

# Regional Climate Watch

## To: NMHS in the western Pacific Islands region

The Regional Climate Watch is a guidance product designed for heightening National Meteorological and Hydrological Services awareness of an ongoing or high probability foreseen climate anomaly and its potential impacts on communities so that they can take appropriate action. This watch is disseminated to serve as a mechanism for initiating national preparedness activities and/or a series of events that affect decision-making.

After consultation between the Bureau of Meteorology and SPREP the Pacific RCC-Network Node on Climate Monitoring issues the following guidance information:

**Product ID: 20260218-01**

**Issued:** 25 February 2026

**Valid from-to:** 1 March – 14 March 2026

**Next update:** 4 March 2026



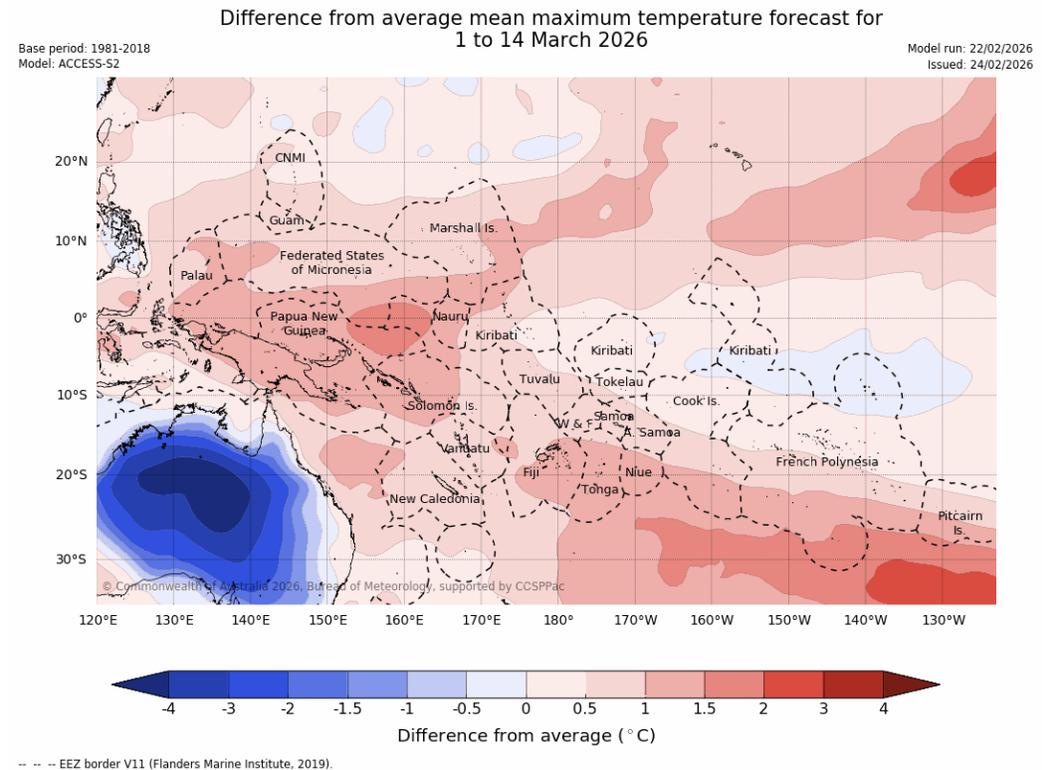
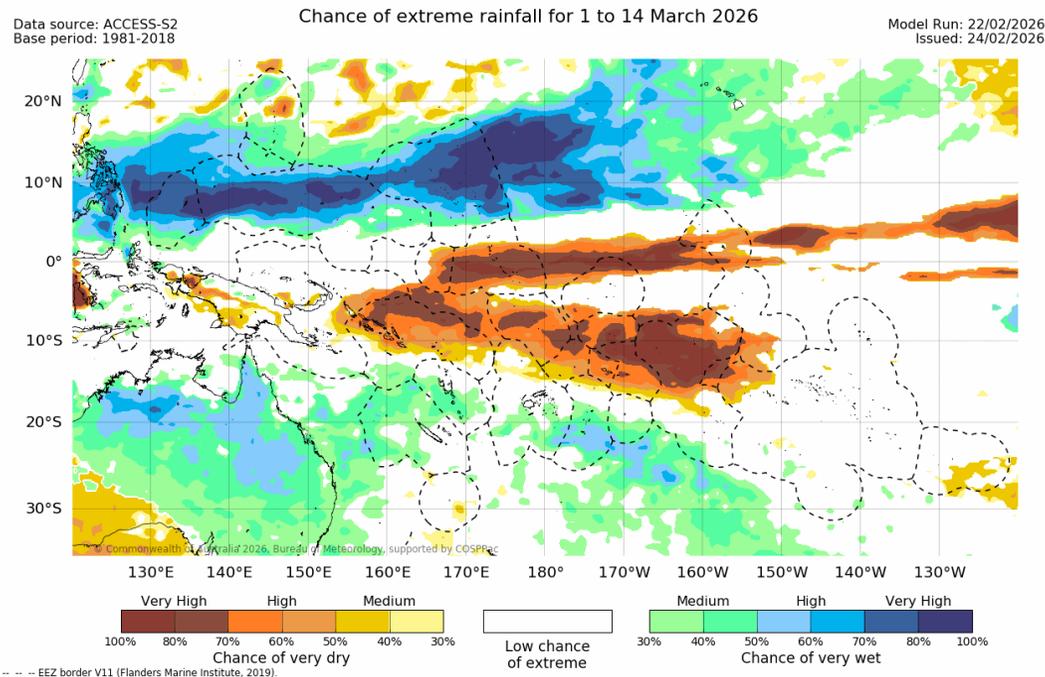
## Areas concerned (highlighted in yellow):

