A joint venture of the Australian Government and the Member States of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland

July 2025

Locust Bulletin

ISSN 2204-9851

GENERAL SITUATION IN AUTUMN AND OUTLOOK TO SPRING 2025

Australian Plague Locust *Chortoicetes terminifera*

The overall locust population remained at low-medium levels across inland eastern Australia with a moderate decrease in Central West and Riverina districts of New South Wales but slight increases in central Queensland during autumn. Routine ground survey was hampered by flooding from heavy rains during late March and early April. Surveys identified low-density adults remained in the Central West district of NSW with only occasional Low-Numerous adults detected, while in the adjacent Upper Western district more frequent low-density adults were encountered with some Low-Numerous adults identified. Some Numerous-density adults were identified in inland Queensland with frequent low-density adults present. Low-density nymphs were also identified in some surveyed areas. No more locust sightings were reported from NSW in autumn. No locust captures were recorded by any light traps in Dulkaninna of South Australia, Fowlers Gap and White Cliffs of NSW, and Thargomindah of Queensland for autumn. The UNSW insect monitoring radar in Hay was not in operation due to air-conditioning failure and likely antenna motor failure. No surveys were conducted in South Australia or Victoria, nor any locust reports received from these states during autumn.

Much of inland eastern Australia experienced a wet autumn due to the highest on record amount of rainfall from late March to early April when more than 200 mm rainfall were received by the Charleville-Quilpie-Windorah-Longreach areas with parts over 600 mm. However, much of the arid/semi-arid interior received below average to much below average amount of rainfall during April and May. Apart from these areas that received very high rainfall or downstream floods, most habitats in inland eastern Australia became unfavourable for locust breeding. Autumn temperatures were above average to highest on record (1–3 degrees warmer) over much of arid interior with a cooler April (down by two degrees below averages) over much of inland Queensland where excess rainfall was received. With the forecast for above average rainfall and warmer temperatures for winter, overwintering populations are likely to persist in favourable habitats.

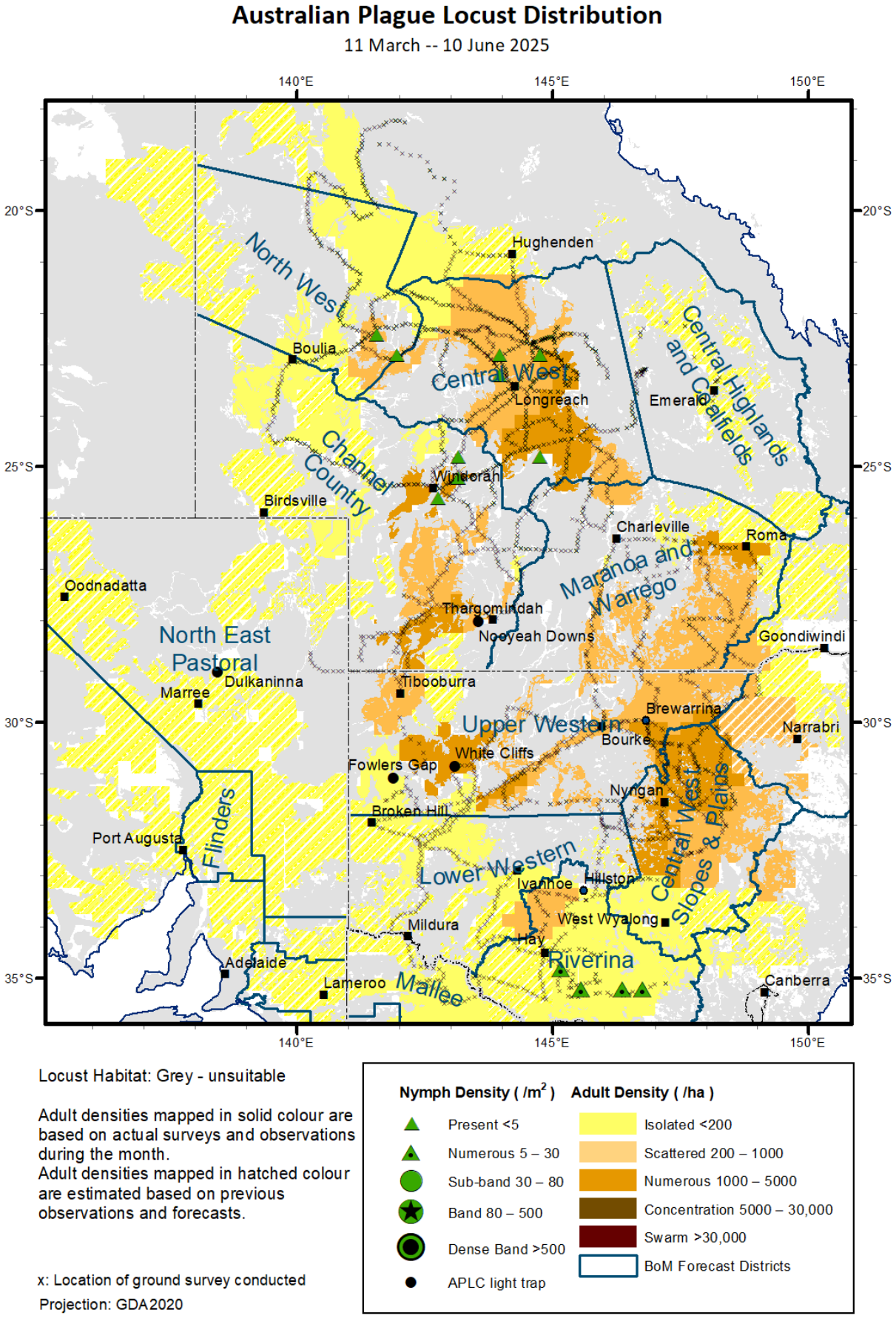
The overall outlook is for low density populations across inland eastern Australia, with localised higher densities of nymphs developing possibly from overwintering eggs in parts of central west NSW and inland Queensland from September onwards.

