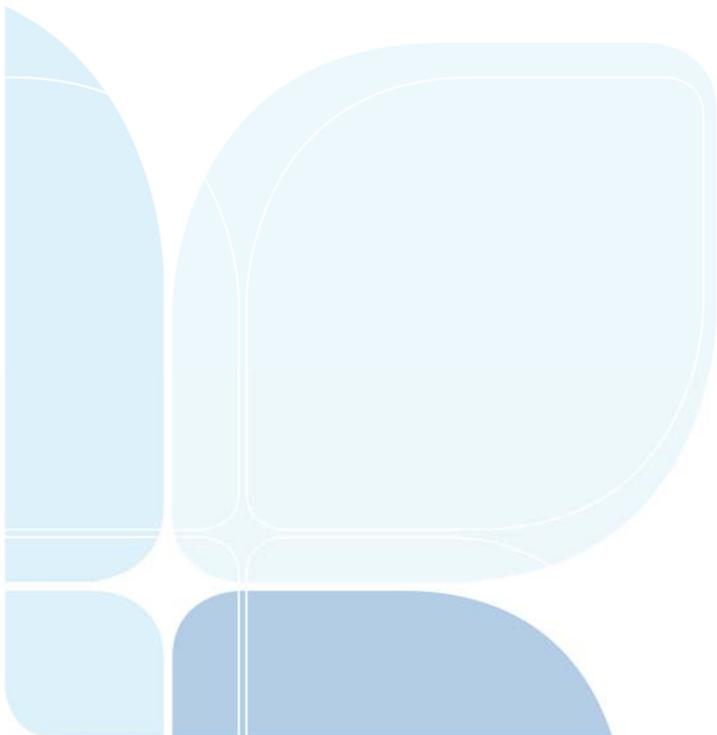




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On-ground Seasonal Conditions Report

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing May 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 - Six regions reported no change from last month, including Central West, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, Northern Tablelands and North West. Central Tablelands, Greater Sydney, Riverina and South East have reported a decline in conditions from last month. Western has reported an improvement in conditions from last month. See the table below for an overview of the regional seasonal conditions elements.

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

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

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

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

| Condition Score | Very Good | Good | Reasonable | Below Requirements | Poor |
|--|----------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Average Regional Property Score | | Greater Sydney, North Coast and | Hunter, Murray, North West and Western | Central Tablelands, Riverina and South East | Central West, Northern Tablelands |
| Regional Infrastructure Score | North Coast and South East | Central Tablelands Central West, Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray, Riverina and Western | | North West | |
| Regional Water Score | | Greater Sydney and North Coast | Central Tablelands, Hunter, Murray, Riverina, South East and Western | North West. | Central West, Northern Tablelands |
| Regional Agronomics Score | | Greater Sydney and North Coast | Hunter, South East and Western | Central Tablelands, Murray and North West | Central West, Northern Tablelands and Riverina |
| Regional Livestock Score | | Greater Sydney, Hunter, North Coast, Riverina, South East and Western | Central Tablelands, Murray and North West | Central West and 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: Dungog, Kempsey, Kyogle, Richmond Valley Council, Narrandera and Bombala.

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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>

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 | February 2016 | March 2016 |
|---|--|---|
| State Overview | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five regions reported no change from last month, including Central Tablelands, Greater Sydney, Hunter, North Coast and South East. Eight regions including Central West, Murray, Northern Tablelands, North West, Riverina and Western have reported a decline in conditions from last month. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven regions reported no change from last month, including Greater Sydney, Murray, North Coast, North West, Riverina, South East and Western. Central Tablelands, Central West, Hunter and Northern Tablelands have reported a decline in conditions from last month. |
| Regional Ranking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very Good - Greater Sydney and Hunter Good - Central Tablelands, North Coast and South East Reasonable - Central West, Murray, North West and Riverina Below Requirements - Northern Tablelands and Western | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very Good - Greater Sydney Good - North Coast and South East Reasonable - Central Tablelands, Hunter, Murray, North West and Riverina Below Requirements - Central West and Western Poor - Northern Tablelands |
| 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: Wyong, Hawkesbury, Port Macquarie Hastings, Kempsey, Nambucca, Bellingen, Kyogle, Richmond Valley Council, Bombala, Bega, Cooma-Monaro, Snowy River and Yass Valley. | The following LGAs: Singleton, Kempsey, Kyogle, Richmond Valley Council, Snowy River, Bega and Bombala. |

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 | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | February | March | April |
| Central Tablelands | 39 | 40 | 40 |
| Central West | 48 | 34 | 35 |
| Greater Sydney | 15 | 9 | 13 |
| Hunter | 14 | 19 | 18 |
| Murray | 48 | 39 | 54 |
| North Coast | 46 | 46 | 44 |
| Northern Tablelands | 34 | 35 | 33 |
| North West | 27 | 32 | 33 |
| Riverina | 20 | 17 | 22 |
| South East | 57 | 59 | 44 |
| Western | 18 | 27 | 29 |
| TOTAL | 366 | 357 | 365 |

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 | February | | | March | | | April | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---|---|---------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| | 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 | - | Oberon - Reasonable Cabonne – Below Requirements | Reasonable | Bathurst and Cowra - Good | Cabonne and Oberon - Poor | Below Requirements | Bathurst and Blayney – Good Cowra, Lithgow and Mid Western - Reasonable | Cabonne, Oberon and Orange - Poor |
| Central West | Reasonable | Narromine and Lachlan - Good | Dubbo, Bogan, Gilgandra, Warren, Warrumbungle and Forbes – Below Requirements Coonamble - Poor | Below Requirements | Weddin, Lachlan - Reasonable | Gilgandra, Coonamble, Forbes - Poor | Poor | Narromine – Good Warren – Below Requirements | Warrumbungles – Very Poor |
| Greater Sydney | Very Good | Wyong and Hawkesbury - Excellent | - | Very Good | - | - | Good | - | - |
| Hunter | Very Good | - | Upper Hunter , Maitland and Cessnock - Good | Reasonable | Singleton – Very Good Muswellbrook, Cessnock - Good | - | Reasonable | Dungog – Very Good Singleton, Gloucester, Maitland and Cessnock - Good | Upper Hunter – Below Requirements |

