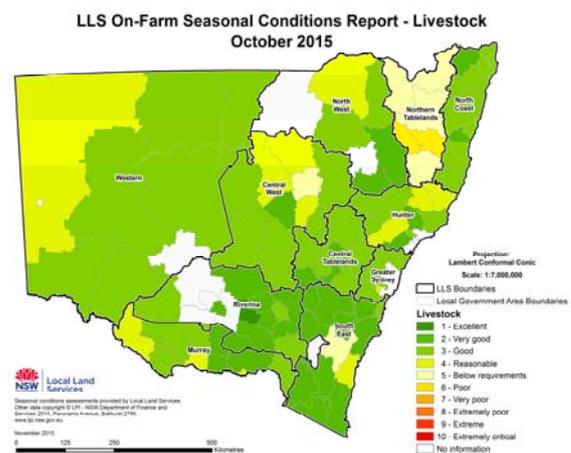
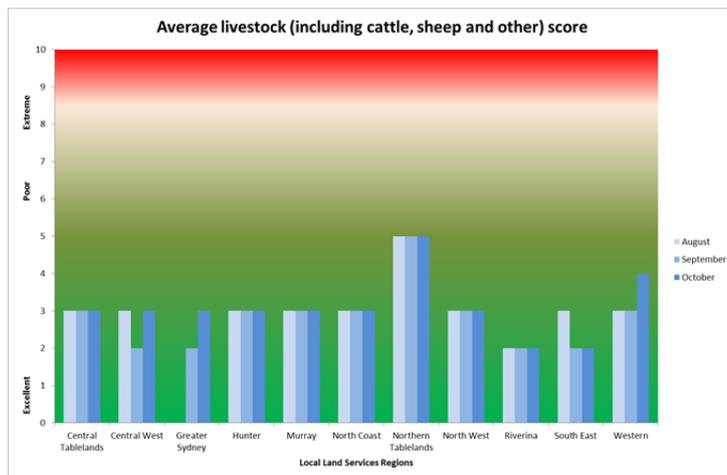


Average Regional Livestock (including beef, sheep and other) Score

Table 9: The average livestock score

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

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



Regional Comments on Seasonal Conditions

Region	August	September	October
Central Tablelands	<p>Reasonable rainfall across the region has continued to ease water concerns for many landholders although a lack of run-off is still causing issues for some producers primarily in the Cabonne and Mid-Western Council areas. Pastures are starting to green up although there is still very little growth occurring at present due to cooler temperatures and frosts impacting on pasture growth. With warmer temperatures on the way and clover starting to grow there is still some optimism for the spring period although competition for pasture from high numbers of kangaroos is creating some headaches. Many producers are still supplementary feeding although this should ease off at pasture growth increases across the region.</p> <p>Livestock condition across the Central Tablelands has remained relatively stable although many landholders have decided to sell excess stock to take pressure off their properties and take advantage of good prices. Some stock which has been supplementary fed are in a lighter condition to normal and once again this is more prevalent in those areas where pasture availability and quantity are lacking.</p>	<p>A lack of decent rainfall across the district has prevented dams from replenishing water supplies in most areas. Despite this water supply has generally held up with the exception of some properties primarily in the Cabonne and Mid-Western Council areas, where some properties have extremely low water supplies with water carting, pumping water from other infrastructure and de-stocking the result of low dam levels.</p> <p>Pastures continue to remain a concern for many producers as green feed diminishes and hot dry winds result in feed burning off quickly. Many landholders have commented that they are currently sufficient for feed but continuing conditions such as those experienced during September will have a serious impact and will result in changing management decisions and likely supplementary feeding over coming months due to a lack of feed availability. The Cabonne and Mid-Western Council areas are once again those of most concern for lack of feed.</p> <p>Livestock condition remains good although landholders are likely to reduce stock numbers as conditions continue to dry and a lack of feed becomes more prevalent.</p>	<p>Rainfall distribution and run-off has been highly variable across the region with water supplies good on some properties and very poor on others. The Mid Western and Cabonne Local Government areas are where the most properties are affected at present, and water carting, or pumping from other infrastructure has been required as a result due to the little or no water in dams.</p> <p>Pasture quality has generally been good as rainfall late in the month has helped to keep grass growing and will help to ensure that pasture supplies are maintained over the next few months or so, depending upon future rainfall. Once again agronomic conditions have been affected more in the Cabonne council area where a prolonged period of low rainfall in the western half has resulted in pastures running to seed prematurely. The eastern and southern sections of the council area have maintained conditions better with more pasture availability and higher rainfall easing pressure overall. The Mid Western council area is another where there has been some variation in pasture quality as certain pockets of land near Mudgee have been hit harder by drier conditions with supplementary feeding occurring in some situations, whilst locusts have also damaged pastures and crops around the Gulgong area. Regionally pastures on granite soils have declined in quality and are only at maintenance values, whilst those on basalt and alluvial soils are experiencing better quality and quantity.</p> <p>Livestock condition has remained good across the region although many landholders have already lightened stocking numbers to ease pressure on pastures and water availability.</p>
Central West	<p>There has being some useful rainfall across the region with falls ranging from 11 – 100mls falling over 4 – 8 days. However substantial runoff rain to fill dams is still a problem for some landholders in the northwest of the region. The southern region has received some very good falls with water</p>	<p>In the North West conditions are rapidly deteriorating due to early hot weather and lack of moisture. Some landholders have started to offload stock due to lack of feed. Crops in some areas are doing well with hay production happening. In the South conditions are</p>	<p>As always a fair variance across the region ranging from ordinary to very good. Some reports of grain crops being baled or eaten off due to lack of rain and that of others being devastated on Friday by 100 mm of rain and hail. Rainfall has varied from 5 to 85 mm spread over to 2 to 7</p>

