



Dust activity

We recorded 37 hours of dust across the network in January 2012 (**Figure 1**). In comparison we recorded 453 hours in January 2010 and 21 hours in January 2011. Overall the January 2012 events were isolated and most likely associated with local cropping or grazing activities. The events in detail are:

3 January 2012 - Menindee recorded a severe haze (visibility between 1 km and 5 km) triggered by fresh (20 to 30 km/h) south westerly winds.

8 January 2012 – Tibooburra recorded a moderate haze (visibility between 5 km and 10 km) triggered by strong (30 to 40 km/h) south westerly winds.

11 January 2012 – Penarie and Ivanhoe recorded a moderate haze triggered by strong south westerly winds. Bourke saw a moderate dust storm (visibility between 200 m and 1 km) driven by strong westerly winds.

for January 2012

16 January 2012 – Bourke recorded another moderate dust storm, this time driven by strong easterly winds.

18 January 2012 – Hillston recorded a severe haze driven by strong westerly winds that was later recorded in West Wyalong.

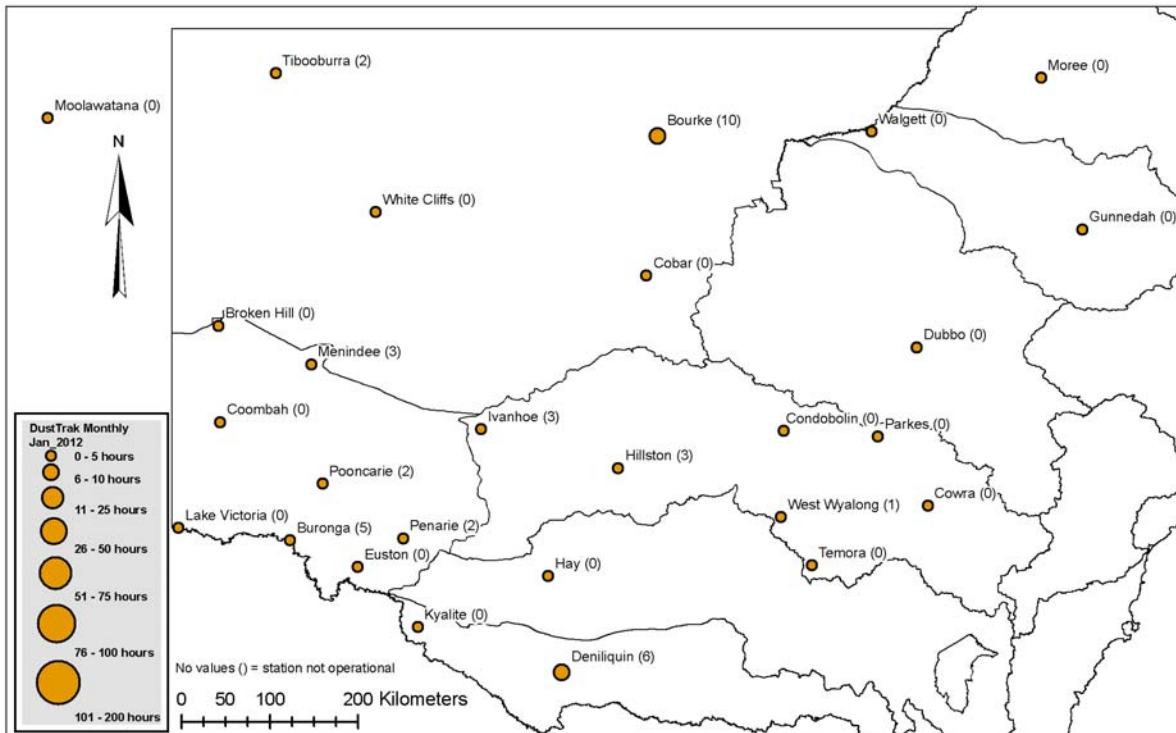
19 January 2012 – Ivanhoe recorded 3 hours of severe haze at very low wind speeds. This event might have drifted in from Hillston on the prevailing south easterly winds.

23 January 2012 – Menindee recorded a moderate haze driven by strong easterly winds.

26 January 2012 – Deniliquin recorded a moderate haze driven by fresh south easterly winds – this event was later visible in Penarie.

Smoke from fires in January 2012 (**Figure 4**) was greatly reduced from December 2011.