| Region | February | | | March | | | April | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|---|---|
| | 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) |
| Murray | Reasonable | Hume, Corowa, Urana, Jerilderie, Deniliquin, Murray and Wakool - Good | Berrigan and Conargo – Below Requirements | Reasonable | Urana and Murray - Good | Hume, Albury, Conargo, Deniliquin – Below Requirements Berrigan and Wakool - Poor | Reasonable | Urana, Murray and Wakool - Good | Tumbarumba, Albury, Berrigan and Conargo - Poor |
| North Coast | Good | Port Macquarie Hastings, Kempsey, Nambucca, Bellingen, Kyogle and Richmond Valley Council – Very Good | - | Good | Kempsey, Kyogle and Richmond Valley Council – Very Good | Clarence Valley Council and Coffs Harbour - Reasonable | Good | Kempsey, Kyogle and Richmond Valley Council – Very Good | Port Macquarie Hastings and Clarence Valley Council - Reasonable |
| Northern Tablelands | Below Requirements | - | Uralla, Guyra and Inverell – Poor | Poor | - | - | Poor | - | - |
| North West | Reasonable | Moree Plains, Tamworth and Liverpool Plains - Good | - | Reasonable | Moree Plains - Good | - | Reasonable | - | Narrabri, Gunnedah and Tamworth – Below Requirements |
| Riverina | Reasonable | Young, Temora, Coolamon, Lockhart and Narrandera - Good | Cootamundra – Below Requirements | Reasonable | Harden, Young, Narrandera and Jerilderie - Good | Cootamundra and Lockhart – Below Requirements Wagga - Poor | Below Requirements | Narrandera – Very Good Gundagai - Good Young and Temora - Reasonable | Wagga and Jerilderie - Poor |

| Region | February | | | March | | | April | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---|---|------------------------|---|--|
| | 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) |
| South East | Good | Bombala – Excellent Bega, Cooma-Monaro, Snowy River and Yass Valley – Very Good | Pallarang and Boorowa - Reasonable | Good | Snowy River – Very Good Bega and Bombala - Excellent | Upper Lachlan - Reasonable Pallarang, Borrowa and Eurobodalla – Below Requirements | Reasonable | Bombala – Excellent Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee, Bega and Snowy River - Good | Boorowa, Eurobodalla, – Below Requirements Pallarang - Poor |
| Western | Below Requirements | Brewarrina and Cobar - Reasonable | - | Below Requirements | Brewarrina and Wentworth - Reasonable | Bourke, Central Darling and Unincorporated - Poor | Reasonable | Balranald, Central Darling and Cobar - Good | Brewarrina – Below Requirements Bourke - Poor |

3. Average Regional Property Score

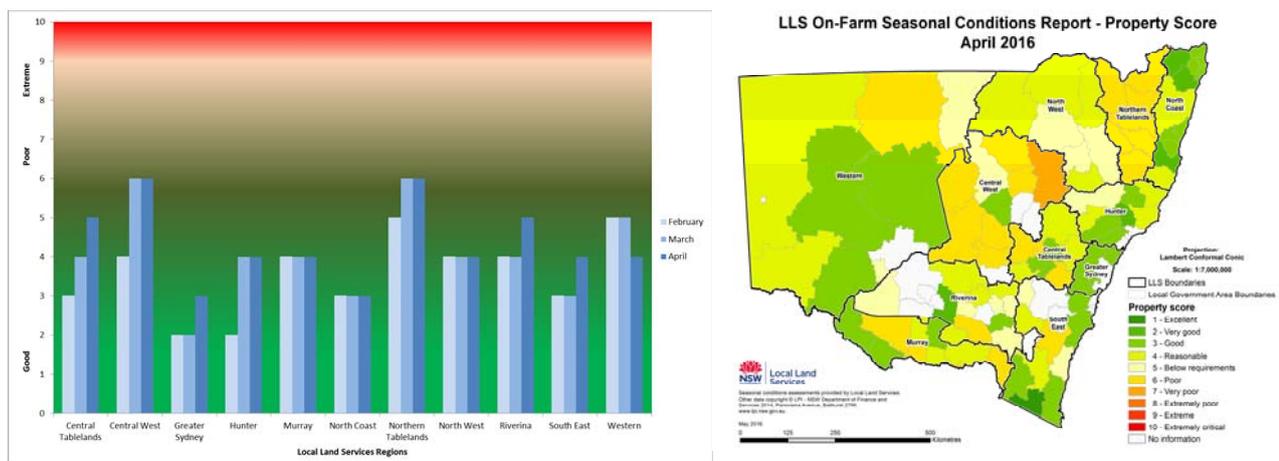
The average regional property score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 5. This score includes an average score of the water, agronomic and livestock categories across the regions local government areas.

Table 5: The average regional property score

| Region | Average scores for regions | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | February | March | April |
| Central Tablelands | Good | Reasonable | Below Requirements |
| Central West | Reasonable | Poor | Poor |
| Greater Sydney | Very Good | Very Good | Good |
| Hunter | Very Good | Reasonable | Reasonable |
| Murray | Reasonable | Reasonable | Reasonable |
| North Coast | Good | Good | Good |
| Northern Tablelands | Below Requirements | Poor | Poor |
| North West | Reasonable | Reasonable | Reasonable |
| Riverina | Reasonable | Reasonable | Below Requirements |
| South East | Good | Good | Reasonable |
| Western | Below Requirements | Below Requirements | Reasonable |

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

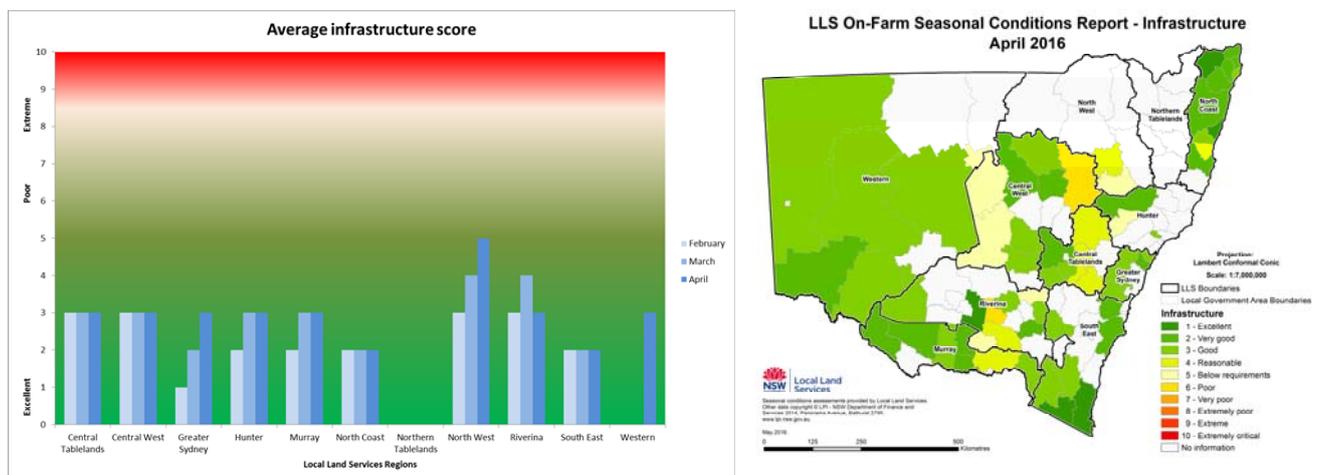
The average regional infrastructure score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 6. This score is for the condition of regional infrastructure including bores, tanks, troughs and piping. The infrastructure score is used to capture information for the Regional Assistance Advisory 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. Western did not measure water infrastructure this month as well.

