

THE WINTER FORECAST



FOR SOUTHERN MDB REGIONS 2018

As predicted by Kevin Long (Bendigo VIC) 1 June 2018 ph (03)54412394

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AUTUMN WRAP UP – LA NINA WEAKENED TO NEUTRAL ENSO

Cool seas dominating around most of Australia have minimised the positive effects of the weakening La Nina cycle. Cooler-than-normal sea surface temperatures (SST's) in the Bight region and to the south west continue to weaken the approaching low-pressure systems and cold fronts. Hence rainfall generally across most of inland Australia has been at record low levels. This equates to only about one-third of the rainfall, compared to this time last year. The strongest Lunar Air Tides for this growing season have only produced small rain events.

VERY LOW ANTARCTIC SEA ICE TRENDS STILL REMAIN - PRODUCING A SMALL POSITIVE EFFECT

The very fast growth surge of Antarctic ice at the beginning of Autumn was short-lived, only lasting for four weeks before a slower-than-average growth period settled in again. So far Antarctic sea ice has maintained growth rates only slightly above that of last year. I will now repeat some very important lines from my last Autumn forecast:

My research reveals that the lingering heat and high-altitude moisture left over from the very strong El Nino event of 2015-16 was the dominant cause of the recent extreme rapid loss of Antarctic sea ice. This lingering heat and moisture is expected to dissipate during Autumn and give rise to an increasing rate of sea ice growth during this Winter / Spring.

Keep in mind that years with increasing sea ice trends tend to produce drier-than-average conditions in Australia. So watch carefully the sea ice trends as these are a good indicator of future climate. A sharp and early rise in sea-ice has just begun and will be ongoing while the next El Nino cycle is building.

FIRST INDICATIONS OF THE NEXT EL NINO – DROUGHT YEARS FORECAST AHEAD

The first indications of building El Nino forces are now apparent, with warmer seas building in the eastern central Pacific, together with a dominance of cooler SST surrounding the top half of Australia. The SOI recently dropped into the negative again. However, there is also a fair chance that a very cool current (moving up the South American west coast presently) will help to stave off the development of the next El Nino event for a few more months.

LUNAR / PLANATERY / SOLAR FORCES ARE MOVING TOWARDS THEIR COMBINED LOW-ENERGY POINT

2018 is not supposed to be a record dry year according to the level of all the natural climate drivers. While the drivers are all weakening presently, none are at their lowest points yet. We still have low sea ice and a neutral ENSO which are small positive forces still in play. However, as you well know, rainfall generally over most of Australia is at record low levels since the beginning of Summer.

Things do not look good for this period through to 2021, during which time most of the climate drivers will be transitioning through their most negative and combined “low energy forces” for 200+ years. Mega-Drought is looking very likely from my understanding of the long-term climate cycles.

THE WINTER FORECAST **IN BRIEF: The dryer Lunar Air Tide “transition phase” is with us.**

JUNE *Large, slow-moving high-pressure ridges will minimise the opportunities for rain events from the south.*
JULY – AUG *Earth moves away from Jupiter but moves closer to Mars and Saturn. These are the only remaining “positive cosmic forces” available to help develop the Winter rain systems.*

Inland Australia generally will receive very few significant rains events for most of this Winter due to the dominance of cooler-than-average sea surfaces ringing Australia. This influence will be combined with the dry “transition phase” of the Lunar Air Tide Cycle and the rapidly reducing planetary forces during late Winter.

Sub-soil moisture will remain very low for the season and most crops will be almost totally reliant on patchy early-Spring rains for grain fill. A short, early and small hay season is again forecast, due to a combination of weak climate drivers continuing. The risk of damaging frosts are increasing due to the cooler southern seas and reducing Jetstream moisture flows due to continued cooling of the Indian Ocean.

I forecast the MDB generally will only receive about **40% of average rainfall** for this year and produce very little runoff.

I wish you all the best for the 2018 growing season. Kind regards, Kevin.

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