



# SEASONAL CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICE SOI FAX HOTLINES

(Southern Oscillation Index)

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## SOI MESSAGE - 17 JULY 1996

SOI (a) AVERAGES / PHASE		
April 96	*	+ 5.3
May 96	*	+ 1.7
June	*	+ 10.5
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Last 30 days		+ 10.4
Last 90 days (b)		+ 6.6
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SOI trend (b) during May - June was Phase 4 (i.e. rapidly rising ↗).		

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 'average to above average' rainfall in eastern Australia during the next three months. Probabilities of exceeding median rainfall range from about 50% to 70%. The higher probabilities are mainly in eastern districts of Queensland and NSW, and also in the Central Highlands.

The next passage of the 30- to 50-day Oscillation is due about mid July.

The Bureau of Meteorology indicates that easterly winds have restrengthened in some parts of the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. However, sea-surface temperatures are continuing to warm in many sections of the eastern Pacific. An appraisal of the

above information suggests that it would be unwise to extend the current forecasted outlook beyond spring. Sea-surface temperatures remain warmer-than-normal in a large part of the Indian Ocean, suggesting more northwest cloudbands than normal this winter.

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.

*The average SOI over the last 30 days was strongly positive at +10.4. Climate forecasts continue to suggest relatively high probabilities of receiving median rainfall, but the outlook beyond spring is unclear.*

### 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 24th of July (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,

CSIRO and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, USA