

Invitation to an international workshop

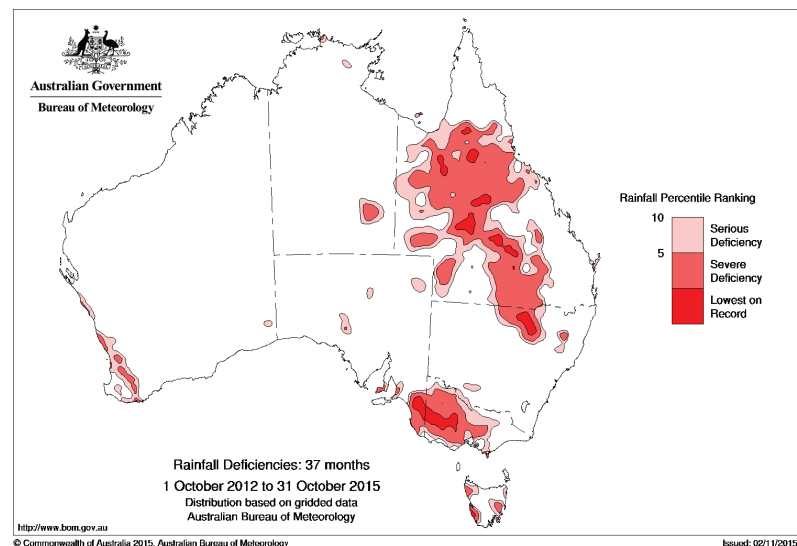
Drought: understanding and reducing vulnerability through monitoring and early warning systems

Wednesday 9th March 2016, 9:00am – 4:45pm

Location: SA Water Learning Centre, Level 1, 250 Victoria Square, Adelaide

You are invited to a one day workshop on drought monitoring and early warning systems. The workshop will be an opportunity to contribute your ideas and views along with representatives from the policy, practitioner and research communities. The workshop will help develop new ways of measuring drought impacts and improving resilience to drought in Australia.

Drought is a feature of Australia's climate. Past droughts, such as the Millennium Drought of 1997-2009 have caused severe social, economic and environmental impacts. Drought is back on the agenda with the large El Niño event currently impacting south-eastern Australia, while for many parts of Queensland drought is an ongoing challenge. The impacts and costs of drought are significant and expected to continue rising in a warming world.



Although little can be done in the short term to prevent a drought, actions can be taken to reduce the vulnerability of society to the event, including the development of drought monitoring and early warning (M&EW) systems. Current M&EW systems are reliant on physical indicators (rainfall, river flows, groundwater levels, etc) for capturing drought severity and do not adequately reflect the complexity of inter-related human and environmental causes, effects and impacts.

Workshop Aims

The aim of this workshop is to improve our collective understanding of drought and M&EW practices currently applied in Australia and internationally, as a basis for developing more effective strategies for M&EW that can provide decision-relevant information to a wide community of potential users. The workshop design will enable participants to: share their different experiences of and responses to

drought; improve our understanding of how drought monitoring is undertaken at present; and help identify the requirements for improved M&EW systems in the future.

Why attend?

We would like to hear about your knowledge and experience with current (and/or potential) Australian M&EW capabilities in the urban water supply, agriculture and environment sectors. The day will consist of a mix of participatory sessions and short presentations from leading researchers and practitioners involved in drought M&EW systems in Australia, Europe and the USA. You will be among experts to share diverse perspectives on drought M&EW.

The specific learning and insights arising from the workshop will be used for designing new approaches and tools for M&EW in Australia, Europe, UK and USA. This will help move towards the goal of developing new practices enabling communities to increase resilience to drought.

The workshop is initiated by the DRIVER project (<http://www.drought.uni-freiburg.de/>) funded by the Belmont Forum (<https://igfagcr.org/>). This project brings together researchers from CSIRO (Australia), the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (UK), Open University (UK), University of Freiburg (Germany) and National Drought Mitigation Center (USA). The aim is to share experiences in M&EW across three continents in order to develop improved M&EW systems. The Australian workshop in March is part of a linked series of events, including similar workshops in the USA (December 2014) and UK (March 2015).

The workshop is FREE to attend.

RSVP: Please send an email to neville.crossman@csiro.au by the 15th February 2016. We will then send you further details and joining instructions.



**Centre for
Ecology & Hydrology**
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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