



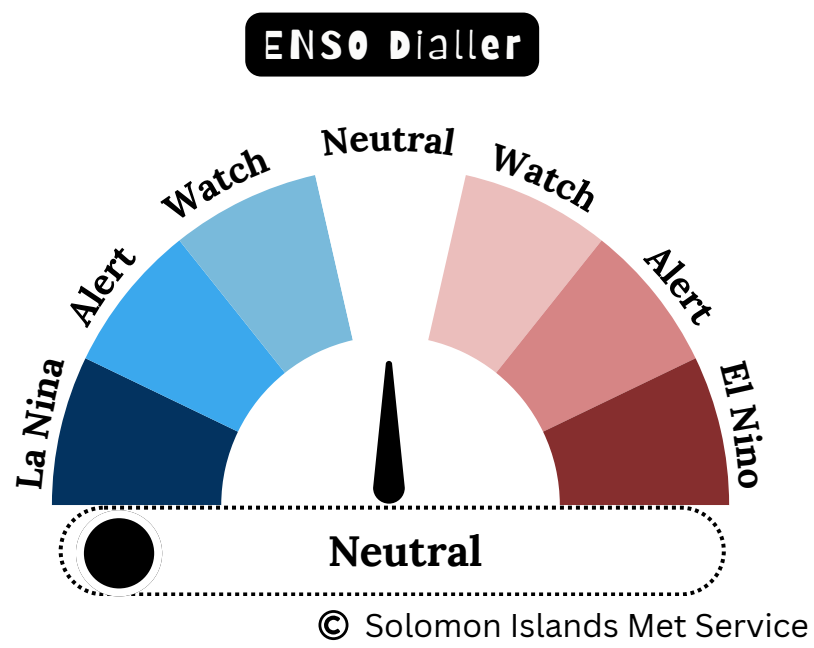
Early Action Rainfall Watch



May 2026

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:

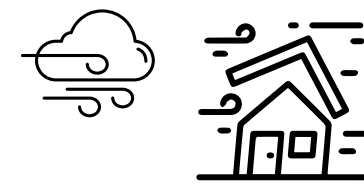


La Nina

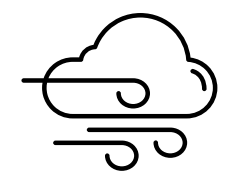


El Nino

✔ Strong Easterly Winds



✔ Strong Westerly Winds



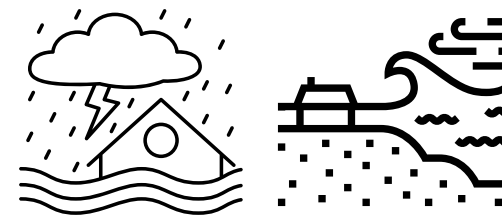
✔ More Rainfall



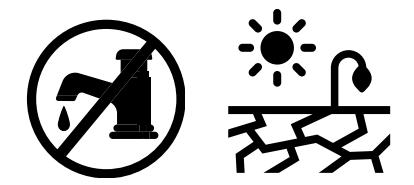
✔ Less Rainfall



✔ High Chance of Floods



✔ High Chance of Drought



Current Status of ENSO:

- ENSO is currently **Neutral**.
- Atmospheric indicators, such as trade winds, pressure and cloud patterns in the tropical Pacific remains consistent with **ENSO-neutral** conditions.

ENSO Outlook:

