



# SOI FAX HOTLINES

(Southern Oscillation Index)

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this page is updated each Wednesday, usually by 5pm

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW FAX NUMBER !!



## SOI MESSAGE - 29 July 1998

SOI (a) AVERAGES / PHASE		
April 98	*	- 22.5
May 98	*	- 0.4
June 98	*	+ 8.2
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Last 30 days		+ 12.8
Last 90 days (b)		+ 6.7
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SOI trend (b) during May - June 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.		

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 from the International Dateline to the eastern Pacific Ocean. However, waters remain warmer than normal in the extreme eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.

Our pasture production model indicates that above-average growth is likely over the July-September period. However, growth of tropical grasses during the winter months is usually low due to temperature, nutrient and moisture constraints.

*The average SOI over the last 30 days was +12.8 . The probabilities of exceeding median rainfall for the August-October period are about 60% to 80% for most districts in the eastern half of Australia.*

**THE BOTTOM LINE**

### REVIEW OF CLIMATIC FORECASTS AND INFORMATION

Most climatic indicators suggest continuing improvement in the rainfall outlook.

Assuming a positive SOI trend in June-July, use of the AUSTRALIAN RAINMAN package indicates that the probabilities of exceeding median rainfall during the August-October period are mostly around 60-80% in the eastern half of Australia. The main exceptions are coastal districts from Gympie in Queensland to far eastern Victoria where the probabilities are 50-60%.

Some USA agencies are predicting the development of a La Nina (above average rainfall) pattern this year. Such a development would probably result in reduced rainfall for our trade competitors in south-western USA, Argentina and central Asia.

Wheat production models indicate high probabilities of above average yield potential in

The next passage of the 30- to 50-day Oscillation is expected about the end of August.

The April-May SOI Phase indicates that there is generally a low probability of late, damaging frosts 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, 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:  
5th August 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 extension officers at the DPI in Charters Towers, Emerald, Gympie, Kingaroy, Longreach, Mackay, Mareeba, Roma and Toowoomba.

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