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: 4 March 2026
Valid from-to: 4 March – 21 March 2026
Next update: 11 March 2026

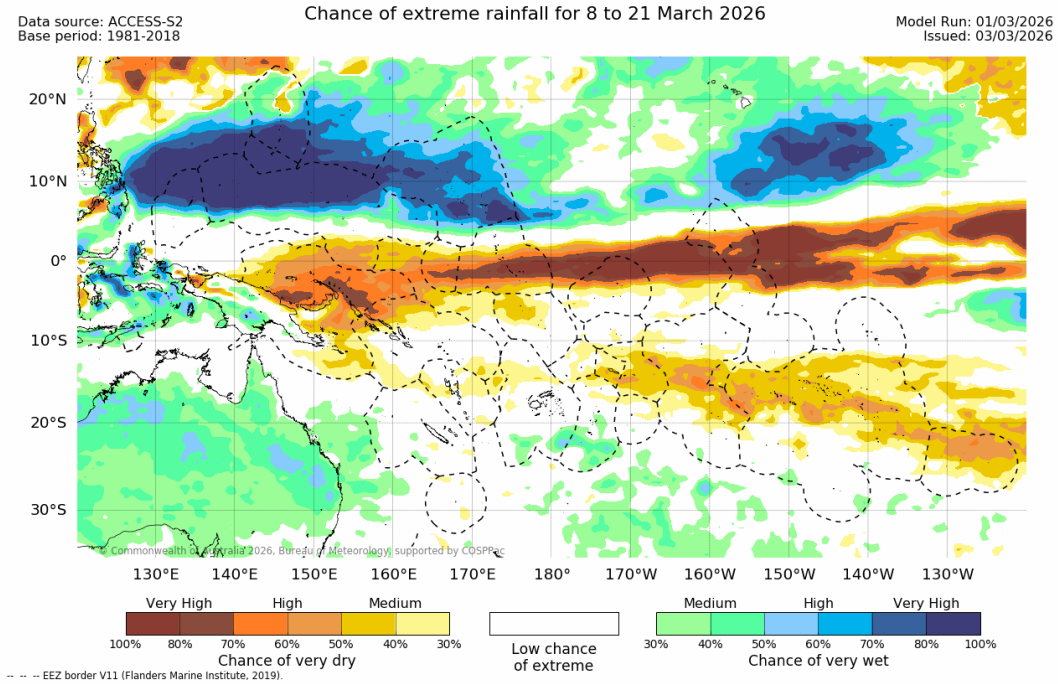
Areas concerned (highlighted in yellow):

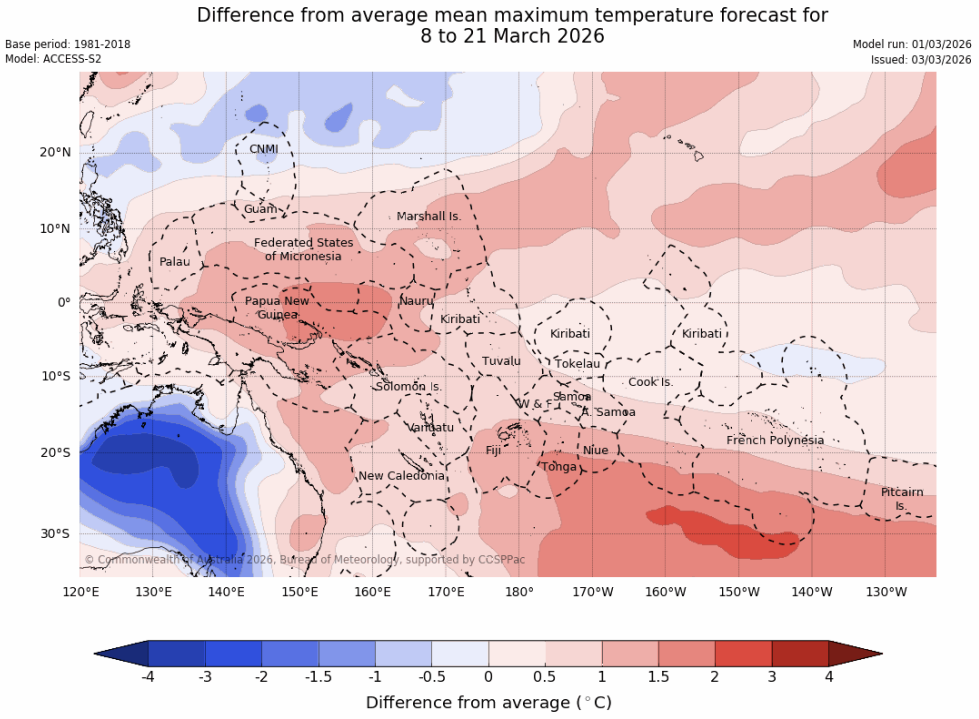
- *Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas*
- *Guam*
- *Palau*
- *Federated States of Micronesia*
- *Republic of the Marshall Islands*
- *Papua New Guinea*
- *Solomon Islands*
- *Vanuatu*
- *New Caledonia*
- *Fiji*
- *Wallis & Futuna*
- *Tonga*
- *Niue*
- *Samoa*
- *American Samoa*
- *Cook Islands*
- *French 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 8 – 21 March 2026 for the following EEZs: northern Palau, northern FSM, Guam, southern CMNI and RMI. Fortnightly anomalies are forecast to exceed +75 mm over Palau, FSM, Guam, CMNI and parts of southern RMI. The advisory for Guam and CNMI is now reinstated.