Region	August	September	October
	<p>storage getting to full capacity. The warmer weather has seen a boost in growth for pasture and crops that have being put in though if no follow up rain heading into the warmer months feed supplies will be in short supply once again. Stock are gaining condition with feed growth and warmer weather. Stock numbers are low in the northwest with landholders starting to purchase stock from drought affected areas in QLD. Bloat was a serious problem at the beginning of the month but as feed has hardened off the issue has eased.</p>	<p>holding steady though some landholders have commented that rain would be welcome.</p>	<p>days. A great proportion of this fell in the last two days of the month. This will have an impact on the grain harvest which had commenced in the western areas of our region. With more wet weather forecast for the week signs are not promising for grain quality beyond this week. The northern areas have missed out again, with the southern areas faring the best with rainfall for the month. Water storage has improved in most areas and with the current storms about the hope is this may improve further before summer. Feed conditions over all are about average for this time of year, with stock doing well on the available dry feed and improved pasture where available. As harvest progresses stubbles will become available and storms will generate some pasture growth. Locust hatchings have had an impact on pasture and some crop in the eastern areas, from Dubbo, Dunedoo to Coonabarabran. This is being managed by landholders and LLS staff. There have been approximately 150 reports so far. At this stage there is a low risk of locust migration from the north over the coming months.</p>
<p>Greater Sydney</p>	<p>No report provided.</p>	<p>Water and rainfall: Ground water supply and rainfall is average across the region although in central coast there was a very good amount of rainfall recorded in the reporting month. Dams are almost full but started to drop the level. Creeks are flowing slower than last month. Rainfall has been reduced in the western Sydney area. Pasture: Overall pasture condition is good across the region but in some LGA in Western Sydney area greenness has been reducing and started to fading out. Some of the low lying flood plain area still showing very good pasture condition. Stock: Body condition of stock good as last month and carrying capacity had been slightly reduced from last month. In the Blue Mountain LGA stocks has suffered scarcity of green pasture due to snowfall through out three quarter of last month but grazing condition started to catch up in late August. Due to declining pasture condition in some LGA farmers started to using a good amount of silage and hay.</p>	<p>Water and rainfall: Average rainfall was decreased in October across the region where a significant decrease in central coast region. In the south western LGA rainfall was significantly low which has affect pasture and livestock condition in the area. However, reservoir and dams still almost full and farmers are expecting there will no shortage of water in the next few months. In the Blue mountain area there was a good amount of rain last month which has effect on filling all reservoir and dams. Pasture and crops: Pasture and crop condition has been deteriorate over the last month. Pasture growth is being slowed down and started to fade out. Some of the low lying flood plain area still showing very good pasture condition. In the Blue mountain area pasture showing more growth compared to last reporting month whereas Camden and Wollondilly LGA shows fade out growth. Overall pasture condition is reasonable across the region. Stock: Livestock condition has been slightly declined in the reporting month mainly due to lack green grasses.</p>