Table 6: The average regional infrastructure score

| Region | Average scores for regions | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| | February | March | April |
| Central Tablelands | Good | Good | Good |
| Central West | Good | Good | Good |
| Greater Sydney | Excellent | Very Good | Good |
| Hunter | Very Good | Good | Good |
| Murray | Very Good | Good | Good |
| North Coast | Very Good | Very Good | Very Good |
| Northern Tablelands | - | - | - |
| North West | Good | Reasonable | Below Requirements |
| Riverina | Good | Reasonable | Good |
| South East | Very Good | Very Good | Very Good |
| Western | - | - | Good |

The average regional infrastructure score for the 11 regions for the past three months is also shown graphically in Figure 2. Along with the graphical 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

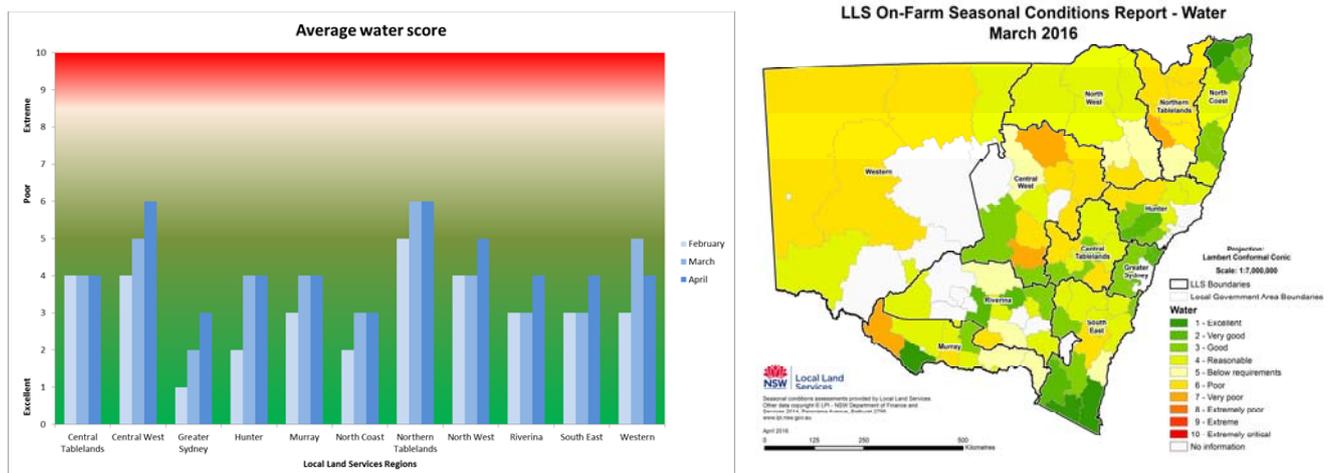
The average regional water score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 7. This score is for the condition of regional water including surface water, dams and stock accessed rivers, creeks and springs.

Table 7: The average regional water score

| Region | Average scores for regions | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | February | March | April |
| Central Tablelands | Reasonable | Reasonable | Reasonable |
| Central West | Reasonable | Below Requirements | Poor |
| Greater Sydney | Excellent | Very Good | Good |
| Hunter | Very Good | Reasonable | Reasonable |
| Murray | Good | Reasonable | Reasonable |
| North Coast | Very Good | Good | Good |
| Northern Tablelands | Below Requirements | Poor | Poor |
| North West | Reasonable | Reasonable | Below Requirements |
| Riverina | Good | Good | Reasonable |
| South East | Good | Good | Reasonable |
| Western | Good | Below Requirements | Reasonable |

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

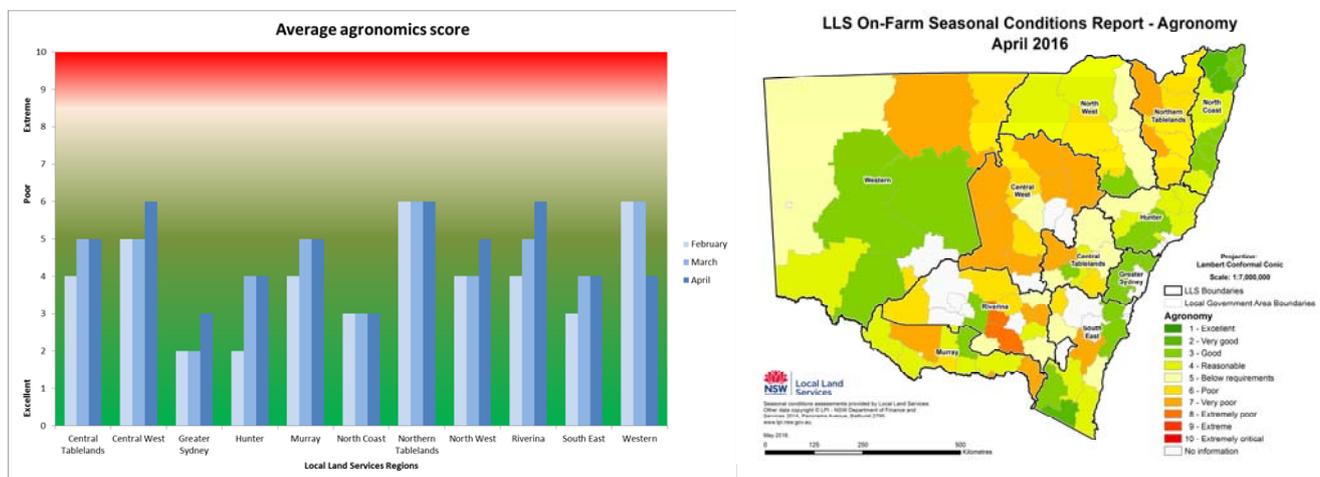
The average regional agronomics score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 8. This score is for the condition of regional agronomics including native pastures, improved pastures and cropping.