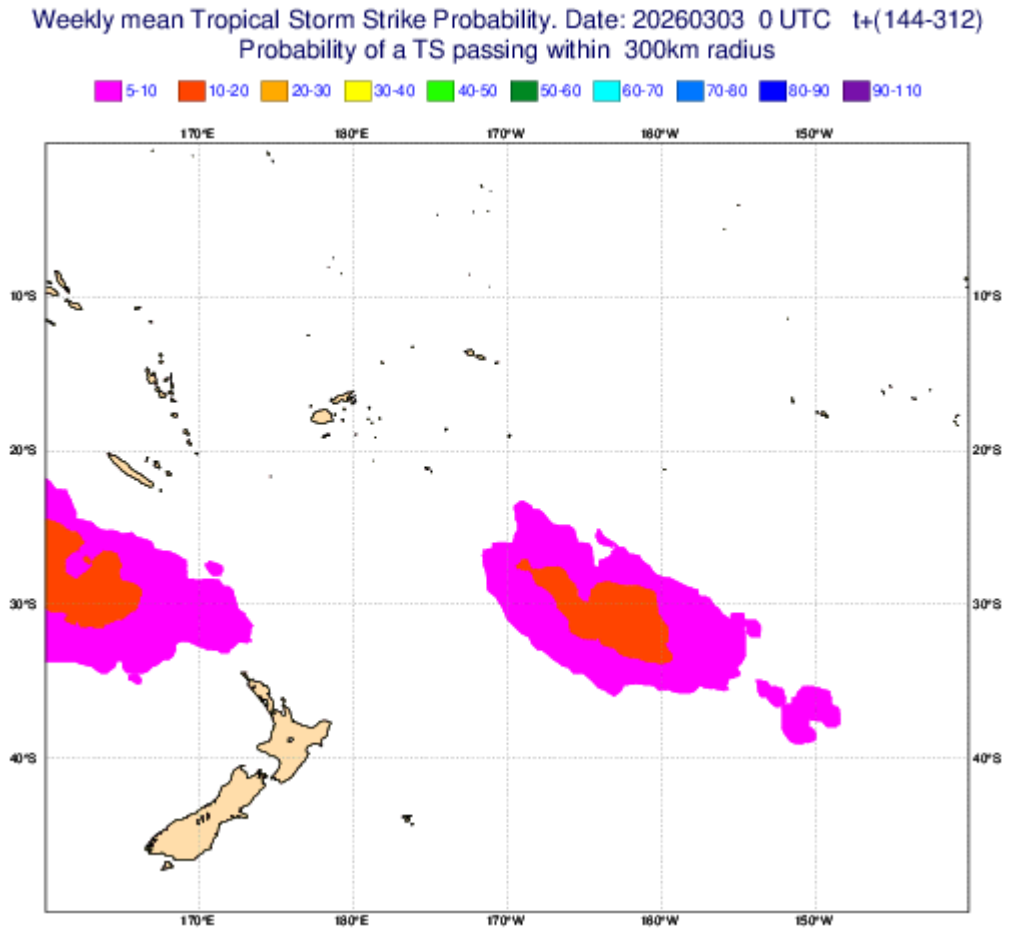
- There's a very high chance of Very Warm maximum and minimum air temperatures for the fortnight 8 – 21 March 2026 across all EEZs, except the CNMI, eastern Gilbert, Phoenix and Line Islands (Kiribati), Tokelau, northern Cook Is., and northern French Polynesia. Positive anomalies are forecast to exceed 1.5 °C over far southern Pohnpei (FSM), northern PNG, southern Tonga, southern Niue, southern Cook Is. and southern French Polynesia. The extreme temperature advisory for is now cancelled for the Solomon Is.

