

THE WINTER FORECAST

FOR SOUTHERN MDB REGIONS 2016



As predicted by Kevin Long (Bendigo VIC) 1 June 2016 ph (03) 5441 2394

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GREAT NEWS THE NEXT LA NINA CYCLE HAS STARTED TO DELIVER BETTER RAINS

The rapid rise in the SOI associated with the developing La Nina anomaly during the last few weeks of Autumn has helped to deliver average rains in most southern grain belt regions of the MDB, ensuring a great start to the 2016 growing season.

THE LUNAR AND PLANETARY FORCES ARE NOW DECLINING

Having just passed through the peak of the lunar and planetary forces for this year, early 2016 has presented an excellent opportunity to observe the effects of the lunar and planetary cycles at work ...

Jan – March The cycles delivered **very dry weather with extreme fire risk**, and a few thunderstorms for the MDB.

April - June They helped to deliver a great Autumn break for most southern regions of the MDB.

July - August (mid to late Winter) They will return to predominantly drier times, due to the lunar air tide **transition phase**.

The lunar and planetary driven rain events are now due for a rapid decline as we progress through the Winter period.

LA NINA STRENGTH IS BUILDING FOR A GOOD SPRING

I predict that the developing La Nina system will be of medium strength and will be fully developed by late 2016. It will deliver above-average rains again for most MDB regions during late Spring and the early Summer period – the best seen for many years. The northern half of Australia will receive the best Spring and Summer wet season seen since 2012/13. This late growing season rain surge should enable most dryland farmers to grow their best crops since the 2012 growing season.

OTHER SEASONAL INFLUENCES IN BRIEF:

- Cooler than average sea surface temperatures in the Bight region have been maintained during Autumn. (This has been tempering the incoming rainfall systems and should continue to do so throughout Winter.)
- Recent reductions in the growth rates of the Antarctic sea ice will help drive better Spring rains.
- Jet stream moisture inflows are forecast to continue to enhance future rain events across the lower MDB.
- Early planted frost-tender crops are at very high risk of frost damage during early Spring.

GOVERNMENT- MADE WATER DISASTER LOOMS - KEVIN LONG'S MUCH REPEATED WARNING!

Due to the governments' unsustainable environmental water releases, major water shortages are forecast for this coming season and for many years to come, as we move through the lowest part of the 18.6 year lunar-driven drought cycle. These releases (which started only two months after the 2011 record floods) will now see the MDB reservoirs remain almost empty for the start of the 2016/17 irrigation season, leaving us totally reliant on each year's inflows to supply all future needs.

Throughout history, major droughts have always occurred every 18.6 years on average, which means for the next ten years there is little chance that Winter inflows will sustain more than 50% of the normal irrigation allocations.

It is my understanding that later this decade many new "lowest average rainfall records" will be set for most MDB regions. The recent environmental water reforms and the continued use of the outdated bulk water entitlements do not enable the water storage systems to buffer these dominant and predictable droughts cycles.

THE WINTER FORECAST **IN BRIEF: The best chance of heaviest and most effective rain is during early June.**

The last surges of the Southern Air Tide for this year have a good chance of enhancing the early Winter rain systems, consolidating the wonderful late Autumn break. I forecast above-average crops will be grown over most MDB regions with the help of the next La Nina anomaly.

But still again, little runoff for most dams should be expected, as mid-Winter has a high chance of delivering below-average rain once again due to the timing of the drier lunar and planetary cycles that will be dominating this Winter.

I wish you all the best for what I believe will be a La Nina-assisted year, with improving rainfall events towards the end of the growing season. Regards, Kevin Long

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