

# **THE AUTUMN FORECAST** **FOR SOUTHERN MDB REGIONS 2017**



*As predicted by Kevin Long (Bendigo VIC) 1 March 2017 ph (03)54412394*

Forecasts for your local region (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)

## **AN INTENSE CLIMATE SWING IS ABOUT TO IMPACT - STARTING WITH THE 2017 GROWING SEASON**

Last year's growing season was one of the best for many decades in most regions of the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB), as I forecast it would be early last year. But today I forecast that the 2017 growing season will be much leaner and will finish off with only about 60% of the average growing season rainfall across the majority of eastern Australia.

We are witnessing the combination of low solar radiation levels, rapid seasonal growth in Antarctic sea ice, anomalies of cool Sea Surface Temperatures (SST's) to the north, west, and south of Australia, as well as a developing El Nino. These factors will make it **very unlikely** for any major rain events to develop in the MDB this year.

## **RECORD SEA ICE FLUCTUATIONS ... THE PREDICTABLE EFFECTS OF THE RECENT ENSO CYCLES**

**My research reveals that one of the strongest drivers of the recent positive rain events in Australia was the record loss of Antarctic sea ice.** This melt commenced late in 2015 due to the warmth and moisture from the last El Nino anomaly being injected into the upper atmosphere, which has now completed its transfer into the Polar Regions, suddenly causing the largest drop in global sea-ice for 40 years. Thus, Antarctic sea ice fell from the record highs of 2015, down to new record lows during recent months (a fall of 3.5 million sq km). Such extremes, so close together, are unprecedented. Such fluctuations are clearly increasing - absolutely regardless of IPCC climate models.

For 2017, I forecast that the "sea ice growth cycle" (March-Oct), will be setting another record high for "the most sea ice grown in one season." This is in line with my predictions published in an article three years ago (Jan 2014). The article "*Rapid Global Cooling Forecast for 2017*" (available from my website "Documents" section) discusses the combined influences of the 18.6 year lunar cycle and the Bicentennial Solar Minimum sunspot cycle.

This next surge in ice growth is predicted to increase through until Spring 2019 - easily smashing the records of 2015. **Consequently a large drying force will be applied to our climate trends for the next 3 to 5 years.**

## **APPALLING MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES = GREATLY REDUCED WATER SECURITY!**

Gross mismanagement of the Dartmouth and Eildon reservoirs continued during the last Winter-Spring period. Hydro power systems were used excessively when there was no irrigation demand for the released water. This kept the Murray near flood level since early Winter and flooded the Hume Reservoir.

Most critically, the use of the hydro has left our two largest reservoirs less than 80% full - despite a record wet period.

**And due to regulatory changes ... farmers' carryover water has effectively been flushed downstream!**  
**All irrigators need to wake up to this new situation and mobilize to have the following changes implemented.**

I ADVOCATE THESE NEW POLICIES TO IMPROVE WATER SECURITY:

- (1) To never allow "open slather" use of the hydro system, unless that particular reservoir is at 95% capacity.
- (2) That all farmers carryover water is to be stored in any available reservoir space within the total system, in the same manner that one can trade water from one reservoir to another.
- (3) In a wet season any environmental allocations should be the first allocated water to be flushed down the river.

## **THE AUTUMN FORECAST**

**Only short periods of deep soil penetrating rains are forecast.**

The first surges of the southern air tides will generally fail to stimulate rain during March. The best chance of an Autumn break is during early April and early May.

A developing El Nino cycle is forecast to impact the Winter-Spring period, therefore sub-soil moisture will be very low by Spring. Crops will be totally reliant on patchy early Spring rains for grain fill. A short and early hay season is forecast, due to the drying forces of a strong El Nino by mid-Spring. Frost damage will be a much greater risk than it has been for many years, due to the cooler Indian Ocean and reduced Jet stream moisture flows.

Most of Qld will remain drought declared (presently 90%). Below-average rain for inland NSW, northern Vic and most of SA during Winter-Spring. Both southern and eastern coastal regions will receive **very good Autumn rainfall totals**, mainly due to the rain-enhancing forces of the southern air tides. Best rains close to the next four "new moon" periods. I forecast the MDB will receive about 60% of average rainfall for the year of 2017 and produce very little runoff.

I wish you all the best for the 2017 growing season. Kind regards, Kevin.

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