



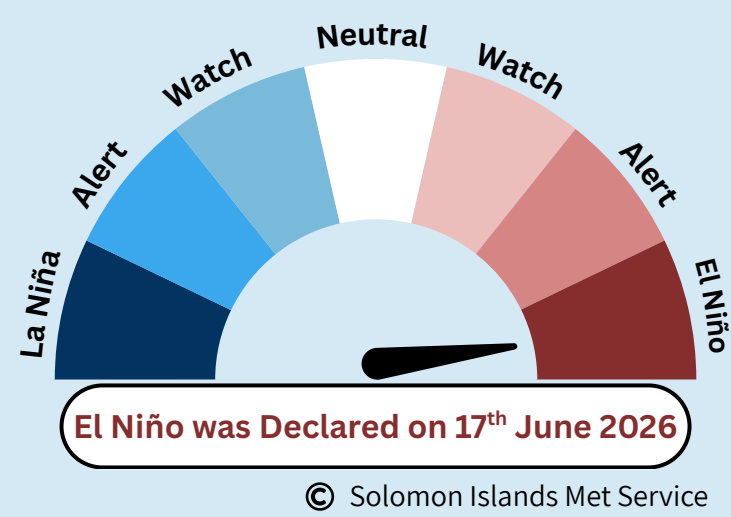
# Early Action Rainfall Watch

August 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.

Issued: 24<sup>th</sup> August 2026

### El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Update:



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#### Current Status of ENSO:

- **El Niño** is firmly established in the tropical Pacific, including the Solomon Islands.
- Oceanic and atmospheric indicators remain well above the **El Niño** threshold.

#### ENSO Outlook:

- The **El Niño** conditions are expected to further intensify through the new year 2027.
- Climate models indicate this **El Niño** event is expected to peak through December 2026–February 2027, among the highest levels observed since 1950. This points towards a strong to very strong El Niño event.
- Below-normal rainfall is expected, increasing the risk of water shortages, particularly in highly populated communities reliant on a single water source or rainwater harvesting.
- **El Niño** does not mean no rainfall; other climate factors may still bring occasional rainfall, but it may not be sufficient to offset the impacts of **El Niño** when they become severe.

#### During La Niña

- ✓ Trade winds strengthened: Easterly Tradewinds



- ✓ Increased chance of higher Rainfall



- ✓ Increased Chance of Floods and Landslides



#### During El Niño

- ✓ Tradewinds weaken or reverse: Westerly Tradewinds



- ✓ Reduced and occasional rainfall, with longer dry periods.



- ✓ Increased chance of Drought



### Rainfall Status to July 2026:

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

Table 1 categorizes the rainfall status of existing stations across the country, while Figures 1 to 4 illustrate the likelihood of rainfall deficiencies for each station and its surrounding communities over 1- to 12-month periods.

In terms of extreme rainfall, Taro registered **"Very Dry"** conditions last month, following three months of **"Seriously Dry"** rainfall that also impacted Kirakira, Tingoa, and Lata. Taro and Lata have now consistently faced **"Seriously Dry"** conditions for six months, whereas Munda was remarkably wet over the 12 months.