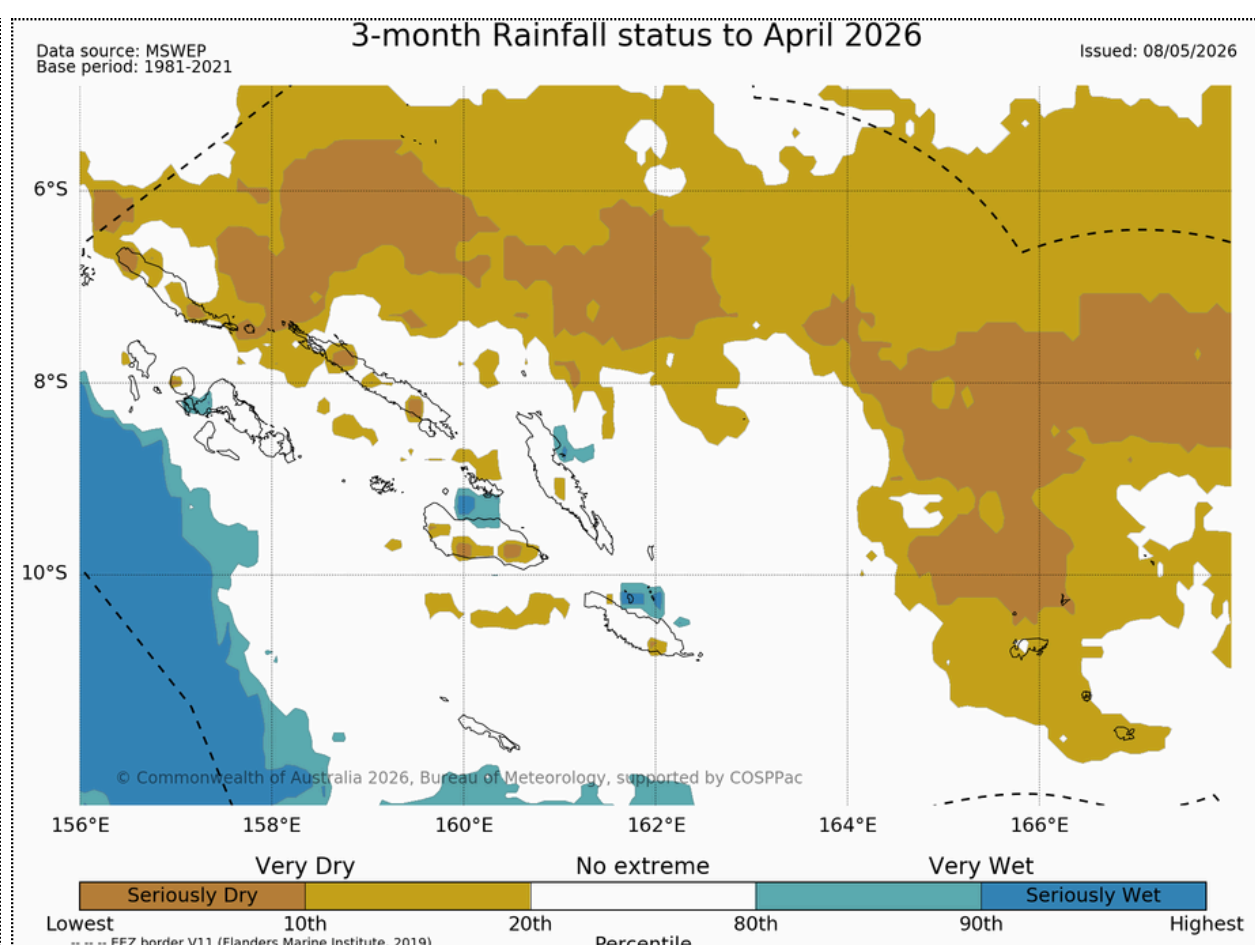
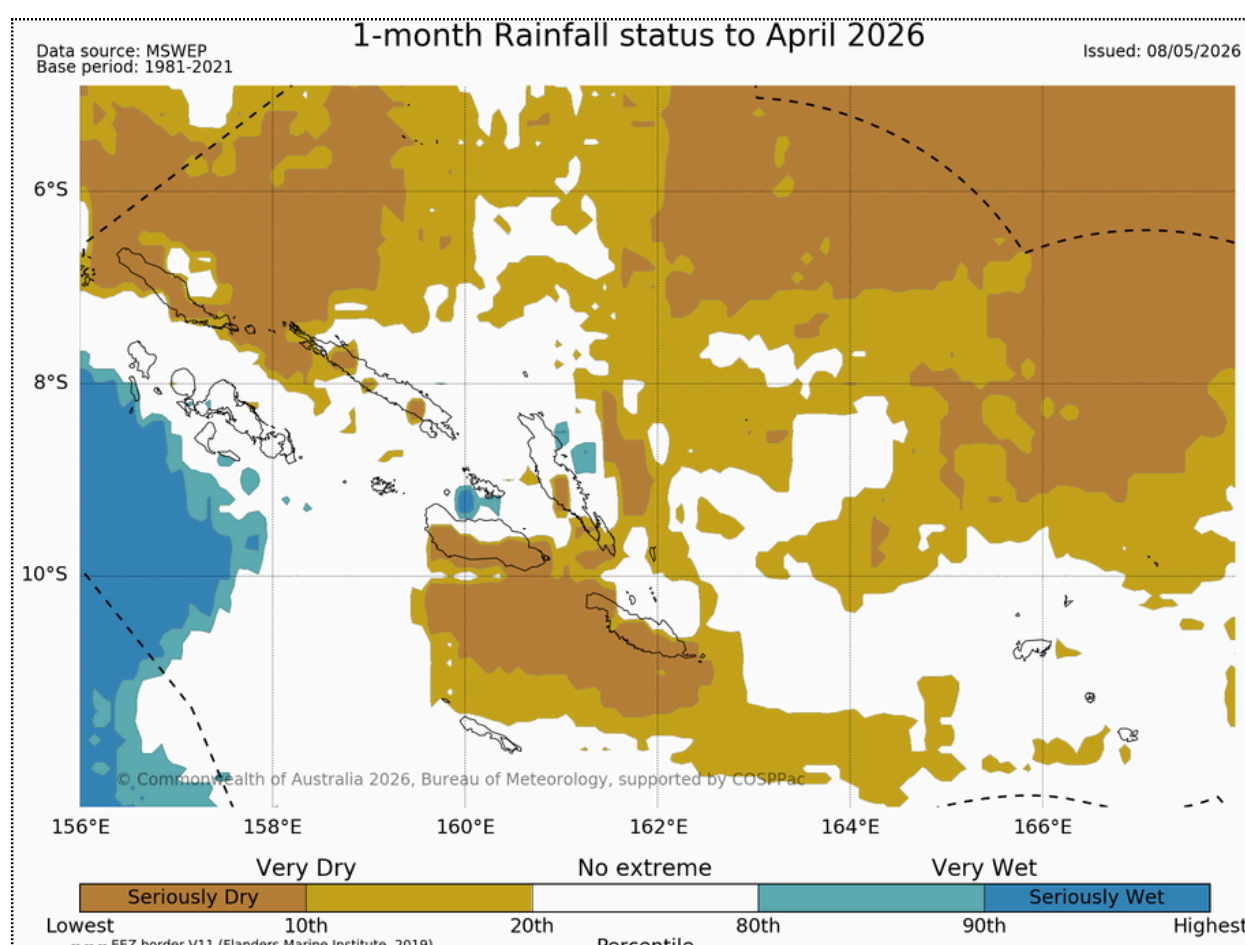
- There is a likelihood that **El Niño** threshold may be reached in the coming months.
- Rainfalls and wind conditions will be expected to be **normal**.

