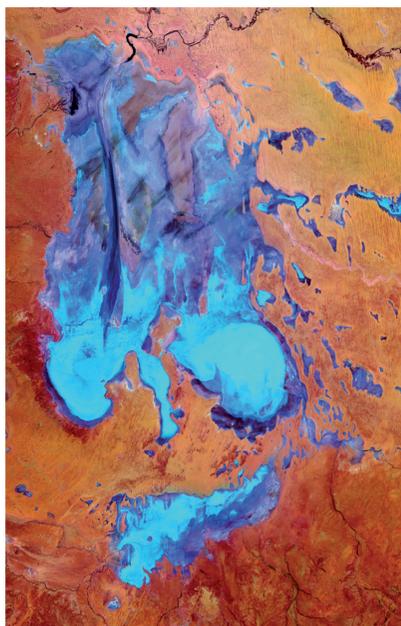
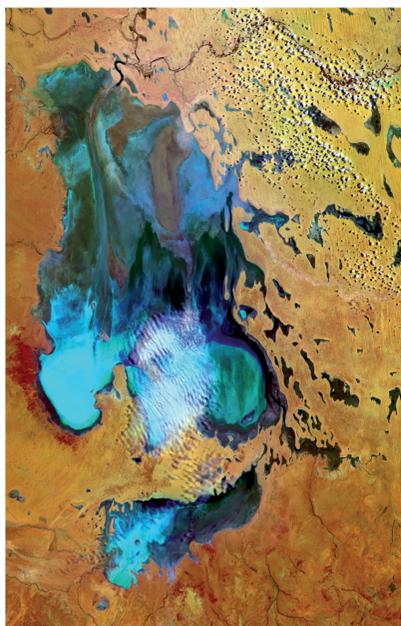


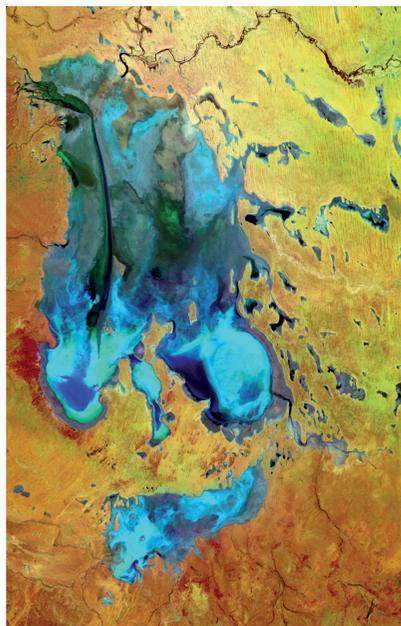
# 2010 Floods in Queensland fill Lake Eyre



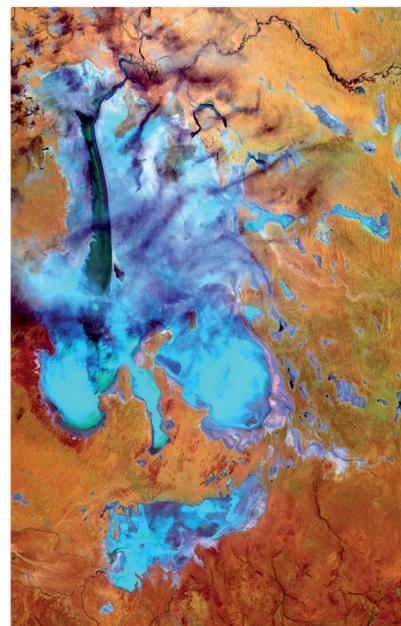
20 January 2010 (Empty)



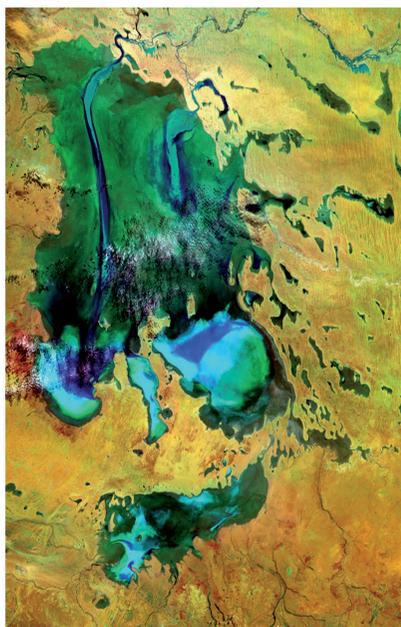
5 February 2010 (Filling)



