Seasonal conditions insights snapshot

June 2026

Key points

June 2026 continued to deliver some relief from prolonged dry conditions across most of Tasmania, although rainfall varied the State. Above average rainfall was recorded across the north of the State and King Island, below average in parts of the west and the Bay of Fires area, and average across the rest of the State. Statewide June rainfall was 3% above the long-term (1961–1990) average, offsetting some of the accumulated three-month and twelve-month rainfall deficiencies. Despite the rainfall, persistent deficits remain across much of the east coast and parts of the midlands.

Temperatures during June were very much above average for most of the State. The average **maximum** temperature was 1.39 degrees Celsius above the 1961-1990 average (historical average), the equal third warmest on record for all months of June since 1910. The average **minimum** temperature was 1.3 degrees Celsius above the historical average. Overall, the **average** temperature was 1.35 degrees Celsius above the historical average, the third warmest on record for all months of June since 1910.

Soil moisture showed some improvement with much of Tasmania now recording average soil moisture, the east coast and south-east coastal hinterland recording above average soil moisture. However, the northern midlands, recorded below average soil moisture. Overall, this is an improvement from the conditions observed in May when many regions had below or well below average soil moisture.

Runoff continued to improve during June, with most of the State now in the average to above average range. This extends the recovery observed in May and indicates generally healthy streamflow across most catchments. However, below average runoff persisted along the far north-east coast between Binalong Bay and Ringarooma Bay, and across the northern half of Flinders Island.

Agronomic conditions have shown some improvement with harvest later than usual due to seasonal conditions. Pasture growth rates have remained close to historic June averages. Sufficient supply of hay and fodder is available in the market and prices remained stable.

Economic conditions have improved slightly due to fertiliser prices moderating in June reducing input costs for the upcoming season. However, geopolitical tensions have recently flared which has seen recent increases in global oil prices. Livestock markets remain relatively strong, though cattle movements from King Island are below average

Department of
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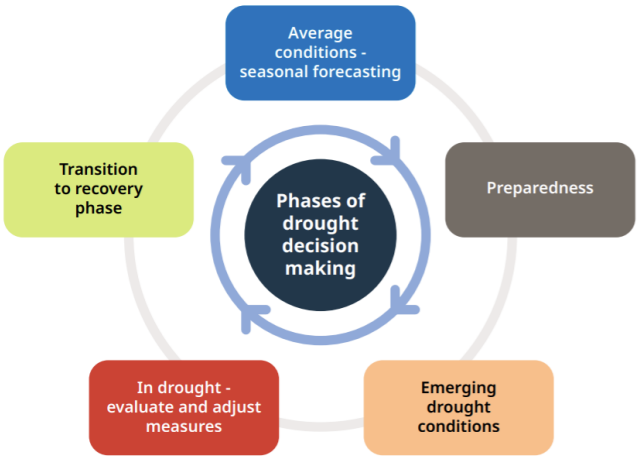
Tasmanian
Government

as herd rebuilding continues, while Flinders Island movements remain around average levels.

Overall, June demonstrated a pattern of improvement in rainfall, runoff and soil moisture across most of the State, with below average hydrological conditions persisting across the east coast. The far north-east coast and northern midlands, where below average runoff or soil moisture and pockets of moderate long-term dryness indicate that full recovery is not yet complete. Long-range forecasts from the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) indicate an increased likelihood of warmer-than-average conditions and a tendency toward drier-than-average conditions. Without follow-up rainfall, dry conditions across eastern parts of the state are likely to persist.

Under the *Monitoring Seasonal Conditions and Drought Framework*, the combined primary and climatic indicators show that the north-east, east coast and parts of the midlands continue to experience ongoing dry conditions. These regions have recorded persistent below-average rainfall over the past 12 months. Overall rainfall deficits in these areas have continued and are currently assessed as remaining in the 'preparedness' phase of the drought cycle



Drought Phases	Districts
Average Seasonal Conditions	Flinders Island, King Island, Circular Head, West Coast, Derwent Valley, Central Highlands, Tasman Peninsula, South East
Preparedness	North East, East Coast, Midlands
Emerging Drought Conditions	Nil
In Drought	Nil