Table 8: The average agronomics score

| Region | Average scores for regions | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | February | March | April |
| Central Tablelands | Reasonable | Below Requirements | Below Requirements |
| Central West | Below Requirements | Below Requirements | Poor |
| Greater Sydney | Very Good | Very Good | Good |
| Hunter | Very Good | Reasonable | Reasonable |
| Murray | Reasonable | Below Requirements | Below Requirements |
| North Coast | Good | Good | Good |
| Northern Tablelands | Poor | Poor | Poor |
| North West | Reasonable | Reasonable | Below Requirements |
| Riverina | Reasonable | Below Requirements | Poor |
| South East | Good | Reasonable | Reasonable |
| Western | Poor | Poor | Reasonable |

The average regional agronomics score for the 11 regions for the past three months is also shown graphically in Figure 4. Along with the graphically 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

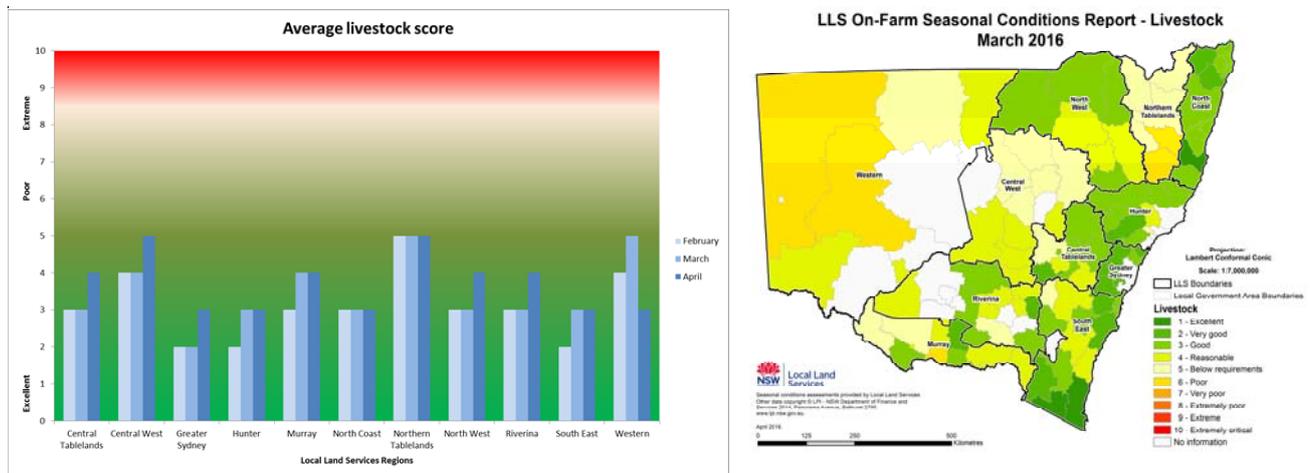
The average regional livestock score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 9. This score is for the condition of regional livestock including beef, sheep and other.

Table 9: The average livestock score

| Region | Average scores for regions | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | February | March | April |
| Central Tablelands | Good | Good | Reasonable |
| Central West | Reasonable | Reasonable | Below Requirements |
| Greater Sydney | Very Good | Very Good | Good |
| Hunter | Very Good | Good | Good |
| Murray | Good | Reasonable | Reasonable |
| North Coast | Good | Good | Good |
| Northern Tablelands | Below Requirements | Below Requirements | Below Requirements |
| North West | Good | Good | Reasonable |
| Riverina | Good | Good | Reasonable |
| South East | Very Good | Good | Good |
| Western | Reasonable | Below Requirements | 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 graphical 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 | February | March | April |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|
| Central Tablelands | <p>Small comments were that dam water was evaporating at a rapid rate, A lot of isolated storm activity, some are hand feeding but the average had a dry month and are hoping for rain.</p> | <p>Rainfall across the region was typically about half the March average. Most of this rain fell towards the start of the month, and as a result a drier latter half of the month resulted in diminishing water supplies. This effect has been partly reduced by lower livestock requirements as the weather cools.</p> <p>Pasture quality and quantity has been deteriorating quickly this month and not much growth is currently being maintained. With the prospect of coming frosts, this has meant that some landholders have begun supplementary feeding, whilst further landholders are expected to do the same soon. Crops within the area are also in desperate need of rainfall to help give them some growth before their growing period closes.</p> <p>Livestock condition generally continues to remain positive, although supplementary feeding will be required for some producers to maintain livestock numbers and overall condition.</p> <p>Unfortunately isolated cases of producers having to partially or completely destock their properties due to no water availability, and or little or no pasture availability, also signified the variable nature of seasonal conditions across the region as a whole.</p> | <p>Little or no rainfall fell across most of the region up until the end of April when widespread rains provided relief for most except for those in the Eastern areas. April's late rainfall followed on from a dry end to March and has unfortunately meant that for many, the rains have come too late to make a significant difference to pastures. The drier conditions have also meant that despite the recent rains, little or no run-off has occurred into dams.</p> <p>Pastures have continued to deteriorate over the month and supplementary feeding has become the norm as landholders try to maintain stock condition. For some with cereal crops in the ground recent conditions have been more positive and crops are improving.</p> <p>Livestock numbers have been reduced by many landholders to ease pressure on pastures and to limit the costs involved with supplementary feeding. As a result some landholders are running below average stocking rates but generally maintaining good livestock condition for remaining stock.</p> |
| Central West | <p>Livestock conditions are slipping due to low ground cover in the majority of regions. As there has been no follow up rain and the temperature has increased feed has hayed off considerably. In some areas to the North where there has been little to no rain conditions are quite dire and landholders are hand feeding stock, ground water is very low in these areas. Landholders are cautiously preparing cropping paddocks in anticipation for Autumn rain. There has been reports of storms but over a very isolated area. In the southern</p> | <p>Overall Central West had little rainfall and warmer weather in March and is heading into April quite dry. Water is the biggest issue going into April. With little rainfall many surface dams and creeks are becoming low or dry. Northern areas worse than the south. However no farmers have reported to be carting water for stock as of yet.</p> <p>Some areas are holding on with some dry feed still available, but there are a few land holders who have little to no feed available and are currently feeding</p> | <p>Conditions still deteriorating in most areas in the Central West with little to no rain reported for April. Many landholders are taking a risk on dry sowing in the hope of coming rain in May. Most producers have little to no ground cover in all areas across the Central West, feed quality is very low quality and becoming scarce. Stock are holding condition though this is due to supplementary feeding. Many stock producers are handfeeding and if no substantial rain in the near future this will continue into the foreseeable future as if conditions turn cold pasture growth will be</p> |

