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## **Climate Outlook for Hydro-electricity Generation from February to April 2026**

### **Current Conditions**

#### **Fiji's Climate**

Active troughs of low pressure systems, with associated heavy rain and wind affected the Fiji Group from 1<sup>st</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January. Localized heavy rain and thunderstorm activity caused flash flooding across the Western, Northern and Central Divisions. Tropical Depression TD07F tracked south of the country during the end of the month, bringing gusty winds and localized heavy falls for some parts of the Western Division.

Of the 20 stations that reported in, in time for the compilation of this bulletin, 6 stations reported *below average* rainfall, 9 *average*, while 5 recorded *above average* rainfall.

The total monthly rainfall for Monasavu, until 29<sup>th</sup> January, was 598mm, which is in the *average* category (90% of *normal*) when compared against the WMO standard 30-year normal.

The total 3 monthly rainfall recorded during November - 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026 period was 1556.1mm, which is in the *normal* category (90% of *normal*),

while rainfall recorded during the past 6 months (August to 29<sup>th</sup> January) is classified as *normal* at 2353.1mm (88% of the *normal*) (Figure 1).

#### **El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Status**

The current weak La Niña event is showing signs of decay. A transition to neutral condition is most likely to occur from February onwards.

Sea surface temperatures (SSTs) across the central equatorial and eastern Pacific Ocean are currently *average* to *below average*, while remaining above average in the western Pacific.

The latest 30-day average Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) until 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 was +8.4, which is within La Niña thresholds.

*Near average* trade winds were observed in the central Pacific and *above average* in the western Pacific Ocean. *Below average* cloudiness was observed near the date line for most of January. Overall, most of the indicators are still indicative of a weak La Niña, however, the indicators are showing signs of decay.

### **El Niño-Southern Oscillation and Monasavu Climate Predictions**

#### **El-Niño Southern Oscillation Prediction**

Most of the latest global models surveyed favor a shift from weak La Niña to ENSO neutral conditions during February to April 2026 period.

#### **Minimum & Maximum Air Temperature Predictions - February & February to April 2026**

*Above normal* day and night time temperatures are likely across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu in February and through the February to April 2026 period (Figure 4 and 5).

#### **Rainfall Predictions:**

#### **Fortnightly: 1<sup>st</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February & 8<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February**

Drier than average conditions are likely for Viti Levu during the above mentioned periods.

#### **February 2026**

There is 75% chance of receiving at least 348mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu station, 75% chance of at least 365mm of rainfall at the Nadarivatu and Monasavu Dams and 75% chance of receiving at least 348mm of

rainfall at Wailoa. There is *high* confidence in this forecast (Table 1).

#### **February to April 2026**

During the February to April 2026 period, there is 75% chance of receiving at least 1118mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu station, 75% chance of receiving around 1176mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu and Monasavu Dams and 75% chance of receiving around 1145mm at Wailoa. The confidence in the generated outlook is *very high* (Table 1).

#### **Summary**

Rainfall outlook for the month of February and the February to April 2026 period are likely to be slightly wetter than normal. There is *high* skill confidence in the rainfall prediction for the month of February, while there is a *very high* confidence in the February to April 2026 rainfall outlook.