Primary (lead) condition indicator

Precipitation

In June 2026, Tasmania experienced mixed rainfall conditions, with below average rainfall in parts of the west and a pocket north of St Helens, above average for King Island and parts of the north, and average for most of the rest of the State.[1] Some areas of Tasmania experienced one of their top 10 wettest months of June by area-averaged rainfall. The statewide rain area averaged rainfall was 128.5mm, which was 3 per cent higher than the 1961-1990 average. [2]

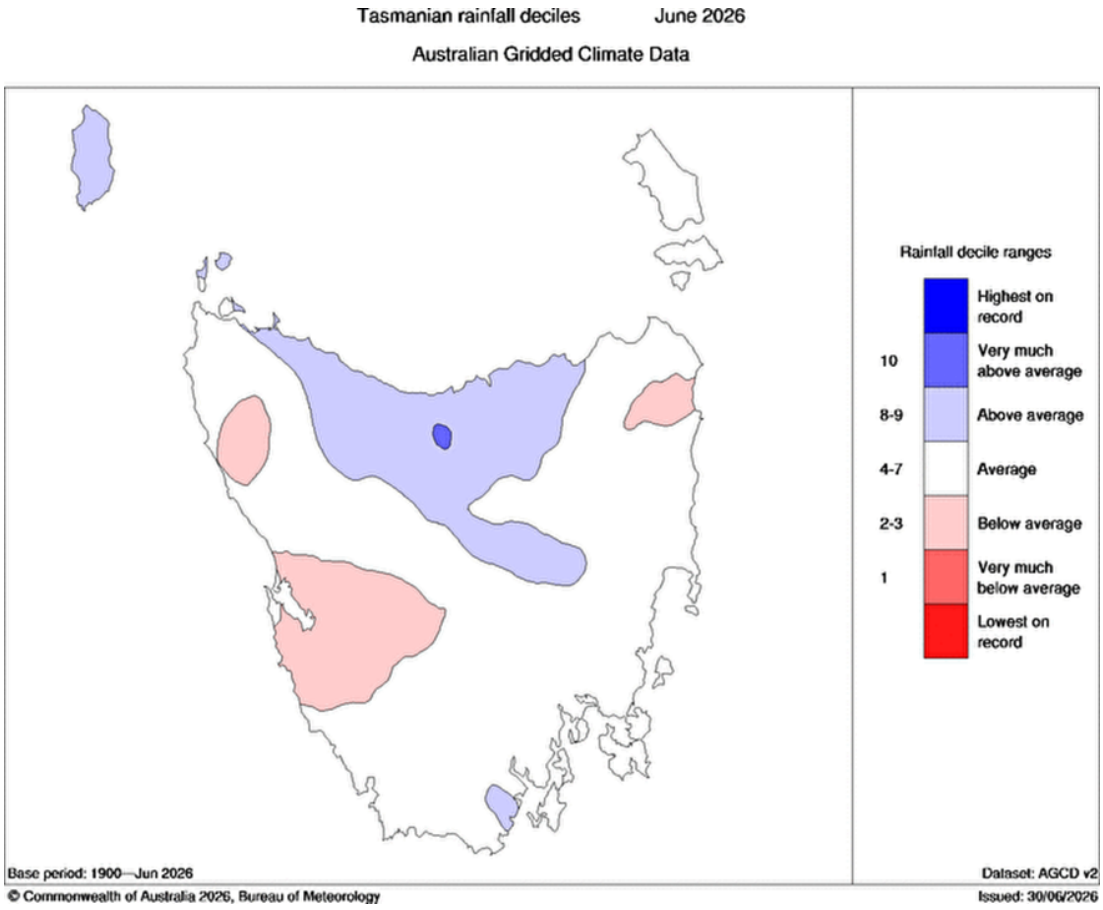


FIGURE 1: TASMANIAN RAINFALL DECILES FOR JUNE 2026

Temperature

Tasmania's average **maximum** temperature was, 1.39 degrees Celsius above the 1961-1990 average, the equal third warmest on record for all months of June since 1910. The average **minimum** temperature was 1.3 degrees Celsius above the 1961-1990 average. Overall, the **average** temperature was 1.35 degrees Celsius above the 1961-1990 average, the third warmest on record for all months of June since 1910.

