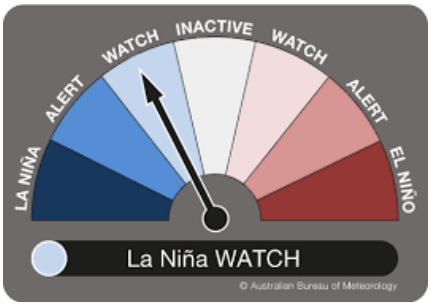
Pohnpei and Kosrae States
Federated States of Micronesia

Early Action Rainfall Watch

The Early Action Rainfall Watch provides sector managers with a brief summary of recent rainfall patterns, particularly drought and the rainfall outlook for the coming months

Issued: 10/11/2025



La Niña conditions are present and favoured to persist through December 2025 - February 2026, with a transition to ENSO-neutral likely in January-March 2026 (55% chance).

NOAA ENSO Alert System Status: La Niña Watch

Status summary to September 2025:

In **September 2025** (1-month timescale), Dry conditions were observed over Kapingamarangi. Very wet conditions were observed South of Pohnpei, Ngatik, and Kosrae. No extreme conditions for Oroluk, Mokil, Pingelap and Nukuoro.

Over **July 2025 to September 2025** (3-month timescale), Very Wet conditions were observed over Pohnpei Mokil, Pingelap, Ngatik and Kosrae. Dry conditions were observed over Kapingamarangi and No extreme conditions over Oroluk and Nukuoro.

Over **April 2025 to September 2025** (6-month timescale), Dry conditions were observed over Kapingamarangi. Wet conditions were observed just East of Kosrae and No extreme conditions over Pohnpei, Mokil, Pingelap, Ngatik, Nukuoro and Oroluk

Outlook summary:

For **November 2025**, there is a Low chance of extreme conditions for Pohnpei, Oroluk, Ngatik, Pingelap, Kosrae and Nukuoro. There is a Medium chance of Very Dry conditions over Kapingamarangi and there is a Medium chance of Very Wet conditions over Mokil.

For **December 2025**, there is a Medium chance of Very Wet conditions for Oroluk, Pohnpei, Ngatik, Mokil, Pingelap, Nukuoro and Kosrae and there is a Low chance of extreme conditions over Kapingamarangi.

For **January 2025,** there is a Medium chance of Very Wet conditions for Pohnpei, Kosrae, Oroluk, Mokil, Pingelap, Ngatik, and Nukuoro and a Low chance of extreme conditions for Kapingamarangi.

Impacts

After the specified period the agricultural and hydrological systems listed below are likely to be impacted. Note the periods are estimates only. Allow for uncertainty associated with island size, geology and soil type. Contact your local Disaster Coordination Office for more information on impacts.

For Pohnpei State

Very Dry impact

1-month is most relevant for: Shallow rooted crops (e.g., cucumbers, bell pepper, eggplant, cabbage), pink eye outbreak (outer islands), water hour (scheduled)

3-months is most relevant for: Sakau, Low water level in Dam, socio-economic stress, increasing cost of food crops, outer islands schools close, firing (wild fires), bush/forest fires, outer islands wells dry up, cholera and skin disease outbreak, purchase of water tanks for outer islands (1000 gallons), boiling of drinking water

6-months is most relevant for: Yam, banana, tapioca, sweet potato, wells dry up, theft and burglary, main island river and streams running low, main island schools close

12-months or more: Giant Taro, citrus trees, breadfruit, coconut, mango, betelnut, outer island migration

Very Wet impacts

1-month is most relevant for: rotting of sweet potato, eggplant, cucumber, cabbage, yam, sakau. Landslides and floods. Water contamination of wells, rivers and streams. Relocation of communities next to rivers and streams. Marine and land transportation difficulties e.g. increased cancellation of flights, risk for fisherman, increase in pot holes and unsafe to drive. Increase in disease outbreak e.g. diarrhea, typhoid. Population increase. Ocean sedimentation.

Prolonged periods of very wet conditions can have positive impacts such as allowing small island communities to collect and store rainwater for future dry periods.

For Kosrae state

Very Dry Impacts

1-month is most relevant for: Cucumbers, cabbage, water for cooking, low water pressure, clean drinking water, household water tank, water for garden, contaminated springs

3-months is most relevant for: boil drinking water, betelnut, tomato, chili peppers, banana, yam, tapioca sweet potato, cucumber, eggplant, cabbage, pineapple and bell pepper. Fire, small streams, freshwater fish, disease

6-months is most relevant for: water tanks and rain catchment, breadfruit, taro, coconut, mango, freshwater fish migration.

