



SEASONAL CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICE SOI FAX HOTLINES

(Southern Oscillation Index)

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SOI MESSAGE - 29 MAY 1996

SOI (a) AVERAGES / PHASE		
February 96	*	- 0.1
March 96	*	+ 5.3
April 96	*	+ 5.3

Last 30 days		+ 1.2
Last 90 days (b)		+ 3.8

SOI trend (b) during April - May was * Phase 5 (i.e. near zero ●).		

NOTE : (a) SOI values calculated using mean barometric pressures from 1880 to 1992 - subject to revision by Bureau of Meteorology.

* Preliminary value ** Revised value

(b) See AUSTRALIAN RAINMAN for effects of SOI on rainfall at your location.

REVIEW OF CLIMATIC FORECASTS AND INFORMATION

Most climate forecast systems are suggesting 'near average' rainfall for the June - August period for Queensland and NSW. Thus the probability of exceeding median rainfall for the next three months is about 50%. Exceptions in Queensland are east of a line from Stanthorpe to Mount Morgan, and parts of the Warroo Shire where probabilities are higher at about 65%. In NSW and Victoria, the probabilities are about 35% for wheat-growing areas extending from Dubbo to western Victoria.

The next passage of the 30- to 50-day Oscillation is due about the third week of June.

Sea-surface temperatures are still warm in the Coral Sea and sections of the central equatorial Pacific Ocean. Parts of the extreme eastern equatorial Pacific are still cooler-than-normal. Stronger-than-normal

easterly winds are still present in equatorial parts of the Pacific Ocean.

Initial estimates suggested a reasonable probability of a late finish to the frost period this year. However, the trend in the SOI over April-May suggests no variation from the median date of last frost for most of Queensland and northern NSW, except for the Biloela and Tamworth areas where it is about one week later than normal.

Chances of an El Niño redeveloping in the short term are not strong, although some experimental General Circulation Models are still suggesting that an El Niño weather pattern may reform late in the year.

The average SOI over the last 30 days has levelled off to +1.2 . A summary of climate forecast systems for the June to August period suggests mostly 'average' rainfall for this time of year.

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 WHEATMAN computer package is recommended for use in Queensland and northern New South Wales. 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 5th of June (usually by 5pm).

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) 600 717 and Roma(076) 229 999

Some information courtesy Bureau of Meteorology,

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