



# SOI FAX HOTLINES

(Southern Oscillation Index)

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this page is updated each Wednesday, usually by 5pm



## SOI MESSAGE - 2 June 1999

SOI (a) AVERAGES / PHASE		
March 99	*	+7.6
April 99	*	+16.8
May 99	*	+ 0.9
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Last 30 days		+ 2.4
Last 90 days (b)		+ 7.5
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SOI trend (b) during April-May was Phase 3 (i.e. falling ▲).		
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.		

coastline of Australia.

Rainfall prospects over the winter cropping areas of central and southern Queensland are mostly average. The SOI Phase at the end of May indicates that frosts (-2 degrees C in the screen) can be expected to be late in the winter-cropping season around Moree and slightly late in winter-cropping areas of southern and central Queensland. However, the frost risk is generally very low as lack of rain has prevented widespread early plantings. Burning wheat stubble before planting this year's crop may be necessary to control yellow spot.

The likelihood of above-average pasture growth during the May-July period is low for much of Queensland, as pasture growth has already reached its potential in many regions. However, recent rainfall has enhanced prospects for pasture growth in parts of central-western and southern Queensland.

*The average SOI over the last 30 days was +2.4. The chances of obtaining above median rainfall for the June-August period have dropped to 20-30% for some regions of southern Queensland and northern NSW. However, the chances of receiving smaller (but useful) falls remains higher in these regions. For Central Queensland, the probabilities of receiving above average rainfall remains at 50-70%.*

**THE BOTTOM LINE**

### REVIEW OF CLIMATIC FORECASTS AND INFORMATION

The chances of obtaining above median rainfall for the June-August period have dropped to 20-30% for some regions of southern Queensland and northern NSW. However, the chances of receiving smaller (but useful) falls remains higher in these regions. For Central Queensland, the probabilities of receiving above average rainfall remains at 50-70%. Probabilities are 60-70% in parts of coastal districts of NSW and eastern Victoria, while they are 20-40% in much of inland NSW, and 30-40% in much of central and western Victoria and northern Tasmania.

A 'weakened' La Niña pattern continues in the Pacific Ocean. In general terms, such a pattern means reduced rainfall for our trade competitors in south-western USA, Argentina and central Asia.

Colder-than-normal, equatorial sea-surface temperatures are now present from around the International Dateline to the far eastern Pacific Ocean. In addition, temperatures are warmer than normal in waters off most of the eastern

The next passage of the 30- to 50-day Oscillation is due about the middle of June.

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:**  
**9th June 1999**

**Climate Impacts and Natural Resource 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*