

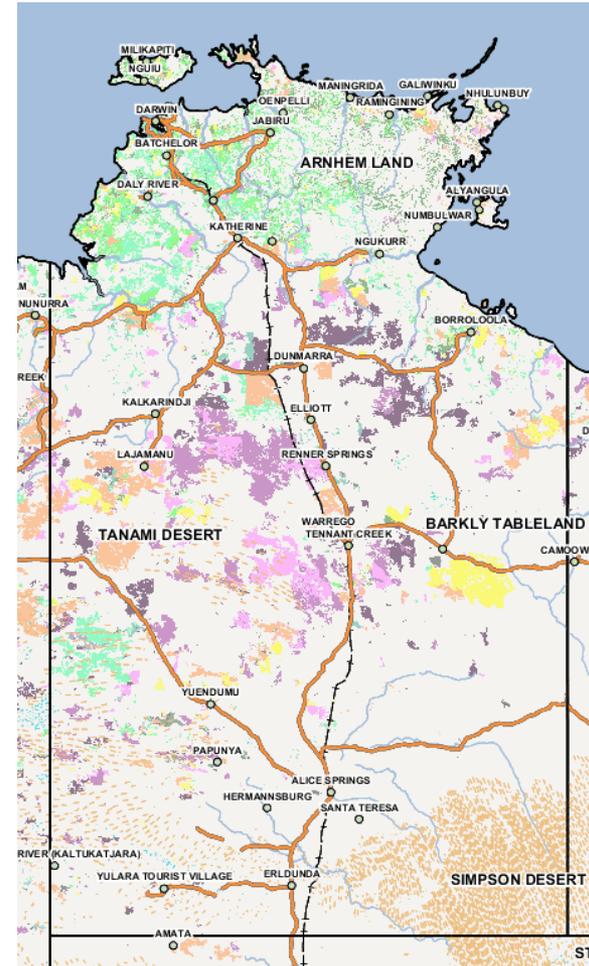
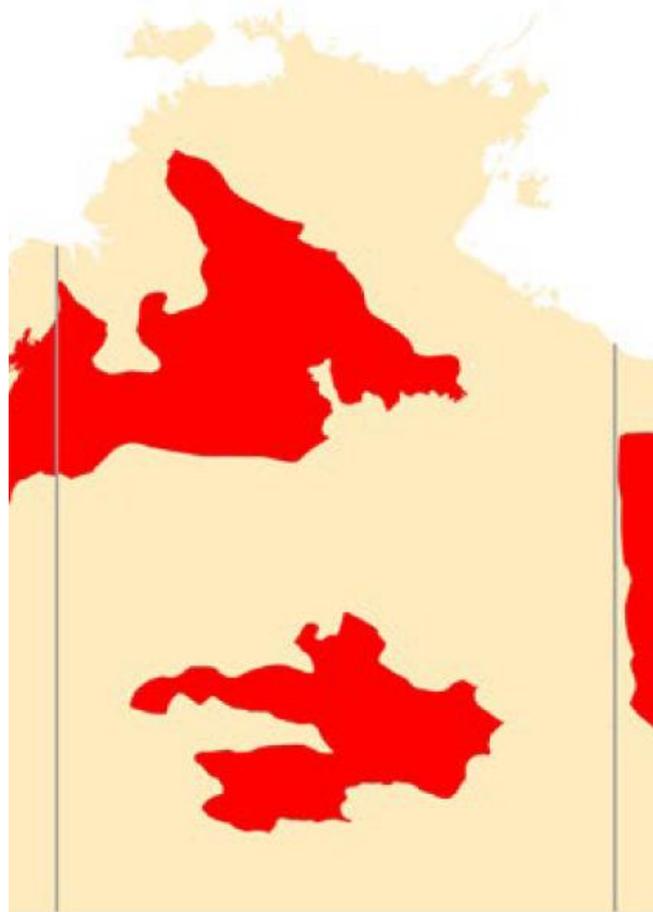
NT Jurisdictional Issues Review of Season 2017 and 2018 Outlook

For the;