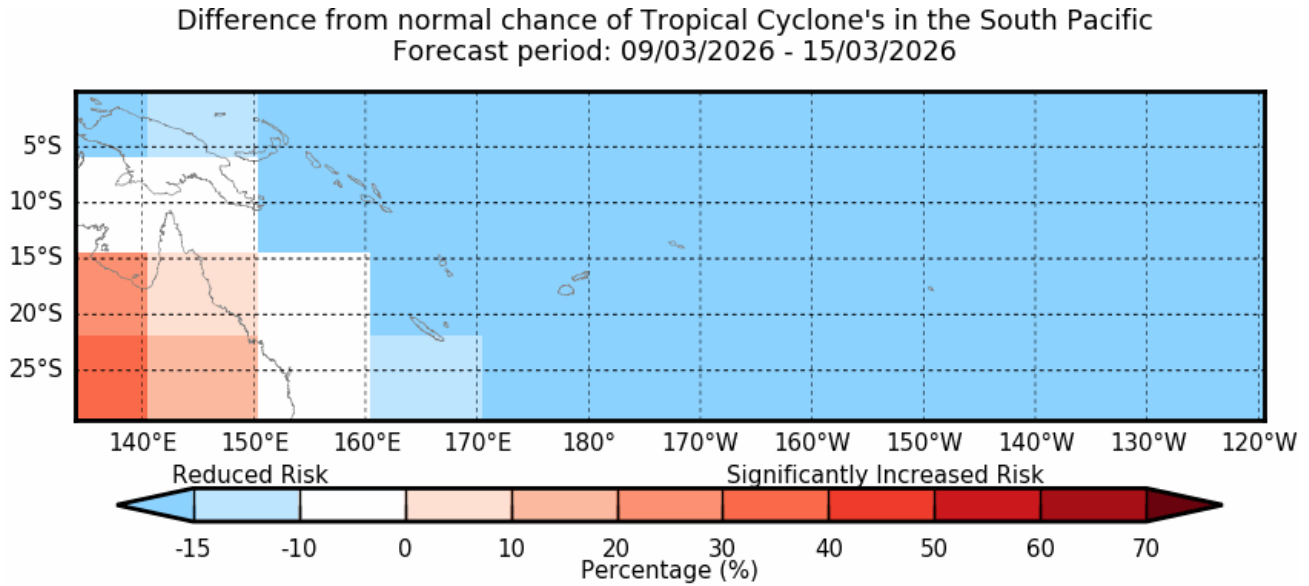




Tropical Cyclone Advisory:

- There is as slight increased risk of Tropical Cyclone (TC) occurrence in the Coral Sea, waters between New Caledonia, New Zealand and to the south- east of Fiji for the week of 9 – 15 March 2026, according to the ECMWF model. For the same period, ACCESS-S shows near normal risk off the coast of northeast Australia, in the Coral Sea region.