RAINFALL STATUS TO APRIL 2026:

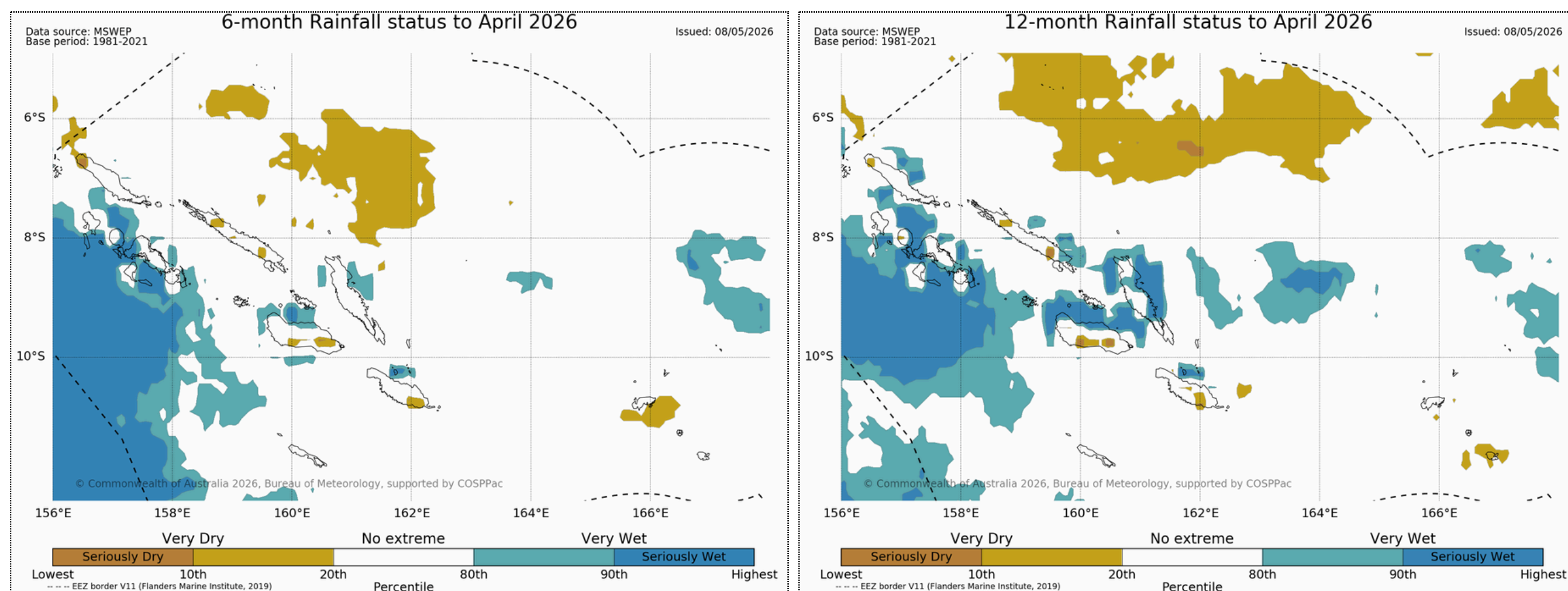
Taro has been experiencing a "Seriously dry" condition for the last month, since the past three months with Lata. While Munda, Honiara, and Henderson have been "very wet" in the third month. Munda has been "Seriously wet" during the last six months, and with Honiara and Henderson in the twelfth Month Period.

Rainfall Status	1-month to April 2026	3-Month to April 2026	6-Month October 2025 to April 2026	12-Month March 2025 to April 2026
Seriously wet	-	-	Munda	Munda, Honiara & Henderson
Very wet	-	Munda, Honiara & Henderson	Honiara & Henderson	-
No Alert	Munda, Honiara, Henderson, Auki, Kirakira, Tingoa & Lata	Auki, Tingoa & Kirakira	Taro, Auki, Tingoa & Lata	Taro, Auki, Kirakira, Tingoa & Lata
Very Dry	-	Taro & Lata	-	-
Seriously Dry	Taro	-	-	-

Rainfall Monitoring for the Past 1 Month and 3 Months.



Rainfall Monitoring for the last 6 months and 12 Months.



RAINFALL EXTREME IMPACTS:

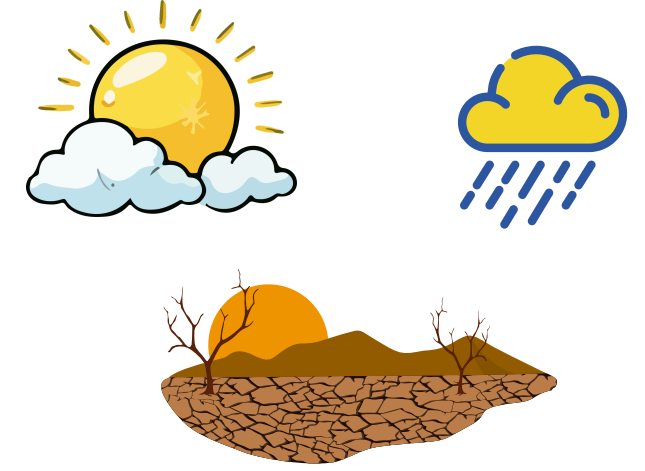
Different past rainfall time scales impact on sectors. The impacts are estimates only. Allow for uncertainty associated with island size, topography, geology, and soil type. Contact the relevant sector offices for more information on rainfall impacts.