- *Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas*
- *Guam*
- *Palau*
- *Federated States of Micronesia*
- *Republic of the Marshall Islands*
- *Papua New Guinea*
- *Solomon Islands*
- *Vanuatu*
- *New Caledonia*
- *Fiji*
- *Wallis & Futuna*
- *Tonga*
- *Niue*
- *Samoa*
- *American Samoa*
- *Cook Islands*
- *French Polynesia*
- *Nauru*
- *Kiribati*
- *Tuvalu*
- *Tokelau*
- *Pitcairn Islands*



## Extreme Rainfall and Extreme Temperature Advisory:

- There's a very high chance of Very Wet conditions for the fortnight of 1 – 14 March 2026 for the following EEZs: central and northern Palau, northern FSM, and RMI. Fortnightly anomalies are forecast to exceed +75 mm over Palau, FSM, parts of southern RMI. The advisory for Tonga, Guam and CNMI is now cancelled.
- There's a very high chance of Very Warm maximum and minimum air temperatures for the fortnight 1 – 14 March 2026 across all EEZs, except the central and eastern Gilbert, Phoenix and Line Islands (Kiribati), far eastern Tuvalu, Tokelau, northern Cook Islands, and northern French Polynesia. Positive anomalies are forecast to exceed 1.5 °C over far eastern Solomon Is. and far southern Pohnpei (FSM). The extreme temperature advisory for Nauru is now cancelled.

