



SEASONAL CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICE SOI FAX HOTLINES

(Southern Oscillation Index)

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SOI MESSAGE - 17 JANUARY 1996

SOI AVERAGES / PHASE	
October 95	- 0.6
November 95	+1.7
December 95	- 7.8

Last 30 days	+ 1.1
Last 90 days ▲	- 0.3

SOI Phase 3 (rapidly falling) on 1 Jan 96	
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 median rainfall at this time of year remains quite high for most of Queensland. The probability of receiving median rainfall for the January to March period is about 70% in the northern Maranoa, Warrego, central west, the far north-west and the tropical north coast; and about 50% in the remainder of the State, except for the south-east corner where the probability is about 40%. In NSW the probability of receiving median rainfall is 50% to 70% in the western half of the State and the Australian Alps, and near 50% in the remainder.

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

Sea-surface temperatures are cooler-than-normal in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. They are warmer-than-normal to the north of Australia and in the

Coral Sea. This type of pattern represents a weak La Niña (opposite to El Niño). Sea-surface temperatures are cooling in the Indian Ocean.

Some experimental General Circulation Models are suggesting possible redevelopment of an El Niño in the autumn of 1996. Please note these models are experimental and should be used with caution. Alternatively established statistical forecast systems will not provide reliable indications for winter/spring 1996 until late autumn.

We are not emphasising caution in making property management decisions for the summer months. However, there is no certainty at this stage that the current improvement in climatic outlook will persist beyond autumn.

The average SOI over the last 30 days was +1.1. Rainfall probabilities remain quite high for most of Queensland for the January to March period, but there is no certainty the current improved rainfall outlook will persist beyond autumn.

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.

The next SOI HOTLINE update will be on the 24th of January (usually by 5pm).

Climate Impacts and Spatial Systems - Department of Primary Industries

Compiled by Dr Roger Stone, QDPI, Toowoomba and Col Paull

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

Some information courtesy Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, USA