

THE SUMMER FORECAST

FOR THE MDB REGIONS 2021-22

As predicted by Kevin Long (Bendigo VIC) 1 December 2021 ph (03) 5443 8848



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A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE RECENT CLIMATE CYCLE EVENTS

- As previously forecast, the northern half of the MDB received a strong and early start to the Monsoon Season.
- Central NSW regions have already received above-average monsoonal rains, including crop-damaging floods.
- Most Victorian regions have received above-average growing season rains and are set up for a great harvest.
- Most MDB reservoirs filled during early Spring and have continued spilling since then.
- Irrigators will be very happy to be granted almost a full allocation for this irrigation season.
- General rainfall has lifted, as the peak of the Northeast Air Tides came through during late Spring.
- An unusual early melt of Antarctic sea ice, helping the La Nina anomaly to produce a very cool and wet Spring.

VERY WARM SOUTHERN SEA SURFACE ANOMALIES HAVE DRIVEN VERY HIGH SPRING RAINFALL

Warm anomalies in the Southern Oceans introduced extra atmospheric moisture into the southern circulation system during late Winter. This effectively halted sea ice expansion three weeks earlier than normal. It then drove a very rapid Antarctic sea ice melt - crashing sea ice levels from the fifth highest in late August, down to the second lowest by mid October.

Rapidly reducing Antarctic sea ice conditions usually results in cooler and wetter climate for southern Australia.

This extra moisture was then fed back into the central MDB (together with La Nina and Indian Ocean Dipole moisture) resulting in regular massive rain events throughout Spring. I predict there are still a few months of this wet to come.

CLIMATIC DRIVERS FOR SUMMER

- Continuing La Nina conditions, and a strengthening negative Indian Ocean Dipole system, will help keep the MDB climate very wet during early Summer.
- As during Spring, the focus of the rain systems will be on the northern and central MDB regions.
- The drier "transition phase" of the Lunar Air Tide Cycle will help to reduce general rainfall during mid to late-Summer.
- Increased moisture feeds from the Southern Ocean will help the weak Southern Air Tides to continue producing significant rain events each month when the Moon is north of the Equator, a week either side of Dec/Jan full Moons.
- The heaviest Summer rain events are most likely to occur during the peak of the Northeast Air Tides, which will be during early December and early January, close to the New Moon phases.

ANTARCTIC SEA ICE COMMENCED A VERY EARLY MELT CYCLE DURING LATE WINTER

Increased atmospheric moisture in the Antarctic region during early Spring caused the recent massive reduction in "sea ice extent" once again. As usual, this extra moisture was then fed back into our weather system by the Southern Air Tides. This means we currently have five recognised "wet climate drivers" all working together to produce the recent very cool and wet climate. (e.g. this November Central Victoria has been on average 3.4° C cooler than November last year!)

THE SUMMER FORECAST IN BRIEF: A wet Summer with continuing wide-spread flooding across NSW.

Moist North-east Air Tides will help drive the major rainfall events, during the early Summer new moon periods. The southern regions of Australia will be on the tail end of these rain events and hence the northwest of Victoria and the inland regions of SA and WA will be least affected by these heavy Summer rain events.

Sea Surface Temperatures around the northern half of Australia have shown a recent warming trend, consistent with the strengthening La Nina and Indian Ocean Dipole systems. Therefore, the window is open for a continuing above-average monsoon season, to impact most of Australia during the next two months.

Most regions of Australia should expect above-average rainfall, especially around the next two New Moon periods.

I wish you all good luck for the rest of this difficult harvest season. Kind regards, Kevin

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