### Rainfall Monitoring for the Past 1 Month and 3 Months.

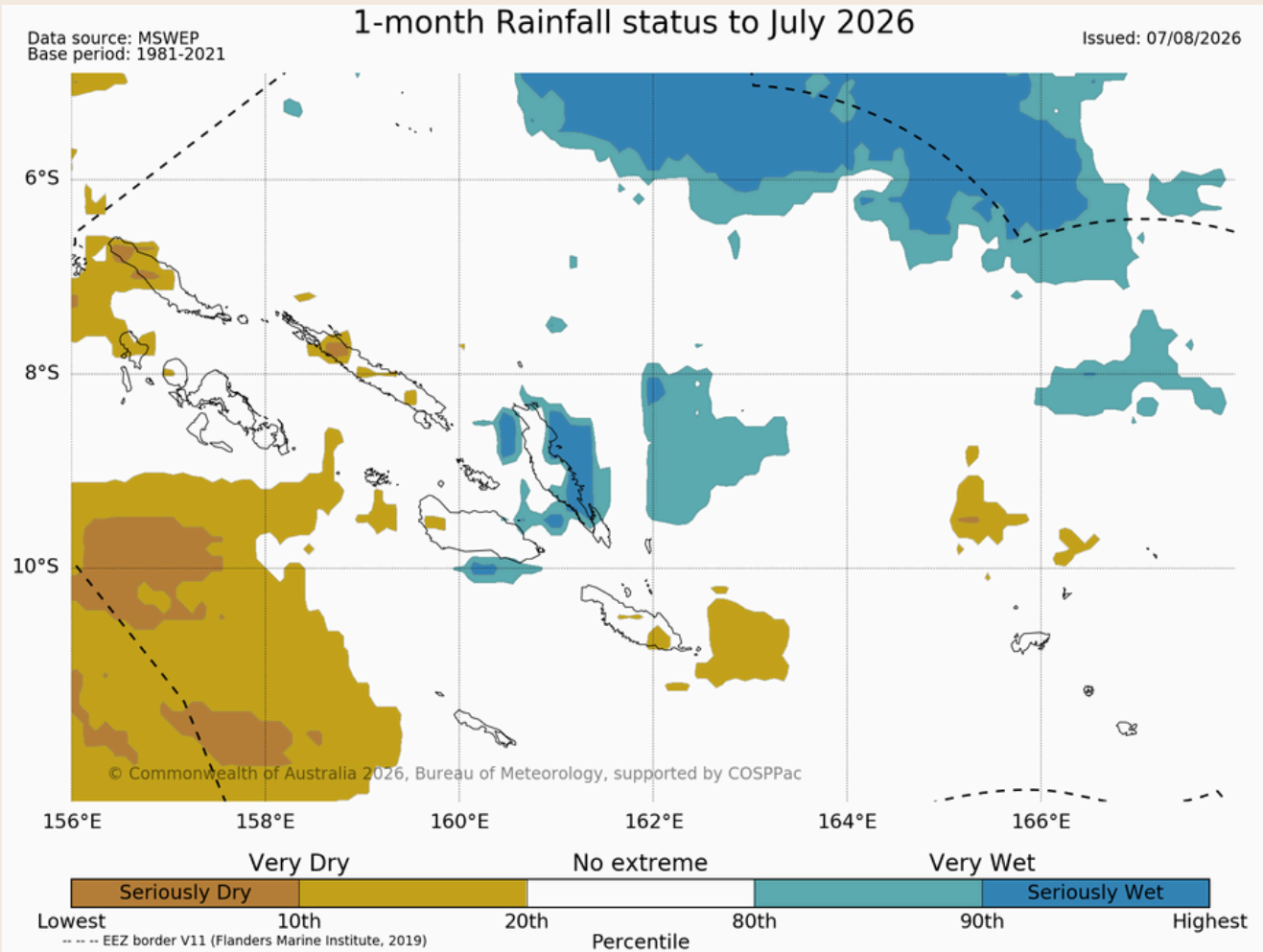


Figure 1. 1- Month to July 2026