There is a low likelihood of widespread infestations developing in spring.

29 July 2025

Australian Plague Locust Commission
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601
Telephone (02) 6272 5076 Toll Free 1800 635 962
Website http://www.agriculture.gov.au/aplc Email aplc@agriculture.gov.au

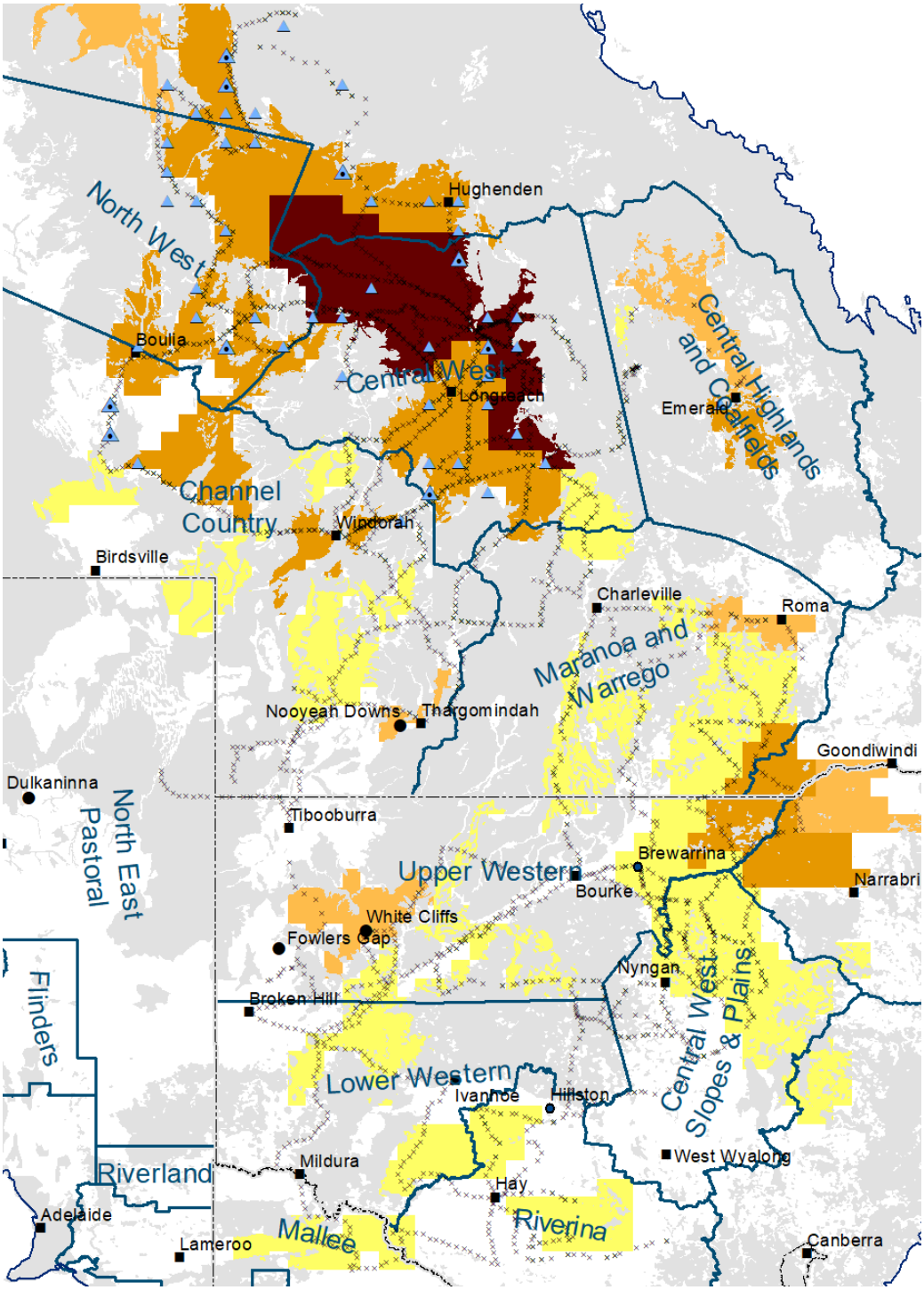
Locust distribution map—*Chortoicetes terminifera*



