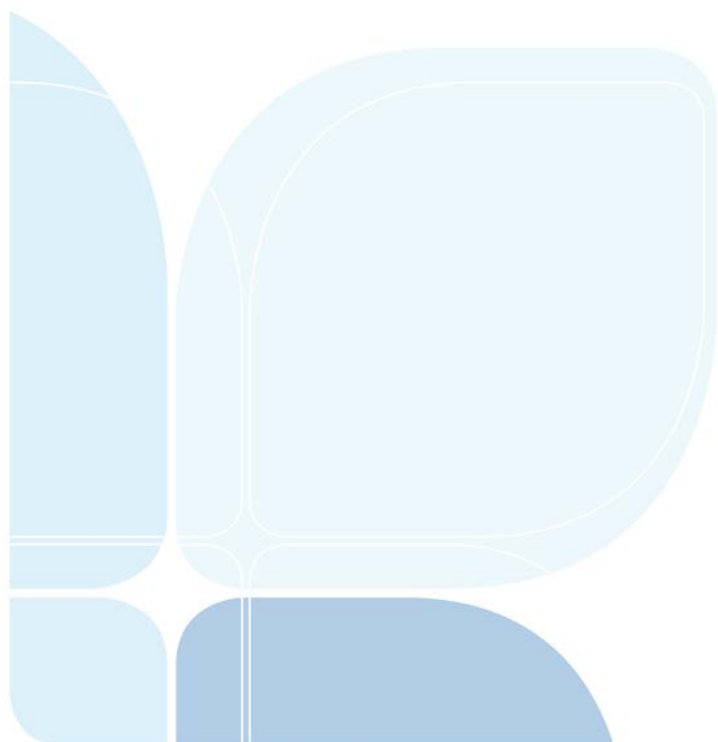




Local Land  
Services

# On-ground Seasonal Conditions Report

October 2016



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Acknowledgments

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing November 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** – Eight regions reported no change from last month, including Central Tablelands, Central West, Greater Sydney, Murray, North Coast, North West, Riverina and South East. Hunter and Northern Tablelands have reported an improvement in conditions from last month. Western has reported a decline 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 and Western have reported a decline in infrastructure conditions from last month. Northern Tablelands don't report on infrastructure.

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

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

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

Condition Score	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Reasonable	Below Requirements
<b>Average Regional Property Score</b>		Central Tablelands, Central West, Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray, North West, Riverina and South East	North Coast and Northern Tablelands	Western	
<b>Regional Infrastructure Score</b>	Riverina and South East	Central Tablelands, Central West, Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray and North Coast		North West and Western	
<b>Regional Water Score</b>	Central Tablelands, Murray, Riverina and South East	Central West, Greater Sydney, Hunter, Northern Tablelands and North West a	North Coast	Western	
<b>Regional Agronomics Score</b>		Central Tablelands, Central West, Greater Sydney, Murray, North West and	Hunter, North Coast and South East	Northern Tablelands and Western	
<b>Regional Livestock Score</b>		Central Tablelands, Central West, Murray, North West, Riverina and South East	Greater Sydney, Hunter and Western		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, Hume, Federation, Berrigan, Edward River, Bellingen, Kyogle, Richmond Valley Council, Tamworth, Hilltops, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional, Temora, Coolamon, Wagga, Bland and Hay, Upper Lachlan and Bega.

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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 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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. <sup>1</sup>
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.	

<sup>1</sup> Please see the following guide for more information - A national guide to describing and managing beef cattle in low body condition - Meat & Livestock Australia Limited website <http://www.mla.com.au/News-and-resources/Publication-details?pubid=6198>  
Local Land Services November 2016

## 2. Data Analysis

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

**Table 2: Seasonal Condition Report Overview**

Details	August 2016	September 2016
<b>State Overview</b>	Seven regions reported no change from last month, including Central Tablelands, Central West, North Coast, Northern Tablelands, North West, Riverina and South East.  Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray and Western have reported an improvement in conditions from last month.	Six regions reported no change from last month, including Central West, Greater Sydney, Hunter, Murray, North Coast and Riverina.  Central Tablelands, Northern Tablelands, North West, South East and Western reported an improvement in conditions from last month.
<b>Regional Ranking</b>	Very Good - Central West, Greater Sydney, Murray and Riverina Good - Central Tablelands, Hunter, North Coast, North West, South East and Western Below Requirements - Northern Tablelands	Very Good - Central Tablelands, Central West, Greater Sydney, Murray, North West, Riverina, South East and Western Good - Hunter and North Coast Reasonable - Northern Tablelands
<b>LGA Scores – Extremely Poor, Extreme or Extremely Critical</b>	There are no LGAs within this scale.	There are no LGAs within this scale.
<b>LGA Scores – Excellent or Very Good</b>	The following LGAs: Cowra, Blayney, Mid Western, Narromine, Berrigan, Deniliquin, Kyogle, Richmond Valley Council, Narrabri, Tamworth, Temora, Bland, Shoalhaven, Illawarra, Wingecarribee, Bombala, Snowy River and Brewarrina.	The following LGAs: Cowra, Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook, Berrigan, Bellingen, Kyogle, Richmond Valley, Harden, Young, Gundagai, Temora, Bland, Hay, Goulburn-Mulwaree and Bega.

## 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		
	August	September	October
Central Tablelands	40	40	40
Central West	40	13 <sup>2</sup>	48
Greater Sydney	11	11	10
Hunter	9	11	12
Murray	46	43	34
North Coast	46	46	47
Northern Tablelands	37	32	27
North West	30	26	28
Riverina	19	25	22
South East	60	56	44
Western	15	25	36
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>328<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>348</b>

<sup>2</sup> The reduction in Central West property numbers is due to the majority of Central West LLS staff have been involved in the flood response across the regions.

<sup>3</sup> The number of properties surveyed for September is lower due to the increased rainfall and flooding across the state, these conditions have made it difficult for LLS staff and landholders to make contact.



