



SOI FAX HOTLINES

(Southern Oscillation Index)

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this page is updated each Wednesday, usually by 5pm



SOI MESSAGE - 12 November 1997

SOI (a) AVERAGES / PHASE		
August 97	*	-18.7
September 97	*	-14.1
October 97	*	-17.4

Last 30 days		-18.8
Last 90 days (b)		-17.1

SOI trend (b) during September - October was Phase 1 (i.e. consistently 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”

It should be noted that while climate forecasts indicate a high probability of below average rainfall in some areas, this does not mean that they will miss out on all rainfall events.

The probabilities of getting median rainfall for the November - January period are low (20-30%) in north-east Queensland, and parts of central Queensland, central and northern Burnett and coastal south-east Qld. They are higher in the remainder of the State.

In NSW the probabilities range from 30% to 50%. However, in Victoria they are around 50% except for parts of eastern Victoria where they are about 35%.

There is a very high probability of a late start to the wet season in North Queensland this year.

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 <http://www.dnr.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. There is now a large pool of cooler-than-normal water in the south-western Pacific Ocean, which is typical of an El Niño pattern.

While a passage of the 30- to 50-day Oscillation was expected in the second week of November, its current position is uncertain.

A crop simulation model for the Darling Downs shows favourable prospects for a reasonable sorghum crop, especially where there are good soil moisture reserves. Higher yields are more likely with later planted crops (ie mid - December)

The average SOI over the previous 30 days was -18.8. The probabilities of obtaining 'average' rainfall during the November - January period are low in north-east Queensland (20-30%), and higher in most of the remainder of the State.

THE BOTTOM LINE

In the current situation we recommend implementation of drought contingency plans, particularly in north-east Queensland, 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:
19th November 97

Climate Impacts and Grazing Systems - Department of Natural Resources

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