Spur-throated Locust *Austracris guttulosa*

The overall population increased slightly to low-medium levels in autumn across inland eastern Australia with a significant buildup in Central West Queensland. Early instars had been identified by survey up to early June, indicating an extended breeding season. Several Low-Density swarms were identified in the Muttaburra-Winton areas with consistent Numerous and Concentration-density adults detected. Some Numerous-density adults were also identified in the North West district of New South Wales. No capture in autumn was recorded by light traps in White Cliffs and Fowlers Gap of NSW, and Dulkaninna of South Australia except a few caught in early April in Thargomindah of Queensland. With heavy rainfall over much of inland Queensland during late March and early April and the forecast for above average rainfall with warmer temperatures for winter, habitat conditions should remain in favour for locust breeding.

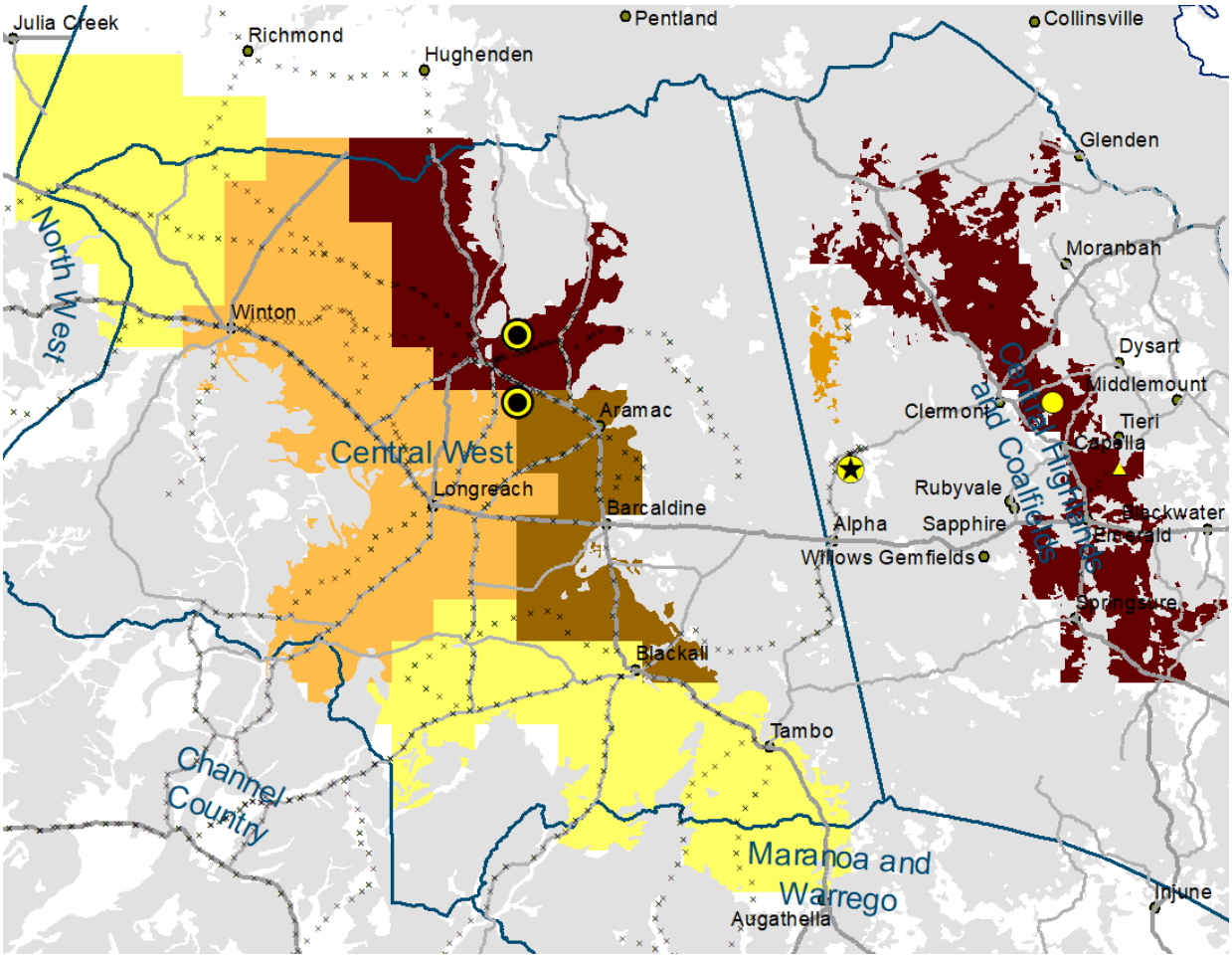
There is a moderate risk of a regional infestation in Central West Queensland. However, a widespread infestation is less likely to occur in winter and spring.



Migratory Locust *Locusta migratoria*

The population increased markedly in Central Highlands and Central West Queensland in autumn. Due to heavy rains, limited surveys conducted in New South Wales and South Australia did not identify any locusts in February. From early March, reports of locust bands were received from the Emerald-Alpha-Clermont areas where several bands were confirmed by survey and Low-Density swarms were identified in April. Some Scattered-density adults were also identified between Winton and Hughenden in April. In May, following further rainfall conducive for locust breeding more reports of locust sightings were received from the Muttaburra-Aramac areas where frequent locust bands and swarms were confirmed by survey. Under low night temperatures of autumn and winter, nocturnal long-range migration is unlikely but daytime short-distance dispersal can take locust adults tens of kilometres away in a warm day. Therefore, population dispersal and redistribution are likely to continue. The locust population in the Alpha area of Central Highlands declined over late autumn and no further reports of locust activities were received from this region. With the forecast above average rainfall and warm temperatures for winter, habitat conditions should remain in favour for locust survival, some breeding can occur where rainfall above 30 mm and some localised bands could develop from early to mid-September onwards. Some adult swarms may persist in the Muttaburra-Winton areas through September until spring rain results in breeding.

There is a moderate-high risk of a regional infestation developing in the Central West and a moderate risk in the Central Highlands during winter and spring.



It is important that any locust activity be reported as soon as possible to your local biosecurity authority or to the Commission. A toll-free call to the Commission can be made on 1800 635 962. An answering machine is attached to this locust hotline for after-hours calls. Reports can also be emailed to the Commission at locust.report@agriculture.gov.au or sent through the web page at https://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/locusts/landholders/reporting_locusts.