[1] Recent and historical rainfall maps, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

[2] Australia in June 2026

3-month rainfall deciles for Tasmania

Over the past three months, much of Tasmania has experienced average rainfall, with the west coast and locations between Longford and Conara receiving below average rainfalls.[3] While the 3 month historic rainfall averages have largely been achieved (with the exception of the west coast), during the first 3 months of 2026, most of the state experienced “below average” or “very much below average” rainfall. As such, much of the state is still experiencing or recovering from patterns of reduced rainfall from the first half of the year.[4]

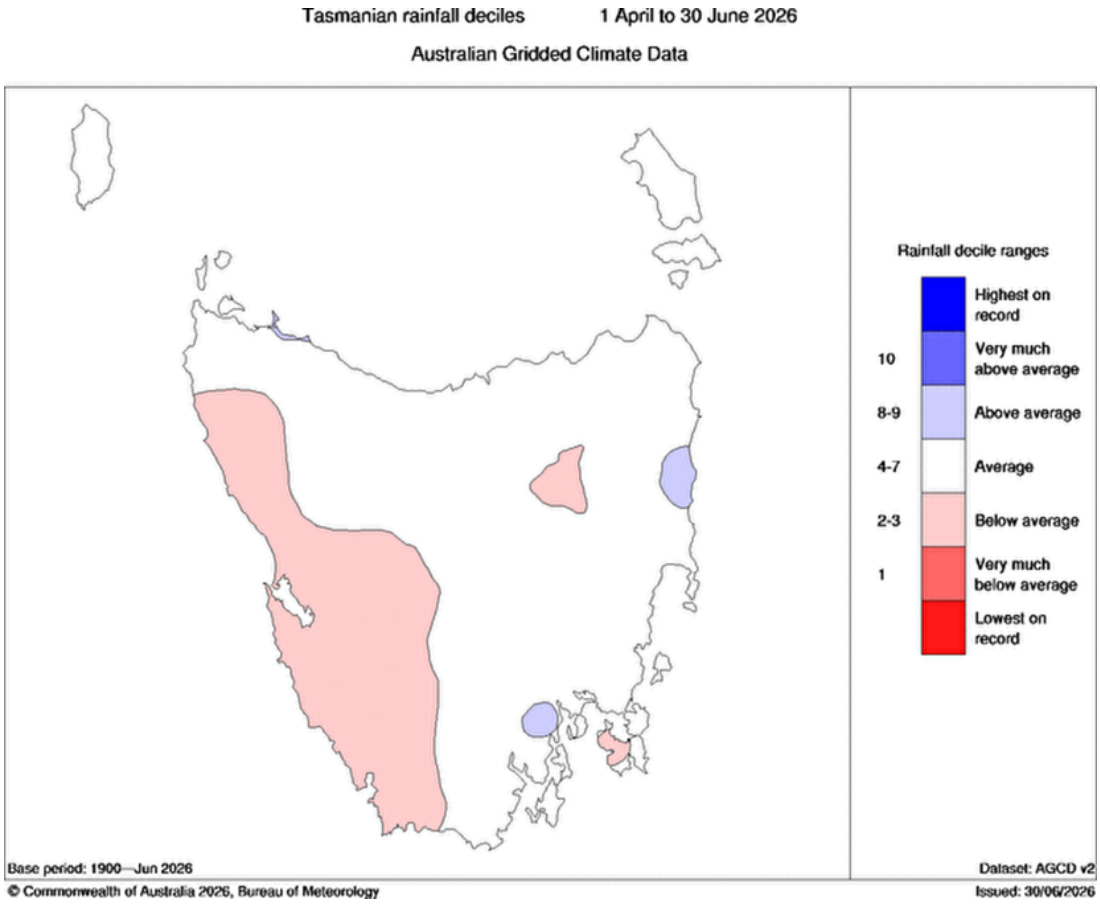


FIGURE 2: RAINFALL DEFICIENCIES FOR 3 MONTHS (1 APRIL 2026 – 30 JUNE 2026)

12-month rainfall deciles for Tasmania

During the 12-month period from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, north eastern Tasmania recorded below-average rainfall, with much of the State receiving average rainfall across the year. Despite these average rainfall numbers, the State has experienced dramatic swings between high rainfall (September, October, November 2025) and low rainfall (January, February, April 2026) resulting in challenging conditions even with the averages being achieved. Despite June’s return to average rainfall conditions, a predominance of drier-than-normal conditions persists across the east of the State.[5]

[3] Recent and historical rainfall maps, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

[4] Recent and historical rainfall maps, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

[5] Recent and historical rainfall maps, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

