



MINUTES

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING 29 September 2020

The Chief Executive Officer recommends the endorsement of these minutes at the next Meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee.

Signed:
(CEO)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Murray', is written over the signature line.

Date 30 September 2020

These minutes were confirmed at the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on

Signed:

(Presiding Person at the meeting at which minutes were confirmed)

Acknowledgement of Noongar People

The Shire of Narrogin acknowledges the Noongar people as traditional custodians of this land and their continuing connection to land and community. We pay our respect to them, to their culture and to their Elders past and present.

Naatj ngiyen Birdiya Gnarojin kep unna nidja Noongar Moort ngaala maya nidja boodjera baarlap djoowak karlerl koolark. Ngalak niny ngullang karnan balang Bibolman baalap borong koora wer boorda.

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BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

29 SEPTEMBER 2020

1. OFFICIAL OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Member, President Ballard, declared the meeting open at 4.06 pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Elected Members Present

Mr Leigh Ballard – Shire President (Presiding Member)

CBFCO

Pip Porter

DCBFCO

Vern Gibson

Stuart Moyses

FCO's

Alastair McDougall

Barry Hardie

Bill Warren

Brenton Hardie

Cameron Hayes

Jon Rick

Kieran Quartermaine

Murray Saunders

Nathan Walker

Richard Chadwick

Russell Ashley

Tim Shepherd

Staff

Mr Dale Stewart – Chief Executive Officer

Mr Robert Powell – A/Executive Manager Development & Regulatory Services

Mr Guy Maley – Senior Ranger

Mrs Wendy Russell – Executive Support Officer

Mr Peter Cupitt – Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator

Other

Derek Jones – DFES

Blake Halford – DFES

Apologies

Mr Azhar Awang – Executive Manager Development & Regulatory Services

Simon Vogel– DFES

Mark Hoysted

Brenton Hardie

Bernie Rhodes

Daryl Kilpatrick

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION AND COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Barry Hardie Seconded: Mr Pip Porter

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2020 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

5. MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE DISCUSSION

5.1 BUSH FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN (BMP) UPDATE

Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator (BRPC), Peter Cupitt, advised that as the Bushfire risk management plan has been approved and the Shire of Narrogin has just submitted an application for \$200 K of funding from the Mitigation Activity Funds (MAF).

Some of the assets included for works in the funding application are:

- The refuse site at Highbury – gate and tracks;
- Mokine Road;
- Foxes Lair;
- Refuse site on White Road;
- Parkland clearing; and
- Small burn around Highbury.

Bushfire Brigades could be invited to take charge of the burns in the Highbury area and use it as both a training exercise and a fundraiser.

5.2 FIRE UNIT IDENTIFICATION FOR FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS (FCO's)

Senior Ranger, Guy Maley, showed a sample of the large magnets to be used for ease of identification of vehicles during an incident. The original samples were white, but on being shown examples of the yellow magnets currently being used by the BRPC and DFES, it was determined that the yellow magnets would be more visible at an incident site.

ACTION Guy to follow up with the supplier.

The vehicle identification stickers have arrived and will be issued over the next few weeks.

5.3 UPDATE FROM DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (DFES)

Attachment 1 – Copy of the Presentation 2020/21 Seasonal Outlook.

DFES Acting Superintendent for Upper Great Southern, Derek Jones, introduced himself and also Blake Halford, the new Bushfire Risk Management Officer for our region.

He then gave a short presentation on things that may influence the fire season including the:

- Soil moisture level trends;
- Bureau of Meteorology weather outlook; and
- Effect of COVID-19.

Derek then reiterated the importance of calling 000. This results in all of our fires incidents being registered – providing support for requests for more funding, as well as the Local Government Insurance being activated. Ask the person calling you if they have called '000' and if not have them do it as soon as they hang up. It is also possible for FCO's to call the Fire Incident line direct on 1800 198 140.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

Pip Porter (CBFCO), advised that there will be an opportunity on Thursday afternoon (1 October) for Highbury residents and BFB volunteers to have a look at and learn about mobile standpipes and the Narrogin Fire Truck. At this time they can also sign up to join their local Brigade if they are not already a member.

Alastair McDougall wanted to publicly acknowledge and congratulate, Pip, Vern and Stuart on this great initiative

Mobile standpipes, the CEO reiterated that the Shire of Narrogin mobile standpipe will be made available for fire fighting.

Richard Chadwick advised that currently when there is a call out to the WA College of Agriculture – Narrogin the Bushfire Brigades are contacted and then they also need to contact the VFRS, he requested a letter to be written requesting that any incidents at the WA College of Agriculture – Narrogin be automatically a dual callout.

ACTION ESO/CEO to prepare letter to be sent to DFES requesting that any incidents at the WA College of Agriculture – Narrogin automatically be assigned as a dual callout.

Alastair McDougall advised that in the east of the shire there is little to no water in the dams that could be used to fill the 'fast fill' water truck, there may be a greater need for assistance from the works crew and the Shire water truck.

Alastair McDougall suggested that there should be an honour board or some recognition from the Shire for the work put in by bushfire volunteers. The following medals are currently awarded.

- DFES – 5 and 10 year service medals for all volunteers
- National Medal – 15 years and every 10 years thereafter for active volunteers
- Fire Service Medal – this has only come into effect in the last 18 months.

Something for those going above and beyond.