Australian Plague Locust (*Chortoicetes terminifera*)

SITUATION IN AUTUMN AND OUTLOOK TO SPRING 2025

NEW SOUTH WALES

NORTH WEST SLOPES & PLAINS

Northwest Local Land Services

Locusts and conditions

- No surveys were conducted in this district in March. Limited surveys conducted in the western part of this district did not identify any locusts in late April. No surveys were conducted in this district in May.
- No locust reports were received from this district in autumn.
- Over much of this district, monthly rainfall totals were from 100 to 260 mm at above average to highest on record levels for March, 50 – 100 mm at above average to very much above average levels for April, and 25 – 50 mm at average levels in May. Habitats should have remained favourable for locust breeding.

Forecast

- Some eggs may have been laid in suitable habitats and remain in diapause/dormancy for overwintering. Spring hatching may commence from late August onwards.
- There is a low probability of any large bands developing or significant migrations occurring in spring.
- The general population density is expected to be at low levels in spring with possible localised higher densities developing under favourable habitat conditions.

Risks

- There is a low risk of a regional infestation developing in spring.

CENTRAL WEST SLOPES & PLAINS

Central West Local Land Services

Locusts and conditions

- Surveys conducted in March and April identified frequent Isolated to Scattered-density adults remained in this district without any nymphs detected. By mid-May, there were still Isolated to Low-Numerous-density adults identified by survey.
- No more locust reports were received from this district in autumn.
- Monthly rainfall totals were from 15 to 160 mm ranging from below average to very much above average levels for March, from nil to 50 mm at very much below average to average levels in April, and from 10 to 50 mm generally at average levels. Some habitats could have remained in good condition for overwintering egg-laying.

Forecast

- Some eggs may have been laid in favourable habitats and remain in diapause/dormancy for overwintering. Nymph hatching may commence from early September onwards.
- There is a low probability of any large bands developing or significant migrations occurring in spring.
- The general population is expected to be at low-medium levels with possibly localised higher densities developing in spring.

Risks

- There is a low-moderate risk of regional infestations developing in spring.

RIVERINA

Riverina, Murray Local Land Services

Locusts and conditions

- No surveys were conducted in this district in March and April. Surveys conducted in mid-May identified some Isolated and occasional Scattered-density adults with some Numerous-density nymphs detected.
- No reports of locust activities were received from this district in autumn.
- The UNSW insect monitoring radar in Hay was still not in operation due to technical problems.
- Monthly rainfall totals were 15 – 50 mm at average to above average levels in March, from nil to 25 mm ranging from very much below average to average levels over much of this district in April, and from 5 to 50 mm ranging from very much below average to above average levels in May. Habitat conditions had been worsening during autumn.

Forecast

- Limited eggs may have been laid in autumn for overwintering. Spring hatching may start from late September onwards.
- There is a low probability of any significant bands developing or migrations occurring in spring.
- The population is likely to be at low levels for spring.

Risks

- There is a low risk of regional infestation developing in spring.

UPPER and LOWER WESTERN

Western Local Land Services

Locusts and conditions

- Surveys conducted in March identified frequent Isolated-density adults with some Scattered and Numerous-density adults detected in the Upper Western district and a few Isolated to Scattered-density adults by limited surveys in the northern parts of Lower Western district. Surveys conducted in the northeast of Upper Western district identified occasional Isolated and Scattered-density adults in late April. Some Isolated-density adults were identified by survey in May in these two districts. No nymphs were detected by survey in autumn.
- Light traps at White Cliffs and Fowlers Gap did not capture any locusts in autumn.
- No locust reports were received from these two districts in autumn.
- Monthly rainfall totals were from 7 mm over the western parts to 200 mm in the northeast for March, ranging from average to highest on record levels, nearly nil in the west to over 50 mm in the northeast for April, varying from below average to very much above average levels, and from nil to 25 mm over much of these two districts for May, ranging from very much below average to average levels. Habitat conditions had become unfavourable for locust breeding during autumn.

Forecast

- Sporadic breeding is possible under favourable habitat conditions from localised storms.
- There is a low probability of any significant hatchlings or migrations in spring.
- The overall population is likely to remain at low levels with possible localised medium-density populations developing in spring.

Risks

- There is a low risk of regional infestations developing in spring.

