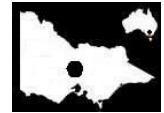


THE WINTER FORECAST

FOR CENTRAL VICTORIA 2008



As predicted by Kevin Long ph. 5441 2394 25-5-2008

During April and May cold water anomalies intensified across the northern area of the Indian Ocean, effectively shutting down the North West Jetstream moisture flows to us. Last year those moist Jetstream flows yielded the best Autumn break we had for many years.

The southern hemisphere seas have become benign and inactive in recent months. They currently lack the contrast of above and below average sea surface temperatures, that are needed to promote the strong moist weather systems.

In the past conditions like these have usually produced below average rains in eastern Australia.

The ocean temperatures south of Australia and west of Perth have warmed a little, during recent months. These small warmer areas should promote some stronger low pressure systems during June and July. This Winter the southern cold fronts and low pressure systems will be the main drivers of our winter rains. However, without the moist Jetstream support from the north east or the north west, only 50% average winter rain can be expected during this Winter.

The sea temperatures in the east of the Pacific, have been warming in recent months, indicating the end of the La Nina phase is drawing near. This means we are now entering the dryer part of the climate cycle.

The below average Autumn rain we received recently is the result of a cold water belt stretching from New Guinea to Gippsland combined with the strongest "Chinese Effect" I have observed. (Refer to separate page on "The Chinese Effect" available from my website below.) **Climate change is gaining strength!**

The current La Nina phase is the fourth consecutive La Nina phase to fail to deliver above average rain for us. Never before have we observed four in a row failing!

The Southern Oscillation Index thirty day average (SOI), peaked in early March at +20 for a few days. Since then a steady decline has been observed. It looks as though -10 will be reached during June. The month of June should produce about 40mm of rain with the MJO in phase 5 mid month.

Due to the early signs of the next El Niño now showing up, together with the very low rain totals to date, I now believe that my earlier estimate of 80% of average rain for this year will not be realized. I therefore have to refine that estimate down to 60 % of the long term average with a large % of that rain, falling in the last two months of this year.

The growing season will be a short one, with a high risk of below average crop yields and some crops failing. This is due to the intense **"Chinese Effect" now developed.** This system has been one of the main forces reducing our average Autumn Winter and Spring rain totals by 40% during the last 15 years.

The dry condition of the sub-soils, the predominantly light misty rain events that have become the norm during recent winters, and the empty reservoirs created by the current **unsustainable water management policies**, collectively have placed us all at crisis point. "Crunch time is with us now!"

These accumulating conditions will most likely result in less than 20% of the longterm average inflows again this year! This will result in minimal irrigation allocations again this coming season.

Coliban Water and G-MWater take note !!! Your mistakes and your failure to promote the appropriate changes to the allocations system so as to cope with climate and catchment change are costing us all dearly now.

May the best of the remaining rain fall on you. Kevin Long.

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