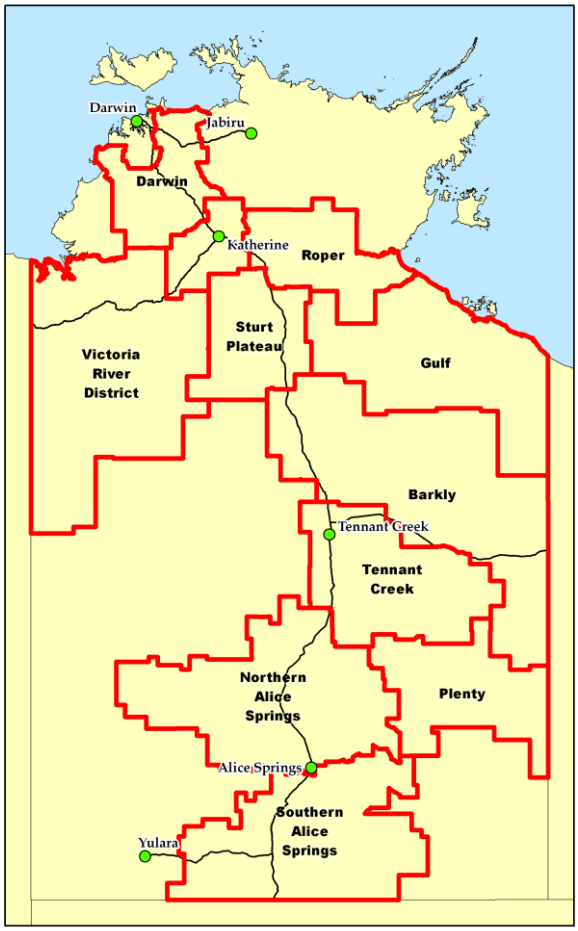
NT Pastoral Feed Outlook - March 2017

The purpose of this quarterly outlook is to summarise information relevant to the pastoral industry such as current feed supplies, seasonal conditions, the development of drought conditions in central Australia and fire risk.

You can see the entire document and all districts by continuing to scroll through this file. If you are interested in selected sections, you can click on the links below.



NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT

Summary of current situation & trends - all districts – March 2017

KEY Green = low risk | Orange = watch | Red = high risk

KEY ↑ = increasing trend ↓ = decreasing trend ↔ = steady

	Northern Territory Pastoral Districts											
Indicator	**Darwin**	**Katherine**	**VRD**	**Sturt Plateau**	**Roper**	**Gulf**	**Barkly**	**Tennant Creek**	**Northern Alice Springs**	**Plenty**	**Southern Alice Springs**	**Comments**
2016/17 total pasture growth	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↔	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	Arrows indicate trend compared to the long-term median.
Current estimated standing biomass	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	Arrows indicate trend since previous quarter.
Current seasonal outlook	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	Arrows indicate the trend since previous quarter and taking into account the forecasted model predictions.
Current fire risk	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↔	↔	Arrows indicate the trend since previous quarter.

For further information about this Outlook, please contact Chris Materne on 8951 8135 or Dionne Walsh on 8999 2178

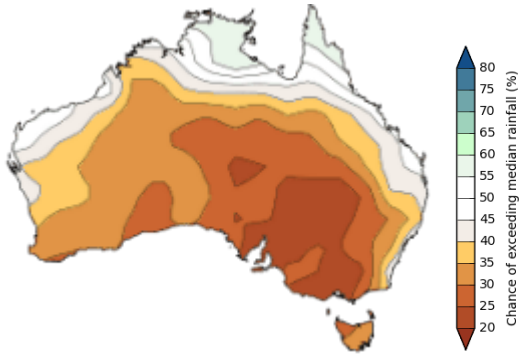
Northern Territory Seasonal Outlook

as at March 2017

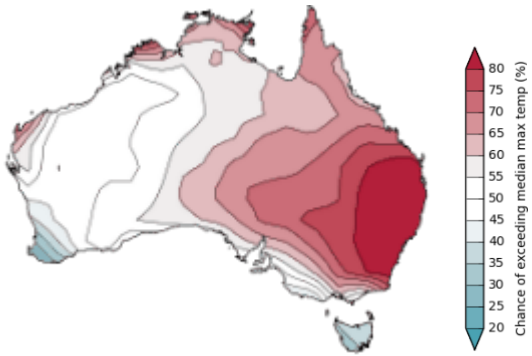
Sourced from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology
http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/

The national outlook for March to May 2017 period indicates that:

- **Drier** than average conditions are expected across the southern two-thirds of the NT, south of Elliott.
- **Wetter** than average conditions expected across the Top End, Katherine and Roper districts
- **Warmer** than average days and nights are more likely across the Southern NT.
- **Cooler** than average days and nights are more likely across the Northern NT.

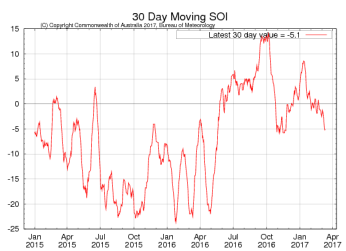
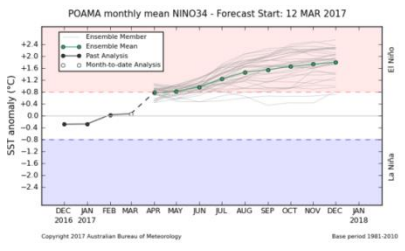
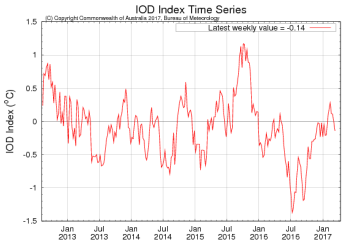
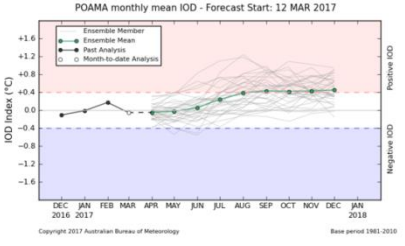


Chance of exceeding the median rainfall
March to May 2017



Chance of exceeding the median max. temp.
March to May 2017

Without a strong influence from the Indian or Pacific oceans, secondary climate drivers contribute more to the outlooks. Higher than average pressure is forecast over the Great Australian Bight and southern and western Australia, meaning fewer rain-bearing systems are likely to cross the coast.

Seasonal Indicators	**Comments** (sourced from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology)	
El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/ Current outlook: **Watch** **La Niña WATCH Level** **(ENSO status)**  	**ENSO at neutral.** Although ENSO is currently neutral, some indicators show an increased chance of El Niño developing during 2017. While recent changes in tropical Pacific Ocean sea surface temperatures and the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) are typical of those expected prior to an El Niño, both these and other indicators remain firmly within neutral boundaries. All climate model outlooks show further warming of the Pacific is likely, with six reaching El Niño thresholds during the southern hemisphere winter of 2017. El Niño WATCH means that there is approximately a 50% chance of El Niño developing in 2017, which is about twice the normal likelihood	 
Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/#tabs=Indian-Ocean Current outlook: **Neutral**	**IOD also neutral.** The IOD also remains neutral (neither positive nor negative), as is typical at this time of year. When the IOD is neutral it has limited impact on Australian climate. However, the continued presence of much warmer than average water to the north and northwest of Australia may see continued influence on Australia, including enhanced rainfall.	 