All locust activity should be reported to your nearest Local Land Services Biosecurity Officer on 1300 795 299 or to the Commission. A toll-free call to the Commission can be made on 1800 635 962. An answering machine is attached to this phone for after-hours calls. Reports can also be emailed to the Commission at locust.report@agriculture.gov.au or sent through the web page at https://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/locusts/landholders/reporting_locusts.

QUEENSLAND

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS AND COALFIELDS

Isaac and Central Highlands Regional Councils; Banana Shire

Locusts and conditions

- Limited surveys conducted in the Alpha area did not identify any locust in March. Surveys conducted in mid-April did not identify any locusts in this district, but occasional Isolated and Scattered adults were detected in early May in the surveyed western part of this district.
- No reports of locust activity were received from this district in autumn.
- Monthly rainfall totals were 50 – 300 mm at above average to very much above average levels for March, from 30 mm to 150 mm ranging from average to very much above average levels for April, and 10 – 25 mm over this district ranging from average to above average levels for May. Some habitats should have remained favourable for locust breeding.

Forecast

- Localised breeding is possible under favourable habitat conditions, but general population is likely to remain at low levels.
- There is a very low probability of any significant bands developing or migrations occurring in spring.

Risks

- There is a very low risk of a regional infestation developing in spring.

DARLING DOWNS AND GRANITE BELT

Western Downs and Goondiwindi Regional Councils

Locusts and conditions

- No surveys were conducted in this district in March. Limited surveys conducted in the southwest of this district did not identify any locusts in late April. No surveys were conducted in this district in May.
- No report of locust activity was received from this district in autumn.
- Monthly rainfall totals were 50 – 100 mm at average to above average levels over much of this district for March, 25 – 100 mm ranging from average to very much above average levels for April, and 20 – 50 mm at average levels for May. Habitat conditions had become unfavourable for locust breeding during autumn.

Forecast

- Sporadic breeding is possible under favourable habitat conditions, but resulting population is likely to be at low levels.
- There is a low probability of any significant bands developing or migrations occurring in spring.

Risks

- There is a low risk of a regional infestation developing in spring.

CENTRAL WEST

Barcaldine, Longreach, and Blackall-Tambo Regional Council; Flinders and Winton Shires

Locusts and conditions

- Surveys identified some Isolated and Scattered-density adults with Present-density nymphs detected in this district in March. No surveys were conducted in this district in April. Surveys conducted in May identified frequent Isolated to Scattered-density adults with occasional Low-Numerous-density adults and Present-density nymphs detected.
- No locust reports were received from this district in autumn.
- Monthly rainfall totals were from 100 – 500 mm at very much above average to highest on record levels for March, 25 – 150 mm at average to very much above average levels for April, and 10 – 50 mm at average to above average levels. Some habitats should remain favourable for locust breeding.

Forecast

- Breeding is likely under favourable habitat conditions, but overall population is likely to remain at low-medium levels.
- There is a low probability of any significant bands developing or migrations occurring in spring.

Risks

- There is a low-moderate risk of a regional infestation developing in spring.

MARANOA AND WARREGO

Maranoa Regional Council; Murweh, Paroo, and Balonne Shires

Locusts and conditions

- No surveys were conducted in this district in March. Surveys conducted in the eastern part of this district identified frequent Scattered-density and some Numerous-density adults in the end of April. Surveys conducted in May identified Isolated and Scattered-density adults with occasional Low-Numerous-density adults detected in this district. No nymphs were detected by survey in autumn.
- No locust reports were received from this district in autumn.
- Monthly rainfall totals were from 80 mm to 500 mm at above average to highest on record levels for March, from 5 mm to 130 mm ranging from average to very much above average levels for April, and 10 – 25 mm at average levels over much of this district for May. Some habitats may remain in favour for locust breeding.

Forecast

- Sporadic breeding is possible under favourable habitat conditions, but the resulting locust population is likely to remain at low levels.
- There is a low probability of any significant nymphs hatching or migrations occurring in spring.

Risks

- There is a low risk of a regional infestation developing in spring.