Region	August	September	October
			<p>Carrying capacity remains unchanged but supplementary feed supply has been increased in the area. Stock in Blue Mountain LGA has shown improved condition compared to last month. Due to declining pasture condition in some south western LGA farmers started to using a good amount of silage and hay.</p>
Hunter	<p>Conditions in the Hunter are broadly consistent with pasture conditions expected. We have had some handy rainfall and waiting for the warmer days ahead. As expected feed is tight in some areas but the current moisture conditions leave us hopeful for a Spring response. Time will tell.</p>	<p>Conditions varied from excellent to good across the Hunter LLS for September. This has been an excellent clover season, with its own problems. However, the last few days have been very hot and dry and soil moisture is rapidly drying off. Rain will be needed to prevent a deterioration of pasture, water conditions for the months ahead.</p>	<p>Some good rainfall has been recorded over the district – some light but some substantial. This rainfall has seen pastures respond favorably. The chances of more rain being predicted over the next couple of months is good news, and eases the probability of a dramatic El Nino event – as usual with these predictions – time will tell.</p>
Murray	<p>Overall, season progressing OK in some areas, and very good in others. Some areas in the Western districts are facing real concerns and some crops being sprayed out and stock turned onto them. Majority of these areas are surviving on rainfall event to rainfall event at the moment and water levels in ground tanks fed by rainfall runoff in these areas remains a critical issue as we move into spring and summer generally across the area. Other areas in the central and Eastern districts saw a significant boost in crop and pasture growth during August. Rainfall was very varied across the region and rainfall in the East has given landholders almost a guarantee for the next 6 weeks. With most canola flowering, and some early cereals in the booting stage, the potential for late season frost damage rates as a potential threat to crop production. Overall livestock condition remains good with less or no supplementary feeding occurring. Pastures (both native and improved) are generally meeting livestock requirements at this stage - but no generally no excess. Worms are a real threat to sheep this spring, particularly in the east. Irrigation water availability remains low - 0% GS in the Murray Valley, and 27% GS in the Murrumbidgee. Full access to carryover is available. Significant implications to irrigation productivity for the 2015/16 season at this stage. For most of the east, landholders have relaxed a little. For</p>	<p>Overall most many landholders in the West, central West and far East are concerned about a long, dry summer. Stock water from ground tanks reliant on rainfall runoff is likely to be a significant issue as we move into summer in most circumstances. Low irrigation allocation is a huge concern across the Western and Central areas. Early Oct heat expected to cause heat shock and significantly lower crop yield potentials. Little likelihood of any significant summer cropping program for those in the Murray system which may reduce income by up to 70%. Conversely other south and central areas are having a fantastic spring. WEST: Across many Western areas the spring has been extremely dry resulting in a very limited spring growth period with the limited growth now drying off very quickly. Some crops have already been cut for hay and some de-stocking (including breeder cattle) has already started while prices remain high. Low water allocation means no water to pastures and crops which have now failed. One comments was that landholders have been unable to plan farm program because of lack of information on available irrigation water CENTRAL: Most central areas received good rains late August and into early September although no/little rain since 1st week of September. There is above average crop growth in some areas particularly pre-irrigated crops</p>	<p>Across the region virtually no useful rainfall for the month (not counting rains that commenced on 31 Oct). Combined with very hot weather early in the month, heat stress damage to winter crops occurred and pasture quality and quantity deteriorated, resulting in a reduced growing season in the West and far East. Conversely, much of Central and some eastern areas of Murray remain excellent with well above average pasture growth and crops / livestock doing well. Low water allocations still a major concern for growers (and the local communities). Stock water from ground tanks reliant on rainfall runoff continues to be a significant issue as we move into summer in most circumstances - many are either dry or close to dry. Stock condition remains good - however due to reduced bulk of feed compared to a 'typical' spring and with a dry summer ahead, some producers already considering options (e.g. selling, purchasing feed, early weaning etc.) or have already lightened stock numbers. In the far East there was a severe reduction in silage or hay made this year. Good crop growth in some areas (above average), particularly pre-irrigated and spring irrigated crops - still showing good yield potential. However many areas to the West are struggling - canola crops around average, cereals below average. Barley crops seem to have handled the dry finish far better than other cereals (but unsure of grain</p>