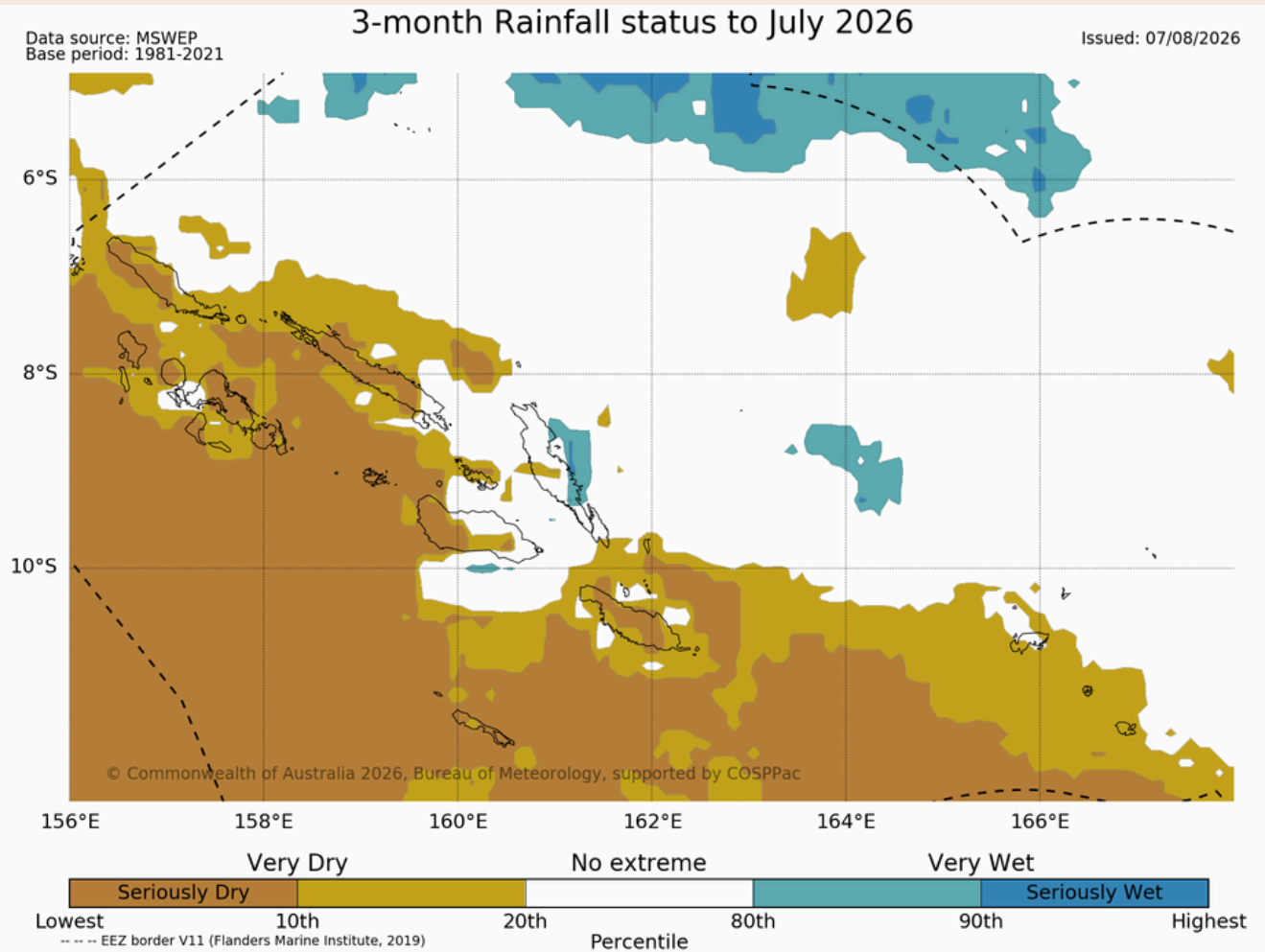


Figure 2. 3- Month to July 2026



Rainfall Monitoring for the last 6 months and 12 Months.

