

NSW ARBOVIRUS SURVEILLANCE & MOSQUITO MONITORING PROGRAM 2016-2017

Weekly Update

Date: 31/Oct/2016

SUMMARY

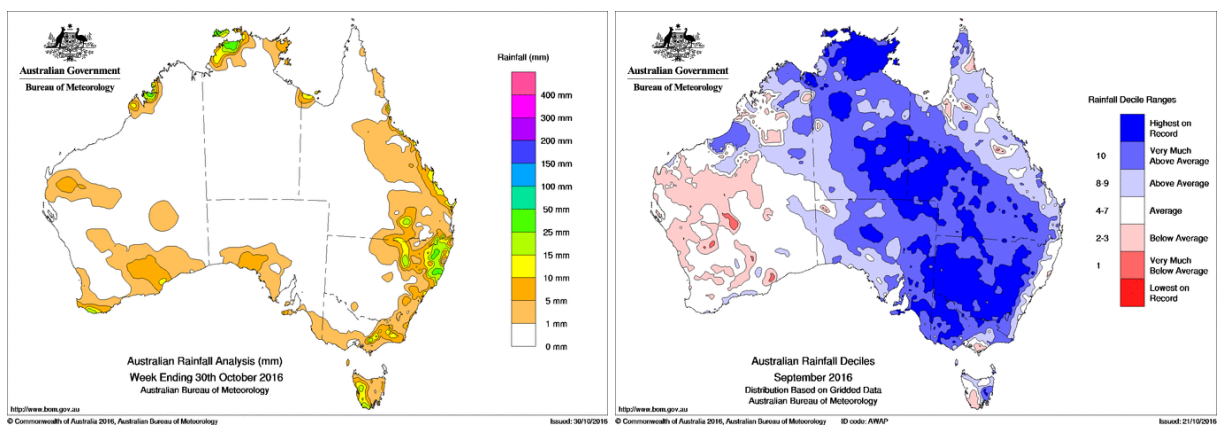
- **Climate:** over the last week, there was light rainfall along the coast. For September, rainfall was very much above average to highest on record for much of the inland, with the coast experiencing average precipitation. Maximum temperatures for September were 3-4 degrees below average, while minimum temperatures were around normal.
- **Three Month Forecast:** for November 2016 to January 2017, rainfall predictions for NSW are for average precipitation for most of the state, with November expected to be below average. Maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to be above normal across the state. According to the BOM as of 25/Oct/16, the current tropical Pacific Ocean El Niño-Southern Oscillation remains neutral and the negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) condition continue but is expected to ease back to neutral by the end of spring.
- **Tidal:** the next series of high tides that may result in *Aedes vigilax* hatching are due to occur over 13-19/Nov/16.
- **MVEV models:** the data relevant to both the Forbes' and Nichols' hypotheses have been updated to the end of Sep 2016 and both theories remain inconsistent with past MVEV outbreaks.
- **Mosquito Numbers Inland:** mosquito numbers continue to 'very high' from Griffith and 'high' from most other locations. Collections continue to be dominated by *Culex australicus*.
- **Mosquito Numbers Coast:** surveillance activities are due to begin in December.
- **Mosquito Numbers Sydney:** surveillance activities are largely due to begin in December.
- **Arboviral Isolates:** there have been no arboviral detections in the mosquitoes.
- **Chicken Sentinel Seroconversions:** no report has been issued to date.
- **Human Notifications:** for the current fiscal year, there have been 49 RRV and 4 BFV notifications; the total represents around half the long term average.

Comment: mosquito numbers continue to be well above average for this time of the year with 'high' numbers or greater from most sites and over 8,000 mosquitoes collected from six sites. However, collections were lower this week with the cooler weather. The forecast for November of below average rainfall may result in the drying out of many of the temporary pools that formed from the recent heavy rains and flooding, with a possible drop in mosquito numbers. The current long term climatic predictors are suggestive of normal rainfall patterns ahead, and thus the arboviral season may not be quite as bad as first indicated; time will tell!

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Rainfall

Rainfall across Australia for the week ending 30/Oct/2016 is depicted on the left and monthly rainfall deciles for September 2016 are on the right. Over the last week, there was light rainfall along the coast. Rainfall during September was very much above average to highest on record over the inland, with the coast experiencing average precipitation. Minimum temperatures for September were around normal, while maximum temperature were 3-4 degrees below average.



Three Month Rainfall & Temperature Forecast

For November 2016 to January 2017, rainfall predictions for NSW are for average precipitation for most of the state, with November expected to be below average. Maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to be above normal across the state. The following pages contain graphics of the seasonal outlook:

www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/median (Rainfall outlook).