Darwin District

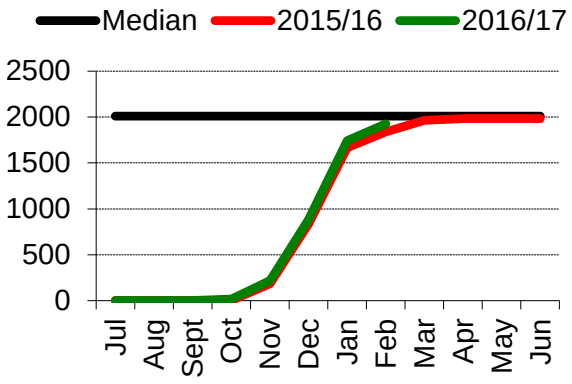
Risks: Nil to report.

Note: In a typical wet season pasture growth in the Darwin region is limited by available soil nitrogen, not water. Therefore a poor wet season may not generally affect the quantity of pasture growth on upland.

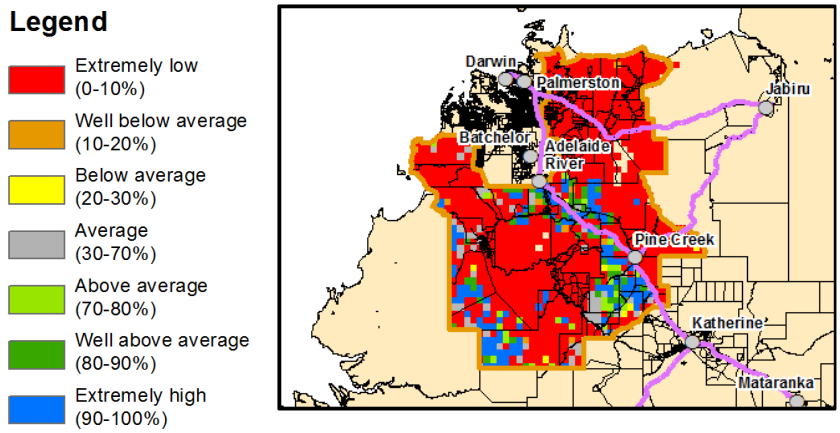
Currently (as at 1st March 2017)				
	<1,000kg/ha	>1,000 & <2,000kg/ha	>2,000 & <3,000kg/ha	>3,000kg/ha
Wet Season Pasture Growth (kg/ha)	0%	57%	41%	2%
Total Standing Dry Matter (kg/ha)	0%	36%	50%	14%

Currently (as at 1st March 2017)			
	Below Average	Average	Above Average
Pasture Growth (% of district)	35%	35%	30%
Total Standing Dry Matter (% of district)	66%	28%	6%
Fire Risk (% of district)	High 0%	Moderate 100%	Low 0%
Area Burnt (% of district)	0% (since 1st January 2017) 21% (2016/17 Total Area Burnt)		

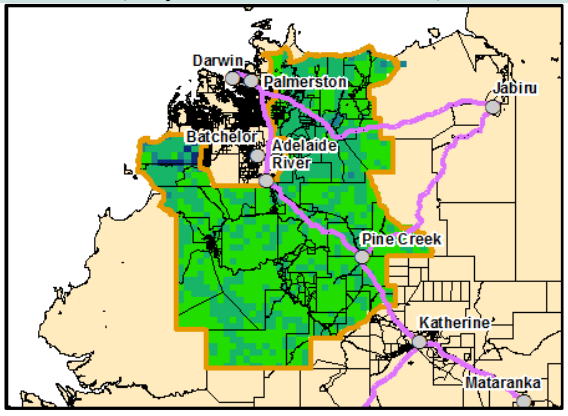
2016/17 Median Pasture Growth (kg/ha) (Running Total)

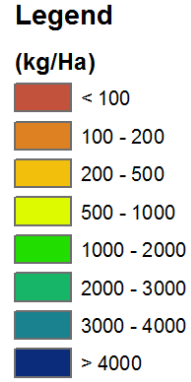


Chance of exceeding Median Pasture Growth (March 2017 – June 2017)

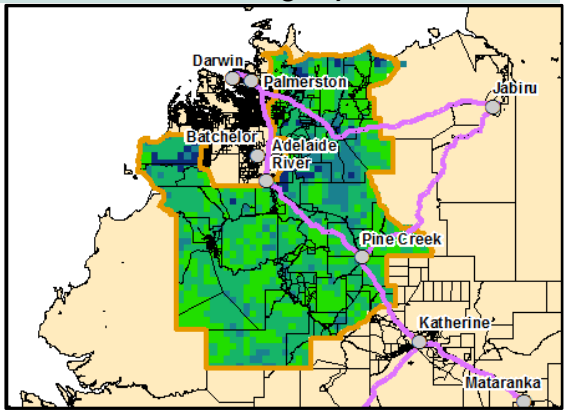


Total 2016/17 Pasture Growth (July 2016 – March 2017)





Current Estimated Total Standing Dry Matter



Katherine District

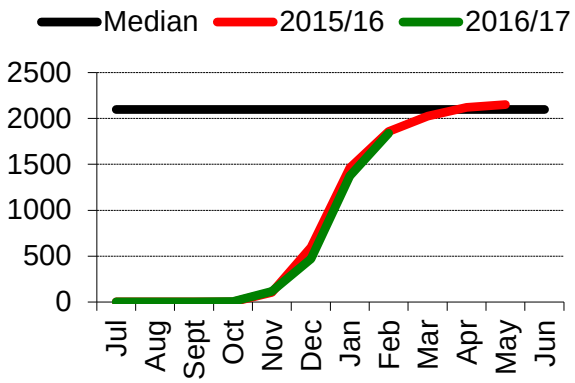
Risks:

- **Nil to report.**

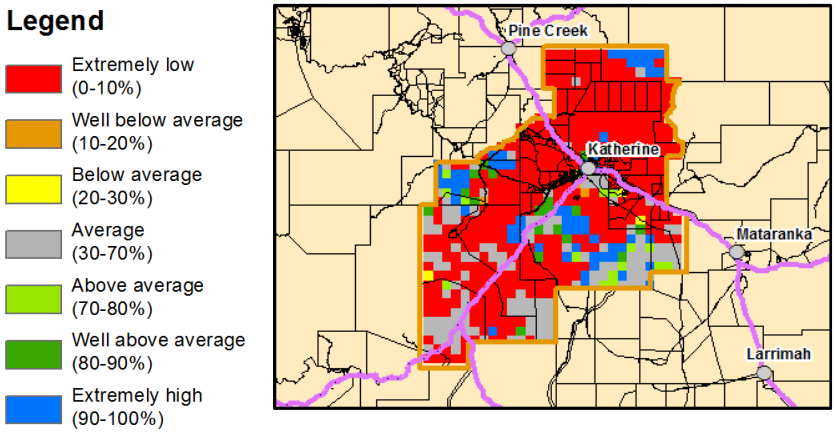
Currently (as at 1st March 2017)				
	<1,000kg/ha	>1,000 & <2,000kg/ha	>2,000 & <3,000kg/ha	>3,000kg/ha
Wet Season Pasture Growth (kg/ha)	0%	62%	38%	0%
Total Standing Dry Matter (kg/ha)	1%	27%	57%	15%

Currently (as at 1st March 2017)			
	Below Average	Average	Above Average
Pasture Growth (% of district)	23%	49%	28%
Total Standing Dry Matter (% of district)	48%	43%	9%
Fire Risk (% of district)	High 0%	Moderate 100%	Low 0%
Area Burnt (% of district)	0% (since 1st January 2017) 22% (2016/17 Total Area Burnt)		

