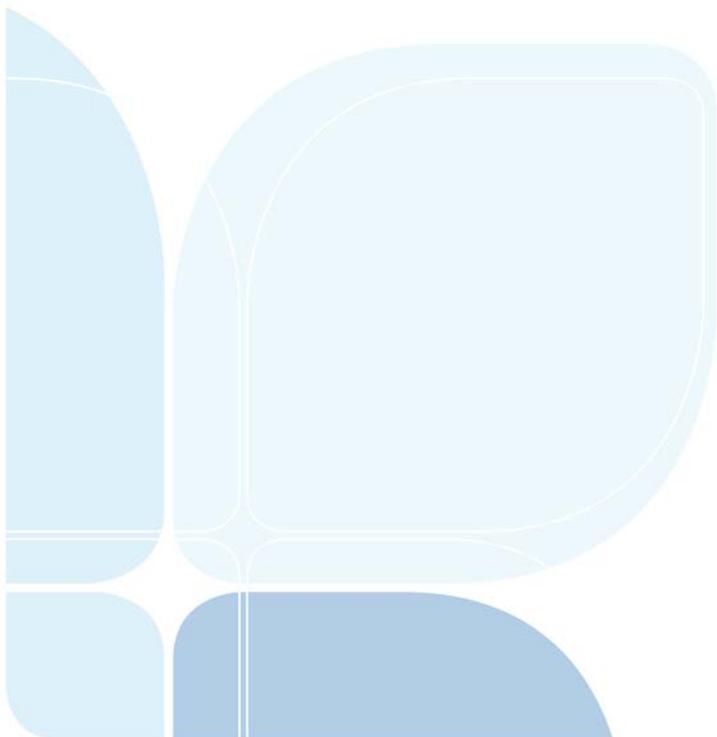




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Services

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 August 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 - Ten regions reported no change from last month, including Central Tablelands, Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, North West, Riverina, South East and Western. Central West 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 - Eight regions reported no change from last month, including Central Tablelands, central West, Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray, North Coast, Riverina and South East. North West has reported an improvement in infrastructure conditions from last month. Western has reported a decline in infrastructure conditions from last month. Northern Tablelands didn't report on infrastructure.

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

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

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

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

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

LGA Scores – Excellent or Very Good - The following LGAs: Cowra, Mid Western, Wyong, Hume, Corowa, Urana, Conargo, Deniliquin, Murray Wakool, Kyogle, Richmond Valley Council, Tamworth, Bland, Shoalhaven, Illawarra, Wingecarribee, Bega, Cooma-Monaro, Bombala and Snowy River.

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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	May 2016	June 2016
State Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six regions reported no change from last month, including Greater Sydney, Hunter, Northern Tablelands, North West, South East and Western. North Coast has reported a decline in conditions from last month. Central Tablelands, Central West, Murray and Riverina have reported an improvement in conditions from last month 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four regions reported no change from last month, including Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray, Northern Tablelands and Western. Central Tablelands, Central West, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, Riverina and South East have reported an improvement in conditions from last month
Regional Ranking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good - Greater Sydney, Murray and Riverina Reasonable - Central Tablelands, Central West, Hunter, North Coast, North West, South East and Western Poor - Northern Tablelands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very Good – Riverina Good - Central Tablelands, Central West, Greater Sydney, Murray, North Coast, North West and South East. Reasonable - Hunter and Western Below Requirements - 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: Corowa, Urana, Murray, Kyogle, Richmond Valley Council, Narrandera, Jerilderie, Hay and Bombala.	The following LGAs: Corowa and Jerilderie.

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		
	May	June	July
Central Tablelands	40	40	40
Central West	30	42	45
Greater Sydney	9	11	11
Hunter	15	16	14
Murray	44	45	47
North Coast	45	47	46
Northern Tablelands	35	33	23
North West	36	33	28
Riverina	16	24	27
South East	47	49	56
Western	33	18	33
TOTAL	350	358	370

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	May			June			July		
	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	Reasonable	Bathurst, Blayney and Cowra - Good	Lithgow – Below Requirements Cabonne, Oberon and Orange - Poor	Good	Cowra – Very Good	Cabonne, Lithgow, Oberon and Orange - Reasonable	Good	Cowra, Mid Western – Very Good	Lithgow and Orange - Reasonable
Central West	Reasonable	Bogan and Lachlan - Good	Forbes – Below Requirements Gilgandra and Coonamble – Poor	Good	Narromine, Forbes, Weddin and Lachlan – Very Good	-	Very Good	-	Dubbo, Gilgandra, Coonamble and Warrumbungle – Good Bogan - Reasonable
Greater Sydney	Good	-	-	Good	-	-	Good	Wyong – Very Good	-
Hunter	Reasonable	Great Lakes - Good	Gloucester and Maitland – Below Requirements Cessnock - Poor Upper Hunter,	Reasonable	Gloucester and Greater Taree - Good	Upper Hunter, Dungog and Cessnock – Below Requirements	Reasonable	Singleton - Good	Dungog, Maitland and Cessnock – Below Requirements
Murray	Good	Corowa, Urana and Murray – Very Good	Berrigan – Reasonable Conargo and Wakool – Below Requirements	Good	Corowa – Excellent Urana, Murray and Wakool – Very Good	Albury – Below Requirements	Good	Hume, Corowa, Urana, Conargo, Deniliquin, Murray and Wakool– Very Good	Tumbarumba and Albury - Reasonable