NORTH WEST

Mt Isa, Cloncurry, McKinlay, Boulia, and Winton Shires

Locusts and conditions

- Surveys identified some Isolated-density adults with no nymphs detected in this district in March. No surveys were conducted in this district in April. Limited surveys conducted in the southeastern part of this district identified some Isolated-density adults and occasional Present-density nymphs in mid-May.
- No locust reports were received from this district in autumn.
- Monthly rainfall totals were from 90 mm to 300 mm at above average to very much above average levels for March, varying from 5 mm to 90 mm generally at above average levels for April, and from nil to 12 mm generally at average levels over much of this district. Some habitats should remain favourable for locust breeding.

Forecast

- Sporadic breeding is possible, but the resulting locust population is likely to remain at low levels.
- There is a low probability of any significant migration/redistribution events in spring.

Risks

- There is a low risk of a regional infestation developing in spring.

CHANNEL COUNTRY

Boulia, Diamantina, Barcoo, Quilpie, and Bulloo Shires

Locusts and conditions

- No surveys were conducted in this district in March and April. Surveys conducted in May identified Isolated to Numerous-density adults with some Present-density nymphs detected in this district.

- The light trap in Thargomindah did not capture any locusts in autumn.
- Monthly rainfall totals were from 50 to 620 mm at very much above average to highest on record levels for March, varying from nil to 50 mm generally at average to above average levels over much of this district for April, and from nearly nil to 20 mm at below average to above average levels for May. Some habitats especially these along drainages may remain favourable for locust breeding.

Forecast

- Sporadic breeding is possible, but any resulting population is likely to remain at low levels.
- There is a low probability of any bands developing or migrations occurring in spring.

Risks

- There is a low risk of a regional infestation developing in spring.

All locust activity should be reported to Department of Primary Industries via the Customer Service Centre on 13 25 23, online reporting form at https://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/contact/report-a-biosecurity-pest-or-disease?form=other-1554285, email at locustreports@dpi.qld.gov.au, or to the Commission. A toll-free call to the Commission can be made on 1800 635 962. An answering machine is attached to this locust hotline for after-hours calls. Reports can also be sent to the Commission through the web page at https://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/locusts/landholders/reporting_locusts or emailed at locust.report@agriculture.gov.au.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NORTH EAST PASTORAL and FLINDERS

Locusts and conditions

- No surveys were conducted in this district in March and April. Limited surveys conducted in the Cameron Corner-Merty Merty areas identified occasional Scattered-density adults in the end of May.
- The light-trap at Dulkaninna did not capture any locusts in autumn.
- No locust reports were received from these two districts in autumn.
- Monthly rainfall totals were from nil to 150 mm at average to very much above average levels for March, from nil to 35 mm ranging from very much below average to very much above average levels for April, and from nil to 10 mm at very much below average to average levels for May. Only these habitats along drainages may remain favourable for locust breeding.

Forecast

- Sporadic breeding is possible under favourable habitat conditions, but any resulting population is likely to remain at low levels.
- There is a low probability of any significant bands developing or migrations developing in spring.

Risks

- There is a very low risk of a regional infestation developing in spring.

RIVERLAND and MURRAYLANDS

Locusts and conditions

- No surveys were conducted in this district in autumn.
- No locust reports were received from these two districts in autumn.
- Monthly rainfall totals were less than 10 mm generally at below average levels over much of these two districts for March, less than 5 mm at very much below average to below average levels for April, and from nil to 20 mm at very much below average to below average levels for May. Habitats should remain unfavourable for locust breeding.

Forecast

- Limited sporadic breeding is possible, but any resulting population is likely to remain at low levels.
- There is a very low probability of any high-density nymphs developing or migrations occurring in spring.

Risks

- There is a very low risk of a regional infestation developing in spring.

All locust activity should be reported to Primary Industries and Regions South Australia via the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881, online plant pest reporting form at https://form.jotform.co/70732909804864, or to the Commission. A toll-free call to the Commission can be made on 1800 635 962. An answering machine is attached to this locust hotline for after-hours calls. Reports can also be sent to the Commission through the web page at https://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/locusts/landholders/reporting_locusts or email at locust.report@agriculture.gov.au.

VICTORIA

MALLEE

Mildura and Swan Hill Rural Cities; Yarriambiack and Buloke Shires

Locusts and conditions

- No surveys were conducted in this district in March and April. Surveys conducted in mid-May identified only occasional Isolated-density adults in this district.
- No reports were received from this district in autumn.
- Monthly rainfall totals were from nil to 30 mm generally at below average to average levels over much of this district for March, from nil to 40 mm ranging from below average to above average levels for April, and less than 10 mm at very much below average levels for May. Habitats should remain unfavourable for locust breeding.

