

Victoria floods: Farmers with soaked fields avoid further flooding

BY STEPHANIE ANDERSON AND PATRICK WRIGHT

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PHOTO A drone captured flooding at Banyena, in Victoria's north-west, last week from the air.

SUPPLIED: CHRIS AND GERALD DRUM

Farmers in Victoria are happy to have avoided further flooding while their fields are still soaked from last week's falls.

Key points:

- Heavy rains expected overnight, but falls were well short of forecasts
 - Farmers hoping for drier weather in lead-up to harvest
 - Agronomist says wet September has been a 'pleasant change'
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Up to 40 millimetres of rain was forecast to fall in the state's north-west overnight, but Banyena farmer Chris Drum was happy to find only 1 millimetre in his rain gauge.

The highest overnight totals were 19.5 millimetres at Walpeup, near the Victoria-South Australia border, and 18 millimetres at Mildura — both well short of what was expected.

Floods have caused widespread damage across the state, including at the Great Ocean Road, [where authorities say a major landslide is "imminent"](#).



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Chris Drum has been showing us around his property at Banyena. A foot of water in some fields @abcnewsMelb #vicfloods

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Mr Drum said while last week's rain was a cause for celebration, farmers in the north-west were hoping for drier weather in the lead-up to harvest.

"We had a flood party the other day, when the floods came through, and we're thinking about rejoicing and having another party in relation to the fact that it hasn't

rained," he said.

" Another rain on top of what we've just had would be very destructive, I think. "

Crops like canola are expected to be harvested in November. Despite the reprieve, farmers will be keeping a keen eye on rain forecasts.

" I think there's another rain forecast for 10 or 12 days time. It'd be nice to think that it doesn't eventuate as well, as we've certainly got enough moisture to finish us off from here, " Mr Drum said.

" We're all pretty happy, I think. "

'There's money in mud, there's not money in dust'



PHOTO [Agronomist Kelly Johnston and farmer Anthony Evans in a canola field at Willaura.](#)

ABC NEWS: PATRICK ROCCA

Kelly Johnson, an agronomist for Gorst Rural, based at Lake Bolac, said the rain had been a godsend for farmers in Victoria's Western District.

" For the last couple of years, our rain in the cropping regions has basically shut off about now.

" We've been looking at crops this time of the year, wondering if there is enough moisture in the soil to see them through.

"The fact that we've got a full profile of moisture, and the rain is here and playing the game, it's a very pleasant change."

Despite the flooding, Ms Johnson said crops in the district had held up well.

"The farmers can't grow crops and grass for their sheep without rain.

"There's an old saying in the rural world, 'There's money in mud, there's not money in dust'."

GALLERY

[Victoria is hit with floods after heavy rain](#)



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