Is there an upper age limit on active volunteers?

ACTION Shire Administration to investigate and provide suggestions of appropriate ways of acknowledging the work done by our volunteers to the next meeting.

Alastair McDougall also advised that due to health issues he will be out of action for about a month during the fire season and will be unable to continue as base operator during that time.

ACTION Pip Porter and Richard Chadwick to organise cover.

The restricted burning period has been varied, by extending the extending the close of the unrestricted burning period to 14 October 2020. FCO's do not have to issue burning permits before 15 October 2020.

There was some discussion about amending the date of the commencement of the restricted burning period to 15 October permanently.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Alastair McDougall

Seconded: Richard Chadwick

That the Bushfire Advisory Committee consider at its March/April 2021 meeting that the restricted burning starting date be changed from 1 October to 15 October.

CARRIED

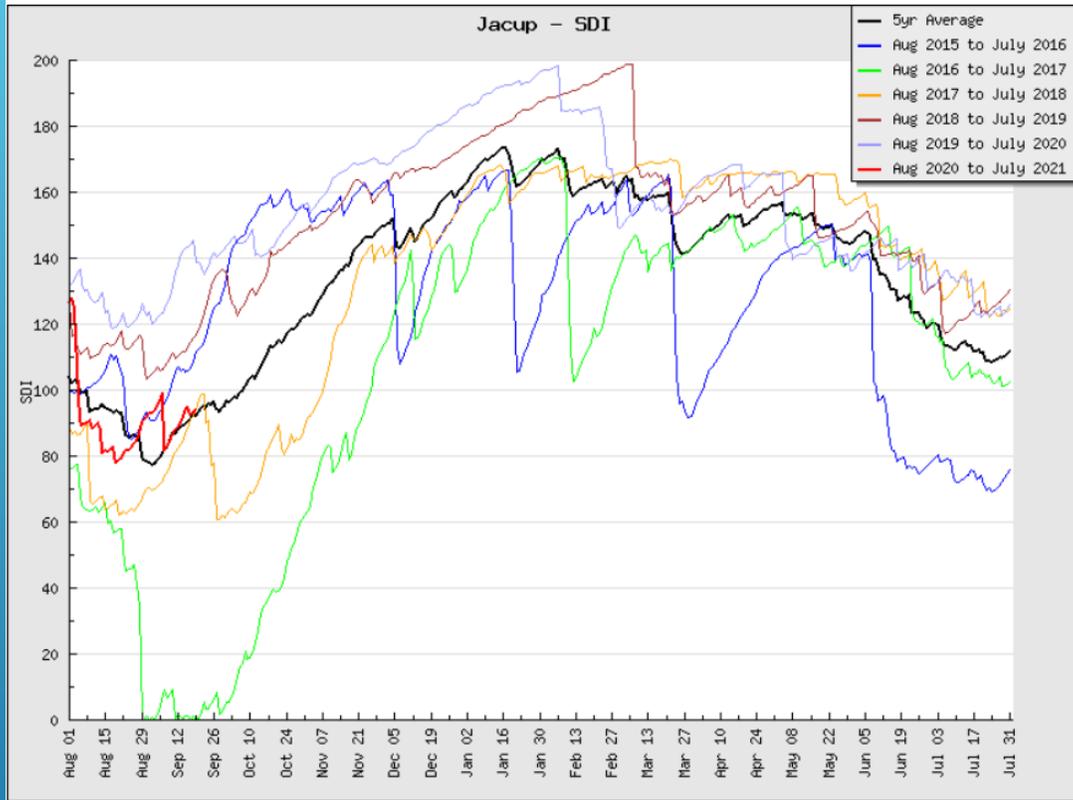
7. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business to discuss, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 5:53 pm.