## 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 3: Average Regional Property Score and Local Government Areas (LGAs)**

Region	August			September			October		
	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)
<b>Central Tablelands</b>	<b>Good</b>	Cowra - <b>Excellent</b> Blayney and Mid Western – <b>Very Good</b>	-	<b>Very Good</b>	Cowra - <b>Excellent</b>	Bathurst, Blayney, Lithgow, Oberon and Orange - <b>Good</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	Cowra and Mid Western - <b>Excellent</b>	Lithgow and Oberon - <b>Good</b>
<b>Central West</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	Narromine - <b>Excellent</b>	Bogan, Coonamble, Warrumbungle and Lachlan - <b>Good</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	-	Lachlan - <b>Excellent</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	-	Bogan, Narromine and Warren - <b>Good</b>
<b>Greater Sydney</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	-	Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Camden - <b>Good</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	-	-	<b>Very Good</b>	-	Blue Mountains and Hawkesbury - <b>Good</b>
<b>Hunter</b>	<b>Good</b>	-	Upper Hunter - <b>Reasonable</b>	<b>Good</b>	Upper Hunter and Muswellbrook – <b>Very Good</b>	-	<b>Very Good</b>	-	Mid Coast, Dungog and Maitland - <b>Good</b>
<b>Murray</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	Berrigan and Deniliquin - <b>Excellent</b>	Albury - <b>Reasonable</b> Tumbarumba - <b>Good</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	Berrigan - <b>Excellent</b>	Albury - <b>Good</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	Hume, Federation, Berrigan and Edward River - <b>Excellent</b>	-

Region	August			September			October		
	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)
<b>North Coast</b>	<b>Good</b>	Kyogle and Richmond Valley Council – <b>Very Good</b>	Kempsey, Nambucca and Coffs Harbour - <b>Reasonable</b>	<b>Good</b>	Bellingen, Kyogle and Richmond Valley – <b>Very Good</b>	Kempsey - <b>Reasonable</b>	<b>Good</b>	Bellingen, Kyogle and Richmond Valley Council – <b>Very Good</b>	Kempsey, Nambucca and Coffs Harbour - <b>Reasonable</b>
<b>Northern Tablelands</b>	<b>Below Requirements</b>	Walcha, Guyra and Glen Innes Severn - <b>Reasonable</b>	-	<b>Reasonable</b>	Guyra and Inverell - <b>Good</b>	Tenterfield – <b>Below Requirements</b>	<b>Good</b>	-	Uralla and Glen Innes Severn - <b>Reasonable</b>
<b>North West</b>	<b>Good</b>	Narrabri and Tamworth – <b>Very Good</b>		<b>Very Good</b>	-	Moree Plains - <b>Good</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	Tamworth - <b>Excellent</b>	Walgett and Moree Plains - <b>Good</b>
<b>Riverina</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	Temora and Bland - <b>Excellent</b>	Snowy Valleys, Cootamundra and Wagga Wagga - <b>Good</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	Harden, Young, Gundagai, Temora, Bland and Hay - <b>Excellent</b>	Snowy Valleys and Cootamundra - <b>Good</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	Hilltops, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional, Temora, Coolamon, Wagga, Bland and Hay - <b>Excellent</b>	Narrandera - <b>Good</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>Good</b>	Shoalhaven, Illawarra, Wingecarribee, Bombala and Snowy River – <b>Very Good</b>	Eurobodalla - <b>Reasonable</b> Pallerang – <b>Below Requirements</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	Goulburn-Mulwaree and Bega - <b>Excellent</b>	Pallerang and Eurobodalla - <b>Good</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	Upper Lachlan and Bega - <b>Excellent</b>	Pallerang and Eurobodalla - <b>Reasonable</b>
<b>Western</b>	<b>Good</b>	Brewarrina – <b>Very Good</b>	Central Darling - <b>Reasonable</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	-	Cobar - <b>Good</b>	<b>Reasonable</b>	Bourke - <b>Good</b>	-

### 3. Average Regional Property Score

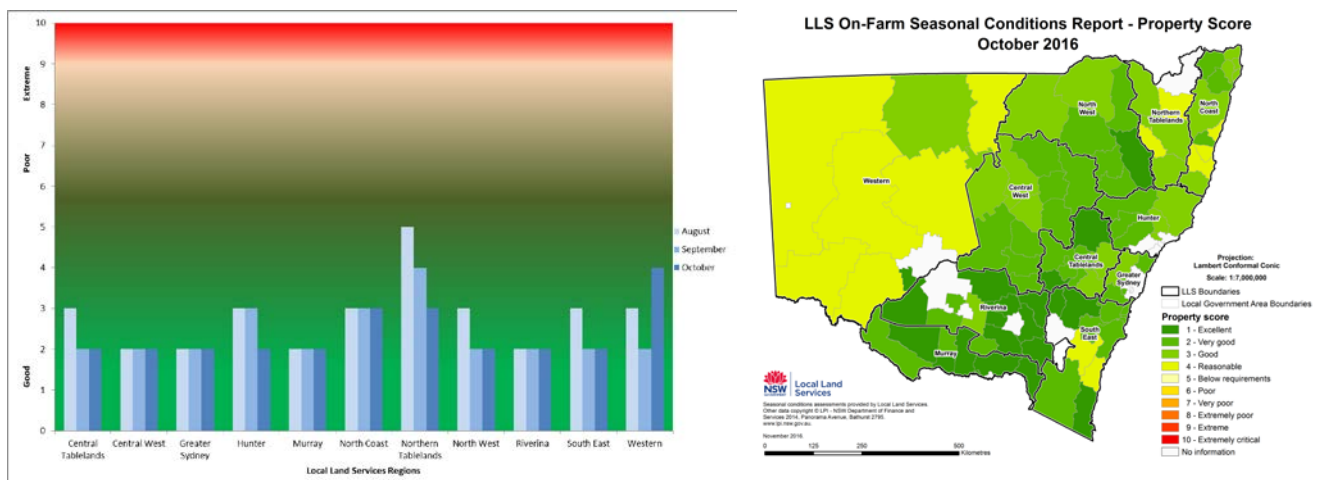
The average regional property score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 5. This score includes an average score of the water, agronomic and livestock categories across the regions local government areas.

