

# **THE WINTER FORECAST**

## **FOR SOUTHERN MDB REGIONS 2015**



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Detailed forecasts for other regions, supported with regular email updates are available via my subscription forecast service. See details on the home page of: [www.thelongview.com.au](http://www.thelongview.com.au)

### **RECORD HIGH ANTARCTIC “SEA ICE EXTENT” CONTINUES**

Continued rapid growth of the Antarctic sea ice has become a real concern in recent years. I believe this reversal of the recent trends to be a very important indicator and driver of future drier climatic conditions. Australia’s average rainfall trends, show strong 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).

Reducing solar radiation is the key driver behind this global cooling indicator and the declining average rainfall trends since the 1970’s. The Antarctic sea ice extent has averaged levels about 1.4 million square km above average for most of the last four years. This has never occurred in the last 35 years. Already in 2015, sixty new daily maximum records have been set. The Antarctic sea ice growth trend is now showing up in the Arctic - with a massive 50% more sea ice left at the end of the last two northern Summers compared to the record lows levels 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. (See the “Supporting Document” section of my website for more details.)

### **EL NINO DEVELOPMENT**

Cooler Sea Surface Temperature (SST) trends have been dominating most coastal regions around Australia over the last 15 months. Furthermore, other indicators are now showing El Nino has been gaining strength during recent weeks. This overall situation gives little chance of the MDB regions having a good growing season this Winter and Spring. The strongest El Nino cycles typically develop during lunar standstill years and the next standstill will be in October. Therefore I forecast the next 12 months will be very hot and dry for most Australian regions.

### **THE PEAK OF THE “SOUTHERN LUNAR AIR TIDE” HAS PASSED ...**

The peak of the Southern Air Tides occurred in late Autumn this year (19<sup>th</sup> May 2015) and delivered storms and some good rain across most MDB regions. As in 2014, the few days closest to the cycle peak gave the best Autumn rains. The third and last effective Southern Air Tide is due to enhance early-Winter rainfall during the third week of June. As most of Australia is now surrounded by below-average sea surface temperatures, I give little chance of any decent rain being forthcoming during this air tide surge. I forecast most regions of the MDB to remain very dry throughout the remainder of Winter; and that Spring frosts will be very likely to impact many frost-sensitive crops. The drier “transition phase” of the Lunar Air Tide cycle will cause below-average rains from late-June through to late-September this year.

**For more details, see my document “LUNAR AIR TIDE CYCLE EXPLAINED at: [www.thelongview.com.au](http://www.thelongview.com.au)**

### **THE 2015 AUTUMN BREAK AND BEYOND**

As I previously forecast, the Autumn break was much shorter and not as wet as in 2014 for most regions. The break was kicked off by the first strong surges of the Southern Air Tides during mid-April. The strongest Southern Air Tides occurred during mid-May, bringing on the best of the Autumn rains. Consequently, I forecast mid to late-June to be the last chance for a decent general rain for this growing season. The heaviest of these rain events are most likely to fall across southern SA, the southern regions of Victoria and the southern inland regions of NSW.

The remaining Winter months and early Spring will be affected by the next “dry transition phase” of the Lunar Air Tide, similar to Winter 2014. During late-Winter there will be a slight 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 remain dry during the critical early Spring period. Furthermore, inflows to dams and reservoirs are very likely to be the lowest for 6 years.

### **THE WINTER FORECAST**

**In brief: Best chance of reasonable rains is during the third week of June.**

I warn of well below-average Winter and early Spring rains, with frosts being heavier and continuing on into mid-Spring. The long term forecast for the MDB generally is for dry conditions for the majority of 2015, with mostly small rainfall events that will struggle to accumulate 55% 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 rainfall events to work with.

For more information: [www.TheLongView.com.au](http://www.TheLongView.com.au)