

# **THE SPRING FORECAST**

## **FOR SOUTHERN MDB REGIONS 2015**



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### **GOOD NEWS! SIGNS OF AN END TO THE CURRENT "EL NINO"**

The recent rapid reduction in Antarctic "sea ice extent" is a good sign for improving rains for early Autumn 2016. Sea ice in the last 50 days has plunged back to average levels, bringing an abrupt end to 2-3 years of "record high" trends.

### **HOWEVER ... RECENT CSIRO CLAIMS OF "LA NINA" FOR 2016 SHOULD BE TREATED VERY CAUTIOUSLY**

Recently the CSIRO and BOM both released information suggesting we will soon have a rapid swing away from the present strong El Nino (which they say is due to peak in late 2015), back "towards La Nina" by Winter 2016.

The media has spun this up as a "climate rollercoaster" and promoted a "huge La Nina" and "massive floods" for 2016. However, bear in mind that the computer predictions released by BOM only extend out to January 2016, so any predictions beyond that are likely to be wishful thinking. The CSIRO seems to be making a dangerous assumption that we will repeat the extreme swing of 1982-84 (from strong El Nino to strong La Nina). Today's weather dynamics are completely different due to many recent years of below-average sunspot activity which BOM and IPCC basically ignore.

Whilst I believe 2016 will be better than this year, **I do not believe a very strong La Nina is likely to develop in 2016.** This is due to the combined factors of (i) reducing strength of the solar sunspot cycles, and (ii) the weakening strength of the lunar and planetary cycles. Therefore, I forecast a move back towards neutral ENSO during Summer 2015 and just maybe a weak La Nina in time for Spring 2016.

A temporary decline in Antarctic ice and an expected weak La Nina in 2016 are both in line with what I have previously said will lead us into our next major drought period, from 2017 to 2023. For more details about the development of the next La Nina, I recommend you read the paper I wrote in 2014 .... **"RAPID GLOBAL COOLING FORECAST FOR 2017"** .... which is available from the "Supporting Documents" section of my website: [www.thelongview.com.au](http://www.thelongview.com.au)

### **OUR CURRENT COOL SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURES HAVE BEEN KILLING RAINFALL SYSTEMS**

A cool "sea surface cap" has been sitting over northern Australia and extending on a line down to east of New Zealand for most of the last two years. This cool sea surface condition is typical of most El Nino affected years, and hence at this stage it appears that another below-average wet season is brewing for the Top End ... the third in a row!

Well below-average sea surface temperatures (SST) have also dominated the southern oceans during the last 3 years. Hence the Great Australian Bight region has remained exceptionally cool during the last few growing seasons. This condition has been killing off the strength of the incoming cold fronts and low-pressure systems. The cold Bight waters are also helping to intensify and slow the passage of the high-pressure cells; hence the resulting rain systems are arriving at about half strength - a trend that the BOM have failed to incorporate into their forecasts.

### **THE DRY TRANSITION PHASE OF THE "LUNAR AIR TIDE CYCLE" IS ALMOST OVER**

Mid-August was the time of the weakest Lunar Air Tides this year; hence most rainfall events have only produced a few millimetres every week or so during mid-to-late Winter. From mid-September, the northeast air tides will start to become productive again and reasonable mid-October rains should fall generally over the southern regions of the MDB. Mid-November should see many regions hit again with strong thunder storms, particularly southern NSW.

### **JET STREAM MOISTURE SAVED THE SEASON FOR MANY REGIONS**

The one saving grace this year has been a warm Indian Ocean. This has promoted a steady stream of moisture flowing in across central Australia. Central NSW has received many good rain events resultant from this moisture flow. I forecast this positive rain force will continue to help to develop many strong thunder storm cells as we move into mid-late Spring.

### **THE SPRING FORECAST**

**IN BRIEF: The best chance of heaviest rains is during mid-November.**

I warn of well below-average September rains, with the risk of frost damage being higher this year than in recent years. Very little dam or reservoir filling rain is forecast. **Major water shortages are forecast for 2016 and beyond.** The unsustainable environmental releases during Winter have resulted in only about a 10% rise in stored water this year. This regime of environmental releases will have all reservoirs close to empty, well before the next drought hits.

For those cutting hay, mid-October represents the highest risk period for rain damage this Spring. Then later in mid-November there will be a very high risk of hail and rain damage for the standing cereal crops. The prediction from my Summer 2014/15 forecast still stands:

*"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 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 rainfall events to work with.

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