



# **CBRM Drought Update**

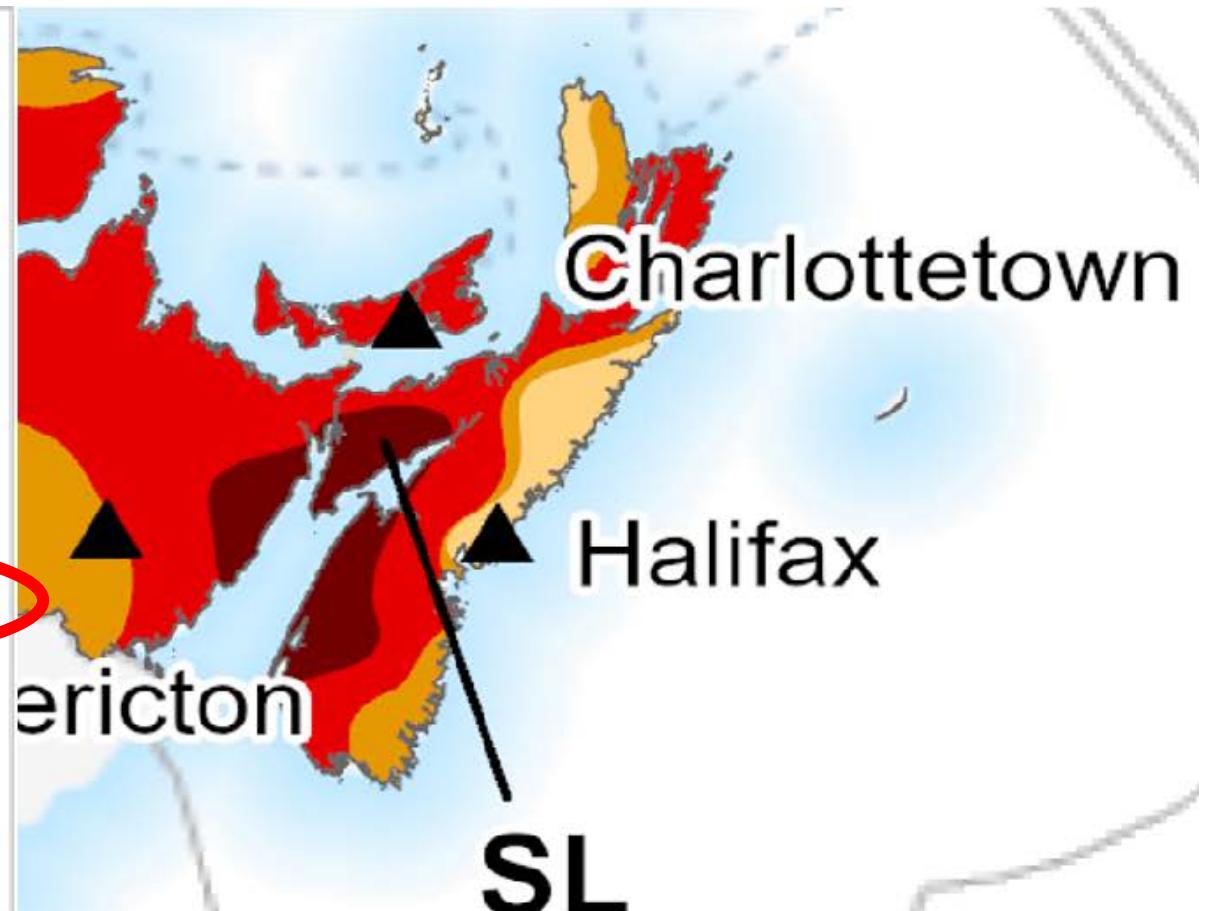
October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

