

THE SPRING FORECAST

FOR CENTRAL VICTORIA 2007

Predicted by Kevin Long as at 29/8/2007 ph. 03 5441 2394

Due to the recent sea temperature developments it now appears as though we have observed the peak of this current weak La-Nina cycle. The month of May gave us twice the average rainfall but since then the climate conditions have been generally drying out.

The May rainfall peak was an earlier and briefer peak period than I had expected. We can blame the intensifying, "Chinese brown cloud" for that. Otherwise known as the "Chinese Effect". The below average sea temperatures that now dominant in most areas around Australia are the first indication of the next El-Nino system now gaining strength.

Consequently for this spring, and most likely for the next 18 months, I expect the rainfall in eastern Australia to continue to be below average. It now appears we have entered a 60 year period, of predominantly drought conditions.

This spring we can expect weak low pressure systems and weak cold fronts caused by sustained below-average Ocean temperatures, between the southern tip of Africa and Tasmania. The resultant systems will be too weak to produce significant rainfall north of the Great Dividing Range, particularly in the Coliban and Campaspe Catchments. (Coliban Water "take note").

The ocean temperatures west of Broome still lack the above average temperature required to develop significant jet stream moisture flows that we need to enhance the spring rainfall.

The next MJO 5 system can be expected during early September, but these systems have remained weak this year, the passing of this system represents the best chance for some early Spring rain, maybe 20mm, if we are lucky!

Generally conditions at this stage seem unlikely to produce significant rain during September and October. Frost damage will extend well into spring again this season with a dominance of slow moving High Pressure Cells. November, and December thunderstorms will yield less than average rain.

I now believe, the dry scene will continue with periods spanning many weeks with little rain, once again. There will be, less than average, water, grain, and hay harvested again this season in this district.

The inflows for the Coliban Reservoirs will be well below average this year and most likely **less next year**. Eppalock reservoir will be lucky to get much more than the 12,000ML it has already received.

Which amounts to **only 5% of average inflow** so far this season.

It now appears my early rainfall prediction "80% average rain for the second half of this year" will not be reached.

Below is an extract from my last year's spring forecast, as you will see nothing much has changed.

"Strong indicators are now apparent that next year's rains will again be very much below average.

Consequently there will be very little irrigation water, **replenished for next season**. We are using our last drops!

I predict there will be less than 10% allocation available across Central Victoria during the season 2007 / 2008.

Central Victorian cities and towns will be starved of surface water, till most likely the spring of 2008.

There is a very high risk there will be little or no inflow to Eildon or Waranga next winter to provide water for the **Super high cost pipeline** for Bendigo **next year**. "Yep" another Coliban blunder coming up.

100 million dollars being spent to connect one very empty reservoir system, to a second, very empty reservoir system, while they watch another year's supply of storm water (10,000ML) rush off down the Bendigo Creek, yet again, **shame on the Bracks system. Bore water will become liquid gold for the next season, our only salvation."**

This year we are going to produce thousands of tons of greenhouse gasses and cause more global warming by pumping water from Waranga channel to Bendigo. This is so Coliban irrigators can get more water despite the fact that the Coliban system will have available at least 8,000ML more water than last year. This is due to the recent inflows of 15,000ML plus the new recycled water supply, supplying 4,000ML throughout the year, plus 7000ML of reserves left over from last year. Let's not worry about Murray irrigators with only 5% allocation to grow our food!

Shame on the Brumby system. Robbing Peter to pay Paul yet again.

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