Region	May			June			July		
	Average Regional Score	Above Average (LGAs)	Below Average (LGA's)	Average Regional Score	Above Average (LGAs)	Below Average (LGA's)	Average Regional Score	Above Average (LGAs)	Below Average (LGA's)
North Coast	Reasonable	Kyogle and Richmond Valley Council – Very Good Tweed Shire, Ballina, Lismore and Byron - Good	Port Macquarie Hastings and Coffs Harbour – Below Requirements	Good	Kyogle and Richmond Valley Council – Very Good	Nambucca and Coffs Harbour - Reasonable	Good	Kyogle and Richmond Valley Council – Very Good	Kempsey, Nambucca and Coffs Harbour - Reasonable
Northern Tablelands	Poor	-	Uralla – Very Poor	Below Requirements	-	Armidale Dumaresq, Tenterfield and Inverell - Poor	Below Requirements	Walcha, Uralla and Guyra - Reasonable	-
North West	Reasonable	Moree Plains - Good	Narrabri – Below Requirements Gunnedah - Poor	Good	Tamworth – Very Good	Gwydir, Narrabri, Gunnedah and Liverpool Plains - Reasonable	Good	Tamworth – Very Good	Gwydir and Liverpool - Reasonable
Riverina	Good	Narrandera, Jerilderie and Hay – Very Good	-	Very Good	Jerilderie - Excellent	Tumut, Harden, Wagga, Lockhart and Carathool - Good	Very Good	Bland - Excellent	Cootamundra, Wagga, Narrandera and Hay - Good Tumut - Reasonable
South East	Reasonable	Bombala – Very Good Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee, Upper Lachlan and Bega - Good	Boorowa – Below Requirements Pallerang and Eurobodalla – Poor	Good	Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee and Bombala – Very Good	Boorowa and Eurobodalla - Reasonable Pallerang – Below Requirements	Good	Shoalhaven, Illawarra, Wingecarribee, Bega, Cooma-Monaro, Bombala and Snowy River – Very Good	Eurobodalla - Reasonable Pallerang – Below Requirements

Region	May			June			July		
	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)
Western	Reasonable	Central Darling and Wentworth - Good	Bourke, Brewarrina and Unincorporated – Below Requirements Cobar - Poor	Reasonable	Brewarrina – Good	-	Reasonable	Bourke, Brewarrina and Wentworth - Good	-

3. Average Regional Property Score

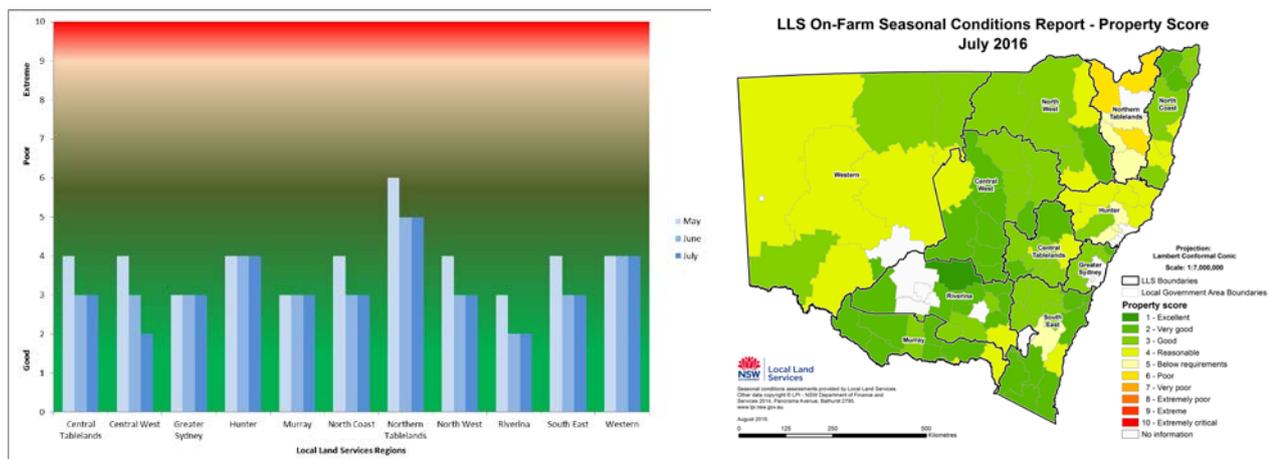
The average regional property score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 5. This score includes an average score of the water, agronomic and livestock categories across the regions local government areas.

Table 5: The average regional property score

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

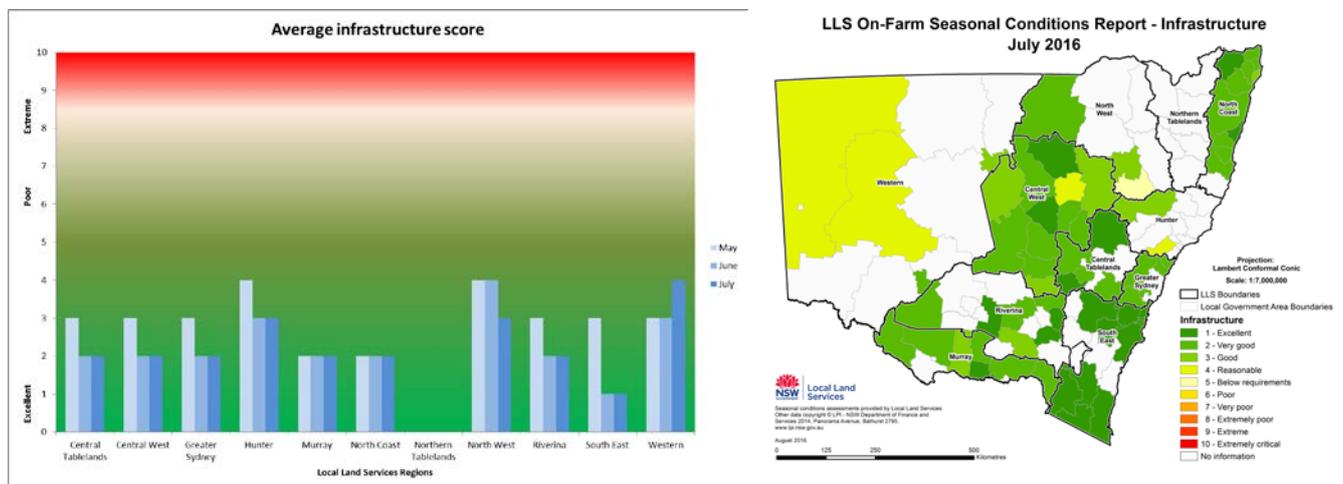
The average regional infrastructure score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 6. This score is for the condition of regional infrastructure including bores, tanks, troughs and piping. The infrastructure score is used to capture information for the Regional Assistance Advisory 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.