**Table 4: The average regional property score**

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

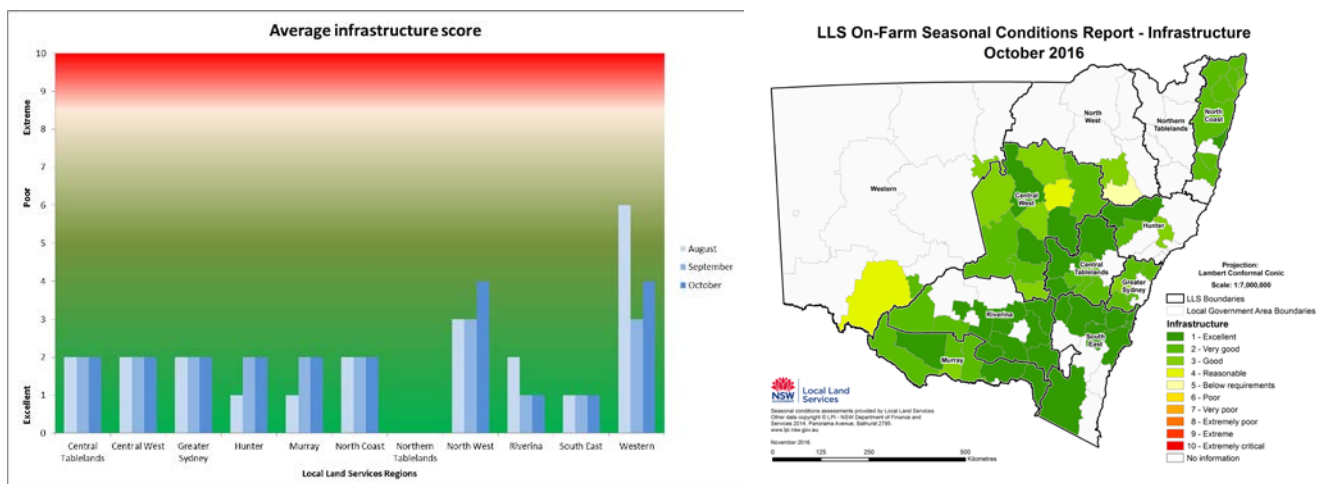
The average regional infrastructure score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 6. This score is for the condition of regional infrastructure including bores, tanks, troughs and piping. The infrastructure score is used to capture information for the Regional Assistance Advisory 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 5: The average regional infrastructure score**

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

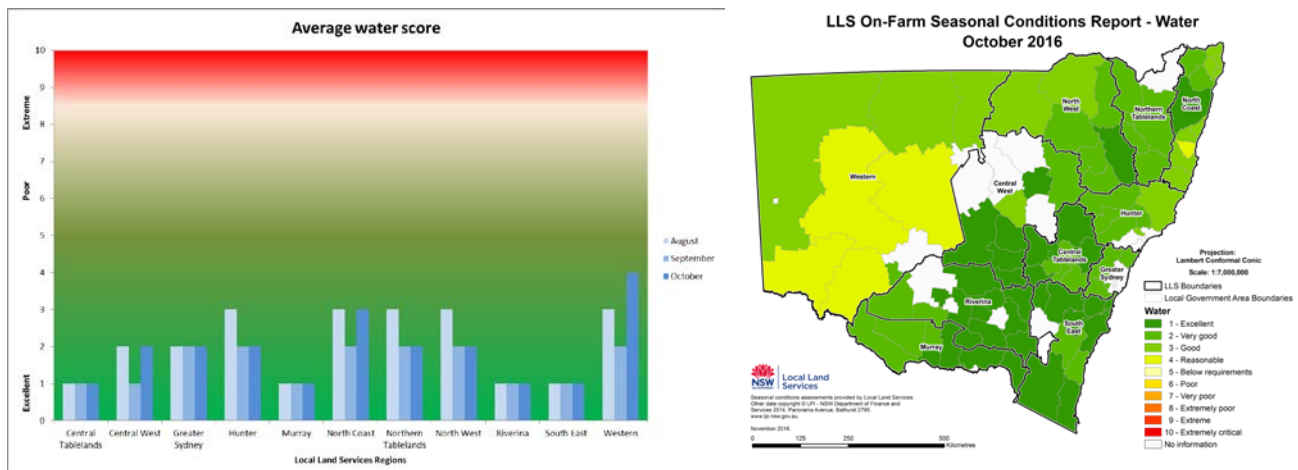
The average regional water score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 7. This score is for the condition of regional water including surface water, dams and stock accessed rivers, creeks and springs.

**Table 6: The average regional water score**

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

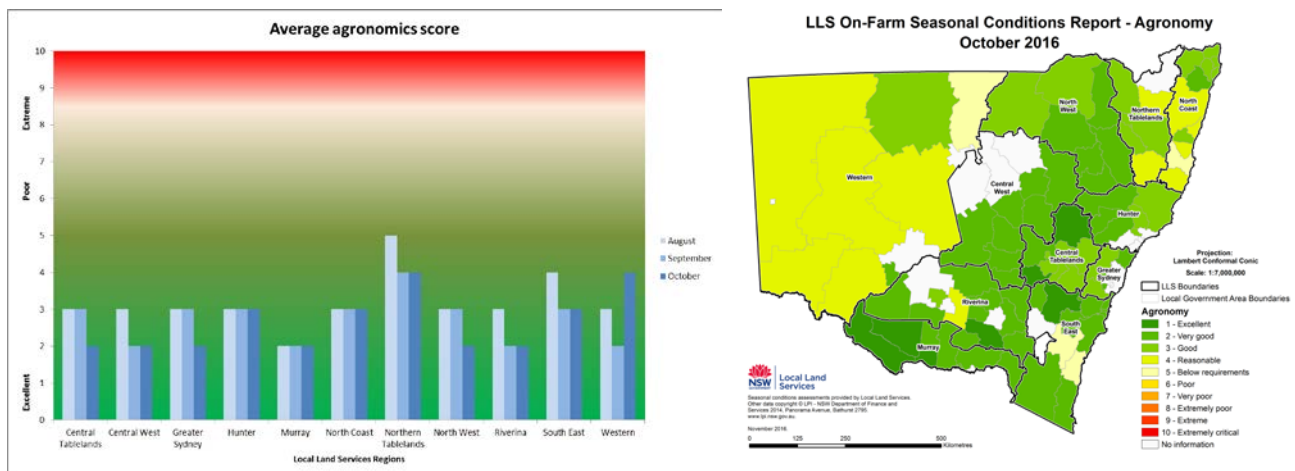
The average regional agronomics score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 8. This score is for the condition of regional agronomics including native pastures, improved pastures and cropping.

