



# Australia: weather and climate

## GEOFACTS

### Highest annual rainfall:

Bellenden Ker (Qld) 12 461 mm

### Lowest annual rainfall:

Troudaninna (SA) 105 mm

### Highest temperature:

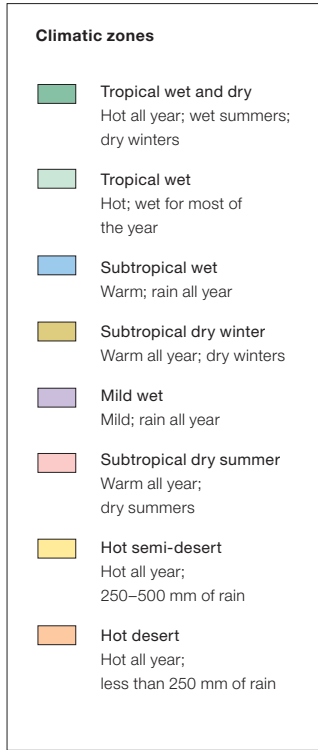
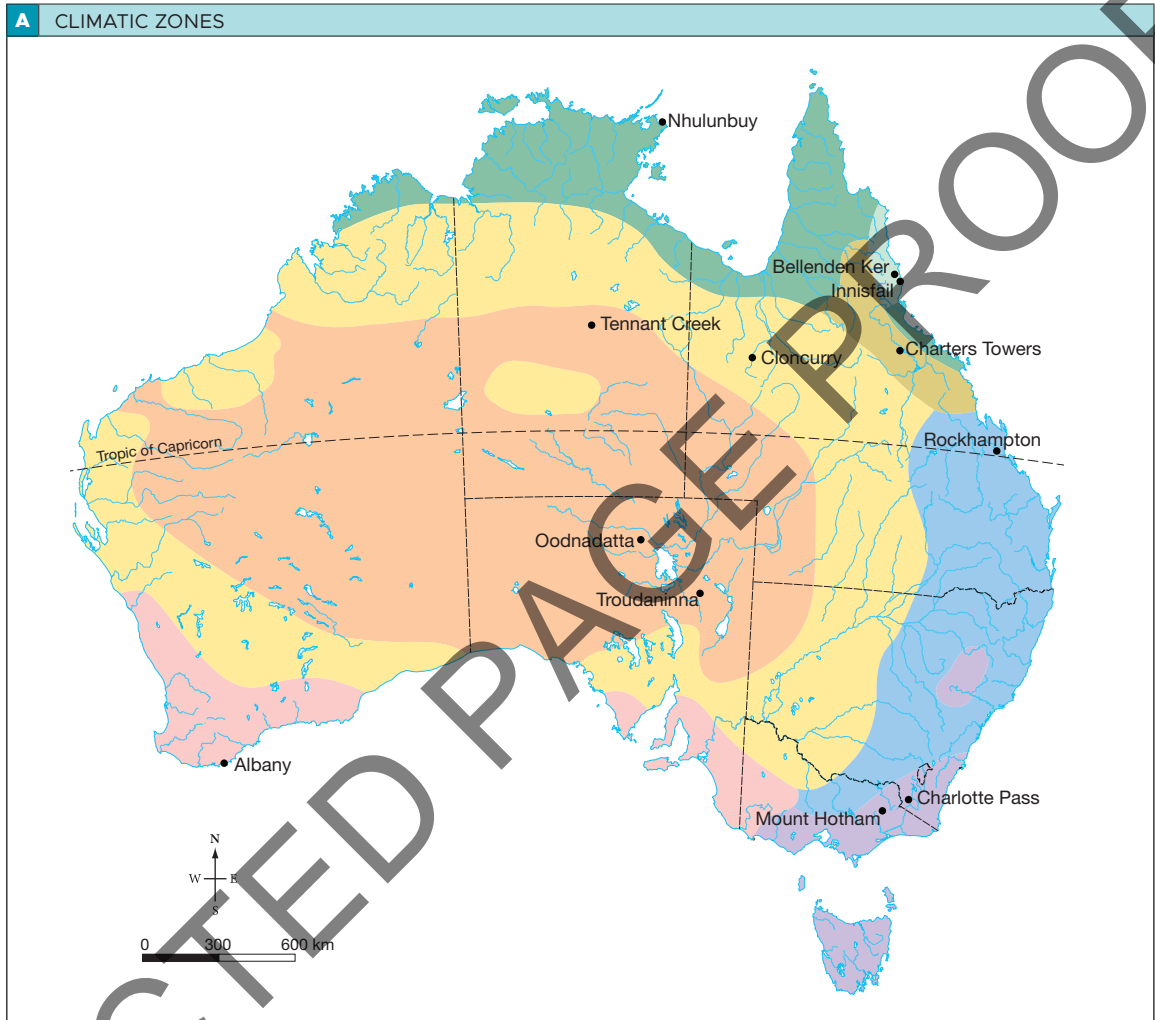
Oodnadatta (Qld) 50.7°C