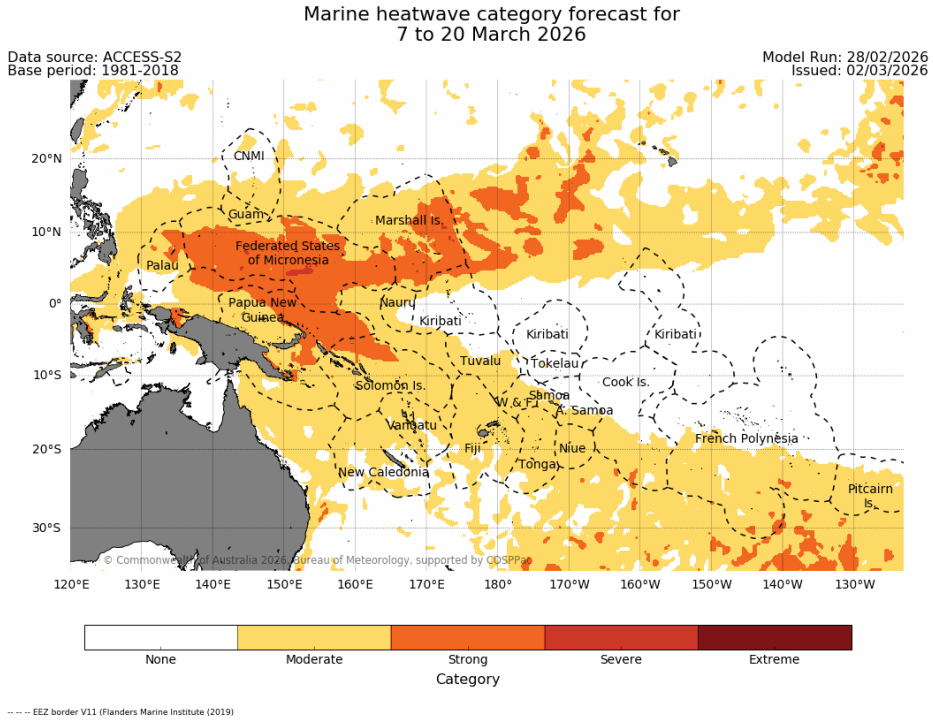
Calibrated Model anomaly probability in overlapping 15 x 20 degree boxes

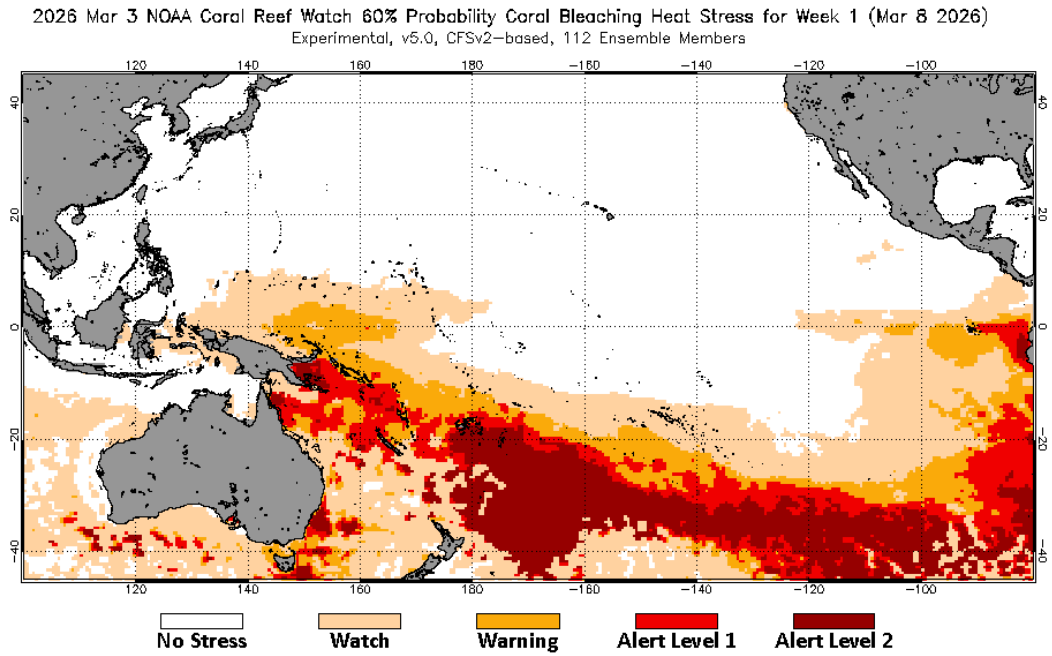
Model: ACCESS_S2 Model Run: 01/03/2026 Issued: 03/03/2026

Marine Heatwave and Coral Bleaching Advisory:

- Marine heatwaves in the strong category are forecast to develop for parts of the following EEZ's: northeastern Palau, FSM, southern eastern RMI, northern PNG, northern Solomon Islands and southern location of French Polynesia and Cook Islands for the fortnight 7 – 20 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 Fiji.

- There remains an alert for coral bleaching for the following EEZs: PNG, Solomon Is, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Fiji, Tonga, Niue, the far southern Cook Islands and far southern French Polynesia for the week 8 – 15 March 2026. The alert region has strengthened and expanded across southern Pacific near French Polynesia when compared to the advisory last week.