| Region | February | March | April |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|
| | <p>areas conditions are still stable with relative good feed and groundwater.</p> | <p>stock. This is also very patchy and inconsistent across the region. Stock numbers are ok and still look good. Many are starting to minimise numbers though to reduce grazing pressures. Central West farmers have managed through March but are looking for some substantial rainfall for April. Sorry for the few reports that were returned, hopefully it is enough information for you.</p> | <p>minimal. Water levels are reported to be low in most areas with most producers requiring good rain to top up groundwater supplies. Cotton harvest is nearly finished in the cotton growing areas both in the South and the North.</p> |
| <p>Greater Sydney</p> | <p>While a much drier month off the back of a relatively wet January, conditions remained relatively unchanged throughout the region. Pastures were still largely benefiting from last month's rains with the proceeding warmer weather having a positive impact on pastures, promoting rapid growth in early February. Reservoir and dam levels remained high with a positive outlook for water availability heading into autumn. Pasture growth continued strongly throughout the region softening slightly towards the latter part of the month due to fewer rainy days being experienced. Grazing fields continued to be of good quality with retained soil moisture providing for sustained high levels of crop and vegetable cultivation. Cattle and sheep health conditions have remained high from January's peak pasture growth and availability throughout the region. Consequently, many of livestock producers have continued restocking throughout the region, taking advantage of solid market prices found locally. The continued mix of warm and wet weather over recent months has kept stock owners on the lookout for worm infestations or bacterial infections (such as footrot in sheep). Owners are urged to remain vigilant in the surveillance of their herd health and drench stock if they are yet to do so. Landholders appear optimistic about local conditions going into the cooler months, given current pasture quality and quantity on the back of what is normally the harshest time of the year – summer</p> | <p>Despite nominal amount of rainfall most of the dams and reservoir remain high level. Farmers are assertive with this level of water. Pasture quality slightly deteriorate due to lack of moisture in soil but looks sufficient for grazing stock for another couple of month. Farmers are expecting raining in April and recovery of soil condition/moisture. Cattle and lamb price still high which encouraging farmer to restock or retain stock for more profit. Overall condition of the region is above average.</p> | <p>Most of the pasture land has been started to drying out. It will be difficult winter months for farmer if there will no rain in next few weeks. Water level in dam and reservoir are down up to medium full still enough water for next couple of months. Farmers are expecting rain in next month or so and recovery of soil condition/moisture. Cattle and lamb health condition still good but need forage to improve this condition. Overall condition of the region is in boarder line of average to bellow average.</p> |
| <p>Hunter</p> | <p>Conditions are extremely variable across the Upper</p> | <p>The Upper Hunter and parts of Gloucester are being</p> | <p>Rain is generally needed across the Hunter region to boost</p> |

| Region | February | March | April |
|---------------|---|---|--|
| | <p>Hunter due to the scattered nature of the summer storms and lack of any significant run-off rainfall events. February has offered a final burst of extremely hot weather with dams and water storage low on many properties. Paddock feed varies from excellent in the Singleton area to below average, east of Scone and Murrurundi. The bulk of dry feed on some properties is presenting a fire hazard. Low rainfalls of 5-10mm recorded for the month offer no improvement for properties missing storm patterns.</p> <p>Gloucester has received 250mm of rain since Christmas filling the hay sheds for the first time in 10years with dams full and cattle in good condition. The excellent season has resulted in cases of Three Day Sickness in cattle and lots of buffalo fly.</p> <p>A good fall at Taree of 24mm has improved the outlook as the season was beginning to dry off towards the coast. Cattle are in excellent condition and feed is plentiful although water is a concern and is dropping back. The Great Lakes area is also looking for a good fall of rain after receiving over 330mm in January, only 44mm fell in February.</p> | <p>tested with the erratic summer storms with some areas missing out completely with summer rainfall. Surface water is running low in some of these areas due to the limited runoff over the summer months.</p> <p>The rest of the district has a bulk of dry feed but is in need of rain to ensure adequate winter feed</p> | <p>winter feed and crops and fill water courses and dams. Again the district is represented by extremes. North-east of Scone and north-west of Gloucester have consistently missed scattered showers and many livestock producers are feeding supplements and full rations. Creeks and dams are very poor in these areas and generally very low across the Upper Hunter with no significant run-off rainfall for months. Taree, parts of Gloucester, and Maitland have received favorable summer and late autumn falls resulting in good pasture feed availability and germination of winter crops. Substantial rain is still required to top up stock and irrigation water. Good to reasonable dry paddock feed features in the lower Singleton/Muswellbrook area but quality is depleting and supply tightening. As the cooler weather settles in, the season hangs in the balance with follow up rain required for a clover germination and growth. 45-60mm or rain on the final weekend in April for Merriwa-Cassilis is not fully reflected in these figures and has seen a flurry of tractor activity sowing winter crops and a welcome drink for dry-sown oats.</p> |
| Murray | <p>Basically no rainfall recorded across the entire area for the month - most of what was recorded was flow over from the end of January. Those late January falls did replenish some ground tanks / dams.</p> <p>Subsoil moisture levels remain fairly dry across most of the Western and Central areas and paddock feed is basically exhausted, with graziers mostly now trying to maintain some ground cover. The Eastern area was looking good but has slipped considerably with the high temperatures and low follow-up rainfall. Overall growth of native perennials and lucerne has slowed over the month as expected with these weather conditions.</p> <p>The small number of producers with summer crops are reasonably pleased with how they are progressing - with yields looking to be at least average at this point. Many producers currently anticipating a 'typical' winter cropping program.</p> <p>General security irrigation allocations remain low and</p> | <p>Even though the overall property score for Murray LLS remained at 4 this month (simply due to the way the figures are rounded), the averages for water, agronomics and livestock have all dropped a score. This is a true reflection of the lack of rain across the LLS and unusually hot conditions during the first half of March. The next few weeks will need to see significant rainfall or conditions will start to slide quickly.</p> <p>Subsoil moisture levels remain fairly dry across most of the Western areas. Stock condition generally remains good - supplementary feeding has increased (with some full-on supp. feeding), particularly for autumn lambing flocks and calving herds. Little remains of the stubbles from last year's crops. Pasture and feed supplies are deteriorating quite quickly. Many producers have concerns with little feed going into autumn winter, and lack of opening autumn rainfall.</p> <p>Ground cover is very poor throughout much of the</p> | <p>Very little rain recorded until 29th April when good falls will make a significant difference to the entire area in the next report. In many areas, this was the first effective rain since February. With quite a bit of sowing already undertaken and tractors now working overtime, this rain was extremely timely, but follow up will be needed to keep things going. Across the board supplementary feeding is high, but may reduce significantly within two weeks where enough moisture fell to get pastures up and running. Water quality has improved although BGA is still an issue in some areas. Stock condition generally remains very good considering the lack of pasture as most producers have supplementary fed to retain condition.</p> <p>Irrigation allocations remain unchanged - 23% of general security entitlement in the Murray Valley, and 37% of general security entitlement in the Murrumbidgee. Limited pre-irrigation for cereal crops occurring - some watering up of canola. Many producers using limited water resources on</p> |