### Lowest temperature:

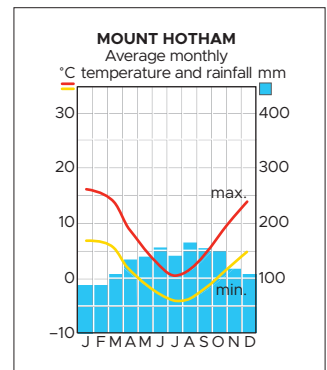
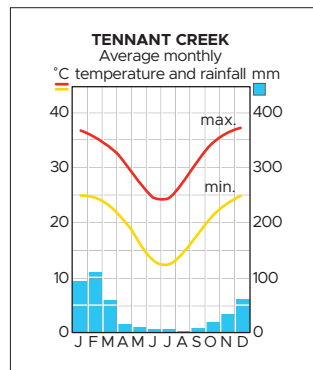
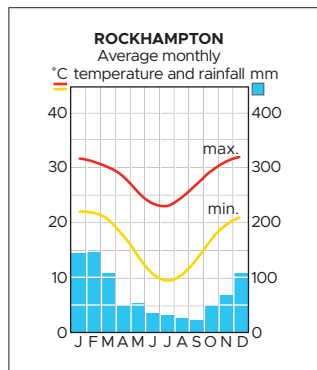
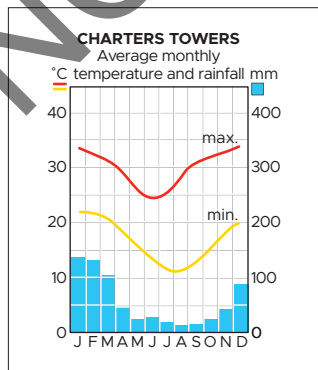
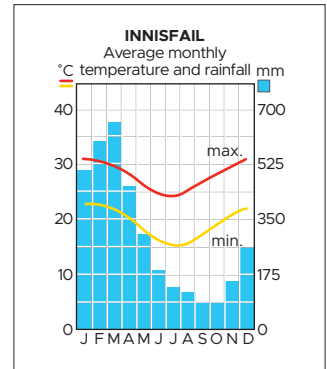
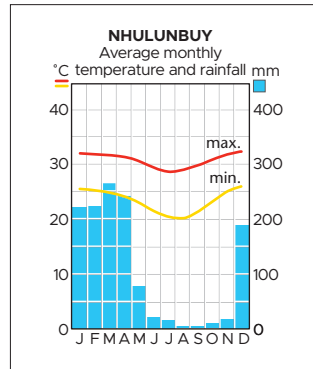
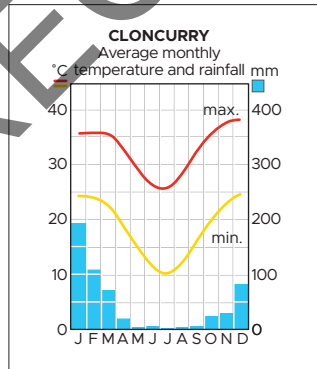
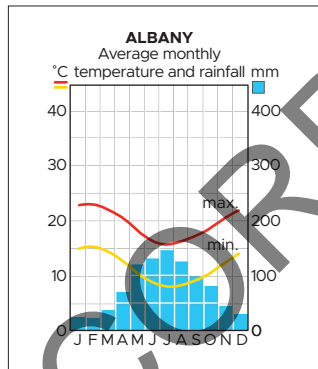
Charlotte Pass (NSW) -23°C

## Weather and climate

Weather is the day-to-day change in the atmosphere of a location, while climate is the average of weather conditions measured over a long period of time. Places that share the same type of climate are said to be in the same climatic zone **A**.