Region	August	September	October
	<p>much of the west, the season could turn significantly either way and the next 4-6 weeks will dictate which way it turns.</p>	<p>and canola although in some areas cereals are struggling while some in the north west have already failed. There will be very little rice or other summer crops sown this season and the small amount of water that has been allocated has largely been used to apply a spring irrigation to winter crops. Livestock are holding well for now, although many landholders are considering cutting or grazing marginal crops to finish stock. In many areas there is a reduced bulk of feed compared to a 'typical' spring - high concerns for carryover feed moving into the autumn. Some producers already considering options (e.g. selling, purchasing feed, early weaning etc.) and unless things turn around significantly, stock numbers will be reduced in the next 6-8 weeks.</p> <p>EAST: Some far Eastern areas have also experienced barely enough rain to keep pastures up to livestock, let alone grow enough for cutting. Many landholders in this region are very concerned about how quickly things will deteriorate if no rain soon. One report of slugs resulting in re-sowing.</p>	<p>quality) whilst canola and field pea yields are looking to be well below average. More crops than normal cut for hay/silage and/or turned stock onto crops which were unlikely to finish.</p> <p>Little likelihood of any significant summer cropping program for those on the Murray system</p>
<p>North Coast</p>	<p>Conditions have started to come back in the Southern parts of the Region. This can be attributed to these areas only receiving about one third of their average rainfall over the past couple of months and the later onset of winter with August frosts severely impacting on pastures both native and improved.</p> <p>Kempsey airport recorded 18.2mm for August compared to the ten (10) year average of 55mm, July 9mm compared to the long term average of 24mm and June 12mm compared to 136.</p> <p>Coffs Harbour also only recorded one third of their normal average rainfall in August 27mm compared to the 73 year average of 72.9, July 32.2mm compared to 73mm and June 55.8mm compared to 123mm.</p> <p>Grafton recorded 36.6mm for August compared to the 97 year average of 40.6mm, July 19.6mm compared to 44.44 and June 17.6mm compared to 68.4mm.</p> <p>Casino and Lismore have varying deficiencies but not quite to the extreme of their Southern counterparts.</p> <p>The statutory Busfire Danger Period (BFDP) has been</p>	<p>Cold and windy conditions prevailed for most of the month with some storm events thrown in mid-month. Reports of hail damage to the blueberry crop around the Corindi/Red Rock area of the Coffs Harbour LGA were received with initial estimates being damage to crops and infrastructure in the range of \$11-14m. Assessment teams are preparing damage assessment reports in conjunction with producers with the aim of applying for a natural disaster declaration.</p> <p>Rainfall across the region was well received with most areas receiving at least the monthly average. This rainfall was very timely for improved pastures as they were starting to fail due to moisture stress.</p> <p>The forecast hot and dry conditions will temper a lot of the benefit if follow up rainfall is not received.</p> <p>Isolated reports of cattle deaths from bloat caused by the flush of clover and very little other ground cover have been received.</p>	<p>The weather has been all over the place this month. Ranging from very hot to very windy to cooler thrown in with some storm activity that has generated useful rainfall for those lucky enough to be under the right cloud.</p> <p>Hail damage has again been reported to the blueberry crop in the Corindi area in the northern part of the Coffs Harbour LGA. LLS staff are undertaking surveys to determine the extent of the damage and to do damage report to DPI.</p> <p>Most producers are looking to the predicted widespread rain event next week to really generate pasture growth and hopefully some run off into steam, creeks, rivers and on farm storages.</p>

