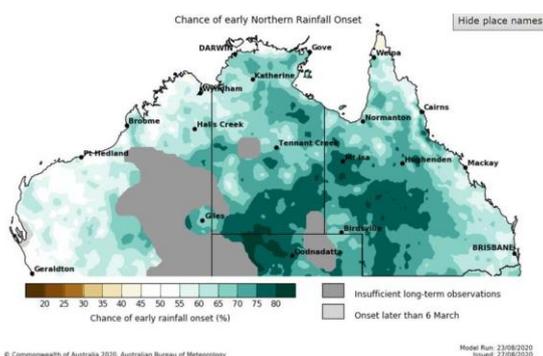


Drought and Climate Adaptation Program news

The [Drought and Climate Adaptation Program](#) is the Queensland Government's flagship drought and climate preparedness and adaptation program.

September 2020



Early rainfall onset likely for inland northern Australia

There is a greater chance of the wet season starting earlier this year than we would usually expect, based on historical Northern Rainfall Onset (NRO) observations since 1960.

The 2020-21 [NRO forecast](#) shows the likelihood of early onset rainfall is widespread across many areas of

northern Australia. A major contributor to this forecast is the [La Niña alert](#), meaning there is a 70% chance of a La Niña developing (roughly three times the normal chance).

The NRO outlook gives an indication of whether the first significant rains after 1 September are likely to be earlier or later than normal. View [normal onset dates here](#).

Pictured is the NRO forecast from 23 August 2020, showing a greater likelihood of early than usual onset for inland northern Australia.



Climate mates doubled to help graziers

There are now 16 [Climate Mates](#) across northern Australia to help more graziers manage drought and climate risks.

Climate Mates, like Elsie Dodd pictured here, are regionally located and established in their communities, with many of them living on-property and understanding the main issues impacting the grazing industry in their region.

They have a close working relationship with Northern Australia Climate Program (NACP) partners at the Bureau of Meteorology and the UK Met Office to allow information to

flow from the scientists to the producers, but also from the producers back to the researchers. Scientists then use this information for their research and to develop practical products to meet producer needs.

Find your local Climate Mate or [more information on NACP here](#).



Extreme summer heatwaves reduce fresh market sweet corn

Heatwave events over the past 10 years have impacted the yield and quality of summer harvested corn for several nationally significant sweet corn businesses based in the Lockyer Valley in Queensland.

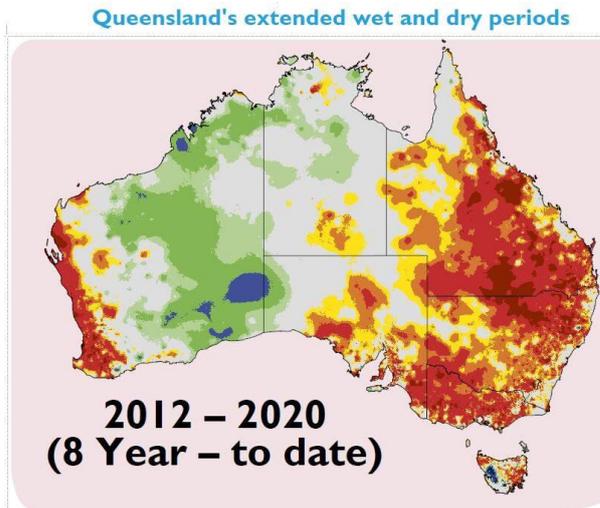
Local growers report an increase in the number and duration of heatwave events over recent years contributes to missing kernels (blanking) within the sweet corn cob. The severity of blanking varies between heatwave

events (and other cob blanking factors), but it's been reported up to a 70% reduction in marketable yield has been occurring.

The [Use of Bureau of Meteorology Multi-Week and Seasonal Forecasts to Facilitate Improved Management Decisions in Queensland's Vegetable Industry](#) project is working with these growers to help industry better understand the multi-faceted weather conditions that cause sweet corn cob blanking.

A better understanding, including new experimental forecasts, will help growers make improved management decisions to help reduce or eliminate adverse weather effects.

Queensland sweet corn is in high demand during summer. Maximising the yield assists the profitability of local farming businesses, underpins local employment and boosts regional economies.



Rainfall and pasture growth posters updated

The [Long Paddock's](#) well-known series of rainfall and pasture growth posters have been updated for 2020.

Four posters make up the series: Australia's Variable Rainfall; Queensland's Extended Wet and Dry Periods; Australia's Modelled Pasture Growth; and Australia's Variable Rainfall with tropical cyclone tracks.

Visit the [Rainfall Poster Page](#) on Long Paddock for new poster PDF files, play with the poster [Map](#)

[App](#), [download the poster update page](#) or watch the [instructive webinar](#).

Use the [poster update page](#) to add additional maps to your current poster.

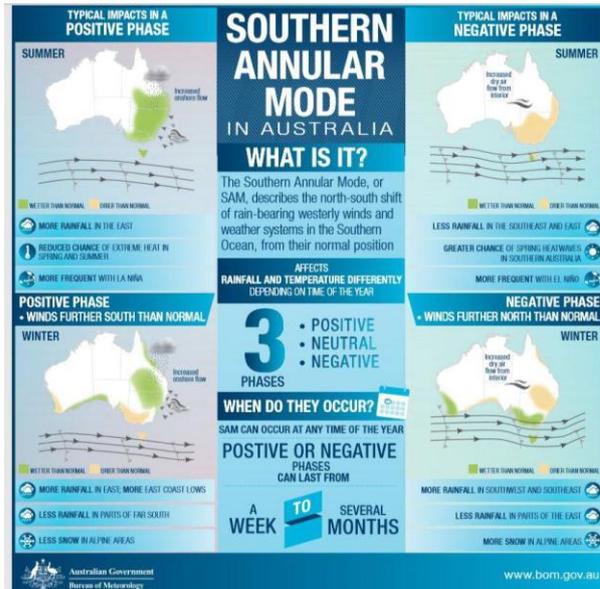


Grazier Colin Burnett shares lessons learnt and management of Lara Downs

Colin Burnett of Lara Downs, north of Julia Creek, sat down with GrazingFutures Beef Extension Officer, Lindsey Perry, to discuss the operation of [Lara Downs in this case study](#).

In 2019, Colin completed a [Nuffield Scholarship](#), which included a visit to New Zealand that particularly

impressed on Colin the importance of maintaining land, herd, people and finance banks. Colin provides notes about each of these aspects of a grazing enterprise in this case study.



New climate driver products

New climate driver forecasts are now available thanks to the Northern Australia Climate Program (NACP) and the Bureau of Meteorology, to help with your planning around seasonal forecasts and influences on rain and temperature in your region.

The [Southern Annular Mode](#) (SAM) describes the north-south shift of rain-bearing westerly winds and weather systems in the Southern Ocean, from their normal position. SAM affects rainfall and temperature differently depending on the time of year and your location.

The [Madden-Julian Oscillation](#) (MJO) is a pulse of wind, enhanced cloud and rainfall that cycles eastwards around the globe near the equator. It affects rainfall, wind, temperature, tropical cyclones, and monsoons and can trigger an El Niño event.

Users can access daily-updated forecast plots for the SAM and MJO, with interpretative text updated every fortnight. Both the [SAM](#) and [MJO forecasts](#) are for the upcoming month.

Users can also cycle through the daily forecasted cloudiness associated with the tropical atmospheric waves. For more info on these drivers, check out these videos of the [SAM](#) and [MJO](#) featuring the 'climate dog'.

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