

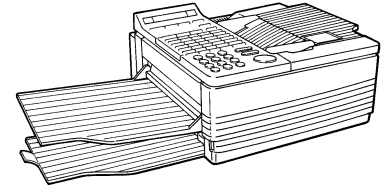


DROUGHT INFORMATION SERVICE SOI FAX HOTLINES

(Southern Oscillation Index)

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SOI MESSAGE - 31 MAY 1995

SOI AVERAGES

March 95	+2.8
April 95	-13.5
May 95	-7.9

Last 30 days	- 8.2
Last 90 days ▲	- 6.5

All values subject to revision by Bureau of Meteorology

▲ See AUSTRALIAN RAINMAN for effects of SOI on rainfall at your location.

REVIEW OF CLIMATIC FORECASTS AND INFORMATION

Established climate forecast systems show the probability of receiving ABOVE MEDIAN rainfall for the next three months is about 20% in southern Queensland and northern NSW, and 25% to 40% over central and northern Queensland. This means that whenever we have experienced a similar SOI pattern to the current one, over the last 130 years, rainfall has been above median in 1-in-5 to 1-in-3 years (depending on location).

However, although the chances of ABOVE-MEDIAN rainfall remain low, recent warmer-than-normal, sea-surface temperatures in a section of the Indian Ocean suggest the chance of a little 'patchy relief rain' in southern and central Queensland, and also northern NSW, during the winter months (regardless of the effects of the SOI).

There is a high probability of receiving late-season frosts this year.

The next passage of the 30- to 50-day Oscillation is expected during the last week in June.

In the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, sea-surface temperatures are normal to cooler-than-normal. They are still warmer-than-normal near the International Dateline.

We continue to recommend caution when making property management decisions.

The average SOI over the last 30 days was -8.2. The probability of exceeding median rainfall, for the next three months, is about 20% in southern Queensland and northern NSW, and 25% to 40% in northern Queensland.

THE BOTTOM LINE

To obtain more information for your location, we recommend combined use of the AUSTRALIAN RAINMAN package and the Bureau of Meteorology's Seasonal Climate Outlook. WHEATMAN is also recommended to aid in cereal management decisions.

The next SOI HOTLINE update will be on the 7th of May.

Drought Management Group- Department of Primary Industries

If you would like any further information, please contact Col Paull on (07) 877 9587, or one of the Risk Management Co-Ordinators located at Cloncurry (077) 421 311, Charters Towers (077) 872 155, Emerald (079) 828 801, Kingaroy (071) 621 355 and Roma(076) 229 999

If you prefer to receive this message verbally, you can access a recorded message service on (07) 877 9602