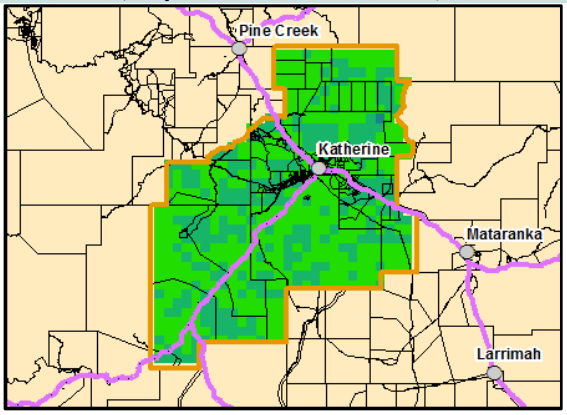
2016/17 Median Pasture Growth (kg/ha) (Running Total)

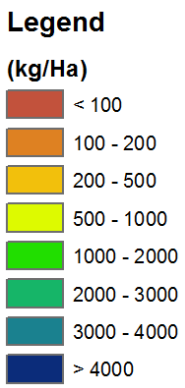


Chance of exceeding Median Pasture Growth (March 2017 – June 2017)

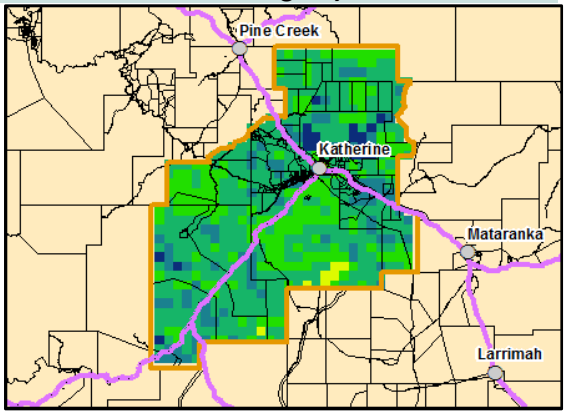


Total 2016/17 Pasture Growth (July 2016 – March 2017)





Current Estimated Total Standing Dry Matter



Victoria River District

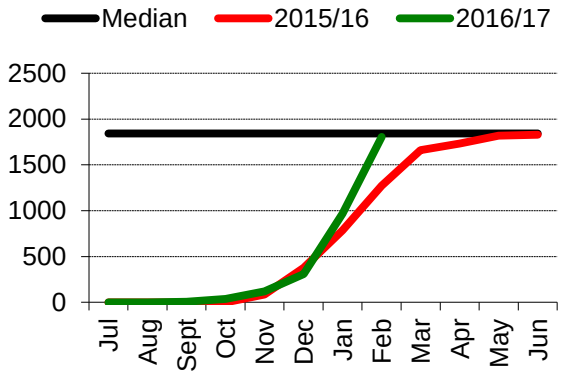
Risks:

- **Nil to report.**

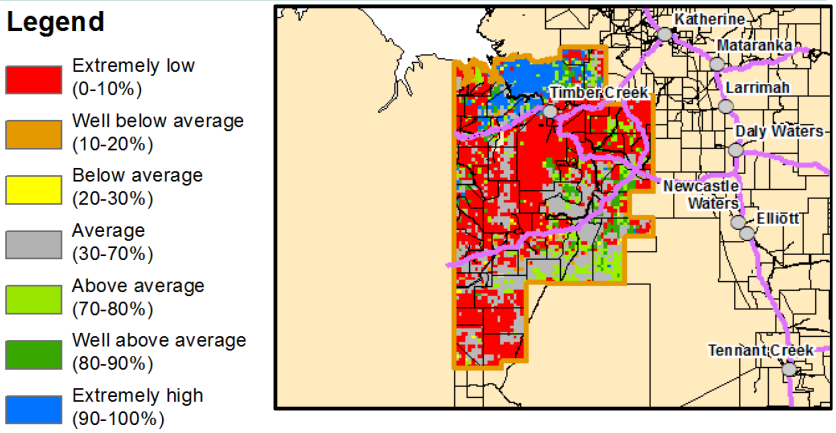
Currently (as at 1st March 2017)				
	<1,000kg/ha	>1,000 & <2,000kg/ha	>2,000 & <3,000kg/ha	>3,000kg/ha
Wet Season Pasture Growth (kg/ha)	6%	51%	40%	3%
Total Standing Dry Matter (kg/ha)	1%	21%	38%	40%

Currently (as at 1st March 2017)			
	Below Average (< 30%)	Average	Above Average
Pasture Growth (% of district)	7%	21%	72%
Total Standing Dry Matter (% of district)	25%	32%	43%
Fire Risk (% of district)	High 24%	Moderate 76%	Low 0%
Area Burnt (% of district)	0% (since 1st January 2017) 9% (2016/17 Total Area Burnt)		

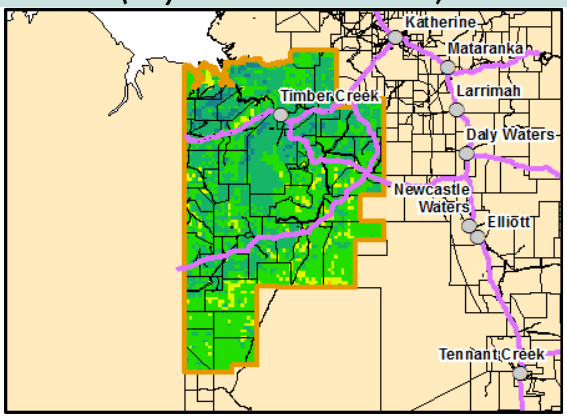
2016/17 Median Pasture Growth (kg/ha) (Running Total)

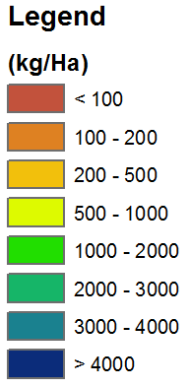


Chance of exceeding Median Pasture Growth (March 2017 – June 2017)

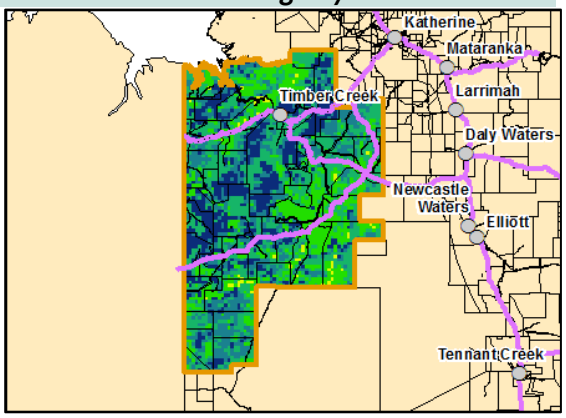


Total 2016/17 Pasture Growth (July 2016 – March 2017)





Current Estimated Total Standing Dry Matter



Sturt Plateau District

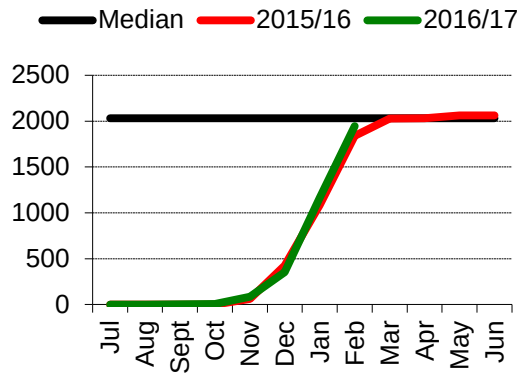
Risks:

- **Nil to report.**

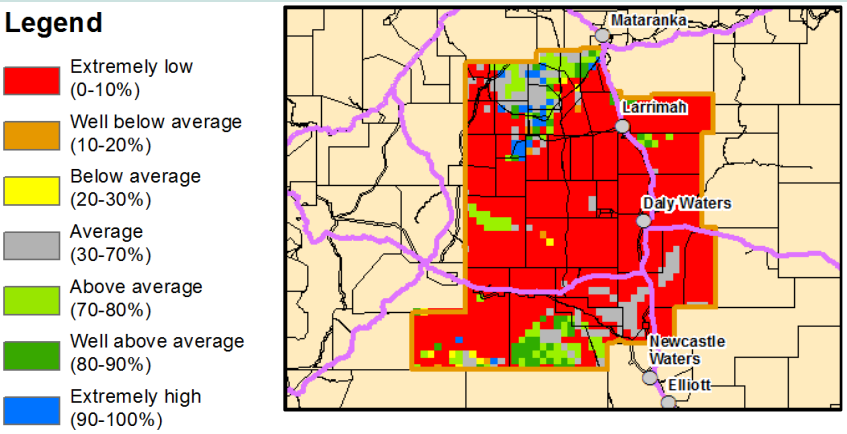
Currently (as at 1st March 2017)				
	<1,000kg/ha	>1,000 & <2,000kg/ha	>2,000 & <3,000kg/ha	>3,000kg/ha
Wet Season Pasture Growth (kg/ha)	5%	53%	42%	0%
Total Standing Dry Matter (kg/ha)	3%	15%	68%	14%

Currently (as at 1st March 2017)			
	Below Average	Average	Above Average
Pasture Growth (% of district)	0%	37%	63%
Total Standing Dry Matter (% of district)	9%	50%	41%
Fire Risk (% of district)	High 4%	Moderate 96%	Low 0%
Area Burnt (% of district)	0% (since 1st January 2017) 8.5% (2016/17 Total Area Burnt)		

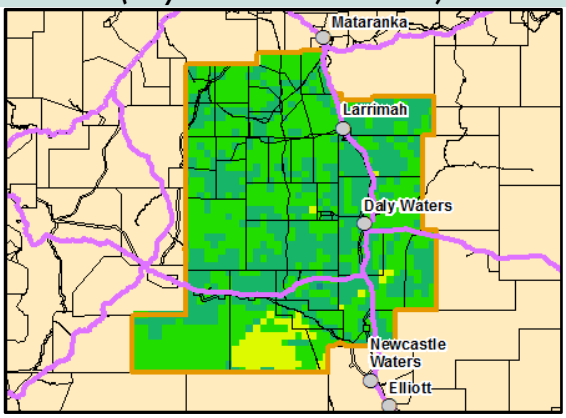
2016/17 Median Pasture Growth (kg/ha) (Running Total)

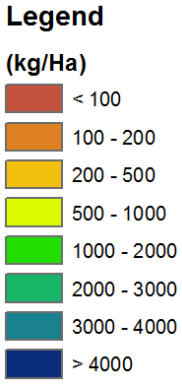


Chance of exceeding Median Pasture Growth (March 2017 – June 2017)

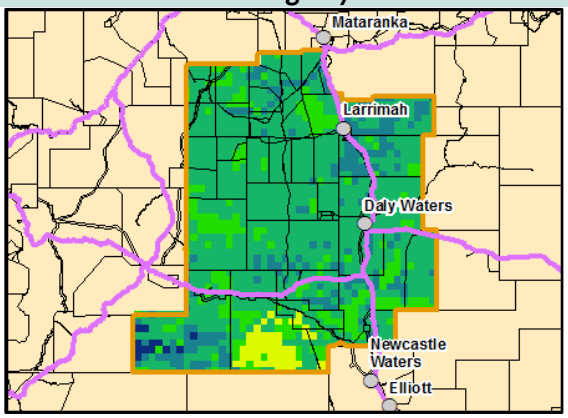


Total 2016/17 Pasture Growth (July 2016 – March 2017)





Current Estimated Total Standing Dry Matter



Roper District

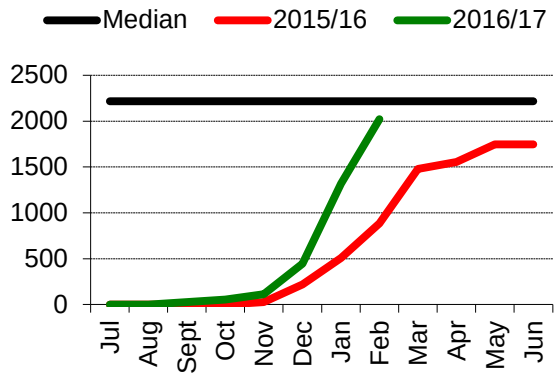
Risks:

- **Nil to report.**

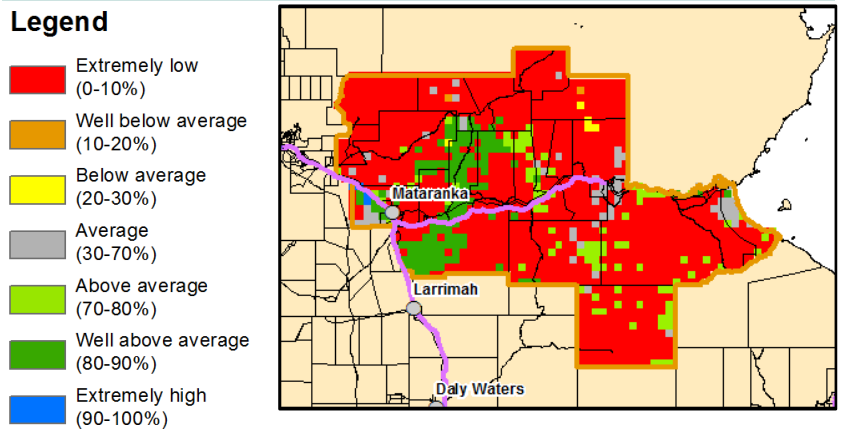
Currently (as at 1st March 2017)				
	<1,000kg/ha	>1,000 & <2,000kg/ha	>2,000 & <3,000kg/ha	>3,000kg/ha
Wet Season Pasture Growth (kg/ha)	2%	46%	50%	2%
Total Standing Dry Matter (kg/ha)	1%	12%	45%	42%

Currently (as at 1st March 2017)			
	Below Average	Average	Above Average
Pasture Growth (% of district)	2%	15%	83%
Total Standing Dry Matter (% of district)	9%	39%	52%
Fire Risk (% of district)	High 0%	Moderate 100%	Low 0%
Area Burnt (% of district)	0% (since 1st January 2017) 8% (2016/17 Total Area Burnt)		

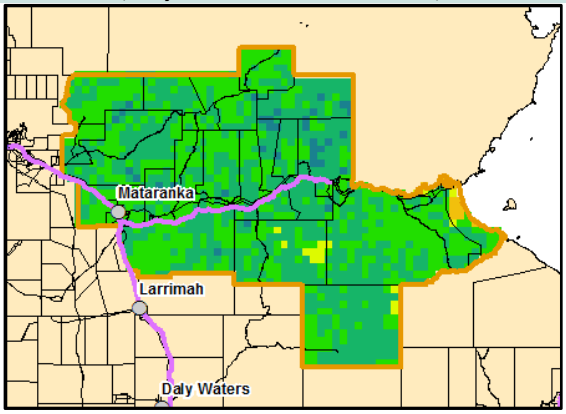
2016/17 Median Pasture Growth (kg/ha) (Running Total)