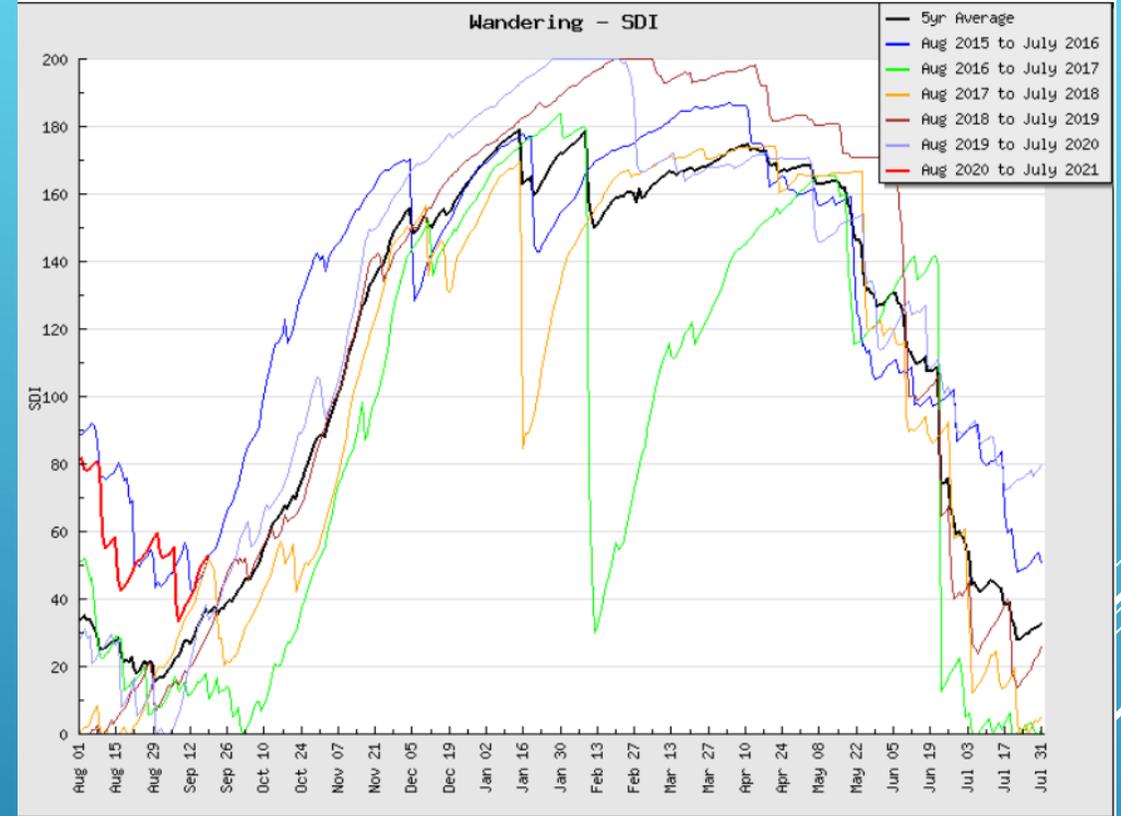
2020/21 SEASONAL OUTLOOK

- Soil Moisture Levels
- BOM Weather Outlook
- COVID-19

Jacup SDI