12-months or more is most relevant for: tangerine, lime, sakau

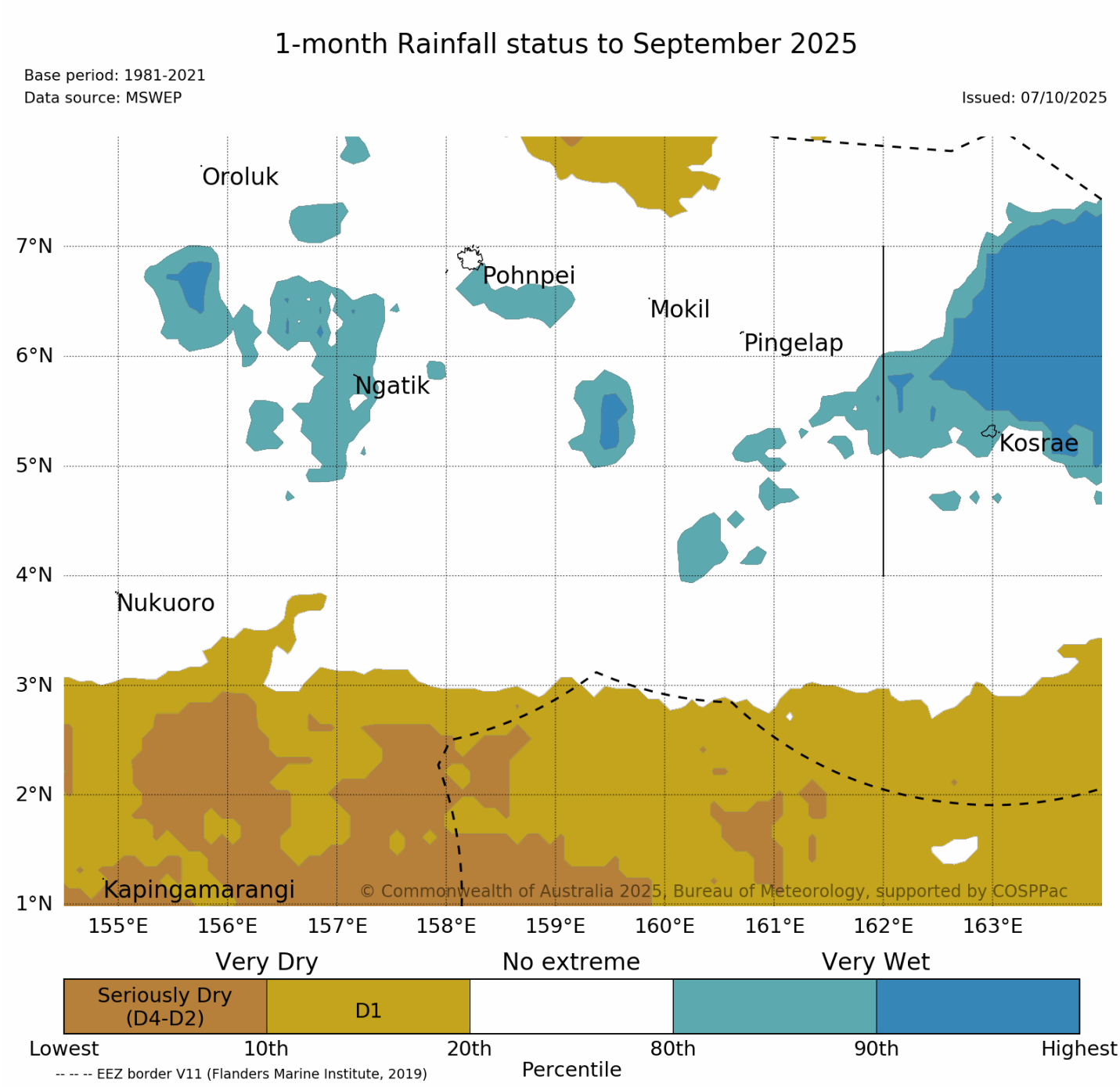
Very Wet Impacts

1-month is most relevant for: rotting of shallow rooted crops, watermelon, yam, soft taro. Internal migration away from frequently flooded areas, landslides and mud slides, marine and land transportation difficulties (roads deteriorate), contamination of surface and groundwater, and contamination of streams and marine areas with human waste.