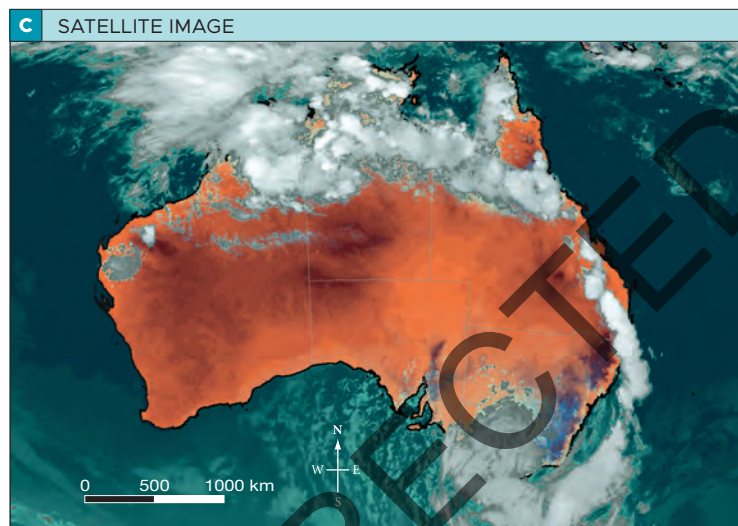
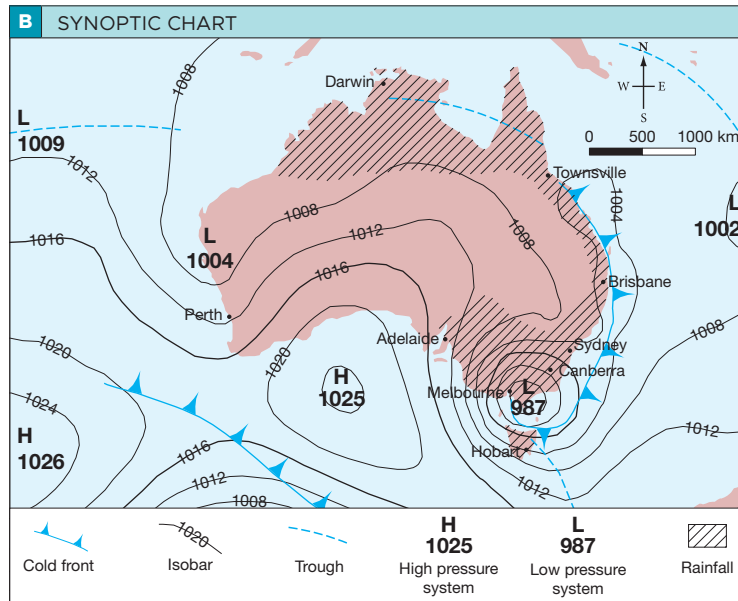


Source: Spatial Vision



## Weather maps

Daily weather conditions can be shown by satellite images **C** and weather maps (synoptic charts) **B**. Weather maps use lines and symbols **D** to show regions of high and low pressure and weather events such as cold fronts **E F**.



**F** This thunderstorm over Sydney precedes a cold front. ▼

### D Interpreting southern hemisphere weather maps

Symbol	Name	What does it mean?
(H)	High pressure system	Sinking air. (Generally fine weather. Winds rotate around these systems anticlockwise and outwards.)
(L)	Low pressure system	Rising air. (Generally unsettled weather, rain. Winds rotate around these systems clockwise and inwards.)
(T)	Tropical cyclone	Rapidly spinning and rising air. (Strong winds, torrential rain.)
(Cold front symbol)	Cold front	The 'line' along which an approaching mass of cold air meets warmer air. (Fall in temperature, rain. Front moves in direction of arrowheads.)
(Warm front symbol)	Warm front	The 'line' along which an approaching mass of warm air meets colder air. (Temperature rise, sometimes light rain. Uncommon in Australia.)
(Rain symbol)	Rain	Rain in the last 24 hours. (Usually associated with low pressure systems, fronts and orographic rainfall.)

### E COLD FRONT

