

Factsheet: preparing rural business for natural disaster

Climate information available at your fingertips

The Bureau of Meteorology has extensive cyclone information on its website: <http://www.bom.gov.au/cyclone/index.shtml>. This includes short, medium and long term forecasts, as well as disaster information. It has extensive rainfall and wind data and also flood and cyclone information including river heights.

The Queensland Government Long Paddock website (www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au) also features comprehensive information on seasonal forecasts and the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI).



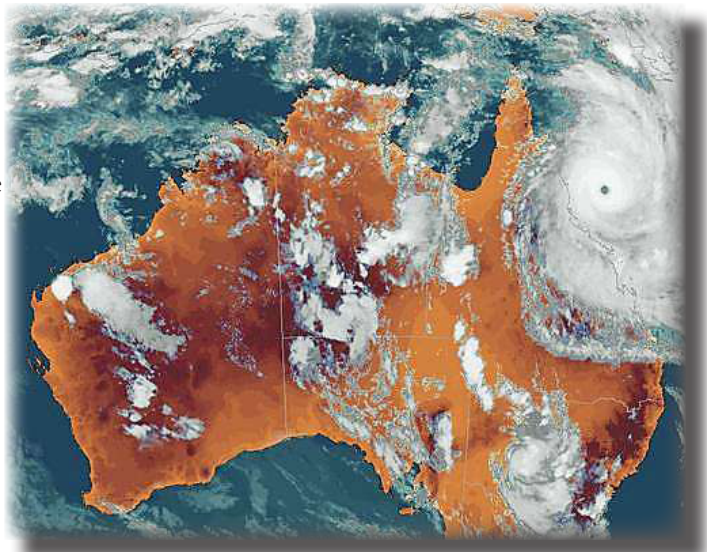
The Victorian Department of Primary Industries has climate information on seasonal influences available on its Climate Dogs animation available

here: (<http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farming-management/weather-climate/understanding-weather-and-climate/climatedogs>).

The United States National Hurricane Centre (<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>) also features information on developing hurricanes (cyclones) in the eastern Pacific Ocean. It also has information on disaster preparedness.

The Fiji Bureau of Meteorology also has information about current and potential tropical lows and cyclones (<http://www.met.gov.fj/>). This centre first identified the early formations that became Cyclone Yasi on January 26 2011.

The SunWater website has information on major water storages across the State, and their current levels (www.sunwater.com.au).



Do you have a smart phone or tablet? Here are some useful apps:

- The Weather Channel
- Oz Radar
- DisasterWatch
- Water storage
- MyBiz Shield
- Elders Weather
- Ready Queensland



Farmers are urged to inform themselves about the seasonal forecasts and outlooks. These forecasts can play a crucial role in your preparations and planning. However, they should be used as a guide. Forecasts can at times be wrong. Forecasts can predict the number of cyclones but they cannot predict where or if these cyclones would hit the coast. You should always prepare. Being informed about the risks is a good start.