Prolonged periods of very wet conditions can have positive impacts such as allowing small island communities to collect and store rainwater for future dry periods.

3-months is most relevant for: root system of small banana trees rot and fall over, damage to some vegetable crops. Prolonged ground saturation is associated with more frequent and severe landslides.

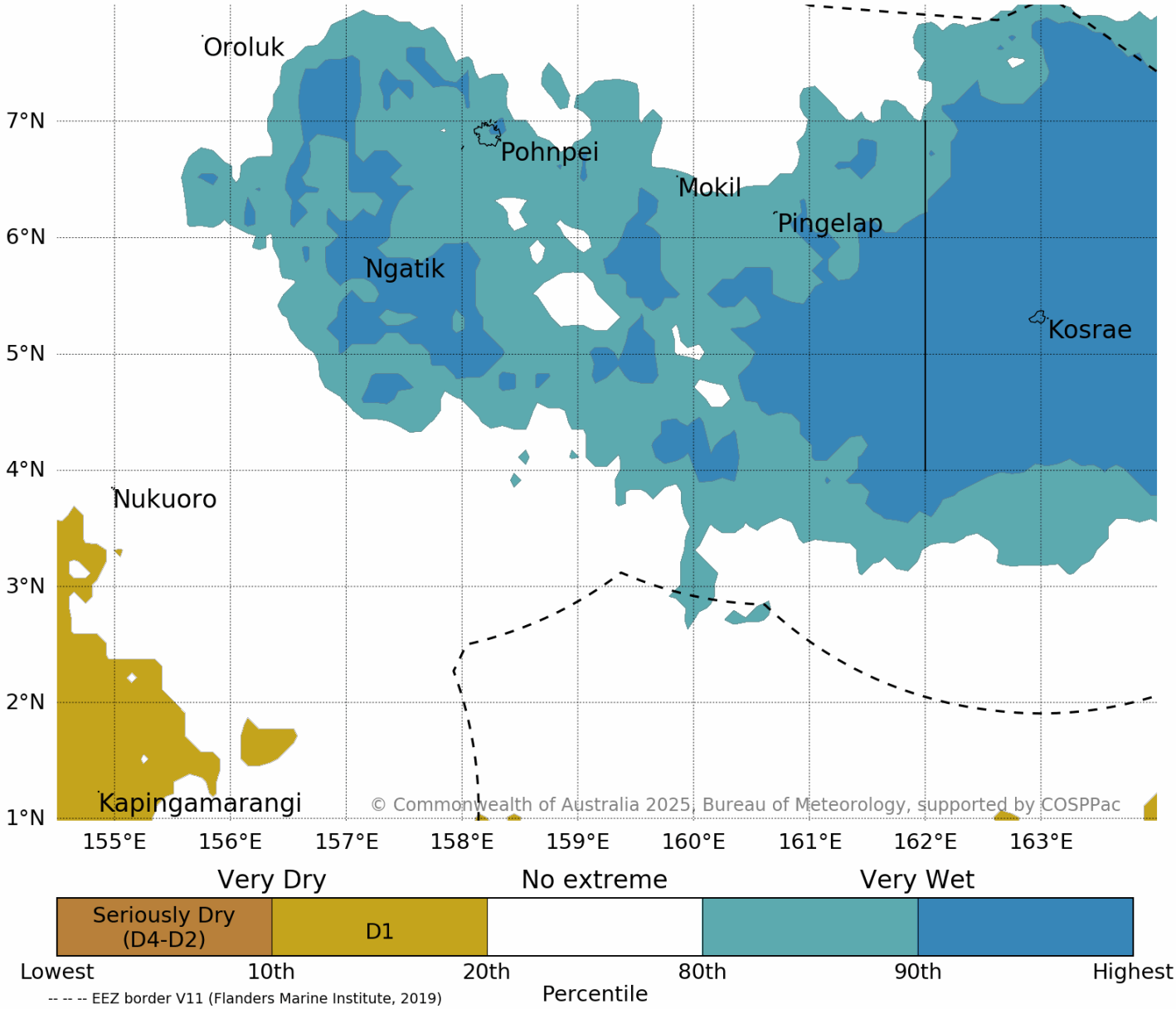
Rainfall monitoring for the last 1-6 months to the end of July 2025



