

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 302  
**Hearing:** Supplementary Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Agency  
**Program:** Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)  
**Topic:** Tasmanian Rainfall  
**Hansard Page:** 25  
**Question Date:** 17 October 2016  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Whish-Wilson, Peter asked:**

**Senator WHISH-WILSON:** Can you confirm whether it is official now that Tasmania has had its wettest year on record? I know it was very close when I last checked.

**Dr Johnson:** I am not sure about Tasmania, but I know that in southern Australia it is certainly the wettest period from May to October that we have had on record. That obviously includes a number of the southern states. If it is of particular interest we are happy to take it on notice with respect to Tasmania, but certainly in South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and southern New South Wales it is the wettest.

**Answer:**

Tasmania has had a very wet year so far, but it has not recorded its wettest year on record.

The Tasmania state-averaged rainfall total for January to October 2016 was 1568 mm. This ranks as the third highest total of such periods on record:

1. January–October 1931, 1605 mm
2. January–October 1946, 1569 mm
3. January–October 2016, 1568 mm

Please note that the long-term average (between 1961 and 1990, the most recent standard reference period as defined by the World Meteorological Organization) for January–October is 1182 mm.