# Solomon Islands Meteorological Service

Early Action Rainfall Watch.

August 2025

The Early Action Rainfall (EAR) Watch provides sector managers with a brief summary of recent rainfall patterns, particularly for drought monitoring and the rainfall outlook for the coming months.

El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Update

Neutral
Watch — Watch
Alert — Alert
La Nina — El Nino

ENSO Neutral

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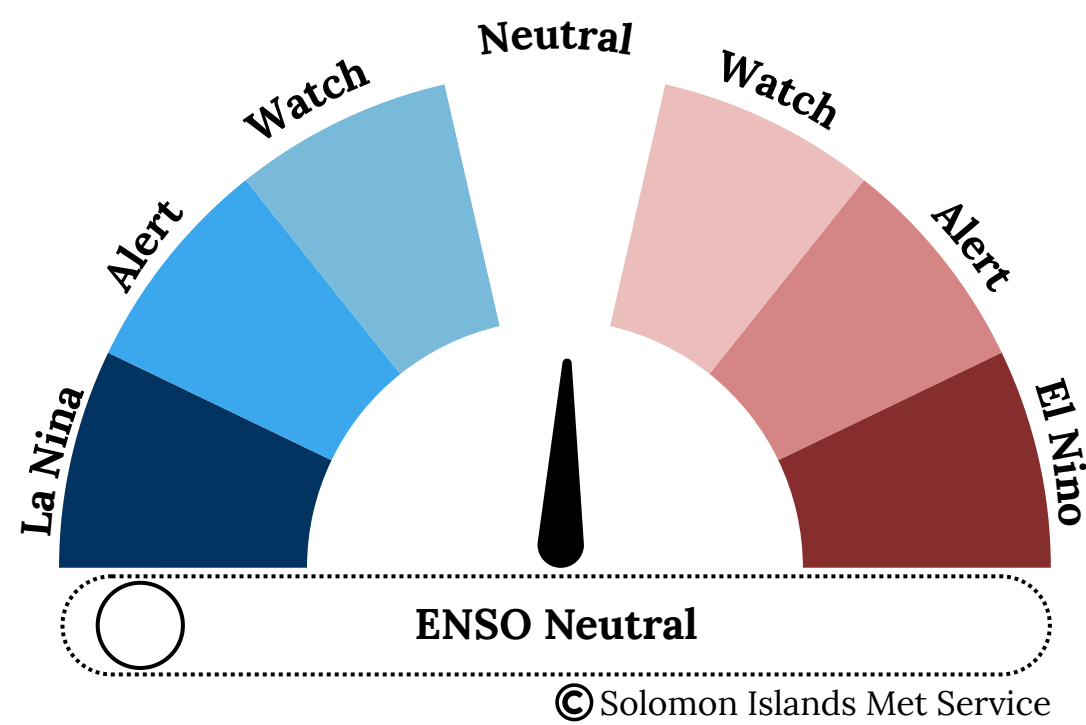
Current Status of ENSO

- ✔ Currently remains in Neutral Phase (neither El Niño nor La Niña)

