



DROUGHT INFORMATION SERVICE SOI FAX HOTLINE S

(Southern Oscillation Index)

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SOI MESSAGE - 19 JULY 1995

| SOI AVERAGES | |
|----------------|--------|
| April 95 | - 13.5 |
| May 95 | - 8.2 |
| June 95 | - 2.1 |
| ----- | |
| Last 30 days | - 3.3 |
| Last 90 days s | - 5.9 |

All values subject to revision by Bureau of Meteorology

s 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 30% in eastern Queensland and eastern NSW, and 40% to 50% over the remainder of these States. 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-3 to 1-in-2 years (depending on location).

However, although the chances of ABOVE-MEDIAN rainfall are somewhat 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 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.

Recent passages of the 30- to 50-day Oscillation have not been associated with significant rainfall over Queensland. In addition, the timing of the oscillation has been very erratic. The next passage of the 30- to 50-day Oscillation is expected during the fourth week in August.

Sea surface temperatures have warmed again in the eastern Pacific and remain slightly warmer-than-normal near the International Dateline. Sea-surface temperatures are warmer-than-normal in the northern Indian Ocean.

The average SOI over the last 30 days was -3.3. The probability of exceeding median rainfall in Queensland, for the next three months, ranges from about 30% to 50%, but there is a reasonable chance of patchy relief rain in southern areas during winter.

THE BOTTOM LINE

We continue to recommend caution when making property management decisions.

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 26th of July.

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