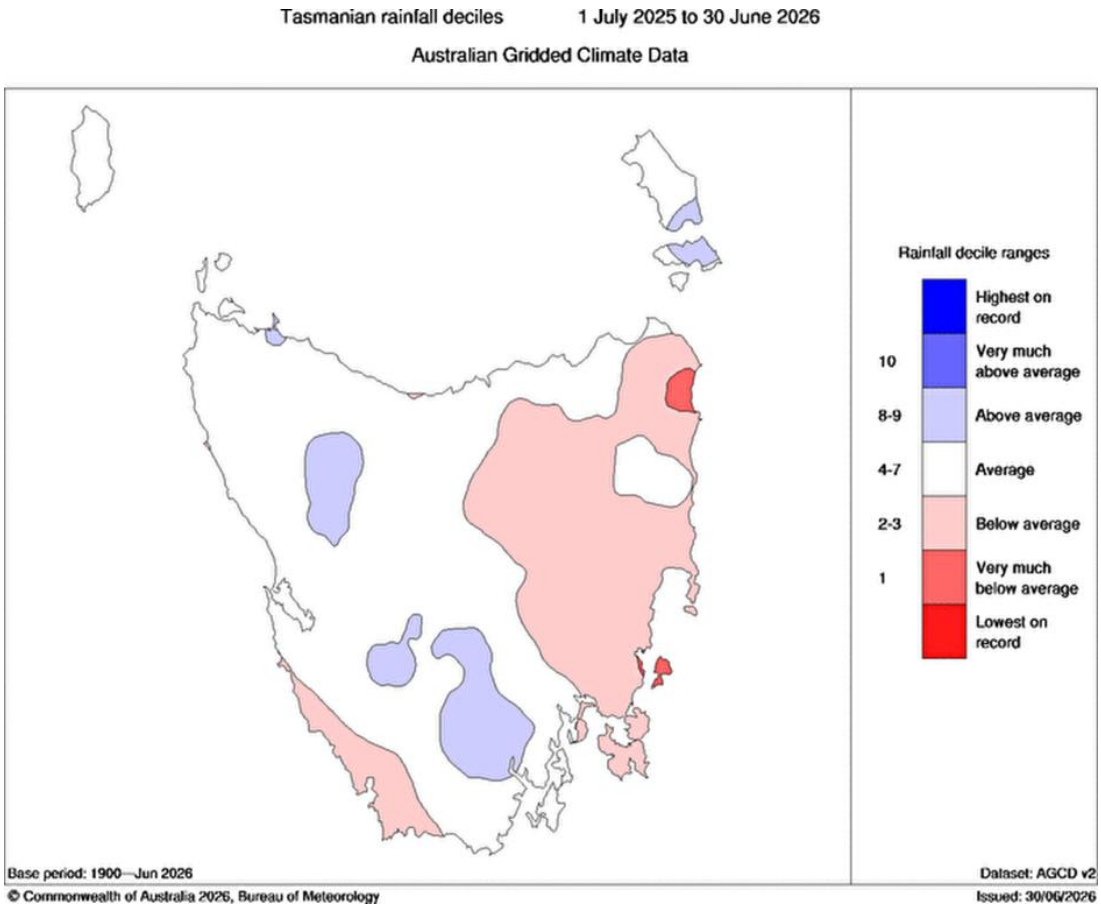


FIGURE 3: RAINFALL DECILES FOR 12 MONTHS (1 JULY 2025 – 30 JUNE 2026)

Long-range forecasts (3 month: July – September 2026)

Long range forecast summary

Rainfall conditions are forecasted to be mixed over the next 3 months with below average rainfall in north-eastern Tasmania, above average rainfall in the south-west and average throughout central Tasmania. This is accompanied by a greater than 80 per cent chance of above average maximum and minimum temperatures and a greater than 60 per cent chance of unusually high (top 20 per cent of all recorded temperatures) maximum and minimum temperatures.

3-month rainfall forecast

According to the BoM's long-range outlook issued on 25 June 2026, 3-month rainfall from July through until September is likely to be below average across much of eastern and northern Tasmania. South-western Tasmania has been forecast a 50 per cent to 75 per cent chance of receiving above average rainfall. Throughout central and north-west Tasmania, there is no clear signal for either wetter or drier conditions, meaning there are roughly equal chances of above or below average rainfall.[6]

3-month temperature forecast

[6] Australian climate outlooks

The BoM is forecasting an above 80 per cent chance for Tasmania to experience unusually high mean maximum temperatures. Additionally, “mean minimum temperatures are likely to be above average” with an “increased chance of unusually high minimum temperatures (over 60 per cent chance) for Tasmania.[7]

Soil moisture

Soil moisture showed some improvement with much of Tasmania now recording average soil moisture, the east coast and south-east coastal hinterland recording above average soil moisture, and the northern midlands, recording below average soil moisture. This is an improvement from the conditions observed in May when many regions had below or well below average soil moisture.