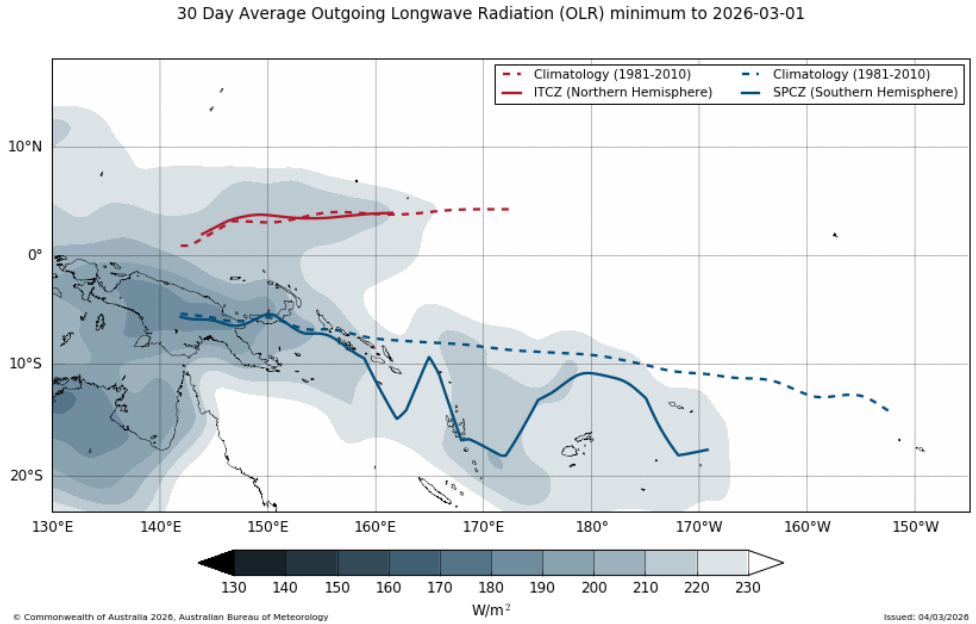


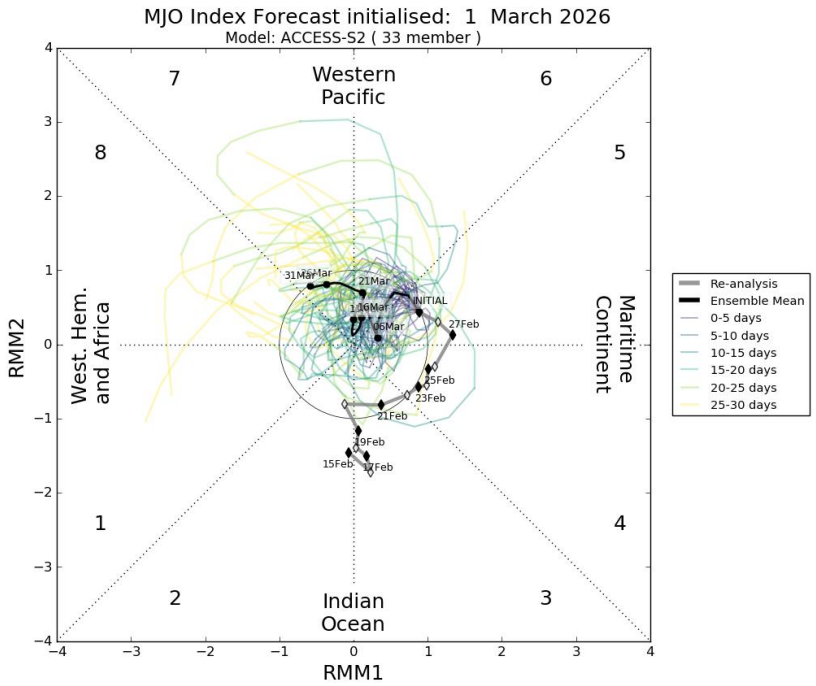
Climate Influences:

- **El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)** indicates La Niña is close to ending.
- 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 in the western Pacific. The **South Pacific Convergence Zone** is located further south (east of the Solomon Islands) for this time of year.
- The **Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO)** is currently moving across the Maritime continent and is forecast to become inactive as it moves into the Western Pacific 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/





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. 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).