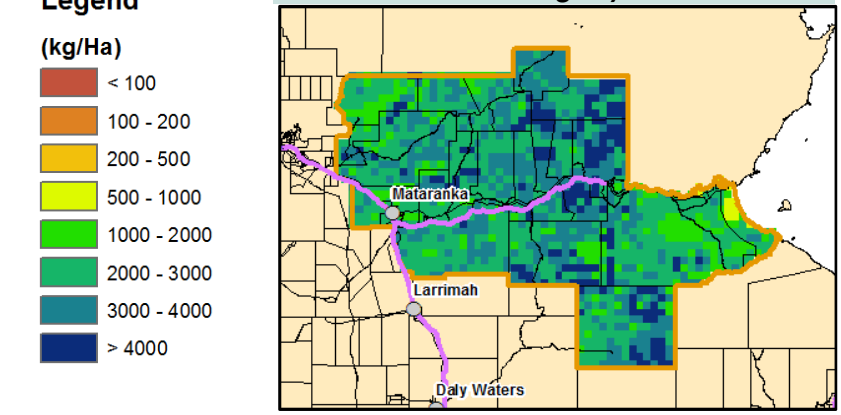
Chance of exceeding Median Pasture Growth (March 2017 – June 2017)



Total 2016/17 Pasture Growth (July 2016 – March 2017)



Current Estimated Total Standing Dry Matter



Gulf District

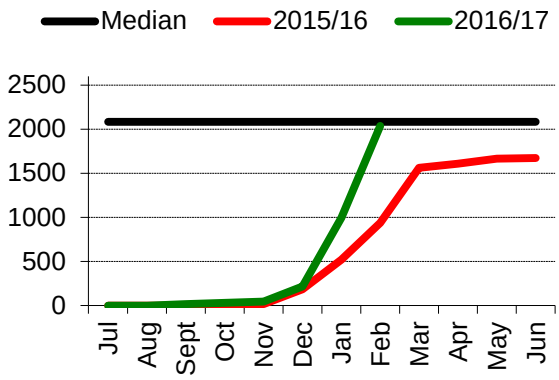
Risks:

- **Nil to report.**

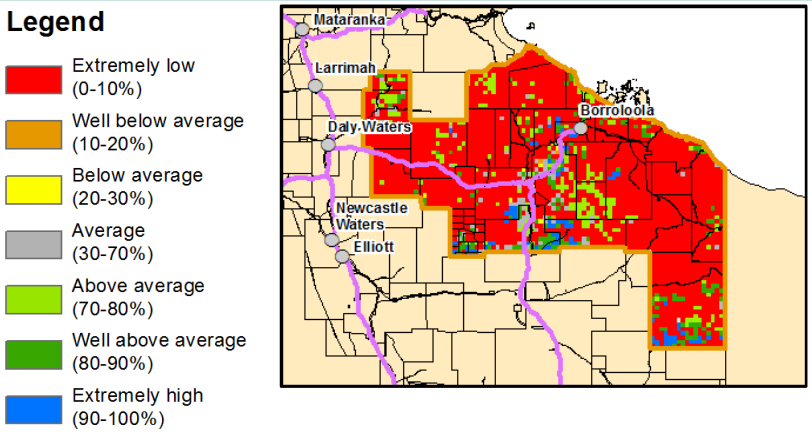
Currently (as at 1st March 2017)				
	<1,000kg/ha	>1,000 & <2,000kg/ha	>2,000 & <3,000kg/ha	>3,000kg/ha
Wet Season Pasture Growth (kg/ha)	3%	44%	50%	3%
Total Standing Dry Matter (kg/ha)	1%	16%	44%	39%

Currently (as at 1st March 2017)			
	Below Average	Average	Above Average
Pasture Growth (% of district)	0%	13%	87%
Total Standing Dry Matter (% of district)	9%	46%	45%
Fire Risk (% of district)	High 1%	Moderate 99%	Low 0%
Area Burnt (% of district)	<1% (since 1st January 2017) 8% (2016/17 Total Area Burnt)		

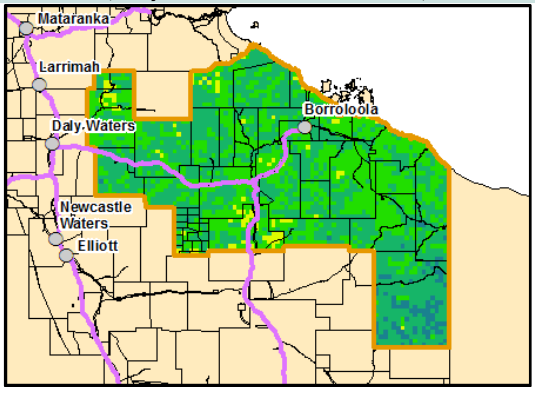
2016/17 Median Pasture Growth (kg/ha) (Running Total)

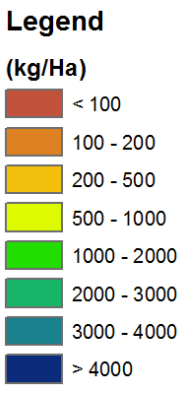


Chance of exceeding Median Pasture Growth (March 2017 – June 2017)

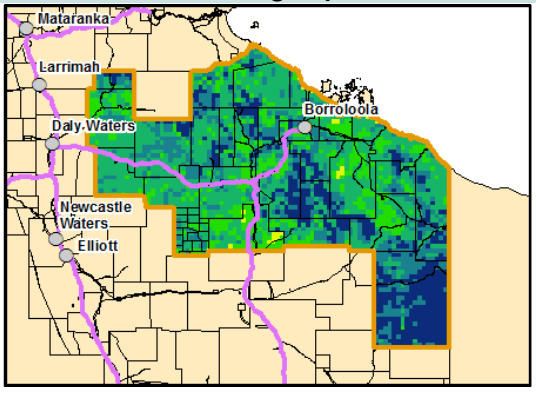


Total 2016/17 Pasture Growth (July 2016 – March 2017)





Current Estimated Total Standing Dry Matter



Barkly District

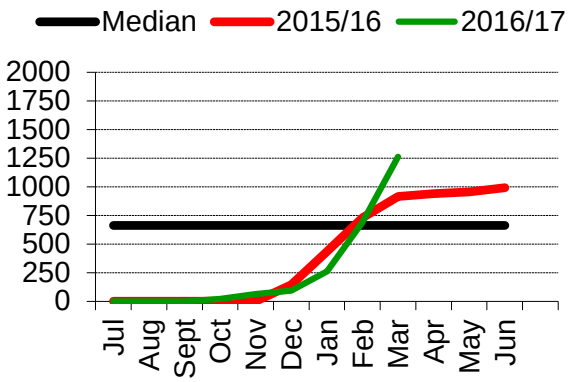
Risks:

- **Nil to report.**

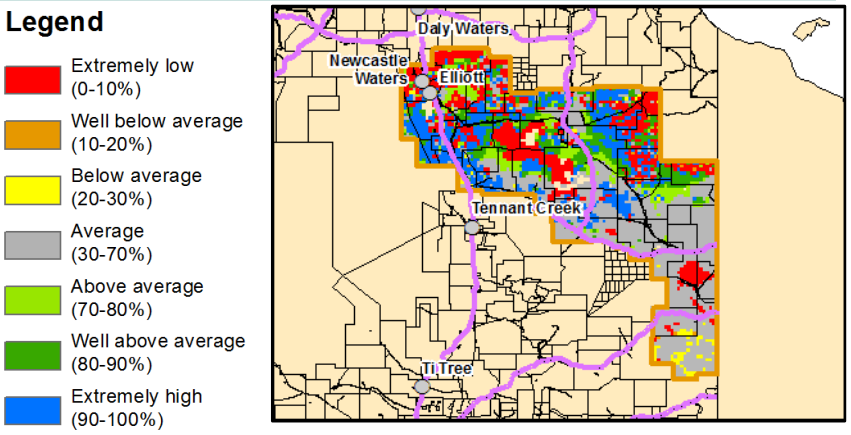
Currently (as at 1st March 2017)				
	<250kg/ha	>250 & <500kg/ha	>500 & <1,000kg/ha	>1,000kg/ha
Pasture Growth (kg/ha) Since 1st July 2016	0%	0%	19%	81%
Total Standing Dry Matter (kg/ha)	0%	0%	7%	93%