North Australian Fire Managers Forum – Townsville, QLD
26th June 2018

Review of 2017 – Predicted Vs Occurred

-  Above normal fire potential
-  Normal fire potential

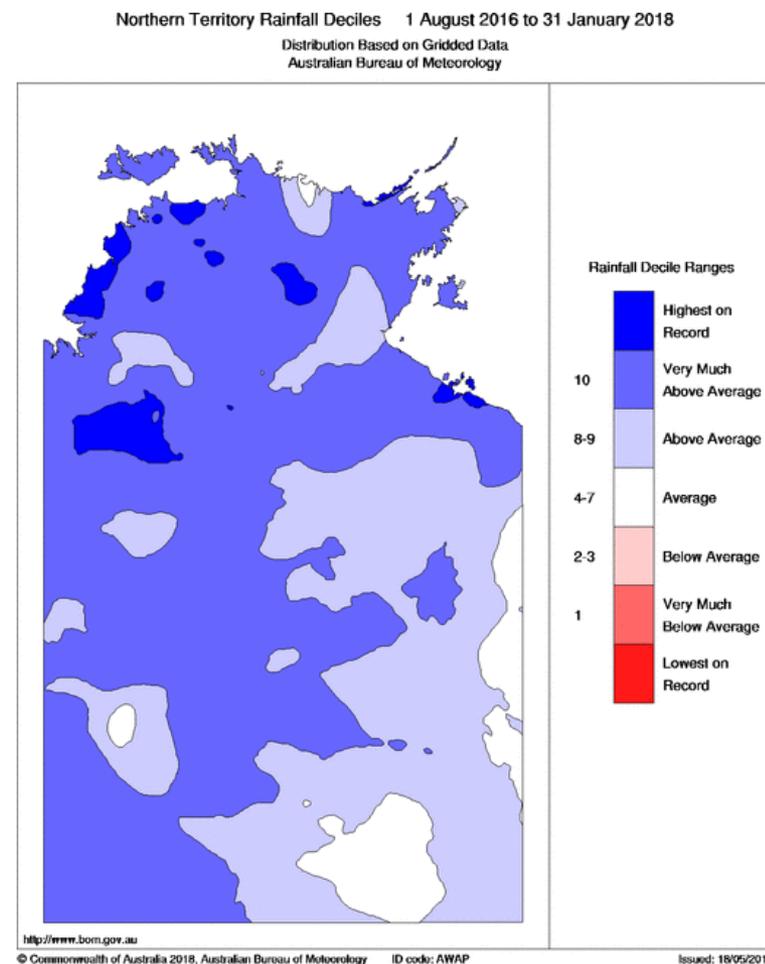


Review of 2017 – Fire Weather

- 39 Fire Weather Warnings were issued during 2017 across the NT
 - 15 FWWs issued in August
 - 2 FWWs issued for southern NT (first time since April 2013)
- 23 Fire Bans were declared during 2017
 - 8 consecutive 24 Hour Fire Ban periods declared between 23-30 August
 - 4 in the Savannas FMZ compared to 23 in the Vernon Arafura FMZ
- On set of the Top End wet season in November with the NT having its 7th wettest November on record reducing ongoing fire threat

Review of 2017 – Rainfall Anomalies

- Above average rainfall during the 2016 wet season promoted good grass growth, with resulting high fuel loads across the Top End
- Retention of above average soil moistures through to April 2017 hampered on-ground mitigation programs
- Onset of strong winds during May 2017 had an impact on the ability to undertake aerial planned burning in some areas
- November rain in 2017 eased bushfire risk



Review of 2017 – Identified Issues

- Prolonged periods of Severe and Extreme fire danger
- Public information dissemination
- Public expectation – Fire Service Vs Land Management
- BFNT integration within the NT emergency management framework including the JESCC
- Volunteer recruitment and retention
- Demographic threat environment has changed, peri urban development = reduced community knowledge of bushfire threat



Marrakai Wildfire 5 September 2017

Review of 2017 – What went well

- No loss of life or serious injury
- Professional development – staff performing in new roles
- 3 out of 5 Regional Bushfire Management Plans developed and approved



Review of 2017 – What went well

- New Government, Minister, CEO & Executive Director
- Tested the new legislation
- Aboriginal Carbon Unit established
- 6 x deployments of Alice Springs Volunteers to Top End

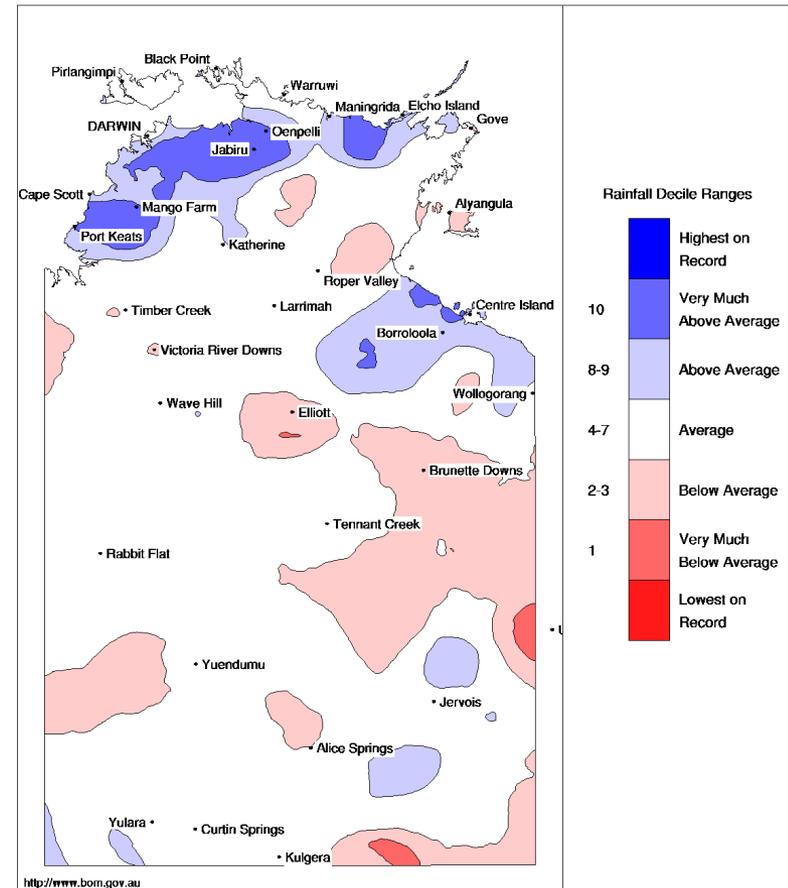


2018 Three Month Seasonal Outlook – Rainfall Events

- Above average in coastal areas as a result of tropical cyclone events
- Average to below average through the VRD – no rain since Feb.
- High soil moisture retention in Top End impacting on ground mitigation programs