Table 6: The average regional infrastructure score

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

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

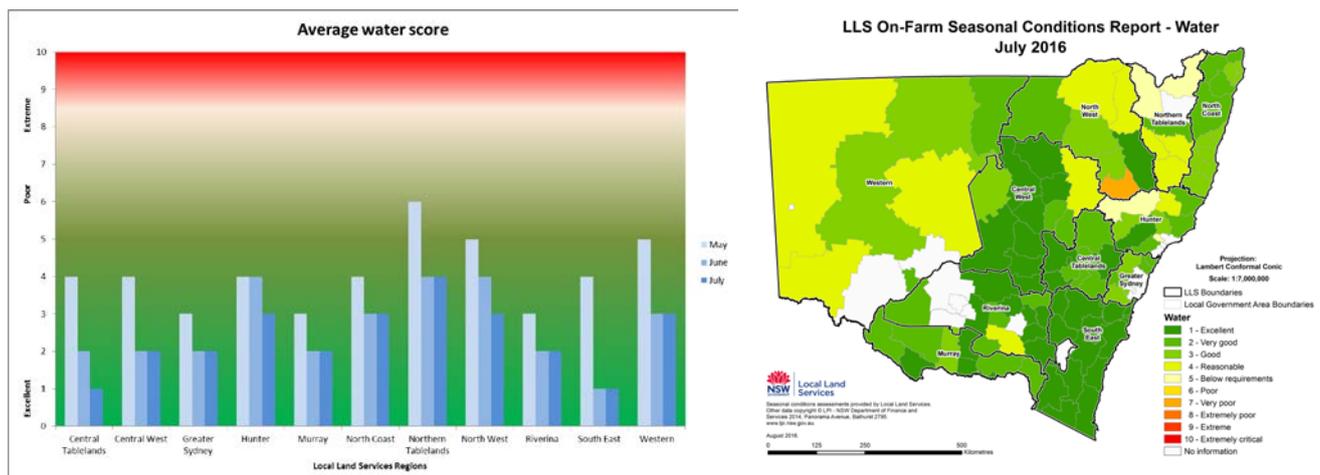
The average regional water score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 7. This score is for the condition of regional water including surface water, dams and stock accessed rivers, creeks and springs.

Table 7: The average regional water score

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

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

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



6. Average Regional Agronomics Score

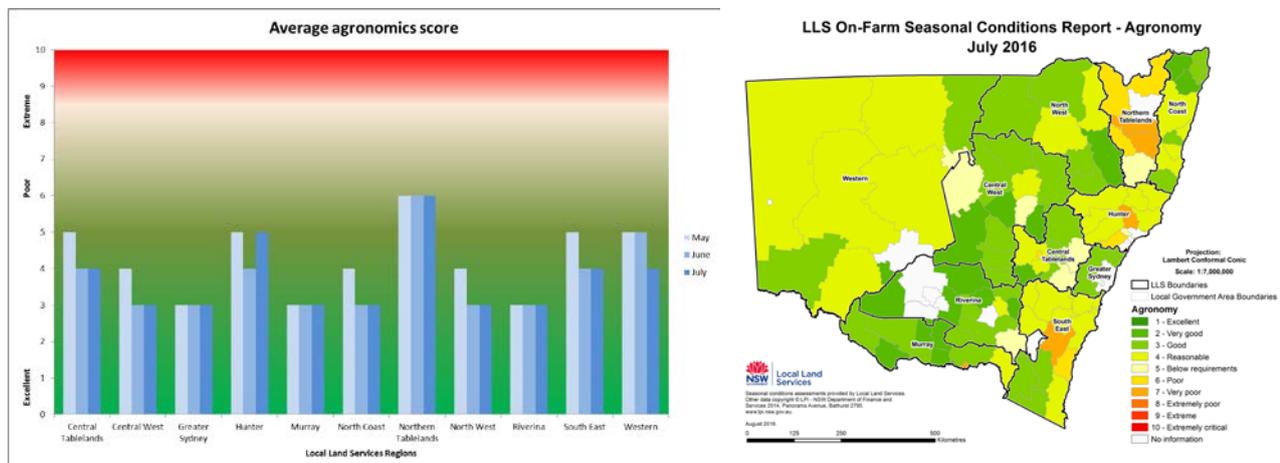
The average regional agronomics score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 8. This score is for the condition of regional agronomics including native pastures, improved pastures and cropping.

Table 8: The average agronomics score

Region	Average scores for regions		
	May	June	July
Central Tablelands	Below Requirements	Reasonable	Reasonable
Central West	Reasonable	Good	Good
Greater Sydney	Good	Good	Good
Hunter	Below Requirements	Reasonable	Below Requirements
Murray	Good	Good	Good
North Coast	Reasonable	Good	Good
Northern Tablelands	Poor	Below Requirements	Poor
North West	Reasonable	Good	Good
Riverina	Good	Good	Good
South East	Below Requirements	Reasonable	Reasonable
Western	Below Requirements	Below Requirements	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 graphical representation in Figure 4 is the geographical representation of the average regional agronomic score across local government areas.