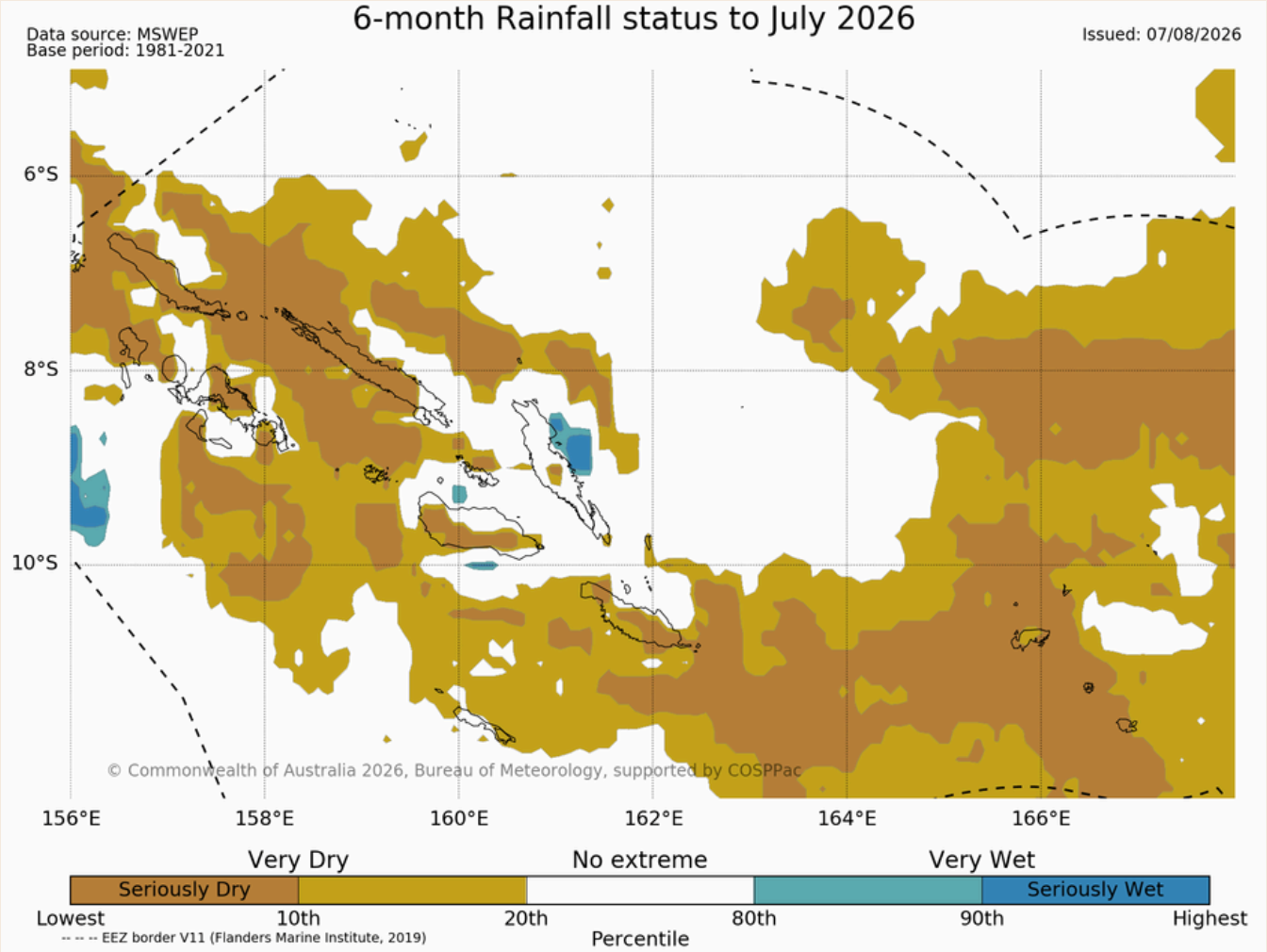


Figure 3. 6- Month to July 2026

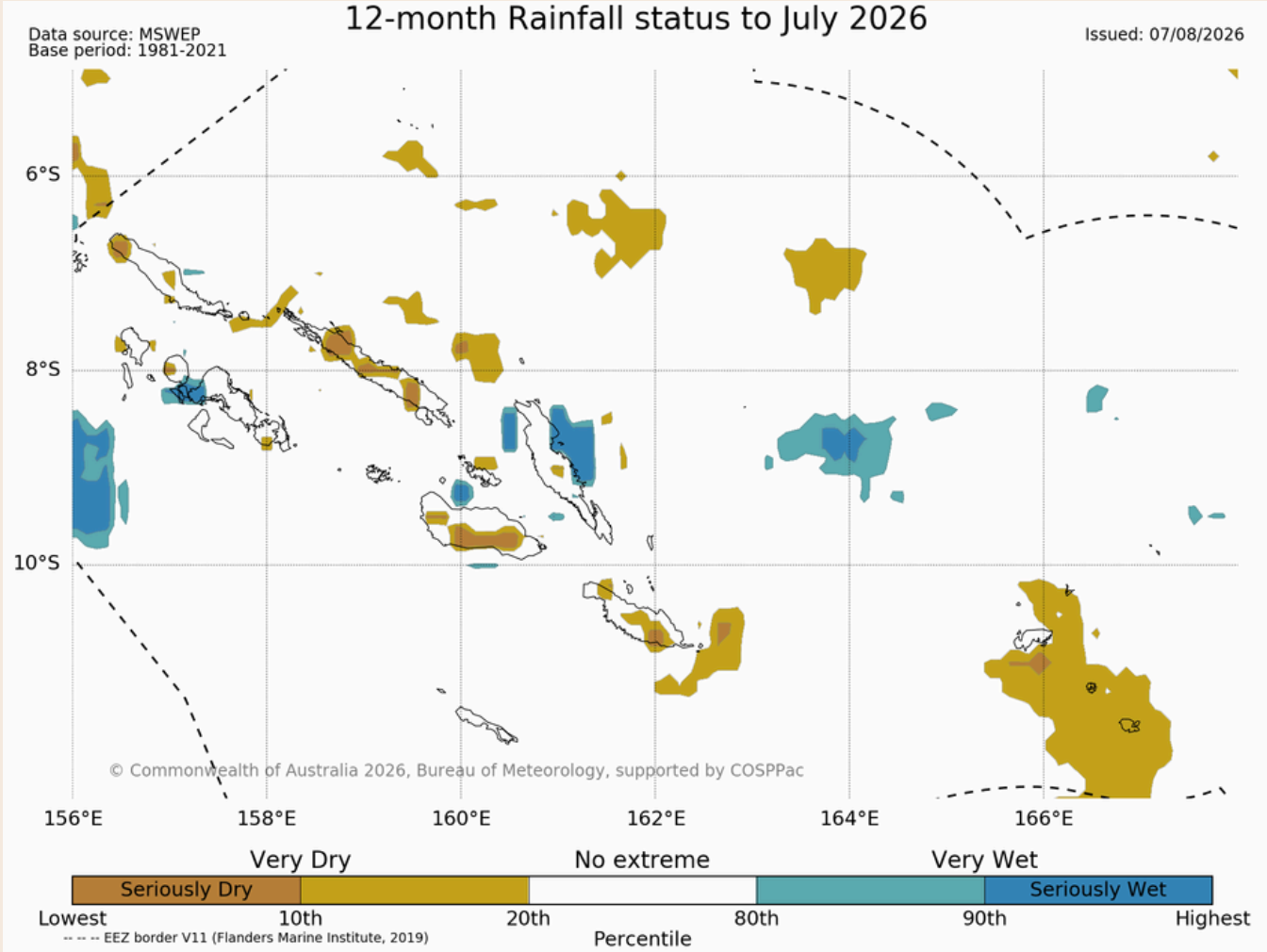