Figure 1. Hours of dust recorded for January 2012 at each DustWatch Node



Funding partners:

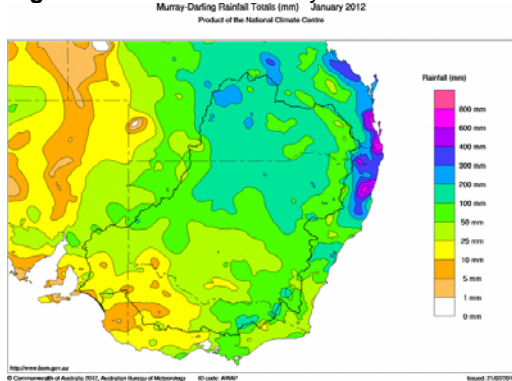
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Rainfall and fires

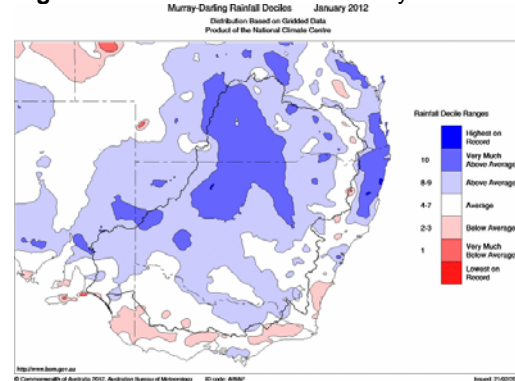
Rainfall in January 2012 was highest in the north eastern parts of NSW (100 to 300mm) and gradually reduced towards the south western corner (5mm to 10mm) (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Rainfall for January 2012.



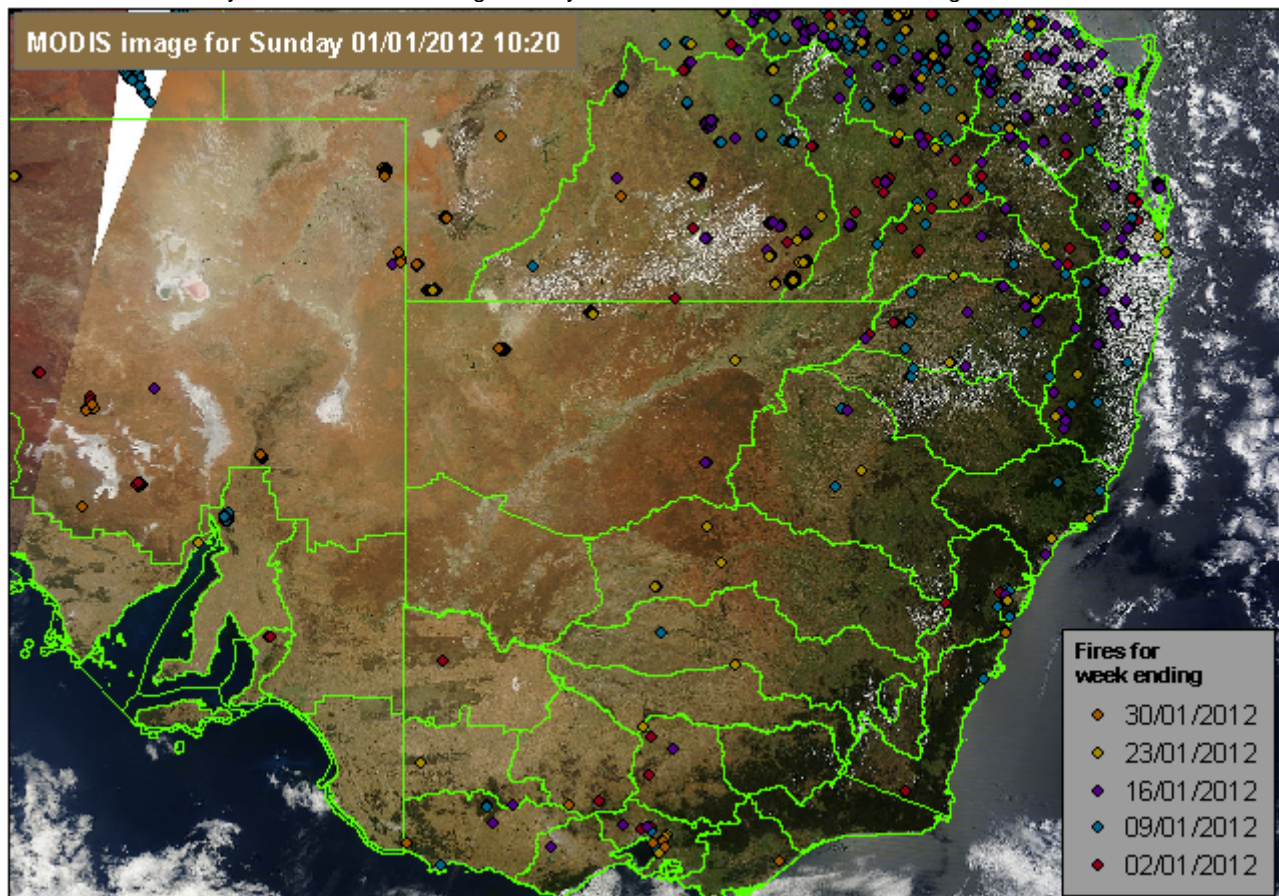
Rainfall was above average for most of the State with some areas receiving very much above average falls (top 10 % of records). (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Rainfall deciles for January 2012.



MODIS satellite image

Figure 4. Fires detected by MODIS satellite during January 2012 with colour markers indicating the week of detection.



The DustWatch Team

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Acknowledgements:

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