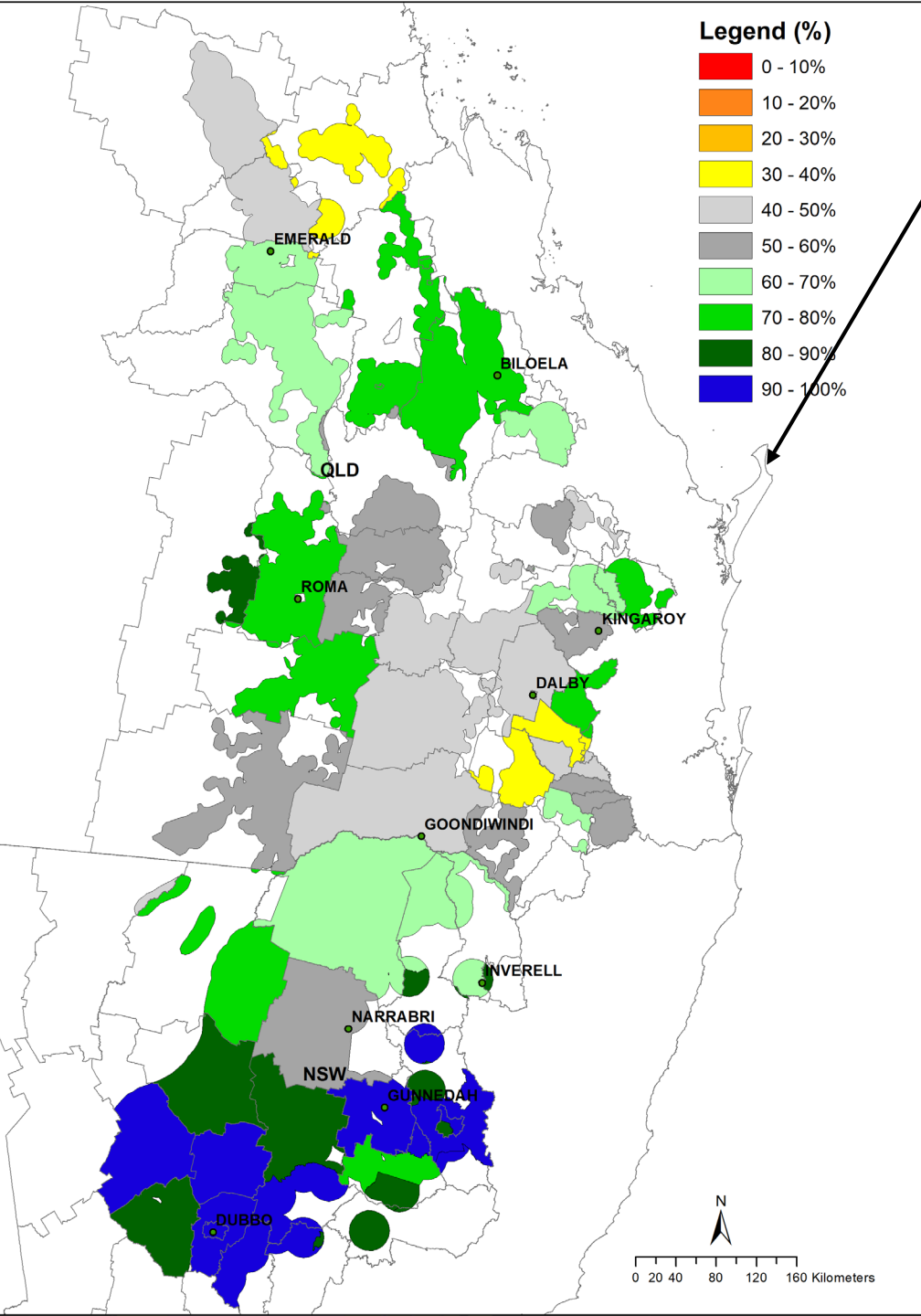


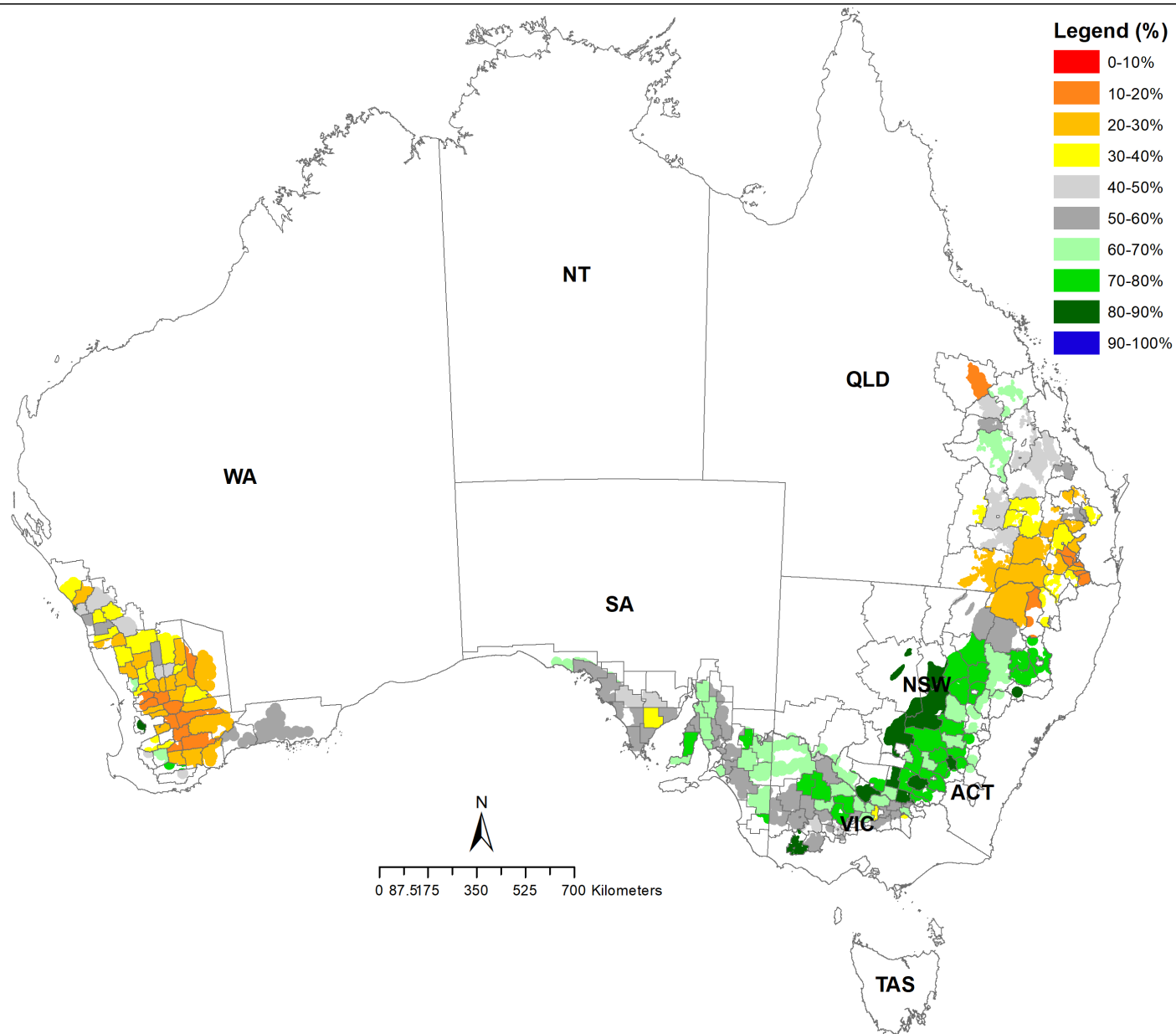
Simulated shire wheat yield long-term median (OZ-Wheat MII, from 1901-2020)