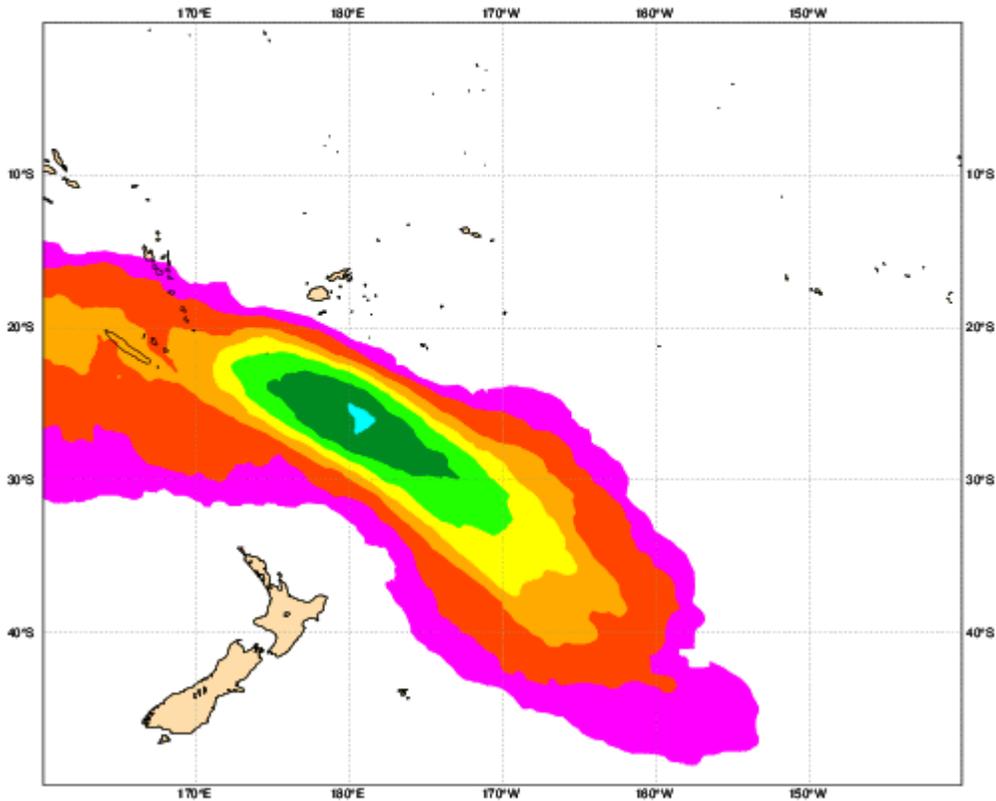


## Tropical Cyclone Advisory:

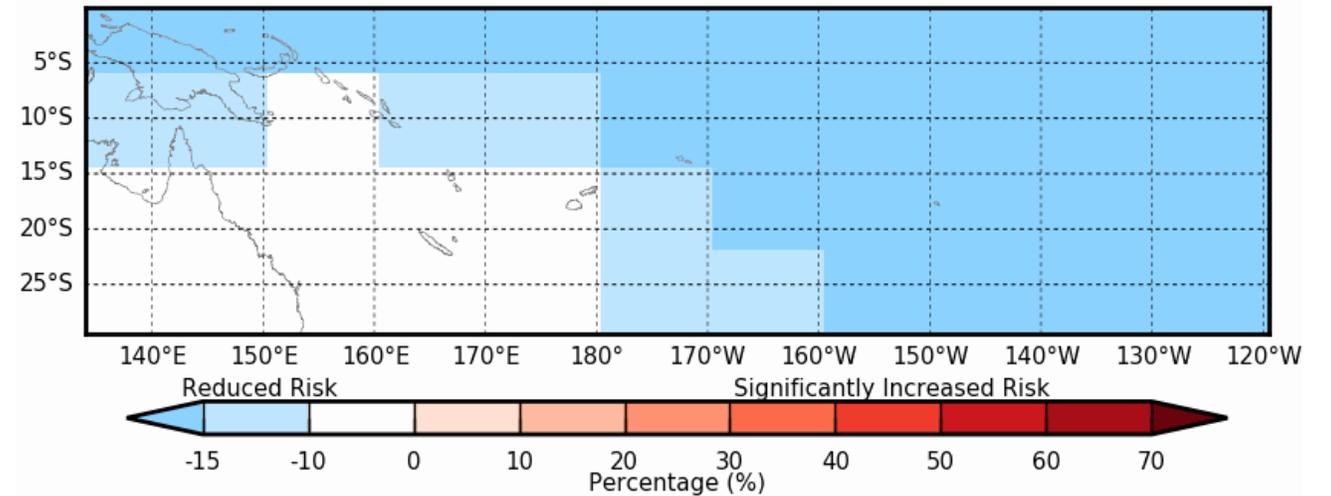
- There is an increased risk of Tropical Cyclone (TC) occurrence over New Caledonia, Vanuatu, and southern Fiji for the week of 2 – 8 March 2026, according to the ECMWF model only (not ACCESS-S).