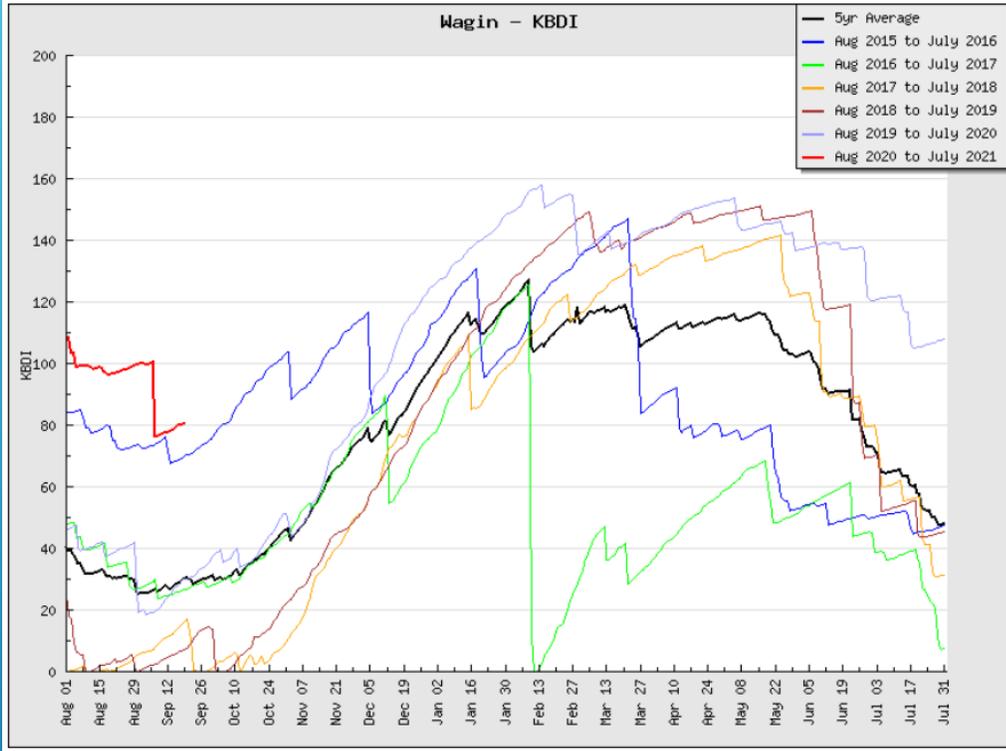


Wandering SDI

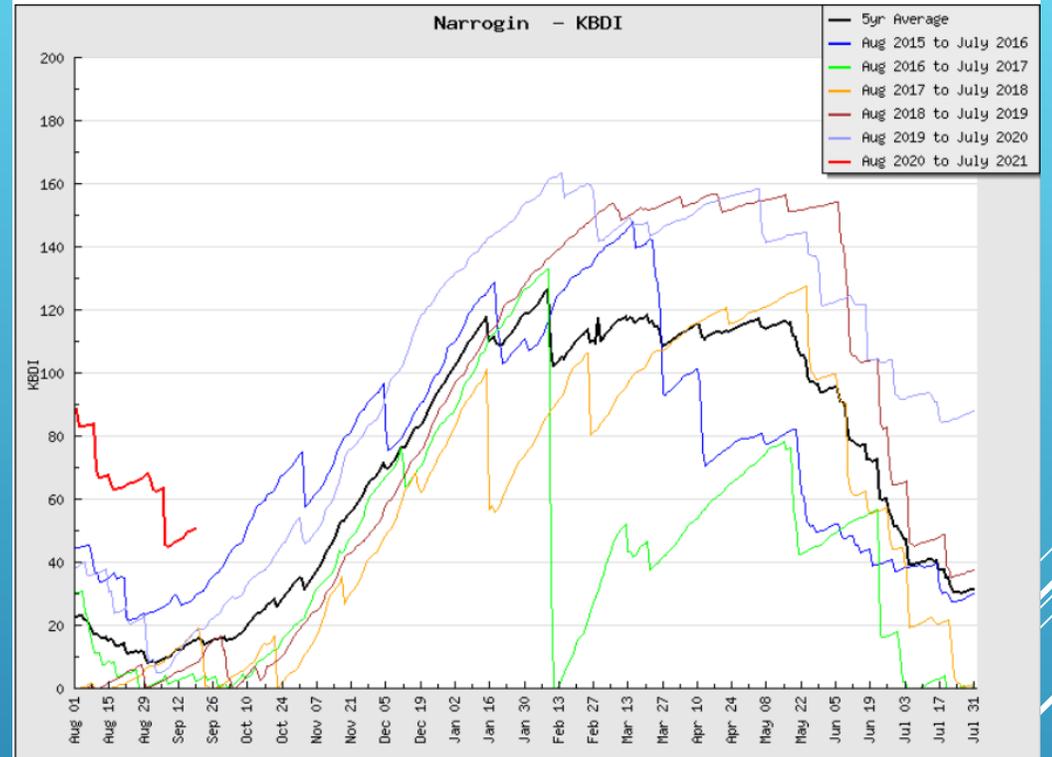


SOIL DRYNESS INDEX

Wagin KBDI

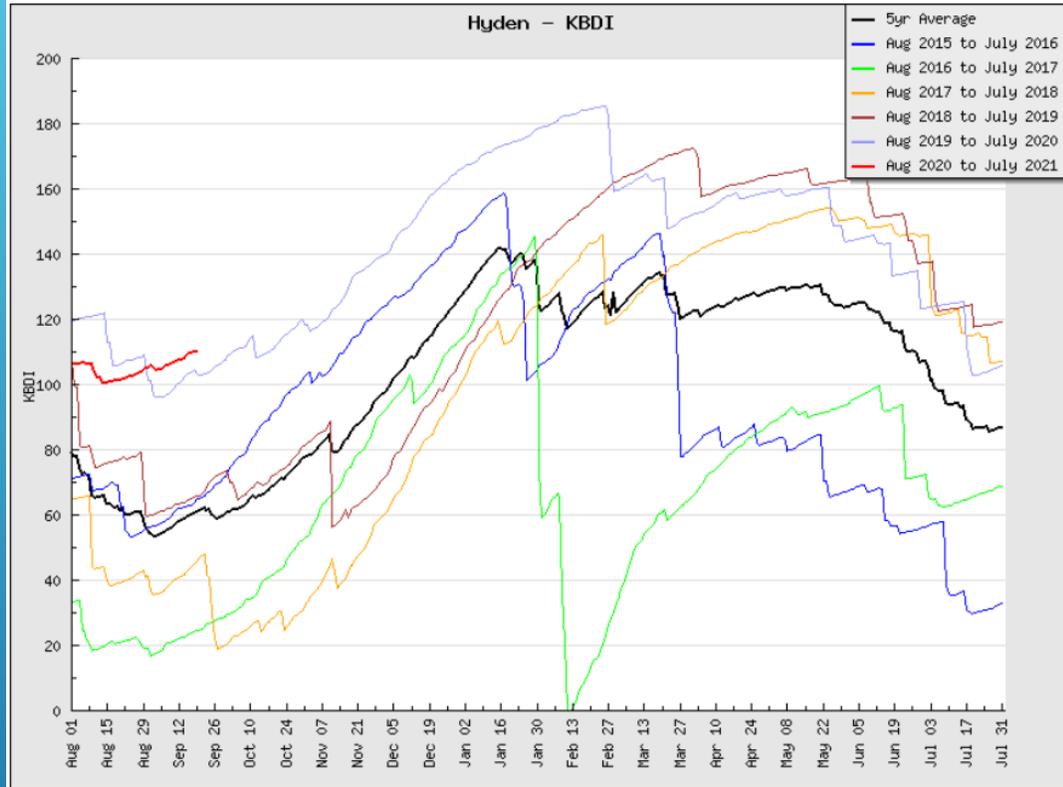