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



7. Average Regional Livestock Score

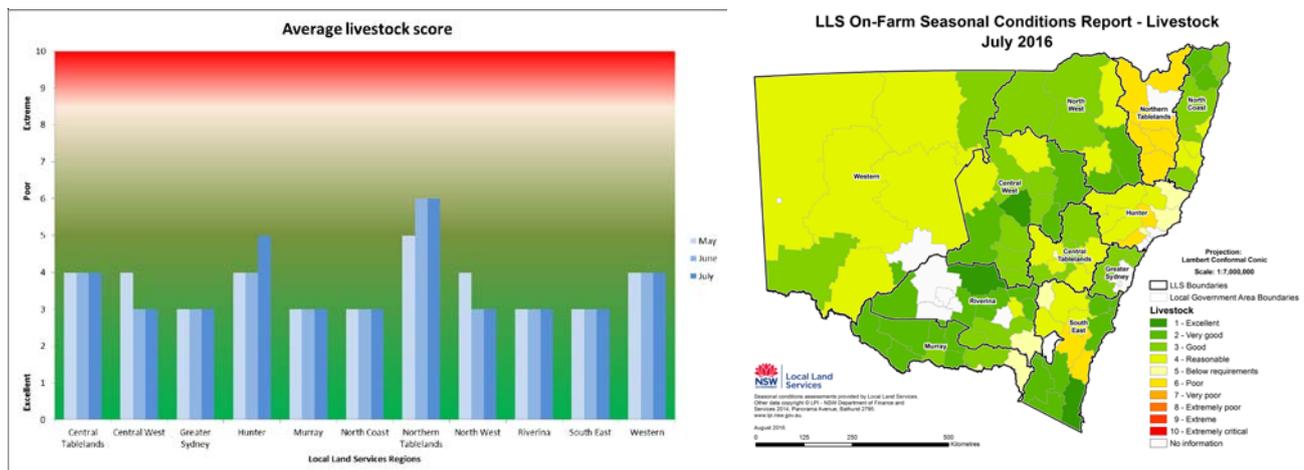
The average regional livestock score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 9. This score is for the condition of regional livestock including beef, sheep and other.

Table 9: The average livestock score

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

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	May	June	July
Central Tablelands	<p>Good widespread rain fell across the region during May except for in the Eastern areas closer to the Mountains. This has helped improve water storage's and creek flows slightly for some, whilst for other producers primarily in the Western and Northern sections of the region water remains a concern with dams drying up, and landholders having to rely on other infrastructure to meet water needs. Pastures have generally improved slightly over the month as soil moisture levels improve although the onset of colder weather and heavy frosts towards the end of the month has started to limit or stop much new growth occurring. Most producers have been supplementary feeding livestock already, with others due to begin soon. For some of those that have already begun feeding, on farm supplementary supplies are being used up rapidly, resulting in the selling of excess livestock to ensure the maintenance of existing stock.</p>	<p>Excellent rainfall across the region during June has helped to dramatically improve water storage's in farm dams and creeks in all areas.</p> <p>Cold weather and very heavy frosts during the month have continued to limit pasture growth, although a green tinge has started to appear. Overall, pastures have picked up slightly due to the recent rains, whilst crops are generally growing well. Recent snowfall events across the high country in the east have had an effect on pasture levels, but the improved soil moisture levels in the ground are leading towards a good spring if conditions continue. Supplementary feeding is still widespread and will further increase during the remainder of the winter months. As a result many stock are reliant on this feeding to maintain condition, and there has been evidence of livestock slipping back in condition where regular feeding is not occurring.</p>	<p>Excellent widespread rainfall across the region during July continued to top up water storage's with many landholders now having full dams and good flows in creeks and rivers across all areas.</p> <p>Pasture growth remains slow especially around the colder parts of the region, with little or no growth occurring in the eastern mountain areas. Although most areas have started to green up, some pastures have been compromised due to water logging, but despite this other parts of the region have been experiencing some growth. Continued cold and wet weather has resulted in some livestock classes slipping in condition, especially in the eastern regions and also around Orange. Widespread supplementary feeding is continuing throughout winter whilst the wind chill effect has also resulted in stock struggling further due to weather conditions.</p>
Central West	<p>Many areas in the central West are still struggling with little to no groundwater and minimal pasture. Sowing has been completed in most areas a lot of crops were dry sown or sown into low soil moisture profiles. Some areas are supplementary feeding lactating or pregnant stock due to slow pasture growth and/ or low quality feed. Ground water very low in most areas even with rainfall need substantial follow up rain for runoff so groundwater storage's can fill. Follow up rain is needed to continue pasture growth.</p>	<p>Overall CW has received the best start to winter in a number of years. Most of the region has received 100 to 180 mm, spread over 8 to 14 days in June.</p> <p>Water storage has reached near capacity in most areas. There has been some minor flooding on some of the creeks and rivers in the region which has resulted in loss of cereal crop and pasture. Local inundation is also having an effect on crops as the root system remains waterlogged. Long term affect of this will depend on the weather in the next few weeks, but raining here again so not drying out in a hurry.</p> <p>With the onset of colder weather pasture growth has been limited in most areas, but has improved. Hand feeding is continuing due to the high water content of pastures at the moment, and higher energy requirements of stock due to the cold. However some producers are struggling to gain</p>	<p>Rainfall across the area has varied from 40 mm to 110 mm spread over 4 to 14 days.</p> <p>Water storage's are full for the most part with local inundation still proving problematic for crops and pastures in most areas. With the main storage's, particularly in the south, nearing capacity the ability to manage storm runoff moving into spring could pose an issue for those landholders on the flood plain downstream.</p> <p>The increased soil moisture profile is resulting in water logging issues in crops and pasture with some losses already reported and the potential for reduced yields the longer it stays wet. Weed burdens in crop have increased and landholders have resorted to aerial control due to inaccessible paddocks.</p> <p>There have been some reports of fence losses as a result of storm activity but it appears to be in isolated pockets.</p> <p>Stock are generally in good condition, with bloat, worm burdens and foot problems being the main issues now and moving into spring.</p>

