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Climate Outlook for Hydro-electricity Generation from May to July 2026

ISO 9001:2015
certified Climate Services

Current Conditions

Fiji's Climate

During the first half of the month, Tropical Cyclone Vaianu and Tropical Disturbance 11F contributed to unsettled weather conditions, producing heavy rainfall, strong winds, and localized flooding across the Western and Central Divisions. Fine weather with isolated afternoon showers were experienced towards the end of the month.

From the 21 stations that reported in during the preparation of this bulletin, 4 stations reported *below average* rainfall, 10 *average*, 4 recorded *above average*, and 3 recorded *well above average* rainfall.

The total monthly rainfall for Monasavu, until 28th April, was 581mm, which is in the *above average* category (122% of *normal*) when compared against the WMO standard 30-year normal.

The total 3 monthly rainfall recorded during February - 28th April 2026 period was 1609mm, which is in the *normal* category (108% of *normal*), while rainfall recorded during the past 6 months (November to 28th April) is classified as *normal* at 3203mm (99% of the

normal) (Figure 1).

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Status

An El Niño Watch is in place for the tropical Pacific Ocean.

At present, sea surface temperatures (SSTs) have been *near average* in the east-central Pacific Ocean, *above average* just west of the Date Line and far eastern Pacific, and *below average* in the far western Pacific Ocean.

The latest 30-day average Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) until 26th April 2026 was -10.6, within El Niño thresholds.

Below average trade winds were observed in the western Pacific and *near average* in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. *Below average* cloudiness were observed east of Papua New Guinea, while suppressed convection was observed in the far western Pacific. Atmospheric and oceanic indicators are leaning towards the development of a likely El Niño event.

El Niño-Southern Oscillation and Monasavu Climate Predictions

El-Niño Southern Oscillation Prediction

The majority of global models surveyed favor the likely development of an El Niño event during the May to July 2026 period.

Minimum & Maximum Air Temperature Predictions - May & May to July 2026

Day and night time temperatures are likely to be *above normal* across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu in both May and through the May to July 2026 period (Figure 4 and 5).

Rainfall Predictions:

Fortnightly: 3rd – 16th May & 10th – 23rd May

Conditions for Viti Levu are likely to be drier than average during the above mentioned periods.

May 2026

There is 75% chance of receiving at least 74mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu station, 75% chance of at least 82mm of rainfall at the Nadarivatu and Monasavu

Dams and 75% chance of receiving at least 99mm of rainfall at Wailoa. There is *good* confidence in this forecast (Table 1).

May to July 2026

During the May to July 2026 period, there is 75% chance of receiving at least 255mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu station, 75% chance of receiving around 264mm of rainfall at Nadarivatu and Monasavu Dams and 75% chance of receiving around 296mm at Wailoa. There is *high* confidence in the seasonal outlook (Table 1).

Summary

The monthly outlook for May, as well as for the May to July 2026 period are likely to be drier than usual. There is *high* skill confidence in both the monthly and May to July 2026 rainfall outlook.

Fiji often experience drier than normal conditions during an El Niño event.

