

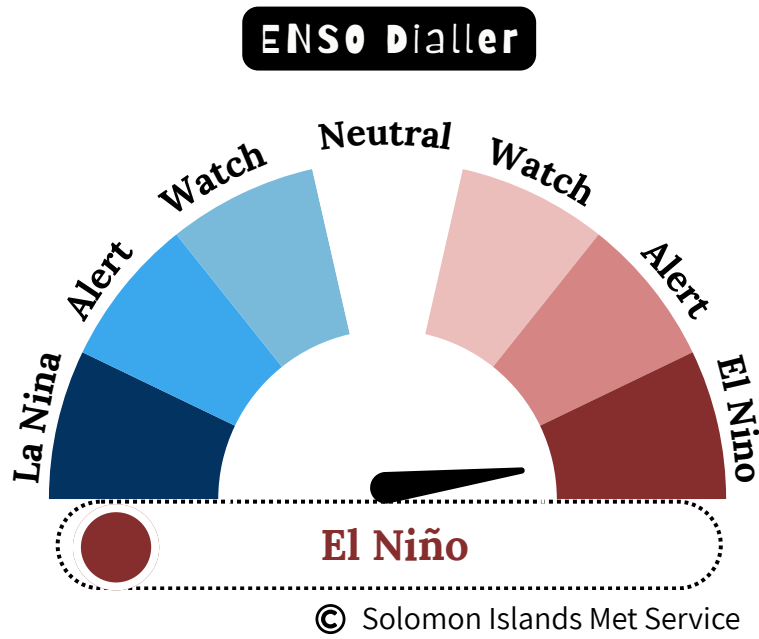


Early Action Rainfall Watch

July 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:



Current Status of ENSO:

- **El Niño** is currently underway across the tropical Pacific, including the Solomon Islands.
- Ocean and atmospheric indicators in the tropical Pacific are well above the **El Niño** threshold.

ENSO Outlook:

- These El Niño conditions are very likely to persist throughout the remaining months of 2026 up until February 2027.
- The majority of global climate models indicate this El Niño event could peak at levels among the highest observed since 1950. This points towards a strong to very strong El Niño event.
- Drier-than-normal rainfall conditions are expected, potentially leading to water shortages in parts of the country, particularly in highly populated communities dependent on a single water source or rainwater harvesting systems.

La Nina

✓

Strong Easterly Winds

✓

More Rainfall

✓

High Chance of Floods

VS

El Niño

✓

Strong Westerly Winds

✓

Less Rainfall

✓

High Chance of Drought

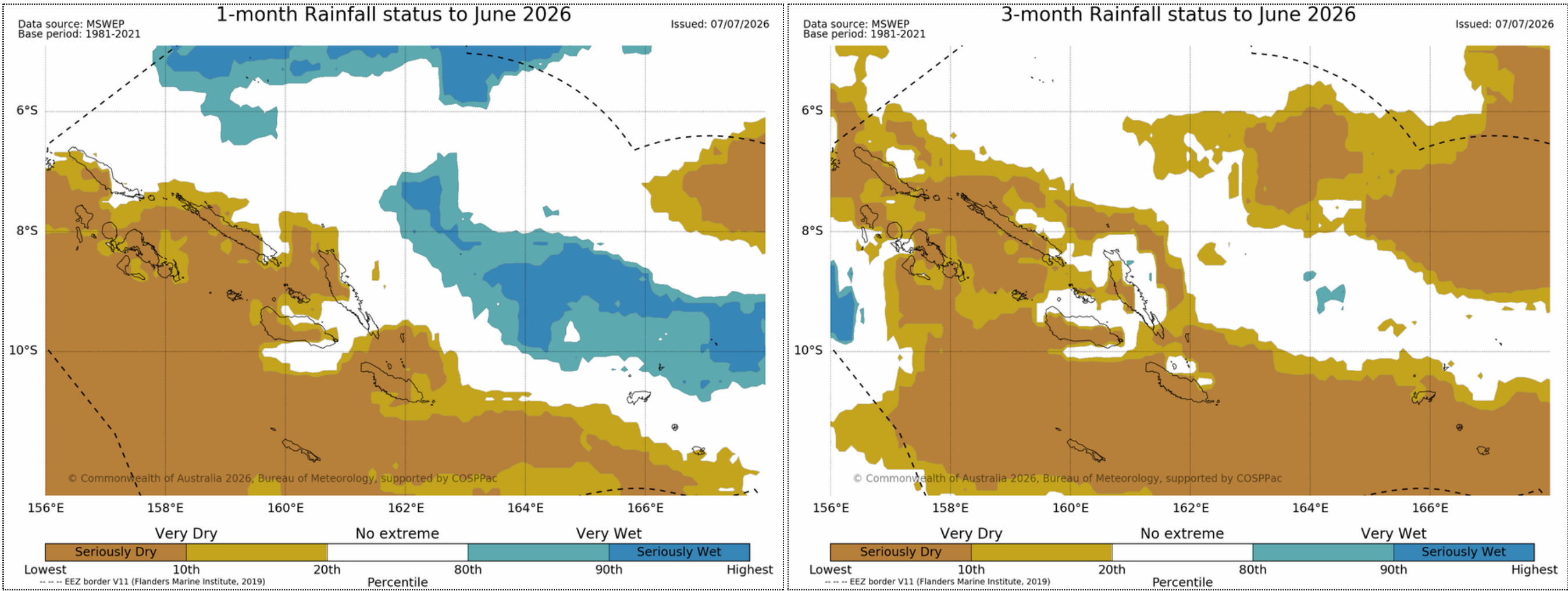
Rainfall Status to June 2026:

A **"Seriously Dry"** rainfall condition was observed in Auki, Kirakira, and Tingoa over the past month. This follows the persistence of **"Seriously Dry"** conditions across Taro, Auki, Kirakira, Tingoa, and Lata during the preceding three-month period, with Taro having experienced **"Seriously Dry"** conditions continuously over the past six months.

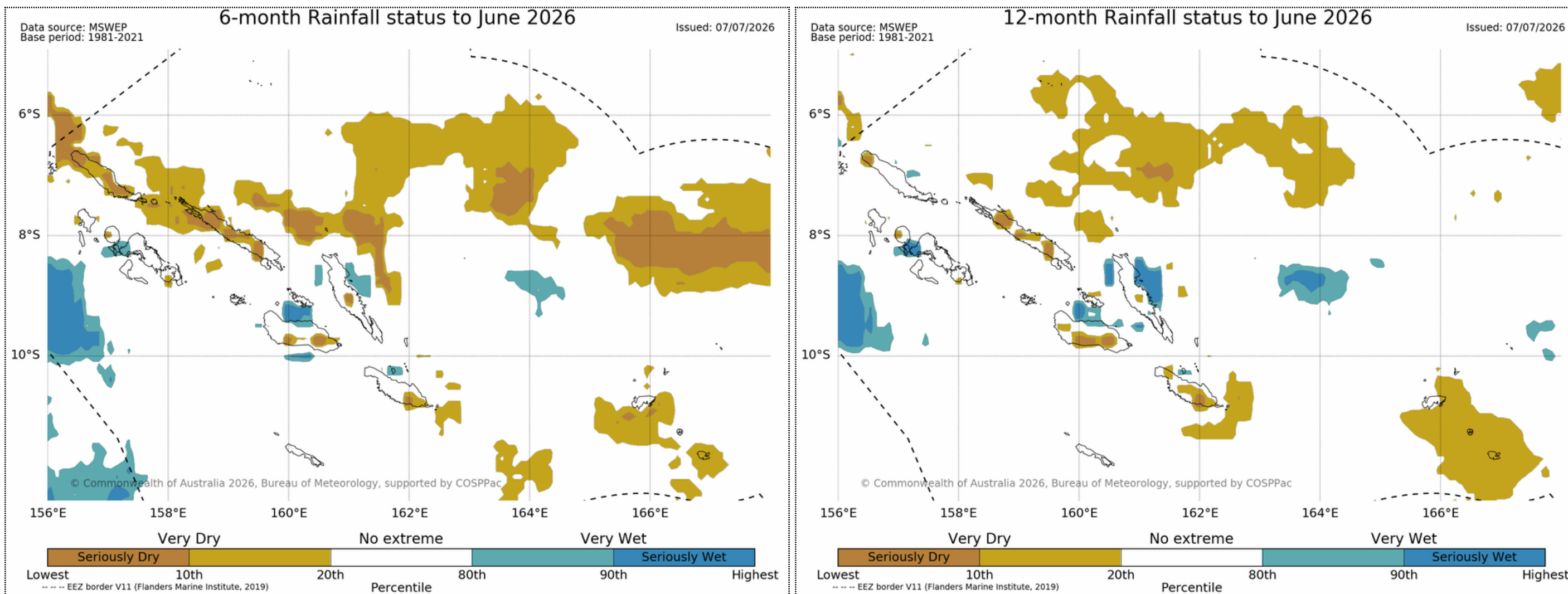
In contrast, **"Very Dry"** rainfall conditions were recorded in Taro, Munda, and Honiara during the past month. Meanwhile, Munda, Honiara, and Henderson have experienced **"Very Wet"** rainfall over the last 6 and 12 months.