# Current Situation

Drought Map as of Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

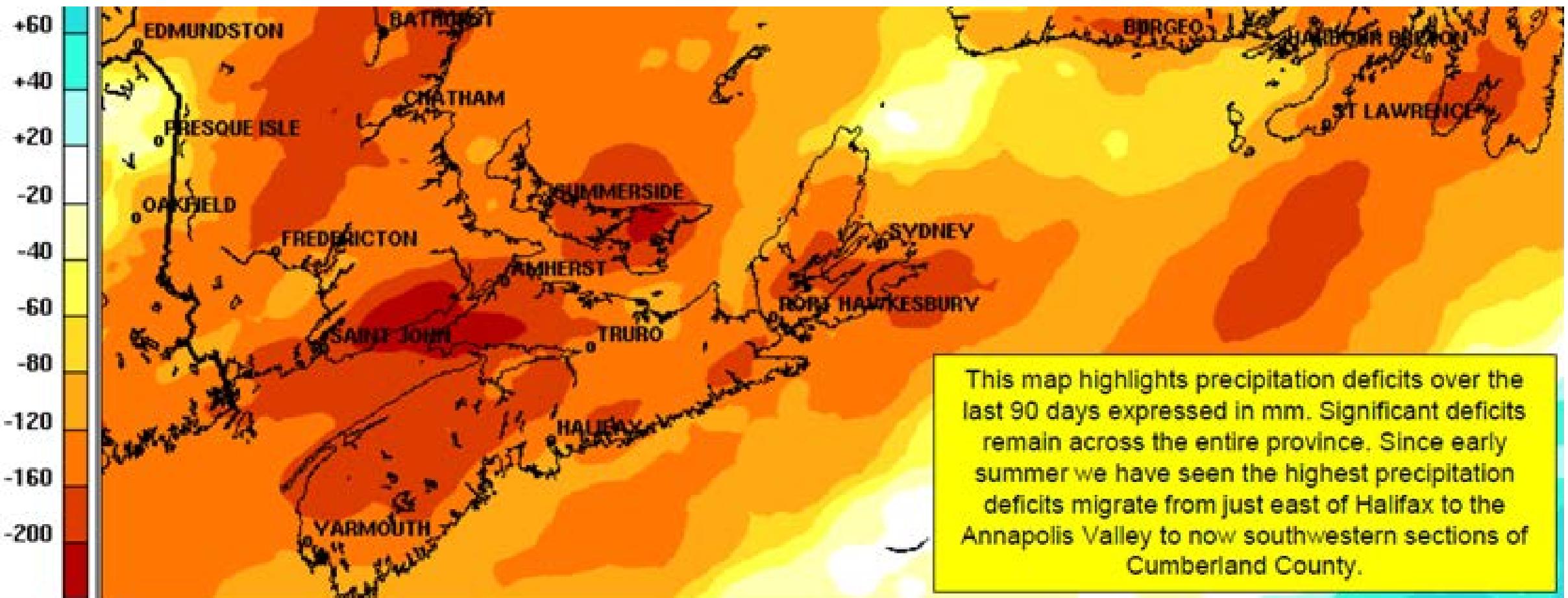
## Drought Intensity

- D0 - Abnormally dry
- D1 - Moderate drought
- D2 - Severe drought
- D3 - Extreme drought
- D4 - Exceptional drought
- Drought not analyzed



