



## SOI MESSAGE - 18 June 1997

### (a) AVERAGES / PHASE

1997	* -7.0
1997	* -14.4
1997	* -18.7
30 days	-33.1
90 days (a)	-20.5

SOI trend<sup>(b)</sup> during April - May was Phase 1 (i.e. negative  $\nabla$ ).

(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.

### WARNING OF CLIMATIC FORECASTS AND INFORMATION

**ALERT**  
Strongly negative SOI values, and the deterioration in the sea-surface temperature in the Pacific Ocean, indicate a high of below average rainfall in many districts Australia for the remainder of 1997. An El Niño is expected during the fourth week of June.

Yearly seasonal forecast systems are indicating that regions have low probabilities of median or 'average' rainfall during the spring and summer. However, it is important that these regions will not necessarily miss rainfall events.

For more detailed information for your region, we recommend combined use of the IAN RAINMAN package and the Bureau of Meteorology's Seasonal Climate Outlook. Also additional information is available on our SOI website, and on our Internet World Wide Web.

service. 'The Long Paddock', at URL: <http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/longpdk/>. More detailed information is also available on BoM's fax and Internet information services, particularly the BMRC climate site on the World Wide Web.

DMRC advises that sea-surface temperatures are continuing to warm in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. They have cooled in the Coral Sea and over the western Pacific.

While the El Niño pattern reduces prospects for 'average' winter rainfall, warmer-than-normal sea-surface temperatures in the north-eastern Indian Ocean will help in the development of northwest cloudbands. These may produce a little relief rainfall in southern and central inland areas of Queensland.

*The average SOI over the last 30 days was -33.1. The probabilities of obtaining 'average' rainfall during the June - August period range from about 10% to 30% over most of southern and central Queensland.*

### THE BOTTOM LINE

The next passage of the 30- to 50-day oscillation is expected during the fourth week of June.

The consistently negative SOI Phase during April-May indicates a higher probability than normal of late-season frost in some areas. The chances of severe late frosts are greater in southern inland regions of Qld and northern inland districts of NSW.

In the current situation we recommend implementation of drought contingency plans, and caution when making property management decisions. We also advise regular monitoring of the SOI, sea-surface temperature patterns and published seasonal climate outlooks.

**NEXT UPDATE of the SOIMESSAGE: 25 June**

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