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

Rainfall Monitoring for the Past 1 Month and 3 Months.

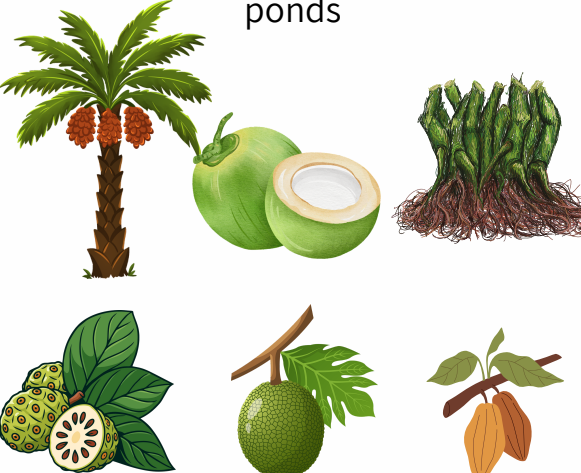
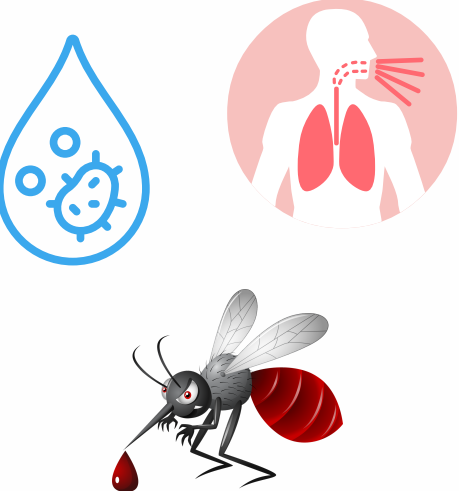
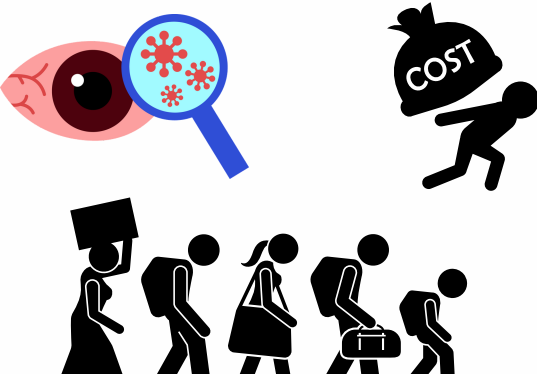


Rainfall Monitoring for the last 6 months and 12 Months.

