

OCTOBER RAINFALL DECLINE SPELLS DISASTER FOR WATER SUPPLIES

From my studies on the subject of weather and climate it has been revealed to me that **Bendigo's real long-term average rainfall for October is 53mm** (as per DSE rainfall records given to me last year 1862 to 2008 not inclusive)

The figure BOM is now using for October is "39 mm for Bendigo" which is a **medium-term average (i.e. only the LAST 30 YEARS)**. Due to some very dry Octobers in recent years, these averages are currently dropping alarmingly quickly.

This downward trend has continued during the last 9 years, revealing a shorter-term average of only 36mm for 2001 to 2009 inclusive.

Furthermore during the last 4 years the October rainfall has recorded an average of only **11.3mm**. This now makes October the driest month of the year in recent times and one of the main causes of reduced rural productivity, both in water harvesting and crop-growing of all types.

In October 2000 Bendigo recorded 97mm, the highest monthly total for that year. It was mainly the yield from that October rain that lifted Lake Eppalock from 20% to 98% full.

During this Winter and the first month of Spring, Central Victoria generally received above the long-term average rainfall.

(Bendigo airport recorded 284mm for the 142 days from 25 May to 17 Oct)

This is the best Winter and early Spring since 2003. Bumper crops will be the result for most good farmers in Central Victoria.

But to the demise of us all, after almost 5 months of above-daily-average rain this year, the reservoir inflows were minuscule. Much less than in 2003.

This year Eppalock recorded a rise of only 2% actual capacity. This is only 3% of its long-term average inflows Cairn Curran reservoir a 4% rise = about 6% of the long-term average inflows Coliban's reservoirs rose about 10% = ONE THIRD of the long term average inflow, All this inflow would be lost to seepage and evaporation if they were to run the OLD LEAKY CHANNELS in those systems this season. (That is why those systems have no general allocation this year so far.)

Effectively no usable inflow so far this year for most of the rural people of this area.

There you are, info without spin, what can you do with it to help us one and all?

Cheers Kevin Long

PS This year Bendigo's October rainfall was 33.6 mm and the 18 year flood cycle is due to come through during the next 18 months. If we are really lucky the next La Nina system may be strong enough to dominate the current weakening Chinese Effect and deliver to us about 7 months of above average rain This is looking less likely to develop as the weeks go by.

For more info see: www.thelongview.com.au