



SEASONAL CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICE SOI FAX HOTLINES

(Southern Oscillation Index)

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SOI MESSAGE - 16 OCTOBER 1996

SOI (a) AVERAGES / PHASE		
July 96	*	+ 6.7
August 96	*	+ 5.3
September 96	*	+ 6.2

Last 30 days		+ 9.0
Last 90 days (b)		+ 5.7

SOI trend (b) during August - September 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 Bureau of Meteorology indicates that easterly winds have restrengthened again in the equatorial Pacific, suggesting maintenance of current conditions for the medium term.

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

Research at the Bureau of Meteorology into sea-surface temperature and SOI patterns suggests a high probability of an early start to the northern Australian wet season this year.

The average SOI over the last 30 days has risen to +9.0 . However the climate outlook remains unchanged, with the probabilities of receiving average rainfall over the next three months about 65%.

THE BOTTOM LINE

REVIEW OF CLIMATIC FORECASTS AND INFORMATION

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

Probabilities of receiving median rainfall are mostly about 65% in Queensland and NSW. Exceptions are the north-eastern quarter of Qld and central northern NSW, where probabilities are about 70%; in eastern parts of southern Queensland, and also Victoria, the probabilities are about 60%.

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 6-in-10 years to 7-in-10 years, with some variation from one location to another.

The next passage of the 30- to 50-day Oscillation is due in the first week of November.

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 MESSAGE update will be on the 23rd 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) 584 400, 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