



Core units: Exemplars – Year 7

Illustration 4: Flooding in south-east Queensland

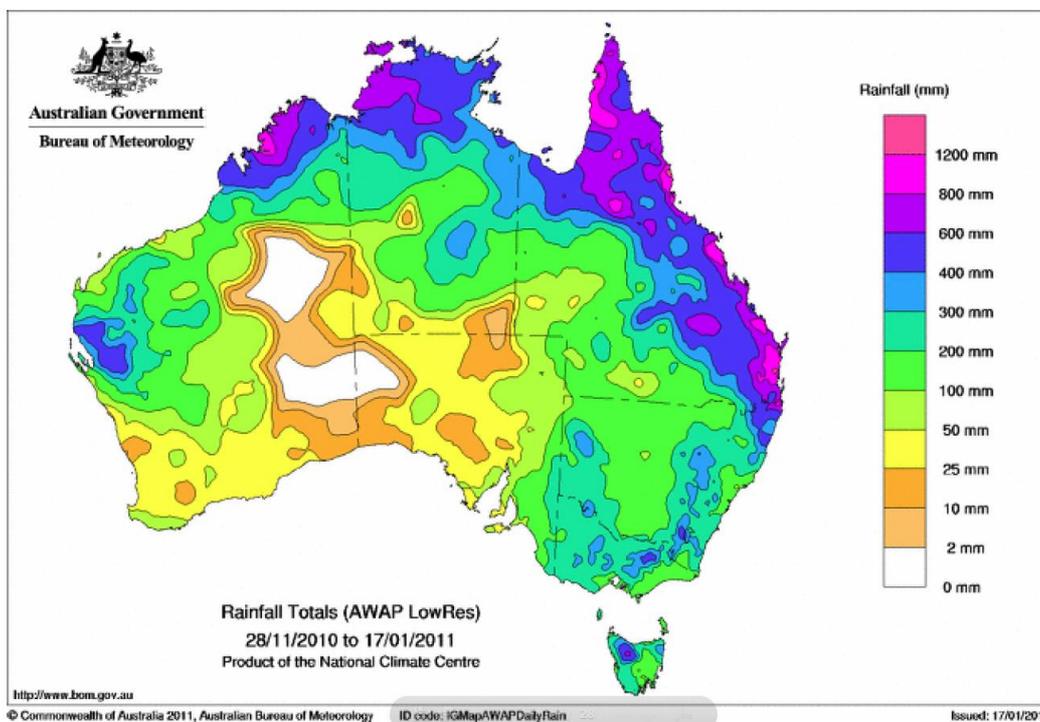
Extracts from Special Climate Statement 24

Frequent heavy rain events in late 2010/early 2011 lead to widespread flooding across eastern Australia

The period from late November 2010 to mid-January 2011 was extremely wet through much of eastern Australia. Six major rain events affected large parts of the eastern states during this period. This resulted in widespread flooding, and culminated in severe flooding (including river and flash flooding) in Brisbane and nearby areas of south-east Queensland and northern New South Wales during the second week of January.

10 to 12 January

There were six major rain events across Queensland during late November 2010 to mid-January 2011. One of these events occurred during 10–12 January 2011 when an upper-level low combined with a humid easterly flow brought very heavy rain to south-east Queensland and north-east New South Wales. The heaviest falls were in the areas north and west of Brisbane. Three-day totals exceeded 200 mm over most of the area bounded by Brisbane, Gympie and Toowoomba, including the majority of the Brisbane River Catchment. The map below shows south-east Queensland receiving the heaviest rainfall levels.



Total rainfall for the period 28 November 2010–17 January 2011

Floods resulting from the rainfall

The most destructive floods during the period occurred during the second week of January in the south-east corner of Queensland and adjacent border areas of New South Wales. There was major flooding through most of the Brisbane River catchment, most severely in the Lockyer and Bremer catchments (where numerous flood height records were set) and the Toowoomba area just outside the Brisbane catchment. In Brisbane, it was the second highest flood of the last 100 years, after January 1974. The flooding caused substantial loss of life, and thousands of properties were inundated in metropolitan Brisbane and elsewhere.

Source: Based on Australian Government. Bureau of Meteorology. (2011). *Special climate statement 24*. Melbourne: Bureau of Meteorology, pp. 2, 3, 6, 10. Retrieved December 2012, from: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/statements/scs24c.pdf>
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