Northern Territory Rainfall Deciles 1 December 2017 to 31 May 2018

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



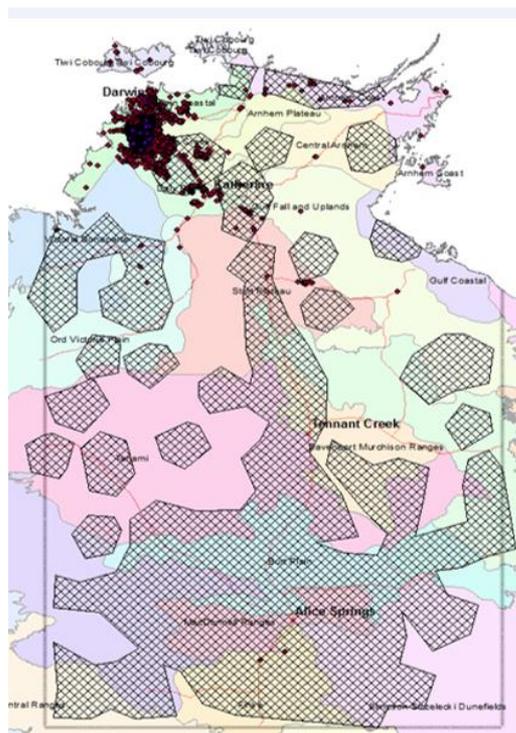
<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Issued: 21/06/2018

2018 Three Month Seasonal Outlook – Fuel loads and curing

- NT between 90-95% cured overall
- Fuel loads 2-3 t/ha overall in the south
- Fuel 4-6 t/ha overall in the north
- Gamba prevalent areas between 6-12t/ha



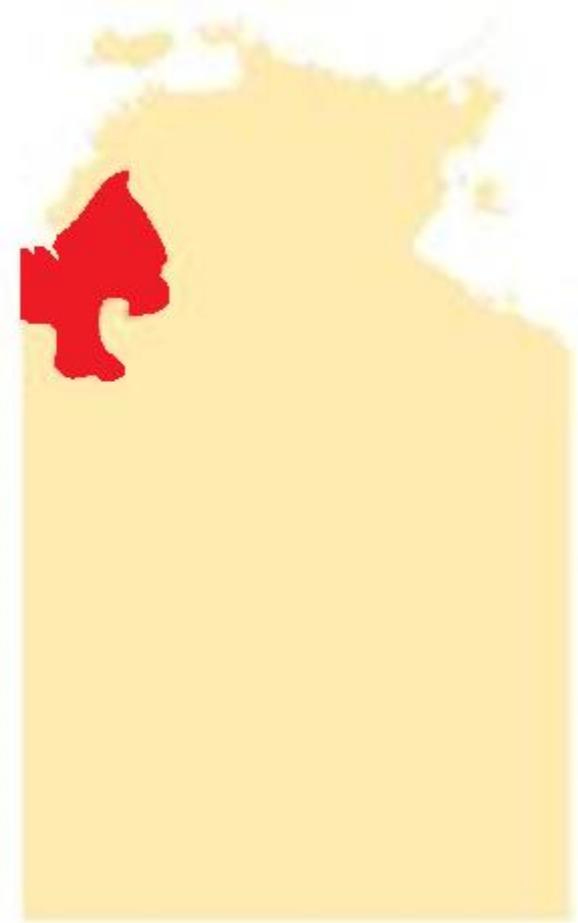
■ Buffel

• Gamba



2018 Three Month Seasonal Outlook - Prediction

- Normal bushfire potential considered for all of NT with the exception of Victoria Bonaparte
- Rainfall varied in quantity, extent, and timing, resulting in areas experiencing inconsistent rainfall
- Victoria River District recording below yearly average rainfall total



2018 Seasonal Outlook – Identified Risks

- Volunteer program – recruitment and retention
- Staffing
 - New operational team members
 - New ongoing positions
 - Development and capability
- Unknown capacity for bushfire management within remote communities
- Ongoing transition of the new Bushfires Management Act
- Future rain events (central Australia)
- 50% changeover in Top End brigade management teams

BFNT Top 5 Priorities 2018

1. Public information
2. Training and capability development
3. Volunteer recruitment and retention
4. Implementation of Bushfire Emergency Management System (BEMS)
5. Fire fighting fleet management



Thank you