



SEASONAL CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICE SOI FAX HOTLINES

(Southern Oscillation Index)

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SOI MESSAGE - 13 SEPTEMBER 1995

| SOI AVERAGES / PHASE | |
|---|-------|
| June 95 | - 1.7 |
| July 95 | + 4.0 |
| August 95 | +1.1 |
| ----- | |
| Last 30 days | + 3.3 |
| Last 90 days ▲ | + 0.1 |
| ----- | |
| SOI Phase 5 (near zero) on 30 Aug 95 | |
| 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 30% to 50% over most of Queensland and New South Wales. There are some isolated patches on the Darling Downs where the probability reaches about 60% to 70%. However, much of this rainfall would be due to thunderstorm activity, which tends to be patchy. By comparison, at this time last year the probability of exceeding median rainfall was about 15% to 20%.

To sum up, when we have experienced a similar SOI pattern to the current one, over the last 130 years, rainfall in the following three months has been above median in about 1-in-3 to 1-in-2 years (depending on location).

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 first or second week of October.

Sea-surface temperatures are mostly near normal along the equator in the Pacific Ocean. However, temperatures are cooling to the north, south and west of Australia, and also in the Tasman Sea, which may indicate an unfavourable trend influencing the long-term outlook.

The average SOI over the last 30 days was +3.3 . The probability of exceeding median rainfall over the next three months is about 50% for most of Queensland and New South Wales.

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.

The next SOI HOTLINE update will be on the 20th of September.

Drought Management Group- Department of Primary Industries

If you would like any further information, please contact Col Paull on (07) 389 69587, 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) 389 69602