

* * MEDIA RELEASE * *

Friday 13th July

Conditions Paint a Tale of Two Crops

The July WA Department of Agriculture yield prediction model paints a stark contrast between reasonable conditions on the east coast and very tough conditions in WA. Without a significant improvement in conditions in WA over the next couple of months, Australia will struggle to produce a large crop.

'Contrary to what we had been thinking, the WA crop is every bit as bad as last year', says ProFarmer Managing Director Richard Koch, adding that 'very poor early season conditions extend further south than last year into the heart of the Kwinana zone. While other states are showing a healthy improvement on last year, it says more about how bad last year's crop was than how good the current crop is.'

Queensland

63% of the QLD crop is rated fair to good compared to only 23% of the crop at this time last year. 'But before anyone gets excited', says Mr Koch, 'almost 37% of the crop is rated very poor or poor.' CQ is on track for yields at the upper end of historical averages but as you move south, conditions become patchy.

New South Wales

Conditions across NSW are reasonable, with about two-thirds of the crop standing a good chance of average or better yields. But there is a large pocket in south-western NSW from west of Junee out to Carrathol and south to Jerilderie that is in a bit of trouble.

According to Mr Koch, 'the 15-25mm of rain received across this region over the past week will boost crop prospects, but will not be enough to guarantee the crop safe passage.'

Victoria and South Australia

Conditions across VIC and SA are very good and a big improvement on last year, with the 'best since 1996' a common quote. Good rain over the last week should see these conditions hold into early August.

Western Australia

In WA, most cropping areas (62%) were in poor or very poor shape leading into July. Mr Koch adds 'to approach average yields, we will need to see a couple of months of well above average rainfall.' The inner Great Southern and South Coast are travelling along well, but to say the larger production areas are struggling would be an understatement.

AUSTRALIAN CROP CONDITIONS										
	V Poor (0-30%)*		Poor (31%-50%)		Fair (51%-70%)		Good (71%-90%)		V Good (91%+)	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
QLD	14**	14	62	23	19	29	2	34	2	0
NSW	20	7	37	23	31	22	11	45	0	3
VIC	19	2	33	12	28	38	21	41	0	7
SA	4	2	31	10	38	38	26	47	0	3
WA	25	42	46	20	17	9	12	20	0	9
Aust.	16	15	42	18	27	25	14	37	1	5

State averages = simple average of yield rankings across cropping shires; i.e., not weighted by production
National averages = simple average of state yield rankings; i.e., not weighted by production
*Estimated yield ranking; i.e., 30 = model estimates that this year's crop will rank #30 out of 100 years of adjusted yields (with 1 being the lowest and 100 the highest yield; yields are adjusted for productivity improvements).
**In QLD, 14% of shires measured have model generated yield rankings between 0-30.

To view maps of 2007 predicted shire wheat yields for Western and Eastern Australia and comparative maps from the 2006 and 2005 seasons, go to our website www.profarmer.com.au to take a FREE four-week trial.

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Background Information:

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