Region	August	September	October
	<p>introduced effective from 1st September 2015 in all Local Government Areas in recognition of the build of fuel, prevailing dry conditions and the predicted El Nino type conditions that are forecast for the coming months.</p> <p>While Spring on the North Coast is traditionally a dry period storm activity can generally be relied upon to provide some short term relief.</p> <p>Livestock producers have continued to take advantage of the very good prices and have continued to offload stock.</p>		
Northern Tablelands	<p>Most of August was dry, windy and with widespread frosts taking a toll on pastures and livestock across the region. Excellent widespread general rain came to the region in the last week of the month, giving much needed relief across all sectors. This rain was particularly timely for the commercial cropping enterprises in the Inverell LGA continuing an excellent start to their season.</p> <p>Most rivers and creeks have re-established good flows, however some areas still have below average storage in dams.</p> <p>Stock numbers generally remain below the long term average with producers reluctant to pay high re-stocker prices, particularly in the light of the predicted dry outlook for our region.</p>	<p>Generally below average rainfall for September with a run of late frosts, has seen pastures struggle to produce significant spring growth. Grain crops in the Inverell LGA have also struggled for moisture, however no significant frost damage has been reported. Supplementary feeding has been significantly reduced.</p> <p>Stock numbers remain below average, however with calving almost complete and lambing well under way these numbers will pick up over the coming months.</p> <p>With larger than average planting of winter crops, there has been less area fallowed for summer crops and without significant rainfall these plantings will be further reduced.</p>	<p>Rainfall for the month has been from storms only, with reasonable falls across some of the area, good falls in small isolated pockets and inadequate falls in other areas. Overall little has changed on an LGA wide basis with Walcha the only LGA showing improved conditions. Water supplies still remain sub-optimal across most of the Northern Tablelands with stock numbers generally well below average.</p> <p>While stock numbers will improve with calves and lambs coming on strength, many producers are selling what they can in preparation for the predicted dry El Nino summer. Until there is a widespread general rainfall event of 50mm or more, conditions will remain difficult.</p>
North West	<p>Walgett - Some producers bringing stock back from agistment. Some winter herbage growing including medics and turnip. Feed supplies West of Walgett could carry stock through to summer. Late sown crops ok but will need rain to harvest. Groundcover is better than last year.</p> <p>Moree Plains - Good subsoil moisture for summer crops in some areas (Croppa Creek) and very little in others. Rain ranges from 0-80mm depending, some hail damage. Limited strip rust and heliothis pressure. Fallow moisture varies greatly.</p> <p>Narrabri - Still lack of runoff is a concern for long-term water demand - could be about 3 month's water in some dams. Still poor runoff on black soil.</p> <p>Gunnedah - Good runoff into farm dams. Pasture grasses starting to grow well, still small bloat risk. Crops performing well, minimal disease presence yet. Stock in good condition,</p>	<p>Walgett - Significant areas of late planted crop are struggling with some farmers grazing or cutting them for hay. Pasture areas still have reasonable groundcover but limited biomass for stock feed.</p> <p>Moree Plains - Subsoil moisture for summer crop sowing limited in western areas, good in eastern areas. Heliothis pressure has been low occasional armyworm infestation. Planting moisture drying away quickly.</p> <p>Gwydir - Made some oaten hay, paddock of oats that was eaten out has come back after the August rain.</p> <p>There has been excellent clover/medic around the paddocks but to be honest we don't have an abundance of standing dry feed which might become a problem if it becomes a long hot dry summer. More a problem for next winter I think, rather than this summer.</p> <p>Narrabri - Pastures lightly grazed, downsized herd</p>	<p>Moree Plains - Insufficient rain to start summer pasture growth. Dry August and September in some areas combined with heat in October reduced crop potential significantly. Barley and Faba beans have been best performers overall, some wheat on short fallow has high screenings. Some sorghum was planted on limited profile moisture and will need good summer rain.</p> <p>Gwydir - Some significant fall in areas of up to 120mm. 50% of areas planted to dryland sorghum. Only irrigated cotton in. Harvest 50% complete with hold ups due to weather.</p> <p>Liverpool Plains - Hot spell in October has reduced yield potential on most crops. Good surface moisture for sorghum sowing. Rain this week may downgrade some winter cereals but benefit summer grasses both native and introduced. Yields likely to be average to slightly above.</p>