Weekly mean Tropical Storm Strike Probability. Date: 20260224 0 UTC t+(144-312)  
Probability of a TS passing within 300km radius

5-10 10-20 20-30 30-40 40-50 50-60 60-70 70-80 80-90 90-110



Difference from normal chance of Tropical Cyclone's in the South Pacific  
Forecast period: 02/03/2026 - 08/03/2026



Calibrated Model anomaly probability in overlapping 15 x 20 degree boxes  
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Model: ACCESS\_S2

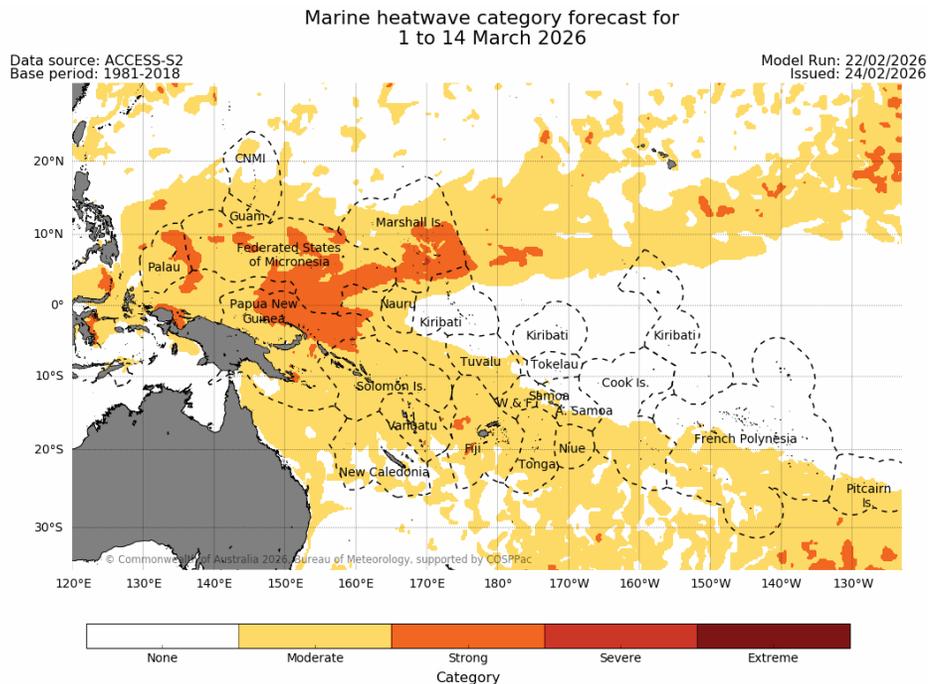
Model Run: 22/02/2026

Issued: 24/02/2026

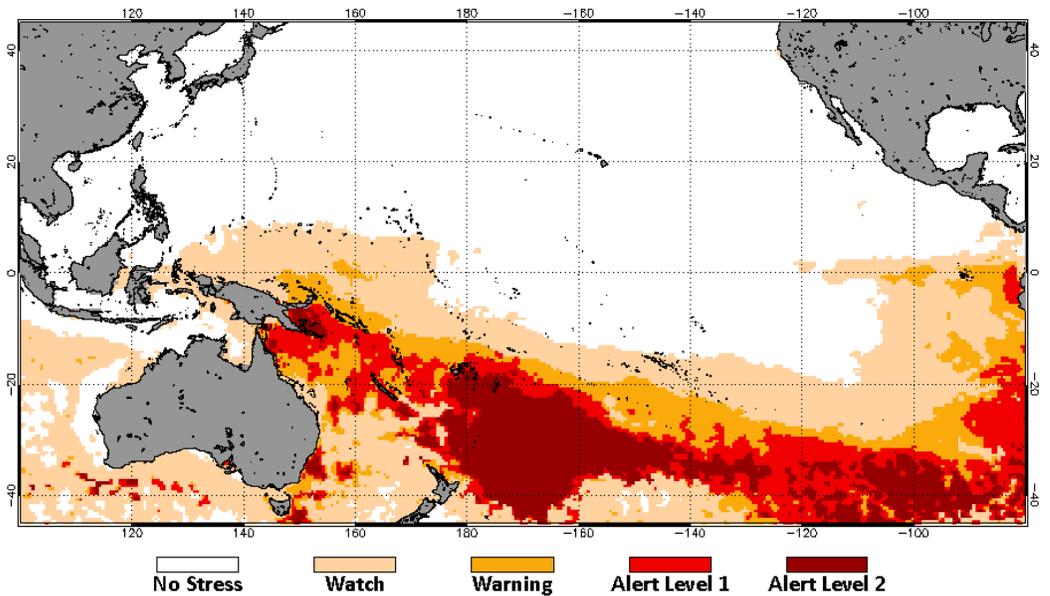


## Marine Heatwave and Coral Bleaching Advisory:

- Marine heatwaves in the strong category are forecast to develop for parts of the following EEZ's: Palau, FSM, southern eastern RMI, northern PNG, small parts of western and southwestern Fiji for the fortnight 1 – 14 March 2026. There may be impacts on ocean ecosystems, including stress on marine organisms, species migration, and algal blooms in locations with at least a strong category forecast. The advisory is now cancelled for Tonga.