**Table 7: The average agronomics score**

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

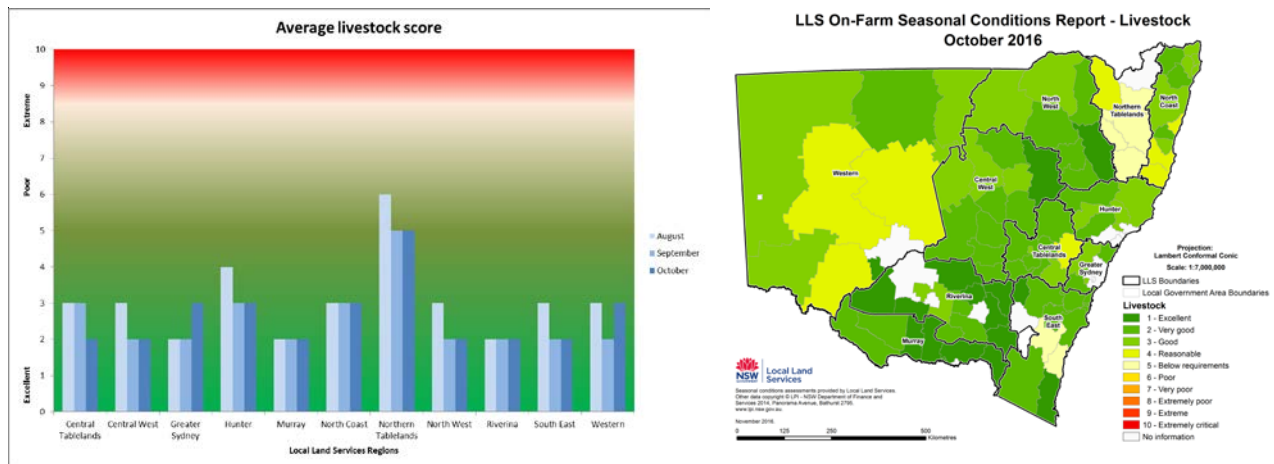
The average regional livestock score for the 11 regions for the past three months is shown in Table 9. This score is for the condition of regional livestock including beef, sheep and other.

**Table 8: The average livestock score**

Region	Average scores for regions		
	August	September	October
Central Tablelands	Good	Good	Very Good
Central West	Good	Very Good	Very Good
Greater Sydney	Very Good	Very Good	Good
Hunter	Reasonable	Good	Good
Murray	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
North Coast	Good	Good	Good
Northern Tablelands	Poor	Below Requirements	Below Requirements
North West	Good	Very Good	Very Good
Riverina	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
South East	Good	Very Good	Very Good
Western	Good	Very Good	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 9: Regional commentary on seasonal conditions**

Region	August	September	October
<b>Central Tablelands</b>	<p>Good widespread rain continued to fall across the region during the past month and this has ensured that water storage's have remained full or in many cases overflowing. The continued wet conditions have caused some pasture and cropping issues however, as the existing soil moisture and ground water levels have caused water logging and slower growth rates for some. Generally pastures are growing well across most districts and especially so in the Cowra area, but pastures have been much slower to respond in the colder climactic areas and are only now just starting to grow. Once again livestock conditions have been compromised due to cold and wet conditions in the east of the region, with supplementary feeding still occurring in some areas and some classes of livestock struggling to maintain condition. In those areas where temperatures have been slightly higher and where pastures have responded better, livestock conditions remain good.</p>	<p>The excellent spring that we have been waiting for appears to be here for most of our region. Needless to say stock water will not be an issue for some months for the whole of our region. This is in stark contrast to the potentially concerning situation that was looming when the autumn break failed in early May. All dams are now full and have been overflowing on most properties for some months. The soil is completely saturated and all producers are looking forward to a couple of weeks of dry, warm weather. Most of our producers are reporting the wettest winter for decades with gullies and creeks recording massive flows.</p> <p>Pastures are growing rapidly, especially in the lower altitude areas to the west and north. They are still slow to respond in areas around Orange, Blayney, Oberon and Lithgow due to water logging and low overnight temperatures. Pasture quality is excellent. Some losses have occurred with grazing crops such as oats due to continuous water logging. Other grain and seed crops, despite being a fortnight late, have generally performed well but may be difficult to harvest if conditions do not dry out.</p> <p>Livestock are in excellent condition generally, despite experiencing a very difficult winter. They lost condition during winter due to cold, wet conditions and grazing short pastures that were very high in moisture and lacking in energy. All stock are now meeting their nutritional requirements. Sheep probably suffered the most during the winter. Sucker lambs are generally a month behind where they should be at the end of Sept. All supplementary feeding has stopped. The upcoming spring should be exceptionally good.</p>	<p>Excellent spring conditions have continued across the region over the past month with some properties reporting one of the best springs they have had. Water storage's have remained full or overflowing for an extended period of time, and will continue to provide a regular water supply over the coming months. Pastures remain good across the Central Tablelands area, with many properties reporting abundant stock feed. They have been slower to respond around parts of the Cabonne, Lithgow and Oberon regions, with pastures generally a few weeks behind where they would normally be at this time of year. Despite this producers have been commenting that pastures have been picking up rapidly over the past few weeks. Canola crops have suffered somewhat due to the wet winter and may not end up reaching full potential, whilst cereal crops may have been effected by several late light frosts, but otherwise are generally excellent. The excellent pasture conditions have had an undesired effect, with bloat deaths reported for some livestock producers. In addition, competition for pastures from kangaroos remains a concern for many landholders with large numbers effecting management practices on many properties. Overall livestock condition has remained excellent across the region, except for those areas where the pastures have been slower to respond. In these areas, livestock have been picking up rapidly over the past few weeks as the agronomic conditions continue to improve. The decision by some landholders to reduce stock numbers earlier in the season has generally paid off with better conditioning of remaining stock, although some livestock classes are still taking time to improve after the cold and wet winter</p>