Figure 1

Monthly Rainfall Distribution at Monasavu until 28th April 2026

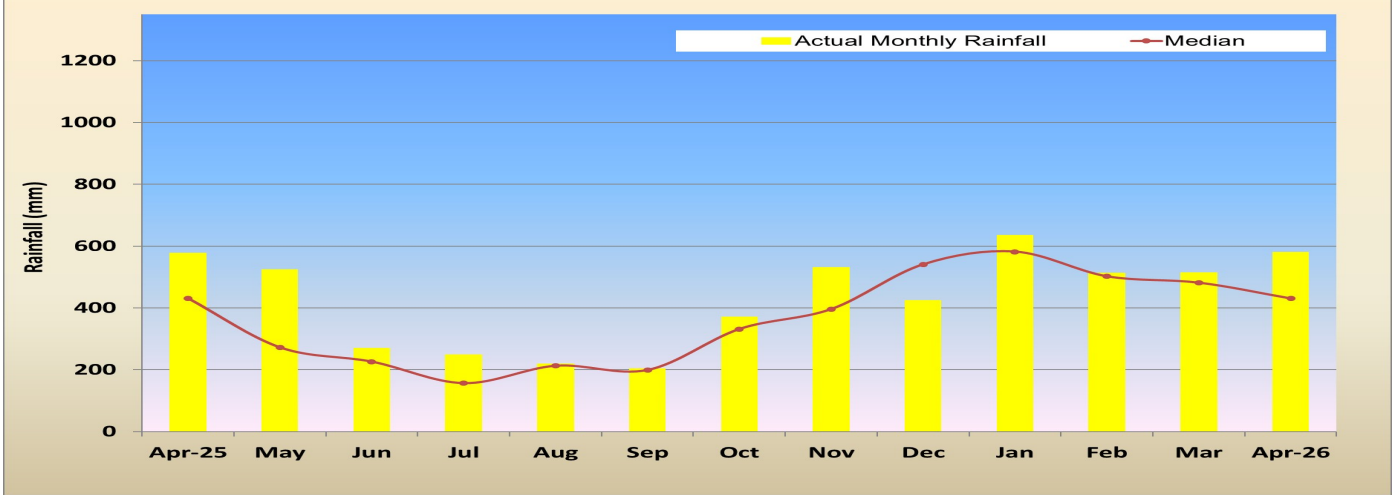


Table 1: Rainfall Outlook: May 2026 & May to July 2026

May Outlook				
	25% chance of at least (mm)	50% chance of at least (mm)	75% chance of at least (mm)	Forecast Confidence
Nadarivatu station	212	114	74	Good
Nadarivatu Dam	232	124	82	Good
Monasavu Dam	232	124	82	Good
Wailoa	246	144	99	Good
May to July 2026 Outlook				
	25% chance of at least (mm)	50% chance of at least (mm)	75% chance of at least (mm)	Forecast Confidence
Nadarivatu station	471	333	255	High
Nadarivatu Dam	499	351	264	High
Monasavu Dam	499	351	264	High
Wailoa	521	385	296	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: 3rd – 16th May & 10th – 23rd May

