



Dust activity

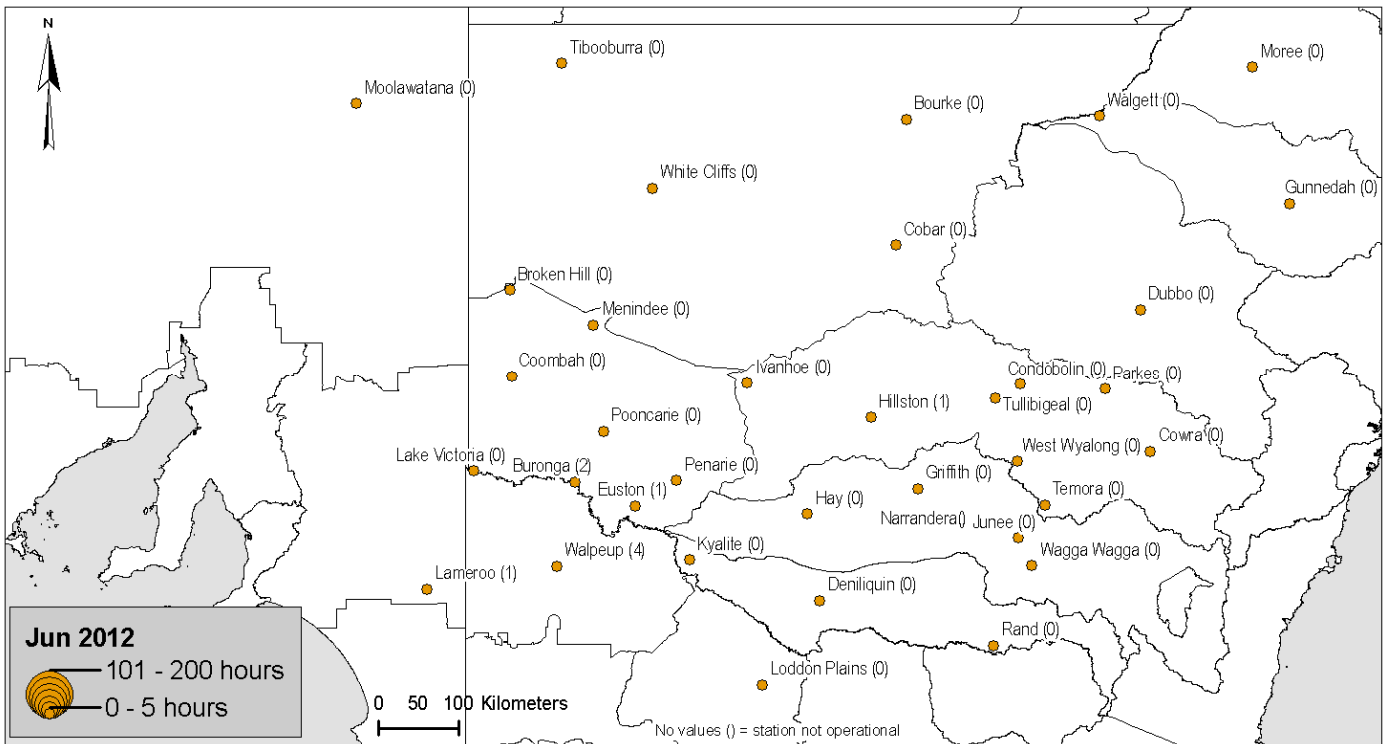
There was less dust activity in June 2012 than in May across the NSW DustWatch network. The minor dust activity in June originated from cropping areas, particularly the Mallee and southern Lower Murray Darling CMA.

There has been less dust this month because emerging crops are protecting the soil. Average (40 to 70

for June 2012 No: DW_NSW201206

percentile) to below average (dries 30% of records) rainfall across NSW (Figure 3) slowed crop growth in some areas. Nevertheless dust emissions should reduce further in July and August with the growing crops further protecting the soil.

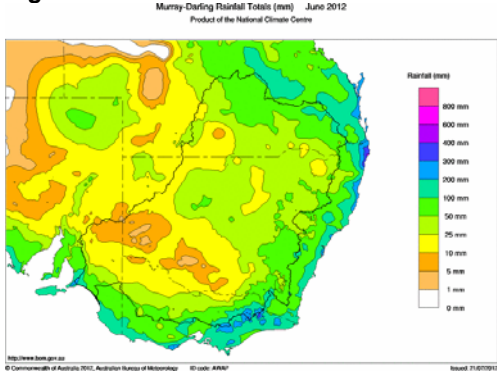
Figure 1. Hours of dust recorded for June 2012 at each DustWatch Node.



