

Satellite Imagery - Floods – South West Queensland - February/March 2000



The satellite images below show the dramatic effect on the land of recent heavy rain, causing floodwaters to inundate south-west Queensland. This area is known as the [Channel Country](#) and has an extensive braided river system which includes the Georgina River, the Diamantina River and Cooper Creek. Excess water from this area generally feeds into the Lake Eyre system which is a vast drainage basin in Australia's arid interior. Flooding of the magnitude visible on the satellite images can cause [Lake Eyre](#) to fill up - something which

occurs very rarely.

Lake Eyre

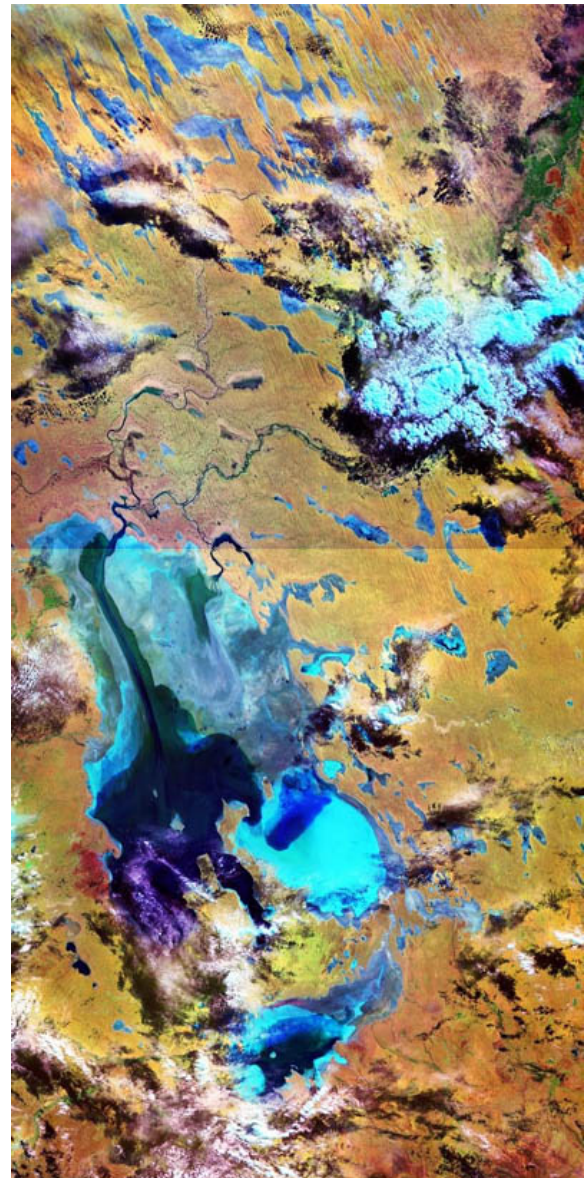
The two images below show the changes which have occurred to Lake Eyre between 1 January and 6 April 2000. Both images were produced by joining together two satellite images acquired by the Landsat 7 satellite - 705 km's away in space.

On the left is Lake Eyre as a dry salt lake on 1 January. The same scene on the right shows [Lake Eyre](#) on 6 April with water flooding onto the dry salt pan.

1 January 2000



6 April 2000



Any use of these images must include the following acknowledgement: Landsat 7 satellite images acquired and processed by [ACRES](#).

Birdsville - Diamantina River - Georgina River



This mosaic image was produced by joining together three satellite images which were acquired on 27 February 2000 by the Landsat 7 satellite - 705 kms away in space.

It covers an area approximately 180km across and 500km long and takes in the small outback towns of Boulia, Bedourie, Betoota and Birdsville.

The Georgina River is on the left and the Diamantina River on the right.

There are 14 cattle stations in the Birdsville shire, each averaging 6,860 square kilometres in area.

The Birdsville shire covers 95,000 square kilometres and is the second largest shire in Queensland.

The next page shows before and after images of the area north of Birdsville.

