



## SOI MESSAGE - 26 MARCH 1997

### (a) AVERAGES / PHASE

umber 96	* +7.3
ary 97	* +3.5
ary 97	* +12.4
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30 days	- 2.1
90 days (b)	+ 5.2

trend during January - February was Phase 4 (i.e. rapidly rising \*) .

(a) SOI values calculated using mean bi-monthly pressures from 1850 to 1992, subject to revisions by Bureau of Meteorology.  
\* Preliminary value \*\* Revised value

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

### W OF CLIMATIC FORECASTS AND INFORMATION

#### ANGE TO CLIMATE OUTLOOK

sects remain little changed for the March to May of the 'SOI phase analysis' system within AN RAINMAN shows most of Queensland and 0% chance of receiving median rain for the next . Exceptions to this are the northern coast and in Cape York Peninsula, and the southern coastal W where the probabilities are higher at 60%-80%. ections of south-eastern Queensland and northern have a 30%-40% chance of receiving their median s time of year.

red appraisal of various international climate centres is that the outlook beyond the next three certain. There is no guarantee that the improved itions, which have arisen over the last six months.

Sea-surface temperatures in the central equatorial Pacific Ocean are now warmer than normal. In the eastern equatorial Pacific the temperature of surface waters is still cooler than normal, but recent measurements suggest that it is warming rapidly i.e. the La Niña phase is on the wane.

Warmer-than-normal SST's have largely dissipated in the western Pacific. SST's are warmer than normal in a large band across central and eastern parts of the southern Pacific Ocean, including the region adjacent to the Chilean coast.

An interesting feature, identified by Bureau of Meteorology Research Centre, is a region of warmer-than-normal water (at 150m depth) that appears to be slowly progressing eastwards into the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. We emphasize the importance of carefully monitoring this sub-surface pattern over the next two months, for any further signs of deleterious effects on our climate patterns.

*The average SOI over the previous 30 days has fallen strongly over the last two weeks to -2.1. This, together with other indicators, is cause for some concern at this time of year.*

**THE BOTTOM LINE**

The rising SOI trend in January - February indicates that generally there is a low probability of unusually early or unusually late frosts this winter. However, there is a low probability of an early start to the frost season in the Goodwin district. This assessment will be updated at the end of May.

The next passage of the 30- to 50-day oscillation is due during the first two weeks of APRIL.

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/longpd/>, and also on BOM's fax and Internet information services.

**NEXT UPDATE of the SOI MESSAGE: 2 April**

### ate Impacts and Spatial Systems - Department of Primary Industries Compiled by Col Paull and Dr Roger Stone - QDPI

ould like any further information, please contact Col Paull on (07) 389 0587, or one of the Climate Ordinator located at Longreach (07) 584 400, Charters Towers (07) 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