



# SEASONAL CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICE SOI FAX HOTLINE S

(Southern Oscillation Index)

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## SOI MESSAGE - 18 OCTOBER 1995

SOI AVERAGES / PHASE	
July 95	+ 4.0
August 95	+ 1.2
September 95	+ 3.4
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Last 30 days	- 1.2
Last 90 days ▲	+ 1.6
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SOI Phase 5 (near zero) on 1 Oct 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

The average SOI over the last 30 days has become slightly negative. However, there is normally no cause for concern unless it falls below about - 6.0.

Established climate forecast systems show the probability of receiving ABOVE MEDIAN rainfall for the next three months is about 50% over most of Queensland and New South Wales. That is, 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-2 years, with some variation from one location to another.

By comparison, at this time last year the probability of exceeding median rainfall was about 25% to 40%.

The next passage of the 30- to 50-day Oscillation is expected during the second week of November.

Sea-surface temperatures are mostly near normal, or slightly cooler-than-normal, along the equator in the Pacific Ocean. Temperatures are cooler-than-normal in the Coral Sea, and also in the Tasman Sea. The outlook beyond three or four months is uncertain.

Some experimental General Circulation Models (but not the majority) are predicting the redevelopment of an El Niño in late summer - autumn of 1996. We advise caution in interpreting the output from these models.

*The average SOI over the last 30 days was -1.2 , but there is normally no cause for concern unless it falls below about -6.0 . 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 25th of October.

### Climate Impacts and Spatial Systems - Department of Primary Industries

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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

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