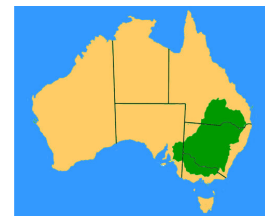


AUTUMN FORECAST

FOR MURRAY DARLING BASIN 2015

As predicted by Kevin Long (Bendigo VIC) 20th Feb 2015 ph (03) 5441 2394



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

EI NINO CONTINUES TO LOSE STRENGTH AND IMPROVES THE CHANCE OF A BETTER SEASON

The cool seas that have dominated most northern coastal regions around Australia during the last 15 months have warmed significantly during the last few weeks. Recently these warmer sea surface temperatures have allowed the first cyclones of this season to develop. Furthermore, several other indicators show the recent El Nino effects are about to become much weaker. This overall situation gives rise to improving chances for the inland regions of the MDB to have a good start to the coming growing season.

ANTARCTIC "SEA ICE EXTENT" IS STILL MAINTAINING NEAR-RECORD HIGH LEVELS

36 years of satellite records show that all previous "high Antarctic sea ice periods" have only lasted for 1 to 2 years. At present we are entering the fourth year of near-record sea ice, at a time when normally well below-average levels would be typical. I forecast lower sea ice levels will be observed during this year due to the warming effects of the recent very weak solar cycle that peaked in late 2014. Furthermore, during the last four years global sea ice has maintained average to well above-average levels. This all points to significant global cooling in the near future as solar activity naturally reduces after its 2014 peak.

THE SOUTHERN LUNAR AIR TIDES WILL PEAK DURING MID-MAY THIS YEAR

A dry start to Autumn is forecast due to the drying effects of the lunar air tide "transition phase" impacting February and March. Then in mid-April the first surges of the Southern Air Tide should help to produce average rainfall across the southern regions of Australia. At the air tide cycle peak during mid-May I forecast above-average rains, with good follow up rains again during early to mid June.

(For more details, read "LUNAR AIR TIDE CYCLE EXPLAINED" from "Supporting Documents" on my website.)

THE AUTUMN BREAK AND BEYOND

The Autumn break will start later and not be as wet as the 2014 season was for most regions. As mentioned above, the break will be enhanced by the Southern Air Tides system centering around mid-May. In late-May a further short enhancement is likely - driven by the passage of Mercury and Saturn. Therefore I forecast mid to late May will produce the heaviest general rains of the growing season. The heaviest of those rains are most likely to fall across southern SA, the southern regions of Victoria and southeast NSW.

The third and final 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 Lunar air tide cycle. During late Winter there will be a short opportunity for better rains as Venus passes Earth.

Due to the very weak solar, planetary and lunar forces, there will be a very high risk that most regions of the MDB will again fail to get enough rain during most of Winter and the critical early Spring period to grow profitable crops.

I warn that inflows to most dams and reservoirs will also be well below-average for the third season in a row. The unsustainably high "environmental water" releases will have all the reservoirs drained well before the next major drought arrives. This dumping of precious water started only two months after the last floods in 2012.

THE AUTUMN FORECAST **In brief: Best general rains during mid-May.**

I warn of a dry period leading into Autumn, then a good but short Autumn break, followed by a below-average Winter. In early Spring, below-average rains with higher risk of frost will be a major concern again.

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 80% of average rainfall by Christmas.

I wish you all the best for what I believe will be a slightly better year than last year for most farmers.

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