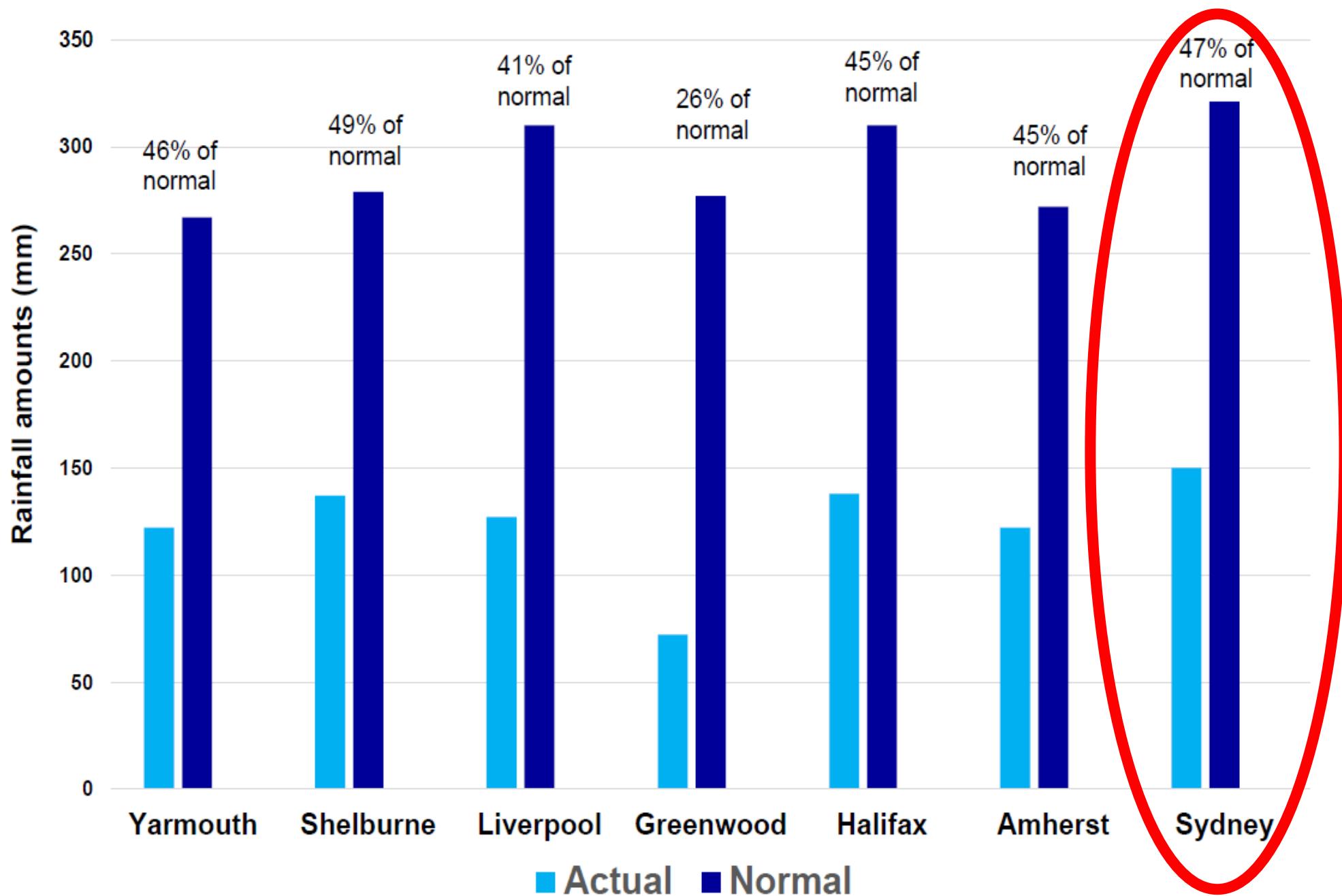
# Current Situation

## Precipitation Anomaly over the last 90 days (mm)



# Current Situation

Precipitation Anomaly over the last 90 days



# Support for Residents

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# Current Drought Plan

1. Vouchers available for registered residents to pick up at CSC on Mondays. Redeemable for water at Sobeys (Sydney River, Prince St, Sydney) and No Frills (Sydney). **Cost recovery through DEM.**
2. Residents can fill their own water containers for personal use, by contacting 311 to register and booking a time. (Monday and Friday mornings – GLRFD, Emera Centre, Miners Forum) **Update**
3. Residents can access showers by contacting 311 to register and book a time (C200, Miners Forum, Emera Centre, Sydney YMCA)
4. Bulk water for livestock is available at Massey Drive, contact 311 for details.

# Current Drought Plan

- The plan provides basic support to residents whose well has gone dry due to the drought.
- Support is provided for your primary residence only.
- If you have a well issue not related to the drought, residents are encouraged to contact a qualified well drilling company for repairs.