Narrogin KBDI

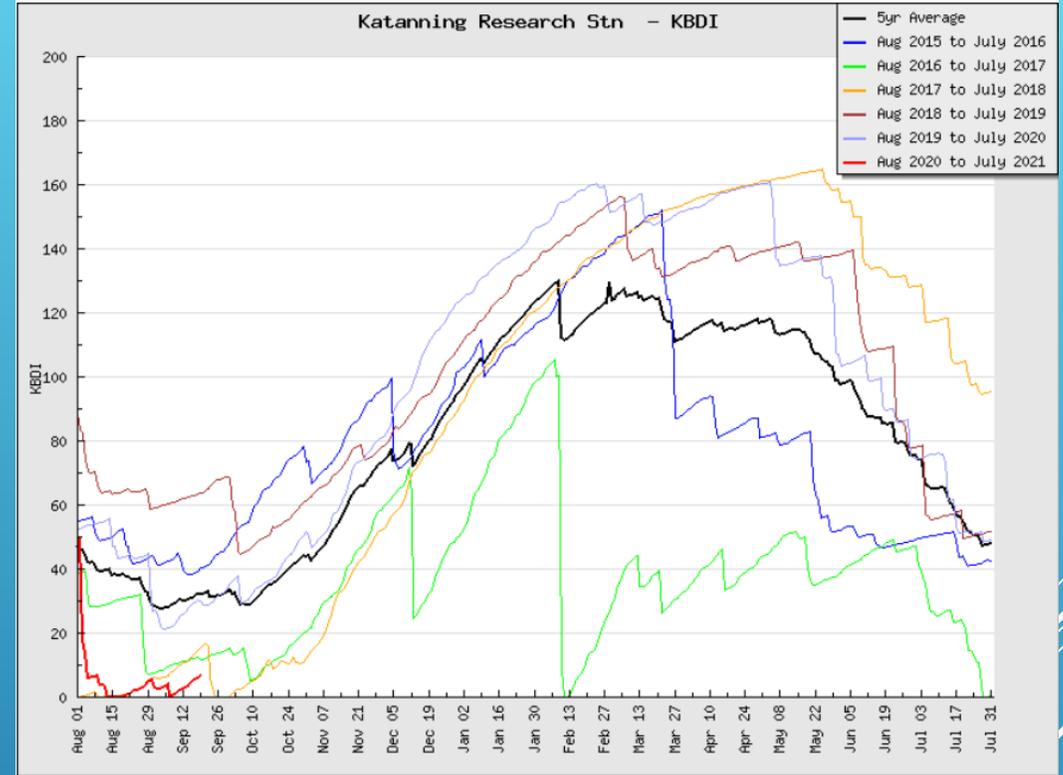


KEECH BYRAM DROUGHT INDEX

Hyden KBDI

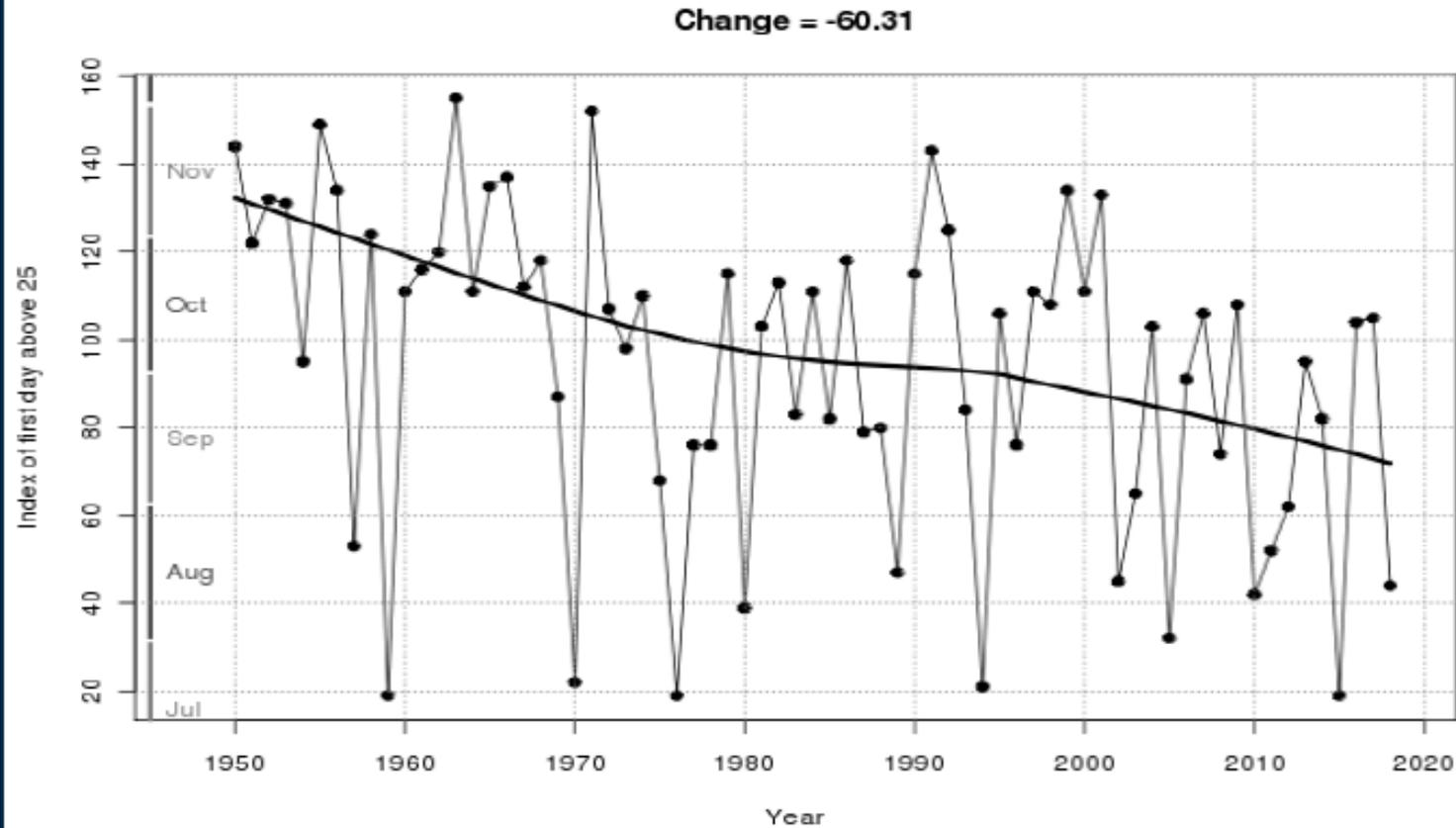