Figure 1

Monthly Rainfall Distribution at Monasavu until 29th January 2026

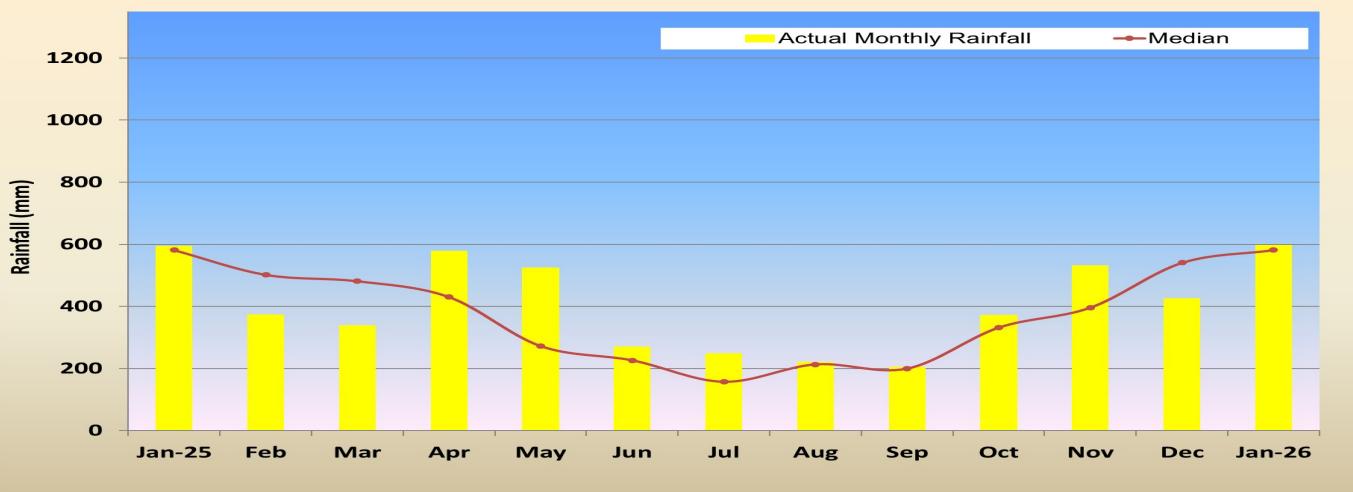
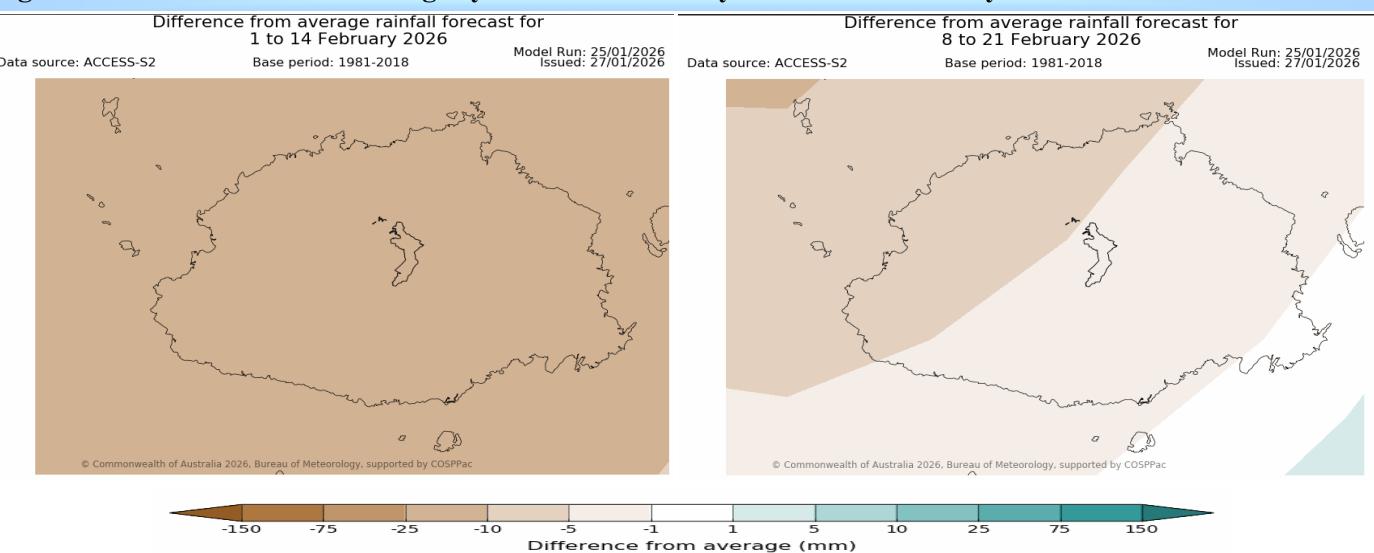