# Status of Support to the Community

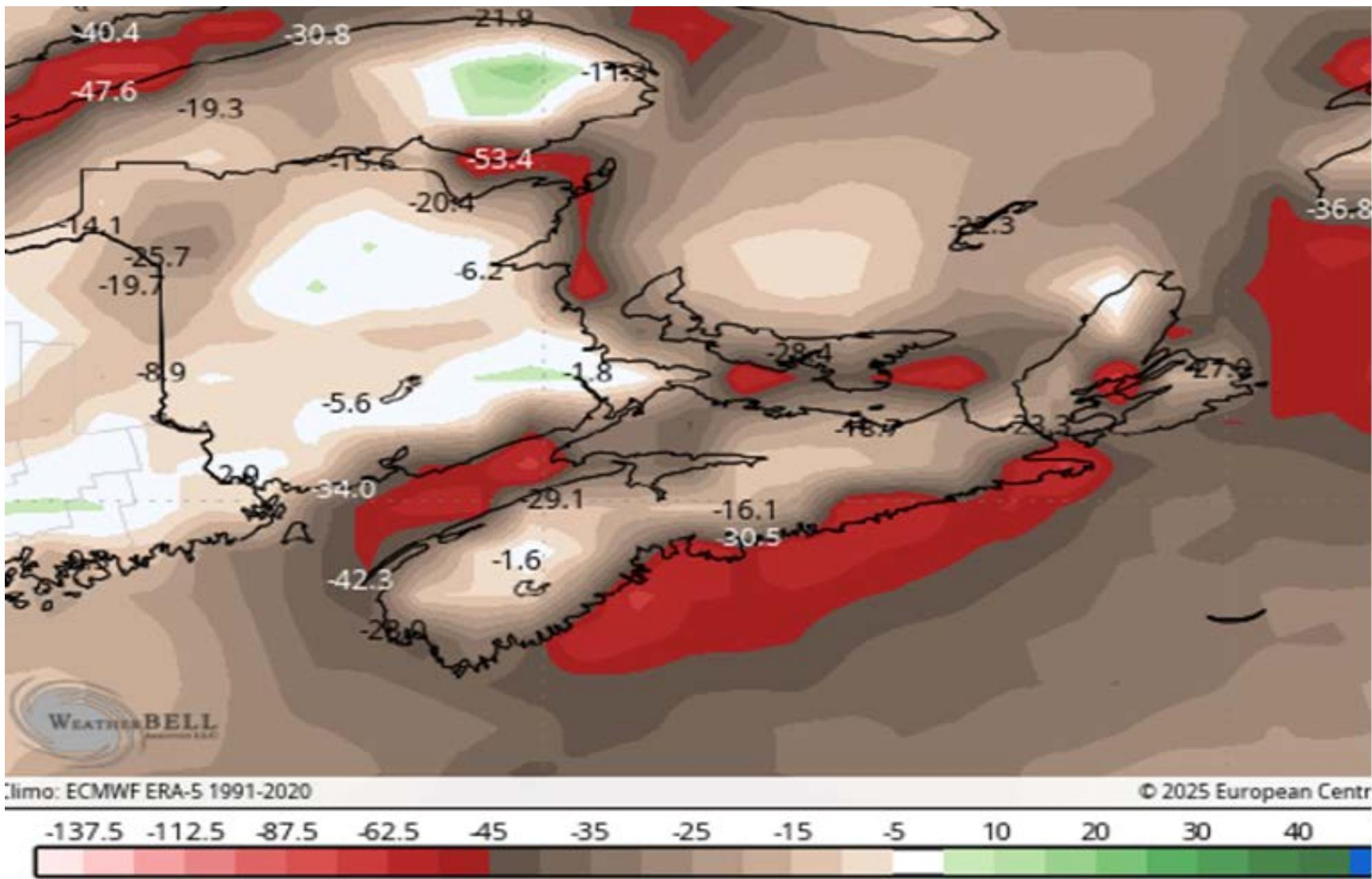
- Currently 170 households registered for support.
- Estimated 350 residents receiving water (**4 per household limit**)
- 2366 4L Containers were issued via vouchers last week.
- Several residents with livestock are picking up bulk water.
- Vast majority receiving support have dug wells.

- **Request for support slowed to increasing by 1 to 2 per new calls per day, with the occasional spike in requests.**

# Outlook

Up to  
Nov 9th



# Future Concerns

- Below average precipitation is expected in the long-range outlook extending into early November.
- The precipitation deficit has continued to accumulate over the past year.
- With cold weather arriving,
  - Once the ground freezes, water will not reach the water table.
  - Precipitation will eventually be in the form snow.
  - Hydrants, currently used for bulk water filling need to winterized.

# Future of Support

- On October 10th, notice was received that the Provincial Coordination Centre (PCC) has deactivated from the Drought Monitoring event, as of October 10th, 2025.
- The Department of Emergency Management has indicated they are not the lead on drought, as it is increasingly shifting away from being an emergency, to being a predictable and expected issue.

# **Where to we go from here with Citizens Requests for Support?**

## **CBRM support requests.**

- Not decreasing, no end in foreseeable future

## **Options**

- Renew messaging for private well owners to conserve water.
- Investigate the feasibility of developing Water Supply Upgrade Lending Program By-Law or program.

# Where to we go from here with Citizens Requests for Support?

- Residents can apply for funding of repairs through the provincial Housing Repair Program.
  - The program may fund up to \$18,000 in eligible repair costs.
  - There are eligibility requirements for the program, i.e. you must be the homeowner.
  - Residents can contact any MLA office for assistance with completing and submitting their application.
  - Application can also be mailed or dropped off at the Provincial building.

# Affects on Other Services

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# Fire Services

- Water levels in lakes and streams have decreased to a level making dry hydrants in some locations unusable.
- Survey in August of 25 dry hydrants, 5 assessed as to low to use, one required repair.



# Fire Services

- In addition to any repairs, to increase the resilience of dry hydrants some piping may require lowering or extended further into the water source.
- The Fire Service remains vigilant to the increased wildfire potential due to on-going drought conditions.

# Water Utility

- Despite prolonged drought conditions across the Municipality, our municipal water supplies remain stable — levels are low but holding steady, and we've not yet reached critical levels.
- Water Utility Staff are continuing to monitor source levels regularly, and at this point, no mandatory restrictions are required.
- However, ongoing conservation remains important as dry conditions persist.

# Questions