- There remains an alert for coral bleaching for the following EEZs: PNG, Solomon Is, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Fiji, Tonga, Niue, and the far southern Cook Islands for the week 1 – 8 March 2026. The alert region has expanded across Solomon Is. and Vanuatu when compared to the advisory last week.



2026 Feb 24 NOAA Coral Reef Watch 60% Probability Coral Bleaching Heat Stress for Week 1 (Mar 1 2026)  
Experimental, v5.0, CFSv2-based, 112 Ensemble Members



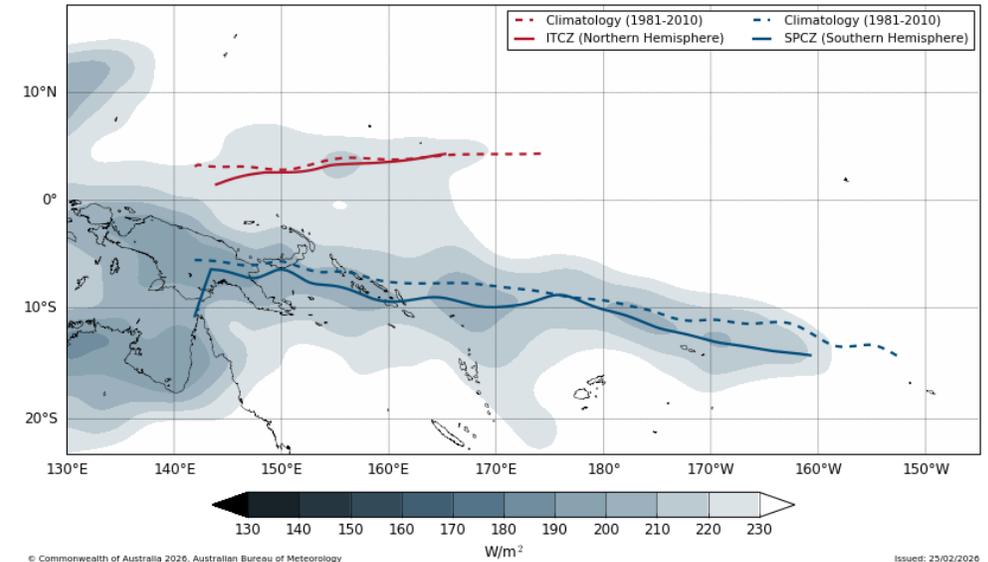
## Climate Influences:

- **El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)** indicates La Niña continues to weaken.
- The **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)** is neutral.
- Additional information is available via the Southern Hemisphere Monitoring Update - <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso>.
- Over the past 30 days, outgoing longwave radiation observations indicate that the **Intertropical Convergence Zone** is close to its climatologically normal position, and the **South Pacific Convergence Zone** is located further south for this time of year, over the southern Solomon Islands.
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)** is currently inactive and is forecast to remain inactive over the coming weeks.

