

# THE SUMMER FORECAST

## FOR SOUTHERN MDB REGIONS 2021

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### WEAK “LA NINA” FORCES HAVE HELPED DELIVER A GOOD SEASON FOR SOUTHEAST AUSTRALIA

A very good growing season for most farmers below the QLD border has been produced by the weak La Nina forces, together with some steady Jetstream flows and some positive planetary forces. However, most of QLD and northeast NSW have still suffered from moisture stress for most of the Winter and Spring.

### WEAKENING “LA NINA” FORCES AND SEVERAL DRY CLIMATE DRIVERS MAY REDUCE SUMMER RAINS

Apart from some favorable Indian Ocean conditions there are no other positive climate drivers in play before mid-Autumn to help the current La Nina system to provide the usual amount of Summer rain enhancement.

### COOL SEAS PRESENTLY DOMINANTING THE QLD COAST ARE LIKELY TO REDUCE MONSOONS EVENTS

In recent months, a cool anomaly of Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) has become dominant along the entire QLD coast line. This indicates-- below-average rain conditions will continue to dominate the northern MDB during Summer. Hence there is little chance of any strong rain-filled Cyclones making it into QLD or northern NSW during this Summer.

### LUNAR AIR TIDES WILL BE IN “THE DRYER TRANSITION PHASE”

There will be very little positive rain force being produced by the lunar cycle during this Summer while the “dryer transition phase” is active. (We have seen the back of the strongest and most positive Northeast Lunar Air Tides for 2020 they were operating best during mid-Sep and mid-Oct.) Positive rain forces from the Southern Air Tides will return again during the new moon periods of each Autumn month.

### ANTARCTIC SEA ICE HAS GROWN TO “ABOVE-AVERAGE”

Antarctic “sea ice extent” has continued to grow on trend during the last five years. In recent months, levels well above the 40-year average have been recorded once more. This represents a weak negative rain force for the months ahead.

### STRONG THUNDER STORM RISK DUE TO WARMER SEAS IN THE BIGHT

Significant warming of southern coastal waters during recent months has raised the risk of strong and damaging thunder storms during early Summer. The southern regions of Victoria and Gippsland will have the highest risk.

## THE SUMMER FORECAST

**IN BRIEF: A below-average monsoon season, little chance of strong rain-filled cyclones entering QLD.**

- Small rain events are likely close to when the new moons are crossing the equator during each Summer month.
- A cooling trend of the QLD coastal seas is likely to block and weaken any cyclones that do develop near QLD.
- Minimal cloud cover during Summer will produce **many extended heat waves** affecting large areas of Australia.
- The MDB will generally receive **below-average rainfall and well above-average Summer temperatures**.
- Dry summer conditions will put huge demands on the irrigation systems and extra water will be needed to be supplied to the permanent plantings to avoid heat stress and loss of production.
- Like last Autumn, the southeast regions are again forecast to receive good rains in late-March / early-April, thus producing another early Autumn break to commence the next growing season.
- The strongest planetary forces for 2021 will be occurring during Winter. Hence, good general rains are likely to keep falling across the MDB, making another good growing season very likely for the southern regions.

I wish you all the best for this Summer and the 2021 growing season. Kind regards, Kevin.

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