Forecast

- Limited sporadic breeding is possible under suitable habitats, but any resulting population is likely to remain at low levels.
- There is a very low probability of any significant migration events in spring.

Risks

- There is a very low risk of a regional infestation developing in spring.

WIMMERA

Hindmarsh and West Wimmera Shires

Locusts and conditions

- No surveys were conducted in this district in Autumn.
- No locust reports were received from this district in autumn.
- Monthly rainfall totals were from 5 mm to 50 mm at below average to average levels for March, from 10 mm to 20 mm at below average levels for April, and less than 10 mm at very much below average to below average levels for May. Habitats should remain unfavourable for locust breeding.

Forecast

- Limited sporadic breeding is possible under suitable habitat conditions, but any resulting population is likely to remain at low levels.
- There is a very low probability of any significant nymph densities developing or migrations occurring in spring.

Risks

- There is a very low risk of a regional infestation developing in spring.

All locust activity should be reported to Agriculture Victoria via the Customer Contact Centre on 136 186, online form at https://forms.bio.vic.gov.au/locusts, or to the Commission. A toll-free call to the Commission can be made on 1800 635 962. An answering machine is attached to this locust hotline for after-hours calls. Reports can also be sent to the Commission through the web page at https://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/locusts/landholders/reporting_locusts, or emailed at locust.report@agriculture.gov.au.

Glossary of locust terms and density categories used in the Locust Bulletin

Term	Definition
adult	A fully developed, sexually mature locust capable of flight and reproduction
band	Dense congregation of nymphs (hopper band), usually marching together
diapause	Period of dormancy induced in anticipation of unfavourable environmental conditions
dispersal	Spreading of individuals away from others (adaptation)
egg bed	An area of soil containing many egg pods (usually hundreds per square metre)
fledge	Final instar moulting to a soft-bodied adult (fledgling) incapable of long-distance flight
hatch	A young nymph (hatchling) emerging from an egg
instar	A discrete stage of nymphal development after hatch/moult
laying	Female locusts depositing clutches of 20–60 eggs into the ground in froth-lined egg pods
migration	Seasonal collective movements from one place to another (behaviour)
nymph	An immature locust (hopper) having the same morphological appearance as the adult
quiescence	Cessation of growth and reduction of metabolic activity under unfavourable conditions
swarm	Dense congregation of adults, milling at the same spot or flying closely together

Locust density categories

Where higher densities occur, a large proportion of the regional population is concentrated in very small areas with lower densities elsewhere, so the higher densities cannot be extrapolated over the area of an entire region. A range of density classes is usually found within a surveyed region.

Nymph Densities	Number per m^2		
Present	1	–	5
Numerous	6	–	30
Sub-band	31	–	80
Band	81	–	500
Dense Band	>500		

Adult Densities	Number per m^2			Number per 250 m^2		
Isolated		<	0.02	1	–	5
Scattered	0.024	–	0.1	6	–	25
Numerous	0.104	–	0.5	26	–	125
Concentration	0.504	–	3	126	–	750
Low Density Swarm	4	–	10	751	–	2,500
Medium Density Swarm	11	–	50	2,501	–	12,500
High Density Swarm	>50			>12,500		

General density classes	Nymph densities			Adult densities		
very low, occasional	Nil	–	Present	Nil	–	Isolated
low	Present	–	Numerous	Isolated	–	Scattered
medium	Numerous	–	Sub-band	Scattered	–	Numerous
high	Bands			Concentration	–	Swarms

Reporting locust infestations

It is important that all locust activity be reported as soon as possible to your nearest state biosecurity agency office or to the Australian Plague Locust Commission.

State	Authority for reporting locusts
New South Wales	Local Land Services (LLS)
Queensland	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
South Australia	Department of Primary Industries and Regions
Victoria	Agriculture Victoria

Reports to the **Australian Plague Locust Commission** can be made by:

Free call (Canberra): 1800 635 962 (24 hours)
Email: locust.report@agriculture.gov.au
Website: **https://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/locusts/landholders/reporting_locusts**