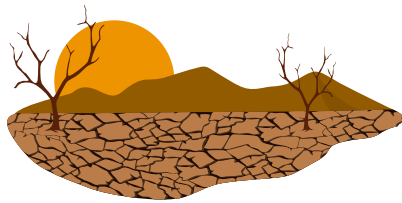
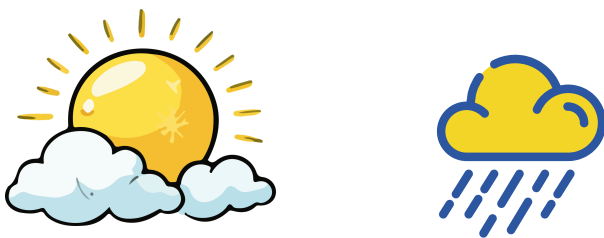


RAINFALL EXTREME IMPACTS:

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, boreholes, 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, environmental, 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:



➤ August 2026:

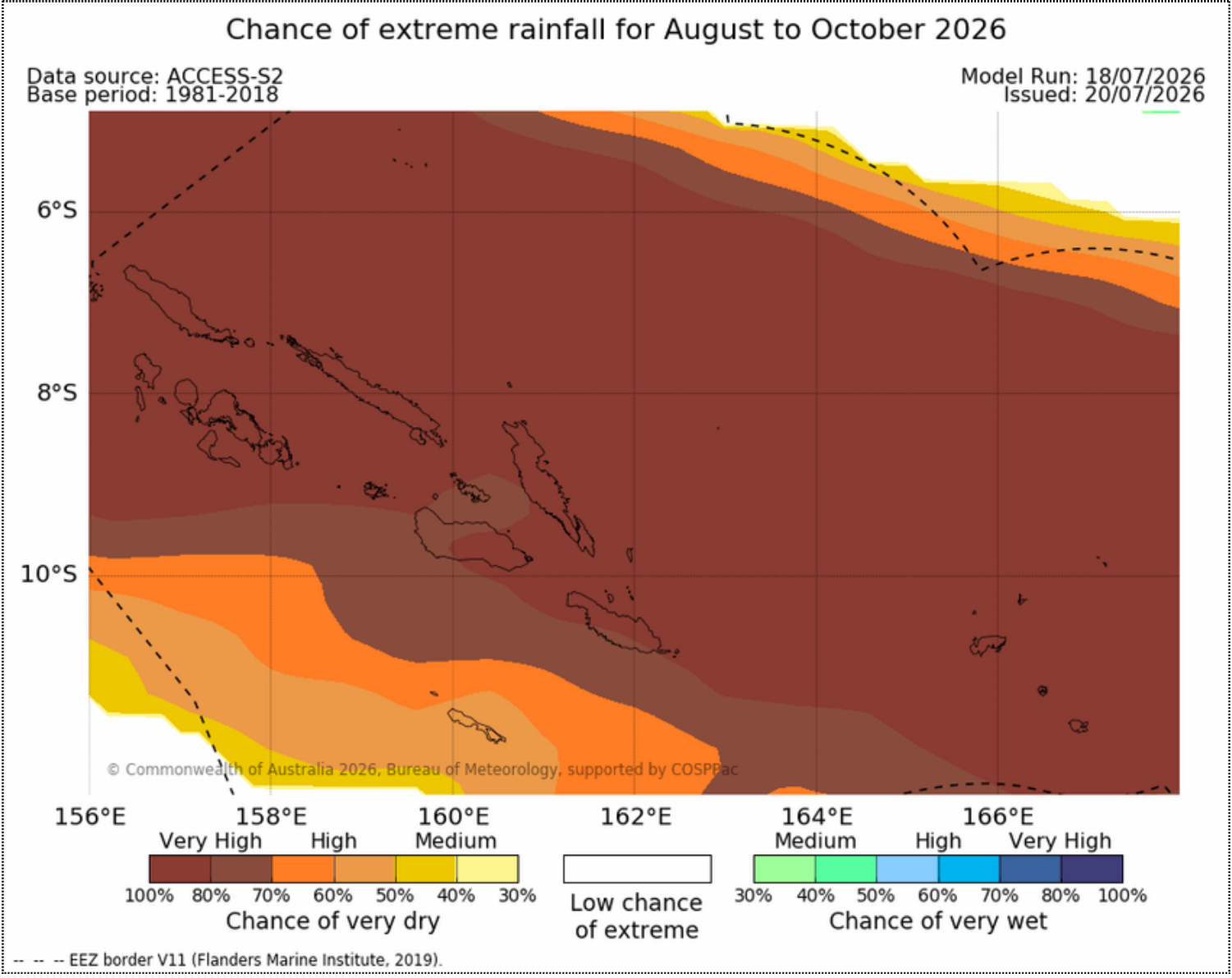
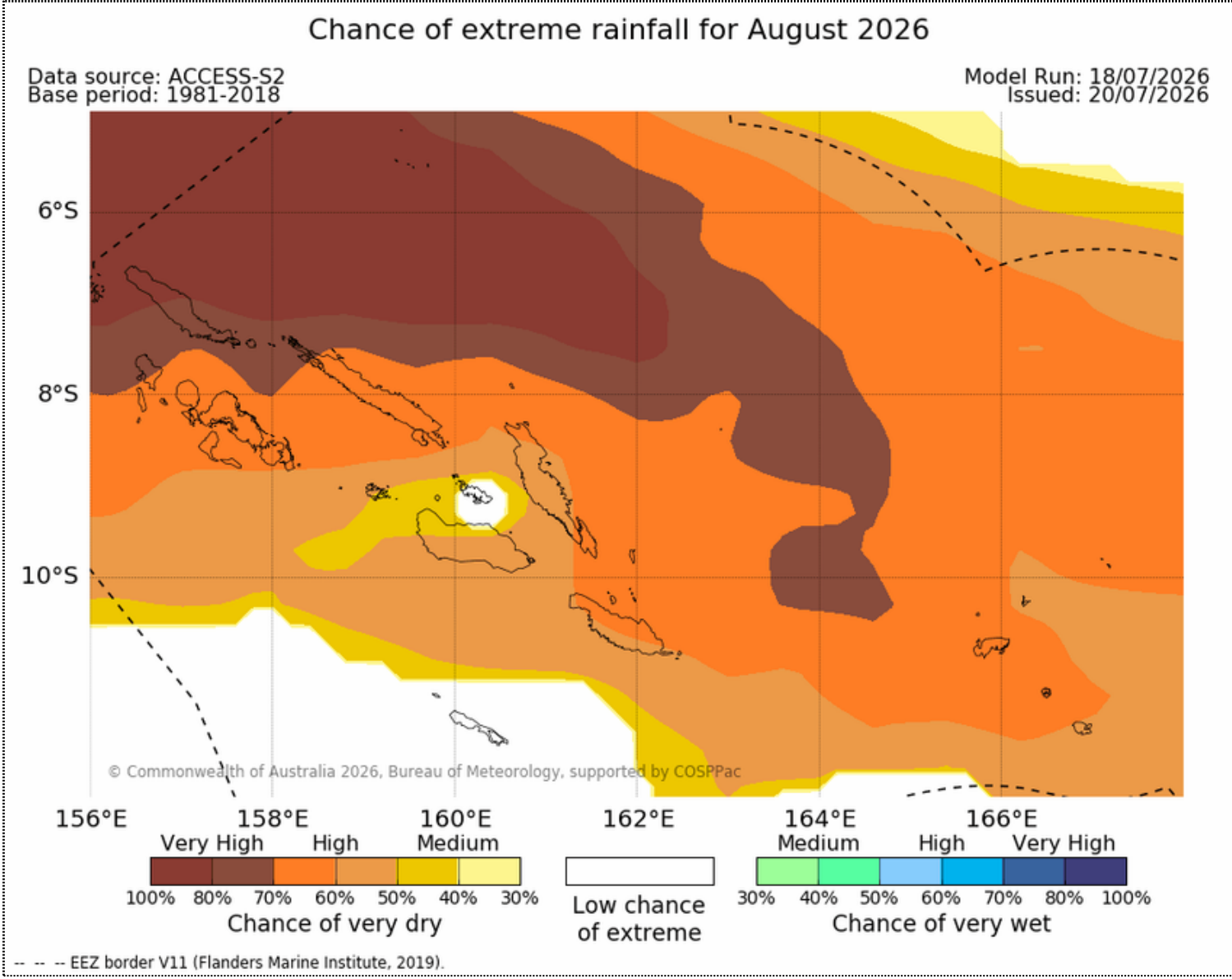
A "High to very high chance of very dry" rainfall condition is expected across the country in August 2026.

➤ August to October 2026:

A “Very high chance of very dry” rainfall condition is expected across the country for the August to October 2026 season.

Rainfall Outlooks for August and August to October 2026

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



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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