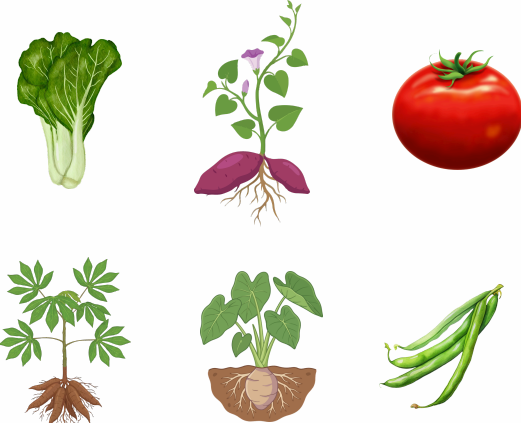
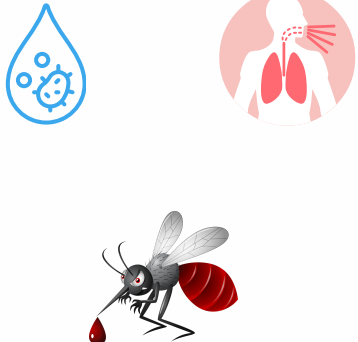
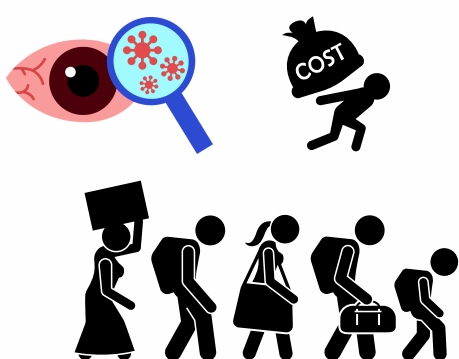