Rainfall

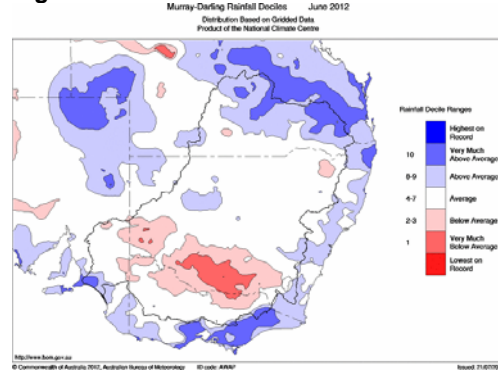
Very low rainfall continued in western NSW with most areas receiving less than 10mm of rain in May 2012. Eastern NSW received between 5 and 100mm (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Rainfall for June 2012



Large areas had below average rainfall (driest 30% of records – marked in pink) or very much below average (driest 10% of records – marked in light red) rainfall (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Rainfall deciles for June 2012



Fires

Fire activity in the cropping areas decreased significantly compared with May. Grazing areas were again almost fire free in June 2012 (Figure 4).

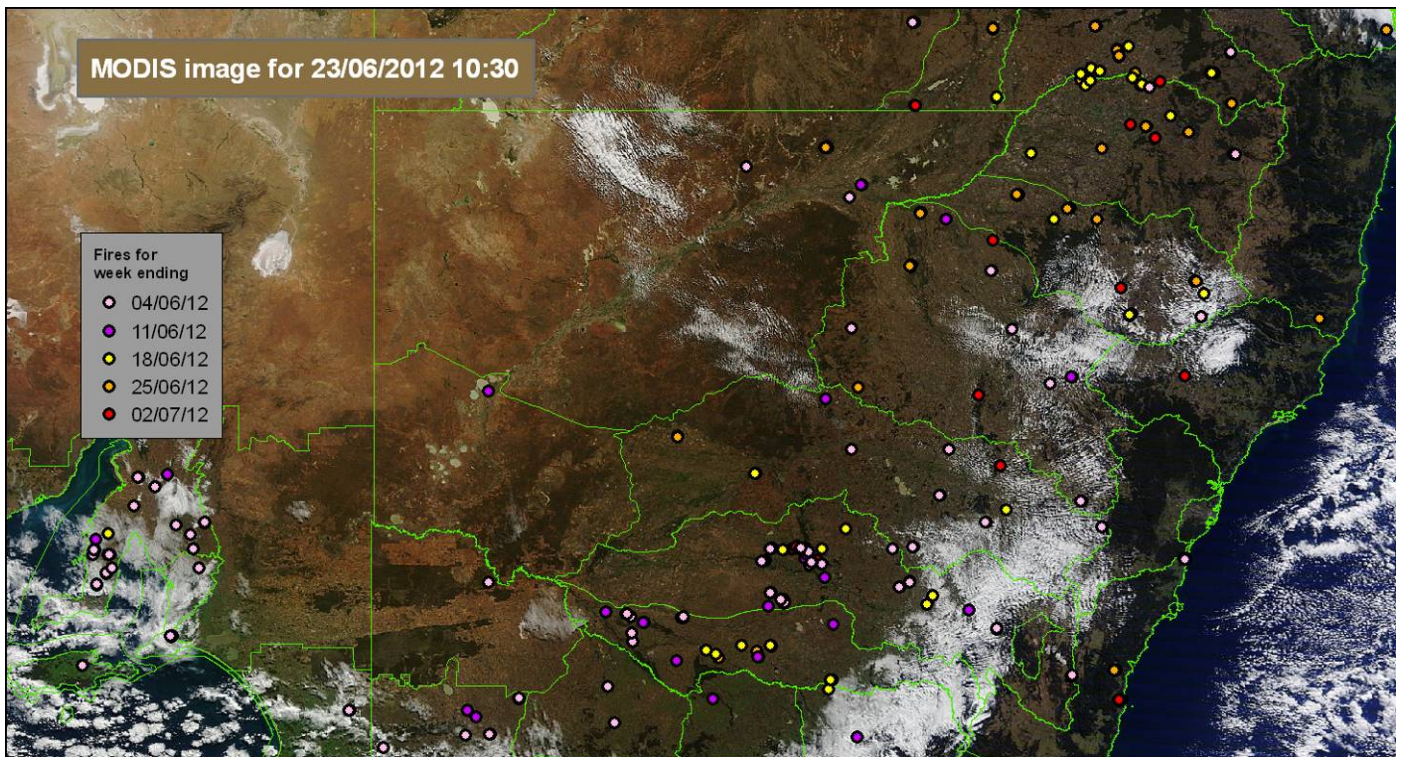


Figure 4. Fires detected by MODIS satellite during June 2012 with colour markers indicating the week of detection

The DustWatch Team

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Acknowledgements:

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Funding partners:

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