ENSO Outlook

- ✔ Predicted to remain neutral with the possibility of reaching La Niña levels in the coming months.
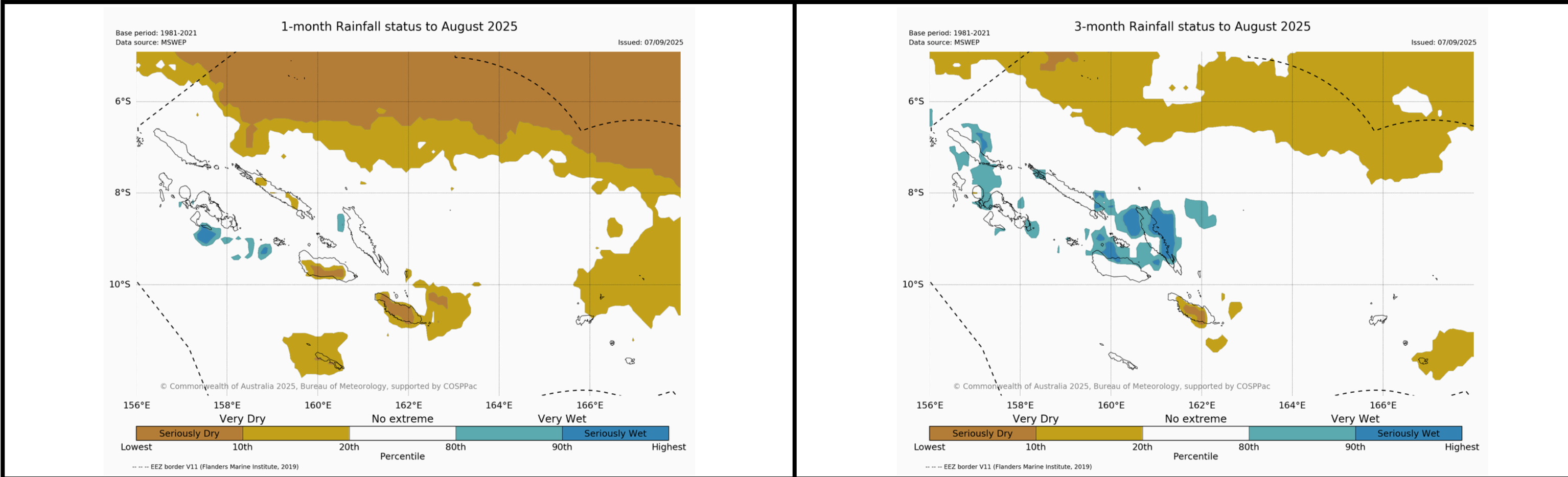
Rainfall Status:

➤ Rainfall Status to July 2025:

Kirakira has been experiencing "very dry" conditions for the last three months, with Tingoa last month. While Munda, Honiara, Henderson, and Auki have been experiencing "seriously wet" rainfall conditions over the last three to twelve months.
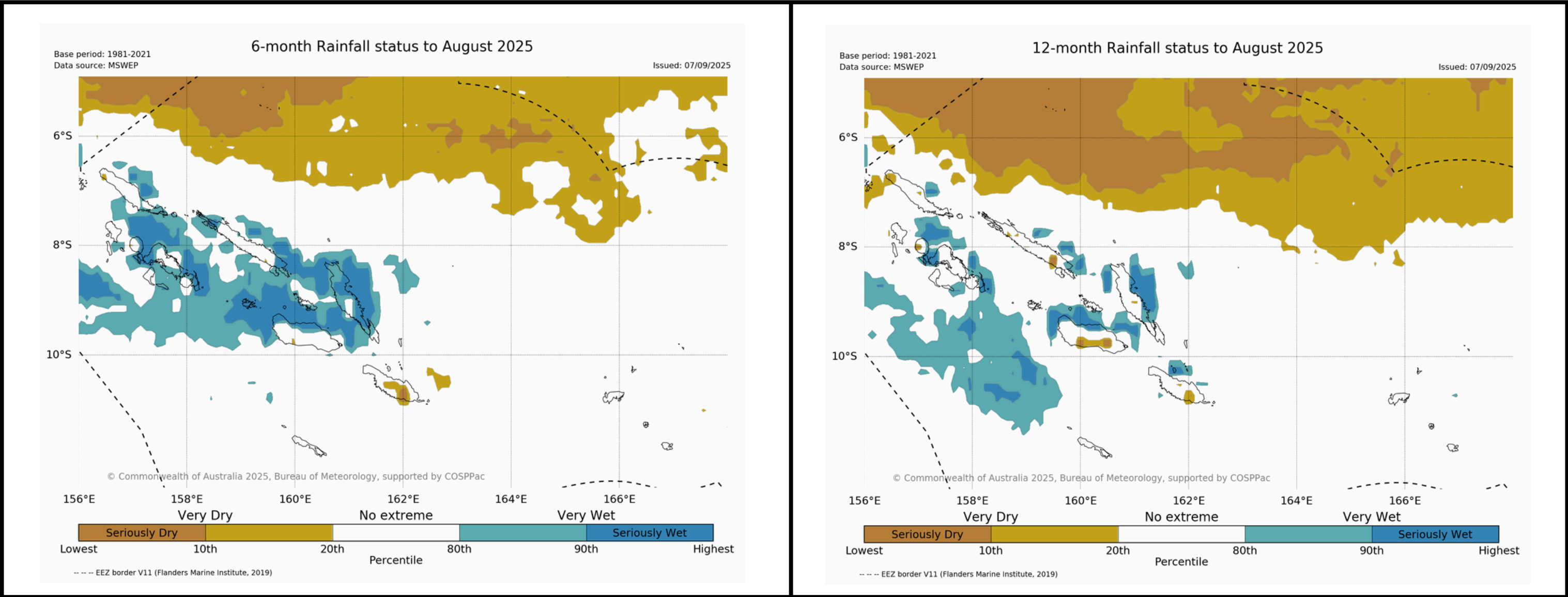
	1-month to August 2025	3-Month to August 2025	6-Month March to August 2025	12-Month June 2024 to August 2025
Seriously wet		Munda, Honiara, Henderson & Auki	Munda, Honiara, Henderson & Auki	Munda, Honiara & Henderson
Very wet				
No Alert	Taro, Munda, Auki, Honiara, Henderson & Lata	Taro Tingoa & Lata	Tingoa, Kirakira & Lata	Taro, Auki, Kirakira, Tingoa & Lata
Very Dry	Kirakira & Tingoa	Kirakira		
Seriously Dry				