Figure 4. 12- Month to July 2026

RAINFALL EXTREME IMPACTS:

Table 2.0 outlines the potential sectoral impacts of rainfall deficiencies across various timescales, ranging from 1 to 12 months. These impacts are indicative estimates only and are subject to uncertainties related to island size, topography, geology, and soil type. For further details, please consult the respective sector offices.

| 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!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Water Sector</b><br>                              | small watertanks (e.g. 44-gallon drums, 5000L watertank), small streams, shallow wells<br>                                                     | Bore holes, ground water, small wells, small streams, and rivers<br>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | medium water sources (e.g. boreholes, springs, medium rivers, wells, large watertanks)<br>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Large water sources (e.g., large rivers, springs, boreholes, artisan wells). Water contamination<br>                                                                                                  |
| <b>Food Security</b><br>                             | shallow rooted agricultural crops (e.g. island cabbage, chinese cabbage, tomato, beans), kumara, cassava. Increases in pests and diseases.<br> | Root crops (e.g. yam, taro, pana, cassava, sweet potato, kumala), banana, cabbage, tomato, traditional vegetables, small livestock, pasture. Low water in fish ponds<br>                                                                                                                                            | 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<br>                                                     | large trees (e.g. oil palm, coconuts, edu, kakake, cocoa, noni, breadfruit, mango). Reduced fish reproduction in fish ponds<br>                                                                       |
| <b>Socio-economic, environmental, and health</b><br> | water-borne diseases, mosquito-borne diseases (e.g malaria), respiratory diseases (e.g. cough), Mental stress<br>                              | 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.<br> | 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<br> | 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.<br> |



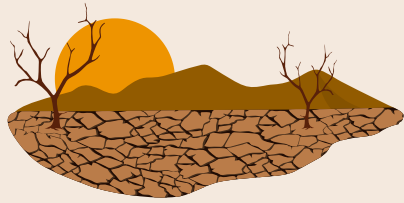
RAINFALL OUTLOOKS:

September 2026:



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

September to November 2026:



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

Rainfall Outlooks for September and September to November 2026

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

Table 3.0 categorizes the national rainfall outlook across active monitoring stations, while Figures 5 and 6 illustrate the probability of extreme rainfall events for individual stations and their surrounding communities over one- and three-month horizons.

