

SUMMER WEATHER REVIEW - ARMIDALE NSW 2018/2019

The summer of 2018/2019 was much drier than normal with temperatures much higher than normal. A number of low pressure troughs throughout the three months (December, January and February) produced thunderstorms on 19 days. There were no major rain systems and most of the rain fell from these thunderstorms.

The rainfall total for the three months was 142.4 millimetres which was 136 mm lower than the long term average (LTA), and was the driest summer since 2013/14.

December recorded 57.6 mm (LTA 89 mm), January 69.6 mm (LTA 101 mm) and February 15.2 mm (LTA 88 mm). The highest daily fall was 26.8 mm on 19th January.

While the summer of 2018/19 was Australia's warmest summer on record, it was Armidale's third warmest. Although January was by far the hottest month on record, mild minimum temperatures in December and February along with lower day temperatures in the last week of February, brought in a final average for the three summer months of 20.93C. Armidale's hottest summer was 2016/17 (21.46C) followed by 1938/39 (21.13C), with 2018/19 coming in third.

Day temperatures were well above the LTA in all three months, particularly January which was Armidale's hottest month on record. Maximums reached 30.0C on 49 days (LTA 13 days) which was a new record. Overnight minimums however were only slightly higher than the LTA.

It was a partly cloudy summer with 45 sunny days (LTA 43 days), and thunderstorms on 19 days (LTA 19 days). No hail was observed with any of the storms.

Prevailing winds were easterlies in December and February with westerlies in January.

SUMMER 2018/19 STATISTICS (long term averages in brackets)

Rainfall: 142.4 mm (277.9 mm)

Average maximum temp: 29.2 deg (25.7 deg)

Average minimum temp: 12.6 deg (12.2 deg)

Highest maximum temp: 37.4 deg on 19th January

Lowest maximum temp: 20.1 deg on 24th February

Highest minimum: 20.3 deg on 27th January

Lowest minimum temp: 5.6 deg on 1st December

Days higher than 29.9C: 49 (13)

Fine sunny days: 45 (43)

Days with thunderstorms: 19 (19)