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| | <p>there has been considerable discussion over the economic feasibility of irrigating pastures and the majority considers water too expensive to water pastures. The current hot weather has delayed the commencement for those who will irrigate. Stock condition remains very good - supplementary feeding has commenced, particularly for autumn lambing flocks. Little remains of the stubbles from last years crops. The majority of cattle in the mid-east area are in very good condition due to an overall good year in these areas</p> <p>Things will get very tight if a good break does not occur. There is concern about high levels of blue green algae being reported in major waterways, and within the Murray Irrigation supply network. There is currently a red alert in parts of the Murray system and Lake Mulwala.</p> | <p>western half. The eastern areas are holding for now. Irrigation allocations remain very low, a higher proportion of water will be used on fodder than has been the case for the past decade or so</p> <p>The blue green algae outbreak continues to persist in many local waterways - rivers, creeks and irrigation corporation supply channels. Red alerts remain in place in many parts of the Murray (and to a lesser extent Murrumbidgee) system and Lake Mulwala. No report of livestock health issues due to BGA have been reported to date in the MLLS.</p> | <p>pastures.</p> <p>Feral animals are being noted as very high, esp in the west and far east.</p> |
| North Coast | <p>Although February has been drier than normal for this Region our producers are still very happy. Many producers are well advanced with their fodder making in preparation for the annual winter feed gap. The hot weather finally arrived with many centers recording above average daytime temperatures on numerous days throughout the month and near normal temperatures for the remainder. Humidity levels were also high but not many storm events eventuated. The Grafton LGA area has browned off due to these high temperatures, high evaporation rates and very little worthwhile rainfall during the period.</p> <p>Three (3) day sickness and Buffalo Fly remain the dominant animal health issues that producers are reporting.</p> <p>Livestock markets are still very strong with re-stockers competing strongly with processors for the limited numbers available. Processors are scaling back shifts as a result of reduced numbers being available for slaughter.</p> | <p>It really is a tale of two (2) extremes up here at the moment, the Northern Rivers area seem to be getting all the rainfall they need and the southern areas are missing out. The LGA areas Clarence Valley south to the Hastings River (Port Macquarie Hastings LGA) have missed out in the last three (3) months and the result is that property scores have gone backwards.</p> | <p>A very similar story to last month with the Northern Rivers receiving good rainfall and their season continuing to tick along nicely. The Coastal strip along the entire North Coast has also experienced a good month with timely rainfall and continued warm weather.</p> <p>Areas away from the Coast are starting to report low surface water volumes due to lack of rainfall, this lack of rainfall and the continued warmer than normal conditions have depleted pastures and has not allowed the winter feed gap pastures of Rye, Chicory and Clover to become established as you would expect for this time of year.</p> |
| Northern Tablelands | <p>A hot dry month with some quite strong winds has wreaked havoc with water supplies and pastures</p> | <p>Another hot dry month has seriously affected water supplies and pastures. There were some patchy storm</p> | <p>Overall, little change across the Northern Tablelands for the last month, however this is not the full story.</p> |

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| | <p>throughout the Northern Tablelands. Quite large areas are moving back to critical for water with creeks and springs drying rapidly.</p> <p>The promise of early plantings and good early growth for fodder crops has evaporated with most paddocks remaining fallow for the moment. The window for planting of fodder crops and pastures remains open into early April, so good rains over the next month will still see widespread plantings.</p> <p>Summer crops in the Inverell LGA are showing some stress and yields be reduced.</p> | <p>rains bringing relief to small areas, but overall there has been a significant deterioration across the entire Northern Tablelands region. Stock numbers remain well below normal and generally stock are still in good condition.</p> <p>Summer crops in the Inverell LGA returned good yields for sorghum and corn however the results for later crops, mung beans and soy beans, have been less favorable.</p> <p>Prospects for autumn and winter appear bleak without significant April rains and while large areas have been prepared for fodder crops and pasture renewal, very little has been planted and the oats which are in the ground are struggling to survive.</p> | <p>As in previous months, rainfall has been mostly from storms and consequently both patchy and inadequate to generate run-off except on a few properties. Fortunately evaporation has dropped as we move towards winter but some properties, particularly in the Uralla LGA are critical for surface water. The month has remained warmer than average with no frosts recorded yet, and so, where there has been rain there has also been some pasture growth. Fodder crops range from fantastic to disastrous, again depending on whether they have caught the rain or not and winter grain crop preparation is well under way with plantings starting.</p> |
| North West | <p>Walgett - The south of Walgett is still quite dry, no rain recorded for the month of February, Haying off to the north of Walgett, but still in good shape from January/December rain. Ground cover is an issue, need some rain in all areas of the district broadly speaking before thinking about crop.</p> <p>Moree Plains - East and south Moree pasture and feed wise is good, haying off a bit with the hot weather but still good quality. Dams are still good. Mungindi and North Star pastures and cattle are below average, some are turning off stock.</p> <p>Gwydir - Everything has hayed off now and good dry standing feed but quality is probably below average due to lack of rain this month and hot weather. This place is good relative to many areas. Neighbours are carting water and old landholders are commenting that water holes are dropping and there is a notable lowering of creeks. Concern with getting oats in and winter feed is going to be poor. Is early weaning. Some late sorghum crops are declining.</p> <p>Narrabri - Early weaning and preparation for supplementing. Pastures some body but haying off. Isolated rain event not even over the shire. Pastures are all very dry, now supplementing stock with oaten hay and a protein based lick. Water is holding out at the moment, we've had a couple of our shallow dams dry</p> | <p>Isolated rain across the region has not provided enough moisture to maintain pasture conditions and this has resulted in more livestock feeding than normal. However, groundcover levels are being maintained. Small areas of winter forages have been planted but the vast majority of area is still left to be sown and the emerging crops are struggling.</p> <p>Stock water conditions continue to worsen with high evaporation and limited runoff across the region. Limited winter crop potential at this stage without significant rainfall to refill subsoil.</p> <p>Summer crop yields have been at least average despite the dry conditions and grain quality is good.</p> <p>Wind erosion in western areas with limited groundcover is causing farmers to till paddocks to increase surface roughness to reduce erosion. Even if subsoil moisture levels are low, some farmers may still plant a crop, purely to increase groundcover.</p> | <p>Warmer weather across the region, coupled with limited rainfall has resulted in poor pasture growth, minimal runoff and very few planting opportunities.</p> <p>Sowing of winter crops has commenced but the forecasted area is still very small at this stage. Some areas around the south were dry sown in the expectation of rain and while there has been sufficient rainfall to get crops established, significant follow up rain is required. Almost all summer crop is harvested with good yields and quality, despite the dry summer.</p> <p>Stock numbers are reducing across the region with significant offloading on the slopes around Baraba and Bingara due to limited water and pasture. Remaining stock are in good condition but require supplementary feeding to maintain/increase weight as pasture quality degrades. Late rain willing increase forage crop planting and providing warmer weather prevails, pasture growth will occur.</p> |