Katanning KBDI



KEECH BYRAM DROUGHT INDEX

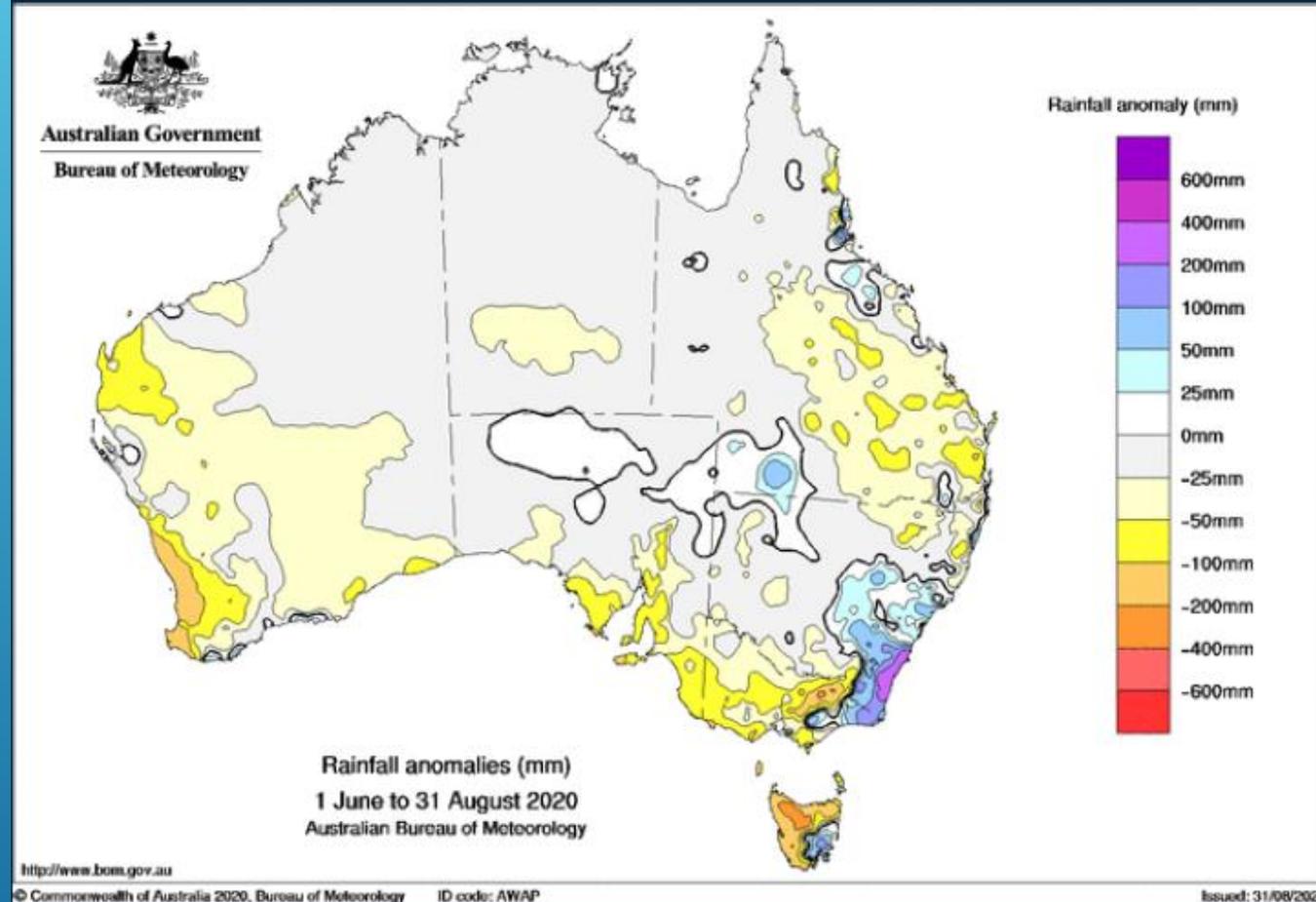
Earliest day with southwest WA daily FFDI > 25



CHANGING WEATHER?