Rainfall Monitoring for the Past 1 Month and 3 Months.

1-month Rainfall status to August 2025
Base period: 1981-2021
Data source: MSWEP
Issued: 07/09/2025

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Seriously Dry — Very Dry — No extreme — Very Wet — Seriously Wet
Lowest — 10th — 20th — 80th — 90th — Highest
Percentile
---- EEZ border V11 (Flanders Marine Institute, 2019)

3-month Rainfall status to August 2025
Base period: 1981-2021
Data source: MSWEP
Issued: 07/09/2025

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Seriously Dry — Very Dry — No extreme — Very Wet — Seriously Wet
Lowest — 10th — 20th — 80th — 90th — Highest
Percentile
---- EEZ border V11 (Flanders Marine Institute, 2019)

6-month Rainfall status to August 2025
Base period: 1981-2021
Data source: MSWEP
Issued: 07/09/2025

12-month Rainfall status to August 2025
Base period: 1981-2021
Data source: MSWEP
Issued: 07/09/2025

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Very Dry — No extreme — Very Wet
Seriously Dry — Seriously Wet
Lowest — 10th — 20th — 80th — 90th — Highest
Percentile
– – – EEZ border V11 (Flanders Marine Institute, 2019)

IMPACTS

▶ Different past rainfall time scales impact on sectors. The impacts are estimates only. Allow for uncertainty associated with island size, topography, geology, and soil type. Contact the relevant sector offices for more information on rainfall impacts.

| Sectors	1-month period most relevant for	3-month period most relevant for	6-month period most relevant for	12-month period most relevant for
Water Sector	small watertanks (e.g. 44-gallon drums, 5000L watertank), small streams, shallow wells	Bore holes, ground water, small wells, small streams, and rivers	medium water sources (e.g. boreholes, springs, medium rivers, wells, large watertanks)	Large water sources (e.g., large rivers, springs, bore holes, artisan wells). Water contamination
Food Security	shallow rooted agricultural crops (e.g. island cabbage, chinese cabbage, tomato, beans), kumara, cassava. Increases in pests and diseases.	Root crops (e.g. yam, taro, pana, cassava, sweet potato, kumala), banana, cabbage, tomato, traditional vegetables, small livestock, pasture. Low water in fish ponds	Shortage of cash crops (e.g. banana, young coconut, root crops, taro, yam, cassava, cocoa, kava, pana, sugarcane, lemon, grapefruit, orange trees, nut trees, pineapple, coffee), livestock (e.g. goats, horse, cattle), and honeybees. Low water table impacts fish food	large trees (e.g. oil palm, coconuts, edu, kakake, cocoa, noni, breadfruit, mango. Reduced fish reproduction in fish ponds
Socio-economic, environment and health	water-borne diseases, mosquito-borne diseases (e.g malaria), respiratory diseases (e.g. cough), Mental stress	water-borne diseases (e.g. hepatitis, typhoid), mosquito-borne diseases (e.g malaria), respiratory diseases (e.g. cough), skin disease, open defecation, malnutrition, and starvation. Schools and provincial hospitals closed down. Increase in domestic violence. Inflation, increase in government spending.	Eye disease, water-borne diseases (e.g., dysentery), skin disease (hookworm) Mental health. Wildlife migration (e.g., birds, snakes, butterflies, etc.), bush fires Disputes over resources. Interruption to inter-island shipping. Hydropower generation affected (disruption of essential services), Relocation of villages	Water pollution (e.g., algae bloom) Forced migration. High mortality, increases in crime (theft, looting etc.), increase workload (domestic chores e.g., water collections). Increase in poverty.