Region	May	June	July
		<p>access to paddocks to deliver feed due to the wet ground. Overall the condition of stock would be average. With the lush conditions some livestock issues have arisen such as bloat, increased worm burdens, calcium and magnesium deficiencies in stock grazing cereal crops and foot abscess, particularly in pregnant ewes. Footrot is another problem that producers need to be aware of given the ideal conditions that will be present as we move towards spring. Whilst there are some negative impacts currently, some quite substantial in individual cases, the outlook is reasonably positive for the months ahead.</p>	<p>Delays in shearing and lamb marking due to the weather are causing some inconvenience to normal operations.</p>
Greater Sydney	<p>Greater Sydney for the month of May was unusually warm and dry. Well above average temperatures and low levels of rainfall have allowed the pasture quality within the region to remain dry. Despite such climatic conditions, most of the reservoirs and dams remain half full or above. In the upper part of the region, pasture quality and growth is poor. Dam water supplies within this area are well below half full. Producers have stated that it is the driest they have seen their properties to date. Overall, the condition of livestock across the region appears good.</p>	<p>Greater Sydney for the month of June received widespread rainfall across the region. Totals in most areas were between 209mm - 327mm, due to the east coast low rain/storm event which saw widespread flooding and erosion of waterways, reservoirs and dams. Producers in areas such as Llandilo, Menangle, Elderslie, Camden and Picton also reported loss of pasture, livestock, topsoil and crops. Although water supplies are full or above in most areas, pasture quality has reduced as the cold weather and frosty mornings start to set in. Subsoil moisture levels also are very high, due to the large amount of rainfall received this month. Livestock condition appears above average throughout the region, with some producers supplementary feeding their livestock in order to maintain and increase their weight due to poor pasture quality.</p>	<p>Greater Sydney has once again seen above average rainfall for the month of July, with LGA's averaging anywhere between 45.8 – 108.8mm. On farm water supplies are measuring 2/3 to full, due to last month's rain event and the consistent rainfall received this month. Pasture quality is reasonable due to temperatures on several occasions falling below 0 degrees causing frosty conditions, impacting upon pasture growth. Livestock health conditions appear good throughout the region; however there have been a small number of properties whose sheep have been impacted by lice infections.</p>
Hunter	<p>May 2016 is widely reported across the Hunter region to have capped off one of the lowest autumn rainfall periods since 1969. Many dams in the Scone, Gloucester and Greater Taree areas are dry. Dry paddock feed is depleting in quantity and quality. Scattered storms have seen a short green pick and clover germination in some areas but predicted follow-up falls from the east coast low in early June are desperately needed. At Muswellbrook, rain at the start of May resulted in a good clover germination but winds and an extended dry have since brought growth to a halt. Scattered heavy storms west of Merriwa have kept crops and pastures ticking along but once again the ranges east of Scone have missed out</p>	<p>Rainfall has been good but scattered. More rain would be appreciated. The long dry autumn and limited growth of wintery pastures has resulted in many graziers feeding cattle especially breeders, and early weaning of calves.</p>	<p>Most areas have experienced a fairly tough winter - pasture growth is poor - some supplementary feeding occurring in many areas - eagerly awaiting warmer Spring conditions and pasture growth.</p>

Region	May	June	July
	<p>with falls reducing as the system moved towards the coast. Stock water is a major problem in many areas and beef producers are production feeding livestock especially lactating cows. Many have sold cattle to maintain ground cover or at least weaned calves. Heavy frosts hit in the last week of May with snow falls on the Barrington Tops. The northern ranges around Scone and Gloucester are very bare and wintry. Farmers will be looking forward to some decent falls from June's predicted East Coast low minus the destructive floods of last year.</p>		
Murray	<p>Excellent (above average) rainfall has been experienced across the area since 29th April - recording averages of around 100mm across most areas. With excellent growing conditions the Autumn got a great boost to its late start (generally warm conditions experienced up until the 3rd week of May). Early sown crops and most pastures are looking very good with groundcover improving significantly across the whole region. The rain triggered a significant bout of tractorbomitosis, and although most producers have recovered, some are still suffering through the last paddocks. Irrigated annual pastures are performing well - many producers had already commenced grazing. Irrigation allocations remain unchanged - 23% of general security entitlement in the Murray Valley, and 37% of general security entitlement in the Murrumbidgee. Small amount of pre-irrigated country is too wet to sow. Supplementary feeding is varied with many producers beginning to reduce the amount fed, but most are still feeding, especially lambing ewes or lambs. Stock are still doing well enough (especially sheep) but in most situations will need this break to pick back up before the cold weather sets in, however without a bulk of dry matter, many cattle producers are currently feeding to get cattle through the winter, while trying to let pastures build before winter.</p> <p>Water quality has improved, although blue green algae are still an issue in some areas.</p> <p>Pest issues; Onset of cooler conditions in last week of May has seen significant numbers of crop pasture pests - in particular red legged earthmite and blue oat aphid in</p>	<p>Wet weather continued for June.</p> <p>Cropping - mostly conditions are very good - across the region crops are growing well. The rainfall triggered a significant amount of sowing of all winter cropping varieties. Most growers completed a majority of their sowing programs - still some late season wheat and barley sowing to be completed - but over 90% completed. There is now adequate moisture but various levels of water-logging causing problems to both crops & pastures. Any country that was pre-irrigated is suffering excessive waterlogging. Groundcover has improved significantly. Pasture growing conditions have slowed - cold and wet particularly in 2nd half of the month but generally pastures in the west and central are growing well for this time of year however the East missed a good break and growth has dropped considerably (normal for this time of year). Whilst growing conditions are good, in some areas there is still not a lot of bulk of feed/dry matter available so supplementary feeding is still ongoing and will continue throughout the winter, particularly in the east where the cold stopped growth earlier. Some of the central and western areas have adequate feed however waterlogging is limiting feed in some areas as livestock can't be moved to fresh paddocks. Foot abscess potentially a problem in merino ewes with big fleece. Overall, much animal husbandry on hold until yards dry out and roads /tracks are suitably dry to enable stock movement. One participant commented that ewe scanning was down due to the dry in May.</p> <p>Many ground tanks reliant on surface inflows have seen levels replenished - with many full or close to. Water quality</p>	<p>It's wet. Really wet. Crops, pastures, yards, and socks all need a chance to dry out. At least one area had flood warnings in the last week of July.</p> <p>Majority of ground tanks reliant on surface inflows have seen levels replenished - with majority full or close to. Irrigation allocations (general security) have increased - in the Murray now at 4% for the 2017 'water year' whilst in the Murrumbidgee now at 33%.</p> <p>In general, heavier, flatter or pre-irrigated country is suffering waterlogging and poor pasture/crop growth while lighter country is draining and therefore responding well. Some growers are abandoning those crops and some will be sprayed out in spring and other options considered.</p> <p>Majority of crops and pastures in good condition in Central and West Murray, except the waterlogged areas where there are some crop failures and patchy growth. Croppers have had difficulty top-dressing crops with nitrogen fertiliser due to poor access and poor traffic ability. Aerial operators have not been able to use farm strips as they have been too wet for aircraft and accessible to trucks.</p> <p>Pasture growth is (as expected at this time of year) restricted due to cold, and waterlogging is still an issue for grazing stock, with many paddocks still not stockable and some stock being moved to higher grounds. Foot problems are still a presenting, but are not a significant issue.</p> <p>In general, landholders are mostly optimistic about the coming season and prepared to put up with the temporary inconvenience of wet country.</p> <p>Kangaroos still an issue in East Murray.</p>