3-month Rainfall status to September 2025

Base period: 1981-2021
Data source: MSWEP

Issued: 07/10/2025



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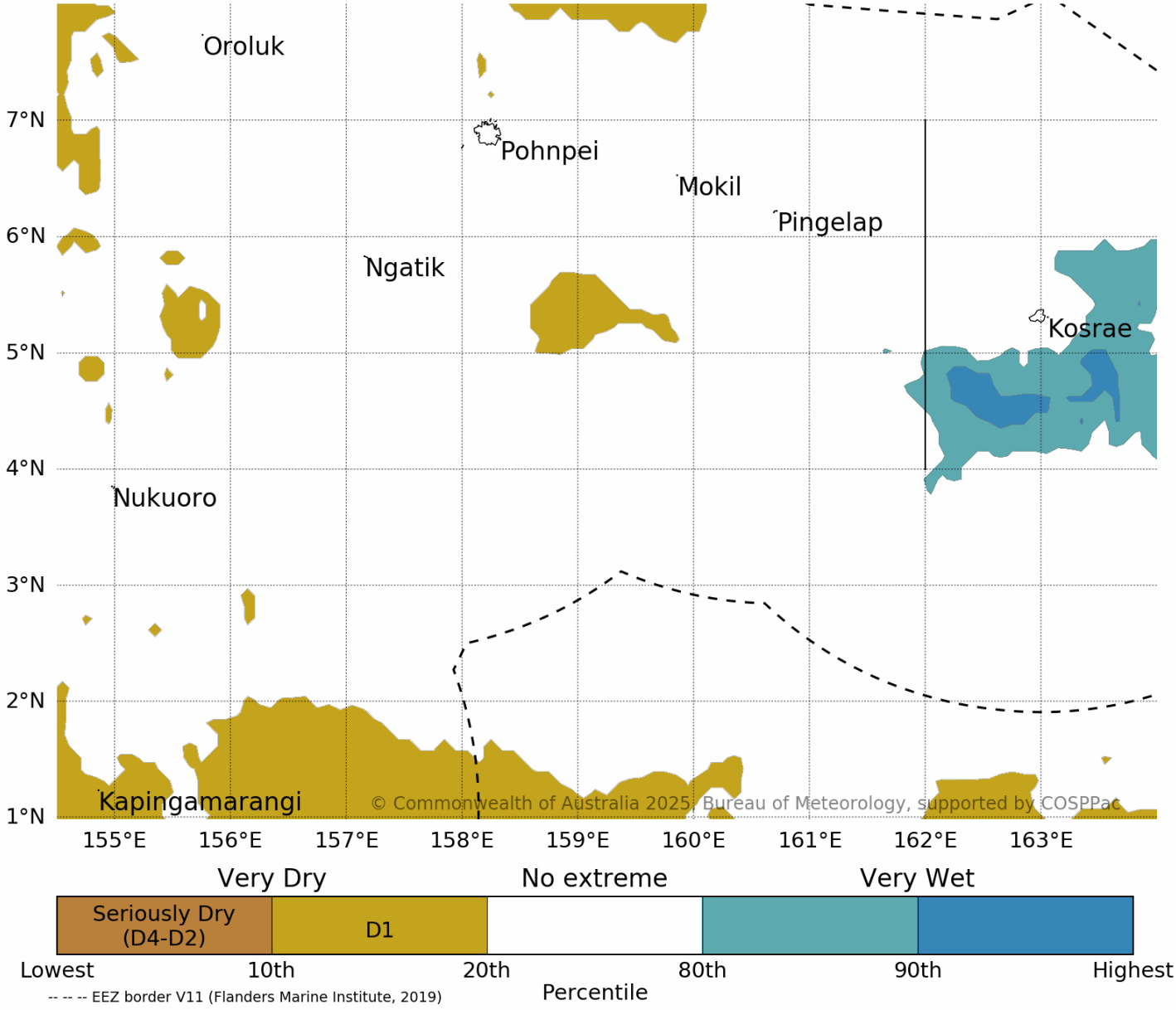
6-month Rainfall status to September 2025