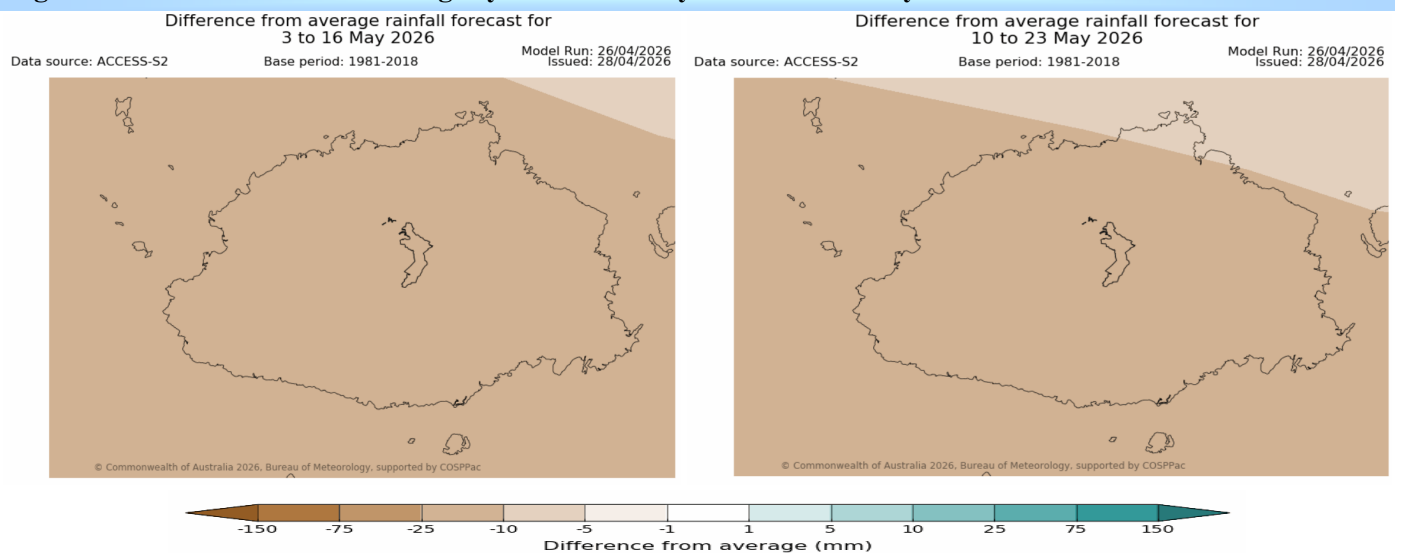


Figure 3: Rainfall Outlook: May & May to July 2026

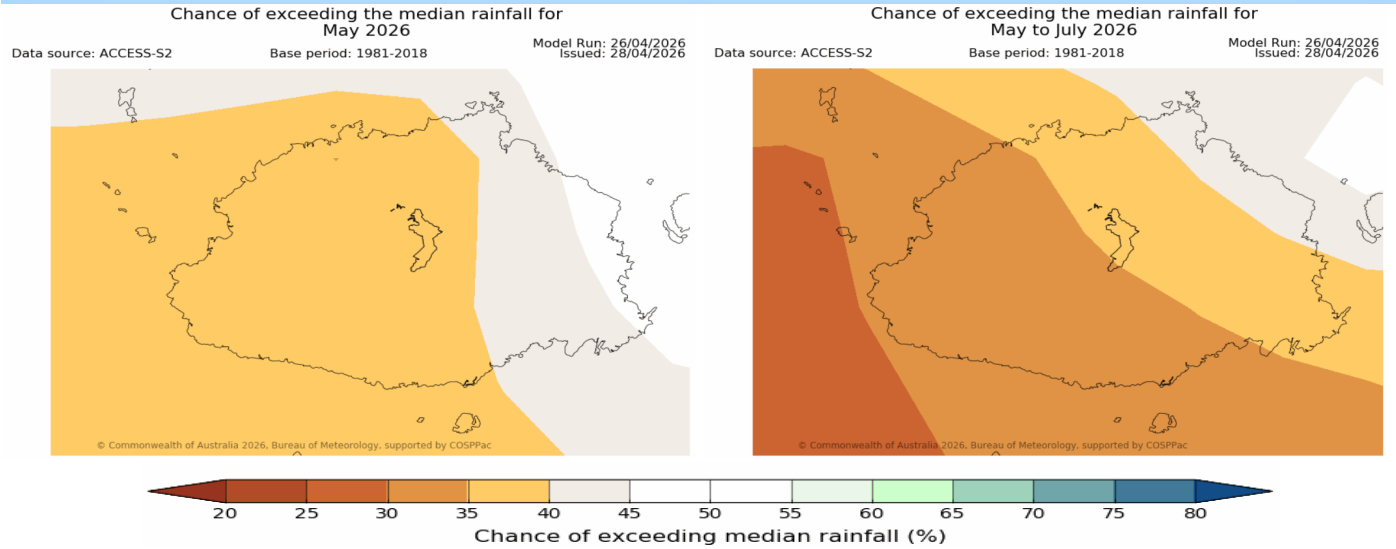
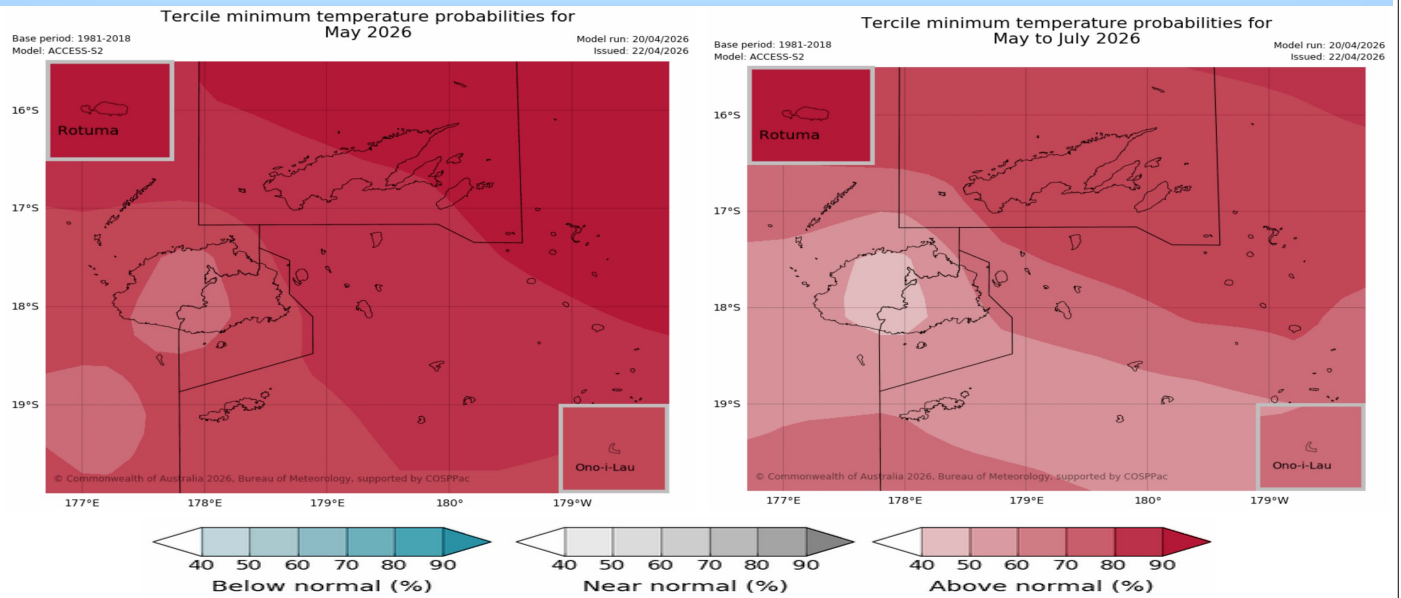
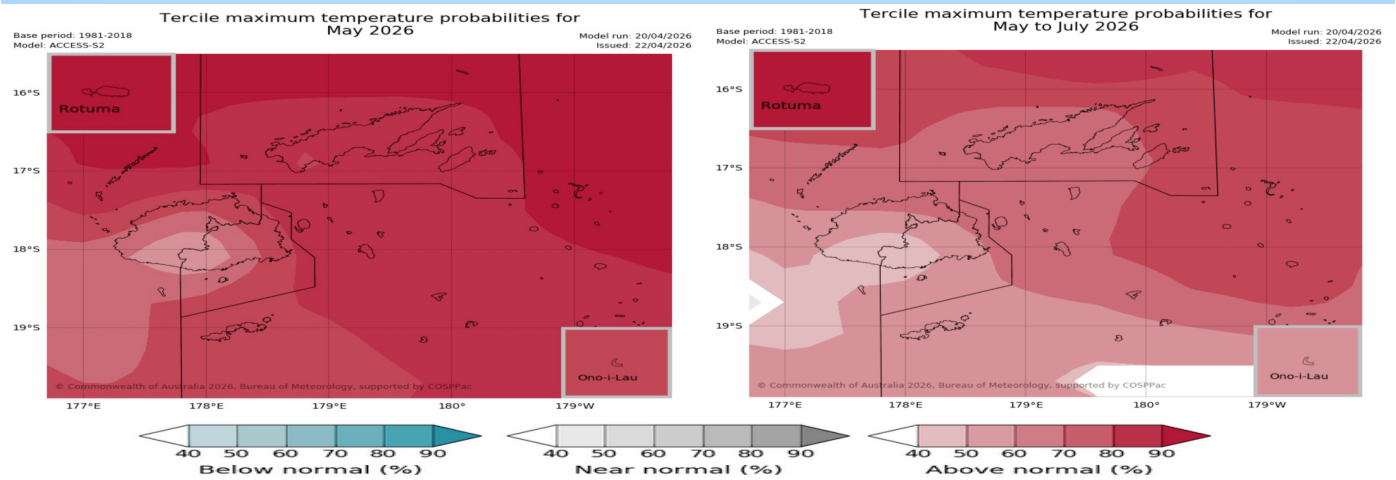


Figure 4: Minimum Air Temperature Predictions: May & May to July 2026



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

Figure 5: Maximum Air Temperature Predictions: May & May to July 2026



Maximum air temperatures are likely to be *above normal* across Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, during May and May to July 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.

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