

# THE WINTER FORECAST

## FOR MURRAY DARLING BASIN 2014

As predicted by Kevin Long 23-5-2014 ph (03) 5441 2394



### THIS IS A GENERAL FORECAST WRITTEN FOR CENTRAL VICTORIA

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### RECENT PLANETARY INFLUENCES GAVE BRIEF RAIN BOOST

The first two months of Autumn were good examples of the surprisingly large influence that close planets can have on the Murray Darling Basin's weather patterns. During that time, numerous high-intensity rain events were produced along the entire length of the Great Dividing Range, including most of SA. These very active rain systems were fed by the late development of the monsoon season, including cyclone activity that travelled all the way to Victoria. The monsoon season had been very inactive and generally dry up until the closest cluster of planets for many decades came into effect (involving Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, and Saturn). Many regions during this brief planetary peak received up to 300% of their monthly average rainfall, Coober Pedy recorded 161mm during April, most of that fall in just two days (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>) which exceeded their yearly average.

### BEST AUTUMN BREAK FOR DECADES WILL BE SHORT LIVED

The extent of this widespread above-average rain during early Autumn was very surprising given the very cool sea surfaces that have dominated most of the southern, eastern and northern coastal regions this year. During May a further cooling of these sea surfaces has occurred. Furthermore the planetary and lunar influences are now moving rapidly towards a low point that will span most of this Winter and Spring. A stable, "blocking high" weather system has settled in and has dominated most of May already. The continuation of this anomaly threatens to block out most of the late-Autumn and early-Winter rainfall which is due to develop during the peak of the Southern Lunar Air Tide (31<sup>st</sup> May).

**It appears several dry weather drivers will be combining forces during this Winter and Spring, resulting in a very much below-average finish to this year's growing season.**

### RECORD HIGH ANTARCTIC SEA ICE CONTINUES – ANOTHER RAIN-DIMINISHING FORCE

Last October smashed all previous Antarctic sea ice records and this 34-year increasing trend has continued into this year with new daily maximum records being set for the majority of this year so far. It should be noted that during the last 34 years, most of the below-average rainfall years coincided with above-average sea ice years. Going hand-in-hand with this long-term sea ice growth, the average MDB rainfall has suffered a general progressive decline of 25-30%. These declining trends are destined to continue for another 30 years.

### EL NINO DEVELOPING

The forecast that I released late last year which predicted the return of El Nino conditions during the second half of this year looks like it will be very close to the mark. **All the indicators that I know of are now pointing to a slowly developing, long-lasting event impacting the next two growing seasons.** This will mean well below-average rainfall and stream flows during the life of this climate anomaly. This will place most irrigators under great hardship once more with reduced allocations in most regions. Furthermore, for many other compounding reasons, I warn of the imminent collapse of many of the MDB irrigation systems within this decade.

### THE FORECAST IN BRIEF: Blocking high to steal away most of the early Winter rainfall.

- The peak of the Southern Lunar Air Tides will be centered around 31<sup>st</sup> of May with a second and smaller peak occurring again 28 days later. These are the only two high cosmic energy periods for this Winter.
- At present, a large area of cool sea covering most of the critical regions around Australia threatens to minimize most of the Winter and Spring rain systems.
- Only the occasional low pressure or cold front system is likely to deliver productive rain after July.
- I forecast only about 50% average rainfall this Winter and Spring as a result of mostly patchy small rain events which means irrigation or stored subsoil moisture is going to have to supply most of the plant moisture.

I wish you all the best for what I believe will be a very challenging year for most weather-reliant farmers.

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