Currently (as at 1st March 2017)			
	Below Average	Average	Above Average
Pasture Growth (% of district)	0%	0%	100%
Total Standing Dry Matter (% of district)	1%	10%	89%
Fire Risk (% of district)	High 17%	Moderate 83%	Low 0%
Area Burnt (% of district)	<1% (since 1st January 2017) <1% (2016/17 Total Area Burnt)		

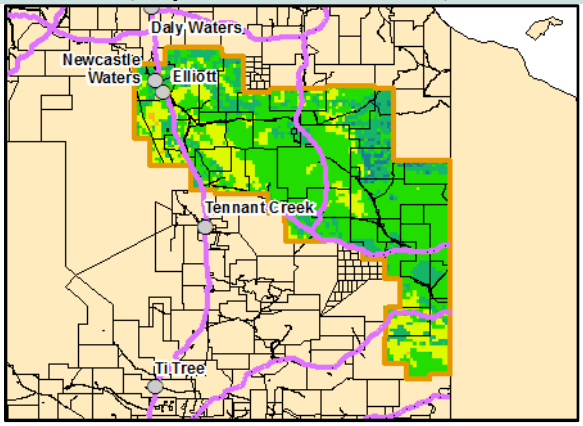
2016/17 Median Pasture Growth (kg/ha) (Running Total)

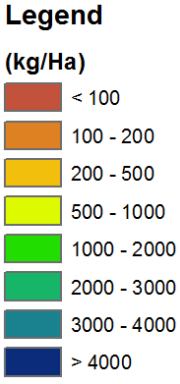


Chance of exceeding Median Pasture Growth (March 2017 – June 2017)

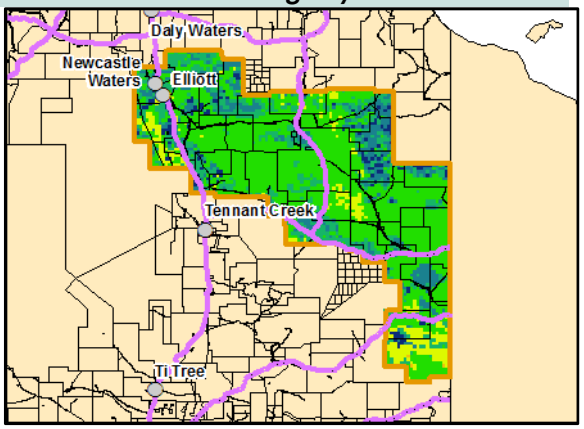


Total 2016/17 Pasture Growth (July 2016 – March 2017)





Current Estimated Total Standing Dry Matter



Tennant Creek District

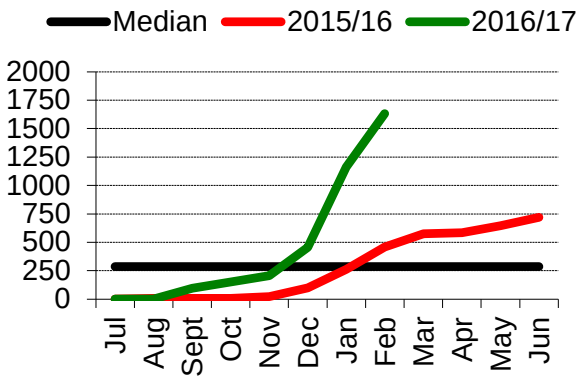
Risks:

- **Nil to report.**

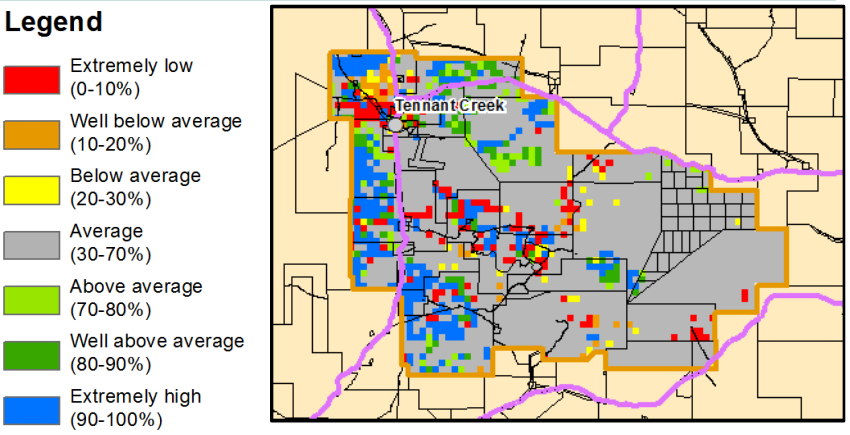
Currently (as at 1st March 2017)				
	<250kg/ha	>250 & <500kg/ha	>500 & <1,000kg/ha	>1,000kg/ha
Pasture Growth (kg/ha) Since 1st July 2016	0%	0%	16%	84%
Total Standing Dry Matter (kg/ha)	0%	0%	2%	98%

Currently (as at 1st March 2017)			
	Below Average	Average	Above Average
Pasture Growth (% of district)	0%	0%	100%
Total Standing Dry Matter (% of district)	2%	21%	77%
Fire Risk (% of district)	High 43%	Moderate 57%	Low 0%
Area Burnt (% of district)	0% (since 1st January 2017) 1% (2016/17 Total Area Burnt)		

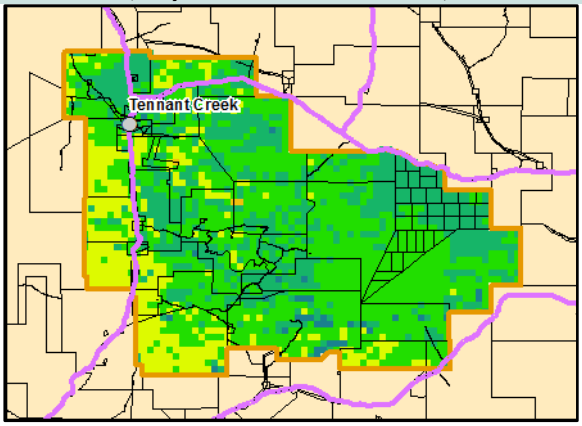
2016/17 Median Pasture Growth (kg/ha) (Running Total)



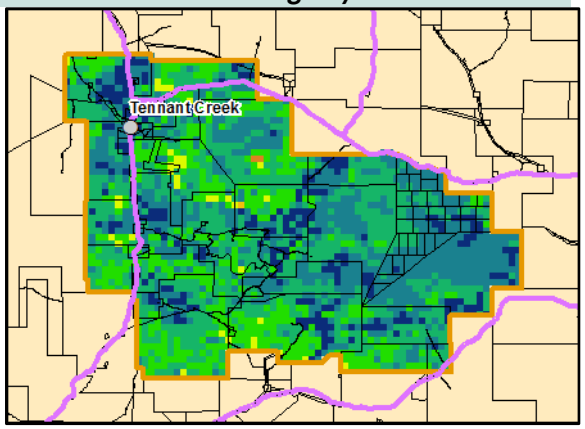
Chance of exceeding Median Pasture Growth (March 2017 – June 2017)



