

EM Online: BOM heatwave assessment service

www.bom.gov.au/australia/heatwave/

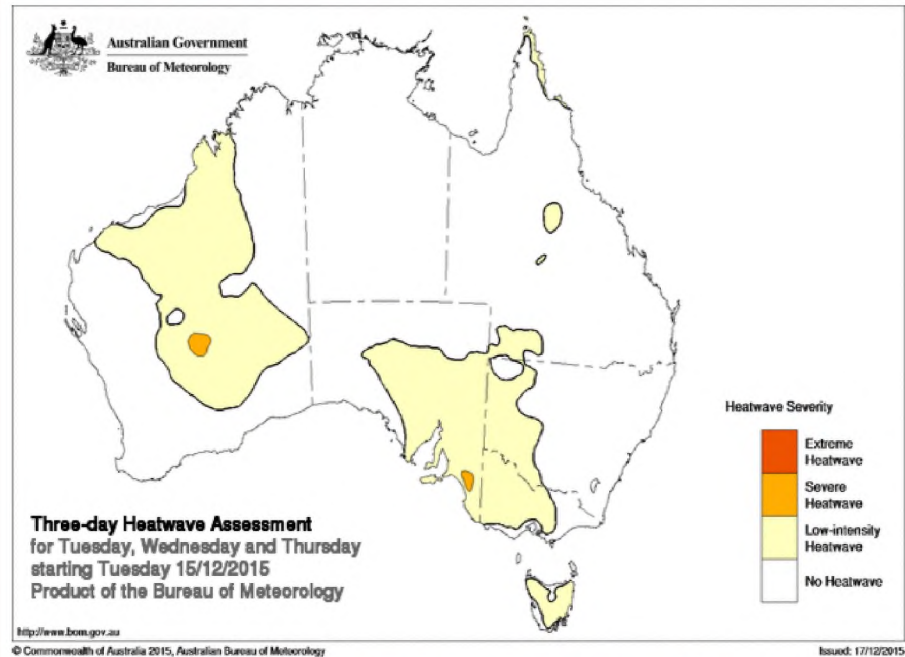
Severe and extreme heatwaves claim more lives than any other natural hazard in Australia. For example, during the 2009 Victorian bushfires, 173 people perished as a direct result of the fires but 374 people lost their lives in the heatwave that occurred before the bushfires.

Advance notice of a heatwave helps everyone prepare for the conditions. The Bureau of Meteorology heatwave assessment service provides the advance notice of unusually hot conditions in areas of Australia. This gives communities, emergency services organisations and government bodies time to take actions to prepare for the conditions.

A heatwave is three or more days of high maximum and minimum temperatures that are unusual for a location. The heatwave service is a set of maps showing colour-coded areas of heat severity for the previous two three-day periods, and the next five three-day periods. Each map shows areas where heatwave conditions are and how they are contracting. They also show if the intensity is severe or extreme.

The heatwave service operates from the start of November to the end of March to cover the Australian summer.

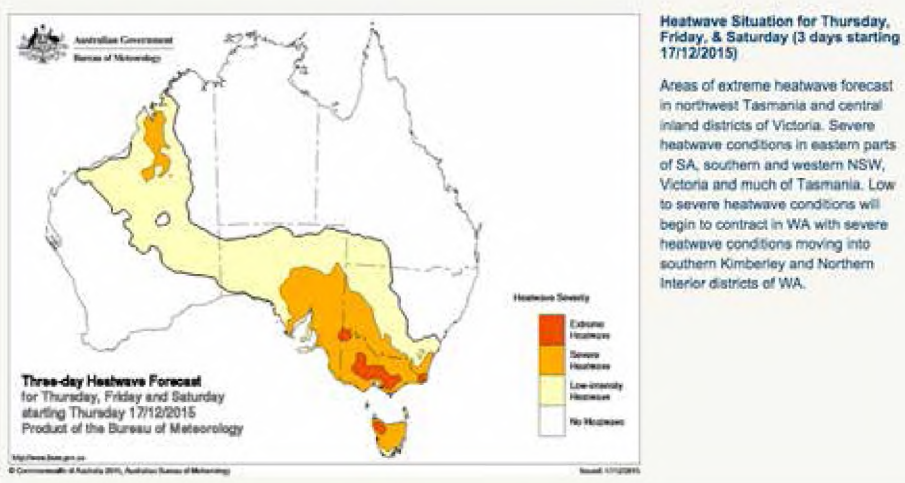
Heatwave Assessments



Heatwave Situation for Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday (3 days starting 15/12/2015)

Low intensity heatwave conditions in Pilbara, Goldfields, Southern Interior and adjacent areas of Western Australia. Low intensity heatwave conditions also in central and southeastern parts of South Australia, in western NSW, Victoria and Tasmania.

Heatwave Forecasts



Heatwave Situation for Thursday, Friday, & Saturday (3 days starting 17/12/2015)

Areas of extreme heatwave forecast in northwest Tasmania and central inland districts of Victoria. Severe heatwave conditions in eastern parts of SA, southern and western NSW, Victoria and much of Tasmania. Low to severe heatwave conditions will begin to contract in WA with severe heatwave conditions moving into southern Kimberley and Northern Interior districts of WA.