Runoff

Runoff continued to improve during June, with most of the State now in the average to above average range. This extends the recovery observed in May and indicates generally healthy streamflow across most catchments. However, below average runoff persisted along the far north-east coast between Binalong Bay and Ringarooma Bay, and across the northern half of Flinders Island, highlighting localised areas that still require close monitoring of rainfall, soil moisture and runoff levels.

Standardised Precipitation Evapotranspiration (SPEI)

The Standardised Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI, 12-month scale) indicates that most of Tasmania remains within the normal range, consistent with the cumulative effect of recent widespread rainfall. There are, however, pockets of moderately dry conditions beginning to appear in the far north-east coastal zone, likely reflecting lower rainfall over the past 12 months relative to other regions. These SPEI signals suggest that while short-term conditions have improved, longer-term moisture deficits may still linger locally.

[7] Temperature – Summary - Long-range forecasts

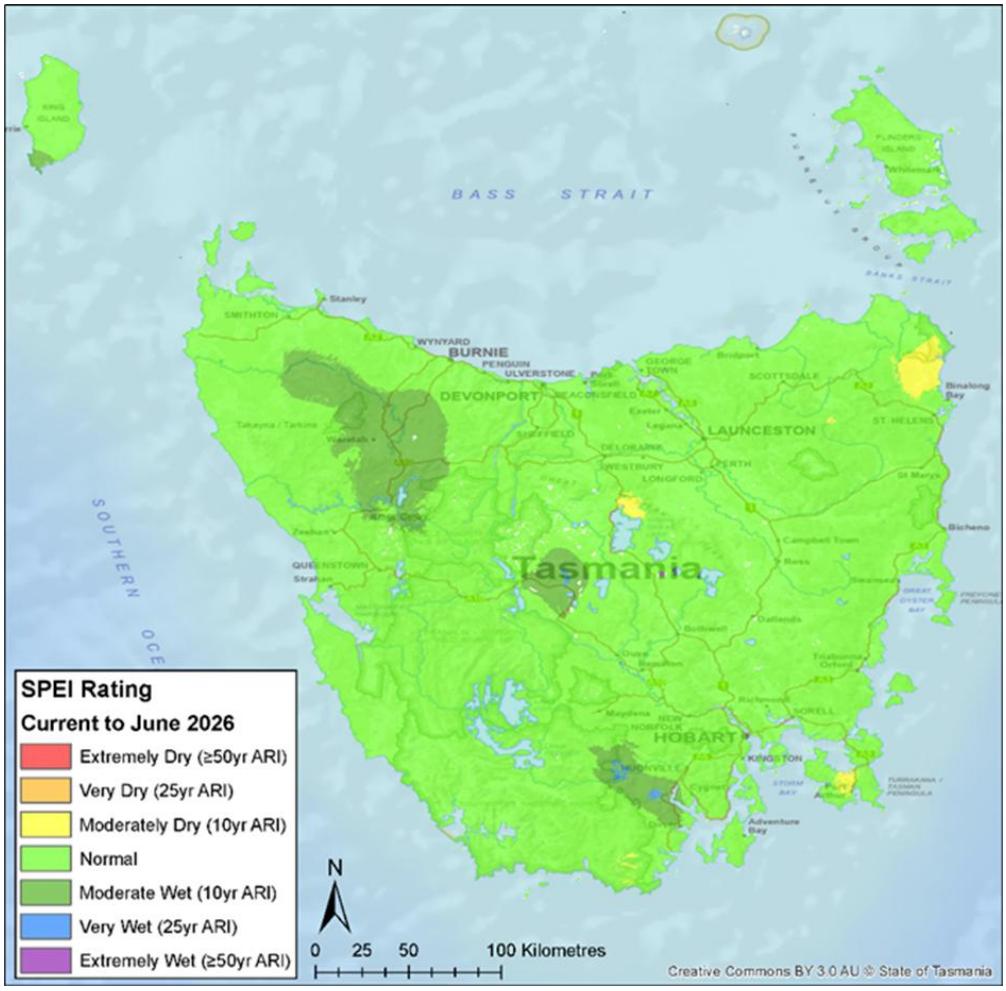


FIGURE 4: JUNE STANDARDISED PRECIPITATION EVAPOTRANSPIRATION (SPEI)