Region	August	September	October
<b>Central West</b>	Once again rainfall has varied across the region from 20ml to 90ml spread over several days. Nearly all groundwater storage's are at capacity with a full soil moisture profile. Localised flooding occurred in some areas with flood warnings issued during the month. This has increased water logging of some crops and pastures and with landholders moving stock to higher ground, this has put pressure on the pasture growth in some areas. Although with the slightly warmer weather for the last couple of weeks pasture growth and crop growth has moved ahead quite quickly. Some cereal crops are coming out in head and canola across most districts is flowering. If it stays wet there is the potential for reduced yields. Stock are generally in good condition but with the continuing wet conditions bloat, foot problems and worm burdens will continue to be a problem in the coming months.	Moderate to major flooding has occurred throughout the Central West due to above average rainfall in September, this has resulted in many crops damaged or destroyed due to water logging. The large volume of water in the district has also impacted pasture growth in some regions with water inundation of paddocks reducing available pasture and with areas of high ground grazed heavily by stock stranded by flood water, water storage's are at full capacity across the region. Some regions are experiencing excellent pasture and crop growth. Stock are generally in good condition but with the continuing wet conditions bloat, foot problems and worm burdens will continue to be a problem in the coming months.	Conditions are starting to dry out. Winter feed has mostly dried off preventing some summer feed from emerging due to heavy ground coverage though pasture in some areas is very tall and still lush. Water availability is above average in most areas with dams at capacity and some creeks still flowing. Some summer crops are behind schedule due to wet conditions with crops that were not subject to flooding appear quite dense, landholders in some areas have being baling hay and are reporting they are getting well above average bails/ha. Livestock are in excellent condition again but there are some concerns around grass seeds and 3 day sickness due to the abundance of mosquitoes. Fly in sheep will also be a concern into the future.
<b>Greater Sydney</b>	Greater Sydney in the month of August consisted of two low pressure weather systems, which saw areas receiving anywhere between 41.8mm – 140.0mm of rainfall. Temperatures were above average; however there were several cold days where temperatures dropped below 0 degrees on a few occasions. Pasture condition remains slow, however pasture growth is sure to improve moving into spring. Water sources are at 90% or above due to the consistent rainfall over the past few months. Livestock conditions are reasonable, with foot issues and sheep welfare concerns occurring throughout the region due to lack of supplementary feeding and additional care during the wet winter months.	Greater Sydney for the month of September was a warm and sunny month with above average maximum and minimum temperatures being recorded throughout the region. Above average rainfall was also recorded with areas receiving anywhere between 52mm – 80mm. The majority of rain fell in one or two days early in the month with generally dry conditions prevailing for the remainder. Pastures and topsoil moisture levels remained relatively high across the region, however due to the warmer weather pasture growth is slowly improving. Livestock conditions remain reasonably good, with supplementary feeding of stock now declining.	Weather recorded in the Greater Sydney region for the month of October was largely warm and dry. Temperatures reached a maximum of 33.4 degrees during the beginning of the month which was combined with low levels of rainfall (12-16mm) in much of the region. This is in contrast to the northern part of the region (Central Coast area) which recorded a maximum of 60mm of rainfall. Pasture growth and quality has continued to improve due to the warm weather, with water supplies and dams sitting at 85-90% capacity across the region. Livestock health and overall condition remains good.
<b>Hunter</b>	There has been good general rain across the Hunter and a promising spring is approaching. Even though winter has come to an end, native pasture growth is slow especially in the elevated reaches of the valley where feed will not come away for at least a fortnight. Cattle are fattening and doing well on lower improved country and crops. Although there is no widespread supplementary feeding, some producers are feeding lactating cows waiting for the warmer weather. A "green drought" has been reported in Timor area east of Murrurundi which had missed earlier rainfalls and were soil temperatures are still low.	Excellent rainfall of 80 to 200mm for the month across the Upper Hunter and Merriwa-Cassilis region. A good fresh flow through local streams and rivers following minor flooding in upper reaches. Pastures and crops jumping away on lower country with bloat an issue on high clover content paddocks. Reported stock losses from bloat, clostridial diseases and scouring in calves on wet green pastures. Early 5-in-1 vaccinations strongly recommended. The high country is awaiting warmer days and soil temperatures to come away. Many late sown crops have experienced rapid growth and warm dry weather is now required to windrow canola, mature	Upper Hunter experiencing its best spring in many years with excellent pasture growth as weather warms up. Creeks and springs running well and good ground water and dam levels although runoff has varied with storm activity. Silage being made near Scone. Merriwa cattle finishing on oats and improved pastures. Feed improving in elevated grazing country and livestock fattening as growth rates improve with temperature increases. In the mid-Hunter, Singleton received good rainfall this month after a dry early start. Now finally experiencing good pasture growth for a late spring. Weeds made a

Region	August	September	October
	<p>The Manning and Great Lakes districts are awaiting a spring start. Scattered rain and showers over the last month have added much-needed moisture with winter pastures benefiting from this combined with warmer weather. Good growth of clover in naturalised pastures should see good spring growth if scattered showers and rain continue. Recent falls have improved conditions west of Gloucester marginally. Fodder, winter cereal and oilseed crops in the Merriwa district are looking promising with good falls of rain, however, aphids have been a problem in most crops including grazing oats. Good clover germination may mean bloat problems are not far away. A few isolated cases have been reported and 5-in-1 preventative vaccinations for clostridial diseases are recommended.</p> <p>Creeks and rivers running well in the ranges while some isolated areas are still looking for runoff to fill dams.</p>	<p>cereal crops and fill grain for harvest. Some magnificent feeder cattle across the district on oat crops and pasture.</p> <p>The central and lower Hunter received falls of 60-80mm for the month. Clovers have germinated well at Muswellbrook, now flowering, and across the Gloucester district. Drying cold winds over past week have dried out winter pastures in Lower Hunter and Manning Great Lakes. Improved pastures are good however light to heavy falls of rain are required to reach full potential. Native pastures in the Singleton and Dungog area and are greening up slowly in the cool, windy conditions. Cattle are improving in condition coming out of winter and recording good weight gains on spring crops and pastures.</p>	<p>head start on some pastures with the light September rain and there are heavy infestations of fireweed on some country. Likewise, parts of Muswellbrook have had a good strike of saffron thistles. Livestock are in good health and growing well. Clovers flowering and expecting good seed set on rested paddocks. Native grasses drying off.</p> <p>In the mid-coastal Gloucester and Greater Taree area, un-irrigated winter feed under stress from infrequent storm activity. Summer pastures meeting demand however further rain is required for growth rates to improve.</p> <p>Seasonal conditions in Curracabark area have somewhat improved.</p>
<b>Murray</b>	<p>Still very wet across the whole of the Murray region. The soil moisture profile is full in many areas for the first time in around 15 years.</p> <p>The damage to pastures and crops from waterlogging is just starting to show although areas not waterlogged are in good to excellent condition. The wet conditions have led to high leaf disease pressures on winter crops, with fungicide applications common. Landholders are hopeful not to irrigate winter crops in the spring - although some still budgeting on at least one irrigation depending on crop potential and seasonal conditions in Sept and October. Irrigated summer cropping programs are being considered - the scale of programs dependent on several still unknown factors.</p> <p>Growth has been good, with minimal frost in all areas except the hills. Growth in these far Eastern hills has been adequate still, but will really start to take off with the warmer weather from Sept onwards. Issues with foot abscesses in sheep are expected to explode across the region now with the onset of warmer weather, the still very wet paddocks and lush feed. Stock conditions are very good in general. Supplementary feeding is still occurring, mostly grain to lambing ewes and roughage to cattle where there is not yet the bulk to carry them through, or the paddocks are still too wet to allow stock</p>	<p>Still very wet across the whole of the Murray region. The soil moisture profile is overflowing in many areas with flooding in most riparian system. A Local Command Centre has been set up in Albury to process flood issues.</p> <p>The damage to pastures and crops from waterlogging is starting to show with small areas of cop totally destroyed and other areas suffering damage. Reports of landholders giving up trying to pump the water off crops demonstrates the extent and duration of the waterlogging. Lodging is now common in winter crops. This may have an impact on yield and harvest. Wet conditions are causing substantial problems for rice (&amp; other summer crop) growers as paddocks are too wet to prepare. It is likely that these crops will be sown later than optimum, which may negatively impact their yield potential. Many growers have still not been able to spray paddocks with knockdown herbicides as paddocks are too wet to traffic and aerial operators are refusing to spray glyphosate due to herbicide drift risk. In both crops and pastures across the region, areas that are not waterlogged are growing well, with yield potential well above average, although the potential for growing conditions at this time of year are also being impacted by the generally cool and overcast days (limited thermal hours), and frequent rainfall however, minimal frost has been experienced. Many paddocks in Central and East Murray have free water on</p>	<p>Please be aware that this scoring sheet doesn't adequately allow identification of issues impacting parts of a farm enterprise. Many individual paddocks or areas have been severely impacted by flooding but this is not well reflected in the coring system. One landholder had 50% of his crop completely destroyed by flooding, and expects a very good yield from the other 50%. One Landholder in the Corowa LGA requested 'a proper implementation of development consent particularly when drainage is listed as a consideration under Local Government Plans'.</p> <p>After an exceptionally September, and start to October, the last three weeks of October were dry. There are anecdotal reports of the dry conditions in the later half of the month leading to very hard setting soil conditions in Central Murray.</p> <p>Crops and Pastures; Many crops and pastures continue to show the impacts of (in many cases prolonged) waterlogging - particularly on heavier soils with little relief (slope) in the dryland area. This is likely to have an impact on crop and pasture yields, with overland flooding being experienced in many areas along the creek systems. Many paddocks have had free water on the surface - both the result of direct impact of flood water and from surface</p>