Region	May	June	July
	central Murray. Deer and other feral animals are becoming more of an issue in the Upper Murray and some Western areas.	has improved, although blue green algae is still an issue in some areas. On set of cooler conditions has seen significant numbers of crop pasture pests - in particular red legged earthmite and blue oat aphid in crops and pastures. Kangaroos are still an ongoing issue in the Upper Murray (East). Feral Pigs also an issue in the Upper Murray. Irrigation allocations (general security) in the Murray commenced at 0% for the 2017 'water year' (2016 year finished @ 23%) whilst in the Murrumbidgee has commenced the 2017 water season at 20% (2016 year finished @ 37% of entitlements).	
North Coast	With exception of the far North East corner it has been a very ordinary month across all of the Local Government areas with little or no rainfall being recorded this month following from the past dry two (2) months. Averages are way down as is pasture growth (native and improved), water levels in some areas are severely depleted, while livestock condition is still good most producers are reporting an unseasonal drop in condition across all categories. On a brighter note is the forecast for this weekend and into next week with an East Coast low predicted to form over the weekend and dump plenty of rain in the northern part of the state.	Producers across the region were very happy to receive the rainfall and it has certainly improved the overall picture with very few negatives.	Some minor changes but overall a reasonably normal July. Some producers have reported failed rye grass plantings due to below average rainfall after planting.
Northern Tablelands	Modest rainfall over the whole area has done nothing to ease the significant water deficit, with continuing critical water levels particularly in Uralla LGA. With the advent of frosts late in the month, pastures have deteriorated somewhat and except for some small pockets, fodder crops have failed to provide expected yields with most still waiting for sufficient growth to allow the first grazing. Winter crop plantings are in full swing with the early plantings struggling with the low moisture levels and large areas being planted "dry" in anticipation of the predicted rainfall in early June.	Good general rains across the whole Northern Tablelands LLS area have brought about improvements in water supplies in all LGA areas. In most of the LGAs this improvement has been quite dramatic, however in the two with the lower rainfall totals (Inverell and Tenterfield) improvement has been limited as run off was only starting when the rain ceased. Fodder crops which were struggling at the end of May, have also undergone a major turn-around with the added moisture and are generally providing excellent winter feed. Pastures along with stock numbers and condition remain little changed as is expected through the winter months on the tablelands.	July seasonal conditions report for Northern Tablelands LLS attached. Due to unforeseen circumstances we have no report from Glen Innes Severn LGA and only limited data for Guyra LGA this month. Little has changed over July on the Northern Tablelands. Rains have only been modest for the month but with the low temperatures prevailing, evapo-transpiration has also been low. There have been some modest improvements in water supplies with pastures remaining surprisingly green but without significant growth. Fodder crops have continued to do well and stock have either held condition or have had minor loss in condition. Supplementary feeding has been increasing but well within expectations for this time of year.
North West	Despite rainfall throughout late April and early May, on-	Water - There has been good widespread rainfall across	Groundwater supplies have maintained levels throughout the