Total 2016/17 Pasture Growth (July 2016 – March 2017)



Current Estimated Total Standing Dry Matter



Northern Alice Springs District

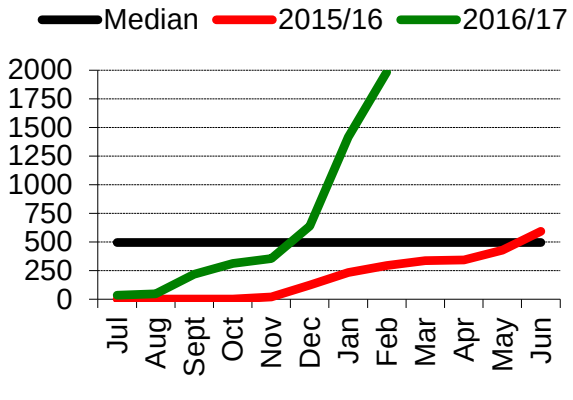
Risks:

- **As at the 1st March 2017, 70% of the district had a high fire risk.**

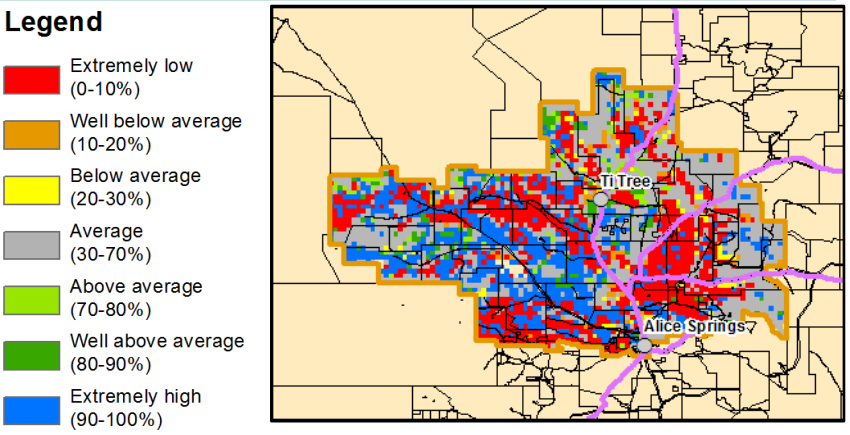
Currently (as at 1st March 2017)				
	<250kg/ha	>250 & <500kg/ha	>500 & <1,000kg/ha	>1,000kg/ha
Pasture Growth (kg/ha) Since 1st July 2016	0%	3%	18%	79%
Total Standing Dry Matter (kg/ha)	0%	0%	4%	96%

Currently (as at 1st March 2017)			
	Below Average	Average	Above Average
Pasture Growth (% of district)	0%	0%	100%
Total Standing Dry Matter (% of district)	1%	24%	75%
Fire Risk (% of district)	High 70%	Moderate 30%	Low 0%
Area Burnt (% of district)	<1% (since 1st January 2017) 1% (2016/17 Total Area Burnt)		

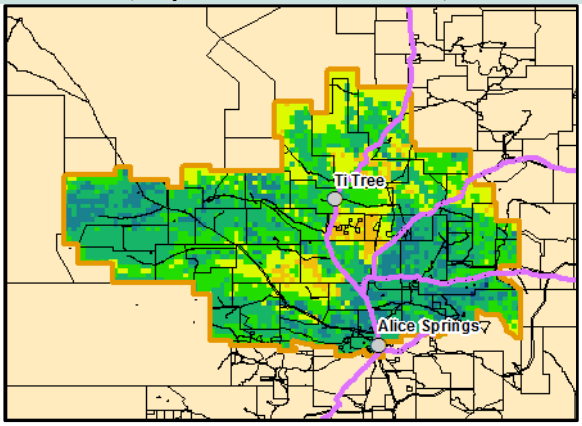
2016/17 Median Pasture Growth (kg/ha) (Running Total)

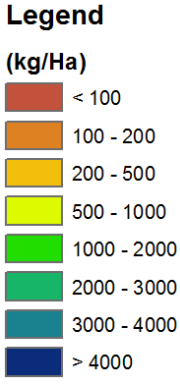


Chance of exceeding Median Pasture Growth (March 2017 – June 2017)

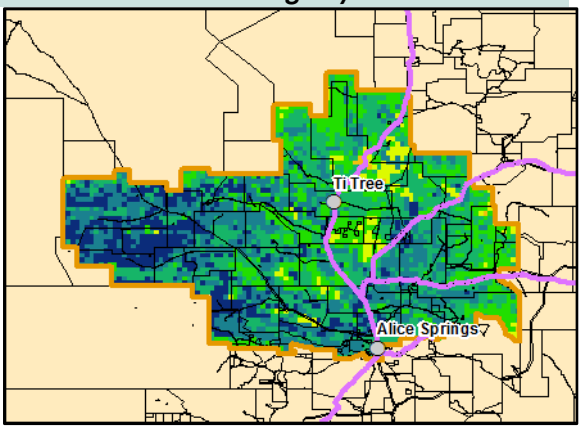


Total 2016/17 Pasture Growth (July 2016 – March 2017)





Current Estimated Total Standing Dry Matter



Plenty District

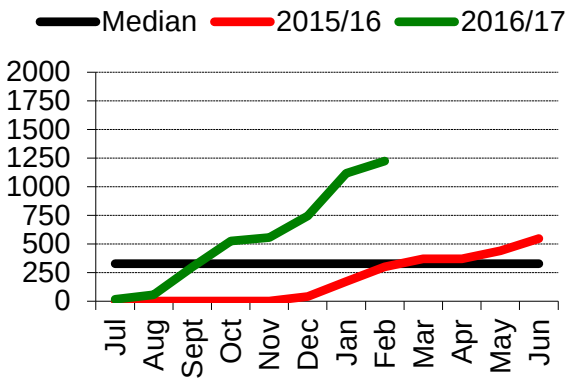
Risks:

- **As at the 1st March 2017, 88% of the district had a high fire risk.**

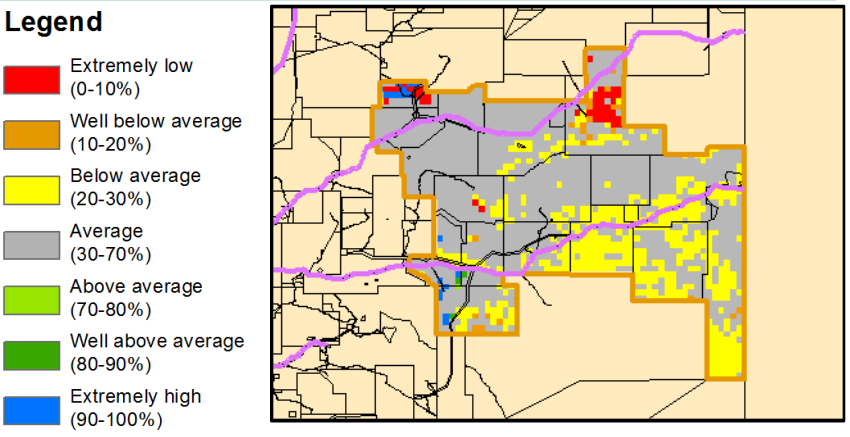
Currently (as at 1st March 2017)				
	<250kg/ha	>250 & <500kg/ha	>500 & <1,000kg/ha	>1,000kg/ha
Pasture Growth (kg/ha) Since 1st July 2016	0%	9%	26%	65%
Total Standing Dry Matter (kg/ha)	0%	3%	22%	75%

