



## SOI MESSAGE - 2 April 1997

### (a) AVERAGES / PHASE

January 97	+3.5
January 97	+12.4
January 97	-7.0
30 days	-10.7
90 days (b)	+2.4

Trend during February-March was Phase 3 (i.e. rapidly falling).

(a) SOI values calculated using mean hemispheric 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.

### WORK OF CLIMATIC FORECASTS AND INFORMATION

#### CLIMATE PATTERN

The average SOI over the previous 30 days at the end of February and deterioration in the sea-surface temperature patterns in the Pacific Ocean are causing

However, use of the 'SOI Phase Analysis' system AUSTRALIAN RAINMAN shows most of eastern a 50% chance of receiving median rain during the period.

this are the tropical north coast and northern Cape la, parts of the central west, coastal districts and from Rockhampton to Nambour, sections of the western and parts of the Central highlands where there are about 50%. Conversely, parts of the eastern Granite Belt, Brisbane district, central and southern and western Victoria have probabilities of about

months is uncertain. There is no guarantee that the improved seasonal conditions, which have arisen over the last six months, will continue.

Sea-surface temperatures are continuing to warm in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. They have cooled rapidly in the Coral Sea and over the western Pacific. In addition, the average wind direction in northern Australia is now westerly.

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 not a low probability of an early start to the frost season in the Goondiwindi district. This assessment will be updated at the end of May.

*The average SOI over the previous 30 days has fallen rapidly to -10.7. Thus the chance of obtaining 'average' rainfall during the April-June period is now about 30% for some areas of the state, especially parts of the south-east and the central west.*

### THE BOTTOM LINE

Based on statistical analysis, the next passage of the 30- to 60-day oscillation is expected 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/longpdk/>, and also on BoM's fax and Internet information services.

**NEXT UPDATE of the SOI MESSAGE: 9 April**

red appraisal of various international climate centres is that the outlook beyond the next three

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Some information courtesy Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, USA