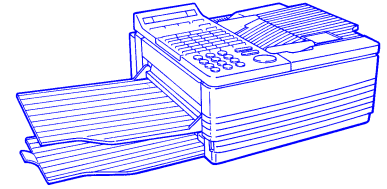




SEASONAL CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICE
SOI FAX HOTLINE S
 (Southern Oscillation Index)
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SOI MESSAGE - 21 FEBRUARY 1996

SOI AVERAGES / PHASE	
November 95	+ 1.7
December 95	- 7.8
January 96	+ 7.7

Last 30 days	+ 2.4
Last 90 days ▲	0.0

as at 1 Feb 96 the SOI Phase ▲ was 4 (4 = rapidly rising)	
All values subject to revision by Bureau of Meteorology	

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

REVIEW OF CLIMATIC FORECASTS AND INFORMATION

Established climate forecast systems show the probability of receiving median rainfall for the February to April period is about 50% in most of Queensland, except for a narrow strip running from Goondiwindi to Longreach where it is about 65%. In most of NSW and Victoria, the probability is about 40%.

The next passage of 30- to 50-day Oscillation is due around mid March.

Sea-surface temperatures are warmer-than-normal in the western Pacific Ocean and the Coral Sea, although this region appears to be contracting in size. Sea-surface temperatures are cooler than normal in equatorial regions near the International Dateline.

Some experimental General Circulation Models (including that of the Bureau of Meteorology) are suggesting possible redevelopment of an El Niño in the autumn/winter 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.

While the current seasonal climate outlook is reasonable, there is no certainty at this stage that this outlook will persist beyond autumn.

The average SOI over the last 30 days fell to + 2.4 . The probability of receiving median rainfall is now about 50% for most of Queensland for the February to April period, but rainfall prospects beyond autumn are uncertain.

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. Also a lot of additional information is available on our Internet World Wide Web service, 'The Long Paddock', at URL - <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/longpdk/>.

The next SOI HOTLINE update will be on the 28th of February (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