SEASONAL CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICE

SOI FAX HOTLINES

(Southern Oscillation Index)

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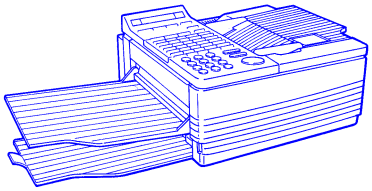

SOI MESSAGE - 19 JUNE 1996

SOI (a) AVERAGES / PHASE

March 96	*	+5.3
April 96	*	+5.3
May 96	*	+1.7
Last 30 days		+ 4.5
Last 90 days (b)		+ 4.3

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 in approximately mid July.

Sea-surface temperatures are still warmer than normal in the Coral Sea, and close to normal in the central equatorial Pacific Ocean. Parts of the extreme eastern equatorial Pacific are cooler-than-normal.

The trend in the SOI over April/May suggests little variation from the median date of last frost for most of Queensland and northern New South Wales, except for the Biloela, Emerald and Tamworth areas where it is about one week later than normal.

Easterly winds are now weaker than normal in equatorial sections of the Pacific Ocean. This factor is partly responsible for some experimental General Circulation Models suggesting that an El Niño weather pattern may reform late in the year. We suggest you monitor this page throughout the year for updated information on the seasonal outlook.

The average SOI over the last 30 days was +4.5 . Climate forecast systems are generally indicating little bias either towards an excessively wet winter or an unusually dry one.

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 26th 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
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