



## **Flood and rainfall update**

Intense rainfall has caused widespread flooding across much of northern Victoria in recent days.

A major La Niña event continues to affect the Pacific Basin and long-range forecast models surveyed by the Bureau suggest that La Niña is likely to persist into the southern hemisphere during autumn. La Niña periods are generally associated with above normal winter, spring and summer rainfall, particularly over eastern and northern Australia. The current event has contributed to 2010 being Australia's third wettest year on record, and Queensland having its wettest December on record.

### **Macquarie Almond Investment impact**

The Macquarie Almond Orchard (Robinvale, Victoria) has a small area equivalent to 50 hectares (circa four per cent of the total planted area across all projects) and is subject to excessive rainfall run off. The management team is working tirelessly to ensure water is pumped out from these lower lying areas.

We will provide you with a subsequent update as soon as possible with details of the expected impact (if any) on this year's harvest.

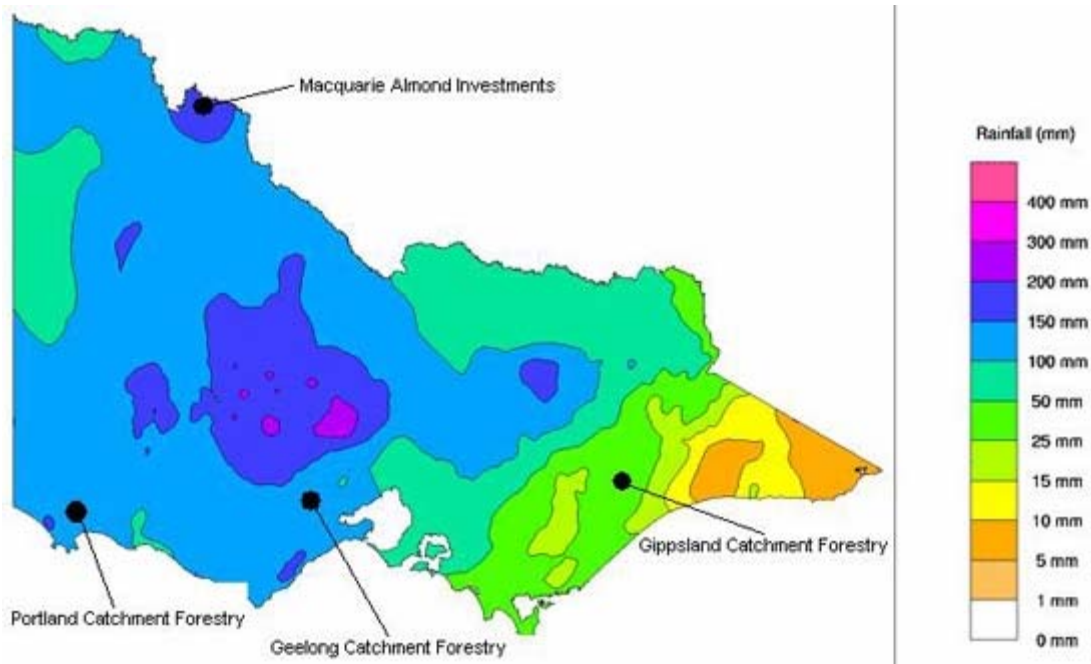
### **Macquarie Forestry Investment impact**

Plantation inspections in the Portland, Geelong and Gippsland catchment areas are currently underway to identify if any structural damage such as erosion of access tracks and firebreaks has been caused by the high rainfall.

At this stage, we do not believe the Macquarie Forestry Projects are negatively impacted by the recent above average rainfalls. In most regions soil moisture is at optimum levels, and as such we expect stronger tree growth in these areas.

## Victorian rainfall totals

Week ending 17 January 2011.



Our thoughts are with those families affected by the flooding across Australia. Support for victims continues to be extended through donations and fund raising from staff and the Macquarie Group Foundation.

### More information

For more information on the impacts of the recent high rainfall event on your clients' Macquarie Forestry or Almond Investment, please contact your local Business Development Manager, or Macquarie Agricultural Funds Management on 1800 617 900 or email [agribusiness@macquarie.com.au](mailto:agribusiness@macquarie.com.au).