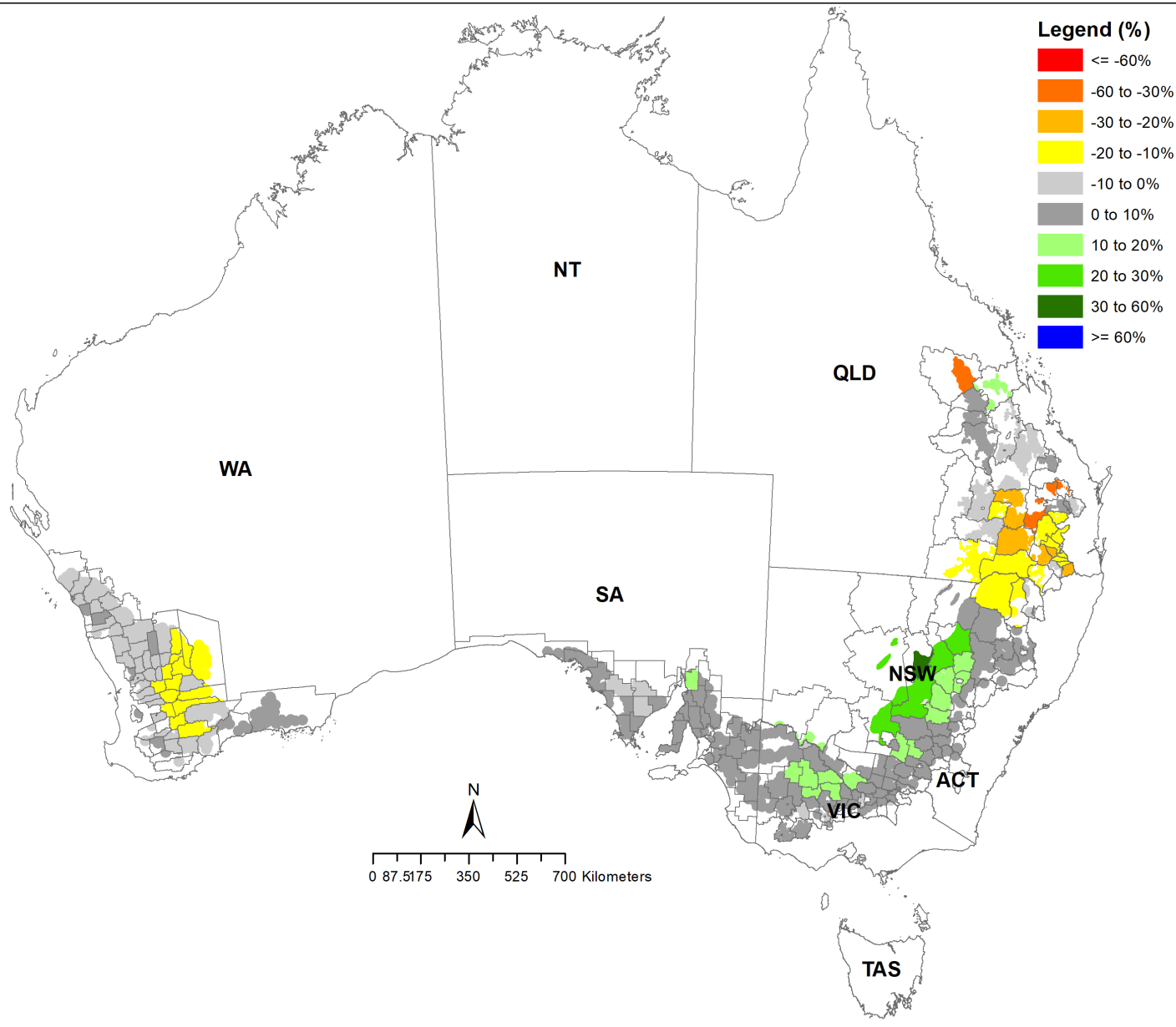


Aggregated soil water recharge status (%) for NE AUS cropping region as at 1st May 2020. Fallow simulated from 1 October 2019 with 10% available water at that time (using APSIM)

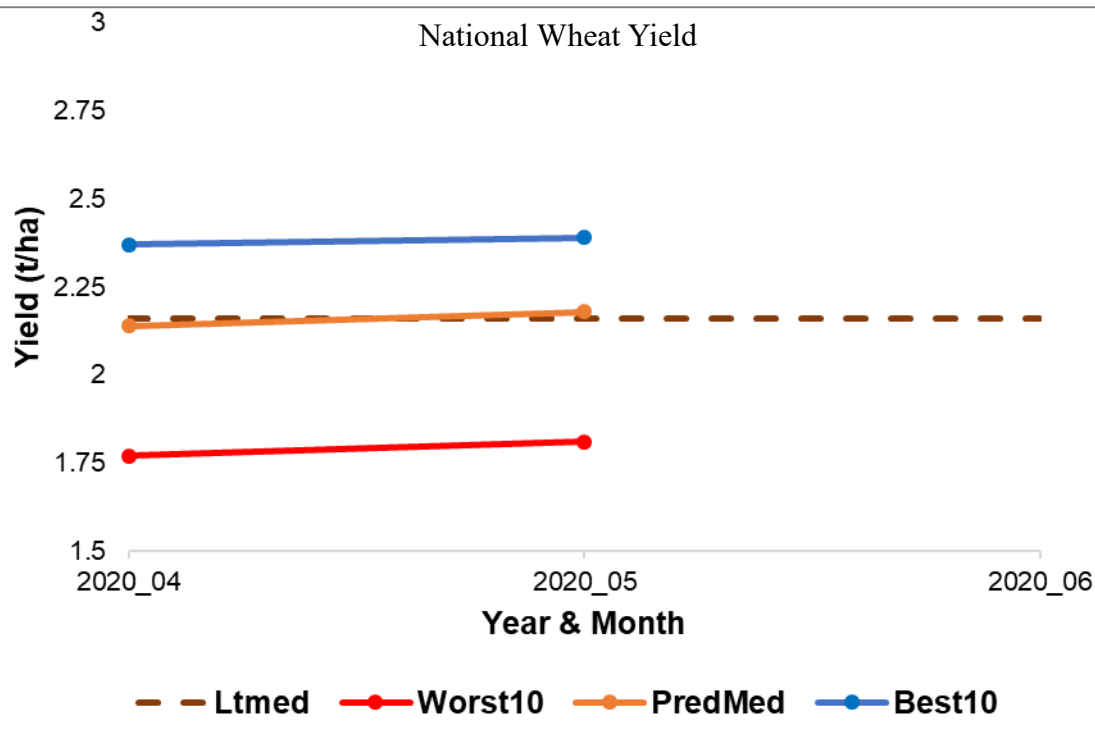
Aggregated plant available water content (PAWC) at shire scale