Region	August	September	October
	<p>but numbers still down due to high prices.</p> <p>Tamworth - Manilla and Barraba have not reached the start of spring yet like Tamworth has. But it is on its way. Flush of clover proving to be an issue for grazing cattle in particular, stock losses experienced due to bloat.</p> <p>Liverpool Plains - Short green feed available but limited in quantity.</p>	<p>numbers. Winter crops some being harvested others being cut for hay. Nil summer crops being planted. Water limited to pools as there has been no runoff. Stock being supplementary fed.</p> <p>Gunnedah - Hot weather and lack of rain has burnt off pastures and lowered water levels in the dam. Late planted crops have significantly reduced yield potential with some crops being cut for hay. Early planted crops are faring well. Stock condition is reasonable.</p> <p>Tamworth - The warm weather has really zapped the area! Things had started the month looking not too bad throughout most of the area however drying out rapidly now.</p> <p>Liverpool Plains - Grain crops will yield around average to a little above. Pasture drying out and quality diminishing. Surface moisture for sowing summer crops limited.</p>	
Riverina	<p>The southern, central, and eastern Riverina is even wetter with substantial rainfall throughout August. The cold winter combined with cloudy, overcast days slowed any pasture recovery although days are now longer and temperatures have warmed slightly in the last week. Stock health issues have included hypocalcaemia, photosensitisation, rickets in young sheep, bloat in cattle and worms in sheep. The soil moisture for both pastures and crops ranges from good to excellent, with even more paddocks now water-logged including low pastoral land, last season's rice country and some winter crops. The majority of dams have continued to fill with some overflowing and creeks rising. Dams on flat to gently sloping country haven't all had run-off and range between 30-60% capacity which means the stock-water situation varies across the region. The drier areas of the Riverina continue to be the western and northern parts of the Carathool Shire and Bland Shires but they have improved. The Rangelands of the Riverina have changed markedly since mid-June with increasing available feed on native pastures and improving stock condition.</p> <p>Hay has had 35mm rain for the month and a milder winter than the cold temperatures experienced elsewhere. Some native pastures are showing good growth on lighter grass</p>	<p>The moisture profile of the Riverina LLS region has dried out quickly from mid to late September. Cold weather was revisited between the 23rd - 25th September with a series of moderately severe frosts. Some barley crops were already flowering and many wheat crops were coming into head. Low levels of frost damage to early sown cereal crops and flowering pulse crops (5-10% yield) are likely to have occurred but may not be evident until harvest-time. Stock health issues have included foot scald (benign foot-rot), foot abscess, bloat in cattle, some metabolic issues, and scour worms and pulpy kidney in sheep in drier localities having their best season in years. The topsoil has dried out and where good subsoil moisture exists it is being drawn on by pastures and crops that haven't received useful rainfall since mid-September. Previously waterlogged paddocks are now nearly all trafficable. For most land-holders the pressure on stock water has eased. A drier September than average has meant no new run-off events for dams and creeks.</p> <p>The Hay district has officially had 13.2mm rain for the month. The annual grass component of rangeland pastures is hayed off prematurely with only showers in</p>	<p>The Riverina LLS region has finished a very dry month with rainfall on the last weekend as October ended and November began. Most cereal crops are at various stages of grain development with some nearly ripe. Canola crops have been windrowed and windy conditions before the rainfall of the 30 and 31 October moved windrows around. Rain delayed canola harvest as it was about to begin. Stock health issues have included ongoing foot scald (benign foot-rot) and foot abscess issues but a notable health concern of veterinarians is the worm burdens of Black scour worms and the potential for Barber's Pole worms in warm and wet conditions. The topsoil dried out in October and subsoil moisture was drawn upon by crops and pastures. For most land-holders there is little to no pressure on stock water and stock are in excellent condition. Two dry months and a drying soil profile didn't result in run-off events for dams and creeks.</p>

Region	August	September	October
	<p>country and slower growth on bush country. Annual grasses and weeds are also providing feed for stock. Growth in the paddocks has resulted in ewes and lambs in excellent condition and there a cattle sale organised for Hay next month with fat cattle to sell.</p> <p>Ground cover on public lands in the MIA and CIA including TSRs in the west is in excess of 78%. Hillston had 36mm total rainfall for August, Griffith had 42mm, Yanco 79mm and Narrandera had 83mm. Despite good winter rainfall the Irrigators are looking at signals like the high price of water and require more certainty in irrigation supplies/allocations for forward planning.</p> <p>In the central Riverina seasonal conditions have continued to be good with above average rainfall for the last 3 months. Crop growth has been excellent. Feed supply is still good to excellent, although tapers off slightly as you move west into the Murrumbidgee and Jerilderie LGAs. Over the last few days growth has begun to improve with a few days of higher temperatures and sunny days. Many of the annual grasses under lower grazing pressure, including roadsides and fence lines are now setting seed. Since last month there is more water in dams for the majority of livestock producers in the Central Riverina.</p> <p>Dual purpose winter crops, forage crops, winter-active lucerne pastures and annual pastures have all provided green feed through winter. The majority of livestock producers have now removed their stock from dual purpose crops which is normal timing in August. There is some supplementary feeding continuing due to very slow pasture growth rates and high energy requirements from stock in cold weather.</p> <p>Winter crops are growing well with cereal crops now at mid-late tillering through to jointing. There are many bulky crops with very good plant populations and high tiller numbers. Some paddocks show well above average yield potentials. Canola is now at 20-50% flowering across the region and fungicides for disease control are in short supply. Pulse crops are looking good except on waterlogged soils. There has been some yellowing of waterlogged cereal crops and trafficability has been an issue for spreading urea and post</p>	<p>early September and warming temperatures. The barley grass is finished as are the medics. The perennials are waiting for the summer rain before they start shooting. Native pastures including saltbush have supported stock which are holding their condition well and the stock prices are good reason for optimism.</p> <p>Across Hillston, Gunbar, Hay, Booligal and Carrathool the farmers are commenting that it is the best season in over ten years. There is a level of inquiry about regulations associated with bringing extra stock in from other areas and states – due to the abundant feed. Because of the amount of feed and moisture that fell this season, there have been unusual cases of pulpy kidney and also scour worms.</p> <p>Cattle and sheep that were in poor body condition at the beginning of winter are now fat. Crops are looking good for yield potential at the end of September however the increasing heat might cause issues.</p> <p>Hillston had 16.2mm total rainfall for September, Griffith had 17.6mm, Yanco 22.6mm and Narrandera had 22mm. Conditions in the Narrandera shire are generally good to very good although there has been little useful rain in the previous four weeks. In the parts of the Carrathool and Bland Shires that missed out on earlier rain these areas have a lot less feed available and there will be issues for them carrying stock through the summer. Flies are a potential issue over the next few weeks if farmers don't use preventive treatment/ management. Grass seeds could also be a larger issue than usual.</p> <p>In the Irrigated districts, allocations remain low for the Murrumbidgee Valley, and the cost of temporary water is very high resulting in many landholders now making the 'hard' decision to reduce summer cropping areas with rice expected to drop substantially due to the higher water requirements of this crop. Water use for irrigated pastures and rice enterprises has changed towards cotton. Winter crops have been looking extremely good and farmers are budgeting on 1-2 waterings to see these crops through to maturity. Standing feed is excellent. The hay making season is underway.</p>	

