

THE AUTUMN FORECAST **FOR CENTRAL VICTORIA 2010**



As predicted by Kevin Long ph. 03 5441 2394 18.2.2010

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF THE GLOBAL CLIMATE DRIVERS

During the first 2 months of this year the El Nino part of our climate cycle has been drawing to a close. The first signs of the next La Nina cycle are now showing up in the eastern Pacific.

The current Sea Surface Temperature anomalies around Australia are fairly similar to what they were in 2003, and so far this year the rainfall in Central Victoria has also been similar to 2003.

For the first time since 2003, a large area of below-average sea surface temperatures has developed to the north of New Guinea. This is one of the fundamental reasons why the east coast of Australia has had above average rainfall during the last few months. I believe this is one of the positive effects of the Global Economic Downturn i.e. that pollution causing **The Chinese Effect has been suppressed during the last 8 months.**

(See more details of The Chinese Effect at: www.thelongview.com.au)

The **Indian Ocean Dipole** remains in a condition that is not conducive to producing above-average moisture feeds from the North West. I expect this condition will not change significantly during Autumn.

(See the Current Sea Surface Temperature map via the "Links" page on my website to monitor the changes.)

The sea temperature at 400 meter depth to the North of New Guinea has also been cooling for the last year. This area of sea is the "beating heart" of our climate and imparts a controlling influence on the other major systems. The knock-on effect is that the surface temperature in that area has also dropped enough to create a block to cut off the northward flow of heat and moisture from Australia. This northward flow has been a dominant feature in recent years, contributing to reduced rainfall. In the past, this area north of New Guinea has only stayed cool for about 18 months, so I expect to see it warming again in late Winter.

The presence of this cooler water is the best indicator of a good season developing for us.

But it also means by late Spring that it is likely to be warming again, thus reducing the late Spring rainfall.

The present extensive build up of above-average Sea Surface Temperatures along the east coast of Australia and to the east of New Zealand can also be linked to this phenomenon. Which has resulted in good Summer rains for QLD and NSW.

These warm anomalies will be good promoters for above-average rains during Autumn in Central Victoria.

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The "18 year flood cycle" is due during 2010/11. Currently there are a number of positive signs which indicate that the climate drivers are aligning themselves to give us the best Autumn / Winter season since 1996.

With this foremost in mind, I predict that most of our Autumn rain will be delivered to us from the northeast this season, with our best Autumn rains falling during April and May. This will result in most of Central Victoria receiving above-average rains during Autumn, which will mean a good early break for the growing season. Regular light misty rains should continue during Winter, producing the best winter stock feed since 1996.

In this time of changing climate we need several months of 150% or greater of average rainfall to achieve reasonable runoff. Given this requirement, the Loddon, Coliban and Campaspe systems are likely to achieve only 30% allocation this coming irrigation season. The Eildon and Murray irrigation systems should have their best year for many years, delivering allocation levels of approximately 85% by the end of the season.

My tip for this year's total rainfall is :

Victoria generally should have received about 110% of the long-term average by year's end.

May the best of the rain, fall on your land when you need it.

Cheers for now, from Kevin @TheLongView.com.au

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