Base period: 1981-2021
Data source: MSWEP

Issued: 07/10/2025



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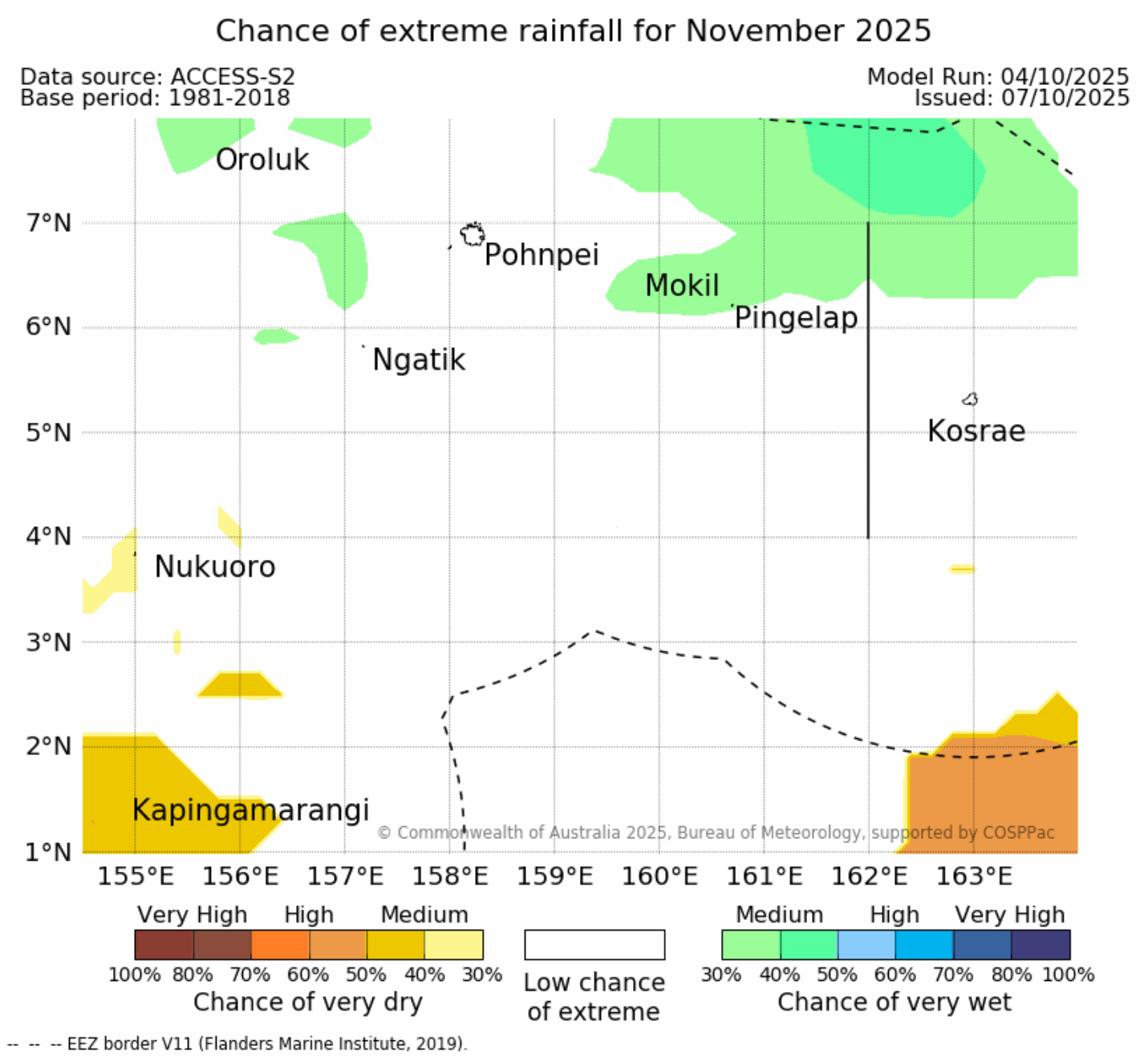
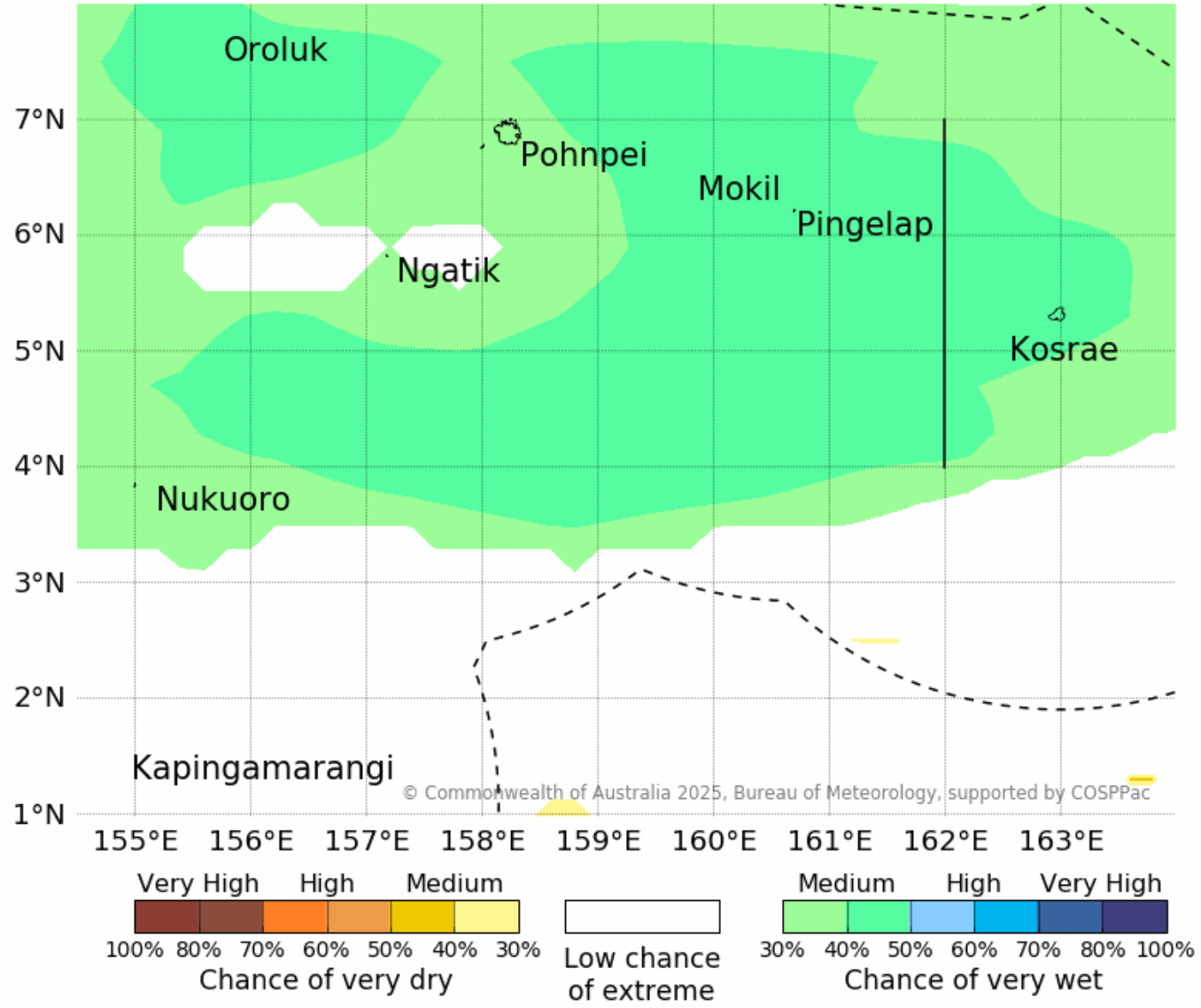
Rainfall Outlooks for November 2025 to January 2025