Region	August	September	October
	<p>emergent weed control.</p> <p>In the Eastern Riverina from the South West Slopes to the Highlands more dams and creeks/streams and springs are full to flowing and also overflowing. Where they are not, one questions their dam placement and capacity for run-off after this wet winter. Farms across the region in the Eastern Shires of Gundagai and Tumut have continued to experience a very cold winter. Cattle-growers are starting to report bloat cases as the clover content of their pastures increases and will continue to supplementary feed to help manage bloat in some paddocks.</p> <p>Land-holders across the Riverina are becoming more confident of a favorable spring despite the El Nino forecasts. Winter rainfall has been above average, pasture growth is improving with warming temperatures and winter crops in a healthy condition have subsoil moisture in the profile.</p>	<p>In the Central and Northern Riverina the winter crops are growing well with cereal crops peeping to heading and most cereals now flowering. There are many bulky crops with high plant populations and high tiller numbers. Some paddocks showed well above average yield potentials at the end of September. The canola flowering period is coming to a finish with warmer weather which will result in lost yield potential lost as flowering could have continued for a further 7-10 days. Most wheat and canola crops were early or main season sown and have advanced quickly from mid-September onwards. Crops in the north and west of the Riverina are more advanced. The full soil moisture profile from early September provided a buffer in late September for the drying conditions but crops have now drawn heavily on subsoil moisture reserves. Faba beans and lupins are now under pressure to finish in warmer temperatures than is ideal. Pasture growth has been excellent in late September and annual grasses have now gone to head. Lucerne pastures are performing well with high growth rates. Dam water supplies are still good for the most part, with good volumes available for the summer.</p> <p>In the Young district feed levels in pasture are still quite high with clovers/ lucerne and grasses holding on. Stock water options at the moment are reasonable to good. Stock body conditions are very good with stock in 3-4 score on average. Lambings and calvings haven't been problematic. The main animal health issues seen this month were lameness (footrot - benign, virulent; foot abscess; interdigital dermatitis); cases of Pulpy Kidney earlier in the month; cases of Bloat earlier in the month before the fibrous content of pastures increased. There was the occasional issue with metabolic diseases such as hypocalcaemia in pregnant ewes or travelled stock.</p> <p>In the Gundagai district September started out where August left off, cold and damp. Stock water supplies are sitting at close to 100% with most springs and gullies running ample water. Feed supplies kept up with stock and went forward from around the first week in September. Stock are in good condition with better</p>	