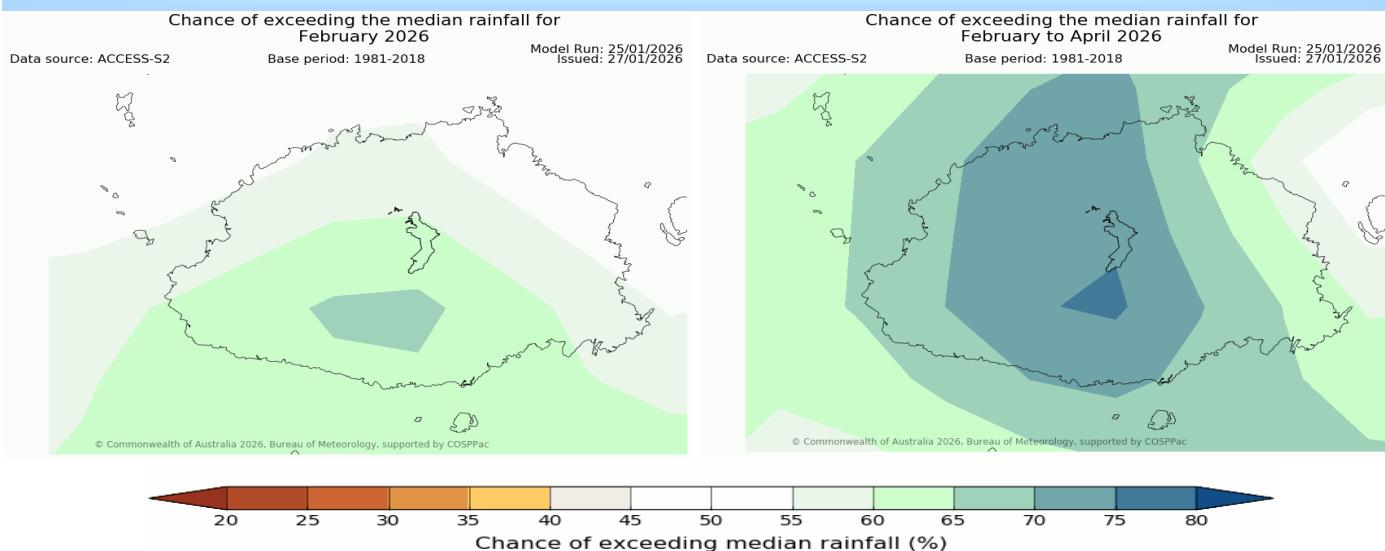
Table 1: Rainfall Outlook: February 2026 &amp; February to April 2026

February Outlook		25% chance of at least (mm)	50% chance of at least (mm)	75% chance of at least (mm)	Forecast Confidence
Nadarivatu station	575	432	348	High	
Nadarivatu Dam	588	458	365	High	
Monasavu Dam	588	458	365	High	
Wailoa	560	441	348	High	
February to April 2026 Outlook		25% chance of at least (mm)	50% chance of at least (mm)	75% chance of at least (mm)	Forecast Confidence
Nadarivatu station	1636	1324	1118	Very High	
Nadarivatu Dam	1672	1384	1176	Very High	
Monasavu Dam	1672	1384	1176	Very High	
Wailoa	1594	1361	1145	Very High	