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| | <p>out so we've taken the opportunity to clean them out but our main dam is still sufficient. Haven't been able to do by further prep on the paddocks for winter crops because the ground has been too hard. Cattle are holding condition well but only because we are supplementing. Some cotton crops declining due to hot windy conditions, stock being supplemented.</p> <p>Gunnedah - No rain has caused pastures to struggle and crops to stress. Zero recent runoff and high temps has lowered on farm water supplies.</p> <p>Tamworth - Hot, drying winds have had a substantial impact.</p> <p>Liverpool Plains - Native pastures haying off quickly as a result of hot conditions and windy weather but still good quality. Sorghum crops good despite persistently hot weather.</p> | | |
| Riverina | <p>The majority of producers in the Riverina have had a hot and dry February. Evaporation rates were high and dam levels have dropped by 0.5-1.0 metre. Livestock condition across the region is still above average, benefiting from exceptional growth in lucerne pastures in preceding months, stubble grazing and annual pasture residues on the slopes. Rangeland pastures have deteriorated in quality now and groundcover is lower than a month ago. There has been grazing of a mixture of green and dead material on offer to livestock in greater quantities than most summers but feed value is now falling in quality and supplementary feeding is just starting. Stock health issues have included ongoing treatment for foot scald in response to the January rainfall, monitoring of algal blooms in dam water and the risk of Photosensitisation in stock grazing problematic summer weeds such as Witchgrass. Mixed farmers and dryland croppers have now grazed most stubbles and or sprayed a summer weed burden from the January rains. Pre-season planning in winter cropping areas is well underway and there is likely to be increased plantings of oats and dual purpose wheat early in autumn. Interest in pulse crops is higher than for many years and interest in high-yielding barley</p> | <p>The majority of producers in the Riverina have had a dry and warm March, with temperatures now cooling at the end of the month. Evaporation rates were lower than in February but still high. Dam water supplies range from adequate to empty, but are generally low and there have been several calls regarding Blue-green algae in dams with only one known to result in sheep deaths. Most producers have helped to prevent fatalities through frequent stock water checks. The Red Alert for Blue-green algae on the Murrumbidgee River was in place for three weeks in the Hay area. Livestock condition across the region was above average at the end of February but has now slipped. Rangeland pastures have also deteriorated rapidly in quality now and groundcover is lower than a month ago. Feed on offer is lower in quantity and quality than in previous months. Supplementary feeding has been occurring. Stock deaths from grain toxicity associated with feeding have been investigated, occurring mainly where stock have been introduced to grain rations too quickly. Some cases of Pregnancy toxemia have already been reported in sheep. Reports of red gut occurring in lambs on lucerne have been sporadic. Barber's pole worm has caused some issues where summer storms</p> | <p>The majority of producers in the Riverina have had a drier April that followed on from a dry March, with warm afternoon temperatures and cooler autumn nights. Evaporation rates declined further since March but were still high compared to the rainfall received; Burrinjuck Dam received a monthly rainfall of 8.4mm and monthly evaporation was 84.4mm. Dam water supplies range from adequate to empty, but are generally low. Livestock condition across the region was above average at the end of February but has now slipped with producers supplementary feeding or feeding full rations to hold breeding stock in reasonable condition and to prevent Pregnancy toxemia occurring as ewes lamb. Rangeland pastures have deteriorated rapidly in quantity and quality and groundcover is very low. Feed on offer is lower in quantity and quality than in previous months and described by many as barely above zero.</p> <p>The Hay area is now regarded by local producers as being drought stricken (a seasonal drought). Stubble paddocks have been fed off in previous months and have been sown for the new season or are being prepared for sowing; some stubbles are retained and some have been burnt, depending on weed burdens and the use of disc or tyne seeders. There has been progress with the sowing</p> |

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| | <p>varieties is also strong. Irrigated croppers are getting ready for the harvest of rice in March, and then corn and cotton in late April.</p> | <p>occurred. Very few stubble paddocks have any level of useful feed remaining for livestock. Grain-growers are ordering new seed for the season and taking delivery of fertiliser. The autumn break is required for the sowing of oats, dual purpose wheat, lupins and canola to commence, with only small areas already sown. Interest in pulse crops and canola this season is strong with wheat and barley prices down. Irrigated croppers have just about completed the rice harvest and nearly maize. The cotton picking will start in April, with the Hillston cotton area a little ahead of the southern growers.</p> | <p>of early options such as oats, dual purpose wheat, lupins and faba beans and substantial areas of canola. Crops sown to date have been sown dry or on marginal moisture with estimates of about third of the cropping program sown in the Riverina. Grain-growers are continuing with sowing preparation and dry-sowing of their cropping program while they wait for the proper autumn break (>40-50mm in one event). Growers are looking for the autumn break to bring up their winter pastures and crop sown to date, renew perennial pastures, give confidence to cropping programs, provide relief from feeding stock and replenish farm dams. In Irrigation areas the maize harvest is complete while the cotton harvest commenced with reports of excellent yields and is still going.</p> |
| <p>South East</p> | <p>Coastal - The coastal strip was quite variable for the month of February. A small area received 50 to 100mm, while other areas only received only 5 to 50 mm. This variability was mainly due to storm activity across the area. Generally the coastal area is still green, but growth has reduced this month. Water supplies are still in good condition throughout the area. Livestock are also doing well in most areas.</p> <p>Highlands - Generally the Highlands area received between 10 to 50 mm for the month of February. As with the coastal area, this was dictated by storm activity. There has been limited pasture growth for the period and some areas pasture availability is quite low. Water supplies decreased during the month due to warmer conditions and limited runoff. Livestock are still in reasonable condition throughout the area.</p> <p>Tablelands - The majority of the area received only 10 to 50 mm for the month of February. A small area towards the ACT received between 50 to 100mm. Pasture availability has declined throughout the month due to lack of moisture. As per previous month, there are still quite large populations of grass hoppers in some areas. Water supplies reduced during the month of February as well, and are still a concern in some areas. Most livestock are still doing well considering current conditions.</p> | <p>Coastal - The majority of the coastal area received average rainfall for the month of March. The remaining area received below average rainfall. Rainfall totals varied from 25 mm through to 200mm. One small area only received 10 to 25mm. With such a variation in rainfall across the area this is also starting to reflect the feed availability. Generally though, the coastal area is still green, but growth has reduced this month in areas where lower rainfall was recorded. Water supplies are still in good condition throughout the area. Livestock are also doing well in most areas.</p> <p>Highlands - The Highlands for March shows that the area received either average rainfall on the eastern side and below average to the west. Rainfall totals for the majority of the area for March was 25mm to 50mm. Pasture quality has been maintained in most areas, but there is little quantity. Water supplies decreased during the month due to warmer conditions and limited runoff. Livestock are still in reasonable condition throughout the area.</p> <p>Tablelands - Tablelands for the month of March received mainly average rainfall. Totals for the month were 25 to 50mm for most areas. Pasture availability has declined again for the month due to warm weather and limited rainfall. Water supplies further reduced during the month of March as well, and are becoming a</p> | <p>Coastal - The majority of the coastal area received below average rainfall for the month of April. Some areas are holding on better than others. Dam water is starting to disappear at an alarming rate in some areas, creeks and rivers are generally holding on well. Pasture is at a stage that without rain in the next couple of weeks will deteriorate quickly. The combination of lack of rain and an expected sharp drop in temperature over the next month is turning the outlook for the coast from good to bad.</p> <p>Highlands - The Highlands for April received below average rainfall. Dam water is starting to be effected due to the lack of rain and water quality is also an issue. Pasture growth in the area is lower than normal for this time of year due to the lack of rain. Like the coastal area the outlook for the winter is looking worse every day.</p> <p>Tablelands - Tablelands for the month of April received mainly well below average rainfall. Totals for the month in most areas were below 25mm. Pasture availability has declined again for the month due to warm weather and limited rainfall. Water supplies further reduced during the month of April to the point that many farm dams are now dry which is starting to force stock into the sale yards. Creeks and rivers in the area are generally good. Many producers are starting to hand feed for production reasons with their breeding stock. Night time temperatures are starting to drop and frosts are starting in many areas, which are having a</p> |