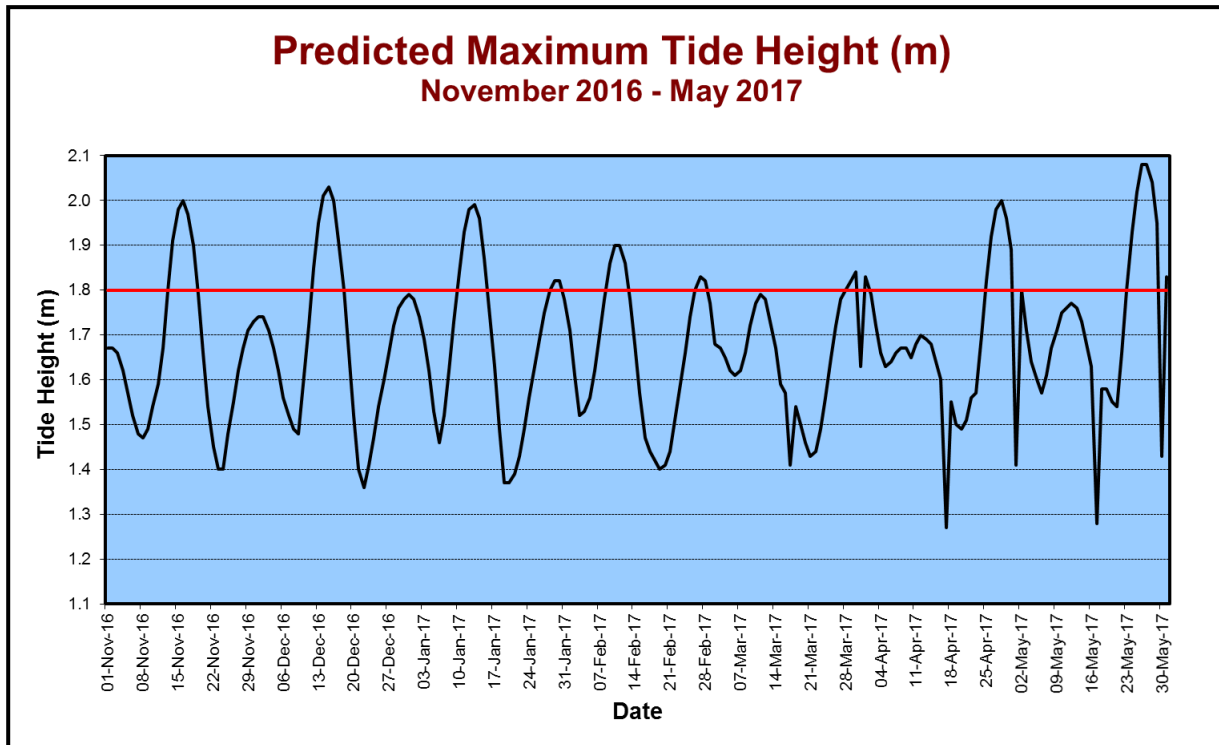
www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/temperature/summary (Max & min temperature outlook).

According to the BOM as of 25/Oct/16, the current tropical Pacific Ocean El Niño-Southern Oscillation remains neutral and the negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) condition continue but is expected to ease back to neutral by the end of spring. Spring in eastern Australia is typically wetter than average during a negative IOD or La Niña.

For more information: www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/ and, <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/iod/>

Tidal

Tidal information is relevant for the prediction of the activity of the salt marsh mosquito, *Aedes vigilax*. Typically for NSW, tides of over 1.8m can induce hatching of *Aedes vigilax* larvae and the graph below of predicted tide heights can provide some indication of when this is likely to occur.



The next series of tides that may lead to *Aedes vigilax* hatching are due 13-19/Nov/2016.

Note that actual tide heights can vary by 0.3m (or more in unusual circumstances) due to variations in atmospheric pressure, rainfall, wind and other climatic phenomena. Thus predicted tide height should be used as a gauge only for potential *Aedes vigilax* activity. The larvae of the saltmarsh mosquito relies on a inundation/drying cycle for the mudflats in which it lives; continual wet weather prevents the drying cycles thereby reducing larval production.

MVEV Climatic Models

Three predictive environmental based models for MVEV activity have been developed; the Forbes (which relies on rainfall in the river catchment basins of Eastern Australia), Nichols (based on the Southern Oscillation), and the Bennett theory (based on the Indian Ocean Dipole). The latter theory is poorly developed (and unreliable), and is not considered below. Note that all the predictive models have been developed on a limited data set and do not always forecast activity. There can also be unusual environmental conditions that may lead to the introduction of the virus to southeastern Australia, such as the movement of low pressure cells from the north to the south of the country during 2008 and 2011. Vertical transmission of the virus (from adult to the egg in *Aedes* species) can result in restricted activity following localised heavy precipitation (as per 2003 at Menindee).

i. Forbes' Hypothesis

Rainfall was not above Decile 7 in all of the river catchment basins in eastern Australia for the last quarter of 2015 or the majority of the catchments for the first quarter of 2016 (Table 1). No data is presently yet available for the Oct-Dec 2016 and Jan-Mar 2017 periods.