Chance of extreme rainfall for December 2025

Data source: ACCESS-S2
Base period: 1981-2018

Model Run: 04/10/2025
Issued: 07/10/2025



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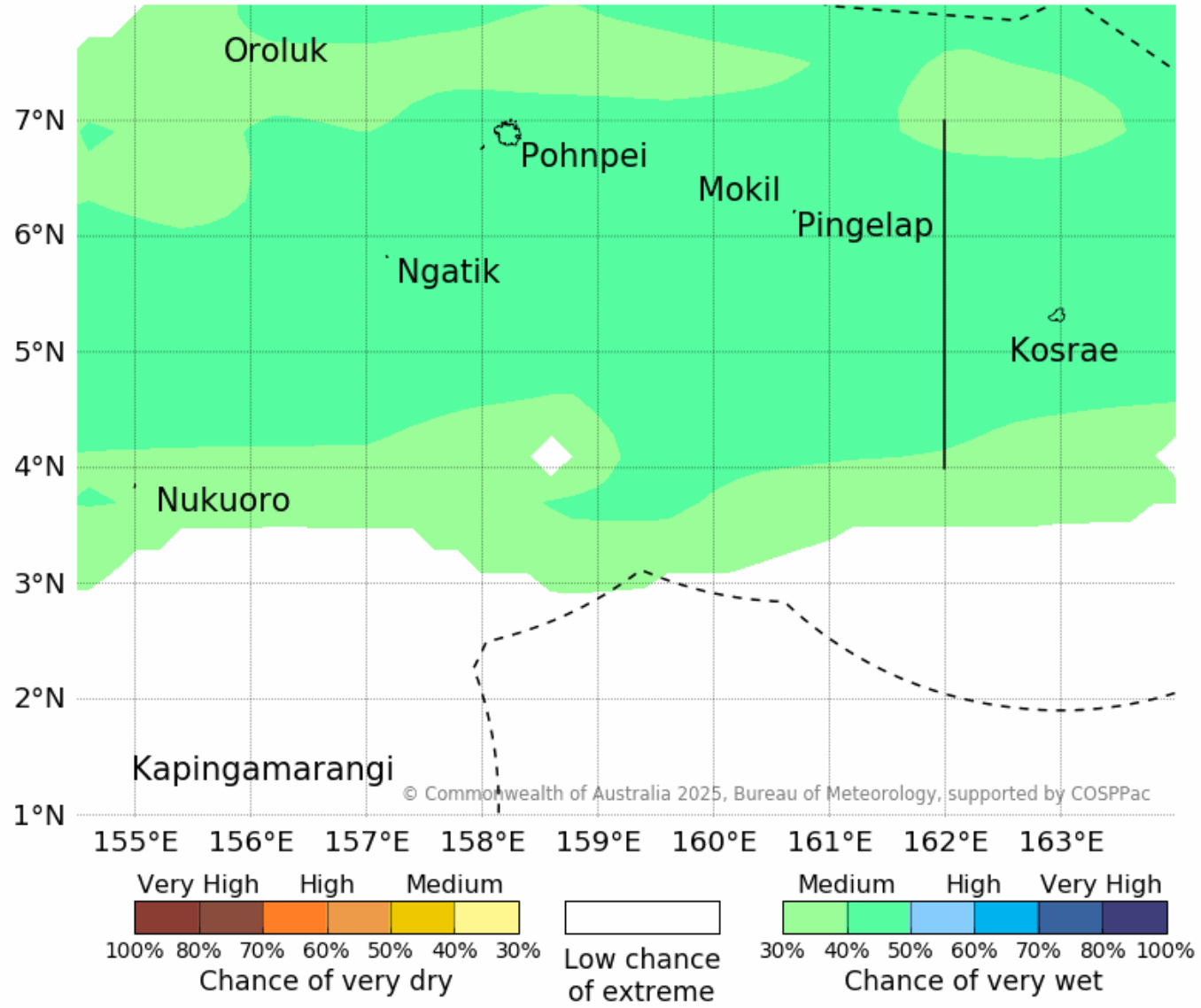
Chance of extreme rainfall for January 2026

Data source: ACCESS-S2
Base period: 1981-2018

Model Run: 04/10/2025
Issued: 07/10/2025



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About Rainfall Monitoring

The 'rainfall status' maps are based on rainfall values from the MSWEP dataset which are then converted to the percentile index. The percentile index calculates the ranking of rainfall observed for a period against corresponding periods in the historical record for a particular timescale. MSWEP is a global precipitation product that combines rain gauges, satellite and ERA-5 reanalysis data and is provided at a 0.1° resolution. *Seriously Dry is defined as meteorological drought assessed by rainfall data only. It corresponds to rainfall for that period being in the bottom 10% of the historical record.* 'No extreme' indicates that rainfall is within the middle 60% of historical observations for the respective timescale. In other words, rainfall that is not 'extreme'. The 3-, 6- and 12-month timescales are more accurate representations of drought while the 1-month timescale can be used to provide an indication of recent 'dry (or wet) spell' conditions.

About Rainfall Outlook

The 'chance of extreme rainfall' maps are based on the likelihood of Very Wet or Very Dry conditions. This is equivalent to the chance that rainfall for that forecast period will be in the top or bottom 20% of historical observations for that selected period. The darker the shading, the more likely these extreme scenarios are. The white shading refers to a low chance of extreme which means the most likely scenario for that outlook period is for rainfall to be 'near average' or slightly below average or slightly above average (not Very Wet nor Very Dry). The outlooks have been produced using the Australian Bureau of Meteorology ACCESS-S2 model.

Contact the following Weather Service Office Pohnpei for further information.

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