

Bourke

SECTION 4 AREA ROUNDUP

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There was no commercial cotton production grown in the Bourke district during the 2007–08 season but there was significant summer rain in the catchment and locally, producing a flow in the Darling River at Bourke. Irrigators began pumping just prior to Christmas and good summer rains throughout the catchment meant that river flows continued well into March, resulting in full water storages throughout the district.

There were late summer plantings of sorghum and corn and a significant area of irrigated winter

crops are currently under production (wheat and chickpeas).

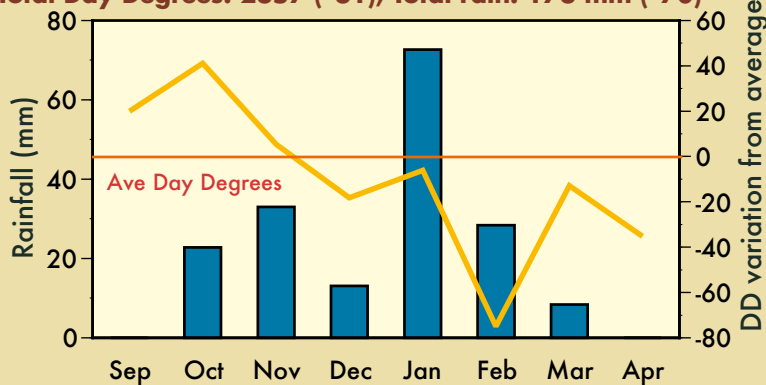
Prospects for 2008–09

There will be some water left for summer crop production in 2008–09. The district could potentially plant around 1600 hectares of cotton and there will be areas of corn, sorghum and soybeans. The final planting will depend largely on commodity prices. There will need to be further significant flows in the Darling between now and planting time to see the cotton area increase.



Bourke 2007–08 seasonal climate

Total Day Degrees: 2857 (-81); Total rain: 178 mm (-70)



	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
Cold shock	21	8	0	0	0	0	4	10	43 (+9)
Hot shock	0	1	3	7	12	2	4	0	29 (-25)

*Average day degrees from 1957 to 2008.

Source: CSIRO Plant Industry.

Bourke: Area and production