Region	August	September	October
	<p>on. Water quality is back to high across the region, with no further reports of BGA. Majority of ground tanks are full or close to.</p>	<p>the surface, either significantly reducing grazing area, or where landholders are forced to graze these areas, damage to soil structure will be occurring. Unless landholders have mostly low-lying land, the feed situation for livestock is currently very good and stock are in very good condition. Bloat has become an issue again and may continue to be so for a while. Very little supplementary feeding occurring now.</p> <p>Paddocks that have been set aside for hay production are currently too wet to access. These may be cut late (impacting feed quality) or the hay option may be abandoned (and paddocks grazed instead). This includes some winter cereal paddocks that had originally been planned for hay which will now be carried through for grain production. Conversely, if the right breaks occur, this could be a bumper season for forage storage.</p> <p>Irrigation allocations (general security) have increased - in the Murray now at 53% for the 2017 'water year' whilst in the Murrumbidgee remain at 61%.</p> <p>Note: The conditions scale is probably not really reflective of the current situation about flooding/waterlogged conditions - in particular with the agronomic conditions. Waterlogging is a real issue, but the results of this will not really be seen until headers go in. Lodging of crops is a real issue, with many canola crops already lodged, and cereal crops starting to do the same. There may be some real implications with this - but the SCR 'numbers' don't really reflect the current situation.</p>	<p>runoff. There are likely to be some crops completely written off, some stripped to recover costs, and some very high yielding crops. In Central and Western Murray pasture groundcover levels are very high and hay making is well and truly underway where ground water is not preventing access. There are some excellent clover pastures being baled. There are reports of poorer than expected pasture growth this year in the Eastern Hills, possibly due to loss of nutrients caused by excessive rainfall earlier. There are reports of increasing vigilance with animal health issues - flystrike and worms in particular. Limited foot abscess issues in sheep so far however grass seeds are becoming a problem, particularly barley grass. There are a very high proportion of full ground tanks reliant on surface water. Irrigation allocations (general security) have increased - in the Murray now at 72% for the 2017 'water year' whilst in the Murrumbidgee now at 76%.</p> <p>Forecasted Potential Issues; Summer Cropping down; The area of summer cropping is likely to be reduced even though irrigation allocations increase. Issues with paddock accessibility and trafficability have limited the amount and extent of paddock preparation for summer cropping (particularly rice).</p> <p>Disease Risks; Mosquito numbers are exceedingly high, and will likely increase as water levels subside and become stagnant and reports of Black water in Edward River.</p> <p>Fire Concerns; There is a significant volume of dry matter in the pastoral areas which quickly dry out and given the 3 month rainfall and temperature outlooks, several producers are concerned about high fire risk.</p>
<b>North Coast</b>	<p>Some producers have noted a decrease in livestock condition due to the colder weather and wet conditions during the month. However, everything is good and the rainfall should set them up for a good spring.</p>	<p>Overall, producers on the North Coast are experiencing a good start to spring with many areas receiving sporadic showers over the last month, resulting in reasonable pasture growth.</p>	<p>The promising spring that we have previously alluded to has not eventuated. The Mid and North Coast have mainly missed out on the good falls of widespread rain. Isolated storm activity has assisted mainly the producers in the Coastal strip but the majority of the hinterland region has not received beneficial falls.</p> <p>A report on ABC local radio this week of a veteran Upper Bellinger Valley farmer looking at purchasing fodder as his</p>