Sectors Affected	1-month period of extreme rainfall, possible impacts!	3-month period of extreme rainfall, possible Impacts!	6-month period of extreme rainfall, possible Impacts!	12-month period of extreme rainfall, possible Impacts!
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.

Rainfall Outlooks:

➤ June 2026:

"High chance of very dry" rainfall conditions are expected around the country in June.

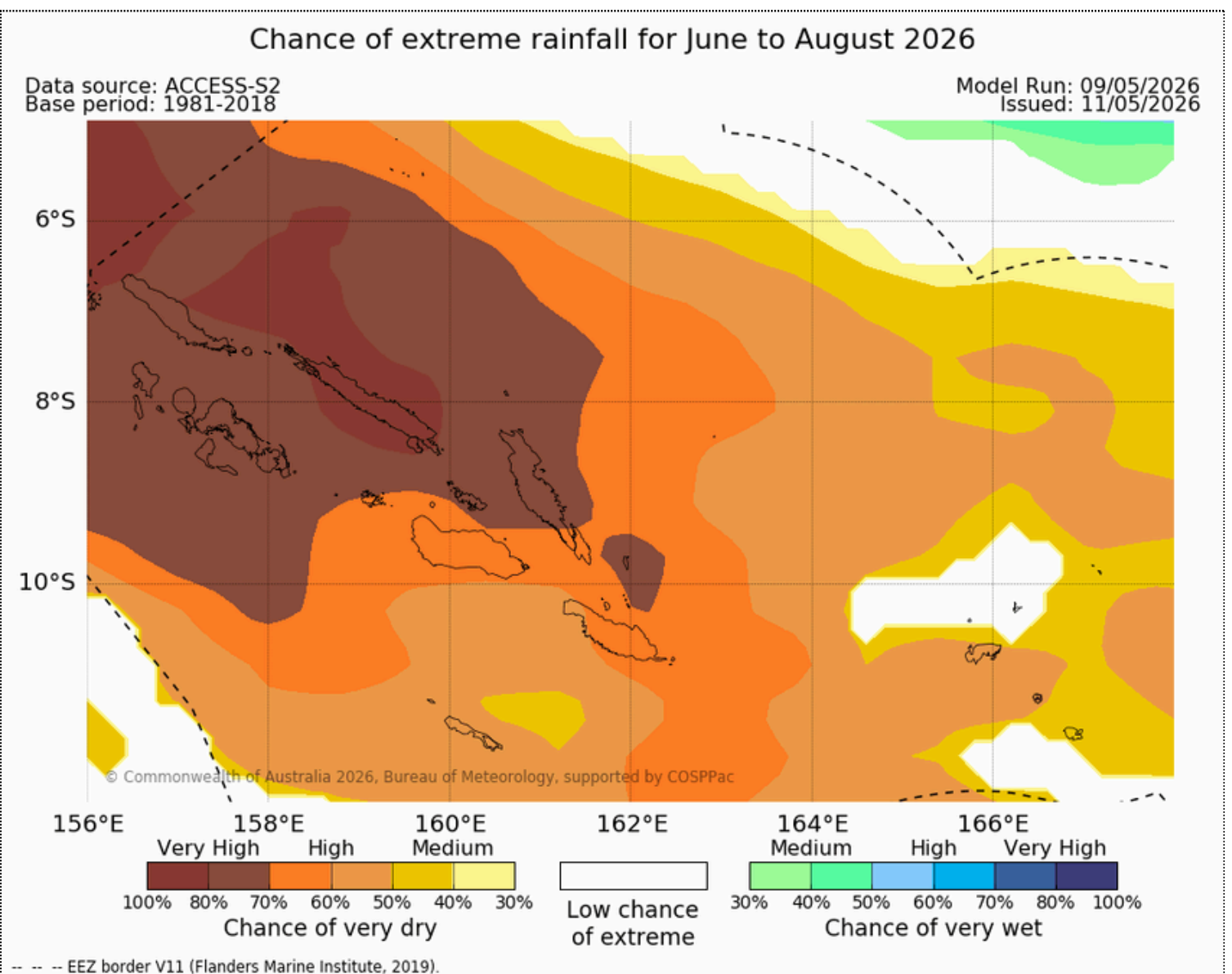
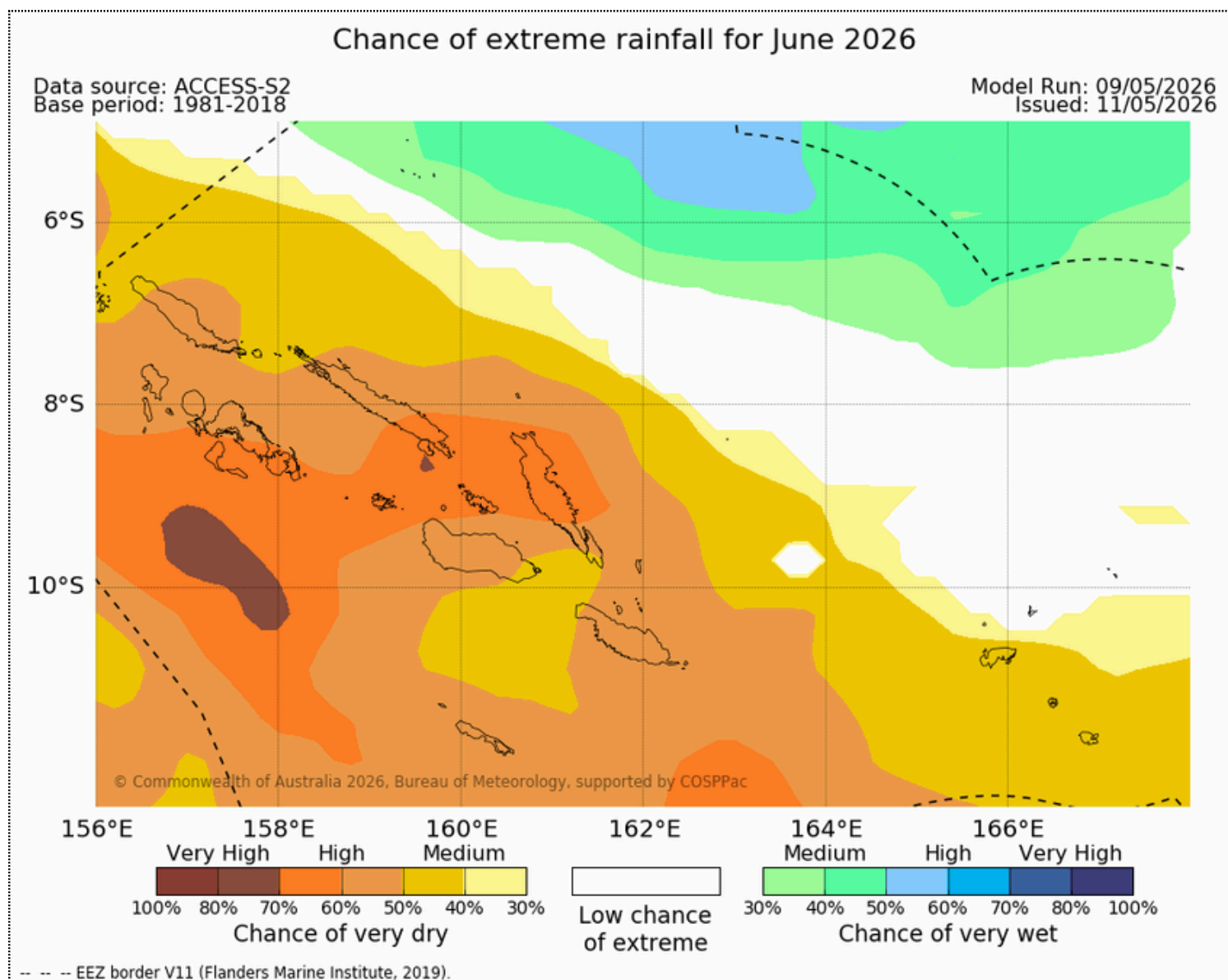


➤ June to August 2026:

In the coming season, June to August 2026, a "Very high chance of very dry" rainfall condition is expected for the western region and Malaita in the central region, compared to Guadalcanal and towards the far eastern main Islands.

Rainfall Outlooks for May and June to August 2026

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



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.

The Director

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