Currently (as at 1st March 2017)			
	Below Average	Average	Above Average
Pasture Growth (% of district)	0%	0%	100%
Total Standing Dry Matter (% of district)	0%	19%	81%
Fire Risk (% of district)	High 88%	Moderate 12%	Low 0%
Area Burnt (% of district)	0% (since 1st January 2017) 0% (2016/17 Total Area Burnt)		

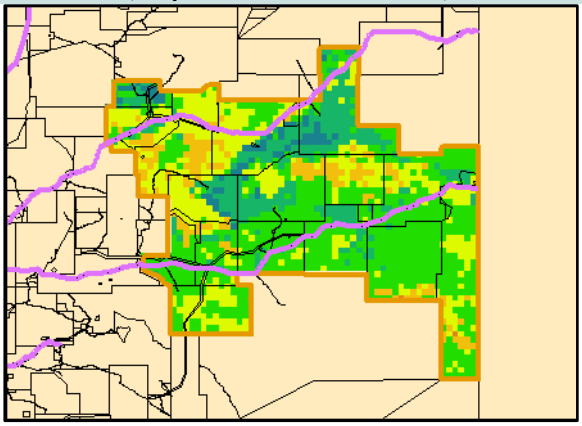
2016/17 Median Pasture Growth (kg/ha) (Running Total)



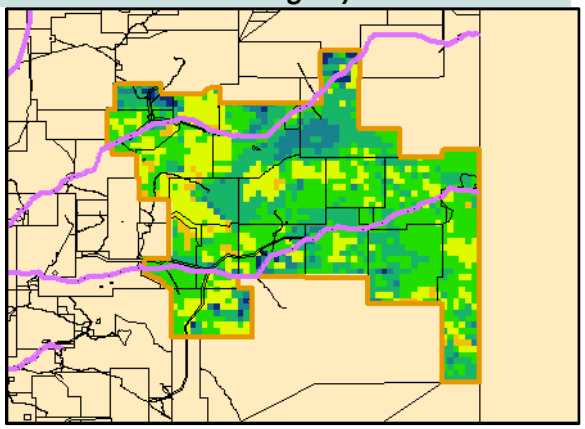
Chance of exceeding Median Pasture Growth (March 2017 – June 2017)



Total 2016/17 Pasture Growth (July 2016 – March 2017)



Current Estimated Total Standing Dry Matter



Southern Alice Springs District

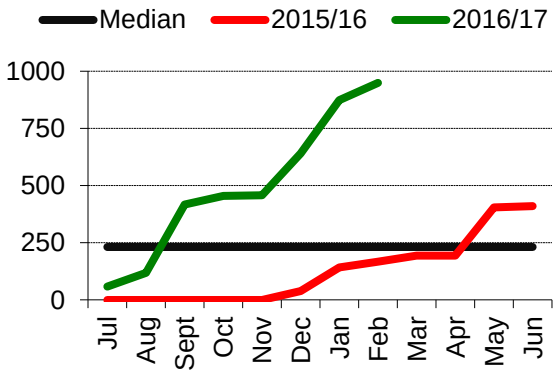
Risks:

- **As at the 1st March 2017, 99% of the district had a high fire risk.**

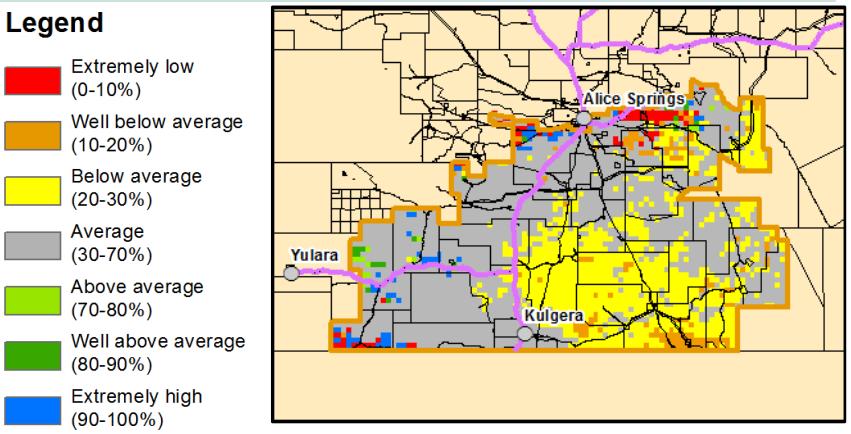
Currently (as at 1st March 2017)				
	<250kg/ha	>250 & <500kg/ha	>500 & <1,000kg/ha	>1,000kg/ha
Pasture Growth (kg/ha) Since 1st July 2016	4%	11%	39%	46%
Total Standing Dry Matter (kg/ha)	0%	2%	17%	81%

Currently (as at 1st March 2017)			
	Below Average	Average	Above Average
Pasture Growth (% of district)	0%	0%	100%
Total Standing Dry Matter (% of district)	0%	42%	58%
Fire Risk (% of district)	High 99%	Moderate 1%	Low 0%
Area Burnt (% of district)	0% (since 1st January 2017) 0% (2016/17 Total Area Burnt)		

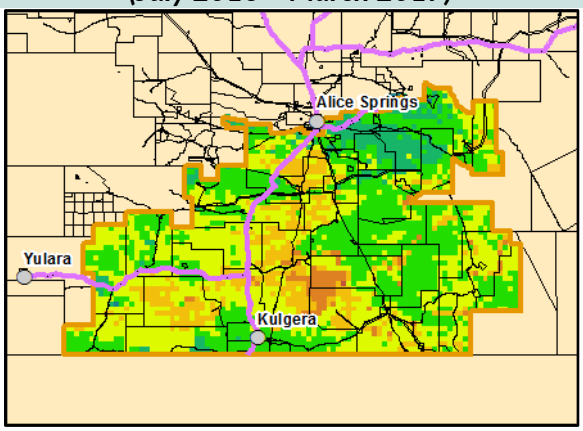
2016/17 Median Pasture Growth (kg/ha) (Running Total)

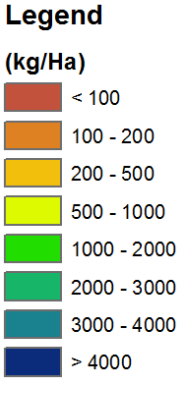


Chance of exceeding Median Pasture Growth (March 2017 – June 2017)

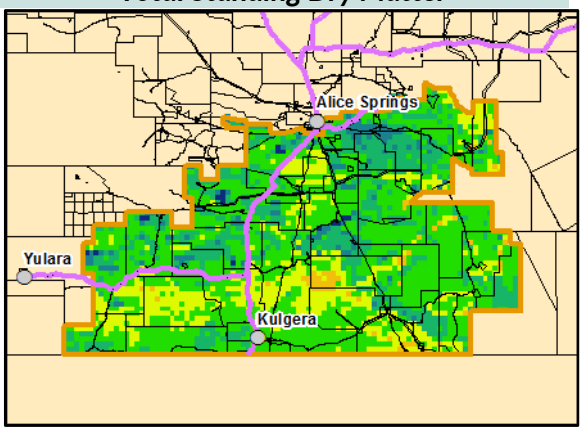


Total 2016/17 Pasture Growth (July 2016 – March 2017)





Current Estimated Total Standing Dry Matter



Pasture Information

The pasture and fire risk information in this document is derived from AussieGRASS. AussieGRASS is a model that simulates pasture growth and standing biomass using climate data, vegetation mapping, fire history and regional estimates of grazing pressure. The model can be used to track simulated pasture growth and total standing pasture biomass at the landscape scale.

Note that the model does not use stocking rate data for individual properties. Where stock numbers are significantly higher or lower than typical for a district, model estimates of total standing dry matter may be erroneous.