Summary / 5-monthly indicator

June 2026 marked a strengthening of hydrological and soil moisture conditions across Tasmania, with most regions now enjoying near-normal or above-normal runoff and soil water status. The remaining concerns are focused on the far north-east coast, northern Flinders Island, and the northern midlands, where below average runoff or soil moisture and pockets of moderate long-term dryness indicate that full recovery is not yet complete. If follow-up rainfall continues through winter, these remaining dry areas are likely to ease, further consolidating the State's transition out of the preceding dry period.

Taken together, the five-month picture shows Tasmania moving out of a multi-month dry period into a broadly recovered state. Runoff and soil moisture have improved markedly since the widespread deficits of February, with most regions now near or above average by June. The main residual concerns are:

- Localised hydrological and soil moisture dryness in the northern midlands and far north-east coastal areas.
- Longer-term SPEI dryness now limited to small pockets (south coast and far north-east), rather than the broader east coast and southern zones seen earlier in the year.

As an overarching indicator, the last five months show a statewide shift from dry to mostly normal conditions, punctuated by short-term east-coast intensifications and more persistent inland and far-north-east dryness that still warrant close monitoring, especially if winter rainfall falters.

Secondary indicators

Hydrological monitoring

Key message: *Water access activity was typical for June with some opportunities for flood and opportunistic takes.*

NRE Tas water operations

During the reporting period, the Water Compliance Team conducted 21 assessments, resulting in:

- 7 restrictions.
- 10 flood take notices.
- 3 opportunistic take notices.
- 7 easements.
- No low flow warnings due to reduced river flows.

June 2026 brought decent rainfall compared to June 2025. This increase in total rainfall received is reflected in the water access notice figures, as a decrease in the number of restrictions issued this year is noticeable.

Flood take notices were issued for the Meander River Catchment area and the Nile River. Giving the opportunity for Surety 8 licence holders to take water for storage. Opportunistic takes were issued for the Mersey, St Patricks and Swan River. Providing opportunity for water users to take in excess of their normal water entitlements.

Tasmanian Irrigation (TI)

June has seen a continued delivery of water to Tasmanian Irrigation farmers. Wet conditions toward the end of June provided significant relief for much of the northern half of the State's farming community. More than half of TI dams are now above 80% capacity. Several dams in the central south and south-east of the State remain between 30% and 50% full, reflecting the dominance of north-westerly weather systems in recent months.

Tasmanian Irrigation delivered 99,472 ML across its schemes in the 2025–26 financial year, the second-highest annual total on record behind only 2023–24 (100,593 ML), and well ahead of 2024–25 (93,610 ML). June 2026 deliveries of 2,649 ML were broadly in line with June 2024 (2,864 ML) and well above June 2025 (1,803 ML). Tasmanian Irrigation will continue to monitor dam levels around the state as the remaining schemes consolidate inflows over the remainder of winter.

Bureau of Meteorology streamflow observations for Tasmania

The BoM's seasonal streamflow forecast indicates that northern Tasmania is likely to experience low streamflow conditions from June to August 2026. According to recent BOM long-range reporting, streamflow in June was low for most of north and north-eastern Tasmania. Near median flows were observed in some parts of north-east and north-west and high flow observed in two locations on the east coast.

Economic indicators

Key message: *Fuel and fertiliser prices continue to be monitored as geopolitical tensions eased in June.*

Tasmania's agrifood sector saw some easing of cost pressures in June, with annual inflation falling to 4.0 per cent and the RBA holding the cash rate at 4.35 per cent. In June, global oil and urea prices also declined, providing some relief for producers, while Tasmania's fuel supply remains secure. Recently, geopolitical tensions have increased and have resulted in an increase in global oil prices.

The Australian dollar weakened against the US dollar and major trading partners, which had the potential to improve the competitiveness of Tasmanian agrifood exports. However, this advantage is being offset by a sharp rise in global shipping costs, which have increased nearly 26 per cent over the past month.