**Outlooks:** <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/pacific/outlooks/>,  
<http://oceanportal.spc.int/portal/ocean.html>, [ECMWF Tropical Cyclone Outlook](#)  
[NOAA Coral Reef Watch 60% Probability Coral Bleaching Heat Stress Weekly Outlooks \(CFS based\)](#)

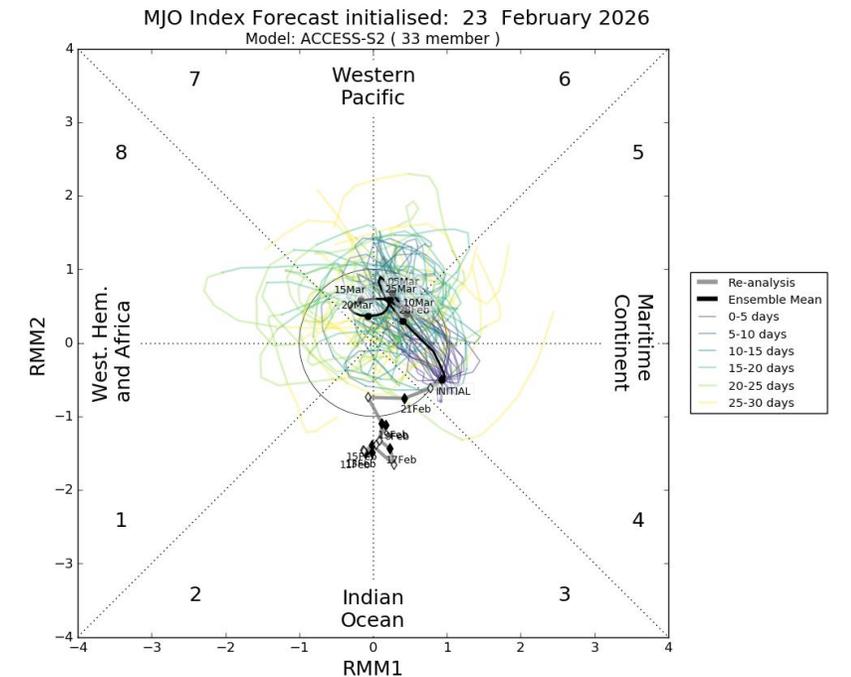
**Influences:** <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso/>

30 Day Average Outgoing Longwave Radiation (OLR) minimum to 2026-02-22



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## About Regional Climate Watch guidance

- This information should be used as guidance for the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) in a pre-operational mode. It is up to NMHSs in the specified regions to monitor the status and evolution of the current climate conditions closely and to consider issuing a national advisories.
- We will monitor the evolution of the anomaly, issue updates if significant change arise and close the advice when no clear signal can be detected in the forecasts.
- For more information and feedback please email [pacificclimateservices@bom.gov.au](mailto:pacificclimateservices@bom.gov.au). Also, any suggestions on further pieces of information needed by NMHSs is highly welcomed!
- Please note that further climate monitoring and prediction information can be obtained from Pacific RCC-N website (<https://www.pacificmet.net/rcc>)
- The Pacific RCC Network Node on Climate Monitoring is responsible for providing Regional Climate Watch guidance information for NMHSs' own consideration for issuing climate advisories for their territory. The regional watch is currently sponsored by the Australian and New Zealand funded Climate and Ocean Support Program in the Pacific (COSPPac) and delivered by Node on Climate Monitoring consortium members that are COSPPac implementation partners (Bureau of Meteorology and SPREP).

