

# THE WINTER FORECAST

## FOR THE MDB REGIONS 2021

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### ONLY TWO FLOOD EVENTS DURING AUTUMN, MEANS WATER STORAGE ALARM BELLS ARE RINGING

Two concentrated rainfall events formed during the 13-24 March, which was the most effective Southern Lunar Air Tides period for 2021. (The first event near Sydney delivered well over 400mm in just a few days. The second event near Moree delivered 153mm on 22 March, which lifted the March total in that region to a massive 263mm, and produced a massive flood for the Darling River, resulting in a 60% fill of the Menindee Lakes by the end of Autumn.)

Very few other "runoff" rain events have occurred during this last La Nina event, or during the Air Tides of the last year.

During this recent La Nina (i.e. the wet phase of the ENSO cycle), high water allocations and high environmental flows were sent flooding down the rivers. This squandering of our "liquid gold" resource has reduced our MDB reservoirs to only about 65% full - which on average is little higher than they were 12 months ago, at the start of this La Nina event.

The MDB water authorities have wasted a golden opportunity to hold back valuable water reserves for use during the next dry cycle period. That next dry cycle will most likely commence this Winter, when below-average inflows to most MDB reservoirs are forecast. Hence critical water shortages are likely to impact the MDB again within 18 months.

### LA NINA FORCES ARE WEAKENING - ENSO IS NOW DECLARED NUETRAL

With the La Nina forces now weakening and the SOI averages reducing, these positive rain forces have now petered out for the foreseeable future. (Thus the declining rainfall trends of the last two months.)

The southern seas remain cooler than average, thus reducing the strength of most cold fronts and southern lows. The drier transition phase of the Lunar Air Tide cycles will also dominate the Winter period. The combination of these four "dry climate forces" gives very little chance of heavy, reservoir-filling rain events for this Winter. The most likely outcome is that only several small rain events will sweep across the southern half of the MDB during June and July.

### THE STRONGEST PLANETARY FORCES WILL COME INTO PLAY DURING LATE WINTER

During late Winter, Earth begins to pass the four gas giants (i.e. Saturn, Jupiter, Neptune and then Uranus). I expect this will produce a weak, positive rain-enhancing force. When combined with the strongest Northeast Lunar Air Tides during early to Mid- Spring, a general lift in rainfall intensity is forecast for that period.

New Moon phases during Spring, are forecast to produce the heaviest rain events of the southern growing season.

### GROWING ANTARCTIC SEA ICE TRENDS INDICATE A HIGH RISK OF FROST DAMAGE THIS SEASON

This year, the Antarctic sea ice began its growth cycle from just a little below average. However, due to the general decline in the high-altitude atmospheric moisture, this year's growth cycle is forecast to be above average again. Therefore, I issue a frost alert especially around the Full Moon phases of early to mid-Spring.

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**IN BRIEF: Below-average June & July rains.**

The drier "transition phase" of the Lunar Air Tides will be reducing the intensity of most Winter rain events, but that also means up to four small rain events are likely during each lunar month. The New Moons in Spring will most likely produce the heaviest and best rains of this southern growing season.

The extremely warm SST anomaly to the east of NZ has now cooled to about average. Thus, the recent climatic extremes of intense drought and fires followed by intense flood rain events will be reduced during the next year.

Jetstream moisture flows into Central NSW will also be reduced this Winter due to cooler sea surface anomalies now dominating the central Indian Ocean. Hence, I forecast the MDB will generally receive below average rainfall and cooler night time averages for most of the Winter period.

The strongest planetary forces for 2021 will be in play during late-Winter / early-Spring. Therefore, good general rains are likely to begin in August, increasing the chances of another good finish for the Winter growing season.

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

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