DNR/DPI SEASONAL CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICE

SOI FAX HOTLINES

(Southern Oscillation Index)

this page = 1902 935 301

this page is updated each Wednesday, usually by 5pm

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW FAX NUMBER !!

SOI MESSAGE - 17 June 1998

SOI [a] AVERAGES / PHASE		
March 98	*	--26.1
April 98	*	--22.5
May 98	*	--0.4
Last 30 days		+1.2
Last 90 days [b]		-11.1

SOI trend [b] during April - May was Phase 4 (i.e. rising ➚).

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

Use of the AUSTRALIAN RAINMAN package indicates that the probabilities of exceeding median rainfall during the June-August period are around 50% in most of Queensland and much of NSW. However, the probabilities are 60-70% in most of the wheat-growing areas of southern Queensland, NSW and Victoria. That is, median rainfall or better can be expected in about two years in three years.

Wheat production models indicate high probabilities of above average yield potential in all major production areas of Australia. This requires optimum management (adequate fertiliser, pest and disease management). Producers should also be aware of the risk of waterlogging on susceptible areas.

It is important to note that equatorial sea-surface temperatures have continued to cool around the International Dateline and in the central Pacific Ocean. However, waters remain warmer than normal in the far eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

Extremely high April rainfall over much of Queensland has produced high probabilities of above average pasture growth during the May to July period. In such areas, temperature is likely to be the main limitation to pasture growth.

The next passage of the 30- to 50-day Oscillation is expected about the fourth week of July.

The April-May SOI Phase indicates that there is low probability of late, damaging frosts this year.

The 'Average SOI over the previous 30 days' was +1.2 . The probabilities of exceeding median rainfall for the June - August period are about 50% for most of Queensland, and 65% for wheat-growing areas of southern Queensland, NSW and Victoria.

THE BOTTOM LINE

We advise regular monitoring of the SOI, sea-surface temperature patterns and published seasonal climate outlooks over the next two months.

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, our Internet World Wide Web service called 'The Long Paddock', and on BoM's fax and Internet information services.

NEXT UPDATE of the SOI MESSAGE:
24th June 1998

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