SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF METEOROLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES

INVENTORY OF DECISION SUPPORT TOOLS

Drought Assessment Tool

ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Sector	Agriculture
Sub-sector	Drought Assessment
Tool Name	NAMS
Tool Description	The NAMS is a website that contains maps, graphs and reports to demonstrate the production situation for major agricultural systems, as well as the state of their climatic drivers.
Weather, Climate or Water inputs	Climate data relevant to agricultural production capabilities
Specific weather, climate, water data required	Rainfall Stations, Rainfall Percentiles, Rainfall Averages, Temperature Averages
Spatial resolution	Areal Data
Temporal resolution	Monthly and higher increments (eg annual, growing season, etc.)
Delivery methodology	Historical data
Frequency of data requirement	Updated monthly.
Detailed Tool Description	The primary purpose of NAMS will be to streamline the Exceptional Circumstances (drought assistance) application and assessment process through presenting the information required for a determination (climate, production and other relevant material) in a consistent and transparent manner.
Spatial resolution	Defined regional areas up to State and National areas
Temporal resolution	User determined, monthly data provided
Delivery methodology	Consolidated information on recent climate variability and other agriculturally related information.
Frequency of provision	As required.
Benefits of tool application	The objectives of the project are: To contain relevant and comprehensive data that is user friendly and client focused; To provide a centralised access point for that data; To provide quicker and cheaper access to data than existing sources; To enhance the timely identification of an emerging Exceptional Circumstances event; That data can be applied to areas equivalent to local government areas; and To identify the longer term uses for other applications, for example more objective state drought declarations, improved approaches to risk management.
Possible future advances	Could possible evolve to a more proactive management tool. Could also make use of seasonal outlooks at some stage.
Comments	
URL	http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/drought/ec