> **October 2025:**

A "high chance of extreme" rainfall is expected over Honiara and Auki, while a "medium chance of extreme is predicted for the rest of the country in the coming Month.

> **October to December 2025:**

A "high chance of extreme" rainfall is expected over Western, Isabel, Central Islands, and north of Malaita, including Temotu, and elsewhere, "medium chance of extreme" rainfall is expected in the coming three months.

Rainfall Outlooks for September and November 2025

Status	1-Month Rainfall Outlook	3-Month Rainfall Outlook
Very High		
High	Honiara & Auki	Munda
Medium	Munda, Henderson, Tingoa, Kirakira & Lata	Honiara, Henderson, Auki, Tingoa, Kirakira & Lata
Low Chance of Extreme	Taro	Taro
Medium		
High		
Very High		

Chance of extreme rainfall for October 2025

Chance of extreme rainfall for October to December 2025
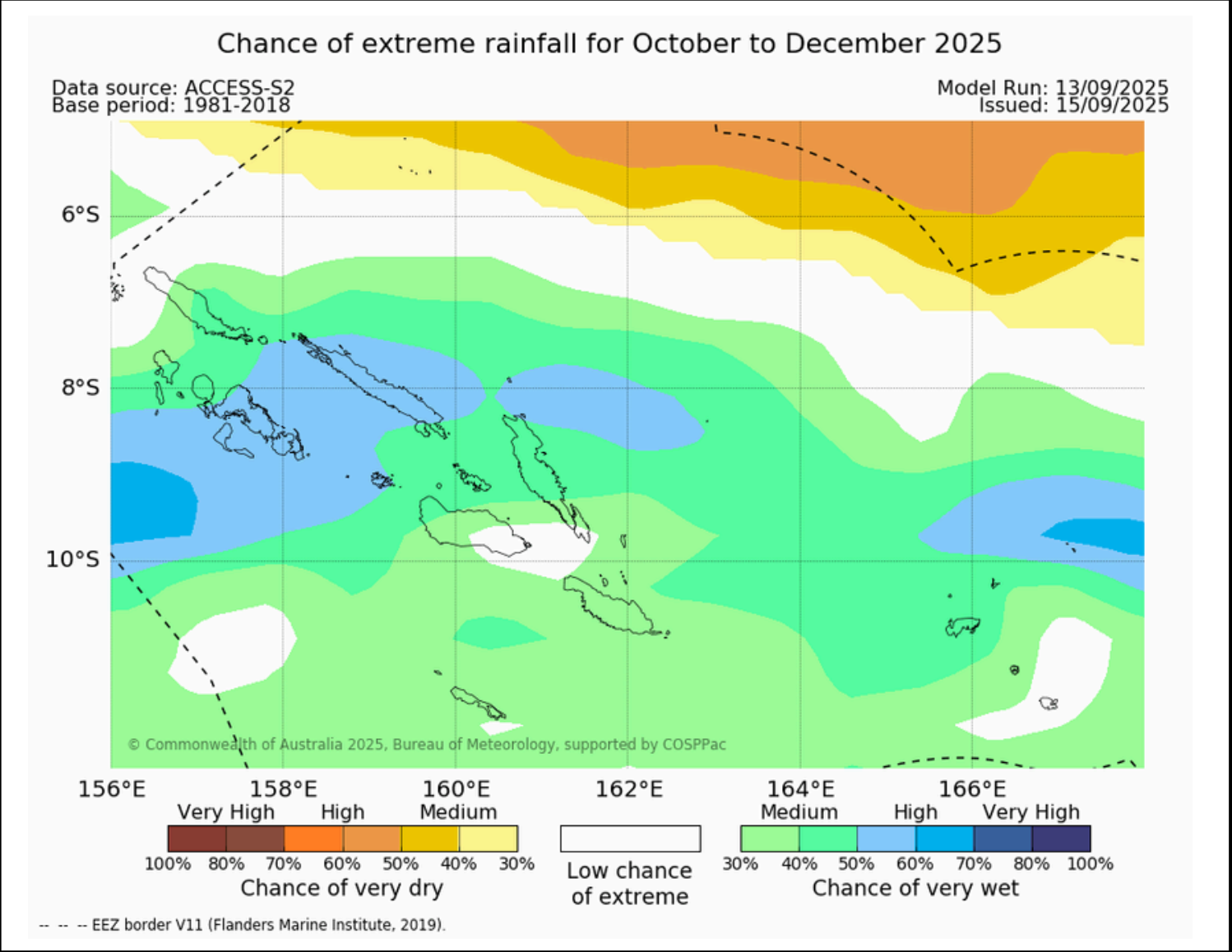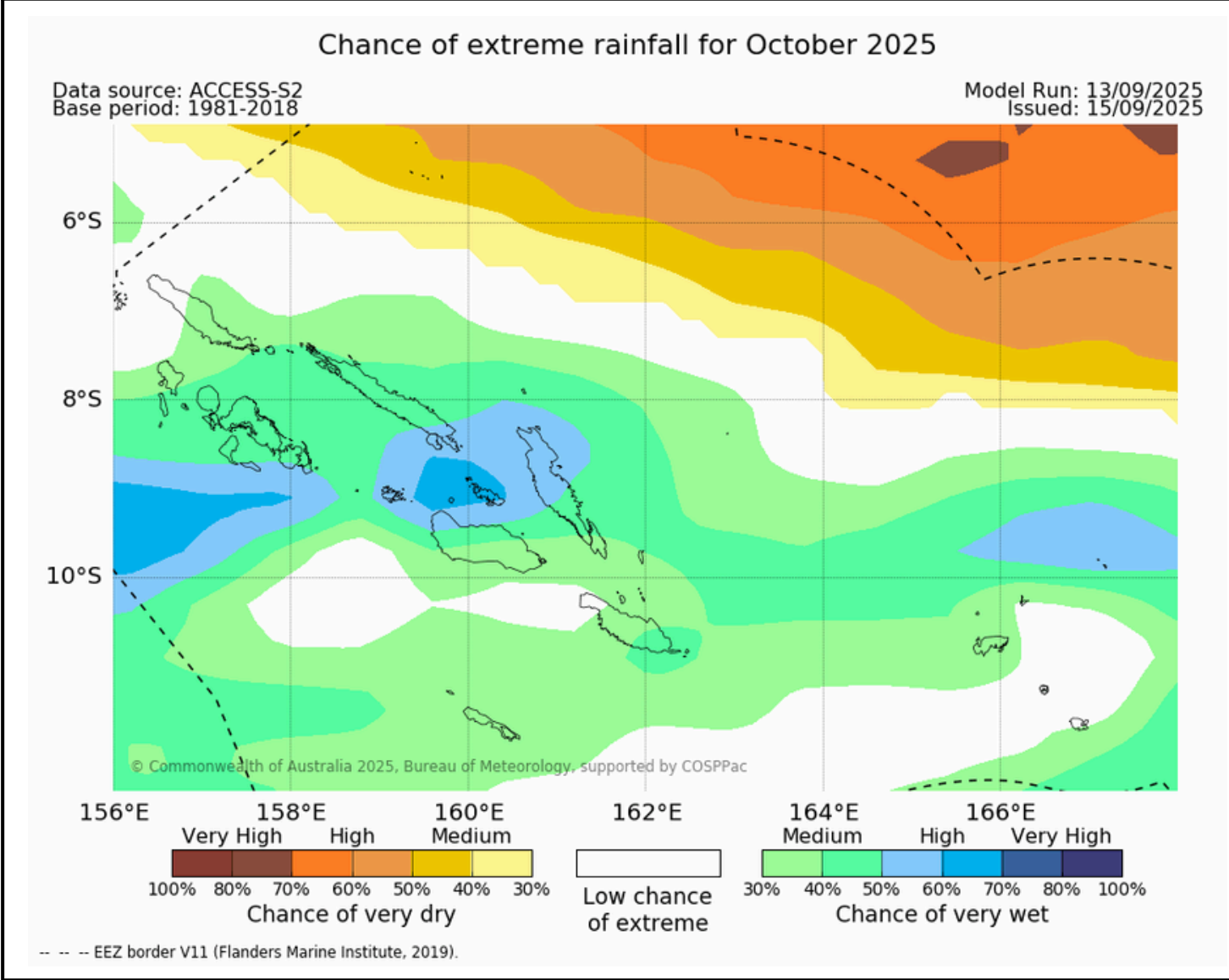
Key Terms & Glossary