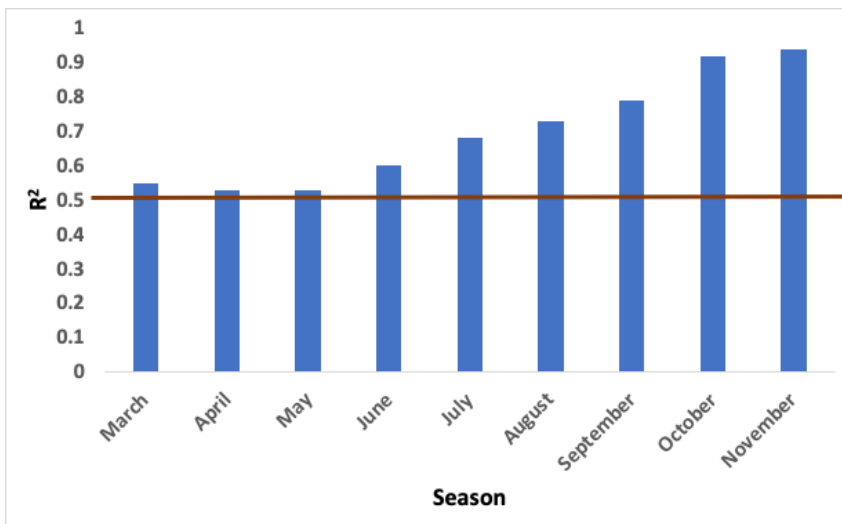
Probability of exceeding the long-term simulated median shire wheat yield (OZ-Wheat MII), given the SOI phase was “near zero” during April-May.



Percentage departure of the forecast shire median yield from the long-term shire median wheat yield (OZ-Wheat MII), given the SOI phase was “near zero” during April-May.



1st May 2020 – State and National wheat outlook range (Worst10 and Best10) and forecast median (PredMed) while Ltmed = Long-term median yield



Variability explain (R^2) and lead time of forecast before harvest in December. Based on the last 28 years of actual ABS data vs forecast median yield from Oz-Wheat MII.

OZ-Wheat MII: regional scale crop simulation model developed by QAAFI at the University of Queensland.

Descriptive note:

The seasonal wheat outlook is based on the integration of (i) a simple agro-climatic wheat stress index model (Oz-Wheat MII) (i.e. Bare fallow routine - Ritchie, 1972; Wheat stress index model adapted from - Fitzpatrick and Nix, 1969; Nix and Fitzpatrick, 1969), which is sensitive to water deficit or excess during the growing season, (ii) actual climate data up to the forecasting date and (iii) projected climate data after that date. These projected data are drawn from historical analogue years based on similarity to the prevailing phase of the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) (Stone et al., 1996). The Oz-Wheat model is run from 1 October the year before sowing in order to account for the influence of the summer fallow on starting soil moisture conditions. The model input parameters for each shire (i.e. potential available water content, planting rain & stress index period) have been selected based on the best fit when calibrated against actual shire wheat yields from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for the period 1976 – 2000, 2005, 2010 & 2015 (MII). Cross validated spatial correlation when predicting the shire wheat yields for the 2000 season (MII) was 0.8 across all main wheat producing shires in Australia (Potgieter et. al., 2006). For the updated MII 75% of the 237 shire have $R^2 > 0.60$.