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| | <p>Monaro - The Monaro region was generally drier during February than previous months. Majority of the Monaro region received 10 to 50mm during February, with some small areas receiving only 5 to 10mm for the month. Due to the lack of moisture, most pastures have declined during the month. Livestock are in excellent condition across the area. Even though feed availability has declined during the month, it still exceeds requirements at present. Water supplies are also good in most areas.</p> | <p>concern in larger areas. Most livestock are still doing well considering the deteriorating conditions.</p> <p>Monaro - The majority of the Monaro area received average rainfall for the month of March. Totals were generally between 50 and 100mm. One small area shows rainfall totals of 25mm to 50mm and another area shows 100mm to 200mm. Generally this rainfall has freshened up the area after a drier February. Livestock are in excellent condition across the area. Water supplies are also good in most areas.</p> | <p>detrimental effect on what pasture is left. The outlook for the Tablelands for the coming winter is very poor as the major growth season is now behind us. Most producers will have to reduce numbers or plan to feed livestock this winter.</p> <p>Monaro - The majority of the Monaro area received below average rainfall for the month of April. Mostly totals were generally below 50mm. The Bombala area is better off than most however the onset of winter well see this area deteriorate. Given that rainfall for the Monaro has been below average this area has held on much better than the tablelands, a little rain at the right time makes a massive difference.</p> |
| Western | <p>Bourke LGA - Water is becoming critical in some areas. Darling river is stated to flow this past month mainly coming from the Culgoa river. The Paroo & Warrego Rivers have also had a reasonable flush. Some landholder who have taken stock on Agistment have started to requested them to move off due to the dryer than expected month. Also with the high prices for stock, stock owners are taking advantage and culling all substandard stock. And are preparing to start feeding i.e. scrub cutting. Conditions have deteriorated severely over the past month with little to no rain recorded in the area. The hot windy conditions haven't helped. And could do with more steady, heavy rain in March/April.</p> <p>Brewarrina LGA - Most property's that are relying on surface water for stock are starting to worry about the lack of heavy rain or thunder storms over the past few months. Landholders have reported ground tanks (dams) are very low, with some stock bogging. The Barwon River has had a low level flow through Brewarrina for the past 3 week. The Culgoa/Balonne river system has started to flow, mainly down the Culgoa & Narran Rivers, but little down the Birrie & Bokhara rivers as yet. Sheep & cattle condition have held on well, due to landholders not over stocking & spreading them out. Some landholder who have taken stock on Agistment have started to requested them to move off due to the dryer than expected month. Also with the high prices for stock, stock owners are taking</p> | <p>Wentworth LGA: Comments: stock remain in good condition. Country has dyed off due to the warmer conditions in March.</p> <p>C/Darling LGA: Landholders along the Darling have started to off load stock or are starting to feed stock. There has been limited flow in the Darling river at Wilcanna. Agronomic conditions have slipped over the past month & any rain that has fallen has had little to no effect on growth</p> <p>Unincorporated Area: Darling River at Menindee has dried up more due to the lack of water coming down stream. Most landholders have also started to de-stock & in some places stock are too weak to transport. Agronomic conditions have rapidly deteriorating in all parts at the present time.</p> <p>Bourke LGA: Most stock are holding their condition, Land holders are taking advantage of the good prices and are off loading sale able stock. Ground water remains a topic of conversation, or the lack of it, good rain required asap.</p> <p>Brewarrina LGA: Around Goodooga & Weilmoringle the ground cover still looks green but its mainly poverty burr & salt bush verity's, Elsewhere the country has fallen away due to the hotter pass two months. Stock condition very from good to poor. Any stock on agistment are now being trucked off. Some landholders have started to feed lambing ewes.</p> | <p>All areas reports extremely dry conditions for April and landholders have either been hand feeding in the south or are considering selling livestock to reduce grazing pressure on natural pastures. This is compounded in some areas by higher kangaroo numbers.</p> <p>Rainfall has been patchy</p> <p>Cropping areas in the southern parts of the board area are looking for opening season rains during April but only minor falls were recorded on the last days of April. Much more rain will be required for cropping programs.</p> |

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| | <p>advantage and culling all substandard stock. The country side around Weilmoringle & Goodooga looks good & green, but not a lot of natural grasses have grown, there seems to be a lot of Copper burr & salt bush types of ground cover, and could do with more steady, heavy rain in March/April. The rest of the LGA also could do with the same rain as it has dried off considerably since December.</p> <p>Cobar LGA - Water is becoming critical in some areas. Some landholder who have taken stock on Agistment have started to requested them to move off due to the dryer than expected month. Also with the high prices for stock, stock owners are taking advantage and culling all substandard stock. And are preparing to start feeding. Conditions have deteriorated severely over the past month with no rain recorded in the area. The hot windy conditions haven't helped. And could do with more steady, heavy rain in March/April.</p> | | |

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