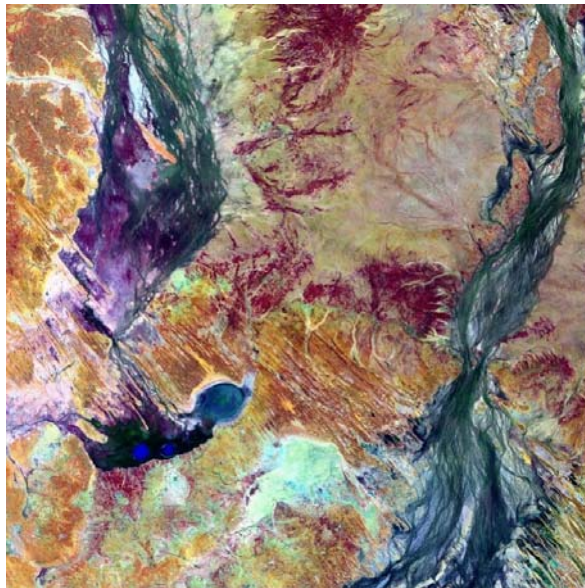
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**Before and during the floods.
Birdsville - Diamantina River - Georgina River**

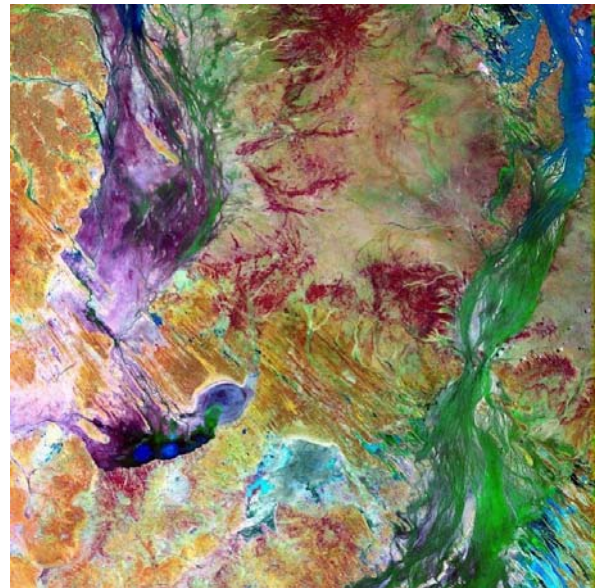
In the two Landsat 7 satellite images below, you can see the difference in the area stretching from Bedourie in the top left hand area down to Birdsville at the bottom centre of the image. The image on the left hand side was acquired on 19 August 1999 and shows the landforms in the dry season. The image on the right hand side was acquired on 27 February 2000 and shows the same area at the peak of the floods.

The image at right will change to a second image after a few seconds to show the area north of Birdsville prior to the flooding and during the flooding. The left image was acquired in August 1999. The right image, acquired on 27 February 2000, has a lot of green and blue areas which indicate the floodwaters.

August 1999



27 February 2000



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Longreach - Thomson River



This mosaic image was produced by joining together four satellite images which were acquired on 29 February 2000 by the Landsat 7 satellite - 705 kms away in space.

It covers an area approximately 180km across and 700km long and takes in the small outback towns of Longreach, Stonehenge, Jundah and Windorah.

Dominating this image is the Thomson River which rose to a peak of 7.85 metres at Jundah on 1 March 2000, the day after these images were acquired. Many residents have had to move their belongings to higher ground, outlying properties remain isolated, and there are reports of huge stock losses.

Cooper Creek begins just near the town of Stonehenge and the images below show the enormous volume of water in this creek on 1 March 2000.

Any use of these images must include the following acknowledgement: Landsat 7 satellite image acquired and processed by [ACRES](#).

Cooper Creek



This mosaic consists of three images acquired on 1 March 2000 from the SPOT 2 satellite at ACRES Data Acquisition Facility in Alice Springs.

It presents a graphic picture of water which has overflowed Cooper Creek, making it about 60 kms wide at its widest point.

Floodwaters from here flow down to [Lake Eyre](#), Australia's largest inland lake, and attract hundreds of thousands of water birds to outback Australia.

Any use of these images must include the following acknowledgement: SPOT 2 satellite image acquired and processed by [ACRES](#).