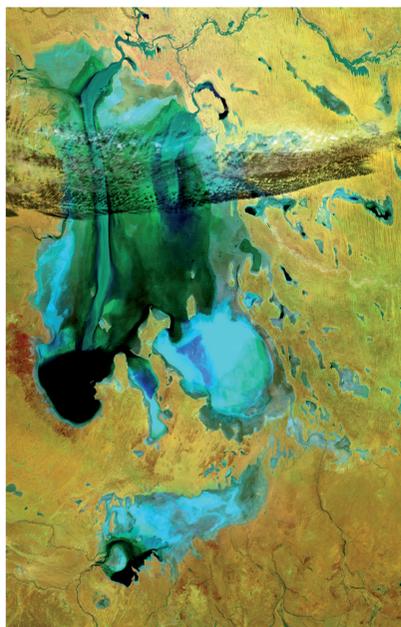
21 February 2010 (Filling)



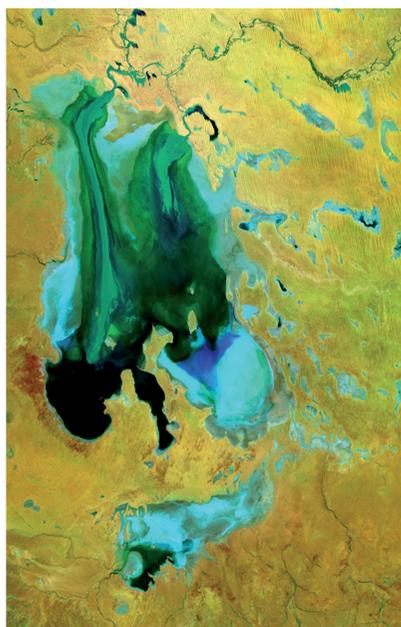
25 March 2010 (Filling)



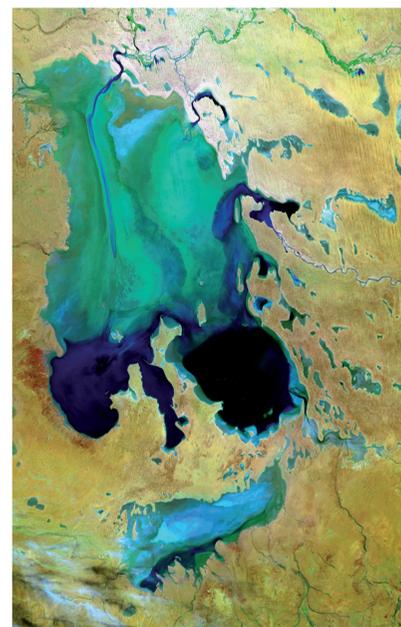
10 April 2010 (Filling)



26 April 2010 (Filling)



12 May 2010 (Filling)



16 August 2010 (Full)

## Lake Eyre

Lake Eyre covers an area of 1 349 000 ha and is 144 km long and 77 km wide. It is an extensive 'salt sink' which derives its mineralisation from the evaporation of floodwaters over countless years.

The lake has only filled to capacity three times in the last 150 years.

- 1950 – Lake Eyre South & North completely filled
- 1974 – Lake Eyre South & North completely filled
- 1989 – Lake Eyre South almost filled from local rain

Seasonal rainfalls attract waterbirds such as Australian Pelicans, Silver Gulls, Red-necked Avocets, Banded Stilts and Gull-billed Terns. There are a number of theories being put forward on what triggers the instinct for the birds to migrate to Lake Eyre, however no definitive answers are known. When the lake floods, it becomes a breeding site for enormous numbers of waterbirds, especially species that appear to be tolerant of salinity.

Fifty years ago Lake Eyre was regarded as being permanently dry. Reports of water were thought to be the result of mirages. It was also wrongly believed that, if the lake ever did fill, the climate of the whole region would change.

LANDSAT-5 imagery using Bands 7, 4, 1 representing Red, Green and Blue respectively were used to highlight the difference between the lake filling with water and the dry salt lake bed. The run off is from the floods in Queensland over the past 5 months, especially water from the Diamantina River.

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