

THE SUMMER FORECAST

FOR MURRAY DARLING BASIN 2014/15



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THIS IS A GENERAL FORECAST WRITTEN FOR THE LOWER MURRAY DARLING BASIN REGIONS

More specific and detailed forecasts for other regions - supported with regular email updates - are available through my subscription forecast service. See details on the home page of : www.thelongview.com.au

ANTARCTIC "SEA ICE EXTENT" SETS NEW MAXIMUM RECORDS AGAIN THIS YEAR

I will start by again drawing attention to the continued rapid growth of global sea ice which has been occurring since 2012. I believe this reversal of the recent trends to be a very important indicator of future climate change trends. Reducing solar radiation is the key driver behind this global cooling indicator and persistent declining average rainfall trends. During 2014 new higher Antarctic sea ice records were set again - smashing most of the high monthly records that were set during 2013. This embedded Antarctic sea ice growth trends of recent decades is now showing up in the Arctic, with a massive 50% more sea ice left at the end of the last two Summers compared to the record lows of 2012. I believe these higher sea ice averages will soon become widely accepted as one of the dominant drivers of Australia's developing Mega-Drought cycle. Australia's average rainfall records show good correlations with the Antarctic sea ice trends (i.e. years with increasing sea ice go hand-in-hand with below-average rainfall and heavier late season frosts).

EI NINO DEVELOPMENT

The cool seas that have been dominating most coastal regions around Australia over the last 15 months have changed little during the last few months. Furthermore, other indicators show El Nino to be maintaining its current strength. This overall situation gives little chance that the inland north-east regions will have a good "Top End wet" this Summer. The next lunar standstill will be occurring during Oct 2015. I have observed the strongest El Nino cycles typically develop close to the standstill periods. Therefore I forecast this Summer will be very hot and dry for all regions of the MDB.

THE PEAK OF THE LUNAR AIR TIDE HAS PASSED ... BUT MAY PROVIDE MORE RAIN IN LATE JANUARY

The peak of the Northeast Air Tides occurred in late Spring (24th Nov 2014) delivering storms and little rain across most MDB regions - except for north central Victoria which received the best of the rain events and storms towards the end of Spring. The next (weaker) Northeast Air Tide surge will occur in the week before Christmas but I forecast little chance of wide spread rains developing due to the present very dry state of Australia.

The following air tide surge due in mid-January would normally be far too weak to trigger a major rain event, but luckily this Summer many of the air tides will be strengthened by the January passage of Jupiter. Late January has the best chance of producing the heaviest general rains this Summer, but no guarantees. The strongest cyclones are also likely at that time. Therefore I forecast only a short monsoon season, very quickly settling down again soon after the end of January. The drier transition phase of the air tide cycle will cause below-average rains from late February to early April.

For more details, see my document "LUNAR AIR TIDE CYCLE EXPLAINED". Available at: www.thelongview.com.au

THE 2015 AUTUMN BREAK AND BEYOND

The Autumn break will be much shorter and not as wet as 2014 was for most regions. The break will be kicked off by the first stronger surges of the Southern Air Tides during mid-April. The strongest southern air tides will occur during mid-May, helped along by the passage of Mercury and Saturn later that month. Consequently, I forecast mid to late-May will produce the heaviest general rains of the Autumn period. The heaviest of those rains are most likely to fall across southern SA and the southern regions of Victoria, including south eastern NSW.

The third productive surge of the Southern Air Tide will come through during mid-June. This represents the last chance to consolidate the Autumn break. The following Winter months and early Spring will be affected by the next dry transition phase of the air tide cycle, similar to 2014. Late winter there will be a chance of better rains due to the passage of Venus.

Consequently there will be a very high risk that most regions of the MDB will again fail to get enough rain during the critical Spring period to grow profitable crops. Furthermore, inflows to dams and reservoirs will also be well below average.

THE SUMMER FORECAST **In brief: Best rains during mid-Dec and mid-to-late Jan.**

I warn of a generally hot dry windy Summer to be followed by a short Autumn break (as described in the section above). Average rains in early and late Winter. Below-average rains and high frost risk setting in again during early Spring. The long term forecast for the Lower Murray Darling Basin regions is for generally dry conditions for the majority of 2015, with mostly small rainfall events that will struggle to accumulate 60% of average rainfall by Christmas.

I wish you all the best for what I believe will be an El Nino affected year with few decent rain events to work with.

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