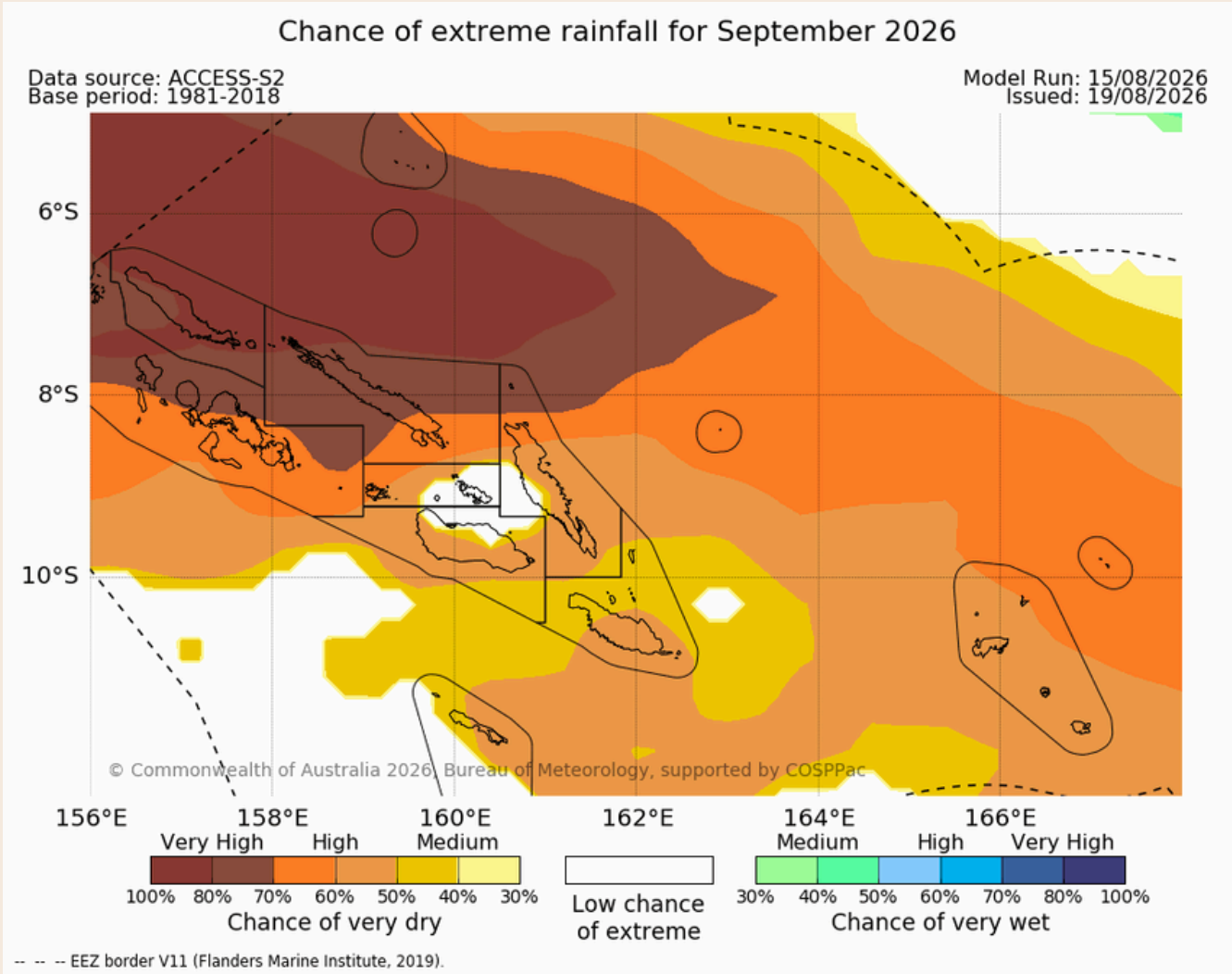


Figure 5: Extreme rainfall likelihood and outlook (August 2026)