Region	May	June	July
	<p>farm water reserves continue to worsen as there has been no runoff. Winter crop planting has been staggered with chickpeas and faba beans being deep planted to reach the limited soil moisture. Small areas of Canola and cereals have been planted onto marginal moisture and there is a large area still left to sow. Livestock numbers are still significantly reduced and recent rainfall has depleted quality of dormant summer pasture but has generated small amounts of winter forage, however most stock are still receiving supplementary feed to maintain condition.</p>	<p>the region with the highest falls being over 400mm at Mt Kaputar and an average of over 100mm. This rainfall has been steady, resulting in limited runoff, other than in the Tamworth region. Farm dam supplies are still low but with lower temperatures, the demand for water has reduced</p> <p>Agronomics - Forage crops are performing very well and this is filling the winter feed gap from tropical and native pastures in the region.</p> <p>Large areas of crop have been planted already and some areas around Rowena, Burren Junction and Collarenebri have been inundated, potentially requiring replanting if conditions permit. Pulse crops are being monitored closely for foliar diseases as Ascohyta Blight has already been found near Mungindi.</p> <p>Livestock - A strong flush of winter legumes has created a bloat risk and farmers are managing this risk with supplementary feeding. Stock numbers are still reduced and high prices are kerbing restocking rates.</p>	<p>month. Surface water supplies including creeks and dams are still below expected levels due to minimal runoff. The exception is the Tamworth LGA where good rainfall has increased dam levels and stream flows.</p> <p>Warmer than normal conditions has accelerated early sown crops, putting them at risk of frost damage at flowering. Later sown crops have suffered from waterlogging, particularly in the Walgett and western parts of the Moree LGAs. In some cases, farmers have already moved to saving areas for summer crop as the winter sowing window has closed.</p> <p>Forage crops are performing very well. Pastures are growing at expected levels and strong legume growth has increased bloat risk. Less stock are on the TSR network, indicating that on farm feed reserves are improving. Both sheep and cattle are performing well and restocking is slowly occurring, despite record high cattle prices.</p>
Riverina	<p>Producers in the Riverina have now had wet conditions over the month of May that followed on from a very dry March and a dry April. While temperatures were above average for the month of May, they cooled off by the end of the month with chilly nights. Burrinjuck Dam received a monthly rainfall of 167.0 mm and monthly evaporation was only 60.4mm. Farm dam water supplies throughout the region are generally adequate to above.</p> <p>Supplementary feeding or maintenance rations to stock held their condition over dry autumn months but rations have reduced with new pasture growth. Breeding stock generally are in reasonable to good condition, averaging fat score 2.5. Growers are monitoring herd health with ewes lambing, lactating and with lambs at foot. In the western Riverina the rangeland pastures germinated at the start of the month and have been showing good growth rates, along with volunteer annual pastures. Elsewhere perennial pastures are growing well, and annual pastures are young and green, showing above average growth rates for May. Growers need to monitor stock for bloat in some lucerne and clover pastures. The quantity of Feed on Offer is still low with only four weeks</p>	<p>Producers in the Riverina are now describing conditions as very wet, after two wet months. Temperatures were above average for June, with pasture growth slow but reasonable on the better drained soils. Burrinjuck Dam received a monthly rainfall of 238.4mm and monthly evaporation was only half that of May at 30.9mm. Farm dam water supplies throughout the region range from 2/3 full to overflowing with significant run-off occurring this month.</p> <p>Supplementary feeding of stock is continuing on some farms to hold stock in reasonable condition, with breeding stock facing cold and wet conditions and higher energy requirements with young progeny at foot. Some producers are having issues with boggy conditions and taking hay and grain out to stock in paddocks too wet to drive on. Breeding stock generally are in reasonable condition, averaging fat score 2. Stock health issues include a number of diagnosed and reported cases of grass tetany in the region, a metabolic disease that affects cattle and sheep, associated with low levels of magnesium in the blood in stock grazing on young grass pastures and dual purpose cereal crops. There have been issues of pregnancy toxemia in late pregnant ewes grazed on pasture only</p>	<p>Producers in the Riverina are continuing to describe conditions as very wet or saturated, after the rainfall has continued over three consecutive months. The majority of dams and creeks are full to overflowing, with the more recent heavier falls causing erosion on sloping country and finer textured soils. Pasture growth is slow but still above average for the month of July due to wet and relatively milder conditions. Most locations recorded between 1-3 frosts for the month, which is below the average number for the winter month. Breeding stock have been under the most pressure to hold their condition and supplementary feeding for nutrition and health has continued where possible, with many pasture paddocks not being trafficable even for utes and tractors. Young stock and dry stock are generally in good condition with feed-on-offer levels being above average for July, except where paddocks have pugged badly from grazing stock. The majority of winter days have been cloudy and raining, with localities across the Riverina recording rainfall from 16-24 days out of the 31 in the month. The wet weather has caused management issues rarely experienced, shorter grazing periods on dual purpose crops and fodder crops, soil pugged, vehicles bogged, waterlogged crops and difficulties in yarding stock and moving stock. Cropping operations have been hampered by wet conditions, with significant delays caused to post-emergent weed and insect</p>