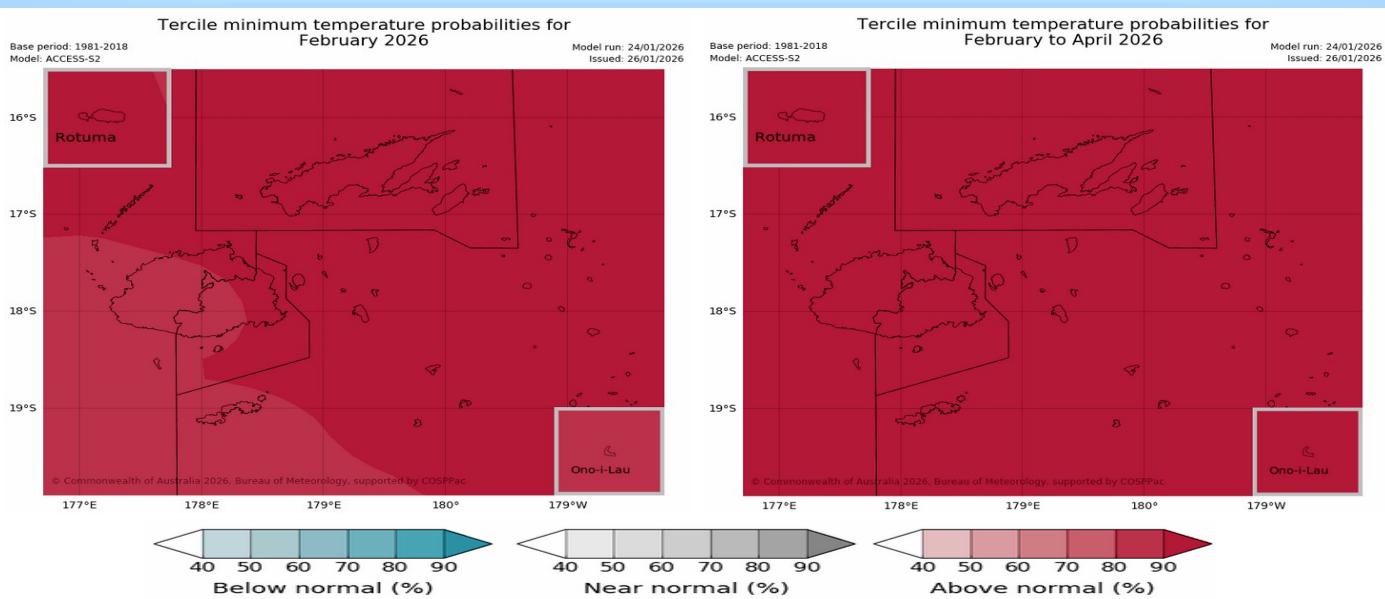
The table above provides 25%, 50% and 75% chances of each station receiving the amount of rainfall mentioned above.

Figure 2: Rainfall Outlook: Fortnightly: 1<sup>st</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> February & 8<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February

### Figure 3: Rainfall Outlook: February & February to April 2026

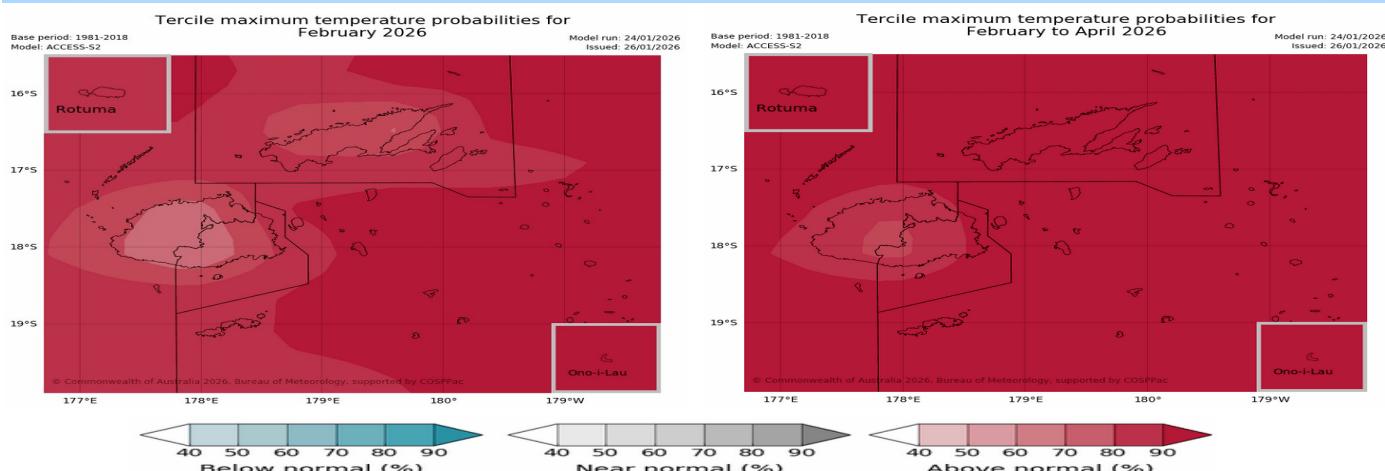


### Figure 4: Minimum Air Temperature Predictions: February & February to April 2026



Minimum air temperatures are expected to be *above normal* across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, during February and February to April 2026 period. Source: ACCESS-S2 Model.