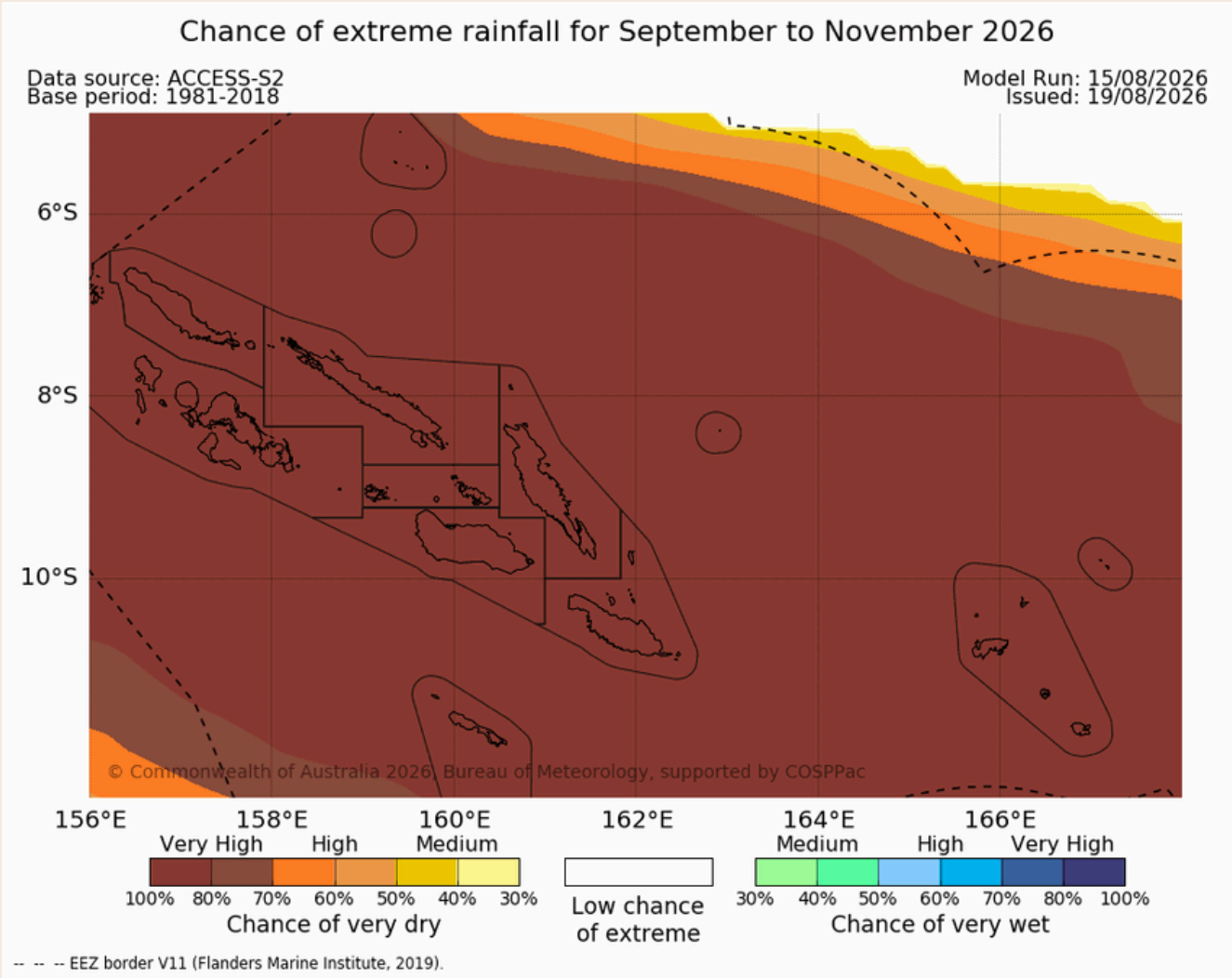


Figure 6: Extreme rainfall likelihood and outlook (August–November 2026)



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.

For further information, please contact:

The Director, Solomon Islands Meteorological Service Division | Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology (MECDM)

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