



The Adapt Project

This project is supported by Central West Local Land Services, through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program

Thank you for participating in the Climate Webinar that was held on Tuesday the 4th of March 2020. We apologise that we did not have enough time to answer all of the questions on the day. We hope that this Q&A catch up addresses these sufficiently. For further information or any other Adapt Project enquiries do not hesitate to contact Pip Doolan on pip.doolan@lls.nsw.gov.au or 0436 473 375.

Q. Are websites giving 16 day forecasts using BoM data?

A. The Bureau offers a subscription service to its 7-day forecasts that are used by a range of third-parties. As part of the subscription contract, third-parties must acknowledge the Bureau if their products are based on the Bureau's data - that doesn't mean that the entire product is only made of Bureau data. It is quite common for third-parties to develop products by blending the Bureau's forecasts with other information. It is possible that the third-party who offers a 16-day forecast has developed it in part based on the Bureau's forecasts, plus other information that provides forecasts beyond 7-days.

Q. Why do different weather websites have different forecasts? Do they all work off the same information? Why are they interpreting it differently? Is the BOM the best place to find the most accurate forecasts?

A. Generally speaking, most forecasts are based on one or more of a set of global models. The Bureau operates one of those models, known as the ACCESS model, and it is designed to perform very well over Australia. Other global models also perform well across Australia. The Bureau's forecasters use their knowledge and expertise of Australia's weather, weather and hydrology, plus a range of computer model outputs from Australia and overseas, to produce the best possible forecast every day. Other organisations may have a similar forecast process, but add their own models and interpretation to the forecast, which is where you may start to see some differences. It is really important to objectively assess the forecast products you are using, to make sure it works for your intended application. Different forecasts may perform differently for different locations around Australia, and you may find that one service provider works better for you than another over the long term. You can read more about the accuracy of the Bureau's forecasts at <http://www.bom.gov.au/inside/forecast-accuracy.shtml>

Q. Will there be a radar placed in the far north west of the state- seems to be a big gap out there where a fair bit of the weather comes from to us?

A. Any new radars need to be funded by the State Government. The Bureau builds and operates radars on behalf of the state that funds their development. The NSW Government are funding three new radars for NSW, due to be operational around 2022.

Q. When is the next likely la Nina event?

A. El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is one of the major drivers of Australia's climate. If you'd like to keep up to date with ENSO forecasts you can visit <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>

Q. Do you believe in Climate Change?

A. The Bureau has a role in maintaining and monitoring Australia's climate record. The most up-to-date assessment of Australia's current and future climate is available publicly on the Bureau's website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/change/>

Q. What is the most important feature to understand when looking at a forecast?

A. It's important to understand the probability of rainfall - some forecasts will provide a single number, without explaining the chance of receiving that amount of rainfall. The Bureau attempts to show the range of possible outcomes so that the user can make a more informed decision. It's also important to understand the accuracy of the forecast. You can read more about the accuracy of the Bureau's forecasts at <http://www.bom.gov.au/inside/forecast-accuracy.shtml>

Q. What is the current southern oscillation index and what are the likely short term changes?

The most up-to-date information on the SOI is available at <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/#tabs=SOI>

Q. Can you describe how the different drivers of climate forecast impact on the weather we get in NSW e.g frontal systems, the west coast troughs, north west cloud bands etc, what patterns do we need to look for to get good consistent rainfall in CW NSW?

A. Climate drivers are phenomena in the oceans and atmosphere that persist for weeks or months at a time at different times of the year, and can have an impact on Australia's climate. The Southern Annual Mode (SAM), Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) are examples that can have strong influences the NSW climate. You can find more information about these climate drivers and many more at <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/about/>

Other Events...coming up in the CWLLS region.

- **Ag team Seasonal Climate Update**

10th March 2020 – Bedgerabong Hall, 8:00-10:30 am
- Albert Golf Club, 3:00pm – 5:00 pm

17th March 2020 – Coolah Sports Club, 12:00 – 2:30 am

18th March 2020 - Quambone, 9:30 am – 11:00 am

- **The Adapt Business Workshop: Improving farm business skills with UNE**

30th March 2020 – Coonamble , The hub 8:45 am – 3:15 pm

31st March 2020 – Parkes, The Coachman Hotel, 8:45 – 3:15 pm

2nd April 2020 – Yeoval, Bowling Club, 8:45 – 3:15 pm

3rd April 2020 – Nyngan, RSL Club, 8:45 – 3:15 pm

- **Understanding farm finance & negotiating with your bank workshops with Brad Sewell.**

7th April 2020- Parkes (See website for details)

8th April 2020 – Forbes (See website for details)

For further information contact a CWLLS offices or on our website:

<https://centralwest.lis.nsw.gov.au/resource-hub/events>



Local Land Services

www.lis.nsw.gov.au