◆ Rainfall Status

Estimates of moisture/water stress are based on recent rainfall compared with historical observations using the Percentile (Decile) Index. The Percentile Index is used to assess the rainfall status from the MSWEP dataset. MSWEP is a global precipitation product that combines rain gauges, satellite and, reanalysis data to a 0.1° resolution. Seriously Dry is defined as drought assessed by rainfall data only. A site is assigned 'No Alert' when rainfall has been near normal or slightly above or below normal for the period(s) in question. The 3-, 6- and 12-month timescales can accurately predict drought.

◆ Rainfall Outlook (month and season)

The chance of extremes outlook maps presents the likelihood of Very Wet or Very Dry conditions. They are displayed by the chance that the outlook will result in rainfall in the top or bottom 20% of historical observations for the selected outlook period. Where there is white shading, it is less likely there will be either Very Wet or Very Dry conditions, rainfall is likely to be close to normal in this case. A very high chance of Very Dry (Very Wet) conditions is associated with the highest likelihood of rainfall being in the lowest (highest) 20% on record. A medium chance of Very Dry (Very Wet) conditions is associated with a lower but reasonable chance of rainfall being in the lowest (highest) 20% on record. The outlooks have been produced using the Australian Bureau of Meteorology ACCESS-S2 model.

◆ Glossary

1. **ENSO -** El Niño Southern Oscillation.
2. **SST** – Sea Surface Temperature
3. **La Nina** – extensive ocean cooling in the Central and Eastern Pacific – associated with wetter than normal conditions.
4. **El Nino** – extensive ocean warming of the Central and Eastern Pacific – associated with drier than normal conditions.
5. **Past Rainfall** – rainfall that is observed in the past 1, 3, 6, and 12 months.
6. **Quintile** – based on a chance of extreme rainfall (very dry or very wet) using 5-category predictions.
7. **Very Dry** – rainfall in the lowest 20% of the historical record for that location and time period.
8. **Very Wet** – rainfall in the highest 20% of the historical record for that location and time period.
9. **Seriously Dry** – rainfall in the lowest 10% of the historical record for that location and time period.
10. **Seriously Wet** – rainfall in the highest 10% of the historical record for that location and time period.
11. **Chance of Very Dry** – percent chance of rainfall in the lowest 20% of the historical record for that location and month/season.
12. **Chance of Very Wet** – percent chance of rainfall in the highest 20% of the historical record for that location and month/season.
13. **Medium, High, and Very High -** refer to the percent probability level, where Very High has the highest confidence and represents the range 70% and above.

Contact the Solomon Islands Meteorological Service for further information.

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