Table 1. Rainfall indices for the main catchment basins of eastern Australia as per Forbes' hypothesis, relevant to the 2016-2017 season. Note that a value of 1 equals Decile 7 rainfall.

Catchment Basin	Oct-Dec 2015	Jan-Mar 2016	Oct-Dec 2016	Jan-Mar 2017
Darling River	0.72	0.67		
Lachlan/Murrumbidgee/Murray Rivers	0.70	1.14		
Northern Rivers	1.35	0.57		
North Lake Eyre system	1.35	0.63		

ii. Nichol's Hypothesis

Table 2. The seasonal atmospheric pressures (in mm) according to Nichol's hypothesis, relevant to the 2016-2017 season (*data for Sep/16 only).

	Autumn 2016	Winter 2016	Spring 2016*
2015 Value	1010.30	1012.57	1011
Pre past MVEV seasons	<1009.74	<1012.99	<1009.99

Only the Winter period pertaining to the Nichol's hypothesis is in line with past MVEV active years.

ARBOVIRAL ISOLATES

LOCATION - Site	Date Trapped	Mosquito Species	Virus

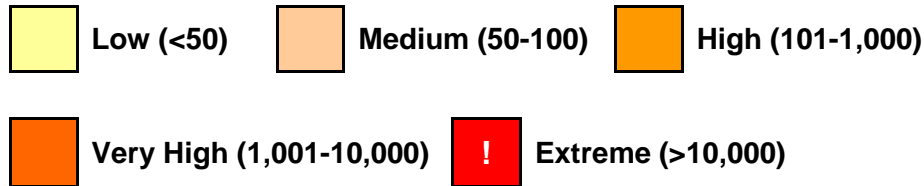
*Detection via Honey-Baited Cards, the mosquito species cannot be determined.

<http://medent.usyd.edu.au/arbovirus/results/virusisolates.htm>

MOSQUITO RESULTS

All the full mosquito results can be obtained from:
<http://medent.usyd.edu.au/arbovirus/results/results.htm#site>

Mosquito abundances are best described in relative terms, and in keeping with the terminology from previous NSWASP Annual Reports, mosquito numbers are depicted on the tables below as:



Each location represents the average for all trapping sites at that location.

Inland

Location	Mosquito	Oct-16					Nov					Dec				Jan-17					Feb				Mar			
		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	22	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	5	12	19	26	
Albury	<i>Cx. annul</i>																											
	Total Mosq.																											
Bourke	<i>Cx. annul</i>																											
	Total Mosq.																											
Griffith	<i>Cx. annul</i>																											
	Total Mosq.																											
Leeton	<i>Cx. annul</i>																											
	Total Mosq.																											
Macquarie Marshes	<i>Cx. annul</i>																											
	Total Mosq.																											
Mathoura	<i>Cx. annul</i>																											
	Total Mosq.																											
Wagga	<i>Cx. annul</i>																											
	Total Mosq.																											

Coastal

Location	Mosquito	Nov				Dec				Jan-17					Feb				Mar				Apr				
		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	22	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30
Ballina	<i>Ae. vigilax</i>																										
	Total Mosq.																										
Coffs Harbour	<i>Ae. vigilax</i>																										
	Total Mosq.																										
Gosford	<i>Ae. vigilax</i>																										
	Total Mosq.																										
Lake Macquarie	<i>Ae. vigilax</i>																										
	Total Mosq.																										
Port Macquarie	<i>Ae. vigilax</i>																										
	Total Mosq.																										
Tweed	<i>Ae. vigilax</i>																										
	Total Mosq.																										
Wyong	<i>Ae. vigilax</i>																										
	Total Mosq.																										

Sydney

Location	Mosquito	Nov				Dec				Jan-17					Feb				Mar				Apr				
		6	13	20	27	4	11	18	22	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30
Banks-town	<i>Ae. vigilax</i>																										
	Total Mosq.																										
Blacktown	<i>Ae. vigilax</i>																										
	Total Mosq.																										
Georges River	<i>Ae. vigilax</i>																										
	Total Mosq.																										
Hawkes-bury	<i>Ae. vigilax</i>																										
	Total Mosq.																										
Hills Shire	<i>Ae. vigilax</i>																										
	Total Mosq.																										
Penrith	<i>Ae. vigilax</i>																										
	Total Mosq.																										
Sydney Olympic Park	<i>Ae. vigilax</i>																										
	Total Mosq.																										
Ryde	<i>Ae. vigilax</i>																										
	Total Mosq.																										

Sentinel Chicken Seroconversions

http://medent.usyd.edu.au/arbovirus/results/chicken_results_all_sites.htm

Location	Oct-16					Nov				Dec				Jan-17					Feb				Mar			
	2	9	16	8	8	8	13	20	27	4	11	18	22	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	5	12	19	26
Bourke																										
Deniliquin																										
Forbes																										
Griffith																										
Hay																										
Leeton																										
Macquarie Marshes																										
Menindee																										
Moama																										
Moree																										
Wee Waa																										

N= Negative for MVEV & KUNV

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