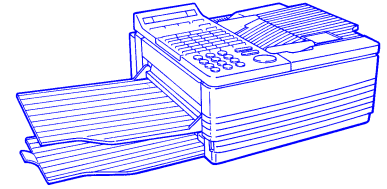




SEASONAL CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICE
SOI FAX HOTLINE S
 (Southern Oscillation Index)
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SOI MESSAGE - 25 SEPTEMBER 1996

SOI (a) AVERAGES / PHASE	
June 96	* + 10.5
July 96	* + 6.7
August 96	* + 5.3

Last 30 days	+ 6.5
Last 90 days (b)	+ 5.6

SOI trend (b) during July - August was Phase 2 (i.e. positive ▲).	

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.

The next passage of the 30- to 50-day Oscillation is due in late September or early October.

The Bureau of Meteorology indicates that easterly winds have weakened in the eastern equatorial Pacific, but should re-strengthen again.

Sea-surface temperatures are mostly neutral in the central and eastern tropical Pacific, except for a cooler-than-normal area in the extreme east. The western Pacific Ocean remains mostly warmer-than-normal. The Bureau of Meteorology's oceanographers state that sub-surface temperatures are becoming remarkably cool in the eastern Pacific.

The SOI trends in January-February and April-May suggested that frosts would be slightly later than normal (ie. by about one week) in north-eastern Australia.

The average SOI over the last 30 days was +6.5. The climate outlook remains unchanged, with the probabilities of receiving average rainfall over the next three months about 70%.

THE BOTTOM LINE

REVIEW OF CLIMATIC FORECASTS AND INFORMATION

Most climate forecast systems are still suggesting 'average to slightly above average' rainfall in eastern Australia during the next three months.

Probabilities of receiving median rainfall are mainly about 70% in the eastern half of Australia. Exceptions are coastal districts from Nambour to north-eastern Victoria, and parts of the North Burnett and Booringa Shire, where probabilities are about 55%; in parts of central NSW and inland Victoria the probabilities are about 80%.

That is, when we have experienced a similar SOI pattern to the current one, over the last 130 years, we have received at least median rainfall in about 5-in-10 years to 8-in-10 years, with some variation from one location to another.

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 2nd of October (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 Climate Risk Co-Ordinators located at Longreach (076) 658 4400, 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