Region	August	September	October
			<p>pastures and water supply are severely depleted is typical of what is shaping as a tough couple of months. His records indicate that the current dry spell is an unprecedented record.</p> <p>Cold overnight temperatures are having a negative impact on pasture growth.</p>
<b>Northern Tablelands</b>	<p>Excellent rains across the whole region throughout August have lifted water supplies to average or above average levels in all LGAs and have replenished soil moisture as we come into spring.</p> <p>The rainfall has been particularly timely for winter grain and forage crops with the outlook for good yields in wheat, barley and chick pea crops. The forage crops have continued to provide excellent feed for stock across the region, however some crops, in lower lying paddocks, have had to be rested as the ground has become too wet to allow continued grazing. These crops may well be used for hay or grain as the spring progresses.</p> <p>As yet we have seen only minor improvements in pasture growth, as soil temperatures are still to warm up enough to allow spring growth.</p> <p>Stock numbers remain low and stock has not yet started to put on condition, particularly with the pressure of calving and lambing. However good growth rates, in lambs and calves are anticipated as the weather and pasture pick up.</p>	<p>Continued good rains through September have brought almost all on farm water storages to capacity and have maintained good flows in the creeks and rivers. Some minor flooding has occurred in parts of the region, particularly on the Western side of our area.</p> <p>Pastures are starting to respond with the move into spring but this has been slow on the higher parts and the Eastern side of the region. Continuing lower than normal stock numbers are allowing pastures more chance to get away and almost all supplementary feeding has ceased.</p> <p>There has been a small improvement overall in stock condition and good lambing and calving percentages have been reported.</p> <p>Fodder crops have continued to be highly productive with some being closed up for hay or silage making as the need to graze them has decreased and/or the soil has become too wet to graze. Commercial cereal and pulse crops still show good prospects, however there is concern that they may be subject to increased fungal and insect attack with the wet conditions.</p> <p>The other concern of commercial croppers is that some paddocks will be too wet at harvest to allow passage of machinery.</p>	<p>Good rains have continued through October and all farm water supplies are now at capacity with good flows in the creeks and rivers. No further flooding reported this month. Pasture response has been slower than expected due to low overnight temperatures with a number of frosts recorded on the higher country. However most areas report significant improvements in pasture conditions and fodder crops have continued to be productive beyond expected time frames.</p> <p>Stock numbers remain static and stock condition is improving with calving and lambing generally finished. Stock numbers are expected to rise as calves and lambs reach weaning age and extra breeders are retained.</p> <p>Commercial crops continue to progress well with harvest starting in the more western parts of Inverell shire.</p>
<b>North West</b>	<p>Groundwater supplies have maintained levels throughout the month. Surface water supplies including creeks and farm dams have improved due to wide spread rain across the region. Bulk water storages in the region have replenished, leading to increased irrigation water allocation.</p> <p>Winter crops have received significant rainfall and this has caused some waterlogging in the western areas of the region. As temperatures start to increase, the risk of foliar disease is growing and significant quantities of fungicides have already been applied.</p> <p>Pastures are growing at expected levels and strong legume</p>	<p>Significant rainfall across the region has replenished water supplies and increased streamflows dramatically. This has also caused some flooding across the region during September in the western part of the region.</p> <p>Crops overall are performing well and the rainfall has improved the potential area of summer crop to sown soon. Winter crops, particularly pulse crops, have suffered from waterlogging and disease pressure due to the wet weather. Pasture growth has been excellent and as temperatures continue to rise, summer dominant pastures will start to produce well.</p> <p>With good feed supplies, livestock are in good condition and</p>	<p>Good rainfall across the region has increased stream flows and replenished water supplies significantly. In some parts of the region, particularly in the SW corner near Walgett and Carinda, this rainfall and streamflow has caused some damage to crops and pastures but the quantity of damage will be unclear until after harvest.</p> <p>Pasture growth is well above average across the region. The summer pastures are starting to germinate and with such good rainfall, we expect significant dry matter production.</p> <p>Winter cereal crop yields are expected to be well above</p>

Region	August	September	October
	<p>growth has increased bloat risk. Less stock are on the TSR network, indicating that on farm feed reserves are improving. Both sheep and cattle are performing well and restocking is slowly occurring, despite record high cattle prices.</p>	<p>this has reduced the need for maintenance feeding. As temperatures increase, flystrike may become an issue for sheep, especially in the western part of the region as access to stock is difficult.</p>	<p>average in the majority of the region and pulse and oilseed crops will also yield well, despite heavy disease pressure. Large temperature fluctuations have caused some germination issues with summer crop and small amounts of damage to winter crops but overall, there are large areas of healthy crops across the region. Parasite pressure is high in stock due to the climatic conditions, so producers need to manage this well to avoid losses. With large amounts of highly digestible feed available, producers are supplementing with fibre to balance diets. Overall stock numbers are still reduced but those stock in the region are in very good condition.</p>
<b>Riverina</b>	<p>Seasonal conditions are very wet to saturated, with rainfall events continuing over four consecutive months. Most locations recorded at least 2 frosts for the month, although the Cootamundra and Young districts experienced up to 15 frosts. The majority of dams and creeks are full to overflowing, and poor trafficability in many paddocks has caused issues for livestock producers and grain-growers. Cropping operations have been delayed by extended wet conditions, although a window of opportunity opened up in August on better drained paddocks for applications of post-emergent herbicide, insecticide, fungicide and nitrogen fertiliser.</p> <p>Pasture growth has been good on better-drained, improved pastures with milder temperatures but slower on the native pastures or those under heavier stock pressure. Supplementary feeding for nutrition and health has eased off in August with pasture growth now supplying breeding stock with their requirements. Young stock and dry stock are generally in good condition with feed-on- offer levels being above average for August, except where waterlogging has been severe over an extended period. Animal health issues have included internal parasite issues in sheep due to the very wet pastures and rickets development in young sheep due to the lack of sunlight. The District Veterinarians have seen young stock (weaners) at the greatest risk of infection from Black Scour, Small Brown Stomach, Barbers Pole Worm and Thin Necked Intestinal worms. The vets are also on the lookout for liver fluke in sheep grazing on fluke-prone</p>	<p>Seasonal conditions are saturated, with rainfall events continuing over five consecutive months and September rainfall at record levels. The vast majority of dams and creeks are full to overflowing. Very poor trafficability in the majority of paddocks has caused delays and issues for livestock producers and grain-growers. Cropping operations have been delayed by extended wet conditions. Limited applications of post-emergent herbicide, insecticide, fungicide and nitrogen fertiliser have occurred, mainly by aerial application where possible. The higher cost of aerial application this season, limited access with runways too wet to land on and delays in getting planes have all been factored into decision-making in the wet season. Not being able to carry out recommended practices has caused producers concern and many agricultural operations are being carried over until the soil dries out. Pasture growth has been good on better-drained, improved pastures but slow on native pastures in the east and on waterlogged pastures. Supplementary feeding for nutrition and health reduced in September except for providing hay for additional fibre to manage conditions such as bloat or redgut. Dry stock are generally in excellent condition and breeding stock in good condition. Some young stock, weaners, have suffered in the continuing, wet conditions and dropped in condition since last month. Animal health issues have included lameness to scald and virulent footrot, bloat on legume pastures, intestinal parasites and fleece rot.</p>	<p>Seasonal conditions have changed with drier and warmer weather allowing previously saturated paddocks to dry out and pasture growth to progress. The rainfall events between May and September have improved groundwater levels considerably and bore levels are reflecting this. The vast majority of dams are full to the brim with only a few still overflowing where water from springs is keeping them topped up. Trafficability has finally improved in the majority of paddocks although bogs are still wet. Producers have been catching up on all sorts of operational activities and animal husbandry after the extended delays. Pasture growth has been good on improved pastures. Supplementary feeding has focused on providing additional fibre to manage conditions such as bloat. Young stock and dry stock are generally in excellent condition and breeding stock have been putting on condition. Animal health issues have included lameness to scald, bloat on legume pastures and fleece rot. Cereal crops are filling grain and oilseed and pulse crops are in the late stages of pod filling. Diseases such as Stripe rust, Leaf rust and Septoria tritici blotch are becoming more apparent in a small number of wheat crops, in susceptible varieties and where fungicide application was prevented by wet weather. Sclerotinia levels in canola crops are resulting in some early maturation of seed and likely to result in reduced yields and some shattering before windrowing. Practices of</p>

