



SOI FAX HOTLINES

(Southern Oscillation Index)

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this page is updated each Wednesday, usually by 5pm



SOI MESSAGE - 25 June 1997

SOI (a) AVERAGES / PHASE		
March 97	*	-7.0
April 97	*	-14.4
May 97	*	-18.7

Last 30 days		- 29.1
Last 90 days (b)		- 19.8

SOI trend (b) during April - May was Phase 1 (i.e. negative ▼) .		
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.		

REVIEW OF CLIMATIC FORECASTS AND INFORMATION

“EL NIÑO ALERT”

An El Niño has now developed in the Pacific Ocean. In summary, seasonal forecast systems are indicating that many regions have low probabilities of receiving ‘median’ or ‘average’ rainfall during the winter, spring and summer. However, it is important to realize that these regions will not necessarily miss out on all rainfall events.

To obtain more detailed 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 SOI Fax Hotlines, 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.

BMRC 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.

Another factor operating this year is that the sub-tropical Arid zone is further south than normal. This is likely to reduce the effects of the El Niño a little on the far north tropical coast, the central NSW coast, sections of an area running from the Central Highlands to Goondiwindi, and sections of central inland northern NSW.

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

The average SOI over the last 30 days was -29.1. 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 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 SOI MESSAGE: 2 July

Climate Impacts and Spatial Systems - Department of Primary Industries

Compiled by Col Paull and Dr Roger Stone, QDPI.

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) 584 418 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