In export markets:

- Dairy export market conditions softened as global dairy prices declined.
- Australia has reached its Chinese market quota, triggering a 55 per cent tariff on additional beef exports for the remainder of the year from 20 June 2026. Although this will have disruption on Australia's export trade flow, it will not have a material impact on Tasmania's beef exports as Tasmania only exports a small portion of our beef exports to China.
- Australian beef exports to the United States (US) remain strong however once Brazil reaches its Chinese export quota there is likely to be stiffer price competition in the US market.

Despite ongoing supply chain disruptions and higher operating costs linked to the Middle East conflict, Australian Bureau of Statistics reporting on business sentiment showed some improvement, with fewer agricultural businesses reporting lower revenue. Strong household spending on groceries and eating out has continued to support demand for Tasmanian food producers.

Agronomic indicators

Key message: *Rainfall supported industry confidence and decreased supply pressure.*

Mainland sheep markets are experiencing reduced supply pressure as average to above-average rainfalls return to much of the country. While recent rains have increased confidence, national yarding is still down from 838,000 June 2025 to 778,000 in June 2026[8] consistent with Australia's sheep industry entering a lower supply phase.[9] Tasmanian farm-gate prices are expected to remain strong due increased processing capacity and decreasing national supply.[10]

Domestic cattle experienced a steadying in cattle turn-off rates due to improving rainfall conditions through March into June. This resulted in national cattle yarding for June to close at 305,000 up from 297,000 this time last year, but significantly down from the 409,000 highs of March.[11] The local rainfall experienced throughout June has resulted in decreased supply pressure and currently prices are higher than the same time last year. Compared to last month, prices across all categories of cattle except for bulls saw an increase on average of 10 per cent in price per head which has the potential to offset higher input costs.[12]

Wool continues to see strong prices due to high Chinese demand and tight supply. The Eastern Market Index closed out the 2025/26 season at 1,943c/kg down from its near record high of 1,989c/kg om June 16[13]. This is up 736c/kg from the end of the 2024/25 season when the Eastern Market Indicator sat at 1,207c/kg[14]

Potatoes harvests have largely been completed with dry conditions supporting the end of the season. Due to favourable seasonal conditions the harvest is expected to deliver strong yields and good quality. However wet weather will likely impact the storage quality of potatoes that remain to be harvested.

Poppy contracting was underway during the period with paddocks being prepared for sowing. Approved hectares of poppies have increased slightly this season in response to market demand and the need for supply after less than favourable weather conditions last season. Forecast wet weather may delay sowing for a few weeks.[15]

Pasture growth is average for June, however dropping temperatures and forecast wet weather may bring about frost events that impact these rates negatively.[16]

Tasmanian hay prices have remained relatively steady across the month of June with prices similar to May. In the north-west, the straw market has seen limited activity with more sellers than buyers in the market.

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[8] National Sheep Yardings | Meat & Livestock Australia

[9] National sheep flock set to decline in 2026: | Meat & Livestock Australia

[10] Sheep Physical Report | Meat & Livestock Australia

[11] National Cattle Yardings | Meat & Livestock Australia

[12] Cattle Physical Report | Meat & Livestock Australia

[13] Market Information

[14] 24/25 selling season ends - Quality Wool

[15] Tasmanian Natural Resources and Environment

[16] Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture weekly pasture growth and evapotranspiration report week 28

Social indicators

Key message: *Sentiment improving as input prices moderate and seasonal conditions so far have been favourable.*

Since 1 July 2018 Regional Investment Corporation has approved 38 loans valued at over $44.5 million in Tasmania as of 31 May 2026.

The Tasmanian Rural Financial Counselling Service is reporting steady and improving confidence levels short-term outlooks throughout the State as seasonal conditions ease and commodity prices steady or improve.

The Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) Farm Management Deposit (FMD) Rainfall Analyser indicates that in June there were 6 eligible FMD areas in Tasmania.

The latest statistics from DAFF, as of May 2026, indicates there are 785 accounts for Tasmania, an increase of 18 over the month with a total value of $107,604,000, an increase of $1,889,000 over the month.

Freight and logistics

Key message: *No reported disruptions or delays reported, regular freight operations.*

Cattle movements for King Island in the June remain lower than average. King Island cattle movements continue to be lower than last year due to favourable seasonal conditions supporting herd rebuilding. Flinders continues to track as normal with movements being average.

Prepared by:

AgriGrowth Tasmania
Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania

July 2026

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