Region	August	September	October
	<p>areas. There have been many feet problems in sheep due to the wet conditions, the majority presenting as foot abscess (scald) and interdigital dermatitis but some have been confirmed as footrot. Bloat has been reported in cattle and producers are watching stock closely with high clover content and pasture growth about to jump away.</p>		<p>desiccation and direct heading are being considered in some canola paddocks where weeds have been more problematic this season, or paddock trafficability could still hinder windrowing.</p> <p>Lupin-growers have been encouraged to monitor crops and report any disease symptoms of Anthracnose, a notifiable fungal disease not previously detected in NSW lupin crops.</p> <p>Flooding in the Mirrool Creek and Bland Creek area was extensive and caused economic losses in crops and pastures, and undue stress on breeding and younger stock. Crops that only suffered short periods of flooding will still have increased harvesting costs, reduced grain yields and detrimental impacts on grain or oilseed quality. Farm infrastructure such as fences, culverts and internal farm dirt roads has been severely impacted by the flood event.</p>
<p><b>South East</b></p>	<p><b>Coastal</b> - Rainfall on the coastal strip for the month of August was quite variable. Totals varied from as low as 1 to 5 in a small area to the south, through to 50 to 100mm in the northern area. These rainfalls were according to BOM also quite variable on the decile scale, going from above average in the north to below average in the south. Generally feed availability for the coastal area is satisfactory for this time of the year, and should continue to improve with some warm weather. Water supplies are still in good condition throughout the area. Livestock are also doing well in most areas.</p> <p><b>Highlands</b> - The majority of the Highlands area received between 25mm to 100mm for the month of August. According to BOM this is average for that month. In most areas there has still been limited pasture growth due to the wet conditions and low daily temperatures. This should improve once there is some warmer weather. Water supplies have improved in most areas due to the increase in run off rainfall for the month. Livestock are still in reasonable condition throughout the area.</p>	<p><b>Coastal</b> - September rainfall varied from 63 mm to 65 mm in the south to 50mm in the north, these falls close to average in north but below average in the south. Pastures rated as very good in the south and reasonable in the north, warmer spring weather should now start to drive growth of summer active pastures. Water supplies are full.</p> <p><b>Highlands</b> - The highlands received 63mm of rain at Moss Vale for the month of September this fall above the long term average of 41.6 and certainly timely rain heading into warmer months. Pastures across the region were rated as reasonable, meeting demand. Once again coming warmer weather should help to drive growth. Water supplies are full.</p> <p><b>Tablelands</b> - September saw above average rainfall across the Tablelands, with some landholders measuring up to 220mm in the Boorowa/Upper Lachlan District. Waterlogged paddocks and cool temperatures are contributing to yellowing of crops and slow growth rates in pasture. At present, pasture growth rates have not exceed grazing pressure but with the expected increase in soil and air temperatures in the coming weeks there should be a significant improvement in growth.</p>	<p><sup>4</sup></p>

<sup>4</sup> South East LLS were unable to provide a regional summary this month due to staff resourcing issues.

Region	August	September	October
	<p><b>Tablelands</b> - Tablelands for the month of August, received mainly average rainfall across the area. Totals for the month varied from 25mm through to 100mm in some areas. Pasture availability has stabilised if not slightly increased during the month. With some warmer weather though, this should increase in the coming month. Water supplies are generally good throughout the area. Most livestock are still doing well considering the wet and cold conditions, but there is a fair amount of feeding occurring with sheep and cattle.</p> <p><b>Monaro</b> - The majority of the Monaro area received below average rainfall for the month of August. Totals were generally between 5mm and 25 mm for the area. Like the Tablelands, pasture growth has been limited due to the colder conditions and for the Monaro lower rainfall. Also like the tablelands there is some feeding occurring and livestock are still in reasonable condition. Water supplies are also good in most areas.</p>	<p>Supplementary feeding is still occurring across some parts of the tablelands to support breeding stock until warmer weather and more feed becomes available. Water supplies are exceptional at present with dams and creeks overflowing or flooding on numerous occasions this month. Cattle and sheep are doing reasonably well, maintaining condition even with limited pasture growth this month and plenty of wet and cold weather.</p> <p><b>Monaro</b> - September saw Cooma Monaro receive 95mm of rain ranging from 75-100mm across the five measured properties. These falls well above the September average of 35.9mm.</p> <p>Pastures listed as reasonable to good across the region, livestock condition listed as good. Water supplies good.</p>	
<b>Western</b>	<p>Balranald LGA - Rainfall totals around the district varied slightly as is always the case but on average the district received around the 55 ml mark for the month. Most cereal crops are looking good and the expected harvest is around the November mark as per usual. Stock rates have increased slightly but the cost of stock at the moment, landholders are in the sell mode rather than the buying mode. Overall the stock are in good condition. On the feed front the country is looking the best it has for quite some time with a lot of ground cover, and the blue bush and salt-bush is benefiting from not having to sustain stock. As ground tanks are not relied upon in this district as much anymore, the bores are coping well due to water still laying in lower arrears of some paddocks</p> <p>Bourke/Brewarrina LGA - Goods falls of rain late in the month have brighten things up somewhat , with the prospect of a great Spring and early summer grasses, Landholders are reporting that this would be one of the best seasons ever with all sorts of herbage growing and water laying in all water course's &amp; gilguy's. All stock are in a 3 plus condition, with reports of good lambing &amp; good lambing percentages at marking time. Some small numbers of stock losses due to</p>	<p>Whole of the western LLS would be in a great shape. Above average rain fall for Sept across the region. Warmer weather coming this October will take the cream off the country but there will be enough growth, protein and substance left in the body of feed until summer, Flood water is the main concern at the moment with the southern river systems over flowing, and the northern rivers full. Mosquitoes are driving livestock (mad), as well as the people. Fly strike is very common with all sheep producers. Small numbers of 3 day sickness in cattle.</p>	<p>Conditions are very good but October rainfall figures across Western region are much lower than September which is good for flood affected areas. Surface water is excellent, however the flood from a range of river systems is just entering the Western region in some areas and the damage appears to be not as extensive as first thought. However, if we have a significant future rainfall event in the future this could escalate dramatically change the current situation. BOM is forecasting increased cyclonic activity over the next 3 months. The Menindee lakes will be full by the Mid-end of December based on the current flow rates. As spring growth dries up there will be increased risk of fires from late November onward. The main cropping areas to the south of the region appear not to be affected by flooding as other regions.</p>

Region	August	September	October
	<p>pulpy kidney or bloat have been reported. Water ways, ground tanks &amp; river systems are at a 2 score or better with the Paroo &amp; Bogan river's in flood watch condition.</p>		



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