Region	August	September	October
		<p>utilization of feed-on-offer now. Stock are not requiring supplementary fed for maintenance. Hay and silage paddocks have been locked up in preparation.</p> <p>In the Eastern Riverina from the SW Slopes - Highlands early spring conditions have been good with excellent growth of pastures, however the lack of rainfall is starting to impact on pasture growth. Most of the annual species are well into reproductive phase. Late spring to early summer rainfall will be required to continue growth of perennial and native species. Silage and hay making is underway.</p> <p>Land-holders across the Riverina are becoming less confident of a favorable spring now after a drier September from the middle of the month. El Nino forecasts are now being taken very seriously. Pastures have lost biomass and height with warming temperatures. Winter crops are healthy but are drawing rapidly on subsoil moisture and require follow up rainfall.</p>	
South East	<p>It has been a long cold winter. Throughout August there has been substantial rainfall across a broad section of the South East region. The ranges are from 50-100 mm on the tablelands to over 300 mm on the coast. Flooding resulted in localised areas, causing minor stock evacuation in those areas. Because of the cold and wet weather livestock have suffered somewhat with reduced condition and some illness. Looking forward to some warm sunny weather.</p>	<p>Coastal - Coastal parts of the South East have fared very well through September, with good pasture growth. Soil moisture is high and water storages are full. The continuing growth is indicating a good spring season.</p> <p>Highlands - The highlands areas are faring reasonably well also, especially in the east, where rainfall has produced substantial pasture growth. Some landholders have begun to cut hay in the past month and there is already good regrowth in these paddocks. West of the Hume Highway conditions are not as good, being drier overall and pastures earlier to seed. Follow up rain is needed.</p> <p>Tablelands - Most graziers within this area reported good pasture growth into this month. Rainfall was limited to the earlier part of the month and was well below average for the whole month. This has seen a lot of pastures run to seed earlier than expected. Rainfall in the next 2-3 weeks is needed. Livestock are still doing very well in current conditions.</p> <p>Monaro - The increasing temperatures have brought on excellent growth for the Monaro into late September. Livestock are in excellent condition, with soil moisture</p>	<p>Coastal - Coastal parts of the South East generally received between 25mm to 100 mm during October. This rainfall has allowed pastures to grow during this period. Soil moisture has slightly decreased during the months and water storages are satisfactory in most areas.</p> <p>Highlands - The highlands areas received lower rainfall than the coastal area for the month, but pasture growth has still occurred in most areas. West of the Hume Highway conditions are not as good, being drier overall and pastures starting to dry off. Good general rainfall is needed to kick along pastures and replenish water storage. Livestock are in good condition.</p> <p>Tablelands - Pasture growth for the month was limited by the available moisture. Rainfall was patchy and light for the month of October. Some pastures are starting to dry off, particularly on the tops of hills. Higher elevation country needs rainfall now to promote pasture growth. Rainfall in the next 2-3 weeks is needed. Livestock are still doing very well in current conditions.</p> <p>Monaro - All though there has been limited rainfall during October, pasture growth has been sustained by sub soil moisture in most instances. Livestock are in excellent</p>

Region	August	September	October
		storage being better south of Nimmitabel than north of Nimmitabel. Feed availability exceeds livestock requirements at present.	condition across the area. Feed availability exceeds livestock requirements at present.
Western	<p>Balranald - Useful rainfall for period June - August feed reasonably good but beginning to change as temperatures increase and pasture growth increases.</p> <p>Bourke - Variable rainfall has produced a variable growth during August. Evaporation rates increasing with higher ambient temperatures and increased wind velocities coming into spring.</p> <p>Brewarrina - southern areas have benefited from rains but northern areas have been drier and this is reflected in pasture growth and stock condition.</p> <p>Cobar - Very good rainfall has produced good perennial growth. Not much change from July seasonal conditions report.</p> <p>Central Darling -Useful rainfalls around Wilcannia and White Cliffs have produced good pasture growth. Some areas south of Wilcannia have also received good rainfall.</p> <p>Unincorporated areas - A range of conditions - Excellent in the North West to very dry in the North East.</p> <p>Wentworth - Similar conditions to July however will see significant changes in September and October. Pasture growth is average to below average.</p> <p>Pt of Carrathool not available this month.</p>	<p>Rainfall is much less in September across the region</p> <p>Temperatures in some areas have been in excess of 30 degrees C for at least a week and winter pastures are curing quickly.</p> <p>Some information has been derived due to bio staff involved with Wild dog baiting program.</p> <p>Pasture is drying off very quickly across the region and pasture for livestock in some areas will be decreasing quickly.</p> <p>Areas north of Bourke pasture is diminishing quickly and Brewarrina shire some landholders beginning to hand feed or reduce stock numbers.</p> <p>Cobar shire variable pasture conditions.</p> <p>Free water will diminished in many areas as temperatures rise and rainfall is much less.</p>	No report provided.

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