Region	May	June	July
	<p>of growth under grazing pressure. The Hay area has responded quickly to the welcome rainfall and rebounded from a very low base. The winter crop has largely been sown with only small areas remaining. Sowing of early options such as oats, pulses and canola is finished. Remaining late options include shorter season varieties of wheat and some new pastures. Grain-growers, mixed farmers and graziers have all welcomed the continuing May rainfall with regular and significant falls. Conditions have been as close to perfect for the month of May with respect to rainfall and temperature. In Irrigation areas the completion of the cotton harvest was delayed by rainfall in some areas. The Hay district experienced a wet month and producers are happy with new pasture growth and the condition and health of livestock.</p>	<p>without supplementation and also hypocalcemia in sheep on grazing cereal crops and some early cases of rickets in lambs. On the other extreme, growers are continuing to monitor stock for bloat in some lucerne and clover pastures. The quantity of feed-on-offer is increasing gradually for stock although moisture contents of green pastures and grazing crops feed are currently high and around 70-75% which equates to only offering 25-30% Dry Matter on a weight basis. Clover content is poor in paddocks that had an early strike before the dry months of March and April, and excellent where the seed struck on the autumn break. Medics have also had an excellent strike this season. The winter crop is in a mixed condition. The early sown crops have faced higher than normal insect pressure but were trafficable enough to spray early for pests. Late sown crops have suffered from seed bursting to seedlings facing waterlogged conditions to some paddocks becoming too wet for late-sown options. Generally the early sown crops are quite good while many later sown paddocks have suffered waterlogging and losses are increasing as paddocks do not have the chance to dry out while evaporation rates are so low. While continued rainfall was welcomed in May, many paddocks are now too wet to do a follow up insect spray for pests, spray post-emergent weeds or to spread fertilisers. In any case, urea is also in short supply at present and hard to get delivered on-farm.</p>	<p>pest spraying and spreading fertiliser not possible by ground in many paddocks. Animal health issues have included the occurrence of pregnancy toxemia in heavy, twin-bearing ewes not being supplementary fed, hypomagnesaemia on rapidly growing cereal crops especially wheat, hypocalcemia across the district in pregnant and young growing stock exacerbated by yarding or handling for management reasons and some high worm burdens which have showed up in the higher rainfall eastern areas despite the use of pre-lambing drenches (this does not appear to be a drench resistance issue just a reinfection due to the very wet pastures). The District Veterinarians have also seen worm burdens creep up in young stock (weaners) +/- scouring - leading to deaths in some cases and ill-thrift in others. These worm burdens have been mixed infections of Black Scour, Small Brown Stomach, Barber's Pole Worm and Thin Necked Intestinal worms in the <10 month old stock. Worm burdens may have increased due to delays in moving stock onto fresh pastures and delays in weaning caused by difficulties in yarding. Wet weather has also caused delays in trucking stock out for sale with stockyard numbers down for both cattle and sheep. Most stock held their condition reasonably well despite the continuing wet and sometimes windy weather.</p>
<p>South East</p>	<p>Coastal - The majority of the coastal area received below average rainfall for the month of May. Most areas are showing signs of the dry and frosts have started which is making what pasture that is left drop in quality. Dam water is still dropping at a very fast rate and creeks and rivers are still holding very 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 the sharp drop in temperature is having a serious effect. Highlands - The Highlands for May 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</p>	<p>Most of the seasonal conditions are the same as the previous month except we have had considerable rainfall across the majority of the area.</p>	<p>Coastal - Rainfall on the coastal strip for the month of July was quite variable. Totals varied from as low as 10 to 25 in a small area through to 100 to 200mm in other areas. The majority of the area received between 50 to 100mm for the month. These rainfalls were according to BOM about average for the month of July for that area. Generally feed availability for the coastal area is satisfactory for this time of the year. Water supplies are still in good condition throughout the area. Livestock are also doing well in most areas. Highlands - The majority of the Highlands area received between 25mm to 100mm for the month of July. According to BOM this is average to above average for that month. In most areas there has been limited pasture growth due to the temperatures experienced</p>

Region	May	June	July
	<p>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 May received below average rainfall in most areas. Some areas mainly in the North west Gundaroo through to Yass responded to some rain but is looking for follow up rain. Pasture availability has declined again for the month due to frost and limited rainfall. Water supplies further reduced during the month of May which has continued the trend started in April of selling stock. Creeks and rivers in the area are generally good. Many producers are starting to hand feed their breeding stock. Night time temperatures are starting to drop and frosts are starting to become cold down to minus 7 in many areas, which are having a 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 southern end of the Monaro around Bombala receives some good rain and did respond very well. Mostly totals were generally below 50mm. The Bombala area is better off than most. 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. As the frost get colder the pasture quality will drop off very quickly.</p>		<p>and expected for the winter months. Water supplies have improved in most areas due to the increase in run off rainfall for the month. Livestock are still in reasonable condition throughout the area.</p> <p>Tablelands - Tablelands for the month of July, received mainly average to above average rainfall. Totals for the month varied from 25mm through to 200mm in some areas. Pasture availability has declined again for the month due to colder weather and in some areas waterlogging. Water supplies have improved dramatically in the month due to run off. Most livestock are still doing well considering the deteriorating conditions, but there is a fair amount of feeding occurring with sheep and cattle.</p> <p>Monaro - The majority of the Monaro area received average rainfall, or above average rainfall for the month of July. Totals were generally between 25mm and 100mm for the area. Life the Tablelands, pasture growth has been limited due to the colder conditions. Also like the tablelands there is some feeding occurring and livestock are still in reasonable condition. Water supplies are also good in most areas.</p>
Western	<p>Generally a good month for rainfall across the region but low rainfall for April has left feed very short in many areas and landholders in some situations have de-stocked to maintain ground cover while others have chosen to hand feed.</p> <p>We expect good pasture growth from the May rains will change the outlook in many areas.</p> <p>Some wheat crops in the south were sown dry and will benefit from the rains in mid to late May.</p>	<p>Water - Barwon River running well from earlier rain's to the east, & likely to remain full throughout winter.</p> <p>Culgoa/Bolond river systems have had local flows for the past month. Paroo/Warrego river systems running well, with some flood warnings. Bogan River in minor flood.</p> <p>Landholders reporting good run off into ground tanks.</p> <p>Agronomic Conditions - The country has responded well, with winter herbage, Lams tongue, Spinach, Burr & some clover with marsh-mellow.</p> <p>With more rain expected in July, this will keep the country wet until the warmer days in September, when summer grasses should start to respond, with minimal rain falls.</p> <p>Livestock Conditions - Small numbers of reports of Bloat affecting cattle so far, but predict more to come due to the</p>	<p>Some light rain this month & some warmer than usual weather conditions, has benefited winter herbage.</p> <p>Land holders maybe having trouble purchasing stock, due to the higher that average price's they would expect to pay at this time of year. All stock seen over the past month are looking great, one land holder said, "they are kicking the feet up ". Little to no reports of Bloat in cattle, Some land holders are using Bloat lick, or injecting 5 in 1 for Pulpy kidney.</p> <p>Barwon, Bogan & Culgoa rivers have good flows in them at the moment, Bogan river has had minor flooding from Nyngan, downstream. No known land holders carting water, or having trouble with bogging stock in ground tanks.</p>

Region	May	June	July
		<p>wetter than usual conditions for winter. Cattle look great as do most of the sheep. Stock numbers remain low on most properties due to higher prices for restocking.</p>	

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