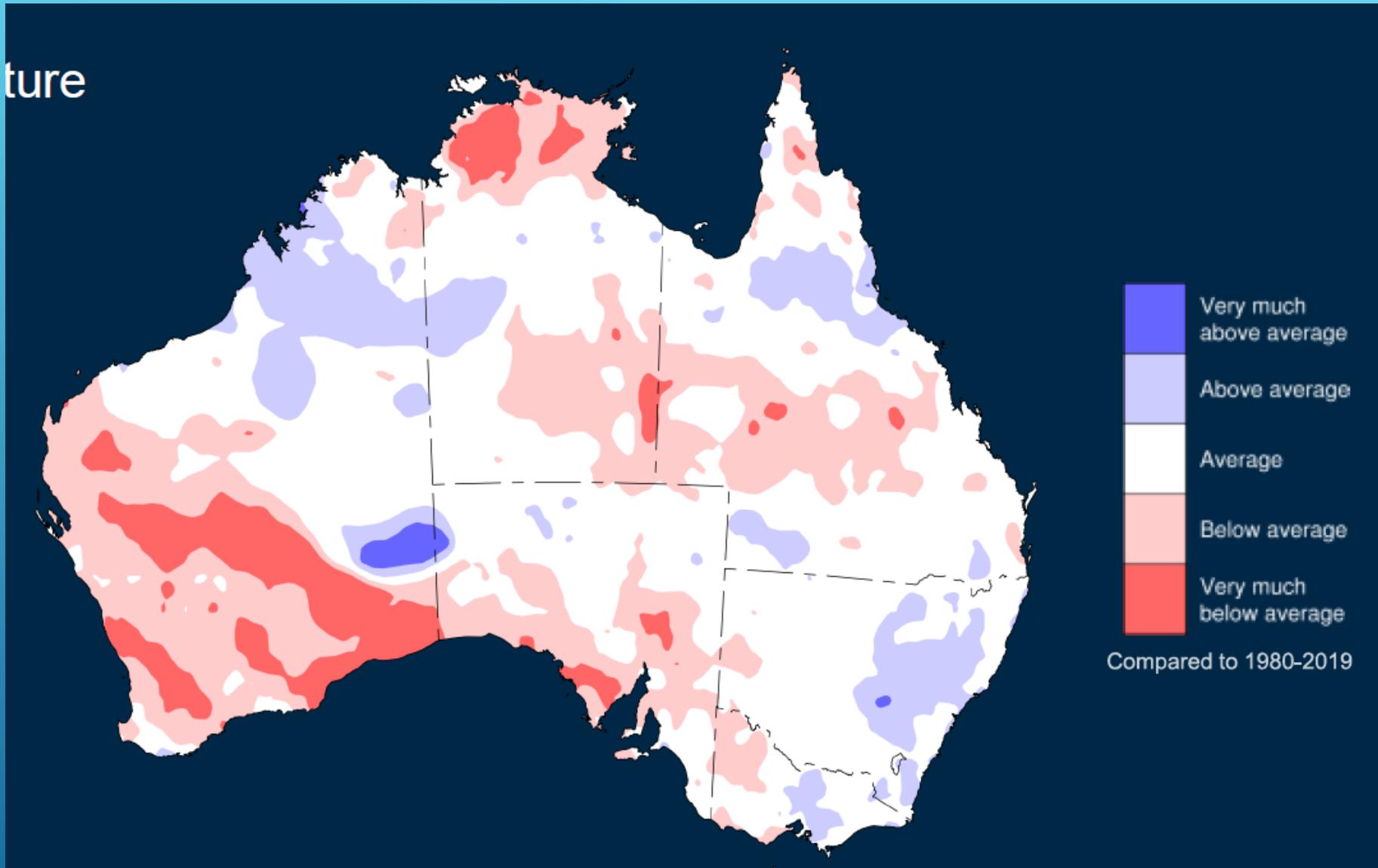
Recent Rainfall

Previous 6-months



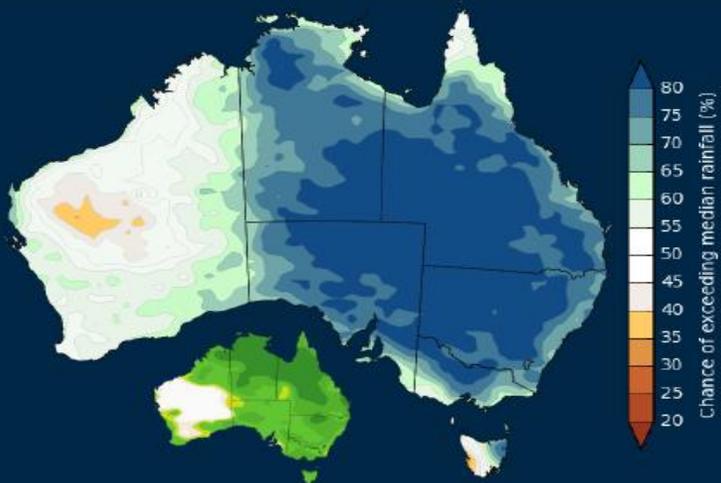
8th Driest Winter on Record – similar to 2019

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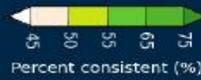
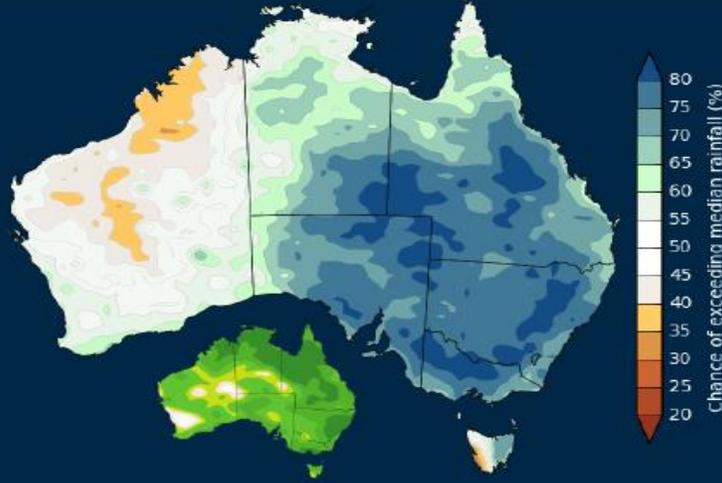