### Figure 5: Maximum Air Temperature Predictions: February & February to April 2026



Maximum air temperatures are likely to be *above normal* across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, during February and February to April 2026 period. Source: ACCESS-S2 Model.

## Explanatory Notes

Climate Outlook for Hydro-electricity Generation is produced to provide advisories to Energy Fiji Limited (EFL). It aims to provide advanced warning on climate abnormalities for planning on economic generation mix and hydro-storage optimization.

### Climate (Rainfall/Air Temperature) Outlook

**Above normal** – indicates that the rainfall/temperature value lies in the highest third of observation recorded in the standard 30 year normal period.

**Near normal** – indicates that the rainfall/temperature value lies in the middle third of observation recorded in the standard 30 year normal period.

**Below normal** – indicates that the rainfall/temperature value lies in the lowest third of observation recorded in the standard 30 year normal period.

**Climatology** – means that there are equal chances of receiving below normal, normal and above normal rainfall.

**Median** – rainfall value which marks the level dividing the ranked data set in half, that is, the midpoint of the ordered (lowest to highest) monthly or yearly rainfall totals.

**Above Median** – rainfall value that lies above the median value.

**Below Median** – rainfall value that lies below the median value.

### El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

ENSO is the principal driver of the year-to-year variability of Fiji's climate. There are three phases of this phenomenon, **El Niño**, **La Niña** and **Neutral** conditions. El Niño or La Niña events are a natural part of the global climate system and usually recur after every 2 to 7 years. It normally develops around April to June, attains peak intensity between December to February and usually starts to decay around April to June period the following year. While most events last for a year, some have persisted for up to 2 years. It should be also noted that no two El Niño or La Niña events are the same. Different events have different impacts, but most exhibit some common climate characteristics.

Usually there is a lag effect on Fiji's climate with ENSO events, that is, once an El Niño or La Niña event is established in the tropical Pacific, it may take 2-6 months before its impact is seen on Fiji. Similarly, once an event finishes, it can take 2-6 months for climate to normalise.

**El Niño** events are associated with warming of the central and eastern tropical Pacific. El Niño events usually result in reduction of Fiji's rainfall. Often the whole of Fiji is affected in varying degrees and it is quite unusual for one part of the country to experience a prolonged dry spell, while the other is in a wet spell. The relationship and level of rainfall suppression is greater in the Dry Zone than in the Wet Zone. It is the suppression of rainfall during the Cool/Dry Season (May to October) that is normally of most concern. A reduction in Cool/Dry Season rainfall in the Dry Zone results in little or no rainfall until the next Wet Season. While usually the strength of an ENSO event is proportional to its impact on Fiji, at times weak event can also have a significant impact.

**La Niña** events are associated with cooling of the central and eastern tropical Pacific. Usually La Niña results in wetter than normal conditions for Fiji, occasionally leading to flooding during the Warm/Wet Season (November to April).

During **Neutral** condition, neither El Niño nor La Niña is present, it has little effect on global climate, meaning other climate influences are more likely to dominate.

**Lag effects** – means that there is a delay in a change of some aspect of climate due to influence of other factors that is acting slowly.

Climate bulletins that can be viewed together with this bulletin include:

- 1) *Fiji Climate Summary at <https://www.met.gov.fj/index.php?page=FijiClimateSummary> (issued monthly)*
- 2) *Fiji Climate Outlook at <https://www.met.gov.fj/index.php?page=ClimateOutlook> (issued monthly)*

*This information is prepared as soon as ENSO, climate and oceanographic data is received from recording stations around Fiji and Meteorological Agencies around the world. While every effort is made to verify observational data, Fiji Meteorological Service does not guarantee the accuracy and reliability of the analyses presented, and accepts no liability for any losses incurred through the use of this information and its contents. The information may be freely disseminated provided the source is acknowledged. For further clarification and expert advice, please contact the Fiji Meteorological Service HQ, Namaka, Nadi.*