Root Soil Moisture Levels

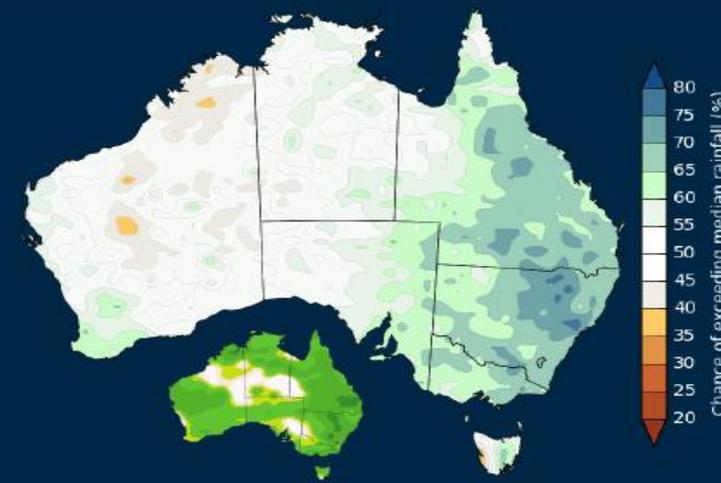
October



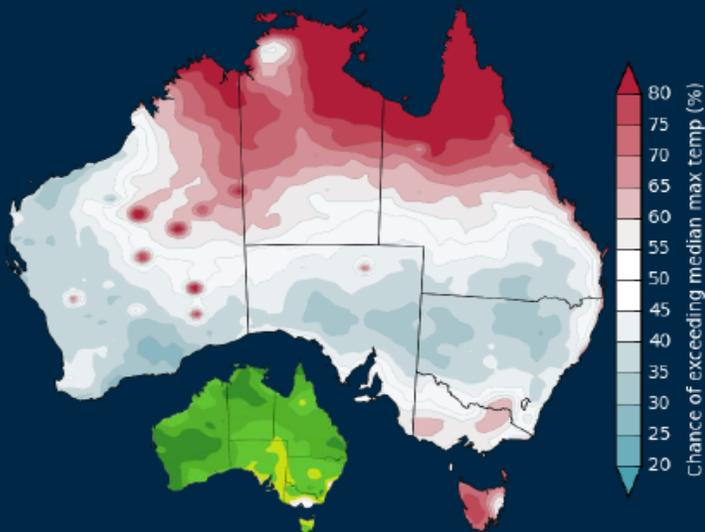
October to December



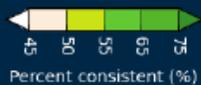
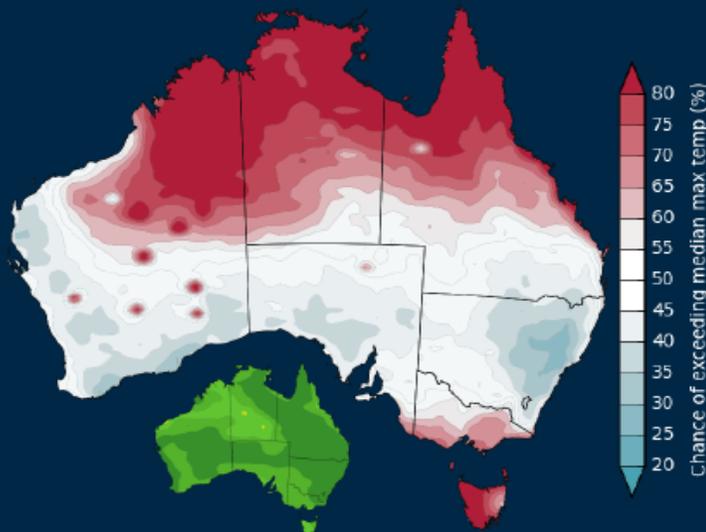
November to January



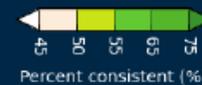
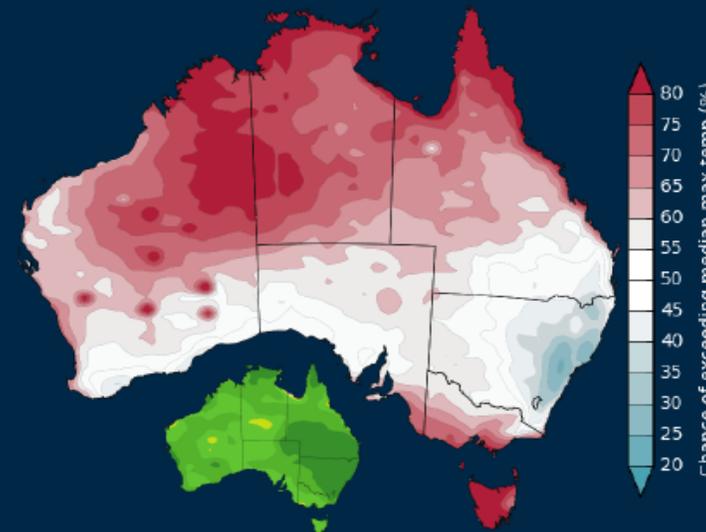
October



October to December



November to January



QUESTIONS SURROUNDING COVID

- Availability of 'workers'
 - Duration of harvest
 - Maintenance schedules
 - Ability to turn out
 - Pressure of CBFCO to 'hold off' harvest bans
 - Local/through traffic
 - South coastal accommodation
 - Pressure on smaller towns/hidden camp spots
- 